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The common sense paper of record on campus.

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Pressure builds as cross controversy continues



In the hot seat?: President Gene Nichol explains his actions regarding the removal of the Wren Chapel cross before the Board of Visitors amidst rumors of censure and resignation. Nichol rejected *The Informer's* invitation to defend his position in a debate on the cross against author Dinesh D'Souza.

BOV scolds Nichol, gives committee April deadline

Amanda J. Yasenchak

Editor-in-Chief

William and Mary's Board of Visitors tackled the Wren cross controversy at their latest meeting February 8. In an item on the agenda noted as "Comments from invited guests of the Rector and Board regarding the Wren Chapel," the Board set aside one hour for five individuals to testify.

Bob Thompson, a 1977 graduate of the College, spoke against Nichol's decision to remove the cross from the altar. He said that after meeting his wife at the College, and their son meeting his wife here as well, he considered themselves a truly William and Mary family. Yet Thompson took offense at Nichol's declaration that his religion-Christianity-was intolerant and that he and his family were no longer welcome.

Vince Haley, class of 1988, spoke on behalf of the website SaveTheWrenCross.org, which

CROSS REMOVAL FALLOUT

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THE VIRGINIA
INFORMER

Senator Hagel delivers Charter Day address, receives honorary degree

Andrew B. Blasi Jr.

Business Editor

Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska) delivered the annual Charter Day address at PBK Hall on Saturday where he received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service. Honored to be receiving the degree and present on this historic day, Senator Hagel stated "Public education is the cornerstone of our nation's success and that success was started here at William and Mary." He also stated "It is difficult to find another institution that has produced such a generational effect of leaders."

Using this opportunity to reflect on current policy matters, Senator Hagel stated that America currently is faced with a great number of issues

that are not just limited to terrorism, including energy dependence, budget deficits and entitlement spending, weakening infrastructure, and global warming.

The Senator further stated "America's growth since the settlement of Jamestown has given birth to the greatest democracy in the world and although we are faced with these many problems, just like the first individuals to settle this country had encountered, we will ultimately succeed."

Senator Hagel also expressed his hopes for the future and how these hopes play an integral part of what William and Mary seeks to deliver to its students: a greater understanding for the world we live in and America's role within it. Referring to a statistic that 40% of the world's 6.3 billion inhabitants are under 18 years of age, Hagel stated, "The greatest force for change in the world is the next generation. And America must not ignore the next generations of the world. The world must trust America's purpose and not its power. Because in fact, the American purpose has always been what the world has trusted and come to respect. Our future in this century will not be determined by the power that we exert on others but rather by the trust we install in others."

Senator Hagel concluded his address by stating, "In this nation some individuals look for ways to divide ourselves...but in this country and around the world no matter who we are, we all share a spirit of humanity and decency. In the end, we all hold the same beliefs of family, morals, values and traditions. America's strength is in its people and I have no doubt that America will preserve."

Prior to his address at the Charter Day ceremony on Saturday, Senator Hagel took time on Friday afternoon to visit W&M government students at the College to discuss a wide variety of issues from who he saw as mentors to many current policy debates facing the United States today.



Celebrate! An exuberant Hagel hails the crowd.

College releases sexual assault survey results

Website launched to educate college community

Jon San

Staff Writer

At noon on February 4, the College's Office of Health Education unveiled a new website aimed at educating the college community on the topic of sexual assault. The website, along with a school-wide survey conducted in December, is part of a new plan to broaden sexual assault education.

Of the roughly 5,500 students at the College, 503 students responded to the survey. And of these students 184 were male and 316 were female.

The survey posed a series of "rape myth" situations to which students were asked to respond based on a scale of varying agreement (1 meaning strong disagreement with the myth and 7 connoting strong agreement with the myth). Rape myths, according to a citation taken from the survey, are "attitudes and beliefs that are generally false but are widely and persistently held, and that serve to deny and justify male sexual aggression against women." Conducted by Sandi Cleveland, the Substance Abuse Health Educator at the Student Health Center, among others, the survey highlighted certain incidences where there occurred an above-average amount of agreement. Agreement meaning that those students *agreed* with the rape myth incident posed to them.

One of these highlighted incidences was that "If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control." Of the 530 students who responded, only 36.8% strongly disagreed with the myth meaning that roughly 63% percent were in varying agreement with it.

Another scenario asked, "Men don't usually intend to force sex

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVEY RESULTS

continued on page five

New online housing lottery promises to be less stressful experience

Residence Life still testing program, searching for volunteers

Chase Coleman

Staff Writer

Beginning April 16, students will be able to choose rooms for next year through the new online room selection process. This new process, which will only affect regular undergraduate housing, will be very similar to room selection in previous years, except that it will be a two-week process using my.wm.edu's temperamental online program Banner.

While in previous years students received lottery numbers, this year students will receive a time window during which they can select a room. Windows will

remain open until late afternoon, allowing more students to choose rooms as the day goes on. Katrina Pawvluk, the Assistant Director of Residence Life, assures that there will be no more than 60 students entering in each window, "so it's not like registration where there could be several hundred people hitting [the website] at one time."

As another safeguard against technical problems, the selection process will take place over a two-week period. Residence Life has already tested the system using a small population and plans to test it again soon with a larger student sample. Even if technical problems do occur during selection, help will be available to students.

