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# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

An independent  
publication of  
The College of  
William and Mary.

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The common sense paper of record on campus

## College Delly's future still undecided



Ian R. Whiteside

Starbucks has increased its offer to buy the College Delly, owner Dean Tsamouras said, but there is also another offer on the table. Tsamouras indicated that he would prefer that the building remain as the College Delly and that another group has expressed interest in purchasing the property to preserve it, but no final deals had been made. Sophomore Zach Pilchen who started the "Not Another Motherfucking Starbucks" Facebook group commented, "Perhaps Starbucks didn't receive the message that over 1,600 undergrads sent them in a single week of petitioning: We don't want you here."

*Nick Hoelker contributed to this report.*

## College gave city private student information that led to evictions

Alex Randy Kyrios  
Online Copy Editor

The College is handing over information about students to officials of the City of Williamsburg without student consent. The City, in turn, has used this information to track down violators of "three-person-to-a-house rule," the Williamsburg law preventing more than three unrelated persons in the same residence. Now Student Assembly Senators Zach Pilchen ('09) and Matt Beato ('09) are alleging that the 38 students recently asked to leave their homes in violation of this law were found because their information was listed in the student directory.

Zoning Administrator Rodney Rhodes, who began work with the City in August of 2006, spoke with The Informer on the issue of the 38 "evicted" students. Rhodes disliked the word "evicted" for their cases, citing the City's inability to actually evict a person from his or her home; he says that they were simply asked to leave in order to comply with city law, "or face legal action by the City for enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance." When asked initially about rumors that the College had

**EVICTIONS**  
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## Committee on Religion restores cross to chapel

Nick Fitzgerald  
Features Editor

At a March 6 press conference announced only hours earlier, the William and Mary Committee on Religion in a Public University announced its decision concerning the placement of the Wren cross. The decision was announced officially by Professor Alan Meese, co-chair of the committee, seated alongside President Gene Nichol and co-chair Professor Jim Livingston. Meese read the following official decision from a prepared statement which was given to members of the press before the conference began:

*THE WREN CHAPEL CROSS SHALL BE RETURNED FOR PERMANENT DISPLAY IN THE CHAPEL IN A GLASS CASE. THE CASE SHALL BE LOCATED IN A PROMINENT, READILY VISIBLE PLACE, ACCOMPANIED BY A PLAQUE EXPLAINING THE COLLEGE'S ANGLICAN ROOTS AND ITS HISTORIC CONNECTION TO BRUTON PARISH CHURCH. THE WREN SACRISTY SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO HOUSE SACRED OBJECTS OF ANY RELIGIOUS*

*TRADITION FOR USE IN WORSHIP AND DEVOTION BY MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY.*

This decision comes somewhat unexpectedly, as Nichol gave the committee until April to decide on this issue. "I was heartened and somewhat surprised to receive a visit from Professors Meese and Livingston....They indicated that while other deliberations continued, the committee had reached a decision on the Wren chapel issue." The visit Nichol is referring to occurred Monday night, around 7:30 or 8 p.m., when Meese and Livingston came to Nichol's house with the decision.

"We all became aware the Board of Visitors welcomed efforts by the committee to produce an expedited recommendation," said Meese, further explaining the committee's relatively quick decision. "At the beginning of our deliberations, we didn't know if we could reach a consensus. We did reach a consensus, it was unanimous....The cross will be in a prominent, visible place. This will be a place other than the altar itself." Meese also emphasized that there will be consultation between the Wren's staff and the committee to make sure that this cross is displayed properly within the guidelines set forth.

Co-chair Jim Livingston also commented on the committee's results: "As co-chair, I'm very proud of the way we have handled our meetings....Wehavemetwith many groups on the campus and have been pleased with those interviews."

Livingston also explained that while the committee has come to its decision on the Wren cross, it is still in full operation and will continue to meet to discuss other aspects of religion in a public university. "The committee's charter was for looking at religion in the public university, with special attention of course to William and Mary, but our work is still on going. We're planning on bringing a number of speakers, have some forums, have other forms of open meetings in the future, and that's still the work of the committee. We will continue to meet and work on those."

President Nichol and the Board of Visitors have officially accepted this



Ian R. Whiteside

**Back in the Chapel:** Despite the committee's recent decision, its work is not over.

recommendation by the committee, and

**NICHOL OVERRULED**

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So why did they sink the gardens after all?  
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# Honor Council restores legitimacy, opens up meetings

## Informer investigation leads to changes that make proceedings legal

Jon San  
Staff Writer

Roughly five months ago, *The Virginia Informer* ran a story that revealed the Honor Council to be operating in opposition to several regulations specified by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). By neglecting to post their meeting times in a prominent public area and adjourning meetings without the required roll-call vote that insures (and binds members on their honor) that the topics discussed were only those that were on the agenda, the Honor Council was essentially illegitimate. *The Informer* was interested to find out if this has changed since the appointment of junior Judd Kennedy as chair of 23 newly elected members.

Along with revising and changing several committees within the Honor Council, Kennedy, former chair Nora Wolf, and others have addressed the aforementioned issues that had previously put in question the body's legality.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Kennedy regarding these changes.

Previously, Honor Council meeting times were only posted outside of the James Room. The average student here at the College, though, does not pass by this remote conference room tucked away in a quiet corner of the UC. In fact, many students here at the College have even never heard of the James Room.

Kennedy realized that this policy, while

unintentional, may discourage or prevent students from sitting in on the business portion of Honor Council meetings. "To correct this," said Kennedy. "We will be posting the Honor Council meeting hours on the Student Happenings emails along with on the Honor Council website and on our office door."

Kennedy continued, saying that members' office hours would be posted online as well. Office hours provide additional flexibility for students that may be curious about the Honor Council but are unable to make the weekly meetings.

With Student Happenings emails effectively reaching the entire student body twice a week, it would seem that the Honor Council is now in concurrence with the FOIA. In addition, Kennedy assured me that the obligatory roll-call vote which precedes a motion to adjourn the meeting will be formally reinstated. The roll-call vote ensures that the body has discussed, in the confidential portion of the meeting, only what was scheduled to be discussed.

"We are merely formalizing what was already done informally in the past," said Kennedy. "We had always realized

that we were bound to discuss only the subjects and cases on the agenda; it's just that now we are using Robert's Rules of Order and the roll-call vote to formally affirm that the only subjects discussed in closed session were what we said would be discussed."

Closed session is the part of the meeting where members discuss any currently open cases. During this portion, any non-Honor Council members are asked to leave for the sake of confidentiality. This has been deemed legal by

FOIA Advisory Council Staff Attorney, Alan Gernhardt, since individual student cases are discussed. It should be noted, though, that no decisions are made during these closed sessions.

Kennedy explained that, "There is no adjudication during closed session; we merely discuss the case. Considering that we know the name of the individual, deciding his or her punishment would be biased. Decisions are made outside of the Sunday meetings and involve many parties outside of the Honor Council."

Any student or faculty member, however, is welcome to attend the business section of Honor Council meetings.

On Sunday, March 4, the Honor

Council met for the first time since the new elections. During the business section, Vice-Chair Roshan Patel discussed the various committees so that the newly elected members could best choose which they wanted to be a part of based on their interests. The committees range on subject matter and responsibilities. They include Education, Rules, Faculty Liaison, Historian, Social and Webmaster. One of the main changes is that Orientation responsibilities (which includes Freshman Hall Programming and Extended Orientation) are now under the watch of the Social Committee rather than the Education Committee.

An average business meeting will also include discussion on the various bylaws that structure how Honor Council meetings are conducted. "[Bylaws] dictate everything from how we run internal affairs to how officers are elected," said Kennedy.

Secretary Katie Adams records all the minutes from the meeting. While the minutes are not publicly available, and are not required to be according to the FOIA, Kennedy said that they can be easily obtained if a student so desires.

"All a student needs to do is ask," said Kennedy.

The Honor Council meets weekly on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 p.m. in the James Room in the UC. Information regarding meeting times, council members, the honor code, and the Councils' bylaws can be found at <http://honorc.people.wm.edu/members.php>.



**Changes made:** This October 2006 *Informer* cover story forced the Honor Council to abide by the law.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Amanda J. Yasenchak

### Professor awarded \$500,000

William and Mary physics professor Henry Krakauer was recently awarded \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense to fund a new computer cluster to study the qualities of piezoelectrics. The cluster will be housed at the Center for Piezoelectrics by Design (CPD), a multi-institution collaborative project at the Applied Research Center in Newport News, VA. Piezoelectrics, materials that convert energy from one form to another, are a common component in military applications, such as transducers for naval sonar systems. The new computer cluster will increase the CPD's computing power tenfold.

### Mason School of Business undergraduate program ranked 29th nationally

BusinessWeek magazine released its 2007 rankings of undergraduate business programs, listing the Mason School of Business at the College as 29th overall, and 10th among public universities. The ranking is based on teaching quality, facilities and services, and job placement. The McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia was ranked second.

## Facebook profile leads to assault on UMW College Republicans

Stephanie Long  
News Editor

The social networking website Facebook gave one University of Mary Washington graduate the information necessary to target and find members of the school's College Republicans, whom he proceeded to harass and assault.

Impersonating a military recruiter, Andrew Stone compiled a list of the addresses of College Republicans at the university, including President Andrew Lamar and member Richard Reed Pannell, and attacked them at their homes. Initially, Stone asked why these students, if in support of the war, were not in Iraq, and verbally abused them until he was forced from the residences. The College Republicans, however, could only dispose of Stone physically,

following which his attack escalated.

This was the case with Pannell, who after tiring of Stone referring to him as a "pussy" for not fighting in the war, tried to push Stone out of his home with the help of his roommate, Matt Long. Stone then punched Long in the face and a fight broke out between the two. Pannell attempted to break up the fight and simultaneously remove Stone from the premises. He was eventually successful and then called the cops while Stone remained outside shouting obscenities at Pannell and Long. Stone has been charged with three counts of assault and battery due to the incident.

Since the attack, Stone has posted many anti-Republican and other violent remarks on Facebook, aimed at those he is in disagreement with.

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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

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# Professor says precedent trumps Constitution

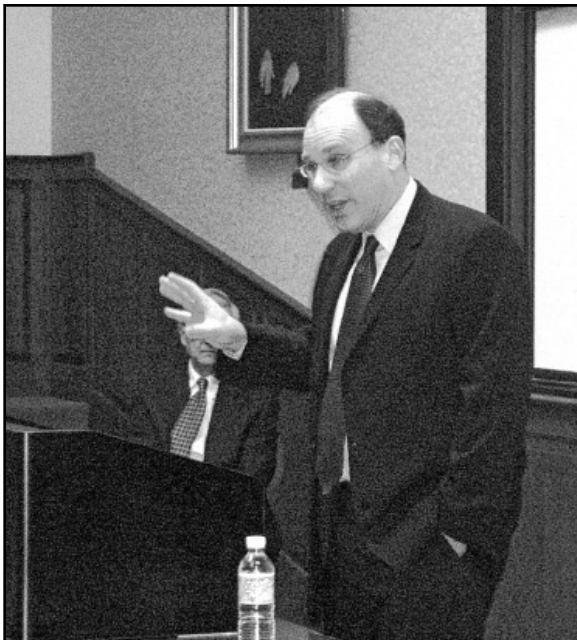
**Mandie Costanzer**  
Staff Writer

At a university that educated many of this nation's founding fathers, including Thomas Jefferson, scribe of the Declaration of Independence, a speaker arguing against the written Constitution hardly seems the type of lecturer the prestigious Cutler Lecture series would bring to our law school. However, on March 1, David A. Strauss presented his lecture *Do We Have a Written Constitution?* to over 100 people at the Law School at the annual James Goold Cutler Lecture, a series established in 1927 to provide the William and Mary community with "an outstanding authority on the Constitution of the United States." Strauss was elected by the Law School faculty, and is the Harry N. Wyatt Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1978, has argued eighteen cases before the United States Supreme Court, and is one of three editors of the *Supreme Court Review*.

Strauss began his lecture by proposing concepts we attribute to the Constitution, such as innocent until proven guilty, declaring laws unconstitutional, protection against discrimination, all of which he claims come more from how the language of the document is interpreted. Strauss went on to state that the written Constitution is not the most important part of constitutional law, instead that it is secondary to precedence. He drew on the example of *Brown v. Board of Education*. In many cases seen before the Supreme Court, schools tried to implement "separate but equal" facilities, but were always ruled unconstitutional by the Court. The Court overturned the 14th Amendment because precedent revealed it to be impossible to institute. Strauss urged that while precedent should guide decisions today, the text of the Constitution is important because it narrows

the range of disagreement. It does not pass judgment on controversial issues, but it does set forth the date the President leaves office, the number of Senators per state, and a number of other matters that should not have "wiggle room."

In conclusion, Strauss said that the founding fathers were geniuses, but even they could not rule today's world. The nature of their genius in constructing the Constitution is that they settled what could be settled, and left unsettled what needed to be determined by later Courts, such as the Marshall and Warren Supreme Courts.



