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# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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The common sense paper of record on campus



Stephen Dause

**Sweet victory:** Patrick Donaldson celebrates his win as VP of Social Affairs for the Class of 2008.

## SA election comes to belated conclusion

Stephen Dause  
Staff Writer

Nearly three days after the March 29 Student Assembly elections, the results, which were accidentally lost the night of the elections, were retabulated from a raw data log, and the results for all elections were eventually certified.

As *The Virginia Informer* projected, Zach Pilchen and Valerie Hopkins were elected president and vice president of the Student Assembly. In other races for Senate and Undergraduate Council, incumbents finished strong, most of them retaining their seats.

In the last race to be certified, Matt Brown led Shariff Tanious by a single vote for Vice President of Advocacy for the Class of 2008, the seat vacated by presidential candidate Brad Potter. The Elections Commission was, at first, "unable to certify a winner" but did so the next day.

Also sparking some controversy was an allegation by the Brad Potter and Bret Phillips campaign that the recent editorial in *The Flat Hat* endorsing Pilchen and Hopkins amounted to advertising and should be included in their campaign expenditures.

A ruling in Potter/Phillips favor would have meant that the Pilchen/Hopkins team was at risk of exceeding the \$400 spending limit. The Elections Commission decided 5-0 that the editorial did not constitute advertising. Even if it had, said Elections Commissioner Alex Kyrios, Pilchen and Hopkins would not have gone over the spending limit, as it

**PILCHEN/ HOPKINS WIN**  
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## College's rankings begin to fall History shows that where Nichol goes, loss in fundraising, prestige follow

Nick Hoelker  
Online Editor

From substantial drops of *U.S. News and World Report's* rankings to a federal injunction, Gene Nichol compiled a controversial record leading other public universities prior to coming to William and Mary.

From 1988 through 1995, Nichol was the dean of the law school at the University of Colorado at Boulder. *U.S. News and World Report* did not compile comprehensive law school rankings until 1994, so it is difficult to assess Nichol's overall performance. However, according to the *Colorado Daily*, in 1996, immediately after Nichol left the law school, the American Bar Association threatened to strip the school of its accreditation. According to the current law school dean, David Getches, this was because the law school's facilities had become overcrowded and outdated due to a lack of funding. Getches explained that this was due to a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, which makes it impossible for the Colorado legislature to operate at a surplus and very difficult to raise taxes. Nichol failed to secure any additional funding from the state legislature for the school.

The dean following Nichol attempted to get the legislature to fund improvements and the legislature initially agreed but later rescinded that promise, causing the ABA to threaten to revoke



Joe Luppino-Esposto

**High risk:** During Nichol's tenure as law dean at UNC, the school fell in the US News rankings, and at Colorado-Boulder, the American Bar Association threatened pulling accreditation.

accreditation after being horrified that a state could place such little emphasis on higher education. The problem was finally

**NICHOL'S HISTORY**  
continued on page five

## Housing costs to rise 7.75% for 2007-2008

Chase Coleman  
Staff Writer

After assiduous work and lengthy testing, Residence Life will be ready to unveil the new online room selection process to undergraduates beginning April 16. Those students who choose to live on campus can expect a relatively high increase in room rates, currently projected at 7.75%.

The most recent test of the new room selection process showed promising results with a sample of approximately 350 students. Closely resembling the real process, the test gave students an opportunity to try out the new system, and afterwards asked students to give their opinion. Assistant Director of Residence Life Katrina Pawvluk said that after the test, they changed "nothing about the way the process overall ran, but some of

the language and the flow we tweaked from feedback," in order to make the procedure more user-friendly.

In students' feedback, one of the most common concerns was whether room selection will be as temperamental as registering for classes. Director of Residence Life Deb Boykin, however, is confident that, because of restrictions on the number of students selecting rooms at any given time, the process avoids the hazards of registration. "This is brand new, and... there's going to be something that we just can't predict," stated Boykin, but, since Residence Life and Information Technology (IT) will be available for help, "we will deal with it when it happens." Graduate students used the online system on March 28 to choose their rooms, exposing a few small flaws. Residence Life and IT were able to correct these problems quickly so that undergraduate room selection can go as smoothly as possible.

Since most students will be unfamiliar with the new process, Residence Life offers a video tutorial on their website. "The tutorial will be very helpful to students who didn't do the test," cites Pawvluk, and although Boykin admits that, at over eight minutes, "it's long by students' standards... [the narrator] goes

through things very methodically," explaining every detail. Both Boykin and Pawvluk strongly suggest that students watch the tutorial before selecting a room.

Boykin also emphatically encourages students who have decided not to live on campus to give up their time slot so that those who have been bumped can be reinstated. She points out that, since room selection will take place over a number of days, people will be able to be reinstated throughout the process. This year many more students than usual were involuntarily bumped, so Boykin hopes that those students who decide not to live on campus will notify Residence Life as soon as possible.

Following a long trend of rising costs, the room rates will increase next year by a projected 7.75%, but this rate has yet to be approved by the Board of Visitors. The average increase in room rates is 4-6%, although last year costs increased by 9%. Each year the increase in room rates is determined by a number of factors, including the costs of gas and electricity, employees' salaries and healthcare, debt and the lease on the Ludwell Apartments. Renovations, including electrical and fire safety upgrades, also play a large part in increasing room rates. Although the increases in room rates in recent years have been higher than usual, Boykin believes that these increases should level down in the next year or so.

Room selection runs from April 16 through April 26. Tips, answers to frequently asked questions, and the video tutorial can be found at <http://www.wm.edu/reslife/lottery/online.php>.



Chase Coleman

**Not lounging for long:** Rising housing costs and online lottery add more concerns for students.

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# ROTC: Full and fair treatment?

## William and Mary does not award full academic credit for military science courses; story attracts more negative national media coverage

Steven Nelson  
Staff Writer

The SA Senate has taken action where college administrators have not, unanimously passing the "full and fair treatment for ROTC cadets" bill on March 27, advocating that the College administration grant full credit for courses taken for the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

As the bill reads, the administration is recommended to implement changes so that ROTC cadets earn at least three credits per semester and have all credits earned count towards the 120 needed for graduation.

Other Virginia schools such as the University of Virginia, James Madison, and George Mason all give full credit to ROTC. According to bill proponent and ROTC cadet Matt Pinsker ('09), "Military Science is the only program on campus where not all credits count to what is

needed to graduate."

"Currently, a ROTC cadet will take 19 courses over four years, and get just 14 credits, and only six of those credits count to the 120 needed to graduate," says Pinsker. The bill advocates not only a change in policy, but that retroactive credit be enacted so that "all students currently enrolled in the College of William and Mary are affected by the changes."

The current policy has adversely affected ROTC cadets, forcing most to take more courses than other students, while plunging some into last minute desperation near graduation.

Senior Megan Barron was unaware of the College's ROTC policy and thought she was set to graduate with 123 credits, "then I was emailed this spring - the spring of my graduating year...I was short one credit."

"I was thankfully able to scramble for the credit I needed for graduation" says Megan, who adds: "to think that ROTC, which has made me better prepared

for the world than any other course I have taken would be an obstacle to my graduation seems crazy."

Josh Geiger ('08) echoed her sentiments, stating "ROTC is a class/sport/part-time job/mentoring program/career skills program which takes up a huge chunk of my schedule without the school officially recognizing the effort."

Apparently the SA Senate agrees, yet the Educational Policy Committee, chaired by Professor Ray McCoy, has to meet on the issue to make a recommendation. According to McCoy, "this topic is currently in discussion between the College's administrators and the ROTC administrators."

SA President-elect Zach Pilchen, who co-sponsored the bill in the SA Senate with Matt Beato ('09) and Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08), voiced his support for changes saying, "issues like the full and fair treatment of ROTC cadets need to be discussed first and foremost with the

professors who teach those classes, and only then brought to the attention of the larger administration."

Pilchen added, "our administration is establishing two liaison positions to the Faculty Assembly so that the lines of communication between students and faculty are strengthened, and both groups have a method through which they can raise concerns to the other."

Though a sympathetic SA administration has been elected, William and Mary has again attracted National attention due to an unpopular administration policy, with Pinsker appearing on the G. Gordon Liddy radio show, which has a weekly audience of 1.75 million, to plead his case. Pinsker has also been invited to appear on the Hannity and Colmes show on the FoxNews channel. It appears that on this issue, however, that there is strong, broad-based support for change, which will likely influence college decision-makers.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik

### Men's Gymnastics team captures USA Gymnastics Title

The College's men's gymnastic team took the coveted top prize in a gymnastics championship held late last month at the College's own Kaplan Arena. Teams from nine different colleges competed at the event, hosted by USA Gymnastics, which is the national-level governing body for the sport. The win secures the title for the College for the record 12<sup>th</sup> time since the College began participating in the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Team Championships in 1994, making William and Mary's squad one of the nation's best.

### Reves honored with a College Cemetery burial

Wendy Reves, whose donations led to the creation of the Reves Center for International Studies, was interred in the cemetery behind Blow Hall late last month. Reves was honored due to her long-standing positive relationship with the College after giving William and Mary \$3 million in 1987 to commemorate her then-deceased husband Emery Reves. Reves is the first person to be buried in the cemetery since last century, when former president of the college Benjamin Ewell died in 1894.

### College groups promote sexual assault awareness

More than half a dozen student organizations banded together the first week in April to celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness Week, which is put on at the College annually in order to educate students about sexual assault. During the week, many groups offered discussions on various forms of sexual assault as well as a self-defense course. The week was capped by a candlelight vigil in the Sunken Gardens which was designed as a campus-wide show of support for survivors of sexual assault.

### Rec Center certified "environmentally friendly"

The Rec Center has received L.E.E.D. certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for environmentally-friendly building techniques after its recent renovations. This facility is the first on campus to receive this certification, although the administration is expecting the Jamestown dorms and the future Mason School of Business to receive the same certification. The Rec Center was cited for its use of environmentally-friendly materials during the renovation as well as water-conserving plumbing and drainage systems.



Adam Boltik

### Snowfall in Williamsburg delays U.S. Open Cycling Championships

The inaugural U.S. Open Cycling Championships were slated to begin in the morning on April 7, but snow delayed the start of the event. The race is run between Williamsburg and Richmond, and upwards of twenty different teams from the United States, Mexico, and Canada are participating in the event. At 8 AM, when the race was supposed to begin, snow was still falling in Williamsburg as many of the racers were huddled on team buses waiting for the snow to subside.

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# Lecturers give point-counterpoint in debate on religion in public

Steven Nelson  
Staff Writer

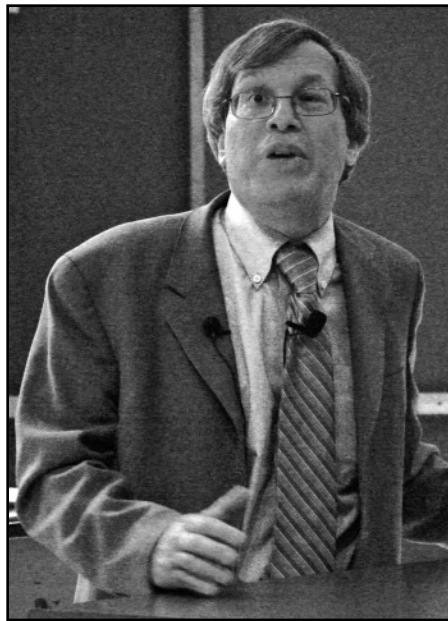
Erwin Chemerinsky, a professor of law and political science at Duke, delivered a lecture on Thursday, April 5 called "Why Church and State Should be Separate," outlining why he believes that a "strict separationist" approach should be taken with church and state issues. Os Guinness delivered the second in a series of three lectures on April 12. Guinness, a conservative writer, was influential in the drafting of the Williamsburg charter, saying that "Williamsburg is the cradle of religious liberty."

The lectures and following question and answer segment were hosted by the Committee on Religion at a Public University, handpicked by President Nichol to resolve the Wren cross controversy. After the cross compromise, the committee has transformed itself into a lecture series aimed at illuminating various points of view on what role religion should play in the public sphere.

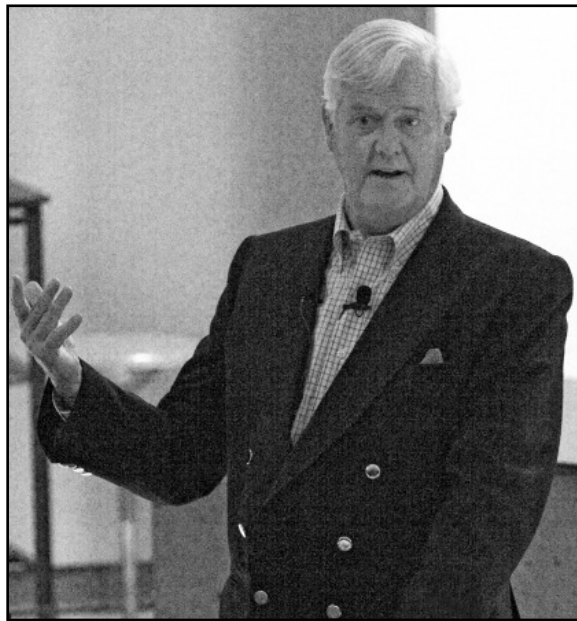
Chemerinsky has argued many cases before the Supreme Court, including a recent 2005 case regarding the appropriateness of a 6'x3' Ten Commandments monument on the Texas state capital grounds. He lost in a 5-4 ruling, with William and Mary Chancellor and former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor dissenting.

Speaking about his experience pursuing the Texas case, he received much of "what can only be described as hate mail," not due to outrage regarding the official position that the Commandments were of historical significance, but because they were a religious symbol. He accordingly concluded that, "the same type of people were upset by the Wren cross removal."

In almost all cases involving religion in the public sphere Chemerinsky identifies three groupings of opinion: "strict separationists," religious "accommodationists," whom he describes as those who would like to see government accommodate religion, and "neutralists." To these groups, Chemerinsky posed the question: Does a reasonable observer see the Wren



Long Vint



Jan R. Whiteside

**Two sides:** While Chemerinsky argued for a complete separation of church and state and agreed with President Nichol's decision to remove the Wren cross, Guinness called for civility, recognizing that Nichol's decision-making process was flawed, and that the old policy only needed tweaking.

cross as a historical or religious symbol?