The long time frame of the selection process is not only to prevent an overload of the system, but also to alleviate students of the stress that has often been associated with Lottery Day. "We wanted to make sure...that students weren't feeling rushed and pressured to make a choice," said Pawvluk. Students should be able to see current availability as each room is selected, although it is possible that this information will not be accessible until the end of the day.

While in previous years students had to wait, sometimes for hours, inside a crowded Trinkle Hall, this year students can select a

room in minutes from any place with internet access. Deb Boykin, Director of Residence Life, points out that "the other nice thing [about online room selection] is that because you're on a computer, you don't have to be here [on campus]," which may be a great relief to students abroad.

Similar to past years, whichever roommate has a better window can choose a room during that time period by entering the other roommate's ID number. This roommate will then receive an email asking him or her to accept or decline the room selection, so students must remember to check their email. "We're going to have to make sure students understand that if somebody chooses you, make sure you accept [or decline]," Boykin stresses.

Some might consider removing the human element from the room selection process a slight drawback: in the past there has always been a large staff ready to answer any questions. Boykin realizes this and suggests that students have the floor plans to the dorms, which are available on the Residence Life website, readily accessible during selection. It is also important, Boykin mentioned, that students "do their research and be realistic about their choices." Both Boykin and Pawvluk agree that this trade-off is positive since the new online system will be much less of a hassle. For those students worried about the selection process, however, Pawvluk plans to have computers available at the Residence Life office in the Campus Center, where the staff can answer any questions.

During spring break, Residence Life will email students who have paid the room reservation deposit their room selection window along with a link to a video demo outlining the process.



Andy DeSoto

New lottery locale: From now on, students won't have to make it down to Trinkle Hall for long lottery lines, but will only have to fight with Banner to get the rooms they want.

Briefly...

Compiled by Jon San

DVDs soon to be available for checkout at Swem

A new DVD check-out policy is being enacted at Swem Library. Within the coming weeks, students and faculty will be able to check out DVDs from the library for a period of three days. Previously, students could only watch videos in Swem for three hours before they were due back to circulation. However, this new policy only applies to about 200 soon-to-be arriving "popular" DVDs.

Manhattan Piano Trio coming to Ewell

At 8 p.m. on February 16, the Manhattan Piano Trio will perform a concert in Ewell Recital Hall. The Trio, who recently were the Grand Prize Winners of the 2006 Plowman National Chamber Music Competition, will play selected works by Beethoven, Liszt, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Wieniawski, Piazzolla, Shostakovich, and William and Mary composer Sophia Serghi. The concert will be free of charge.

James City County named healthiest community in Virginia

According to a recent study by the Schroeder Center for Healthcare Policy here at the College, Poquoson City is the healthiest community in Virginia. And while York County ranked 8th in the list, James City County (where New Town is located) was noticeably absent. It is important to note that although Williamsburg is located within James City County, it is considered to be independent of the county.

William and Mary 3rd best value public school in higher education

The College was ranked 3rd among best value public school in higher education by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine. This is an improvement from last year when the College ranked 4th according to the publication. The rankings are based on schools that excel in providing an outstanding economic value with a first-class education. More than 500 public schools were polled with University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill topping the chart.

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Mission Statement

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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Six characters can't cut it WMuserids become more "secure"

Stephanie Long

News Editor

All new students entered into William and Mary's computer system after March 1 will no longer have to squeeze into the standard six character WMuserid formula, but will have up to 16 characters in order to increase the uniqueness and security of WMuserids.

This change originated from Banner's need for uniqueness and the school's desire to give the WMuserids longevity. The more unique the WMuserids are, the less likely there will be duplicates. Students will be able to keep their WMuserids after graduation rather than having them cancelled for recycling, as has been the custom for years. This is made possible because of the lesser probability of repeating e-mail addresses with 16 characters than with six characters.

The new WMuserids will take the first initial of a student's first name, the first initial of his/her middle name and up to 13 characters of the student's last name. There will no longer be x's to indicate the lack of a middle initial or missing spaces in the student's last name, and up to two numbers will be added to the end of the WMuserid if necessary to prevent duplication. The Communications Director of Information Technology, Susan Evans, also pointed out that with the student's full last name in his WMuserid, the e-mail will also be "more recognizable."

For now, the new WMuserids are only going to be applied for new students entering my.wm.edu's database, but eventually students currently under the six

character system will have the opportunity to change their WMuserids. Bernadette M. Kenney, Enterprise Information Systems Director for IT, anticipates this second phase of the program is projected to take place in the next 12 to 18 months.

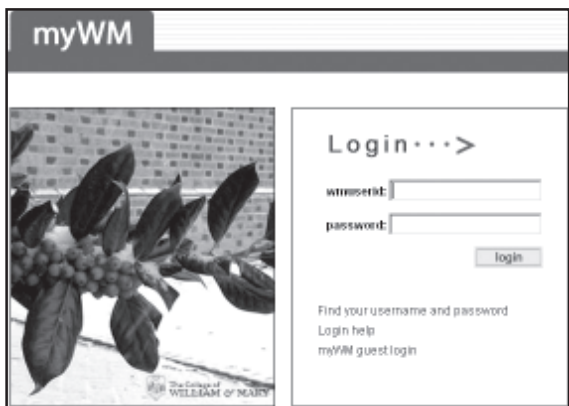
By not recycling WMuserids, graduates and alumni will be able to keep their WMuserids and have access to my.wm.edu after graduation. This movement towards increased inclusion of alumni in their relationships to the College was augmented earlier this year with the creation of an Alumni Association tab on my.wm.edu's homepage for seniors.