**Precedent over Constitution:** Prof. Strauss argues document itself is not as important.



**Taking back "old":** Prof. Slevin argues for the empowerment of the elderly.

## Professor Slevin challenges ageism

**Steven Nelson**  
Staff Writer

Sociology Professor Kate Slevin gave a speech before a packed crowd of elderly alumni on Thursday February 22 about "ageism." The speech was part of the Christopher Wren Association's Town & Gown Luncheon and Lecture series, hosted weekly in the University Center's Chesapeake room.

Ageism is the stereotyping of and discrimination against people because they're old. Ageism is a form of discrimination regarded by Slevin to be especially insidious because "it is the only prejudice that everyone in all societies have."

Slevin has recently written a book on the topic of ageism called *Age Matters: Re-aligning Feminist Thought*. In it she describes how our society views old age as something that can be cured and should be avoided. She identified for the audience various industries as provocateurs of this notion (cosmetic surgery, skin care, etc...).

Slevin asserted that ageism is practiced by everyone, from young people thinking of old people as boring, to middle aged people who dread old age and even to the elderly themselves, some of whom have shared with Slevin feelings such as, "I can't stand to be around old people; they're always rambling and complaining."

Ageism is distinguished from other forms of discrimination because, as Slevin states, minority racial, religious and sexually orientated groups, "at least have respite when around others like them, but for old people, there is no respite."

To remedy the stereotyping, Slevin suggested taking back the word "old", rather than dancing around old age by saying "senior citizen" or "retired." The point that Slevin drove home, to a clearly age-appropriate audience, was that old age is a good thing and that, "growing old is what happens if you're lucky."

## House bill would provide resources for pregnant and parenting students at colleges

**Megan Locke**  
Staff Writer

This past February, a Republican and a Democratic representative jointly introduced The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Act of 2007 to Congress. If this bill is passed into law, it would encourage colleges to hold forums to discuss student parenting issues, and would provide grants to set up offices to provide pregnant and parenting resources for college students.

The bill is based on the programs of Feminists for Life, a "nonsectarian, nonpartisan, grassroots organization," according to their website, whose mission is to assist pregnant and parenting women and to provide viable alternatives to abortion. "Women should not be forced to choose between their education and career plans and their families," said Feminists for Life President Serrin

Foster.

The legislation is named after Elizabeth Cady Stanton because she is recognized as the founder of the women's movement. She is known for both promoting female education and supporting motherhood.

Proponents of the bill argue that it is a necessity for American college students today. Foster cited US Department of Education statistics that one in four undergraduate students is a parent, and one third of all graduate students are parents. According to the department, approximately four and a half million undergraduate and graduate students are parents in the United States.

How would this legislation affect William and Mary? If the act is passed and William and Mary receives a grant, the College will first need to host a pregnancy and parenting resource forum to discuss what resources are needed on

campus. Some potential resources for student parents at William and Mary might include maternity coverage, child care, housing, flexible academic scheduling, and post-partum counseling. The forum would set goals for providing these resources, and a pregnant and parenting student services office would be established on campus to fulfill these goals using the grant money. In order to prove its dedication to the program, the College would need to match the grant money that the Stanton Act provides. A total of ten million dollars distributed as two hundred grants would be given out by the Stanton Act to various colleges.

The Students for Life President at William and Mary, Katie Poandl ('07), supports the Stanton Act. "It encourages schools to build up infrastructure that makes it easier for a woman to have her baby and continue her education, something that many women who become pregnant in college currently see as impossible," Poandl said. "Any effort that makes it easier for a woman to keep her baby expands the real options that a woman has, and is what feminism is all about. I think this would be a great piece of legislation for any college campus, including William and Mary."

### The Virginia Informer apologizes for the following error that appeared in our February 2007 Issue:

The headline on the news brief on page 2 incorrectly stated that James City County was the healthiest communities in Virginia. Poquoson County is the healthiest community.

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

**Please send letters  
to the editor.**

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

## IT "fixes" daylight savings problems

**Chase Coleman**  
Staff Writer

Over the past few weeks, Information Technology (IT) has been preparing the software and hardware systems of the College for the change to Daylight Saving Time (DST) on March 11.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 expanded DST three weeks in the spring and one week in the fall, an increase that could lead to computer problems. Much like the difficulties associated with the Y2K transfer, the alteration in DST affects many electronic systems, including, "hardware, applications and electronic devices that have built-in DST rules for date and time processing," according to Susan Evans, Director of Web, Learning and Communication Services at IT.

In order to prevent any problems, IT has been reviewing all systems and hardware, applying patches and updates where necessary. This maintenance has caused some outages of certain services, and upcoming scheduled outages can be viewed at [www.wm.edu/it/dst](http://www.wm.edu/it/dst). These short maintenance operations, however, should pay off; Evans assures that, "because we're planning ahead and patching affected systems, [DST] should be no big deal."

Personal operating systems will also be affected. Updates for these systems, however, should prevent any problems.

# Value of SA senate questioned as election approaches

**Stephen Dause**

Staff Writer

The Student Assembly Senate started off its myriad of debates of the second month of the spring semester with The Campus Wetlands Reclamation Act 2, a reduced version of the first unsuccessful bill. After being passed by the senate by a margin of 13-7-0, the original act was vetoed by SA President Ryan Scofield ('07) who claimed to have concerns about the bill's viability.

Scofield had said that he was "hesitant to approve spending on a program whose viability may hinge on whether it rains or snows in the next couple of weeks," a concern that Botany Club President Andon Zebal ('08) found confusing.

After much discussion of both Scofield's and the senators' concerns, the new bill, which reduced spending on beautification of the "swamp" in the New Campus woods area by 27% over the previous bill, was passed 13-6-0 and signed by Scofield.

The Freshmen Orientation Act, sponsored by Senators Scott Morris ('10) and Andrew Blasi ('10), strongly asks that extended orientation programs be rescheduled to before the academic year begins as they and many other freshmen reportedly found the late orientation programs rather inconveniencing.

Although the bill was passed, it is doubtful that its suggestions will soon be acted upon by the administration, as the logistics of holding those events earlier appear to make it unworkable.

Another recently passed bill sponsored by the two requests that "if a student has an incident report filed against him or her for a violation of college policy, even

if filed without a corresponding judicial sanction, that student must be fully informed about the incident report and that the incident report may be used against that student in the future."

Morris and Blasi complained that currently no such notifications take place. When a student goes to trial for a judicial sanction, past incident reports of which he or she is unaware of are brought up as corroborating evidence of the student's probable guilt. The act calls for this anomaly to be remedied.

Although Blasi and Morris have shown themselves to be very active senators in the SA, neither of them will be running for reelection. In a message to his Facebook campaign group members, Morris gave his reasons for leaving the Senate, saying it "has shown itself to be a body that is not concerned for the betterment of its constituents."

"I find it sad that what could be the greatest forum for new ideas and thought on campus is in practice an inward-looking organization constantly concerned with internal affairs and SA politics."

Criticism of the SA and especially the senate from its own members have become especially popular lately. The Student Empowerment Act, introduced by Shariff Tanious ('08), claims that the "Student Assembly Senate has become an inefficient body to convey the needs and priorities of students," and seeks to reallocate many of the powers of the senate to the undergraduate council.

The Safety is Paramount Act, sponsored by Senators Zach Pilchen



Ian R. Whiteside

**What is a senator?:** Recent legislation questioned the senate, including Sen. Phillips' bill to require senate community service, to Tanious' bill to disband the body altogether.

('09) and Beato, aims to unite the Senate and give it a clear voice in the ongoing campus discussion of amnesty for underage students who call for medical aid in an alcohol-related emergency. While the official campus policy now gives students that amnesty, Campus Police is not required to and therefore is not following the policy. The Act asks the Police to reconsider their position and adopt the new campus policy.

As the SA gears up for the March 29 elections held on the Student Information Network, more referendum questions are being added to the ballot, seniors James Evans and Sean Gillick are replacing resigning candidates on the elections commission, and changes are being made by the senate to the election code.

Notable were the changes that now

allow a candidate to use organizational email listservs to campaign, should they have access to them, and explicitly deny a candidate the ability to solicit door-to-door, which was already illegal under college policy.

In light of recent events, the Senate quickly passed the Student Eviction Response Act, sponsored by Senators Beato and Zach Pilchen ('09) which requests the City of Williamsburg to temporarily not enforce the law that places a maximum of three unrelated residents to a house. Passed unanimously, it declares the law to be "impractical, illogical, and discriminatory."

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

## Scofield calls cross controversy "distracting"

### Two-term president offers advice for successor, but opts not to worry about own "legacy"

**Matthew Sutton**

Assistant News Editor

President Ryan Scofield is quickly approaching the end of his turn as the election for his successor as president of the Student Assembly will be held on March 29. In an interview with *The Informer*, Scofield discusses the fallout from the Wren Cross controversy and looks back on his last two years in office.

**Virginia Informer:** Over a third of the House of Delegates voted to cut Nichol's salary in half, do you think Nichol still has a mandate to lead as president of William and Mary?

**Ryan Scofield:** The House of Delegates did not hire President Nichol. The Board of Visitors did. And, until the BOV withdraws its support of the President, yes.

**VI:** Has this controversy distracted from the core concerns of the College?

**RS:** Distressingly, yes. The administration of the College has had to spend so much energy addressing this issue that could've otherwise been spent elsewhere.

**VI:** What do you think will be your legacy as you prepare to leave office?

**RS:** I don't really get into discussions of "legacy," to be honest. I don't give it much thought. I hope that when [SA Vice President Amanda Norris] and I are done, people will look at our administrations and think, "Wow, those two were hard-workers and they did a lot

for me." We pride ourselves on our approachability and "normalness" and hope that people appreciate our efforts.

**VI:** Looking back on your last two years in office, is there anything that you would have liked to have done differently?

**RS:** Nothing of substance, really. I maybe would've tried to build stronger bridges last year with other bodies within the Student Assembly, but I'm happy that cross-branch relations between me and other members have blossomed this year.



SCOFIELD

time flies by, and before you know it, you're looking at upcoming elections, trying to pick out who's going to succeed you. Contacts are the most important thing, and discontinuity is the most difficult thing you'll have to overcome. By this I mean that while student leadership changes regularly, city and college leadership is more constant – this poses an inherent disadvantage to student leadership in its ability to be up to speed on all issues and be able to partake equitably in substantive communication on various topics.

**VI:** What are your future plans?

**RS:** I'm going to law school next year, though I don't yet know where. After that, who knows? Maybe a firm. Maybe a clerkship. Maybe neither.

**VI:** Any advice for your successor?

**RS:** Work hard and fast – one, or even two years, aren't all that long. The

It's coming...

**The 2nd Annual  
Virginia Informer  
SA Election Day  
Exit Poll**

**Thursday  
March 29  
All Day.**

**All Over Campus.**

**You Vote.  
We Report.**

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information,  
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# NICHOL OVERRULED:

## Cross returns to chapel permanently

continued from page one

plan to enact its provisions as soon as possible.

"I accept the recommendation of the committee in its entirety," said Nichol. "The Board of Visitors accepts and endorses this recommendation as well. We are helping to assure that at the same time the chapel is open and welcoming to all members of the community. [The cross will] continue to be available for use on the altar....The Wren controversy has been a decidedly difficult and painful one in this community. It has touched depths of disagreement—heartfelt disagreement—I didn't fully anticipate. [The committee's decision], for me, represents real progress and a commendable exercise of judgment....The board and I look forward to helping make it work."

In response to what he thought about the committee's decision personally, Nichol stated, "This might not be exactly the way I would approach it, but I think it is an approach which makes progress and honors the traditions of the College and the aspirations of its future, so it is one that I am happy with."

Nichol asserted that the committee's decision "reflects good and reasoned balance" and was "the middle course I had hoped for. It does a better job of ensuring the chapel is welcoming to all of us."

Only hours after the announcement of the new policy, William and Mary was featured on the "Culture Warrior" segment of the Fox News Channel program, "The O'Reilly Factor." O'Reilly and guest, Tom Lipscomb, a 1961 graduate of the College, discussed Nichol's policy on the cross and the recent Sex Workers Art Show, which was paid for by student fees. Nichol, who had refused an invitation to appear on "The O'Reilly Factor," was interviewed on campus Monday morning by Porter Berry, one of the show's producers. When asked why he refused to return the cross to the chapel, Nichol said that the presence of the cross had caused non-Christian students to not want to come to the College. These statements reflect the opinion Nichol has espoused in previous public statements, and a recent op-ed in *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. These comments were made before Meese and Livingston approached Nichol with the committee's decision.

# EVICCTIONS: Student Directory given to city officials every year, against College policy

continued from page one

given the names of the students directly to city officials, Rhodes plainly stated that he "did not receive any information from the College."

He did, however, admit to using a student directory as an investigative tool, along with parking permits, lease agreements and neighbor complaints, in finding the violating students. According to Rhodes, the letters sent out to the 38 students late this January were the culmination of a semester's time of work. He said that complaints from neighbors began coming in around the beginning of the school year, and during the fall semester the City investigated these complaints, simply choosing to notify all 38 of the confirmed violators at once, although one household was informed "much earlier" and was not included in the counts of six houses from which the 38 must leave. Rhodes reported that an "overwhelming majority" of the students are complying.