O'Connor's theoretical position on the cross controversy was invoked frequently, with Chemerinsky referring to her guiding principal in deciding whether a religious symbol on public property is unconstitutional: by ascertaining if that symbol makes people feel like either insiders or outsiders. "Insiders" and "outsiders" are phrases that Nichol has used to explain his position. Throughout the lecture Chemerinsky frequently said, "a Latin Cross in a chapel is a symbol of religion," and hence makes some feel like insiders and others like outsiders. O'Connor herself has made no public statement regarding the Wren cross controversy.

If the message of his speech was not clear enough, an opinion posted by Chemerinsky on *The Huffington Post*, titled "Time to fight the religious right", clarifies his political sentiments. In his article he claims, "the religious right is the enemy of freedom."

According to Guinness, extraordinary differences of opinion and belief are now living "elbow to elbow," hence there is a necessity to emphasize "living with our deepest differences in age of exploding pluralism."

has been historically the world leader [in accommodating religious diversity]." Yet, "the way these things have been handled is not an example for the world."

Guinness attempted to clarify a common misconception of Jefferson's vision of a division between church and state, the phrase which became popular from a personal letter written by Thomas Jefferson.

"Separation of church and state" wasn't envisioned to be as stringent as some assert, Guinness mentioned, adding that the man behind the phrase attended church in the Capitol every Sunday while President. "His view of separation of church and state, of there being a strict wall, is simply not historical."

Concluding, Guinness expressed that there needs to be civility return to the debate, but that there would be "a very very bizarre America" if you remove all public religious symbols.

In reference to the Wren cross he adds, "the previous system wasn't working that badly, minor adjustments could have been made."

The final speaker in the series will be May 1 in Washington 201 at 7 p.m.

## Students report lack of availability at Counseling Center

Stephanie Long  
News Editor

After two negative experiences with the Counseling Center, one William and Mary student, who wished to remain anonymous, reported her disappointment with the availability of counselors to students who need help. This sentiment was quickly echoed by other students

who had similar encounters with the Counseling Center, which prompted *The Informer* to discuss why students' needs are not being met with the Director of the Counseling Center, Dr. R. Kelly Crace.

This student first sought help from the Counseling Center in fall of 2006 when she and a male friend went there to report that a mutual female friend told them, in confidence, that she was the victim of a sexual assault. When attempting to make an appointment, they both felt very uncomfortable with the events that followed.

She observed that the waiting room was small and filled with students, causing her to have doubts about sharing the delicate situation of her friend among a large crowd. "I realize it's a small place and only so much can be done," she said, "but people were in there waiting for appointments, and given the stigma that surrounds mental health issues in our society, this creates a high potential for embarrassment." Their discomfort was heightened when they approached the receptionist about making an appointment and she asked them "harshly," as this student put it, "What is it? Couples' therapy?" The student was so put-off by the assumptions of the receptionist that she was tempted to walk out. She said that their explanation did not merit any greater sympathy.

Instead of finding the Counseling Center as a release from the stress of their situation, these students had a greater feeling of vulnerability. The student did concede that, "once we were brought in with a counselor, everything was fine. The woman who talked with us was incredibly kind and helpful."

The student took a second chance on the Counseling Center this spring when she underwent a period of depression. She tried to make an appointment but was told she could either make a same day appointment, offered at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., or to wait two weeks. The issue was serious enough to warrant attempting to book a same day appointment, and missing class to do so. She tried for several days, waking up early to call, but was told that the appointments had already been filled. She eventually agreed to sign up for an appointment two weeks later and later canceling as "the problems resolved themselves."

This particular student was disappointed, but understood the center is often busy. "It's just that I was having a really rough go of things, and I really needed help and I couldn't get it when I needed it."

Dr. Crace was disturbed by these accounts for that same reason. He stated that the issue is that "students who try to reach out and try to get help feel that they're not getting helped."

Crace points to the ever-increasing demand for counseling services since 2001 and the difficulty of meeting these demands with current resources. The

Counseling Center has a staff of 8 full-time and 4 part-time clinicians as well as 3 doctoral students, but they can only see as many students as there are rooms at any one time. Not all 15 staff members can work at once. This means that within the opening weeks of each semester, appointments are filled two weeks in advance, and the center is unable to provide immediate help to those in need.

To address this issue, Dr. Crace and the center adopted a tripartite system, admitting students via regular appointments two weeks in advance, same day appointments, and immediate crisis appointments. Crace stated that the center leaves four same day appointments open every day, contrary to what the student was told, which fill up faster some days than others. If you leave your name every day you call for one of these appointments for three days you will be worked in as soon as possible. There is also one immediate crisis hour allotted for students who state that their situation is urgent, which is then confirmed by the immediate crisis counselor. Crace explained that any student who is deemed to be in a crisis situation will be seen either that day or the day after.

Dr. Crace admitted that because of the limited resources, the Counseling Center's system is not always the most convenient in the way of comfort and scheduling. Because of this, they have tried to increase outreach with programs at night to help students learn how to manage stress and maintain healthy

**COUNSELING CENTER**  
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**Take a number:** Students have complained of difficulty in getting help at the Counseling Center.

## 314th SA Senate session comes to an end

Stephen Dause  
Staff Writer

The Senate considered many referenda put on the ballot for the March 29 elections. One of the most debated questions that made it on the ballot was one that asked whether the disparity in representation of undergraduate females in the Senate led to inadequate representation of students. Sponsor Meghan McCarthy ('07) and co-sponsor Sarah Rojas ('10), the only two undergraduate females in the Senate, announced their plan to use this referendum as part of an awareness campaign to encourage women to run for Senate. A couple of members of the public had come to speak on the bill and encourage McCarthy and Rojas in their effort to get the bill passed, which it was, 18-1-1.

The Voter Registration Act was also passed by the Senate. Its purpose is to fund a voter registration drive, now that students are eligible to vote in Williamsburg under certain conditions laid out by registrar Dave Andrews. According to the sponsors, if few students register to vote in Williamsburg, that would hurt the case for a more permanent change to voting laws. "We have the ability to really make change in this city," said Senator Matt Beato ('09), in support of the bill. It passed, 17-2-1.

The Full and Fair Treatment of ROTC Cadets was passed with the full support of the Senate. ROTC cadet Matt "Bronco" Pinsker ('09) explained that members in the ROTC program currently only receive six credits over four years for their efforts despite having to attend two classes a week, with textbooks, exams and grades, a weekly lab, two hours of daily personal training and have a 33-day summer program. Pinsker added that peer universities such as Christopher Newport University, University of North Carolina and Duke University offer full credit to ROTC participants.

Senate Secretary Beato introduced the Budget Act of 2007 asking for the approval of the budget, which passed unanimously

after having undergone revision by the Senate Finance Committee.

Outgoing Vice President Norris announced that Coggin and President Ryan Scofield are working with Sam Sadler on revising the judicial council selection process, as a result of Coggin's Judicial Reform bills.

Originally hoping for them to be just like Honor Council elections, Coggin now hopes that a hybrid system will better suit the administration. His proposed method would have judicial council candidates apply and go through a screening process before being elected by their peers.

Outgoing Senators Blasi and Morris then had their Consolidated Reserve Dividend Act heard. Had it passed, it would have allocated currently unused money from an SA consolidated reserves fund back to students.

"There's a lot of good ways to give it back to students in more creative ways than this," said Senator Brett Phillips ('08), who noted that although spending was down this year, that was probably partially because of a hesitancy to spend due to overspending last year. Senator Rojas noted that the efforts to reform and improve the Health Center might end up costing a lot of money, and such programs that would better serve students than giving back what would amount to be slightly less than \$15 per student.

The only bill heard at the last Senate meeting before the new SA officers and Senators took over was the Ironic Funding Request, renamed in the meeting to read the Alternative Learning Funding Act. Sponsored by Senator Sean Sheppard ('07), it funds a Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) regional conference on local activism, appropriating \$750 from the Student Activities Consolidated Reserves. The convention will be focusing on how to effectively lobby local and state governments with the theme of "keeping it local."

*Editor's Note: Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito is Editor in Chief and Senator Andrew Blasi is Business Editor of The Virginia Informer.*

## PILCHEN/HOPKINS WIN: Despite controversies, only one race challenged

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would have been counted as a quarter page advertisement.

Both sides were suspicious of the other attempting to frame their side with illegal postings and other violations. Such allegations are extremely hard to prove, said Kyrios, and no further investigation was conducted by the Elections Commission.

All candidates had 48 hours after the results have been certified to appeal to the Review Board of the SA. Such was the case for the Brown-Tanious race. Tanious contested that a vote cast by Bryan Jones ('08) sent via email should have counted towards his total, bringing the two candidates to a tie. The certified results named Brown the victor by a count of 311 to 310.

However, Elections Commissioner James Evans, the one responsible for the loss of elections results, called the college registrar and confirmed that Jones is not considered to be an enrolled student because he is currently in the Walt Disney World business program.

This further complicates the election, as Jones was also a candidate, running for Vice President of Social Affairs for

the Class of 2008.

The Review Board has opted to hear the case, but as of print time, a date had not yet been set.

As soon as the elections results were available around midnight on the evening of April 1, the SA held an after-party, originally scheduled for Thursday night, for all the candidates at the College Delly.

"I'm relieved that the politics of this is all over, and now we can spend the next 365 days serving students," said SA President Zach Pilchen, echoing the theme of his candidacy.

Most of the other races were not nearly as close as the Vice President for Advocacy, as many Undergraduate Council members were elected unopposed and other incumbents beat their challengers handily.

Senators, and Undergraduate Council members, along with outgoing President Ryan Scofield and Vice President Amanda Norris, served out their terms until April 16 when the new officers were sworn in at the Wren Chapel.

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

## Informer SA exit poll again accurate



**Accuracy:** Though the presidential race was not declared for days, *The Informer* projected Pilchen/Hopkins as winners by 7:00 p.m. on election day by a count of 60% to 38% with 552 votes cast, within the margin of error.

Keep up to date with President Zach Pilchen's cabinet appointments at

[www.VAInformer.com](http://www.VAInformer.com)

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## VP of Development: W&M to regain \$500M goal by June 30

**Nick Fitzgerald**

Executive Editor

Vice President of University Development Sean Pieri stated firmly in a phone interview with *The Virginia Informer* that he is "100% confident" William and Mary will "meet and exceed...the [\$500 million fundraising] goal by the June 30 deadline."

As Pieri explained, "We announced on Charter Day that we had surpassed the campaign total, and we had \$502.7 million as of December 31." This statement was true at the end of 2006, but the fund total dropped below the \$500 million level after a wealthy donor, James McGlothlin ('62), revoked a \$12 million donation in March of 2007 because he was upset

about President Nichol's handling of the Wren cross debacle. Although Pieri did admit a \$12 million gift was revoked from the fund total, "we [Development] never confirmed it was Jim McGlothlin."

When asked at what level the fund was currently sitting, Pieri simply stated, "I don't know where we are."

Pieri, in reference to the fact that some donations have been withheld as a result of the Wren cross controversy, stated that "it's not uncommon for someone to get upset about what's happening at an institution," and therefore withhold funds. He did say, however, that "I just got a letter yesterday from a donor who was upset by the removal of the cross, and there was a check in there for \$25,000. Were they upset?

Yes, but not to the point where they are withholding their giving. Those that are closest to the institution aren't saying that they are withholding funds.

"Any donor has every right to determine how and where and when they want to make a philanthropic gift," Pieri said. "I personally don't hold anything against the donor [who revoked the \$12 million]. I understand the decision."

Pieri also explained that there are typically four ways of making a philanthropic donation to the College: a simple cash donation; a pledge given over a certain period of time, during which time there is always a possibility of revocation; an irrevocable estate gift, such as a trust; and other long-term revocable gifts such as those drawn up in wills.

## Secretary of Defense Gates ('65) to speak at Commencement

**Andrew B. Blasi Jr.**

Business Editor

On May 20 William and Mary will say goodbye to the Class of 2007. Current US Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates ('65) will help send them off, as Gates will be the keynote speaker for the commencement ceremonies.

Named the 22nd US Secretary of Defense on December 18, 2006, Robert Gates replaced Donald Rumsfeld as the head civilian director of the United States Military. In an official press release by the College, College President Gene Nichol stated, "Bob Gates' service to his country – and his alma mater – reflects the compelling tradition of public engagement that distinguishes William and Mary, long the wellspring of American leadership. Already he's reminded us, in his short weeks at the Pentagon, why so many think so much of his service—including past U.S. presidents and one of our notable sister public universities in College Station, Texas." Nichol was referring to Texas A&M, at which Gates was president prior to being named as head of the Defense Department.

In addition to an address by Secretary Gates, alumnus William M. Kelso, director

of archaeology for the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the Jamestown Rediscovery Project, and William T. Coleman, Jr., former secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and noted civil rights advocate and legal scholar, will receive honorary degrees at the ceremony. William and Mary Chancellor and retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will also be in attendance.

Gates' dedication to service also took form during his years at William and Mary. As an undergraduate, he was an active member of Alpha Phi Omega, the service fraternity, and served as the group's president during his senior year. While at the College, Gates also served as a dormitory manager and helped entering students become acquainted to the College as an orientation aide. Gates was also active in the Young Republicans and served as business manager of the William and Mary Review, a literary and art magazine.

A native of Kansas, Gates earned his master's degree in history from Indiana University and his doctorate in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University. He and his wife Becky have two adult children.

## NICHOL'S HISTORY: Record at Colorado, UNC is lackluster

continued from page one

fixed eight years later with an increase in student fees. Despite being unable to fix the funding problem, Getches praised Nichol as being a "terrific leader with expansive intellect who brought positive attention to the school."

Nichol then served as the dean of the law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. When Nichol came to the law school, it was ranked in a tie for 21<sup>st</sup> among the nation's best law schools. By 2002, it had dropped to 31<sup>st</sup> place and has still not recovered from that drop.

2002 also brought a divisive controversy over religious student groups for Chapel Hill. Three days after Nichol's wife, Glenn George, was appointed as the University Council in 2002, letters approved by her office were sent to a dozen Christian groups on campus threatening to de-fund them for what the university deemed to be discriminatory membership policies. These groups were targeted because they restricted membership and voting rights to students who shared the religious mission of the group, a practice that the Supreme

Court had ruled constitutional in the early 1990s. The controversy dragged on for months until a federal judge entered an injunction against the university, which led the school to overturn the policy instituted under George's leadership.