The switch to a new format in some ways seems long overdue in that it will allow people to keep their usernames forever. But there are certain drawbacks

to this change, for, as Student Assembly senator and former IT employee Matt Beato ('09) put it, "it's going to make things longer, and that's not necessarily better." Beato boasted of the simplicity

of the six character system and also, being the Director of the Student Information Network (SIN), pointed out that programs which use the WMuserids will have to be updated.

Evans and Kenney acknowledge these issues with the system, but believe this change is wholly for the better. They have made every effort to contact on-campus programs which have made use of the six character format about the changes, and so far they have not faced too much resistance. "Outside of William and Mary it's meaningless," said Evans of the six character WMuserids. She asserted that the new formula, "really is the standard outside of the College."



Longer login: IT is expanding the user ID for all students.

Students for Life celebrate "Pro-Life Week"

Adam Boltik

Staff Writer

The Declaration of Independence claims that all people are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, and among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"; it was this very first right that the campus organization Students for Life was attempting to highlight during their Pro-Life Week programs, held from February 5 to 8.

All throughout the week, members of Students for Life ran a table in the University Center, handing out lapel pins which, while smaller than a dime, represent the size and shape of a ten-week-old fetus. The attached pamphlet outlines the course of development of a fetus from conception to birth, and closes by saying, "Some people think my life began at birth; but my journey started long before birth." The group also distributed candy, cookies, flowers, and CDs with a copy of Nick Cannon's song "Can I live?" throughout the week.

"All we are trying to do with Pro-Life Week is to raise awareness about how many abortions there are," said Katie Poandl ('07), President of Students for Life and one of the many members who was working the table at the UC during the week. One of the events that the Students for Life do every year to help raise awareness of abortion is place

luminaries near the Crim Dell as a memorial to abortion deaths.

The Students for Life also sponsored a speaker, Janet Morana. Morana is the founder of "Silent No More," an organization which seeks to make the public aware of how women suffer after getting an abortion. Aside from the guest speaker and the luminaries, Students for Life offered two sessions where students could get involved in the national discussion on abortion by watching films, holding group discussions and having a question-and-answer session with club officers.

During "Pro-Life Week," Students for Life were sold t-shirts and registered volunteers to work at a local pregnancy care center which offers alternatives to abortion, including adoption. According to Poandl, the organization is also planning to host a benefit concert in April that will raise money to benefit pregnancy care centers in Williamsburg.

Students for Life continues to work throughout the year to raise awareness of the ongoing national abortion discussion. The club has members that attend national conferences, and recently several members were in D.C. for the annual March for Life. Concerning the mission of Students for Life, Poandl said, "All we want to do is make people look at abortion and ask, 'Why are there so many?'"

The Virginia Informer apologizes for the following error that appeared in our November 2006 Issue:

The headline on the article on page 1 incorrectly identified W&M alumnus and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates as David Gates.

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

Pro-women pro-lifers are "Silent No More"

SFL brings Janet Morana as part of Pro-Life Week

John R. Kennedy

Opinion Editor

Janet Morana from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign came to William and Mary on February 8 to educate women about abortion and the experiences of post-abortive women.

Silent No More was co-founded by Morana and Georgette Forney. It is a project of Priests for Life and the National Organization of Episcopalians for Life. The campaign was founded with a woman-centered approach on the topic of abortion, which Morana stated is often missing from the pro-life movement.

Morana spoke briefly at the outset about the *Roe v. Wade* decision and its accompanying *Doe v. Bolton* case. She explained that these decisions made it legal for an abortion to be performed anytime during the nine month pregnancy period. Morana also pointed out that at the time *Roe v. Wade* was decided it was uncertain when life began, but because of sonograms, the case does not hold today.

Pregnancy resource centers were discussed as well, which included information about the choices that they offer to pregnant women. Among these choices, Morana mentioned that counseling, safe shelter, and financial support are all made available to women who are in need. Silent No More's counseling services are currently offered in Canada, Britain, Ireland, Spain and the United States.

She spoke about the informative protests that Silent

No More has been able to organize, which includes a vigil remembering *Roe v. Wade* on January 22 after the annual March for Life.

Morana then went on to show a film about the Silent No More Awareness Campaign which conveyed the various experiences of post-abortive women. Set in the front of the Supreme Court, many of the women talked about the coercion they felt from their boyfriends, husbands and parents. Men also offered their experiences in the film and often admitted that they failed to offer appropriate support for women when making the choice whether or not to abort their children.

After the film, Morana continued to speak about key members of the pro-life movement she has met, including previous abortionists who became pro-life. Also, she claimed to be friends with Norma McCorvey, the mother that was represented in *Roe v. Wade*, who also converted to Christianity and became pro-life.

Morana then allowed time for questions which ranged from topics such as her specific line of work to the abortion issue in general. At the end, she noted that she would be available to anyone for personal questions. Silent No More offers a hotline for women who are pregnant and want help: 1-800-395-HELP.



Andy DeSoto

Janet Morana: The co-founder of Silent No More, an organization to help women who are suffering from post-abortive syndrome, explained the negative effects abortion has on women to William and Mary students.

SA Senate begins second semester with heated debates and shouting matches

Senators fight over spending students' money on swamp, supporting Nichol

Stephen Dause

Staff Writer

The first two Student Assembly Senate meetings of the new semester were full of both promise and heated debate. The main topic of the first, which is still unresolved, was spending on campus beautification; and while the second ended in an unusually heated shouting match over the Wren cross controversy, it was also relatively productive.