The student directory printed at the beginning of each school year, however, is not meant for members of the public. According to Susie Perry, Assistant to the Associate Provost & CIO at the Information Technology Department, who publishes the directory, the directories are distributed only to members of the College community, and members of the public may not obtain one. She said this was a matter of College policy.

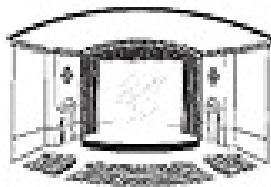
When asked how the City obtained the directory, Rhodes told *The Informer* that the College sent a copy to each office in the city municipal building at the beginning of the year.

This news elicited a strong reaction from Senators Zach Pilchen ('09) and Matt Beato ('09), both of whom have endeavored in the past to improve town-gown relations, especially in pressing for the repeal of the three-person-to-a-house rule. Beato described city officials' actions in the affair as "nefarious." He also denied the

implication that the City was generous in giving students until the end of the semester to leave their homes. Giving them extra time, he said, would avoid the potential for lawsuits, so in this case the interests of the students merely happened to coincide with those of the City. Beato also offered advice to students to protect themselves: "If you're living off campus with more than three people, do not allow your name to be printed in the student directory." Students wishing to remove themselves from the listing may send an email to support@wm.edu.

Beato and Senator Zach Pilchen ('09) examined two of the six households, on Braxton Court and Chandler Court, and found that of those students who received notices from the City, all of their names and addresses were listed in the directory. None of their unlisted housemates received notice from the City. Beato and Pilchen discovered this situation while conducting research for their bill, The Student Evictions Response Act, introduced in the Senate shortly after the students received their notices. The bill, which calls for a moratorium on enforcement of the three-person-to-a-house rule and criticizes it as "impractical, illogical, and discriminatory," passed the Senate unanimously, with one graduate senator abstaining. The bill also called for a panel of students, City Council members, and members of Neighborhood Council to discuss practical alterations to the Three Person Rule, and body produce a report for the full City Council's review.

"The Mayor has said that students and City Council need to approach this issue, 'in the spirit of cooperation and trust.'" said Senator Zach Pilchen. "Maybe I'm being naïve, but it seems to me that furtively scouring through the student directory and sending eviction notices to thirty-eight students is a funny way to express a cooperative or trustful spirit."



# Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

## March Schedule

### Movies

**The Queen (PG-13)**  
Fri., Mar. 2-Sun., Mar. 11  
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.  
Mar. 3, 10, 11 matinees at 4 p.m.  
Mar. 5-11 screening room (35 seats)

**Amazing Grace (PG)**  
Sun., Mar. 11-Sun., Mar. 18  
7 and 9 p.m.  
Mar. 12-16, 18 screening room (35 seats)

**Pan's Labyrinth (R)**  
Sat., Mar. 17-Wed., Mar. 21  
6:45 and 8:50 p.m.  
Mar. 17, 19-21 screening room (35 seats)

**The Last King of Scotland (R)**  
Tues., Mar. 20-Wed., Mar. 28  
Mar. 20-25, 27-28 shows at 6:30 and 8:40 p.m.  
Mar. 26 shows at 3 and 9:15 p.m.  
Mar. 22, 24, 25 screening room (35 seats)

**The 6th Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival on Merchants Square**

**Close to Home (Not rated)**  
Sat., Mar. 24-Wed., Mar. 28  
7 and 8:45 p.m.  
Mar. 26-28 screening room (35 seats)

**Venus (R)**  
Thurs., Mar. 29-Wed., Apr. 4  
7 and 9 p.m.  
Mar. 29, 30, Apr. 2-4 screening room (35 seats)

### Live Performances

**The Kimball Theatre presents**  
**Oni Buchanan, Concert Pianist and Poet**  
Wed., Mar. 7 at 8 p.m.  
All seats \$12

**The Williamsburg Symphonia presents**  
**Subscription Concert #3**  
Thurs., Mar. 8 and Sat., Mar. 10 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$37, \$27. Advance tickets available through the Williamsburg Symphonia; Call (757) 229-9857

**Laughing Redhead presents**  
**Clean Comedy Night – Erin Go Bragh!**  
**Featuring Comedian Marian Kelly and the Rhythm of Ireland Performing Company**  
Fri., Mar. 9 at 7:30 p.m.  
General admission \$15, Seniors/Students \$12

**The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**  
**Presents as part of the Williamsburg Playhouse of 1760 and the World of 18th-century Theater Symposium**  
**Two Scenes from The Beggar's Opera**  
Fri., Mar. 16 at 8 p.m.  
All seats \$8

**College of William and Mary's**  
**Improvisational Theatre**  
Fri., Mar. 30 at 8 p.m.  
Adults \$8, Students/Children \$5

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: **Come to the Kimball Theatre on DoG Street!** :  
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# A conversation with Delegate Bob Marshall

**Matthew J. Sutton**

Assistant News Editor

Delegate Robert G. Marshall (R-Manassas) recently made headlines when he proposed an amendment cutting President Nichol's \$331,000 annual salary in half if the Wren Chapel cross was not replaced by the summer. His amendment ultimately failed but only after attracting 36 votes, over a third of the entire House. *The Virginia Informer* sits down with Delegate Marshall in an exclusive interview in which he offers his assessment of the controversy and of Nichol.

**Virginia Informer:** What have you done in the House of Delegates about this issue and why?

**Del. Robert Marshall:** I introduced a budget amendment which would have cut the state portion of President Nichol's salary. I did it to get his attention as he had not responded to at least two members of the General Assembly, Del. Steve Landes and Del. Charles Carrico, who wrote President Nichol asking for an explanation of his actions.

**VI:** Have you tried to speak to President Nichol about his decision to remove the cross?

**DRM:** I wrote three letters to President Nichol. He responded to the first one which had a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act component in it by providing me with a single letter from a person who wanted the cross to be removed from its regular position. From the wording not blanked out it appeared to be a personal friend of President Nichol and his wife. He pointed out that the state FOI law does not require him to release such documents. While this is correct, he is not forbidden by state law to release such correspondence. If he had a significant number of letters or other requests for the removal of the Wren cross, I would think that to bolster his case he would have released them.

I wrote a second letter concerning the recent "Sex Workers" debacle also with a FOI component for which he asked an extension allowable under state law. We did have lunch recently and discussed these concerns, but I still have questions.

**VI:** How would you rate President Nichol's handling of the Wren cross controversy?

**DRM:** I do not think President Nichol is a media thrill seeker. If that is correct, I am left with the conclusion that President Nichol seriously underappreciated the effect of his actions. The controversy surrounding this situation, which is

now in national news magazines and electronic media outlets, suggests, on his part, a woeful lack of appreciation of the effect the removal of the cross would have. We all have learned that a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, a symbol such as the cross is worth a thousand pictures. President Nichol obviously missed that point.

I asked him at our lunch if he knew beforehand the reaction would have been to his unilateral removal of the Wren cross, would he have still proceeded. He said he would have proceeded in a different manner, but that suggests to me, at least, that he still would have proceeded to remove the cross from its prior position, but would have done it under the advice of the Board of Visitors, or a committee, but not on his own as he did. But that brings us back to the original premise which President Nichol says he derived from his visits with William and Mary alumni around the US, namely that they for some reason did not feel the chapel was theirs, as much as it was "others." Again, the view that the cross removal was broadly supported by alumni and that this was more in the spirit of the second oldest college in America, is I think, demonstrably inaccurate.

**VI:** What is the feeling in the House of Delegates toward President Nichol and William and Mary?

**DRM:** Well, it is unprecedented that 30+ some members of the House of Delegates would publicly vote to cut the salary of a state college president. A photographer for a major Virginia newspaper told me he met a college president in the elevator and he asked him, half jokingly, if they had any crosses at his university. The college president responded, "Well if we do, I can assure you we won't touch them!"

A Jewish colleague of mine in the House of Delegates told me he found no fault with the prior policy which was to have the Wren cross up and then taken down at request. This live and let live policy had worked well for about 70 years until President Nichol, on his own and without seeking the direction of the Board of Visitors, decided to remove the Wren cross.

**VI:** Could this controversy affect

future funding for the College from the General Assembly?

**DRM:** In short the answer is yes, both from public and private sources.

I told my colleagues on the floor of the House of Delegates that if alumni of William and Mary dropped their support for the College, I am sure President Nichol would come to Richmond asking



**Controversy, anyone?:** Delegate Marshall seems to have radar for hot-button issues.

for the General Assembly to supplement the funds that he chased away from the school. That would produce more than a little irony in Richmond.

It is quite possible the Assembly would look at funding if William and Mary, under President Nichol, becomes an ongoing flash point for

such controversies. I think Assembly members would look for a pattern of behavior from Nichol. Frankly, I and other Assembly members are starting to see one. His "I'm personally opposed to smutty theatre, but will do nothing to prevent state facilities from being used for the tawdry and tasteless Sex Workers Show" is starting to look like a litigation test case pattern on Religion and American Culture mapped out by the ACLU.

The BOV, I hope, will seriously examine, in light of all the controversial publicity surrounding William and Mary, the direction the college is taking under their tenure and the person they selected to lead William and Mary. They are the ones immediately charged with oversight of William and Mary. If controversies continue and they do not or cannot resolve these problems, then it devolves back to the General Assembly.

**VI:** Recently the "Sex Workers Art Show" came to campus, bankrolled with \$1800 from student funds, and President Nichol released this statement, "I don't like this kind of show and I don't like having it here. But it's not the practice and province of universities to censor or cancel performances because they are controversial." Do you think it's appropriate for President Nichol to allow this show after removing an 18 inch bronze cross because it's "unwelcoming"?

**DRM:** State owned facilities need not and should not have been used for the so-called Sex worker show even if there

was a contract signed using student fee monies. I received by e-mail a copy of an erotic picture in the *Flat Hat* from the Sex Worker Show of a young woman manipulating a sex toy that left several of my colleagues speechless and shaking their heads.

No William and Mary parent or alumnus I know thinks on campus strip shows are compatible with the "educational, cultural, and athletic purposes" of William and Mary. And they are not all prune sucking conservatives living in right wing fever swamps.

If some at William and Mary want to "push the envelope" a little they can just keep this up and see what happens in the next budget cycle for William and Mary. I am also troubled because I read recently that about 100+ some students were required to attend this erotic carnival festival as part of their class duties. President Nichol told me he checked and found that no students were required to attend the sex show.

While the public flashpoint for William and Mary came as a result of the Wren cross incident, it is now somewhat bigger, and it involves both the leadership of President Nichol and the oversight of the William and Mary Board of Visitors. They can and will, by their actions and omissions, determine the future, prestige and academic standing of a great college, and the public response to this controversy which has spread far beyond the confines of Williamsburg, Virginia.

**VI:** What do you think about the compromise, does it resolve your concerns or if not, why?

**DRM:** Making the Wren cross a museum piece on display just doesn't cut it. When I understood the so-called "compromise," I immediately thought of the efforts by Soviet leaders after the 1917 Red Revolution to make museums of all the previously Russian Orthodox churches and convert the externals and the trappings of Russian Orthodoxy into historical artifacts.

President Nichol said it was not his intent, but his action has the trappings of an effort to exorcise religion from public life, a policy which President George Washington said in his Farewell Address was fraught with danger for both individuals and any society which long pursued it.

Delegate Bob Marshall, first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1991, represents the 13th district (parts of Prince William and Loudoun). He may be reached at [delegatebobmarshall@hotmail.com](mailto:delegatebobmarshall@hotmail.com) or PO Box 421, Manassas, VA 20108.

## Sweatshop worker speaks out

**Steven Nelson**

Staff Writer

On Thursday, February 27, an advocate against sweatshops gave a talk in the University Center titled "Behind the Labels: A Sweatshop Worker Speaks Out." Chie Abad, the speaker, had experienced sweatshop work in the Northern Mariana Islands, a United States' territory. Her speech was hosted by the Catholic Campus Ministry's (CCM) Social Justice Ministry and the Tidewater Labor Support Committee (TLSC).

Chie, originally from the Philippines, signed a contract to work in the Northern Marianas thirteen years ago. Like many others, she was lured by the promise of America being a welcoming place, as well as the home of the all-powerful dollar. What she experienced in her next 6 years was miserable: living conditions "similar to the slums of the Philippines," excessive work hours for

little pay, and draconian overseers.

According to Chie, the living quarters were infested with rats and cockroaches, had poor ventilation and had no hot or drinkable water. She was forced to drink rainwater due to the high salinity of the tap water. The company which employed her, a subsidiary of Gap, forced employees to work 14-15 hours a day, 7 days a week for only \$3.50 an hour. Unbeknownst to migrant workers, the Federal minimum wage and US labor laws are not applicable in the Northern Marianas.

On top of dismal and degrading circumstances, Chinese and Philippine women were not able to secure employment without a hefty fee of \$2,500 or more. Once on the island of Saipan (the largest of the Northern Marianas), workers were unable to leave for any reason, even to attend family funerals. As Chie put it, the experience was, "indentured servitude all over again."