So far here at William and Mary, the law school has dropped three rankings from 29<sup>th</sup> when Nichol arrived here as President to a tie for 32<sup>nd</sup>. The College's overall ranking has remained steady at 31<sup>st</sup>. Application numbers have also lagged behind University of Virginia's and other peer colleges. Applicants to William and Mary have increased by 1% or less over the past two years, while over the eight years prior, applications had increased by 8% a year. Moreover, in February 2007, even before alumnus Jim McGlothlin withdrew his \$12 million pledge to the school, fundraising had decreased from a 12% growth rate in June 2006 to 2%. Furthermore, McGlothlin's withdrawal of \$12 million reversed seven months of fundraising, threatening the \$500 million pledged to the Campaign for William and Mary.

## COUNSELING CENTER:

Appointments become increasingly harder to come by

continued from page one

self-esteem. They also have counselors on call after Counseling Center hours and go into "around-the-clock mode" during tragedies at the College such as the death of student Zach Vaughn last spring. Dr. Crace assured that, "Sometimes the system isn't as convenient as we'd like it to be, but the bottom line is that if a student calls in and says 'I really need to see someone, this is urgent', they get seen."

Crace cited surveys in which those who have taken advantage of the Counseling Center give feedback each year. According to these surveys, 95% of students report being "very satisfied" with the services they received from the Counseling Center and 98% reported that they were seen within a reasonable period of time. The general consensus of these students is that the staff is helpful and dedicated.

As for the rude response the student received from the receptionist, Dr. Crace again pointed to the gap between

demand and resources saying that maybe the receptionist was having a bad day and didn't "handle it as sensitively as we would like."

Solutions are in sight according to Crace. "The administration has been very supportive" and that as a result, "we are going to have a 50% space expansion next year... and also be able to hire new staff," according to Crace.

Dr. Crace sees the Counseling Center as an important tool for students on campus, as many students have reported feeling that it is the only safe space for them, as everything stated within the walls of the Counseling Center is confidential, even underage alcohol or drug use and suicidal notions. Dr. Crace hopes that greater resources will allow more students to benefit from it.

The Counseling Center can be reached at 221-3620.

*Chris Davis also contributed to this report.*



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### The Virginia Informer apologizes for the following errors that appeared in our March 2007 Issue:

The photo on page seven should be credited to Long Vinh.  
The photo on page nine should be credited to Ian Whiteside.

The Virginia Informer would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly.  
Please submit all corrections via email to editor@vainformer.com.

# College withholds all professor evaluations from public and students

## Dean says they provide feedback for granting tenure, pay raises for faculty

Nick Hoelker  
Online Editor

As every William and Mary student knows, the last week of classes is often spent filling out professor evaluations. Students

never get to see the final result of these evaluations, but nevertheless they play an important role in the determination of a professor's salary and tenure.

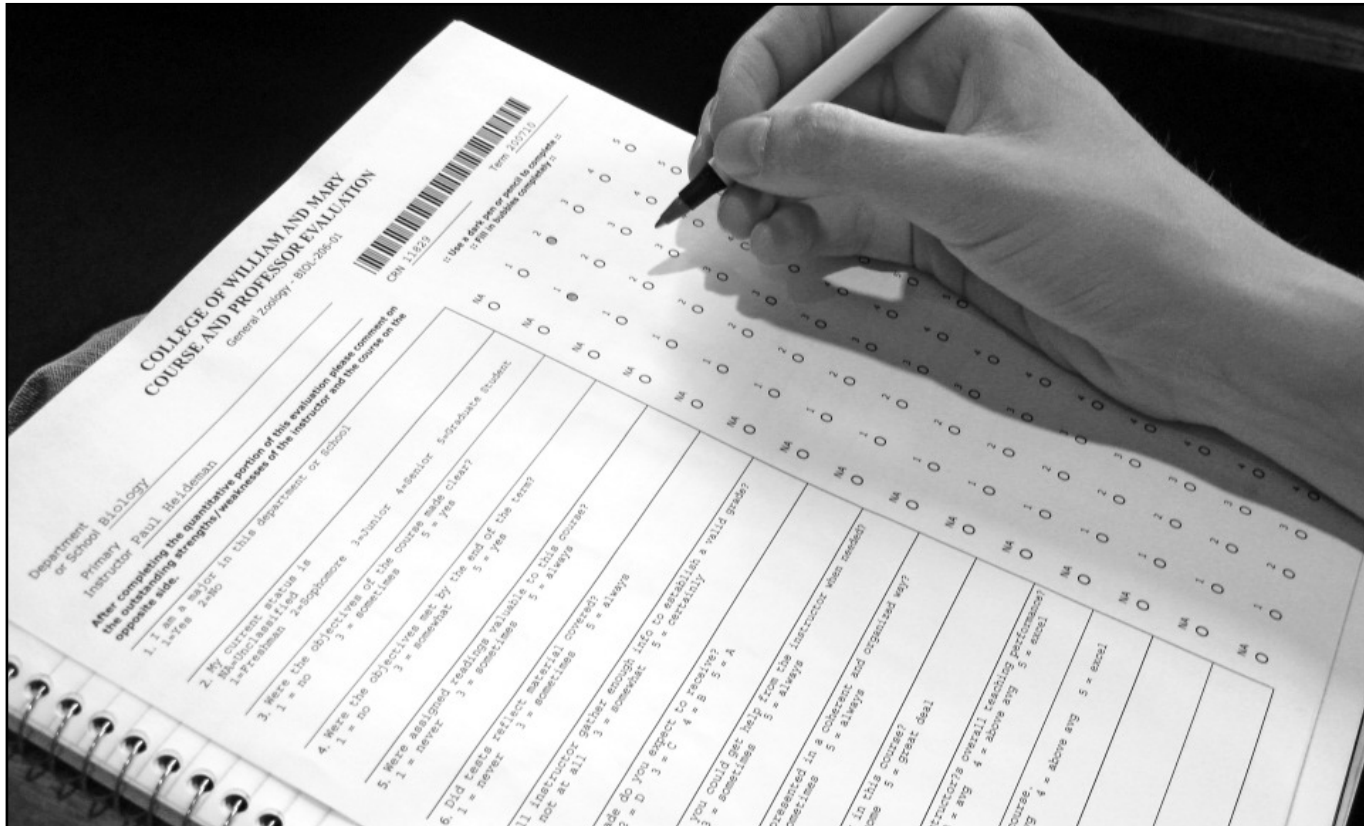
According to Edward Pratt, the College's Dean of Undergraduate Studies, these evaluations, which are

mandatory for all departments and professors, are given to each individual department upon their completion. How they are used are up to each department, but generally the department chair, a personnel committee, or a tenure committee will use these evaluations in

giving a professor an annual merit evaluation. These merit evaluations are then used to make decisions about tenure and salary increases. Pratt stated that if a tenured professor receives consistently poor evaluations, the department chair may intervene on a higher level than just offering a smaller pay raise. Along with the students' evaluations, a professor's scholarship and publishing are also involved in judging merit.

Pratt also stated the professor evaluations are not available to students or members of the public. According to Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council Staff Attorney Alan Gernhardt, this is acceptable under Virginia state law. Pratt added that there was no particular reason that the evaluations were private and could not recall any recent discussion on the issue. Pratt mentioned that he believed the issue had been brought up in the past and the faculty decided against making the evaluations public. Pratt also stated that the merit evaluations of professors are also not available to the public since they discuss personnel files, but faculty salaries are public record.

Pratt added that there are no formal mechanisms for students to learn about professor quality and that most students just rely on word of mouth. Students can use the professor rating page on <http://sin.wm.edu> or third-party Web sites such as <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com>.



Ian R. Whiteside

**Unseen importance:** Though never seen again after filled out by students, professor evaluations can determine whether a professor experiences a decrease in pay or more serious consequences.

### Carefully Random

## Current weathervane atop Wren Building just one of many

It is one of those symbols of the College that catches your eye but at the same time is not often given much thought. It is out there in plain view, but finding its history takes some searching. It is—drum roll, please—the weathervane on top of the Wren Building.

When pondered for a few minutes, the weathervane elicits several provocative questions: How long has it been there? Were there weathervanes before it that the current one replaced? Why on earth was the year 1693—important for obvious reasons now—so important back when it was originally put up there, anyway?

The weathervane on the center of the building now is the most recent of four to six (I'm not making this up, I promise) weathervanes that have been on top of the Wren Building, famous for being the oldest educational building in continuous use in the country and, yes, for burning down three times.

The original weathervane, seen in a c. 1740 Bodleian copper plate, existed at least until 1856, at which point it was so damaged that it was likely replaced, according to an unpublished 1968 architectural report on the Wren Building by M.C. Savedge.

Its replacement did not last long, however, as the second fire of 1859 destroyed the cupola supporting it and the weathervane itself.

For a short period of three years, one and possibly two weathervanes were on top of the Italianate towers that were added in the 1859 rebuilding of the building but removed after it burned down again in 1862.

After 1867, a new, 18<sup>th</sup>-century style wrought-iron weathervane along with a new cupola was there. It had the date of 1728 on its flag, marking the year of the completion of the building after the first fire in 1705.

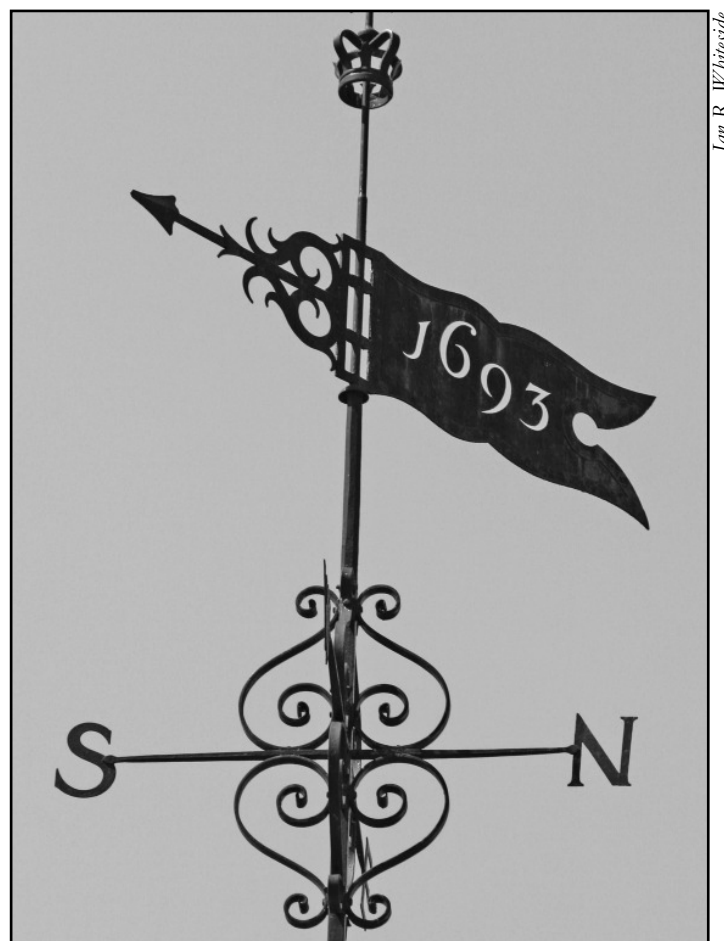
The weathervane that you see today is a result of the renovation of Colonial Williamsburg in 1928, at which point it was decided that the date of the College's founding, 1693, was much more significant and ought to replace the 1728 flag currently on the building's roof.

So, there you have it: The current weathervane on top of the Wren Building is but one of many that has graced the building's roof but is the first to have the year 1693 written in its flag.

How's that for carefully random?



Stephen Dause  
Carefully Random



Ian R. Whiteside

**Not the first:** The original weathervane atop the Wren Building debuted in 1740 only to be damaged beyond repair.

# If walls could talk: Building of first president one of jewels on campus

Chase Coleman  
Staff Writer

Opened in 1935, James Blair Hall, at times called the "Ivory Tower," has served a variety of functions at the College, elegantly offering space for academic and administrative purposes.

The title of James Blair was not given to the building until 1968: before it was known as Marshall-Wythe Hall, named after Law Professor George Wythe and one of his students, Chief Justice John Marshall. The new building, according to a 1934 edition of *The Flat Hat*, was "practically a duplicate of Rogers [modern Tyler] and Washington halls," measuring 92 feet wide and 150 feet long. The versatile structure housed administrative offices, including the president's and registrar's office, the Department of Jurisprudence, later renamed the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, and the School of Government and Citizenship. By the time of its official dedication in 1937, Blair Hall also held the economics, government, history and

sociology departments.

Contributing to the war effort, the College began hosting the Navy Chaplain's Training School 1943, located on the second floor of Blair Hall. Although the school forced some classes to relocate, it only remained active for two years, graduating 2,722 chaplains.

By 1968, no longer housing any academic departments, the building was officially named after the College's first president, Reverend James Blair. Although the president's headquarters had moved to Ewell hall in 1962, Blair held most administrative offices until the early 1990s, the most significant of which were the Office of Residence Life, and the registrar's and treasurer's office.

The Blair Hall most students know today is the result of a \$5.2 million renovation ending with a rededication ceremony in 1996. Now, flanked by an august statue of the reverend himself and the stately Tyler Family Garden, James Blair Hall houses the Departments of Philosophy and History, and contains some of the finest rooms on campus.



**A versatile building:** James Blair Hall hosted the Navy Chaplain's Training School during World War II and now features the Philosophy and History departments.

## Students challenge Bechtold's objectivity Anti-Israeli,-US bias said to heavily interfere with class

Nick Hoelker  
Online Editor

Doctor Peter Bechtold may be one of the most accomplished professors at the College of William and Mary, but some students of his accuse him of being biased against Israel.

According to his website, <http://www.drbechtold.com>, Bechtold has trained over 11,000 United States Department of State employees, has done field research in 25 Middle Eastern countries, is fluent in four languages, has been interviewed on CNN and NPR and according to Sulaiman Bah ('07), cannot make it through a conference on the Middle East without constantly stopping to say hello to a policymaker or four-star general that he knows personally.