In the first meeting, newly installed Senate Chairman Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08) opened with a few remarks on goals he hoped the body would accomplish in the semester. Among them were the prospects for student

voting rights in Williamsburg, student-friendly housing and businesses, and a more efficiently-run Senate.

Several executive appointments to the offices of Internal Affairs, Public Affairs and the Review Board were confirmed, the deadline for the Constitutional Review Committee was extended into this semester to March 5, and the infamous foul-smelling "swamp" in the woods between old and new campus may be looking and smelling better soon thanks to recently passed legislation.

However, President Ryan Scofield vetoed the bill that gave the Student Environmental Action Coalition funds for planting several million seeds in the swamp area, citing concerns about the viability of the operation.

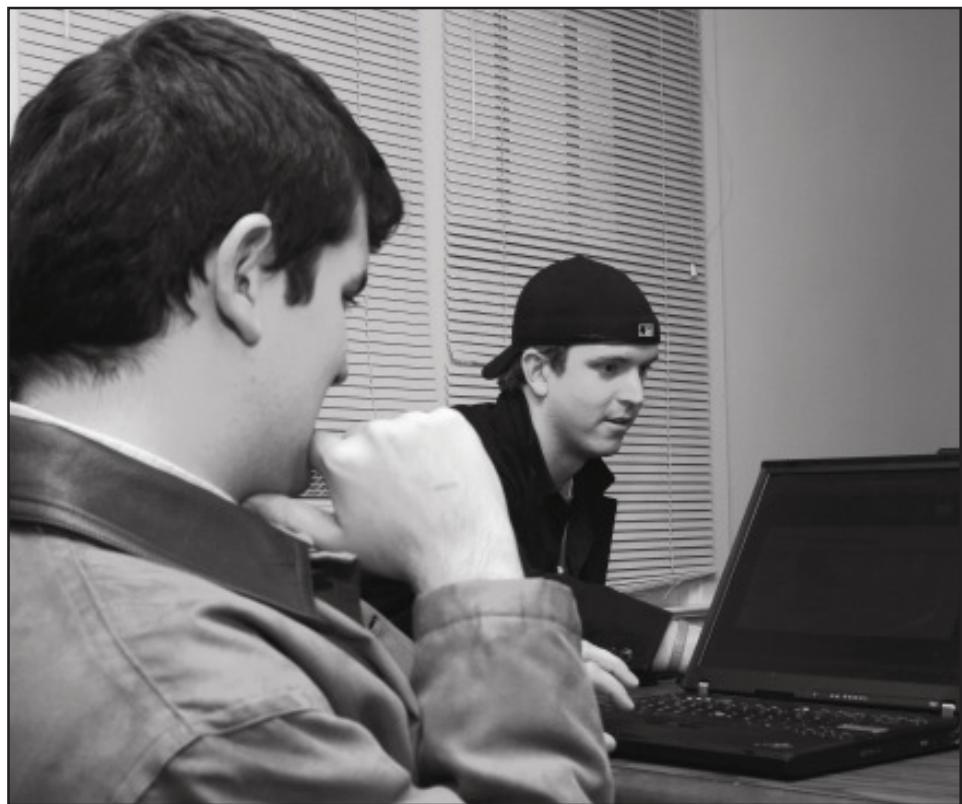
Co-sponsor Zach Pilchen ('09) announced that he would plan to attempt to override the veto on February 13.

Senators Andrew Blasi ('10) and Scott Morris ('10) initiated their "Fresh Campaign," which included various bills dealing with issues of particular concern to freshmen, such as eliminating or reducing extended orientation, New Campus renovations and preserving the true self-determination of hall councils. The campaign has been met with mixed success, as some bills have already been passed and others have come up against competition and/or been tabled in committee.

The bill was then passed, and the unusually long and contentious meeting came to an end.

The supporters of the bill claimed that the near-loss of quorum was a stunt put on by its opponents, but were nonetheless able to convince Blasi to stay. The bill was then passed, and the unusually long and contentious meeting came to an end.

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



Jan R. Whiteside

Deciding how to best spend student's money: Senators Blasi and Skibiak debate bills at a senate committee meeting.

The Greater Accountability Act,

Make your voice heard

The SA Senate meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Tucker 216. Meetings are open to the public.

Scofield kicks off last semester as SA president

Matthew Sutton

Assistant News Editor

Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield is set to start his last semester at the College and plans to have active final half of his term. According to him the agenda for the executive branch will include planning for the undergraduate majors fair in the coming weeks and addressing the issues of the city's three-person to a house rule and campus judicial reform. He also commented on the Wren cross controversy and his recent veto of the Wetlands Act, a bill championed by Senator Zach Pilchen ('09).

“

When we speak of the William and Mary family, we refer to all William and Mary students, past and present. This is their college, too, SA President Ryan Scofield says.

”

In an interview with *The Virginia Informer*, Scofield gave his thoughts on the latest developments of the growing campus debate over President Nichol's removal of the Wren cross. On the general issue he said, "My thoughts are that it has adopted a very interesting character and tone, and that to the majority of students it's more of a non-issue than anything else"

With the entire committee set to study this issue named by Nichol on Thursday, Scofield said he supported the creation of the body. "I think the chairmen of the announced commission will do a tremendous job focusing it. I think it's a step in the direction of dialogue. I expect that I will be consulted about which students should sit on it."