After 4 years, Chie attempted to form a union,

only to have her working contract terminated. She appealed and continued to work, during which time she wore a camera for the television show 20/20 in order to expose the sweatshops. The response was a crackdown on sweatshops in the Marianas, with many improvements made. Companies with subsidiaries in the territory include Gap, Levi-Strauss, Calvin Kline, Liz Claiborne, Tommy Hilfiger, Limited Too, Sears, JC Penny, and many others. They settled a lawsuit in 2002 for \$20 million to be re-distributed to workers and prevent future regression.

The overriding message of Chie's speech was action matters and, "as a consumer you have a lot of power." The existence of sweatshops is relatively widespread according to Chie, now an anti-sweatshop advocate for the organization Global Exchange. She strongly encourages local involvement to help change the worldwide problem.



# Student Legal Services offers often anonymous services to W&M community

**Matthew Sutton**  
Assistant News Editor

While Student Legal Services (SLS) may occupy just a small office in room 166 of the Campus Center, this dedicated group of law students provides a much needed service for the campus community. More than forty volunteers dispense free legal help to a clientele of mostly students on matters ranging from housing problems to traffic tickets.

The Informer recently sat down with Neal Hoffman, a first year law student and volunteer at SLS to highlight the often anonymous work of the group. He opened the interview by speaking about the important role that SLS plays on campus. "Most students don't have the time or the resources to conduct legal research on their own," he said. "We at SLS can help by advising students on their cases."

He went on to caution that the research and advice provided by SLS is not meant to substitute for a lawyer, but SLS can help determine if a student needs the advice of an attorney, and can offer referrals. "We do the basic grunt work, researching contract provisions

and deciphering the city code of Williamsburg, which resolves most concerns," he said.

Hoffman has ten open cases right now. While he can't discuss the specifics of these, he did offer several examples from last semester. Some of the cases that he had recently resolved include an honor council case, in which the student relied on the advice of SLS to successfully win his trial, and a dispute between The Flat Hat and an outside Web site that had reprinted an article without permission.

He also spoke about the future of SLS. "We would like to expand our publicity on campus and reach more students. More students need to use SLS and we are especially looking to assist more with disciplinary or honor proceedings. We can help students in multiple areas, from advice on how to present their case properly to effective use of witnesses and evidence."

A funding dispute with the Student Assembly and some administrators threatens to halt an important

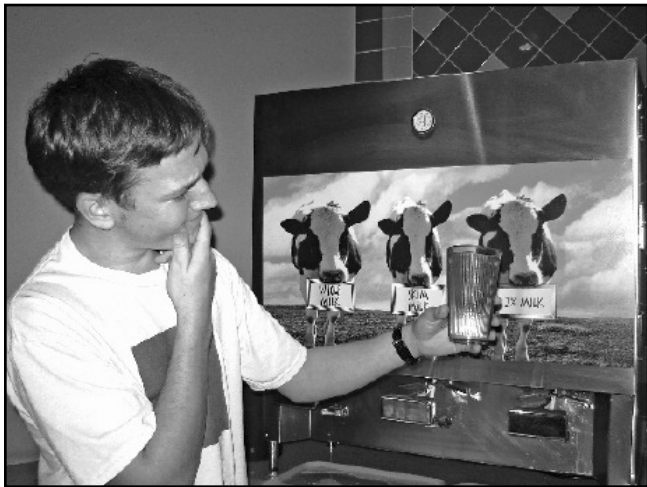
initiative of SLS. In 2004, the Senate assigned \$30,000 for the purpose of funding a lawyer to counsel students on issues of interest to William and Mary. This bill gave Student Legal Services the power to hire an attorney with the consent of a panel of five student representatives. This lawyer would take cases from students free of charge, instead of using the current system whereby SLS has to refer serious problems to outside lawyers.

SA President Ryan Scofield opposed the bill, but failed to veto it within the time frame specified in the Constitution. This controversy reached the SA's review board, the judicial branch of the SA, which ruled officially that the bill was not successfully vetoed by Scofield. Currently the \$30,000 is sitting in an escrow account and Hoffman reports

that Scofield and certain administrators seem reluctant to release the money.

Student Legal Services is open every weekday in the Campus Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (757) 221-

“SLS can help students in multiple areas, from advice on how to present their case properly to effective use of witnesses and evidence.”



**The switch:** Marva Maid will now supply all of the College's milk needs.

## Carefully Random

### Where has all the milk gone?

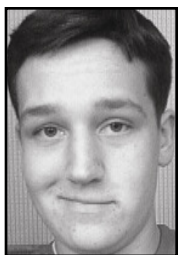
At the beginning of this semester, students began to notice a shortage in the availability of milk. Some were concerned that their favorite milk type, skim, never seemed to be available. Others' milk of choice, chocolate, seemed also to be disappearing at an alarming rate.

Where did all the lean cows go? Have the brown cows deserted us and found a better home elsewhere? These were the questions that plagued students' minds as they returned to campus after winter break.

Director of Dining Services Phil DiBenedetto was tracked down to answer these questions and give some reassurance to milk-thirsty students everywhere. Thankfully, it turned out, the milk shortage was only temporary and a result of a decision by the College to switch milk companies from Pet Dairy to Marva Maid.

The decision was one that had been under consideration for about a year. A change in Pet Dairy's management, which resulted in less-accommodating business relations with the College, was one of the main reasons for the change, along with price and quality.

By early- to mid-February, said DiBenedetto, the inevitable learning curve required in switching companies had been overcome, and the milk situation was under control. Students at William and Mary drink a lot of milk. At the Caf alone, 15 five-gallon containers at each of the four milk stations are emptied and have to be replaced each day.



**Stephen Dause**  
Carefully Random

Items such as milk, produce and bread are purchased locally and are thus purchased directly by the College. Other less perishable items are under the control of Aramark, the corporation under which all of the campus dining locations operate.

Dining services' operations are now in full swing, and students can sleep peacefully at night knowing that all the milk their stomachs desire is right around the corner.

*Do you have a burning question and cannot find the answer? See something on campus that makes you think, "Hub?" Send in your queries and columnist Stephen Dause will search high and low for an answer, or at least some sort of creative response that pretends to answer your question. Send questions, comments and complaints to random@vainformer.com*

## Reverse shot photo of Crim Dell will be featured on all new laptops for freshmen next year

**Rachel Sapin**  
Contributing Writer

The yourPhoto myNotebook contest has decided on a winner. A photo taken of the Crim Dell by Rachel Simmons, a junior at the College, was chosen from more than 50 entries. "I chose the Crim Dell because it's such a classic William and Mary location," Simmons said. "However I felt like a new angle would make the picture more unique, so I shot the bridge from behind."

Simmons took home the Adobe Photoshop Elements 5.0 and Adobe Premier Elements 3.0 as her chosen prize. Her photo will appear as the new desktop background image on the ThinkPad Z61t myNotebook laptops ordered in May 2007. "For the first two years, the ThinkPads had a desktop image created by an IT staff member,"

Director of Web Communications Services Susan T. Evans said. "This year, we decided to offer a student contest with some fun prizes."

The myNotebook program is entering its third year at the College. Fulfilling the College's notebook computer requirement for incoming students, myNotebook typically sells 1,000 laptops to mostly incoming freshmen. "We know from the photos we receive for the myWM campus photo gallery that there are some very talented photographers among the William and Mary student body," said Jason Alley, creator of the contest.

"I was pretty surprised to be chosen—I've watched the photo rotation on myWM, and there are some great photographers here," said Simmons. IT plans to feature more contest entry photos on myWM in the upcoming months.



**The photo that will grace a thousand desktops:** Rachel Simmons has won IT's myNotebook desktop image contest.

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# New frats add life to a diminishing Greek scene on campus

Gustavo Elias

Staff Writer

This academic school year two new social fraternities, Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Phi, have joined the ranks of William and Mary's Greek life. Both fraternities provide a new outlook on collegiate brotherhood and social service.

Alpha Tau Omega's first fraternity was established at the Virginia Military Institute right after the end of the Civil War, as a way for former soldiers to create a brotherhood. Nationally it is the fourth largest fraternity and is famous for creating the Leadershape program, designed to create and fortify leadership skills among its brothers.

After colonizing on campus on October 13, 2006, the national representatives of the fraternity elected Will Bleser, a sophomore from Towson, Maryland, as president of Alpha Tau Omega.

The perfect blend of service and social brotherhood, and the opportunity to lead this new experience is what attracted Bleser to the fraternity. Will and his brothers saw other fraternities as being too focused on the social aspect of the brotherhood and not placing enough emphasis on philanthropy. To Bleser, Alpha Tau Omega allowed them a greater opportunity for community service: "With more community service, we hope to mold an atypical fraternity experience," he said. Bleser would also like to see less disconnect between the fraternities and would like to foster new bonds within Greek life at William and Mary.

After colonization and an initial rush period, Alpha Tau Omega currently has 16 members and the highest average GPA among all campus fraternities. This

# ΑΤΩ ΧΦ

chapter of Alpha Tau Omega would like to establish its own philanthropy, Doctors Without Borders. According to Bleser, "it is a humanitarian organization that brings traveling doctors to provide medical assistance and train local healers in Third World countries."

One of the events Alpha Tau Omega has planned for the semester is "Paint the Town" on March 24. Alongside Chi Phi, they and 400 other local volunteers plan on painting 40 houses in the Williamsburg and James City County areas. On April 13 they will hold a Guitar Hero 2 tournament with free food and prizes, with all proceeds and donations going towards Doctors Without Borders.

The second new fraternity on campus is Chi Phi. According to Max Hlavin, Chi Phi president and sophomore from Charlottesville, Virginia, the first Chi Phi chapter was found at Princeton University in 1824. It is known as the Princeton Order and is the second oldest national fraternity behind Phi Beta Kappa. The fraternity is looking forward to working with Boys and Girls Club of America, and also with other philanthropies.

Colonization of the fraternity occurred on February 11, 2007, with a small, tight-knit group of 14 men, most of whom were on the same freshman hall. Hlavin and his fellow hall mates had little interest in joining one of the already established fraternities on campus, but

wanted to make an impact on campus. They then decided to initiate the process of establishing a new fraternity on campus by working with the Council for Fraternity Affairs (CFA). Hlavin became president by heading up the project and gladly took up the responsibility. Hlavin points out that one of the major aspects of Chi Phi that is different than other fraternities is in its low membership. According to Hlavin, "most fraternities here on campus are upwards of 40 to 60 men, which is great for making an impact on campus but...I feel you lose a part of the identity and experience of having a group of brothers." With no members older than social sophomores, the potential to create a strong foundation exists.

Along with the aforementioned "Paint the Town" volunteering project with Alpha Tau Omega, Chi Phi is planning on throwing several small social events and mixers open to all. One of their major projects is to establish their philanthropic event in the fall of this year, allowing an opportunity for students to interact with the some of the area Boys and Girls Clubs in a field day type of venue.

The addition of Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Phi to the College further enhances the already diverse offering of Greek life for men on campus. These additions will provide the men of the College more options in finding their niche on campus.

## If walls could talk:

# Two of the worst buildings on campus

## Morton Hall: a "fine" Y-shaped building

Chase Coleman

Staff Writer

Today, Morton Hall houses the departments of government, economics, sociology, classical studies, women's studies, the black studies program and the public policy program. Since Morton's opening in 1972, many departments have moved in, out and around the building; only the locations of the government, economics and sociology departments have remained unchanged.

The social science building was officially named in 1973 after Richard Lee Morton, a distinguished history professor at the College in the first half

of the 20th century. Morton called his namesake, which originally housed the departments of history, government, sociology, and economics, a "fine building [that] contains convenient and comfortable classrooms and offices."

Within two years, the ground floor of Morton became home to the classical studies department, which relocated to the second floor in the early 1980s. When the history department moved out in the mid-1990s, both the classical studies and women's studies departments relocated to their present location on the third floor. The black studies program also began using this floor three years ago.

Morton has seen many other

departments pass through its halls, including the religious studies department, which had a stint there during the second half of the 1970s, and the Schools of Business Administration and Education, which had offices and classrooms in Morton in the 1980s.

Although students may bemoan its location and unique Y-shape, which was designed by Hubert Jones, Morton Hall offers versatility and, in the words of former Rector of the Board of Visitors Harvey Chappell, continues to "be used in search of truth and knowledge."



Chase Coleman

**Beyond restoration?:** Morton Hall is infamous for its dilapidated interior and strange architecture

## The Dillard Complex: An obituary

Known in the past as James Blair Terrace, "The Club" and "The Ranch," today the Dillard Complex sits vacant on Ironbound Road after more than 20 years as a desolate outpost of student housing. Although the prospect of living at Dillard often struck fear into undergraduates entering the housing lottery, its history includes more than

just the groans of students sentenced to reside there.

Located next to Plumeri Park about two and a half miles from campus, the Dillard Complex residences consist of two dorms, Hughes and Munford. The College's relationship with the Dillard Complex began in 1965, when Eastern State Hospital, the nearby institution for the mentally ill, leased 16 acres of land on what was known as James Blair Terrace. This lease included resident buildings of nurses and doctors working at the hospital.

In 1980 the College assumed the title to the James Blair Terrace buildings in order to convert them into student housing, and by 1982, the area acquired the Dillard name. Immediately, Dillard became a very unattractive option for most students, despite its

large singles.