Despite his credentials, some of his students are greatly divided over the fairness and quality of his teaching, in particular his class on Middle Eastern Political Systems and a seminar on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Most of these criticisms start with the views on Israel that Bechtold expresses in class. One student of his, who asked not to be named because he is currently taking his class, felt that Professor Bechtold was so biased against Israel that he, as well another student from the class, referred to Bechtold as "The Führer." This student also pointed out examples of quotes from Bechtold on Israel such as, "It is absolutely not true that Israel has anything to fear from the countries that surround it."

Walid Kildani ('07), a student in the class who supports Bechtold, justified the professor's remarks by saying that Israel is certainly more powerful than its neighbors as they have a much larger military and are most likely in possession of nuclear weapons.

Courtesy of Bechtold's website



**Differing opinions:** Students are divided over Bechtold's position on Israel and his teaching on the subject.

Kildani, a Jordanian student, disputed the depiction of Bechtold as anti-Israeli, as he said that Bechtold is not anti-Jordanian despite pointing out ugly parts of Jordan's history with which Kildani was not familiar.

Students also have complained that the readings

for the course were generally biased against Israel. Bechtold often assigned readings from *The New York Times* or transcripts from NPR that cast Israel in a bad light. Additionally, the only assigned textbook for the seminar on the Arab-Israel conflict is Jimmy Carter's controversial book *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*, which led to the resignation of 15 members of the Carter Center Board because they thought the book was unfairly biased against Israel.

Bah, another supporter of Bechtold, countered these points by claiming that the opinion pieces presented were backed up with facts and that he felt that they were not entirely one-sided. He also added that in the Arab-Israeli Conflict seminar Bechtold often acts a referee and allows students to discuss articles that students find on their own about topics presented by Bechtold. Bah also stated that for Middle East Political Systems that Israel is only one of many countries in the Middle East and Bechtold spent as much time covering that country as the other nations in the region.

Other student concerns centered over Bechtold's treatment of the United States, the war in Iraq and the Bush presidency. According to several students, Bechtold has made remarks such as "A lobbying group came up with the Iraq War," "Yale is a bad school because George W. Bush went there," "Canada resents American imperialism there," and "the United States put Saddam up to killing the Kurds."

Bah defended Bechtold's right to give his own opinion and said he was very good about differentiating his opinion from class material by, before giving an opinion, beginning his statement by saying "in my opinion" or "In the mind of Peter Bechtold."

Student opinions on Professor Bechtold are wide-ranging. Bah stated that Bechtold is the best professor that he has ever had and that it would be a great loss to future students if he were to retire. He went on to add that he believes the real controversy is that George W. Bush does not include people with as much expertise as Bechtold in his administration. Kildani said that he enjoyed every single minute of every two and a half hour class and wrote appreciative letters to the department chairs of the International Relations and government programs for bringing such a scholar and experienced specialist on the Middle East to the College.

Meanwhile, one of his critics said that Bechtold received one of the only poor recommendations that he had ever written for a professor and said that he never had a professor who had such strong personal bias that it made the class ineffective.

Bechtold is a visiting professor and does not intend to return in the fall.

## King & Queen Ball boasts a royal history

Megan Locke  
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

The King and Queen Ball is a more recent tradition that some might think. The first King and Queen Ball was held in April 1993 as a celebration of the College's 300th anniversary. Members of the Pershing Rifles performed a tercentenary salute at the ball in honor of the occasion.

The ball was popular enough that it soon became an annual event at William and Mary. It is the latest incarnation in a series of spring formal dances that have been held at the College since dances became a popular school-wide activity in the 1920s. Right before the King and Queen tradition started, a President's Ball was held in the late 1980s in the Sunken Gardens around the same time of year.

For the first few years the King and Queen Ball was held in the Wren Courtyard, rather than in the Sunken Gardens as it is today. Students made a formal entrance into the ball by walking through the Wren building, a ceremonial gesture echoing other traditions such as the convocation ceremony and graduation. Similar to later balls, huge tents were set up and a live band provided the music. In 1999, due to space limitations, the event was finally moved from the Wren Courtyard to the Sunken Gardens.

Some popular traditions that take place during the King and Queen Ball are: a toast by the current president of the College and the singing of the alma mater by an a cappella group. In the past, the President's House has been opened up for tours before the event. However, one ball tradition that is no longer observed is a drill performance by the Queen's Guard. The Queen's Guard used to perform during the ball, but in 2001 college officials decided to cut their presentation because the increasing number of ball attendees made the drill performance unsafe.

The King and Queen Ball has frequently been subject to the typically unpredictable weather of April. In 1997, thunderstorms caused the festivities to be moved to the Chesapeake rooms in the University Center. The rooms were soon filled over the fire code limits, and a rotation system was created in order to let everyone have a chance to dance. In 2005, rain made the Sunken Gardens too soggy to support a dance floor, so the ball was relocated to William and Mary Hall. The tents and lights were still used to decorate the Hall, and no one let a few April showers ruin the fun.

This year's King and Queen Ball will be held on April 27. Students will be looking forward to celebrating traditions and creating new memories at the ball, and of course, hoping for good weather as well.

# In Support of Women: 2nd annual SFL concert

**Jon San**

Features Editor

On Tuesday, April 3, the William and Mary Students for Life held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "In Support of Women" concert. The event took place at Lodge 1 and featured the female *a capella* group Passing Notes, as well as Homebrew favorites Nick Summit and Mike Smith. The concert was free, although donations--the proceeds benefiting two local pregnancy care centers--were appreciated.

Katie Poandl, the president of SFL and a senior at the college, started the concert last year with hopes of aiding local care centers. "Care centers give women financial help and emotional support, the lack of which often is the reason behind many abortions," said Poandl.

Beth Zagrobelny ('09), who occupies the

Public Affairs position in SFL, mentioned that the impetus behind the concert was twofold. "First, we are presenting our mission statement which is to provide women with alternatives to abortion. Second, we hope to benefit the care centers and raise awareness for women on campus that these centers exist," said Zagrobelny.

Williamsburg does, in fact, have two pregnancy care centers. The first, Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia Pregnancy Care Center, is located at 1315 Jamestown Road and offers a variety of counseling services, baby supplies, and adoption planning for pregnant women. Care Net Pregnancy Resource Centers, of 1117 Old Colony Lane, is similar in nature but also provides post-abortion support and a 24 hour pregnancy help hotline.

Many SFL members are volunteers at these care networks. Laura Buchanan, a freshman member of SFL and care center

volunteer, said, "In addition to providing literature for pregnant women at these centers, we also assist any women that may have questions, and provide advertising." The "In Support of Women" concert is an especially important advertising event.

SFL provided free food as well as a raffle in exchange for any sort of donation. The concert was well-attended, attracting many passers-by who stayed for a musician while enjoying a Quizno's sub. In between the musical performances were short PowerPoint presentations that highlighted the duties of the care centers and the mission statement of SFL. One of the emcees, Andrew Starr, kept the mood light, announcing that he was present simply "because [he] love[s] women," a statement that generated some audience laughter.

And while SFL may stand in contrast to pro-choice student groups such as Vox, Buchanan insisted that SFL "is a

non-partisan organization that aims to find common ground to help women; both Republicans and Democrats are represented among our membership." Such a statement, "to help women," is echoed by the simple title of the concert.

Stephen Salvato, another freshman member of SFL, brought forth the idea that men have a role in the issue of abortion as well. "[Abortion] is pertinent to men too. I think that many people feel that abortion is a woman's burden, however, both care centers cater to male and female concerns."

The concert, which is the last major event for SFL this semester, ended a busy school year for the pro-life group. Throughout the year, SFL has hosted speakers such as Bobby Schindler, the brother of Terry Schiavo, Janet Morana of the Silent No More awareness campaign, and many others.

## New clubs provide alternatives for students

**Stephen Dause**

Staff Writer

Students who enjoy a good game of ping pong, a board game or two, or anything to do with needles and yarn now have no trouble finding friends, as three new clubs have recently been formed targeted towards just those demographics: The Table Tennis Club, the Board Games Club, and Stitch 'n Bitch.

Co-presidents Jon San and Caleb Piatt started holding table tennis club meetings this semester, during which members take turns playing on the one table they currently use in Yates basement. They hope to get multiple tables installed in the Recreation Center soon, but conversation with Recreational Sports staff has been slow.

"I also have plans to hold tournaments within our club, and with other schools as well by next year," said active member Kevin Roelofs ('08). "Hopefully I can leave this school with a really nice table tennis club by my senior year."

As of now, its meetings are Monday nights in Yates Basement from 8-9 p.m., though they hope to move the meetings to two nights a week. Attendance has dropped recently because of the small amount of playing time per player, but they hope to rectify that soon.

The story of the Board Games Club is a similar one. President Colin Yoon got the idea to form an official club dedicated to the art of board game-playing in August, and a few months later, ten to fifteen people meet every Tuesday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Millington 30 to play everything from Clue to Rummikub. They also have plans to have some sort of tournaments in the future.

On the less competitive side is the Stitch 'n Bitch club, whose dedication is to all "knitters, crocheters, spinners, quilters, cross-stitchers or any other kind of needle-worker," according to its Facebook group. Gladly willing to teach anyone their ways, they meet Thursdays at the Daily Grind at 5:30.

*Editor's Note: Jon San is the Features Editor of The Virginia Informer.*

## Lending a helping hand



Long Vinh

**Painting with a smile:** Freshman Lauren Appel helps paint the roof of a house in Williamsburg for the "Paint the Town!" project in May. From the roof she could see thousands of hubcaps that littered the yard which the owner used to collect and sell.

## Dollars & Sense for Students: Summer Job: Save, not spend

**Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.**

Business Editor

According to the latest 360 Youth College Explorer Study from Harris Interactive, college students in the United States will return to campus with over \$122 billion in summer job earnings. With the average working student earning \$645 per month during the summer, the strength of our purchasing power cannot be denied or ignored. In response to the survey's results, John Geraci, Harris Interactive's VP for Youth and Education Research, stated, "What we see from the study is that, contrary to common perception -- maybe even their own perception -- college students are not poor. They have considerable discretionary income, and are already paving their way toward financial responsibility and independence. College students today are smart, value-conscious consumers, heavily weighing cost and quality in their purchasing decisions." Geraci also added that, "College students are not only a capable bunch, but important beyond their numbers."

The reason why many of us may not perceive college students as having great personal wealth, in spite of our ability to make wise spending decisions, is precisely that: we spend too much (if not all) of what we earn. It would be one thing if our earnings were spent toward paying for our education, but as the survey demonstrates, a large majority of the \$122 billion earned by college students over the summer

is discretionary and consequently spent on items that are not necessarily needed. In pursuit of offering my fellow William and Mary students the best possible advice and with the understanding that an economic recession is very likely within the next few years (as we begin to enter and advance in a difficult job market), I highly recommend you consider saving rather than spending your discretionary income earned this summer.

I understand this practice may be very difficult, especially if what you earn is simply placed into a free checking account and impulse spending is just a piece of plastic away. However, there are ways to put your earnings safely away from both investment loss and your credit card habits, not only saving your money but also earning a high interest return. Such options include Money Market funds (better option) and Certificates of Deposits (CDs), both of which are easy to obtain from local and online banks at no charge. Think of them as options that reward you just for saving and with no risk. Remember, the more you save, the more options you will have (from buying a car/home to weathering an economic downturn) in the future and the better off you will be.

*Editor's Note: The information in the article is for informational purposes only and neither The Virginia Informer nor the author of this article provided certified financial advice. Please consider speaking with a financial advisor or another trusted individual before making any financial decision.*



Ian R. Whiteside

**Games for the bored:** Three new clubs on campus provide an eclectic mix of activities for students. Table tennis, board games and knitting are now available in an organized form for interested students.



# A whole new world: Studying in Jordan

## Retelling of the experience is a useful tool for appreciating American freedoms and institutions



**Feast after fast:** During Ramadan, everyone in Jordan, including non-Muslims such as Rob Landicho (left), had to fast all day, and celebrate after sundown in places such as this, a cafe in central Amman.

**Joe Luppino-Esposito**  
Editor in Chief

When I came back on campus this past January to start the second semester, I ran into Rob Landicho, a fellow member of the Class of 2008. Rob and I were both Resident Assistants on the same staff last year. I told him that I had not seen him in a while, and I found out why: Rob had gone abroad for the fall to the Middle East.

After the usual pleasantries and questions about the trip, Rob volunteered, “There are some things that are tough getting used to again.”

“Like what?” I naively asked.

“Like seeing women’s faces.”

Needless to say, I was floored by the comment. I wanted to learn more, so I recently followed up with Rob regarding the trip and his experience.

Rob spent much of his time in Amman, Jordan, living on the west side of the city with a family that owns a hair salon. His hosts are ethnically Lebanese, and had moved to Jordan from Palestine. Extended family arrived often seeking shelter after their homes had been destroyed in war.

War and violence was almost laughable to many people there, Rob observed. “They said that joking about it was the only way to get through it.”

It was clear to him right away that the emphasis was on the family and on religion, though his hosts would be considered much more secular than most in Jordan. “Their faiths and beliefs were still very important,” Rob explained, “but they did not adhere strictly to it as many others did.”

The most conservative observers of Islam were found in the eastern part of Amman. It is dominated by Iraqi and Palestinian refugees. There are many camps set up that do not accommodate the constant influx of foreigners to their land. Those living in the east were also very poor



**Jordan’s version of free market:** Open markets, known as sooks, could be found in East Amman near the refugee camps.



**Living in isolation:** In the Bedouin camps near Al-Muhammadiya in the south of Jordan everyone lives without electricity, heat, and running water. These men herd camels for a living.

and lived in terrible conditions.

I have never once been confused for a women’s-libber, but I was inspired to take up the cause for the women of Jordan and the other nations Rob visited. In east Amman, all women, those of which were permitted to be out in public, wore a complete black covering, with only eyes showing. This included a glove on each hand.

The west was far better, but tank tops and skirts were still very few and far between.

The presence of Islam permeated the experience, even in the west where Rob spent most of his time. Rob visited during Ramadan, the holiest of days in the Muslim faith. This meant a stringent observance to the rules. “It took me a long time to adjust,” said Rob. Eating was not permitted during daylight hours, though Rob did tell me that he occasionally snuck a bite to eat after securely locking himself in his room.