New campus lobby group, Our Campus United, has spoken out against what they believe is the politicization of the issue by outsiders including alumni Vince Haley ('88) and Cesar Conda ('83) both of Save the Wren Cross. Scofield, who is not a member of the group, appeared to reject their attempts to restrict the debate only to current students. "I think that the alumni have the right to say whatever they want. When we speak of the William and Mary family, we refer to all William and Mary students, past and present. This is their college, too."

When asked how he would rate the president's handling of the controversy, Scofield backed away from the president, saying "I have no comment on that, but I hope that the controversy can be resolved in a manner that establishes an equitable compromise for all parties involved."

In other news from the executive branch, Scofield vetoed the Wetlands Bill act which sought 900 dollars to beautify the swamp behind the health center. He explained his veto saying "In this case, I think the intent of the bill was great, but I was not convinced that it would work as planned. I am hesitant to approve spending of nearly \$900 on a program whose viability may hinge on whether it rains or snows in the next couple of weeks."

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Be a part of the best thing to come to campus since HBO... wait....

Mondays at 7:30 PM Blair 223 VAinfo@wm.edu

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVEY RESULTS: College uses results from survey to develop high tech website to educate students

continued from page one



Courtesy of Sexual Assault Awareness Web site

Creative awareness: The College debuted its new sexual assault resources and education, including videos and other interactive features.

on a woman, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.” To this, 30.7% strongly disagreed while only 1.6% strongly agreed. The idea that “rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at men” was strongly disagreed with by 40.4% of the polled students and strongly agreed with by 1.6% of students.

While these statistics may seem surprising to many, Cleveland and the other Health Educators behind the survey (specifically Ginger Ambler, Donna Haygood Jackson, Sarah Irwin, and Trisha Hunsaker) insist that they don’t consider William and Mary to be fundamentally different from other, similar universities.

In an email dated January 23, both President Nichol and Vice-President Sadler announced that “an initiative is being launched to identify ways to take full advantage of technology to reach students more effectively.” This initiative would turn out to be the new sexual assault website.

The aforementioned website was launched to educate students about sexual assault and provide strategies, resources, and literature on preventing their occurrence.

Regarding the website’s content, Cleveland and the other 61 people in the site’s creation said that, “the theoretical basis for the content in the website represents a fairly new approach to

education and prevention by encouraging healthy behaviors that enhance students’ lives and relationships, thereby ‘building a healthy community.’”

Cleveland said that the website was also created in part because of events that have occurred in the past couple of years. She said that, “the sexual assaults that have occurred in recent years have reminded us of our need to remain both responsive and proactive in addressing the issue of Sexual Assault.” The website combines new technology with a multitude of resources that allow students, parents and faculty, not to mention victims of sexual assault, to understand and prevent sexual assault.

Specifically, the Improvisational Theatre

(IT), with assistance from professional camera crews, created five videos that address strategies for dealing with sexual assault in a light-hearted manner.

Mike Wilbur, a freshman and member of the group, said that “humor is not aimed at sexual assault itself because we agree that it is a very serious issue. However, by making the situations humorous it made for a more engaging and accessible presentation of the material.”

Other, more serious resources on the website include a definition of sexual misconduct, what Virginia State Law defines rape as, strategies on how one can help a friend or family member who has been sexually assaulted, nearby medical and counseling centers that are readily available, and a plethora of other links, events and advice.

The website also includes resources for those of the Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender-Questioning (GLBTQ) community. “We wanted to provide information and support for ALL survivors of sexual assault within our community. The scope of the project was intentionally broad to be inclusive of all our students,” said Cleveland.

While the website is being continually updated and revised, so far, according to its creators, the feedback has been favorable.

As for the future of sexual assault education, Cleveland is especially excited about the Sexual Assault Peer Advocate program,” which will provide peer advocacy to survivors of sexual assault or anyone on campus seeking more information about the issue. Recently, 13 students of the College began a 40 hour, comprehensive training process to become Sexual Assault Peer Advocates.”

The Sexual Assault Resources and Education website can be found at <http://www.wm.edu/sexualassault/>.

Sexual Assault Awareness Survey: Highlighted Questions							
Question	Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree
If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control	36.8	28	9.5	9.3	9.5	3.4	3.4
Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at men.	40.4	27.1	15.7	8.2	4.2	2.8	1.6
A lot of women lead a man on and then cry rape.	58.8	21.3	8.4	5.4	3.4	1.6	1.2
When women are raped, it's often because the way they said "no" was ambiguous.	60.7	17.6	10.4	6.4	3.6	0.6	0.8
Men don't usually intend to force sex on a woman, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.	30.7	23.6	13.2	16	13	2	1.6
A woman who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if a man tries to force her to have sex.	61.2	19.3	7.8	5.2	5	0.6	1
Rape happens when a man's sex drive gets out of control.	45.9	17.4	11.6	13.4	7.6	3.8	0.4

Gender of survey participants

Of the total 503 participants:
 184 males (37%)
 316 females (63%)

Compared to the College’s undergraduate average:
 45% male
 55% female

Check it out online:
www.wm.edu/sexualassault

www.VAInformer.com

All the news that’s fit to go online.

On a brand new Web site coming soon.