Over the years the College attempted to make life at the Dillard Complex more appealing. This began in 1983 with a small convenience store called 19th Hole, a venture that lasted only a few years. In 1990, five old computers were sent to the Dillard Complex, and eventually an eatery returned, further reducing the need to make the trek to campus. By the turn of the millennium, Dillard had truly become a microcosm containing all the amenities of campus, though still not quite as glamorous: tennis courts, a computer lab, a fitness room and a dining facility.

Despite efforts to simplify living at Dillard, students continued to bemoan their time on "The Ranch." They even went so far as to gather in protest of Residence Life in 1991, citing Dillard as "inconvenient and unnecessary." Not only was Dillard far away, but it was also seen as less safe than the main campus.

For security reasons, no women were permitted to live on the first floors of Hughes and Munford in the 1980s, and these dorms were the first to employ access by ID card. Even uninvited visitors from Eastern State were not uncommon before a fence was built on Ironbound Road in 1991. Although these patients were never violent or threatening, they occasionally entered the dorms on the weekends.

With the construction of the Jamestown residences, Dillard outgrew its usefulness, and currently its ultimate fate remains uncertain; all that is known is that it will not house undergraduates. Today students might notice two empty buildings while attending a baseball game, but never again will they dwell in the cursed dorms or live as frontiersmen in the College's settlement. To the delight of many, and perhaps to the displeasure of some, the Dillard residences have forever closed their doors to students.



Chase Coleman

**Sitting (un)pretty:** Dillard lies empty as college officials decide what to do with it.



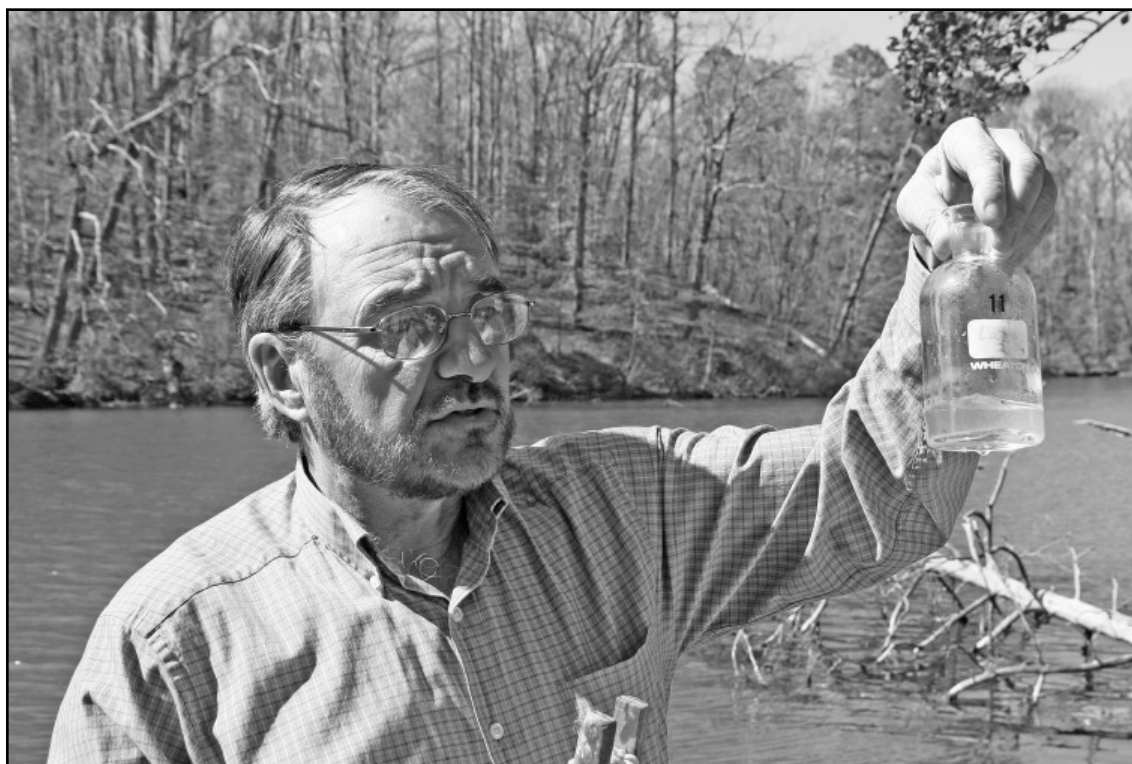
# Biology Professor Greg Capelli well-known among students for controversial reading assignments, lectures

Nick Fitzgerald  
Features Editor

Biology professor Greg Capelli has been teaching at William and Mary for 32 years. He holds an undergraduate degree from St. Louis University in biology and a Masters and Ph.D. in zoology and freshwater ecology from the University of Wisconsin's Laboratory of Limnology. Immediately after completing his doctoral work, Capelli applied for and was offered a one-year, temporary teaching position at the College. Instead of leaving after a year, however, Capelli convinced the department to make the job permanent, and he has been teaching at William and Mary ever since. "It's a wonderful job, a great job," Capelli said. "I really enjoy it."

Capelli's expertise is in freshwater ecology and his enjoyment of the outdoors have served to complement one another in his effectiveness in teaching. "In recent years, I've been doing work on small streams in the College woods. They're nearly pristine, which is very hard to find in these areas. We use the streams to get an idea of what natural communities"—those that have not been subject to human perturbation—"should look like."

Capelli has also expressed interest in starting to document information about Lake Matoaka and the College woods with far more precision, organization and depth than so far has been done. "Over the last several decades, students and faculty have gathered a lot of information concerning the lake and the woods. Some has been published, some not, some organized, some not. I want to compile that information and



Chase Coleman

**Stirring up his students:** Professor Capelli defends his controversial teaching methods, saying he assigns readings based on their ability to "grab" students' attention.

get it organized in one place, and also continue with ongoing monitoring and research of the lake. The lake and the woods are extremely valuable to us and for our teaching programs."

While very focused on learning from the natural environment, Capelli also emphasizes work in the lab and the classroom. Perhaps somewhat strangely, however, he requires no textbook for his BIOL 108 course, Introduction to Ecology and Environmental Science.

"Part of the reason I don't have a textbook is simply the nature of the subject," he explained. "Ecology and environmental science are both extremely broad subjects and there's a lot

of variation in the kinds of things that any instructor would want to emphasize. It's often the case that a textbook may not match very well the major ideas or themes a major instructor wants to put into a class. In all of my classes, I think it's extremely important to connect what you are teaching to everyday, real world issues that people may be hearing about but not understanding very well. I want students to have a sense of how something we talk about in class relates to every day life and the environment."

Capelli also acknowledged the fact that, especially recently, there are a lot of very controversial topics in ecology being discussed right now. "There are a lot of controversial issues and a lot of

misunderstanding."

In the past, Capelli has been criticized by students for not covering both sides of a particular issue evenly, or that he reveals his personal biases through his choice of readings for the class, given that there is no textbook.

"I want to grab students' attention. I used a reading in [BIOL 108] that suggested Christianity may have negative environmental impacts. It's my way of grabbing your attention on an issue."

Capelli does not consider his article choice or teaching perspective to be an issue, however.

"Students are old enough to think about these things and say, well, maybe I don't believe that—let me check that out further. I think it is extremely important we discuss, understand, and talk about [controversial environmental issues], and how they affect both our thinking and our actions."

Some of Capelli's activities outside the classroom include canoeing, hiking and bass fishing. "The last few years, I've also been heavily involved in competitive skeet shooting. And—I hate to say this—but I have a son who's heavily into Motocross, you know, dirt bike racing. I'm his mechanic and coach—it's a parent's nightmare."

## Swemming off the deep end:

# Amusing at best: a poor attempt at humor

We were more than pleased to see that The Flat Hat's Friday, March 2 edition has finally caught up to creating a humor column much like The Virginia Informer's. Strangely, they chose the title of "Staff Editorial" to headline this column, which we assume can only

be a sophisticated, post-modernist play on words. The logic and content of their "editorial" concerning a withheld \$12 million alumnus donation was quite amusing, although perhaps unintentionally so.



Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton  
Humor Columnists

This skepticism on our part is not unfounded, however. We've been burned by relying on The Flat Hat in the past, too. Just the other day when we sauntered into the new Starbucks across from the Bryan Complex—you know, where the College Delly used to be before it was sold and turned into a coffee shop months ago—we were treated rather rudely by the employees, who seemed to know nothing about how to make a good chai latte. After settling for a delicious Coors draft, we picked up the Friday, March 2 edition of The Flat Hat to read their staff editorial entitled "Students caught in alumnus donation crossfire." In case you

missed it, we'll briefly summarize their points:

*"While it is undeniably the prerogative of all alumni to pledge or retract financial contributions from the College, his [McGlothlin's] withdrawal of future contributions...sets a dangerous and troubling precedent of alumni using financial donations as a tool to influence or buy College policy."*

Dangerous? Unless McGlothlin's donations were used to purchase man-eating Siberian tigers to control the squirrel population—although not a bad idea—we don't think withholding funds from the College based on strong principle is quite that alarming. The real shocking precedent is Nichol's refusal to listen to alumni and react to their concerns. Something tells us that McGlothlin is not trying to buy College policy, but rather is communicating in the only language Nichol seems to understand. Gene "Big Chops" Nichol doesn't listen to peons who write e-mails or sign petitions, but when Big Daddy Warbucks takes away the checkbook he comes whining to The Flat Hat, which seems to have no problem obliging him.

*"It remains a possibility that the Wren cross controversy and McGlothlin's retracted donation will back Nichol and the College into a financial and political corner."*

Seriously? No, seriously? Since when would losing \$12 million in donations and alienating the General Assembly back anybody into a political corner? Anyone who thinks that this "hypothetical" situation

is not already a reality is about as serious as last week's Gilmore Girls rerun.

*"Though it is a shame that he has decided to wield his checkbook as a weapon against the College, in the end our integrity as an institution is more important than the money ever could be."*

Yes! You're absolutely right! For far too long now, we've been held hostage by the limitations of United States currency. How much longer must we continue to pay faculty and staff, to erect buildings, and to maintain campus grounds with real money? In a future envisioned by The Flat Hat's editorial board, we will maintain our campus and its operations not on US dollars or Chinese yuans, but rather on 100% recyclable and environmentally friendly Integrity dollars. (Integrity dollars are not legal tender and cannot be exchanged for any other currency.) The result of reverting back to this primitive barter system will simplify a great deal at the College. For example, Big Chops' \$330,000 salary will be paid using this new currency, as will the annual budget of The Flat Hat for fiscal year 2008. With this economic change, perhaps The Flat Hat can come out with a Sunday edition as well, so they can keep us laughing with more of these daring "staff editorials"—although, God forbid, they wield their normal budget as a "dangerous and troubling" weapon against the rich alumni.

“Crisis” on the horizon

# Study shows that average college senior would fail basic American civics exam

University of Virginia included on list of schools with “negative learning”

**Joe Luppino-Esposito**  
Assistant Editor in Chief

A recent survey of college students across the nation yielded the surprising results that in some institutions of higher education there may actually be “negative learning” of American history and institutions at the undergraduate level. In some instances, freshmen were more knowledgeable in basic civics than seniors at the same university, even on questions written for high school seniors.

The study, conducted at 50 U.S. universities, was conducted by the University of Connecticut’s Department of Public Policy under the commission of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute’s National Civic Literacy Board. The study is titled, “The Coming Crisis in Citizenship.” The purpose of the study was to look into the positive or negative effects that a university education would have on the future leaders of America. Citing the words of the Founding Fathers, notably William and Mary’s own Thomas Jefferson, the Board’s report concludes that for American students to learn the basics in civics and become better educated voters and citizens, serious changes need to be made.

The report was split into four major findings as well as detailed recommendations for change. The first finding showed that the average increase in knowledge for all 50 schools from freshmen to senior was a meager 1.5 percent. The areas specifically targeted in the study American history, government, foreign affairs and the market economy. In all four categories, the average score was failure, with market economy the weakest at 50.5 percent and American history at a high of 58.5 percent. Overall, seniors failed the civic literacy exam, averaging 53.2 percent nationwide.

Some of the questions included those about the founding of Jamestown and determining which battle led to the end of the American Revolution. (That’s Yorktown, not Gettysburg, of the Civil War, as 28 percent of respondents believed). Over 70 percent of students did not know what the purpose of the Monroe Doctrine was, nor did they know where the phrase “a wall of separation” between church and state came from.

Negative learning was the result at many institutions. The percentages themselves come from the test scores of the seniors at each of the 50 universities. The difference in score between seniors and freshmen was knowledge gained. “Negative learning” is defined as a lower average score for seniors than for freshmen, indicating that there is an aggregate loss of knowledge. (See chart at right for scores).

The second finding was put quite simply: “Prestige doesn’t pay off.” Elite schools such as Georgetown, Yale and Brown Universities, were more likely to have lower scores than “non-elite” schools, including Rhodes College, which finished first with an increase of 11.6 percent. The report blames rankings such as U.S. News and World Report and Barron’s for blindly reinforcing these universities as the best while not accounting for civic literacy. In fact, there was a direct correlation of 1 percent increase in civic learning to a decrease of 25 spots in the U.S. News and World Report annual rankings.