And even when fasting ended at sundown, there were still dietary restrictions. “Alcohol isn’t against the law, but my host family, and most families, would not allow it,” Rob said. “If I wanted to get a beer I would have to go out early enough in the evening to not smell like it when I came home.” There is virtually nowhere for the general population of Jordan to sit down for a drink of alcohol, only small bars in the international hotels which most natives did not frequent.

In a stark contrast to the American university scene, dating and couples being seen in public were non-existent. Rob “dated” a girl while abroad, in that he was permitted to speak to her, with her parents present.

Though the government of Jordan is officially a constitutional monarchy, there are some elements that make one think of totalitarianism. Palestinians are not permitted to run for office or be in any part of civil service. That is why the family owns their own business. The society, being based in Islamic law, means that freedoms are severely limited.

Juxtaposed to these limitations

are the influences from the west. “Most people here can differentiate between the US government and the American people,” said Rob. “The Lebanese are very fashionable, and they see music videos and want to wear the same clothes as rappers do.”

It was much different when Rob stayed with the Bedouin in the desert. “They have nothing and they are happy with nothing,” Rob said. He stayed with a sheikh who was the patriarch of the town. It was with the Bedouin that women’s rights were all but non-existent. “I never saw any of the wives of the

sheikhs, I just knew where they lived with the children.” He assisted the Bedouin men by waking up at 4:30 each morning to herd sheep until noon, when it was far too hot to go on. Once inside the tents, as the heat rose well over 120 degrees, Rob listened in on the men’s discussion on Islam. “Of course,” Rob said, “they kept trying to convert me.”

“The innate condition of being a human is universal and that is something that everyone should keep in mind when talking about the Middle East,” Rob told me. “It may be a different culture and different set of values, but a lot is still the same.”

Even so, I personally have trouble seeing that as Rob shared his experience. What the people in Jordan would consider “everyday life” we in America would see as wholly unjust and against all tenets of our system of free will. Even as the listener to the story, unable to experience what Rob did, it became clear to me the harm is caused on individual rights and liberties.

What was perhaps the best part of Rob’s story was that even putting aside the playful want to look like an American rap star, many people of Jordan want to come to America. It is our perception, here, that our way of life is damned by the east. Instead, it is something that most can only dream about.

So maybe Rob is right in saying that there are some innate parts of the human condition. Despite what we know about cultural relativism and different values and belief systems, the ability to freely choose them is something that most members of the world community do not have, but they desperately want it.

That’s something to think about next time you see a woman’s uncovered face.

**All photos on this page are courtesy of Rob Landicho, taken during his time in Jordan in fall 2006.**

# College "wins" Campus Outrage Award

**Amanda J. Yasenchak**  
Editor Emeritus

On April 2, only a day after April Fool's Day, the Collegiate Network announced its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Campus Outrage Awards. The Collegiate Network came to William and Mary to present President Gene Nichol with the first place award.

"We use these awards to shed light on the most outrageous instances of intolerance and intimidation on the part of college officials, and to let conservative students know they are not alone in battling political correctness on America's campuses," said Stephen Klugewicz, executive director of the Collegiate Network, and 1989 graduate of the College.

At a ceremony in front of the Wren Building, students and passersby gathered to hear the announcement of the awards. Five universities from across the country were chosen for the award. The Collegiate Network presented a statue of a court jester to the presidents of the winning schools.

Klugewicz and several *Virginia Informer* staff members who had nominated William and Mary for the award, attempted to present Nichol with his statue, but he was not in his office at the time. When Klugewicz and other staff members saw Nichol in the Wren Building and told him about the award, Nichol declined to take a picture with the *Informer* staff.

William and Mary won first prize, although Klugewicz cautioned that "winning" was not a good word to use because "no one *really* wants to win this award, it's a bad thing." The campus was chosen for the failure of Nichol to pursue legal action against the National Collegiate Athletic Association for prohibiting the College's feathers from its athletic logo, the Wren cross controversy and the Sex Worker's Art Show. *The Virginia*

*Informer* was recognized by the Collegiate Network for its role in bringing these issues to national attention, both in news coverage and arranging for the debate between commentator Dinesh D'Souza and Professor David Holmes last February.

Second prize went to the University of California at Berkeley, whose student government used student fees to create a scholarship fund for undergraduates who had been denied federal aid because they had prior drug convictions.

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, took third prize for trying to censor their independent student newspaper, *The Carrollton Record*, after the paper printed a story on a school sponsored speaker – a pornographic movie director. The university tried to prevent the newspaper from distributing its issues, including making up rules that applied only to the independent paper,

not the school-supported campus daily.

The University of Michigan won fourth prize for trying to disobey state law. In Fall 2006, Michigan voters had approved the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI), which outlawed affirmative action and racial and gender preferences in many instances, including college admissions. University of Michigan President Mary Coleman stated publicly that the university would fight the MCRI in courts, and the admissions committee pushed through as many minority applicants as possible before the MCRI took effect on December 23, 2006.

The fifth and final prize went to San Francisco State University, whose College Republicans (CRs) chapter sponsored an anti-terrorism rally in October 2006. Participants stepped on effigies of Hamas and Hezbollah flags, which they were unaware said "Allah" written

## CAMPUS OUTRAGE AWARDS

continued on page sixteen

### Campus Outrage Award "Winners"

1. William and Mary
2. University of California at Berkeley
3. Johns Hopkins University
4. University of Michigan
5. San Francisco State

Professor Profile:

## Dr. John Griffin a leading brain in the neuroscience department

**Gustavo Elias**  
Staff Writer

Students at William and Mary know all too well that no matter how interesting a class's topic may be, it is the professor that makes or breaks the class for them. When it comes to biology professor Dr. John Griffin, the enthusiasm he injects into his neuroscience classes is contagious. That is what makes him and his classes so appealing to biology and neuroscience majors alike.



**GRIFFIN**

Dr. Griffin has been teaching here at William and Mary since 1999. He holds an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a Masters and Ph.D in physiology from the Ohio State University. Following his doctorate, he received a postdoctoral research fellowship and teaching fellowship at Harvard Medical School. After a brief stint as an assistant professor at Sacred Heart University, Griffin arrived here at the College of William and Mary as a professor and researcher.

His path to becoming a neuroscientist was not as simple as his resume suggests. While attending UNC-Wilmington, Griffin planned a career in marine biology. One summer working at the world renowned Cleveland Clinic completely changed his professional ambitions. Cleveland Clinic neuroscientist Karen Barnes had asked Griffin to join her sailing team. It also just so happened that he was looking for summer job, so Dr. Barnes offered him a position in her neuroscience lab. Even though only a summer job, Dr. Griffin's interest in neuroscience blossomed inside the laboratory. After returning to Cleveland the following summer, Dr. Griffin chose neuroscience over marine biology.

Here at William and Mary, Dr. Griffin researches an area of the forebrain called the hypothalamus. One familiar function of the hypothalamus is internal body temperature regulation. Specifically, Griffin describes that his research "looks at how we initiate and deal with a fever." Another aspect of his research involves looking at endogenous pyrogens, a fever inducing substance produced by the body. Griffin currently has six undergraduate students in his laboratory, has received funding from both the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health, and frequently publishes papers in scientific journals.

The neuroscience program, the largest interdisciplinary major at the College, continues to grow and attract many students. The complex nature of the brain can be seen every semester at the Neuroscience Symposium. Guest lecturers at these events have ranged from an anthropologist discuss the origins of the visual cortex to a political scientist discussing the "political center" of the brain's cortex. The number of majors at the College has shot up in recent years from only 20 students in a graduating class to about 55 students this past year. According to Dr. Griffin, "students go on into many different directions such as medical school, various graduate schools, or even getting a masters in public health."

Besides neuroscience, one of Dr. Griffin's biggest passions is sailing. He grew up on Lake Erie and his grandfather was a sailor. As his parents enjoyed sailing as well, it was only natural for Dr. Griffin to pick it up. He continued sailing at UNC-Wilmington, with Dr. Barnes during his summers at the Cleveland Clinic, and even today as coach of the William and Mary sailing team. Sailing also holds special memories for Griffin because he met his wife while sailing in Boston. Dr. Griffin maintains that out on the water he is "a big competitor," and he "hates to lose."

In between teaching, researching, sailing, and a busy home life, Dr. Griffin and his wife are part owners of a thoroughbred racehorse that races at Colonial Downs. The Griffins enjoy the social aspect of horse racing, especially the opportunity to meet new people. Dr. John Griffin is truly one of the most accomplished professors at William and Mary.

## Swemming off the deep end: The Queen visits Williamsburg

For those of who you don't care, Her Britannic Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be visiting Williamsburg for the upcoming Jamestowne 2007 bonanza. This is an event that will be commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jamestowne settlement, and will be marked by a level of pomp and trumpery usually reserved for when Sam Sadler visits the Williamsburg Cracker Barrel. We here at *The Virginia Informer* have managed to snag an advanced copy of her itinerary and schedule for her visit to her once-thriving colony domain. (Read the following in a heavy British accent.)

**Itinerary for Morning Activities of Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Head of the Commonwealth, Lord High Admiral, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Defender of the Faith, Lord of Mann, Paramount Chief of Fiji, Duke of Lancaster and Normandy, Golden Globe Nominee and Pulitzer Prize Winner, ESPN 2's All-You-Can-Eat Hot Dog Championship Runner-Up, "Most Likely to be Queen" Senior Superlative Winner, and Best Flip Cup Player in Chestershire:**

- 6:01a:** Her Majesty removed from regeneration pod.
- 6:02a:** HM taken to the loo.
- 6:48a:** HM removed from loo.
- 7:30a:** HM arrives at IHOP and orders the Crumpet Sampler with extra home fries.
- 8:15a:** HM processes down DOG Street in motorcade with regiment of British redcoats.
- 8:30a:** HM issues Royal Proclamation renewing her authority over her colonial domain of Williamsburg. In this speech she appoints David Beckham and Posh Spice to be the new Royal Governors. Modern dentistry is outlawed as a crime punishable by a forced viewing of the



**Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton**  
Humor Columnists

complete DVD box set of *Paddington Bear*.

**8:45a:** Visit to campus. Gene Nichol and Sam Sadler will be ceremoniously dismissed from their positions and will be replaced by Prince Andrew and Fergie, the "Duchess of Funk," who plans to show the campus how London Bridge *really* goes down.

**9:45a:** Caf Man is knighted for his services to the Crown, including the

completion of all of his paperwork and reducing the Caf's health code violations from 14 to 12. The ceremony will be held in Tidewater B.

**12:00p:** After a sumptuous feast at the University Center's "Real Food On Campus," HM visits the cricket match on the Sunken Gardens, featuring a team of professors led by Simon Stow, Clyde Haulman, and Clay Clemens facing off against a team of student celebrities including Tom Moyer, Max Fisher, and Matt "Bronco" Pinsker.

**12:30p:** After a wicked googly hurled by the Bronco, HM leaves for Bruton Parish accompanied by the Vicar of Wakefield, Percival Rice.

**2:45p:** At the conclusion of yet another dreary service in the Church of England, marked by the traditional funeral dirges and readings from Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*, HM will meet her blunderbuss totting loon of a husband, Prince Philip.

**4:15p:** In her last official appearance of the day, HM will christen the new Burberry store at Prime Outlets, and will then proceed to the Victoria's Secret outlet to hit up their 40%-off spring sale.

Later that evening, the Queen will be driven to her suite at the Richmond Road Days Inn. She requires an ambient temperature of 3 degrees Celsius, a copy of *Far from the Maddening Crowd* on her end table, and 16 bottles of sherry. She also demands copies of *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Virginia Informer*, and the latest issue of *Teen People*.

## Satire for the smart: An evening with Christopher Buckley

Chase Coleman & Chris Davis  
Staff Writer & Design Editor

Satirist Christopher Buckley spoke at Phi Beta Kappa Hall on April 3 to an attentive audience of both students and non-students. After his humorous lecture he answered a few questions from audience members.

After a brief introduction, Buckley jumped into his topic for the evening: the importance of titling a new book and the problems associated with this process. This may seem like a rather bland discourse, however, with an audience expecting the full force of a man famous for his satire, Buckley did not disappoint.

After listing failed and comically mistranslated titles, Buckley then told the audience his many ideas for the title of a collection of essays that he was going to have published. After each suggested title, most of which were quite comical, Buckley explained its significance and why it was rejected by the publisher. In this way, Buckley was able to tell a number of stories to

his listeners, summarizing witty essays and amusing events of his life. The subjects of Buckley's numerous anecdotes ranged from an insult exchange with Tom Clancy to an international incident because of an article fictitiously declaring Lenin's body for sale, each tale evoking hearty laughter from the audience.

Buckley's Yale education pervaded his stories, making him an ideal comedian for a William and Mary audience. Mentioning names like Edward Gibbon and titles such as *De Rerum Natura*, it was clear that Buckley's humor is not for the uneducated, and his witty satire, poking fun at both political and cultural figures, was not wasted at the College.

After recounting tales from his life, Buckley answered questions from three audience members. Although there was little political commentary during his speech, an audience member asked Buckley, who was the speechwriter to Vice President George H. W. Bush, to comment on the differences between George W. Bush and his father. Although Buckley expressed admiration for the elder Bush, he criticized the younger, saying that there are "two basic components to [George W. Bush's] personality: he is...a recovering alcoholic and a born-again Christian."

Buckley also answered a question concerning the depravity of celebrities, discussing the saturation of mass media today, particularly how it affects political campaigns. According to Buckley, celebrities have always been depraved, but today it is more difficult to hide than ever before.

The final audience member asked Buckley to comment on the difficulties of writing satire. One of the hardest aspects of writing satire, said Buckley, is figuring out how to "outdo reality," citing the recent news that Keith Richards snorted cocaine mixed with his father's ashes, a story, he noted, that is already so extreme that it would be difficult to embellish. Buckley left his audience emphasizing how often politics is a "target-rich environment" for satire, especially during the Clinton years, when humorists "didn't have to get out of bed" to find good source material.

A reception and book signing followed the lecture, during which Buckley talked personally with audience members.



Ian R. Whiteside

**Master of satire:** Popular author Christopher Buckley gave a talk at the College laced with wry commentary on everything from celebrity depravity to political figures. His new book, *Boomsday*, is a humorous take on the future of Social Security, and a dubious way to solve the problem of too many people relying on the system..