FEATURES

College overspends, SEAC pushes for new policies

\$1.5 million could be saved over next two decades with energy improvements

Nick Hoelker

Staff Writer

In the 2005-2006 school year, William and Mary spent approximately 1 million more than necessary on energy expenses. To rectify this situation, the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) circulated a petition asking the school to adopt a new energy policy. The petition calls for increased energy efficiency at campus facilities. This increased efficiency could be achieved in a number of ways, including ensuring Swem computers are off at night, using compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) light bulbs, and running an energy audit of the campus.

An energy audit on William and Mary Hall has shown that the school could save over \$1.5 billion over the next two decades by improving energy efficiency. The petition also has gathered the signatures of over 1,800 undergraduates, and prompted the proposal of a Student Assembly bill which would consider endorsing the petitions currently under review by the Senate.

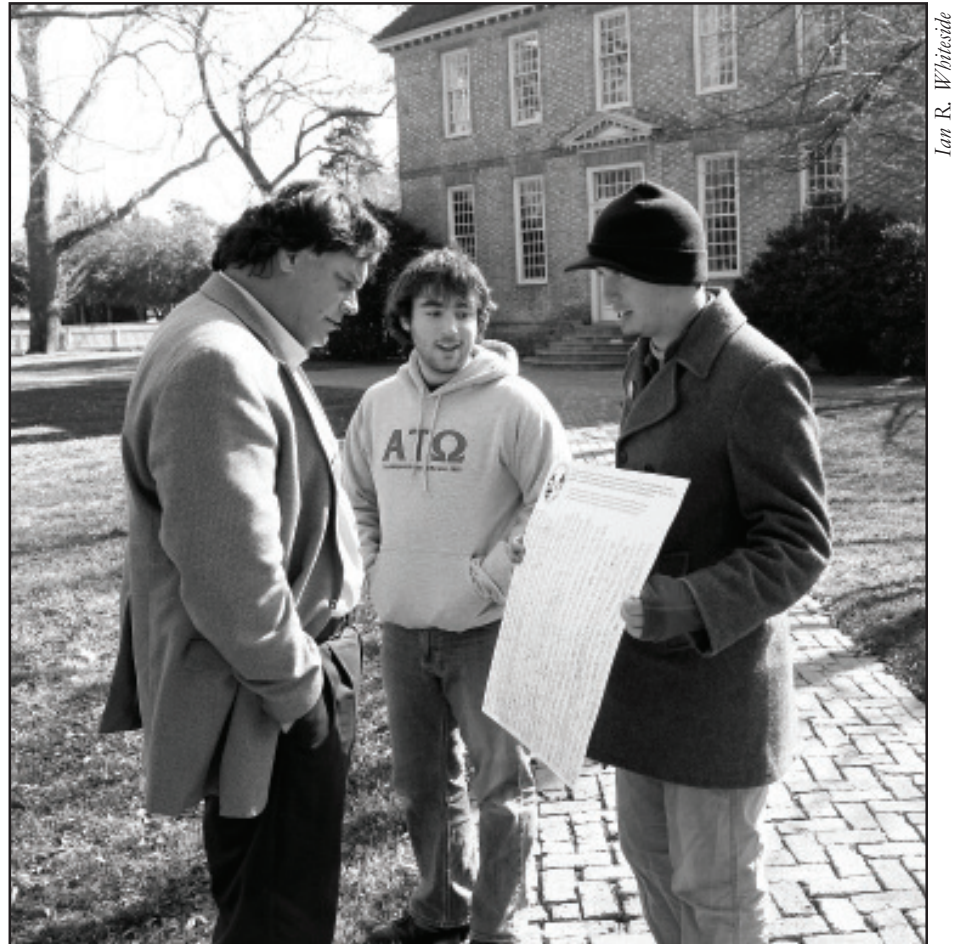
The administration has taken some smaller steps so far in addressing the school's energy problem. According to Student Assembly senator, the environmental chair of Virginia Young

Democrats, and SEAC member Zach Pilchen ('09), the school has begun using CFL bulbs when needed, and has begun constructing new buildings to LEADS energy efficiency standards.

However, the school has been reluctant to take up the bigger project of conducting an energy audit. Auditors need energy meters in order to properly conduct the audit. There are currently only three meters on campus, one to measure Old Campus, one for New Campus, and one for William and Mary Hall. In order to conduct the audit properly, the school would need to install energy meters for every building on campus. An individual meter costs \$3,000. However, according to Pilchen, the revenue raised by performing an accurate audit on every building would far outweigh the costs of constructing meters.

To demonstrate their commitment to revising the energy policy, SEAC held a rally outside of the Brafferton on February 5. Approximately 35 students attended the event, and President Gene Nichol made an appearance. In addressing the students, Nichol stressed the importance of the issue but did not offer any solutions.

Special thanks to Alex Mayer and Ian R. Whiteside for their help with this article.



Ian R. Whiteside

Small steps: Even simply by switching to more efficient fluorescent light bulbs and making sure the Swem computers are turned off at night, energy could be conserved and money saved.

Swimming off the deep end:

A field guide to William and Mary



Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton
Humor Columnists

Thank you for joining us for a preview of the upcoming National Geographic special, *Shabby People*. This is a highly scientific approach to categorizing three types of students who attend the College. Read

carefully, because you can use this handy field guide to spot this diverse wildlife here on campus.

acclaimed children's writer Roald Dahl to the 18th-century Germanic philosopher Immanuel Kant. Strangely, nature has selected that these creatures be outfitted with ill fitting clothes and thick glasses, which camouflage them from their two natural predators—the employed, and frat boys.