In a more obvious observation, the third finding proved that in the schools where there was minimal or negative learning, there were fewer courses in the target areas that were required or

made accessible to more students. The higher the number of courses taken in history, political science or economics, the higher the score of those students. The students cannot learn if these necessary ideas are not being taught as a regular part of their education. The William and Mary required courses, General Education Requirements, covers some of these categories including history in the western tradition, philosophy and social sciences.

The fourth and final finding showed the effects of lower civic literacy on active citizenship. This active citizenship included registering to vote and actually voting and volunteering, both in the community and for political campaigns. With this correlation, it becomes evident that the more students know about civics, the more likely they

“In some instances, freshmen were more knowledgeable in basic civics than seniors at the same university, even on questions written for high school seniors.”

are to become involved in them, even if just by voting.

Additionally, the study found that family is important when it comes to learning and understanding the history and institutions of America. Students

with two parents married and living together had higher civic literacy than those with separated or divorced parents, or when at least one parent is deceased. Family was also important when it came to the discussion of current events, as that was also a factor in civic learning.

Several recommendations stemmed from this report. The study calls for universities to assess their effectiveness in these areas, and for the boards and other influential people in higher education to hold those in charge of these colleges accountable. Parents were also encouraged to become involved in understanding the curricula of universities and to be knowledgeable as to what they are paying for. The most specific of all recommendations was for universities to increase the number and quality of courses relating to civic literacy.

Finally, universities are called on to build centers specifically for the learning and understanding of civic literacy, meant to be established similar to those in multicultural and women’s studies. “Centers of excellence” should be established for the purposes of civic education as well.

The report did not include William and Mary, but it did include other peer schools, including the University of Virginia, which was ranked 42 of 50, with a loss of learning of 1.1 percent.

The National Civic Literacy Board is headed by Lt. General Josiah Bunting II, former superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute. Other members of the Board include former US Senator for Virginia George Allen, Ross Mackenzie of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, T. Kenneth Crib Jr., the President of ISI, as well as many other leading scholars and businessmen.

## Ranking the Colleges

	Learning Added or Subtracted
1. Rhodes College	+11.6%
2. Colorado State University	10.9
3. Calvin College	9.5
4. Grove City College	9.4
5. University of Colorado, Boulder	8.9
6. Spring Arbor University	8.3
7. University of New Mexico	8.2
8. University of Mobile	7.5
9. Florida Memorial University	6.8
10. Central Connecticut State University	5.0
11. George Mason University	5.0
12. Youngstown State University	4.9
13. North Carolina Central University	4.8
14. Utah State University	4.5
15. Lynchburg College	4.0
16. Catholic University of America	3.2
17. University of Massachusetts, Boston	3.0
18. Princeton University	2.8
19. Eastern Kentucky University	2.7
20. Baylor University	2.6
21. West Texas A&M University	2.5
22. University of South Alabama	2.0
23. University of Texas, Austin	2.0
24. Wheaton College	1.9
25. Harvard University	1.9
26. University of Washington	1.8
27. Appalachian State University	1.7
28. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	1.6
29. Capital University	1.3
30. American University	1.0
31. Stanford University	0.9
32. University of West Florida	0.7
33. Washington & Lee University	0.2
34. Dartmouth College	0.1
35. University of Michigan	-0.1
36. Ithaca College	-0.2
37. University of Chicago	-0.3
38. Massachusetts Institute of Technology	-0.4
39. Williams College	-0.7
40. University of Florida	-0.8
41. Wofford College	-0.9
42. University of Virginia	-1.1
43. Georgetown University	-1.2
44. Yale University	-1.5
45. State University of West Georgia	-2.0
46. Duke University	-2.3
47. Brown University	-2.7
48. Cornell University	-3.3
49. University of California, Berkeley	-5.6
50. Johns Hopkins University	-7.3

All information available at [www.americancivilliteracy.org](http://www.americancivilliteracy.org).

## Average Knowledge and Learning on American Civic Literacy Exam

Test Section	Freshmen	Seniors	Learning
Overall	51.7%	53.2%	+1.5%
American History	58.3%	58.5%	+0.2%
Government	50.5%	51.4%	+0.9%
America and the World	49.8%	51.5%	+1.7%
Market Economy	46.8%	50.5%	+3.7%



# Dollars & Sense for Students: Is a economic recession looming and how will one impact you if it does come?

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

On February 26, Alan Greenspan, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, stated in reference to the previous recession of 2001, "When you get this far away from a recession, invariably forces build up for the next recession, and indeed we are beginning to see that sign." He also issued further insights on when the

event may happen by stating, "While, yes, it is possible we can get a recession in the latter months of 2007, most forecasters are not making that judgment and indeed are projecting forward into 2008...with some slowdown." His position should be just as alarming to us students as those currently on Wall Street; if this prediction matriculates, it would certainly impact our ability to acquire jobs following graduation. Understanding this, there are measures

you as a student and potential investor can take to prepare for a recession today that just may make or break you down the road.

The greatest question one must ask is if this recession will be inflationary (prices go way up) or deflationary (prices go way down). If the recession is inflationary than we can expect interest rates to rise; if such an event occurs you would desire to LOCK in on the current rate of your student loans, car loans, or any other debt payment you may currently have. In terms of investing, gold and commodity-based companies could weather the storm much better than most others. If the recession is ultimately deflationary—which may occur if (1) the Federal Reserve raises interest rates in an attempt the curb inflation and/or (2) world markets such as China's plummet (on February 27 China's Shanghai Stock Exchange fell over 9% in one day)—then cash is king and you would NOT want to lock in on any interest rate. Ultimately if a

recession does occur then the stock market (in general) may be a place to temporarily avoid, especially considering that a stock's volatility—its ability to violently swing up and down in price—will increase.

Now may be the time to take more caution when it comes to all forms of investing. I would strongly recommend saving more than you normally would, in the event that economic trouble looms ahead.

For more information, contact [business@vainformer.com](mailto:business@vainformer.com)

*Editor's Note: The information contained in the article is for informational purposes only and The Virginia Informer nor the author of this article hold itself out as providing any financial advice. The investments mentioned involve risk and uncertainty and they are not guaranteed by any enterprise. Any equity investment has the potential to lose value.*

## Any questions?

Want to have *The Virginia Informer* look into one of your questions about the stock market or the economy?

Email [business@VAInformer.com](mailto:business@VAInformer.com)

# VOTE YES!

## For the Laundry Referendum on March 29th



**And support all the  
Student Assembly  
candidates that support  
the referendum too!**

**Look up the Facebook group  
"woah, free laundry?"  
to find out more!**

## Nooks and Crannies of William and Mary:

# The Centerpiece of the College proves rich in history and costs

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Most William and Mary students take the Sunken Gardens for granted. They simply cross and re-cross the 3-acre space without remembering that it once played host to a garrison of Patrick Henry's revolutionary war troops, several formal spring dances, and even, in 1979, a mile-long banana split. The gardens are the centerpiece of Old Campus, and are some of the most photographed and admired in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Their story, and the story of those who made the Sunken Gardens a reality at William and Mary, is a fascinating one.

The gardens were originally conceived in 1924 as part of then-president J.A.C. Chandler's 1916-23 William and Mary Building Development Project. The project concerned the construction of a "New Campus," which ironically would one day become what we now call the College's "Old Campus." Back in the 1920s, the College only comprised of a few buildings, notably the Main Building (later renamed the Sir Christopher Wren Building), the Brafferton, the President's House, Tyler Hall, and the Library. At the suggestion of the Richmond

architect Charles M. Robinson, Chandler decided to model his "New Campus" design on the grounds of Sir Christopher Wren's Chelsea Hospital in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, President Chandler did not live to see his vision realized. He died in 1935, the year before construction on the Sunken Gardens began.

The president's successor, John Stuart Bryan, carried on Chandler's vision for the College. In 1936, he chose Edward B. Saunders, who was once involved with the Rockefeller restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, to oversee the transformation of a 115,340 square foot field of pea plants into the Sunken Gardens that we know and love today. The first task was the excavation of a 10-foot-deep hole in the ground. Next, the space was lined with peat and a special brand of grass seed that is to this day known as "The William and Mary Campus Mixture." Finally, several magnolias, pin oaks, spreads of Melrose and English Ivy, and several dozen boxwoods donated by the late President Chandler himself were brought in on mule-drawn carts and planted at the level of the Campus. In all, the Sunken Gardens cost \$50,000 to create.

However, despite this high price tag,

one-time professor John Baldwin stated in 1974 that now that the gardens "have reached botanic maturity" they "cost almost nothing to maintain." They are a beautiful feature of the College that keeps on giving. While Prof. Baldwin's pet idea of "having permanent amplifiers installed

in the hedges" so that "classical music could...be played" in the Sunken Gardens has yet to bear fruit, the space remains one of the most beloved and functional at the College of William and Mary.



**No foresight:** As a part of the William and Mary Building Development Project, the Sunken Gardens were originally envisioned as the center of "New Campus," the area now known as "Old Campus."

## "Because Round Food is Good Food": Jamestown Pie Company

Shelbi Wilson

Food Critic

I had heard of Jamestown Pie Company every now and then for years, but was never sure where it was located or whether it was a great restaurant. Based on mixed reviews from friends and faculty, I decided to give it a try and come to my own conclusions.

Jamestown Pie Company specializes in three types of pies – pizza pies, pot pies and dessert pies. Their pizza choices include "pick your own toppings" and specialty varieties. The specialty pizzas make Jamestown Pie stand out among the crowd. There are so many to choose from based on sauce, cheese and toppings. This restaurant is a great alternative to the normal

pizza chains, especially if one night you have a craving for something unusual, such as zucchini, yellow squash and peas. I recommend the River Crab Pie – it was great! Prices are what may keep many students from ordering, as most of their pizzas range from \$14 to \$25 depending on size (12" or 16") and toppings.

The restaurant is famous for their sizable pot pies. Jamestown Pie offers two sizes for their pot pies: individual (4"), which ranges from \$6 to \$7.25, or family (9"), which ranges \$14 to \$22. If you are willing to pay the extra money for a family size, it could easily be a meal for an entire week. This is a great option for students who want a home-cooked meal with minimal effort. Turkey and Veggie pot pies are classic favorites.

The last type of pie Jamestown Pie offers is dessert. The only pie they sell by the slice is pecan; however, they do have a selection of readily available whole pies. These change daily, so be sure to call ahead and see if they have your favorite. If not, pies can be ordered up to 30 days in advance for special occasions or just because. Additionally, they carry vanilla bean and featured flavors of ice cream to pair with their pies for \$3-4 per pint or \$5-6 per quart.

Jamestown Pie Company also carries a soup of the day, Greek salad and several sandwich selections. Their selections include options such as Turkey and Muenster, Big Greek Veggie, Southside Barbeque and an Italian Sub. The only downside is that their sandwiches are only available before 5 p.m.

Located about three and half miles from campus, Jamestown Pie Company is definitely off the beaten path for most students. They have a relatively small building, the majority of which is kitchen space. They have limited outdoor seating, which includes a few concrete tables and benches for use during warm weather. That being said, you should probably expect to call-in your order for carryout or delivery. As an incentive, they do offer a ten percent discount to William and Mary students and faculty.

Jamestown Pie Company is located at 1804 Jamestown Road, across from 7-Eleven. Their hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. For more information or to place an order, call (757) 229-7775.



**Pie specialists:** Offering pizza, dessert and pot pies, the Jamestown Pie Company has something for everyone. It proves a great alternative from the regular pizza chains.

## Film Review: Borat Redefines Comedy

Every few years there is a movie that redefines a genre and forces us to look at the world around us. Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan is one of those films.



Joe Pirro  
Film Critic

Sacha Baron Cohen plays Borat Sagdiyev, a reporter from Kazakhstan who comes to America with his overweight producer, Azamat, to make a documentary about the American way of life. However, after seeing an episode of Baywatch late at night in his hotel, Borat's trip becomes a cross-country journey with Azamat in search of Pamela Anderson, the perfect woman. Obviously, hilarity ensues.

The comedy in Borat is a satirical view of the United States, and Sacha Baron Cohen has an incredible talent for revealing hidden (and not-so-hidden) prejudices still present in America. For example, Borat parodies the National Anthem at a rodeo before disrupting a high-society dinner in the South. His puns and sight gags continually satirize the varying aspects of American culture. The comedy, while vulgar, profane and nearly revolting, is so hysterical and cutting-edge that Borat will probably be seen as a paradigm shift for film comedy. Past satirists, like Mark Twain, would be quite proud. The VA Informer gives Borat an A.

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan is the UCAB blockbuster for March and is showing in the UC Commonwealth.



# Mike Johnson shakes up Shakespeare with the student production of *Tragedy! (A Musical Comedy)*

Stephanie Long  
News Editor

Have you ever read one of Shakespeare's tragedies and found yourself unable to restrain your laughter? If so, then you have a lot in common with sophomore Mike Johnson, and would probably enjoy his play *Tragedy! (A Musical Comedy)* which pokes fun at Shakespeare's classic, *Titus Andronicus*—as well as countless modern societal customs.