## Hollywood comes to Williamsburg

### One student's taste of not-so-glamorous stardom as a part of HBO's John Adams series

Braum Katz  
Guest Writer

On May 29th, 2007, I woke up at approximately 5:30 am. Having not seen early morning for months, this came as a significant shock to my body. Begrudgingly rolling out of bed, I proceeded to don myself in an outfit far from regular - knickers, an overcoat, and a three-cornered hat. Little did I know that a job as seemingly simple as being a movie extra could consume an entire 12 hours of my day.

I was offered a position as a movie extra, a soldier in the Continental Army, in the upcoming Tom Hanks HBO miniseries about John Adams, through my involvement with the college's own Revolutionary War reenactment group. Arriving on set at around 6:30, accompanied by a cohort of ten other William and Mary students, I was greeted by an extended amount of waiting. We waited for an hour, noshing on stale bagels, until wardrobe and makeup deemed us worthy of their precious time. Hours upon hours later, after suffering an innumerable amount of hair pins and an elaborate transformation into disease-ridden Continental soldiers, we finally were ready for filming. At the set, we were literally told by wardrobe to roll around in the dirt to create a sense of battle fatigue. The set, built in Colonial Williamsburg at the public hospital, proved strikingly elaborate. Rushing to the set, we encountered yet another round of waiting as the director carefully planned and executed the scene to perfection. The director called us at long last, and we then proceeded to stand around, pantomiming conversation and acting cold, as stars Paul Giamatti and David Morse walked through the camp, planning the next step in the war against the British. Three hours of shooting capped off a day composed predominantly of preparation. After the shooting, an excruciatingly boring process, we headed back to set, change out of our clothes and head to campus. Thus began and ended my far from glamorous movie debut.

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## Debut novel stuns, annoys A review of Marisha Pessl's *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*

RC Rasmus  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Have you ever looked at a really, truly beautiful person for a while, admired their grace and stunning figure, and then you saw them do something unbelievably stupid? If you have, then you've experienced something very closely akin to reading Marisha Pessl's debut novel, *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*. Pessl's language is often overwhelmingly beautiful and her plot is charming and clever throughout the first two thirds of her book. However, following in the unfortunate footsteps of the endlessly creative Daniel Handler's second novel *Watch Your Mouth*, what might have been a masterpiece unravels in its final act.

The early plot of Pessl's novel is fast-moving, funny and interesting. Blue Van Meer, the book's protagonist, is the daughter of an eccentric political science professor who changes universities, states and houses each semester. However, for Blue's senior year of high school, Professor Van Meer decides to settle

himself and his daughter down for a full nine months in the sleepy mountain town of Stockton, North Carolina. There he enrolls Blue in a prestigious prep school, where she quickly establishes herself at the top of her class. Blue catches the attention of film teacher Hannah Schneider, who invites her to join a select personal clique of students that includes a wealthy teenage alcoholic, a homosexual automaton, an anachronistic flower child, an emotionally tormented Adonis and a mysterious—and possibly dangerous—Southern teddy bear. The drawing room feel of the scenes that involve these characters and their gossip about Blue, Hannah and one another is spellbinding.

Pessl's writing style is very unique. Gentle metaphors lace almost every paragraph, and the author often weaves in historical and literary metaphors that dazzle and amuse the reader. Take, for instance, Blue's early characterization of herself: "I'd like to say I was the Jane Goodall, a fearless stranger in a stranger land doing (groundbreaking) work

without disturbing the natural hierarchy of the universe. But Dad said, based on his tribal experiences in Zambia, a title only has meaning when others fully support it, and I'm sure if someone asked the Tanned Sporto with Shiny Legs, she'd say if I had to be a Jane, I wasn't the Jane Goodall, nor was I the Plain Jane, the Calamity Jane, the Whatever Happened to Baby Jane, and certainly not the Jayne Mansfield. I was more along the lines of the Pre-Rochester Jane Eyre, which she'd call by either of its pseudonyms, the I Don't Know Who You're Talking About or the Oh Yeah, Her."

The deft touch with which Pessl crafts the body of her novel makes its collapse in its final third all the more irritating and frustrating. The book's first major climax falls flat because it is, rather stupidly, given away on the dust jacket of the book itself. Everything following this tepid event is discombobulated, unnecessary and at times just plain ridiculous. Blue's valedictorian speech, which might have been crafted to reveal any number of profound statements or plot twists, is

trite and rather childish. The action of the novel itself is resolved by a strange and confusing deus ex machina plot twist, and the ending of the novel itself is sappy and unrealistic.

Would I recommend *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*? Absolutely, if for nothing more than the sheer delight that Pessl's language incites in the reader. However, consider yourself forewarned—the latter third of this novel is a major disappointment.

Enjoy the book for what it is: an impressive debut by a young author who is very probably hiding more than a few gems in her mind, ready to burst out onto the page over the course of the next several years. If you like this novel, you might also want to consider reading the aforementioned Daniel Handler's first novel, *The Basic Eight*, which incorporates several of Pessl's novel's most successful elements and has a powerful twist for an ending that will leave your head spinning.

# Nooks and Crannies of William and Mary The mystery of the Missing Coat

## Losing and finding the Arms of the College of William and Mary

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Most students at this university pass by the stone-cast coat of arms at the entrance to New Campus without even giving it a second glance. Perhaps they don't know just how much history the arms of the College of William and Mary have behind them. Looking into the symbol's past yields some very interesting information.

For example, ever recall seeing a dome here at the College of William and Mary? Me neither. Then why is there a dome on the coat of arms? What if I told you that this college has not just one, but three official coats of arms, and that the one we now know, love, and treasure was only put into use 85 years ago? Did you know that the arms of the College are legally protected? It's all true, a part of the interesting and mysterious history of the College of William and Mary's most unique and cherished symbol.

The College was granted a coat of arms on May 2, 1694 by Henry, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England to the Kings of Arms, to be used "in any whatsoever cause and business belonging to them and their successors." It was the first and only of the three royally chartered universities in America to receive such an honor, likely as a result of a request from James Blair to the Bishop of London, and cost the College £45. The official warrant describes the blazon as "Vert, a Colledge [sic] or edifice mason'd argent in chief, a sun rising or the hemisphere proper, as in the margent [sic] hereof is more plainly depicted." Translated, this means that the arms show a college or stone building towards the front on a field of green, with a sun overhead.

Since the first College building was not completed until



Ian R. Whiteside

**Lost and found:** This Coat of Arms was rediscovered in 1922 and now stands near the Crim Dell.

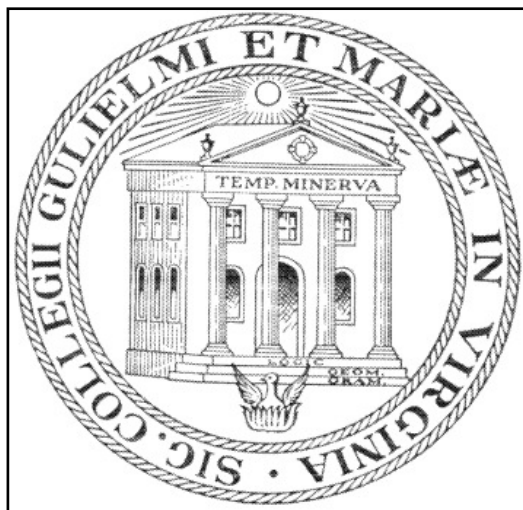
around 1699, the artist who drew William and Mary's first coat of arms very likely just created a fanciful architectural structure to stand for the College itself. No one knows exactly what inspired this design, but John Phillips, director of the alumni house, speculated in 1986 that it was perhaps based on the London skyline as it looked in the late seventeenth century, replete with the towers of Parliament and the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. This version of the College's coat of arms, today called either the "original" or "colonial seal," looked very similar to the version that the university uses today. The only differences are that the "college" structure on the "colonial seal" had fewer stories and a couple more windows than the present one, and was portrayed not as flat and symmetrical, but as a three dimensional building facing off towards the left, and was often accompanied by a Latin legend around its edge reading "Collegii Guilielmi et Mariae in Virginia."

The College used this "colonial seal" continuously until 1784, when, probably due to anti-British sentiment following the Revolutionary War, the official coat of arms was abandoned and was replaced by a new College symbol. This second seal, often called the "temple," "Jeffersonian," or "erroneous seal," was thought for a long time to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson himself while he was serving as governor of Virginia in 1779. Today, most scholars believe

that the seal was most likely designed by a William and Mary law professor named George Wythe. This second "temple seal" shows a Roman temple with a long-rayed sun shining over it, a phoenix (another treasured College symbol) rising out of its ashes on the steps, a frieze over the temple reading "Temp. Minervae," the College's most important subjects, "Medical Arts, Natural Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Jurisprudence... Grammar, Geometry, and Logic" engraved in abbreviated form on the temple's pillars and steps, and the date 1693 featured prominently towards the bottom of the design. For the next 138 years William and Mary used this blazon as its seal, and, as Donald J. Sweg puts in his excellent 1976 history of the symbol "Vert, A College," "its authenticity was never questioned."

It was not until 1922 that a medical doctor from Boston named Howard M. Buck began corresponding with William and Mary librarian Earl Gregg Swem about the origins of the College's official coat of arms. In 1930, armed with a 1749 surveyor's license stamped with the original colonial seal (which, fortunately enough, was found in a second-hand copy of Don Quixote by Mrs. Harry Leiby of Ventnor, NJ, in 1926), Buck contacted the British College of Arms about the official rendering of William and Mary's coat of arms. For the cost of £20, Buck procured a color reproduction of the seal hand-drawn by the College of Arms from the original artist's marginal sketch done in 1694. A colored facsimile of the reaffirmation of the College's warrant for its coat of arms is regularly presented to retiring members of the Board of Visitors. This design, called the "new seal," was adopted for regular use around 1930. There is no record of the BOV voting on such a change, apparently because it was the result of an executive decision made by then-president of the College J.A.C. Chandler. J.T. Baldwin, a professor of biology at the College in the '30s wrote that "students didn't seem too concerned" about the change.

The design of the "new seal" has varied slightly, sometimes showing the sun with a human face or having highly embellished floral patterns incorporated as a part of the border, but for the most part this emblem is the one that most William and Mary students recognize today. It is featured prominently on College merchandise and correspondence, is on the school ring, and hangs proudly over the entrance to Tucker Hall on Old Campus and the phoenix lozenge on New Campus. This version of the College's arms was even trademarked in 1990 in order to protect its integrity during the College's upcoming celebration of its 300th anniversary in 1993. However, vestiges of the "temple seal" remain hidden around campus. When you get a chance, look up over the entrances to Chandler and Jefferson Halls. You might just see a remnant of the coat of arms' second incarnation.



Swem Library Special Collections

**Jefferson or Wythe:** Two William and Mary legends have both been credited with creating this seal that was used for many years.

## Improvathon: It's all fun and games for 12 straight hours

Megan Locke

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Enjoying half a day of non-stop fun can be for a good cause during William and Mary Improvisational Theater's annual Improvathon. Every spring, the members of IT host twelve straight hours of improvised games and skits in order to raise money to support Avalon Women's Shelter.

Funds come from local businesses and private donations that are collected prior to the event. The show is then divided into hour-long segments according to sponsor. Audiences can enjoy a variety of types of improvisational theatre, including long-form improv, improvised musicals, and short-form games. One special event that always takes place during Improvathon is the alumni hour, in which former IT members take the stage and give the current members

some time to rest. Throughout the twelve hours, raffles are held for audience members. "People often ask us if every member of IT stays at Improvathon for the entire 12 hours," says Hannah Ayers ('08). "There's no rest for improvisers; we all stay there the entire time. But it actually goes by surprisingly fast, at least for the performers!"

Previous Improvathons have led to unforgettable memories for both participants and the audiences. One event during last year's Improvathon that several IT members recall was the worm bucket: for every \$100 audience members contributed, three IT members had to put a worm in their mouth and hold it there while performing a scene. As Adam Miller ('08) explains, "Things turned into a bidding war as Brian Sallade's [(06)] family members paid money to decrease the number of worms we would have to hold in his mouth while

his girlfriend's family paid to increase the number of worms."

Ayers was one of the IT members who participated in the worm game. "It wasn't much of a scene, but it got the crowd going. I can still taste it," Ayers says. "We may very well have another challenge this year, but you'll have to come to see it."

Even amidst the flurry of activities that IT is involved in during the year, the Improvathon is one of the main highlights for members. Olivia Lucas's ('08) favorite part of Improvathon is "spending 12 straight hours improvising! It's a huge rush and the time goes by pretty quickly." Improvathon is a special treat for audience members as well, since some improv games are only played at Improvathon. Even those who regularly attend IT events will definitely have something new to see. Some audience members enjoy Improvathon so much

they stay for the entire 12-hour run.

Improvathon may be the final big IT bash this school year, but there is a lot to look forward to in the upcoming fall semester as well. IT will be performing at orientation in the fall, and will also hold auditions for new members in September. During fall break, the members plan to travel to Chicago to attend improv workshops and watch shows at Improv Olympic and Second City.

"IT has had a great year," says Miller. "This was my third year performing with the group and it's almost impossible to compare one year to another. One of the coolest parts about improv is that any show we perform will never be performed again. It's ephemeral, and that's how the group itself operates too. We have no overarching goals except to share a bit of laughter with people from time to time."

**Film Review:**

**The summer movies preview**

Joe Pirro tells you what he knows you'll see, what you should see, and what you should avoid from now until the fall semester



**Joe Pirro**  
Film Critic

*Virginia Informer* takes a look at what Hollywood is sending your way this summer.