The Frat Boy

Behold, the king of the social jungle. When not playing a game of Ultimate Frisbee on the Sunken Gardens, listening to Jack Johnson, or playing Halo, this creature is most often seen in his natural habitat doing a keg stand in the basement of the units. Note the flowing mane, the bloodshot eyes, the ruby red face, and the puke stained Natty Ice t-shirt. Although extremely contemplative immediately following his last bong hit, the frat boy's vocabulary is typically limited to such witticisms as: "What's up, brah?"; "Duuuude!"; "That was sweet, bro!"; and "I totally need another brew." Darwinian adaptations include: longer arms and a more flexible elbow, a change which occurred after hundreds of years of playing beer pong; a high tolerance for alcohol; and a preference for the music of 50 Cent, Chingy, and Nelly.

The Doom & Gloomer

Whether it be Darfur, world hunger, unsustainable population growth, global warming, the World Bank, or a falling sky, this clinically depressed codependent (read: liberal) always has a reason to make you feel bad about the fact you live in America. Existing only in groups, they tell the rest of us we are blind, not only to the dwindling population of Kenyan field mice, but to their serious attempts at social activism through the wearing of cheap, colorful rubber bracelets, made, somewhat ironically, by a four-year-old Vietnamese child who works for less than 50 cents a day. The courtship rituals include the discharge of pheromones, which smell strangely like Kofi Annan*, to attract others of the opposite gender identification. Typically inactive creatures, prone to much dilly-dallying and aggravated moperly, their only exhibitions of activity concern social progress. They definitively effect change through their creation of multiple Facebook groups and events, inviting you to feel terrible about your apathy and general disregard for other human beings.

**Yes, we know Kofi Annan is no longer the secretary general of the United Nations. We don't know who the current one is, and we don't care. But if you know, you probably fall into the category described above.*

Carefully Random

Why are there numbers spray painted on the College paths?



Stephen Dause
Carefully Random

The recent spray painting of white numbers on sections of New Campus' wooded path had some students wondering what is amiss at William and

Mary. Was this, in fact, an occult message from a secret society, a message that only a select few could interpret and understand? Or was it instead the ever-nearing aliens' new version of crop circles in urban settings? Are those numbers landmarks for an incoming invasion? Should we all grab our tin foil head coverings, our flashlights, and a jar or two of peanut butter, and run for shelter in the Yates basement?

The explanation is far more simple. The areas around the spray painting will soon be repaved, and the marked areas indicate the sections that have to be repaired before the entire walkway is resurfaced.

While I'm sure the good residents of Yates basement would be more than happy to accommodate any half-delusional, scared-stiff soul in constant fear of alien invasion, such drastic

action will probably not be necessary in the foreseeable future.

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

Prof. Schechter offers refreshing perspective on old history

“That’s what’s so exciting about history - finding things that don’t make any sense”

Nick Fitzgerald

Features Editor

Mild mannered Ron Schechter is a professor of history here at the College. With degrees in history from the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago and Harvard University, Schechter’s credentials and involvement with the study of history are both thorough and impressive.

Schechter has been teaching at the College for ten years. “I feel very lucky to be here at William at Mary, the students are great, and I have great colleagues.”

“The concept of terror during the European Enlightenment” is Schechter’s current research focus. “I’m looking to find out what people meant in the 18th century when they spoke or wrote of terror, or used cognate words such as terrible, terrifying, etc., what did they mean and what kinds of value did they attribute to terror...I have not found a lot of other historians’ work on this issue, and that’s very encouraging to me. Historians look for original topics, or at least original approaches to topics—they’re hard to find, but when you think you’re on to one, that’s very exciting.”

Pulling questions out of primary texts, and discovering a narrative in history—rather than an



Ian R. Whiteside

Historical originality: Schechter, like all historians, seeks to find original issues to research. He is currently finding information about what people in the 18th century thought of terror.

encyclopedic knowledge of it—is an approach Schechter applies both to his own research and inside the classroom. He encourages his students to approach primary sources directly and engage them at a first-hand basis, rather than reading another historian’s interpretation through a text book. “I do have a document [primary source] based approach to teaching. It’s very important to me to integrate readings...[that] don’t simply illustrate some point I want to make, but that they stand as a centerpiece of the class. I don’t like

to use text books, but not because I think they’re necessarily bad. What I want students to do is to use them as evidence for arguments that they construct and defend.”

“Part of what I hope to achieve is a sense of disorientation that is deliberate. It forces you to think about the document and engage with it in a way that you wouldn’t be able to engage with a chapter in a text book. That curiosity and sense of strangeness that provokes questions and research is essentially what professional historians go through when they go into the archives and

libraries and read old published material.”

Schechter also stressed that history provides important life skills, and that the concept of making arguments and using evidence to support those arguments is not limited to within the bounds of a history classroom.

On a more personal level, Schechter’s favorite word is “haberdasher” (or “haberdashery”), he plays tennis, and has a very diverse interest in music. “Classical, jazz, reggae, ska, even punk—I learn a lot about music from my 13 year old kid.”

In closing, Schechter explained that, as a historian, the piece of writing which has probably most affected him in his approach to research and teaching is entitled *The Great Cat Massacre: And Other Episodes in French Cultural History*, by Robert Darnton. He quotes directly from the book, reading that “when we cannot get a proverb, or a joke, or a ritual, or a poem, we know we are on to something. By picking at the document where it is most opaque, we may be able to unravel an alien system of meaning.” He continues, saying, “That’s what is so exciting to me about history—finding things that don’t make any sense. And that is precisely the place where you want to be persistent.”