Johnson was inspired to write the musical when he was in a production of *Titus Andronicus* last fall. He was introduced to the play as, "Shakespeare's most flawed show," due to its logical inconsistencies. Johnson's reaction was unusual, though, as he said, "I thought it was awful because there were so many unintentionally funny lines because of how dark it was. And so I got to thinking, you know this is so dark, that if you just made it a little bit darker it would be hilarious." Johnson then explained that, "as a joke I told my music professor that I wanted to write the *Titus Andronicus* musical, and she said 'that sounds great!' So then I had to."

Johnson started the play as his Monroe project and received funding from Mystic Theater, a student production group for alternative theater, as well as the Student Assembly's Economic Finance Committee. Johnson approached the project by taking everything in the play, including all of the logical inconsistencies, and making them worse. The musical turns everything into a joke, which is a virtual necessity since Shakespeare's



**Playing around with Shakespeare:** The cast members of *Tragedy! (A Musical Comedy)* put a new spin on the classic *Titus Andronicus*.

original work includes multiple murders within families, rape, loss of many limbs, and cooking characters in pies. In fact, Johnson joked about his inability to form a final death count because almost every character dies at least twice.

Johnson's main goal for the show is to entertain the William and Mary community, but he also wants to do something more. He said, "I think they need theater that isn't serious but that also isn't completely devoid of substance." And so he inserted into the play underlying tones of homophobia and racism among all the characters to get people to consider those

issues along with all of the other disturbing themes Shakespeare originally included.

The humor of the play, though, derives from hints of Monty Python, Mel Brooks, Disney movies, and *Les Misérables*, which he feels all work well together. Johnson credits the funniest parts of the play to his characters, who had a "kind of really out there, kind of willing to do anything attitude." He said, "The really, really funny stuff is just organic to the characters." Some of the characters who pull this off really well in the play are Erin the Moor, who is played by Amanda "Piper" Wright ('08), Titus Andronicus, who is played

by Francis Van Wattering IV ('10), and Marcus, who is played by Thomas Baumgardner ('09).

The visual grandeur of this student musical is also striking. With full sets, music, acting and dancing, the play seems more similar to the Broadway production *Spamalot* than a Shakespeare in the Dark show. The show is smart and fun, albeit probably inappropriate for children. Johnson stated, "It's the show that I always wanted to watch."

*Tragedy! (A Musical Comedy)* will be running from April 2 to April 5 at 8:00 p.m. in the UC Commonwealth.

Ian R. Whiteside

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## Bloodshed in the name of honor

Samurai Rebellion will be shown at the Muscarelle

Megan Locke  
Staff Writer

Swords collide, blood flies and honor is defended in the 1967 Japanese film *Samurai Rebellion*. It is the second film in the Japanese film series currently taking place at the Muscarelle Museum of Art on campus.

*Samurai Rebellion* is set during the Edo period of Japan (lasting from 1603 to 1867), a time when the samurai were tightly controlled by the daimyo (ruling samurai) and the shogun. A fictional rebellion erupts in the film, when the local daimyo orders his ex-concubine Ichi to return to his household, even though she has since married and given birth. Ichi refuses, but is tricked into entering the daimyo castle by her brother-in-law.

Ichi's husband, Yogoro, and her father-in-law, Isoburo Sasahara, are ordered to commit seppuku (ritual suicide) for daring to defy the daimyo. Rather than submit, Isoburo and Yogoro decide to defend their house against the daimyo's attackers. Much bloodshed follows before the tragic conclusion of the film.

According to Donald Richie's notes for the Criterion Collection edition of *Samurai Rebellion*, the film focuses both on the social implications of the rebellion and its effects not only on the samurai, but also on the women of the film. Actress Yoko Tsukasa has been praised for portraying her character Ichi as a woman of strong courage and

conviction.

Director Masaki Kobayashi is known several other famous Japanese films, including *Harakiri* (1962) and *Kwaidan* (1965). His prestige as a director was recognized when he received an award for *Harakiri* at the 1963 Cannes Film Festival.

Two of the other films in the Muscarelle Japanese film series are *The Hidden Fortress* and *Howl's Moving Castle*. *The Hidden Fortress* was shown on February 20, with a presentation by Professor Pratt of the History Department. Directed by the world-famous Akira Kurosawa, this 1958 film follows two peasants attempting to escape from a battle. En route, they are swept up in a mission to protect a princess and transport her stash of gold. *Howl's Moving Castle* will be shown on April 3, with a presentation by Professor Kitamura of the History Department. This 2004 animated fantasy movie was directed Hayao Miyazaki, who won an Oscar for Best Animated Feature for his previous movie *Spirited Away*. *Howl's Moving Castle* is about a resourceful heroine Sophie, who is transformed into an old woman by a witch, and gradually falls in love with the wizard who can help her.

*Samurai Rebellion* is scheduled to be shown at the Muscarelle Museum of Art on Tuesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. Professor DiNitto of the Japanese Department will present this film. For more information about the film showing, please call the Muscarelle at (757) 221-2700 or visit their website [www.wm.edu/muscarelle/](http://www.wm.edu/muscarelle/).

Staff Editorial:

## Cross compromise only the beginning of uncertain future of the College

It is difficult, and perhaps not even appropriate, to declare that someone “won” in the Wren cross controversy. There are many sides to the debate, ranging from SaveTheWrenCross.org, to Our Campus United, to Gene Nichol, to Jim McGlothlin. The important matter is that the policy now in place, whether it is acceptable or not, is far better than the one that began at Nichol’s behest in October, and in that much, we support it.

Although the lines of “victory” are blurred, the decision was, however, a severe loss—a grave, stinging loss—for Nichol.

The president’s self-appointed Committee on Religion in a Public University overturned his decision to remove the Wren cross from the chapel. While it is not being placed back on the altar—although it may now be placed there upon request—it is on permanent display, housed in a glass case in the chapel. It is to be set in a “prominent, readily visible place,” without option of removal.

The committee unanimously made this decision, which equates to only the harshest of repudiations of and rebuke for Nichol’s left-wing, politically correct and intolerant logic. The theory that a religious symbol in public is inherently “unwelcoming” has been debunked.

Yet despite all this, Nichol and the College are already beginning to spin the story. At the press conference announcing the committee’s decision, Nichol explained that the decision was “the middle course I had hoped for.” Anyone who has read a public op-ed, letter, or campus e-mail signed by Nichol in the past four months on this issue knows, plainly and simply, that Nichol believes the presence of the cross to be an unwelcoming, offensive barrier to non-Christian students. It is inconceivable that the committee’s decision changes Nichol’s personal sentiments. It is amazing that a policy which installs the cross permanently in the chapel—a policy that is in that way more “unwelcoming” than the original policy Nichol overturned—is the “middle course” that he was really searching for.

In his latest op-ed, printed the week before the committee’s decision, Nichol stated that the goals of making William and Mary “open and welcoming to all”—which he sees as necessitous and administratively mandated intolerance against the Christian faith—are “more important than the wishes of a donor, or a pundit, or a political hatchet man. They’re also more important than a single president.” This is clearly a threat of resignation. When the committee overturned his decision it is arguable that Nichol’s lofty ideals fell by the wayside when he realized he really does enjoy living in a multi-million dollar 18th-century mansion while

raking in more than \$300,000 a year.

Is that to say money talks? Apparently so, even to Nichol. There is also the matter of the \$12 million revocation of funds that had to factor in to this decision in some way. Frankly, the College is not in a position to turn its nose up at millions of dollars, to which we are not necessarily entitled, as some have insinuated. Is it not conceivable that the Board of Visitors realized, finally, that Nichol is hemorrhaging money, and that an expedited decision was just one way to stop the bleeding? Money talks, and money matters. It is far easier to build and furnish the new applied sciences building on money, rather than on naïve ideology.

Bad press talks even louder than money. On the day of the decision, The O’Reilly Factor on the Fox News Channel played tape of Gene Nichol being questioned by a reporter as he walked from the President’s House to his office in the Brafferton Building. Nichol looks confused and nervous, obviously unable to handle any direct questioning. The Virginia Informer knows that The Factor was planning to continue coverage for many more days. If we knew it, the College knew it. This, coupled with the complete saturation in coverage in the local media, was damaging the College’s reputation, and it had to stop.

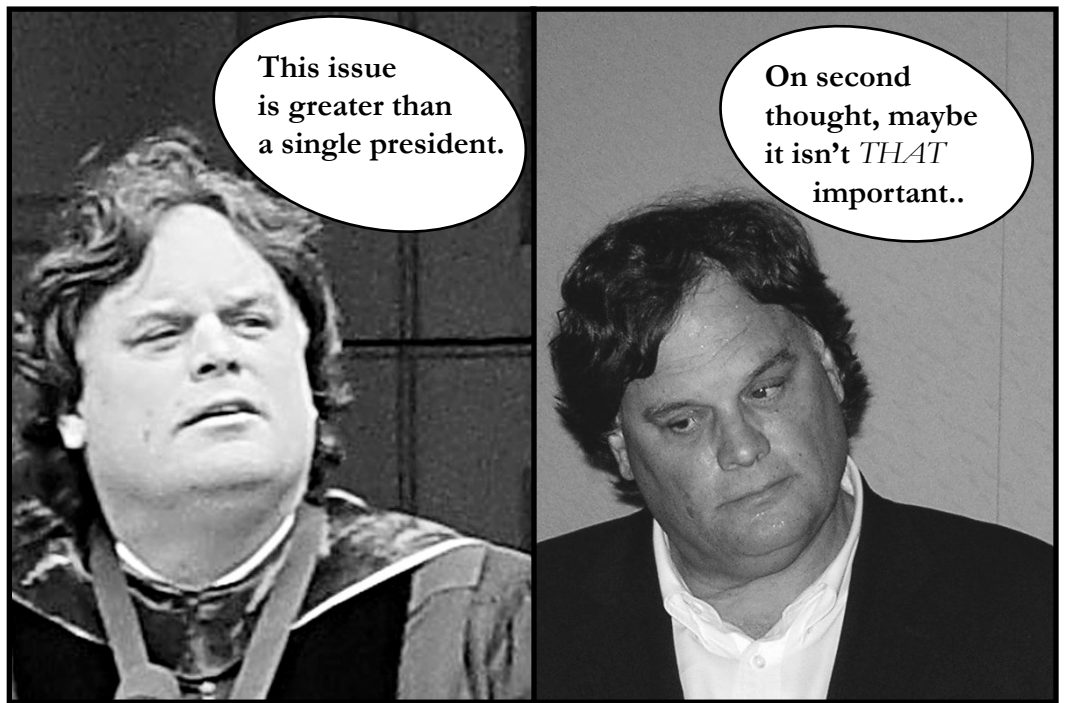
With this “conclusion,” it is still important to understand that the committee’s work is not over as the committee itself has stated. It is not entirely clear what these goals may be, but The Virginia Informer will keep a close eye on the proceeding through the end of this year.

And what of the committee’s provisions regarding this decision? What defines a “prominent, readily visible” place? What more prominent place is there but the altar?

In the end, we are left with an embattled president who has spent all of his political capital on one issue that created a divide when none existed. Some believe that the decision now is even less “open” than the old policy, (see Nick Hoelker’s opinion on page 15). Ultimately, the old policy of display of the cross unless removal was requested was, and still is, the best policy.

The College needs to seriously reevaluate its current position towards the current students, the alumni as well as “...to all Virginians, to the nation, and to the world,” as that is to whom the College “belongs,” as the Board of Visitors stated in November.

Whatever steps necessary to recoup the respect, and generosity, of all those groups must be done, and done quickly. It is now only a matter of who will, or better yet, who can, step up and do so.



Joe Luppino-Esposito

### Letter From the Editor...

Dear Readers:

To combine two clichés into one: All good things come to an end, but each end brings a new beginning. This is how I see *The Virginia Informer* as I prepare to graduate and leave the newspaper in very capable hands.

The past two years have been incredible. If someone would have told me four, or even three, years ago that I was going to start a campus newspaper and that after two years it would be incredibly successful with a large, dedicated staff, I would have laughed. But even though this has all been quite unexpected, it does not change the fact that these past two years have been the most educational of my academic career.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the 2007-2008 editorial board of *The Virginia Informer*.

**Editor in Chief:** Joe Luppino-Esposito

**Managing Editor:** Matthew Sutton

**Executive Editor:** Nick Fitzgerald

**News Editor:** Stephanie Long

**Features Editor:** Jon San

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

**Opinion Editor:** Alex Mayer

I know that the new editorial board is well prepared to continue *The Informer’s* mission of independent news reporting and investigative journalism. In two years we have brought countless stories to light that went unreported in other publications; imagine what they will do in another year. Joe, as my fellow co-founder of *The Informer* is more than qualified to take over the reigns. Nick has been with us since the beginning; Stephanie, Matthew and R.C. joined not long after. Jon and Alex have been dedicated to *The Informer* as staff writers and I am happy to have their talent on the editorial board. I have known all of the editors for the past two years or more, and I have learned so much from each of them. I hope that I have taught them a thing or two as well. Together as a group, the editorial board will ensure that the William and Mary students get the news coverage they deserve. I have no doubt that *The Informer* will continue to thrive.