**Everyone is going to see these movies:**

1. *Spider-Man 3*: The season begins early with the release of the third installment in the very popular *Spider-Man* franchise. Tobey Maguire returns as the web-slinging hero, though this time, he has three villains to battle, along with some inner demons of his own. Mark it down now, Spidey is back. (May 4)
2. *Shrek the Third*: May gets even busier with the third chapter in DreamWorks' animated series. Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz are back, but this time they're joined by Justin Timberlake, who voices the reluctant King Arthur. Expect craziness and pop culture references to follow suit. (May 18)
3. *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*: Captain Jack Sparrow returns this Memorial Day weekend in what could potentially be his final adventure. Jack, Will, and Elizabeth journey to the edge of the world, where the pirates will join together to fight the colonial forces threatening their rogue way of life. This will be nothing short of a massive success. (May 25)

4. *Ratatouille*: Disney and Pixar's newest offering since last summer's mini-masterpiece, *Cars*. The film, directed by Brad Bird of *The Incredibles*, follows a rat that lives in an up-scale restaurant in Paris. Once again, Pixar seems to have created a hit for all ages. (June 29)
5. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*: Harry's back for a fifth time, in the adaptation of J.K. Rowling's worldwide best-selling series. This time, Harry deals with teen angst while trying to convince the world that Voldemort has returned. Imelda Staunton and Helena Bonham Carter join the cast. (July 13)

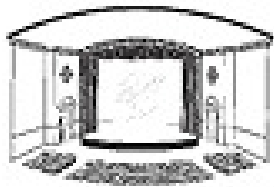
**Critics will like these movies, and so should you:**

1. *Knocked Up*: This may seem an unlikely choice, but the team behind *The 40-Year Old Virgin* returns after their critically and commercially successful Steve Carell film. The plot follows a woman who decides to have a baby after a one-night stand leads to an unexpected pregnancy. (June 1)
2. *A Mighty Heart*: Directed by critically acclaimed director Michael Winterbottom, the film is based on the life of Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was captured and killed in Pakistan. (June 22)
3. *The Bourne Ultimatum*: This is a great example of a popular series that is extremely well-done. Matt Damon returns as the man without a past, who is racing against time to discover who he truly is. (August 3)
4. *Becoming Jane*: Anne Hathaway tries to win an Oscar in a biopic based on the life of Jane Austen. James McAvoy from *The Last King of Scotland* plays her love interest. (August 3)

**Oh God, why were these movies ever made?**

1. *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*: Without having a valid reason (other than maybe pure greed), Twentieth Century Fox is subjecting America to another *Fantastic Four* movie. Unfortunately, the original cast returns to continue destroying their own careers in what would have been the worst titled movie of the summer. (June 15)
2. *Live Free or Die Hard*: ...if it weren't for this movie. The ancient Bruce Willis franchise gets inexplicably rebooted this summer. I'm assuming action ensues, but I'm just wondering if Willis' wheelchair will be able to move quickly enough. (June 29)
3. *Transformers*: Yes, this could have been cool...if the movie had been made fifteen years ago. Michael Bay continues to prove that no one should ever give him a video camera with this "blockbuster" film. Maybe it'll make a lot of money, but I'm hoping that by the time we return to Williamsburg in August, *Transformers* is considered the biggest failure of the summer. Sorry. (July 4)
4. *Daddy Day Camp*: Someone in Hollywood thought we wanted a sequel to *Daddy Day Care*. However, they couldn't even convince Norbit himself, Eddie Murphy, to do it, so they convinced Cuba Gooding, Jr., that he would probably win another Oscar for this "movie." Please, please, no one go see this movie. (August 10)

So, there it is. There's a summer full of hits and extreme misses. Enjoy your vacation and your time away from Williamsburg.



*Kimball Theatre*

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

**April Schedule**

**Movies**

**Notes on a Scandal (R)**

Sun., Apr. 8-Sun., Apr. 15  
7 and 9 p.m.  
Apr. 9, 11-12, 14 matinees at 3 p.m.  
Apr. 9-12, 14 (9 p.m. show in auditorium)  
screening room (35 seats)

**25 cent Lemonade not rated**

Sat., Apr. 14 at 7 p.m.  
All seats \$2

**The Painted Veil (PG-13)**

Sun., Apr. 15-Sun., Apr. 22  
6:30 and 8:45 p.m.  
Apr. 15-21 screening room (35 seats)

**Inland Empire (R)**

Sun., Apr. 22-Fri., Apr. 27  
Apr. 22-23, 25-27 shows at 4 and 7:30 p.m.  
Apr. 24 shows at 7:30 p.m. only  
All shows in screening room (35 seats)

**College of William and Mary's Hillel**

**Chapter's Israel Festival presents**  
**Janem Janem**  
Tues., Apr. 24 at 7 p.m.  
All seats \$2

**The Curse of the Golden Flower (R)**

Sat., Apr. 28-Wed., May 2  
6:45 and 9 p.m.  
Apr. 28, 30-May 1 screening room (35 seats)

**Live Performances**

**The Williamsburg Symphonia presents**  
**Subscription Concert #4**

Wed., Apr. 18 and Thurs., Apr. 19 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$37, \$27. Advance tickets available through  
the Symphonia; call (757) 229-9857

**WTYD-Tide radio's Skookum Music Series**  
**Returns**

**Carbon Leaf in Concert**  
Sat., Apr. 21 at 8 p.m.  
All seats \$17

**The College of William and Mary**  
**Music Department presents**  
**An Evening of Jazz with the W&M Jazz**  
**Ensemble**

Wed., Apr. 25 at 8 p.m.  
General admission \$8, Seniors/Students \$5

**Hospice House and Support Care of**  
**Williamsburg presents**

**Emil Israel Chudnovsky: Violinist**  
Fri., Apr. 27 at 7 p.m.  
All seats \$35

**The Williamsburg Women's Chorus and**  
**Choraliers present**

**A Salute to American Music**  
Sat., Apr. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Apr. 29 at 2 p.m.  
General admission \$12, Students \$5

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**Come to the Kimball Theatre on DoG Street!**  
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Staff Editorials:

# No contract renewal for Nichol

The Board of Visitors of the College will be meeting this week to discuss pressing issues such as tuition for next year, the laundry fee and the future of William and Mary. In that vein, their agenda also should include the contract renewal of President Gene Nichol. Nichol's contract is up in June of 2008, and the BOV will not meet again until October. When Tim Sullivan resigned as president, he gave the BOV just over a year to make their decision. It is apparent now that one year was not enough time to deliberate. In light of Nichol's disappointing record as president of this College, we believe that the Board of Visitors should consider not renewing President Nichol's contract when it expires next year.

The cover story regarding Nichol's mediocre history as a leader of public universities was eye-opening, and is the final straw in recognizing that Nichol is not right for William and Mary. The truth is that Nichol has failed in most of his presidential duties, although he is still beloved by most students and many faculty members. We know that this editorial will not be well-received by many on campus, but we ask those would-be detractors to consider the facts.

First, our College's national rankings are slipping. No matter what your opinion of them may be, they are, nonetheless, important in attracting prospective students and marketing one's diploma as a graduate.

Fundraising, or lack thereof, is a chief concern. The Campaign for William and Mary is not releasing quarterly numbers, and the Development Office has admitted that we have fallen below the \$500 million goal that was announced months ago. It is an

embarrassment to the College. Nichol lacks understanding of traditions at William and Mary. In a *Dog Street Journal* article at the beginning of this academic year, Nichol mentioned that he was "anxious" about the religion involved in the beloved Yule Log Ceremony. That should have been the first indicator that more trouble was to come.

In the areas in which Nichol has shown the capacity to lead, such as student voting rights, he sadly no longer has any political capital left to spend. Most was lost during his stubborn and foolish handling of the Wren cross debacle. Anything that Nichol fights for in the future, whether in Williamsburg or Richmond, will be tainted by the embarrassing memory of the cross controversy.

The only way for the College to escape this downward spiral is for the BOV to announce that we want to move on with a new leader and allow Nichol to finish out his last year, if he so chooses.

The next president should be an alumnus, or, in the least, someone much more closely connected to the College as a faculty member or administrator. He or she needs to be someone who understands the community and the traditions at William and Mary. The president should also be more business savvy—as the College needs to be more financially stable to continue expanding at its current rate - as well as be more adept in handling the politics required of the leader of a public university.

Nichol's deficiencies are clear, and it is now time to part ways with him, or suffer the further decline of our beloved and illustrious College.

## Full credit for ROTC cadets

As reported in our news section, the fact that ROTC cadets at William and Mary receive such few credits for their ROTC training - 14 credits for 19 classes over the course of 8 semesters, only 6 of which may be used towards graduation - is shameful and must be remedied.

The College's academic policy towards ROTC students is reprehensible. William and Mary is alone in its shocking disregard for the work and dedication of our ROTC students: in fact, we give the least amount of credit hours of any major university in Virginia.

ROTC cadets undergo a mandatory four hours per week of physical training in addition to their regular coursework. Apparently, the College does not view such work as worthy of a respectable amount of academic credit.

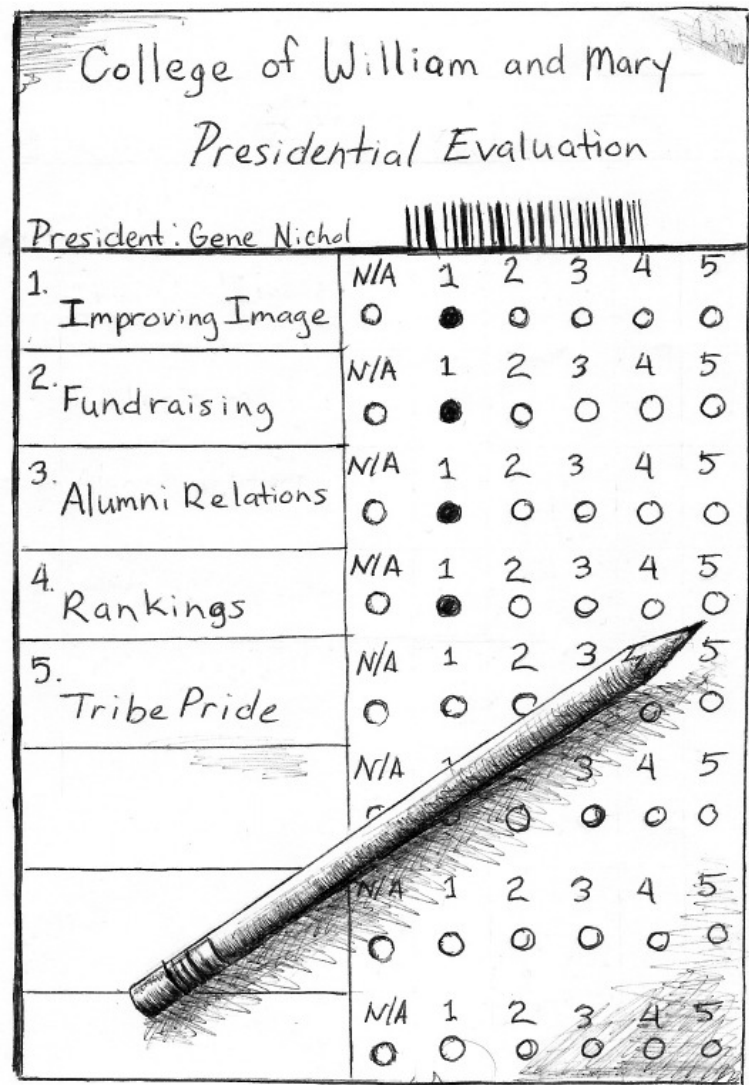
ROTC students are struggling to balance their so-called "real" academic work with the strenuous and challenging duties they are volunteering to perform as part of their ROTC training. After spending hundreds of extra hours, including entire weekends, working hard to finish their ROTC instruction,

working harder than most students ever will at this College, they are told that all their work has barely earned them a semester's worth of credit.

It is nothing short of amazing that most ROTC students find the impressive will and work ethic to complete their requirements for graduation, considering how poorly they are rewarded by the College.

William and Mary needs to seriously consider the message we are sending not only to the public, but to our student body. Many of these students are willing to serve in the U.S. armed forces - including deployments to Iraq - after they graduate. Yet to the administration, such self-sacrifice and love of country is demmed unimpressive. ROTC students feel snubbed and insulted by this College's policies, and with good reason.

Most students here at William and Mary do not want the College to have a reputation of hostility towards our soldiers. Instead of overlooking the efforts and achievements of some of our best and brightest in the ROTC program, the College should be dedicated to rewarding their perseverance and hard work with the credit they deserve.



David Clifford

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I have just read your editorial in the March 2007 edition. You have captured very nicely the remaining issues left over from the infamous Wren Cross controversy. Clearly, the so-called "compromise" is an unsatisfactory solution to the overall issue of the Wren cross, and was neatly outlined as to "why?" in the article by Nick Hoelker in the same issue.

President Nichol made an extremely poor decision in trying to be the sole arbiter and executor to remove the Wren cross. His rationale that the cross somehow causes the Chapel to be "unwelcoming" and not "open" to all students does not hold water.

Scores of alumni have completely refuted that argument, but Nichol just couldn't bring himself to admit that he had made a mistake and return the cross to the chapel. This arrogance is costing the university dearly, has brought too much unneeded and unnecessary negative publicity, and the aftermath and all that it portends will linger for years to come. It has left an unfavorable impression, at least in the minds of thousands of alumni, and the question of ever trusting this president again

will not be easily satisfied. I'm not sure that Gene Nichol even now can comprehend how unwise it was to mess around with the history and the cultural heritage that students and alumni desire to protect and maintain with this great university.

His agenda of political correctness and so-called "openness" is nothing but a stalking horse for his much larger preoccupation that stems straight from the ACLU. The Board of Visitors must share a large share of the blame for the present situation, because it has not acted decisively not even addressed the problem. They have a big decision still on their plate that they will have to address sooner or later.

I enjoy your student publication whenever I read it, and it is usually available in the Barnes and Noble student bookstore. I hope that you will continue to review this Wren cross issue and keep the student body, at least, informed of any other developments in the situation.

Allen R. Elkins  
Williamsburg, VA

Dear Editor:

The Medical Amnesty Policy (MAP) should not and does not refer to exception from judicial sanctions for any alcohol violations - rather, it only focuses on the case of intoxication. Recently, a freshman notified emergency services when his roommate began "vomiting blood after consuming alcohol." The reporting student had a "considerable quantity of alcohol in his room," and was referred to the administration; the reporting student ended up with probation from the College and Virginia as well as alcohol education from the school and James City County.

While I commend the freshman for calling emergency services, the argument that he should be protected under the MAP is weak. The policy, as currently stated,

focuses on the intoxication of the person(s) involved (whether self or the reporting individual), and not to all violations of the College's Alcohol Beverage Policy (ABP). The policy is prefaced by: "If an individual seeks medical attention due to his /her level of intoxication...". If you have three handles of rum in your room, and later have to call the paramedics for your drunk roommate, judicial sanctions may be overlooked for your being intoxicated (if you are). However, there's nothing in the amnesty policy that prevents judicial sanctions for the possession of alcohol (i.e the three handles) in your room. Those are two completely separate incidents.

Devin DeBacker  
Class of 2008

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

*The Virginia Informer* would like to thank all of our supporters and advertisers who made the publishing of this issue, and all issues for the last two years possible. *The Informer* is an independent publication and we do not receive any public funding, unlike the other publications at William and Mary.

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

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# Safe Zone training program proves to be presumptuous

Nick Fitzgerald  
Executive Editor

Safe Zone is a national and campus program designed to “reduce homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism on our campus and thereby to make our campus a safer and freer environment for all members of our community regardless of sexual orientation.”

To me, homophobia is an unwarranted and irrational fear of gays. Dictionary.com happens to agree with me: “An unreasoning fear of or antipathy toward homosexuals and homosexuality.” No one is justified in exhibiting behavior that can be classified in this way, that is, fearing or hating homosexuals for, ultimately, no justifiable reason. Violence and hatred against gays is not something that should be morally acceptable in our society, as homosexuals are human beings just like everyone else—they deserve the same dignity and respect that all people deserve.

This is quantifiably different, however, than accepting the gay *lifestyle* as morally permissible. In other words, one is not homophobic just because one disagrees with the ethics of a gay lifestyle. One is only homophobic if he exhibits actions which can be described as promoting or engaging in an unwarranted or irrational fear of homosexuals. This is a common sense way of understanding homophobia, as it leaves open the possibility that, while no one is justified in hate, moral and ethical questions about homosexuality can best be answered by individuals on their own.

It would appear, then, that one can disagree with others on the morality of an actively homosexual lifestyle without references to bigotry or, as was the case in my particular Safe Zone session, “crazy religious people”—which, perhaps ironically, does not sound particularly accepting or tolerant to me.

Speaking of acceptance and tolerance, I found it quite strange that Safe Zone labeled both of these terms as two of its four levels of homophobia. Acceptance is

categorized as the least offensive form of homophobia, despite the fact that those who fall under this category, at least according to Safe Zone, are “characterized by such statements as ‘You’re not a lesbian, you’re a person’ or ‘What you do is your own business’ or ‘It’s fine with me, just don’t flaunt it.’”

So if Safe Zone defines homophobia even by acceptance, what is it looking for instead? The answer to this question leads us to the title of this op-ed. Safe Zone is not looking for acceptance, toleration, or a diversity of viewpoints—three things which we are taught should be extolled in an ever more diverse and growing world—but, instead, activism on behalf of the homosexual—or, more precisely, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (GLBTQ)—community.

“The people behind this program wish to make activists out of those who attend its training sessions—this conclusion is inescapable...”

Just as Safe Zone has four forms of homophobia, it also has four tiers of “positive levels of attitude,” the most positive of which is “nurturance.” Nurturance “assumes that gay/lesbian people are indispensable in our society. They view gays/lesbians with genuine affection and delight, and are willing to be allies and advocates.”

This unwarranted advocacy is, ultimately, what Safe Zone wants. The people behind this program wish to make activists out of those who attend its training sessions—this conclusion is inescapable if one reads the Safe Zone literature with an objective eye.

This call to activism, however, is overreaching to the point of presumption. To make our campus a “safer and freer environment for all members of our community regardless of sexual orientation” is an extremely noble and worthwhile goal. To be able to get 100% of campus to treat everyone with equal dignity and respect is worth fighting for. What is not worth fighting for, however, is the transformation of this worthy ideal into a brainwashing session.

It would behoove Safe Zone to be more inclusive by emphasizing their goal of equality over activism if it is truly committed to making all students—gay and straight—equal members of our campus community.

## New lottery will cause more headaches, not less

Students at this College are familiar with stress. It’s something most of us knew full well we were signing up for when we chose to enroll here. Everyone is faced with the rigors of William and Mary’s tough academic curriculum, and most students are involved with enough extra curricular activities to make their lives a nonstop blur.

Keeping that in mind, let us consider the College’s decision this semester to introduce a new online lottery system for on-campus undergraduate housing. The new process, which will take place from April 16<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>, replaces the old system, which massed students in Trinkle Hall on one dreaded weekend each April to “streamline” and “simplify” the housing selection process. A noble intention, to be sure—except that this new system promises to accomplish neither.

The very determination that the old system needed changing is puzzling. Was there a serious and recurring problem with the process? No such reports have been announced. Admittedly, it was an extremely nerve-wracking process that made most students feel like pulling their hair out, especially during those nail-biting hours at the Campus Center.

Unfortunately, not only does the new online system not appear to do much to alleviate this stress; it will most likely

only exacerbate it.

The online housing lottery is being run through the Banner system—and any student who has registered for a class at this school is familiar with the efficiency of that interface. Random logging out, technical glitches, maddening error messages, and bandwidth shortages are par excellence for class registration each semester. Countless repairs and “upgrades” have done little to improve the situation.

To Residence Life’s credit, they have learned from the experiences of the class registration system, and have set up the housing lottery to maximize technological reliability by spreading out the registration times. Students will sign up for housing in blocks of 40-60 as their designated time slot opens, rather than in a mass wave of 1,000+ students attempting to access the same page on Banner at the exact same time.

However, despite the much-trumpeted small-scale “successful test” of the online lottery system earlier this year, there is little reason to hope that the first real-world use of the system won’t be plagued by the inevitable computer glitches and bugs that are sure to complicate and frustrate the process.

While the longer selection period

might have a positive effect on the system’s performance, it also has the effect of dragging out the housing selection process. Students will have to deal with considerable stress for not just a two-day selection period—now the process has been stretched to eleven days (nine registration days, including a break for the weekend). During that time, students will have to be constantly checking the Residence Life Web site each day for updates on which rooms have been taken and which are still available—an even more nerve-racking experience that is arguably much worse than surviving those few stressful hours spent in Trinkle Hall in previous years. Ulcers are sure to ensue.

The time-block structure of the online lottery also makes for a much more chaotic and uncertain selection process. Instead of each student receiving a single lottery number, which would be followed in order during room selection, this relatively simple system has been abandoned in favor of blocked time, which has the effect of turning selection into a minor free-for-all. No person in the time block has an advantage over any other—whether you were the first, twentieth, or sixtieth in order of being

assigned to your time block, you have the exact same opportunity to secure any given living space. This might not be a big deal for most undergraduates, but for upperclassmen, especially seniors battling for coveted spots in the Lodges, Ludwell, or Jamestown, this makes the outcome of the process extremely complex and uncertain.

Finally, the online housing process takes out one of the most important characteristics of the previous system—the human element. Students will no longer be able to interact with other students at the lottery, which has served as an important factor in helping many students find their ideal living conditions. There are numerous stories of underclassman finding an upperclassman at lottery with which to room, or to switch rooms with in order to get the room they’re looking for. That will obviously be impossible during the online process.

This system clearly had good intentions, but sadly it does not look like any of them will actually be realized. The housing lottery has become more stressful, more complicated, and more chaotic—not less. I sincerely hope that this analysis is incorrect, and that the entire process goes smoothly and that students find it to be a significant improvement over the old system. It just does not seem very likely.



Alex Mayer  
Opinion Editor

# What's on tap

Mandie Constanzer & Amanda Yasenchak

*The Virginia Informer*

And now for something completely different, a piece about foam, good-looking ladies and gents, and college antics: a piece about . . . beer tasting? This pint-sized article will be a recurring piece, since there never seems to be a lack of people willing to help with taste-tests. So, without further ado, *The Virginia Informer* presents "What's on tap."

Like any experienced William and Mary student, thoughts of frosty pints guided us directly to the Green Leaf



**Light or dark:** Mandie (above) tries dark beers.

color, has a moderate degree of carbonation, and has a bit of a bite at first. It's a hop-heavy, full-bodied brew, but has a good aftertaste and is not overly heavy.

**Legend Brown Ale:** This beer, from Richmond, Virginia, was a very smooth, nutty flavored brew. Slightly darker in color than the Hop Pocket Ale, it also has a moderate carbonation, but incorporates more malt and less hops into the flavor. This one was really refreshing, and my favorite of the night!

**Dominion Irish Red:** Also from Ashburn, Virginia, this selection was a reddish brown beer, darker than the Legend

Café, home of approximately 30 beers on tap. The Green Leaf kindly played host for two over-21 thirsty Informer staffers and provided us with eight samples of their most popular drafts.

*Mandie's recommendations for the "dark" stuff:*

### Tupper's Hop Pocket

**Ale:** This beer is from Ashburn, Virginia. This beer is golden brown in

color, has a moderate degree of carbonation, and has a bit of a bite at first. It's a hop-heavy, full-bodied brew, but has a good aftertaste and is not overly heavy.

**Legend Brown Ale:** This beer, from Richmond, Virginia, was a very smooth, nutty flavored brew. Slightly darker in color than the Hop Pocket Ale, it also has a moderate carbonation, but incorporates more malt and less hops into the flavor. This one was really refreshing, and my favorite of the night!

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**Weapon of choice:** The Green Leaf features over 30 beers on tap.

Brown Ale, but with the same moderate carbonation. The Dominion Irish Red is smooth and sweeter than the Hop Pocket, with fewer hops. All in all, a very flavorful beer - great for Mug Night!

**Domion Oak Barrel Stout:** The last beer I sampled was another from the Old Dominion Brewing Company in Ashburn. This beer is very dark in color, with a very smooth, fine carbonation. It has a nutty flavor from the malt, with other flavors woven in to create a satisfying dark beer without the heaviness of Guinness.

*Amanda's recommendations for the "light" stuff:*

**Legend Lager:** This was very mild and smooth, very light in appearance. It has a very light bitterness, almost no aftertaste. It is very similar to Bud Light although it is technically not a "light" beer (Bud Light is actually the only truly light beer that the Green Leaf keeps on tap). But if you like light beers and want to try something different, Legend Lager is for you.

**Bavik Pilsner:** This is a Belgian beer, very light in color. It is more full-bodied than the Legend Lager, with more bitterness in both the taste and aftertaste. Even so, the bitterness is not overpowering. This is ideal for someone who wants something a little more substantial than the Legend Lager, but does not want to go for the darker brews that Mandie was tasting.

**Paulaner Hefeweisbier:** This is a light-colored German beer with a fruity flavor. The Green Leaf serves it with a slice of lemon. This is a popular choice among customers, but I didn't particularly care for the fruity taste. If I wanted a fruity alcoholic beverage, I would prefer a hard cider, rather than a beer with a shot of citrus. But judging by the numerous pitchers of this beer being poured the night we did the tasting, you may have to judge for yourself.

**Woodchuck Amber Draft Cider:** This was very sweet. It tastes like apple juice or apple cider with a very subtle kick. Unlike some of the popular malt liquor drinks, such as Mike's Hard Lemonade or Cider, or the fruit-flavored Smirnoff Ice series, you could easily drink the Woodchuck Cider without tasting the alcohol. It is produced by the Green Mountain Cidery in Vermont, and is made of apples and fermented champagne yeast. This is the perfect drink for someone who does not like the traditional taste of alcohol or wants a break from beer.

*Editor's Note:* The Virginia Informer would like to thank the Green Leaf Café and its knowledgeable staff for the free samples and information. We do not endorse underage or irresponsible drinking. All Informer staff members involved in this column are at least 21 years of age.

## Global warming?



Ian R. Whiteside

**An inconvenient sight:** Frost-covered tulips found subathing in the 30 degree temperatures on campus on April 7.

## Tired of Lodge One sushi? Check out Williamsburg Soya



Shelbi Wilson  
Food Critic

I love sushi. I am sure other students share this same passion and have discovered that the sushi on campus just does not cut it. Mongolian Buffet and Lenny's Gourmet both have good sushi, but they still fall short. Based on a recommendation from a professor, I decided to try Williamsburg Soya and see how it compared to other locations.

Soya has a wide selection of sushi, which includes the usual favorites such as California (crab and avocado), Dragon (fried shrimp and cream cheese), and Hamachi (yellow tail) rolls. Other interesting rolls include Mirugai (giant clam), Tamago (egg omelet), and Chesapeake (crab cake) rolls. Their menu includes over 40

**Keep on rollin':** Shelbi is a big fan of Williamsburg Soya's New York sushi roll.

different rolls that range from \$2.95 to \$8.95 based on ingredients. Some menu items such as giant clam, lobster tail, and sea urchin are market priced. I recommend the New York (spicy tuna with shrimp tempura) roll - I love spicy food and this was almost too much to handle, in a good way.

In addition to sushi, Soya offers appetizers, hibachi, and select "kitchen" items. Appetizers include salads, edamame, and various seafood dishes (both fried and broiled). For those with small appetites, these options may be the perfect meal. Items range from \$2.95 to \$15.95. The larger entrees are either hibachi or kitchen items. Hibachi dinners include vegetables, chicken, beef (NY strip or Filet Mignon), seafood (scallops, shrimp, or lobster), or combinations of

these and range in price from \$9.95 to \$26.95. Kitchen items include Katsu, Teriyaki, Yakisoba, and Donburi style dinners. These range from \$9.95 to \$19.95 depending on your selection.

This restaurant was a great recommendation and I hope that students will make the trek from campus to Soya to see what it has to offer. The service was excellent and the food was wonderful. I am only sad that I did not discover it sooner!

Williamsburg Soya is located at 4511 John Tyler Highway in the Farm Fresh shopping center. Their lunch hours are 11:30am to 2pm Monday through Friday; dinner hours from 5pm to 9:30pm Monday through Sunday. For more information, please call (757) 229-1212 or visit them online at [williamsburgsoya.com](http://williamsburgsoya.com).

## CAMPUS OUTRAGE AWARDS:

### WM receives dubious prize

continued from page one



Rachel Brown

**The joker:** President Nichol received first place in the annual Campus Outrage Awards for the Wren cross, with this court jester trophy as the prize.

in Arabic script. Offended students filed a complaint against the CRs, accusing them of "attempts to incite violence and create a hostile environment." The school administration intimidated the CR students until a formal trial found them not guilty. This is contrasted against an incident in Fall 2004, when Arab students attacked CRs who were handing out pro Bush/Cheney literature. Campus police did nothing to protect the CRs then, and the school administration did nothing to admonish the Arab students.

The Collegiate Network is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that provides financial support and training to independent student newspapers at colleges and universities across the country.

For more information about the Campus Outrage Awards, visit [www.campusmagazine.org](http://www.campusmagazine.org). Editor's Note: *The Virginia Informer* is supported by the Collegiate Network.