Finally, a word to my fellow graduating seniors: Mandie, Shelbi, Chase, Will and Ben. Thank you for all of your hard work. Most of you have been with us since the beginning. I wish you the best of luck in wherever life takes you. Keep in touch!

To the editors and the entire *Informer* staff: congratulations on the amazing job you’ve done so far! Keep up the great work and make me proud!

Amanda J. Yasenchak  
Editor in Chief, 2005-2007

### A special thanks from *The Informer*

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# Cross decision flawed, unfair to Christian and non-Christian students alike

**Nick Hoelker**  
Staff Writer

The decision by the William and Mary Committee on Religion in a Public University on the Wren Cross is flawed and did not reach an adequate compromise on the Cross issue.

The committee, created by President Gene Nichol in the wake of the Wren Cross controversy, recommended putting the Cross on "permanent display in the Chapel in a glass case [that is in a] prominent, readily visible place." Nichol and the Board of Visitors accepted the Committee's unanimous recommendation.

While on the altar, the Wren cross was an important symbol of Christianity and of the Anglican origins of the school. Removing it from the altar and relegating it to a glass box demotes it from a vital religious symbol to a museum piece. This might have been acceptable if

the cross had a compelling history, which it does not. The cross came to the Chapel in 1940, nearly 350 years after the construction of the Wren Building. The cross was only in the Wren Building because Bruton Parish Church, which originally owned the cross, obtained a new cross, and they donated it to the College. Therefore, turning the cross into a historical museum display makes little sense.

Another problem with the decision is that it does not allow the cross to be taken down at the request of students wishing to use the Chapel for their own events. It has been a William and Mary tradition to allow alumni to use the Chapel for weddings, regardless of their faith. Even before Nichol's original decision to remove the Cross, it was possible to remove the Cross from the altar for such events. However, it is now impossible to have the cross removed for private functions at the request of the host. As a

Jewish student, I would no longer feel comfortable getting married in the Chapel with the cross on the wall.

Putting the Wren cross in a glass case is a poor way to satisfy both sides of the debate. Removing it from the altar is an insult to Christianity as it turns a religious symbol into a historical one, despite not having a glorified history. At the same time, the new policy of not being able to remove the cross from the Chapel for private events is an offense to non-Christian students who are now forced to hold their weddings and other events in the Chapel with the cross staring them back in the face. The Wren cross 'Compromise' seems to more of a rash attempt to re-coup money lost by alumni withholding donations from the school than an attempt to reach common ground between both sides of the issue.

# Honor Council Elections are not so honorable after all

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

On February 22 over 10 thousand votes were cast by the student body to elect next year's 24 members of the illustrious Honor Council. At first glance this voter turnout number may appear to be quite admirable but once one realizes that every individual undergrad had the opportunity to cast 24 separate votes, this year's turnout was actually miniscule and even shameful.

If every undergraduate student (including seniors, who also had the right to vote) exercised their full voter potential, the total cast could have numbered well over one hundred thousand. This potential total, though, assumes that each William and Mary student voted for eight different candidates in all three grades, which even under the most dedicated of circumstances in turnout is highly unlikely simply on the basis of both time consumption and class recognition. These conflicts, both the low voter turnout as well as the very low number of total votes cast, present numerous problems in the way our Honor Council elections are conducted and promoted.

Not only did we see a large absence of votes and

voters, but we saw a great deal of write-in candidates, which is the telltale sign of a lack in voter trust and understanding of the system. Amounting to over 12% of votes cast, this high percentage of write-ins can be contributed to both the inability of candidates to campaign, as well as a lack of candidate description and information on the ballot. The only piece of information presented on the ballot was the candidates' answers to the question, "How does the Honor Code help shape the College's idea of community?" Not only did nearly half of the candidates (30) start their answers with "The Honor Code" or "The Honor Council" in a similar response, but the answers of all the candidates up for election amounted to over 10,700 words in length.

“The only piece of information presented on the ballot was the candidates' answers to the question, "How does the Honor Code help shape the College's idea of community?" Not only did nearly half of the candidates (30) start their answers with "The Honor Code" or "The Honor Council" in a similar response, but the answers of all the candidates up for election amounted to over 10,700 words in length.”

but the answers of all the candidates up for election amounted to over 10,700 words in length. It was the only tool that voters were given and it proved not only to be dry but ultimately unusable, as students did not have the time to read through them nor any form of adequate information about the candidates that would allow them to arrive at an educated decision.

In light of this past election, it is now time to think about Honor Council elections reform. For if this process continues, we can expect a continuation of more dishonoring results of the body that is imperative to the college.

# Vagina Monologues sends wrong message to women

Yet another disgusting performance

William and Mary prides itself on its history. The Wren building is marketed as the oldest academic building in America that is still in use. The old Christian purpose of William and Mary is etched into a large white emblem on the exterior of the Wren. Confederate veterans are listed in the hallway. The Wren chapel's historical nature has also recently come into the spotlight.

When we consider the vastly important actions that occurred in William and Mary's past, we must gravely consider our own actions today because we will be remembered by them. Today, our student body contributes to the image that the college will have for a long time. But, what kind of image will future generations have of us?



**John R. Kennedy**  
Opinion Editor

The Vagina Monologues is a play that was recently shown on campus in the UC. The play, written by Eve Ensler, consists of various episodes of women relating their sexual experiences. In the original book, it even contains a portion in which a 13 year old girl talks about how she was coaxed with alcohol and then raped by a 26 year old woman, but she refers to it as "good rape" because she enjoyed it. I never heard there was such a thing as good rape, One in Four's educational video notwithstanding.

Eve Ensler's play condones statutory rape and yet, if the rapist had been a 26 year old male, the feminists would be appalled. Luckily, they probably left that part of the play out in their performances at William and Mary. Nonetheless, this feminist foolishness is being sold as legitimate collegiate discourse. It is trash in theater format and a small group of our fellow students support it.

We should be ashamed of them.

Ironically, the play is in support of V-Day, which is a "global movement to stop violence against women and girls." Our fellow students use The Vagina Monologues, which condones statutory rape, as a tool to help stop domestic violence. Perhaps I am the only one who finds this hilariously typical of feminist social "thinkers." On a wide scale, they seek to debase a woman's positive role in the family unit as oppressive but in its place they would have 13 year olds being raped by 26 year old lesbians. This type of thinking is only high-minded enough for a college campus like ours!

The type of behavior supported by The Vagina Monologues is highly negative toward men. The 13 year old girl concludes at the end of her speech: "I'll never need to rely on a man!" I submit: why would receiving an orgasm from a 26 year old lesbian help her conclude that men are no longer necessary to women? Brought to its basest form, independence for the female race is achieved by not needing men for sexual pleasure. And I thought the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, giving women the right to vote, was the catalyst for much female independence – apparently a lesbian orgasm can do the job. Perhaps the suffragettes had it all wrong.

This is what future generations will see when they look at the history of this college. They will see the Wren cross being relegated to a glass coffin, transvestites entertaining full crowds of students, and feminists debasing the traditional family (which many of us grew up in). All of it is in the name of freedom from oppression and discrimination.

From a Christian purpose to glorification of prostitutes, our college sure has come a long way...

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**letters@vainformer.com**

# To be free or not to be free: the great laundry debate

## The bottom line is that the average student saves money: Why you should vote yes on free laundry

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

There can be no doubt that we as students bear a great deal of cost to attend and live at William and Mary. There is something we can do, however, to lower this cost—at least in part. We, the Student Assembly, can enact a \$20/semester fee for unlimited laundry usage. This is not only a measure that has received support by many in the

machines will be used more frequently, while wasting water/electricity in the process, is just as debatable. The fact is, we as students must still take time out of our schedules to do laundry—and I do not believe many more of us will be doing it with any more frequency than before. For those of you whose still remain skeptical, I have been informed that the administration will install a program called E-Suds if this proposed laundry policy is adopted.

This program will connect our dorms' laundry machines with Blackboard and will let us know when the machines will be/are available for use, right from our computer. This will certain ease traffic flow in and out of laundry rooms, and reduce those frustrating waits until the next washer or dryer is available.

Also, only a very small percent of on-campus students do their laundry off-campus. The idea that those who normally would not do their laundry on-campus can freeloader, and that those who typically do their laundry on-campus are paying for others, can also be applied to dormitory kitchens; not all residents use them, but everyone still pays for their upkeep.

If you still remain skeptical, then let me issue an additional assurance that this program will bring many rewards with little cost. If a problem ever

does occur from overuse, or if individuals start using this policy to do their off-campus friends' laundry, then we can and will utilize the ID readers installed by auxiliary services. A procedure can be applied to this new policy, whereby you would still be required to swipe your ID card so usage can be monitored. If any individual abuses the system, then the College will know who he is, and can limit his usage. I can assure you that the College administration and SA would not be supportive of this program if they actually believed that usage would significantly increase beyond what it is now.

The bottom line is that the average student saves a lot of money, the College receives payment up front—which they love—and we all get a new program that allows us to monitor our laundry machines right from our computer.

*Editor's Note: Andrew Blasi is a Student Assembly senator for the class of 2010.*

## Belief in magic motivates the Student Assembly: Why you should vote no for free laundry

**Jacob Hill**  
Staff Writer

Before coming to William and Mary, I fully understood that in college I would be subjected to a great diversity of views. However, never did I believe that I would come across an insane belief in magic. It appears that Marx has been let loose at the Student Assembly and has struck the rather gullible senators with a tried-and-true method of failure: central planning. In discovering new methods to waste my money, the Student Assembly has decided that "providing" students with "free laundry" could be nothing but brilliant. The old cliché "There's no such thing as a free lunch" seems to have never crossed the minds of the SA.

Here's the scheme in a nutshell: The Student Assembly will reduce the cost at the washing machines and dryers to zero—nada.

However, to recoup the cost, an extra \$20 will be added onto the bill of every student in the College, per semester. That's

right, even those who do not use the machines will be forced to pay for the laundry service of others. That's what a "free" lunch costs you.

I know from both personal experience and from the rather loud objections of others that more than \$20 is spent per user per semester. So then, my question becomes: If we have a set number of laundry machines, and those who use them spend more than \$20 a semester to do their laundry, over the course of the semester how are we expected to be able to do more laundry at zero cost, all other things equal? The simple answer is, you can't.

But, proponents ask, what about all those people who aren't paying for laundry now, who will be paying for laundry then? Won't that make up the cost? Not considering all the new

people who will be demanding laundry service. There will be those who will no longer consider taking their laundry home, and those who will want to do more laundry, and those who used other laundry services but now feel entitled, considering they are contributing to everyone else's laundry. The indubitable science of economics teaches if costs go down, demand will rise—ceteris paribus, of course. So then, how will all these new problems be resolved? One suggestion was to limit the number of times one could use the laundry. This horrific idea hardly accounts for the differences in lifestyles between students. Students who are more active in sports will have a different demand for laundry services than those who generally nap all day. Why not take these disparities into account? Then I must be led to believe that we are developing a system whereby people pay a certain fee for laundry services, which

are then rendered according to the good graces of the SA. We must also be led to believe that there will be enough people who do not use laundry on campus who will pay for those who do; in other words, that there will be enough people paying so that students can parasitically freeloader.

The system reduces down to one word: magic. And while SA Vice President Amanda Norris shares a name with a character in Harry Potter, I somehow doubt she'll manage to conjure up the proper spell this time—also, Norris is a cat and not much good with a wand. It would seem to me that a system where students pay for their own laundry service and make decisions based upon cost and time on their own is far superior to one that allows for freeloading parasites and requires permission to wash your own clothes from the ever blundering Student Assembly.



Jan R. Whiteside

**How much do you do?:** There are pros and cons to the SA's plan to build laundry cost into room fees.

administration—as it would allow them to receive our payments up front instead of at \$1.25 per load—but is something that is practiced at many schools across Virginia and across the country.

Perhaps the greatest concerns that individuals have expressed over such a change—and there are a few—are environmental and structural in nature. After all, if laundry usage is free, then: (1) wouldn't students do many more loads and waste more water/electricity?; (2) wouldn't it become more difficult to find an open machine?; and (3) why should students who do laundry elsewhere have to pay into a system that they do not use? Initially I too shared these concerns, but after much investigation and dialogue with the administration I have found them to be unwarranted.

First, the notion that individuals will do significantly more laundry if there is no additional cost is circumstantial at best, and secondly, the idea that more

## A South East Asian Spectacular



Courtesy of Pingyars

On March 1 – 4, Professor Francis Tanglao-Aguas of the theatre department presented *Ramayana La'ar*, an adaptation of the centuries-old Hindu epic. The performance defied expectations: part dance, part pantomime, part sacred performance, the show was a mishmash of the best aspects of each. With delightful costuming and music, clever staging and beautiful choreography, *Ramayana La'ar* transcended categorization, establishing itself in a genre all its own.

To read *The Informer's* review of the show, visit [www.VAInformer.com](http://www.VAInformer.com)

### Want to read more?

Andrew says the program is "more capitalist."  
Jacob questions the idea of "more laundry at a lower cost."

Read Andrew and Jacob's rebuttals and more about the laundry referendum at

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