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Fall dining survey triggers changes in service, hours

Results show improvement

Swetha Sivaram

Contributing Writer

Dining surveys takes place once every semester, and are used to gauge student response and satisfaction in regards to various food related issues. Items in question are considerations such as student perception of the food’s variety and quality, student patterns and preferences in terms of food, and, in addition, the overall dining experience. Changes are instituted based, at least partially, on these responses. Menu changes are often the biggest result of the surveys; one of the Marketplace stations has changed from Asian to Mexican, for example.

In general, the results of the survey indicated an overall level of satisfaction with dining services as a whole. The survey suggested that students tended to have a better overall experience, a better appreciation of the value of a meal plan, faster service, and increased quality of food compared with the last survey’s results. Students also tended to feel a lot more welcome in the dining centers, and felt that the dining centers constituted one of their primary places for socialization.

Complaints and inconveniences regarding the dining halls usually had to do with cleanliness of the dining

facilities and the frequent breaking down of the \$100,000 dishwashing machine in the UC last semester. The other main criticism concerned the dining facilities’ hours of operation, considered less than optimum, especially during mid-afternoon.

Phil DiBenedetto, the director of Dining Services, has tried to address students’ concerns as best as possible, indicating that, for example, Dining Services has recently spent \$18,000 to repair the UC’s dishwasher.

Additionally, the Freshens bar at the Rec Center has new hours of operation: Monday – Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DiBenedetto also indicated that nutritional information is on display in front of the UC and is also readily available online.



Long V. mb

Getting better: Results from this year’s dining survey show an improvement from last year’s. Some complaints remain, however, like the UC dishwasher that habitually breaks.



Ian R. Whiteside

Religious symbols on trial: John Thomas and Bobby Ukrop listen to invited speakers to defend either side of the Wren cross controversy.

CROSS REMOVAL FALLOUT: BOV takes no action, for now

continued from page one

has collected well over 15 thousand signatures on a petition that criticizes Nichol's decision and urges its reversal.

James Ambrose ('07), of the Student Assembly's department of public affairs, told the board that most of the students on campus don't see the cross issue as important.

To represent the Faculty Assembly, its president, Professor Katherine Kulick of the French department, presented the assembly's resolution in support of Nichol. Kulick claimed that faculty members signed at their own will and that no one was coerced.

Brian Cannon ('04), spoke on behalf of OurCampusUnited.org, a newly founded group of students and alumni in support of Nichol. Cannon, who presented the most virulent of the speeches, called for an end to the "politicization of the cross issue." Cannon claimed to dislike the media attention that SaveTheWrenCross.org has acquired, making this statement three days after OurCampusUnited.org held its first press conference.

The final speaker was the Reverend Herman "Holly" Hollerith IV, rector of

Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. After claiming that he had "no dog in this fight," Hollerith reiterated the same historical accuracy argument that others, including religious studies professor David Holmes, have previously made in public. Hollerith cautioned at the true motives of the SaveTheWrenCross.org supporters, claiming that a piece of "liturgical furniture" like the Wren cross was not truly important.

Following the invited speakers, Nichol announced the members he selected for his committee on religion and the Wren Chapel, which consists of students, alumni, faculty and community members. (See box on page 16).

After the hour-plus long session, the Board went into closed session, after which they released a statement in which they criticize the manner in which Nichol's decision was made, yet they stand firmly behind his presidency. According to the statement, the Board believes "the President is new and he is learning." Yet they refused to take any action toward reversing the decision until after the committee has reached a conclusion, which Rector Powell urged at the meeting to be before the April session.

**Who is
on the
committee?**

Page 16

"Our Campus United" is divided on message

Matthew Sutton

Assistant News Editor

Newly formed campus lobby group Our Campus United held a press conference on February 5 in the Great Hall of the Wren Building calling for an "end to politicized debate over the cross." Introduced by Paul Brockwell ('07), three students gave prepared remarks largely echoing this theme. Kate Perkins ('07), head of the International Justice Mission, questioned the integrity of those opposed to Nichol's decision: "I am disappointed and offended that missing from these articles and impassioned cries for the return of the cross is any mention of the teachings of Jesus Christ or the fact that He died on a cross to be near humanity in our sinfulness."

There seemed to be disagreement

among the group's leaders about whether alumni should be part of the campus dialogue for which the group calls for. Brockwell suggested that the debate be mainly restricted to current students and exclude alumni and Virginia taxpayers. Perkins seemed more conciliatory and said "alumni should be included in the dialogue." Nathaniel Nichols ('07) also claimed that "not all of the members of Our Campus United agree on whether or not President Nichol's decision was correct." Most of the group's leadership roster, though, seems to be overwhelmingly in favor of Nichol's decision, with many signing an anti-cross petition or publicly supporting him.

The group's Web site also listed current student Will Coggin ('07) on the list of people outside of the community "behind these attacks" but has since removed him.

The Wren Cross Debate between Holmes fills Chapel



Bringing the debate to the community: D'Souza considered Nichol's decision to remove the cross from the Wren Chapel. Christians while the previous policy was tolerance toward all; Holmes fo

Nick Hoelker

Staff Writer

On Thursday, February 1, William and Mary religious studies professor David Holmes debated author Dinesh D'Souza over the issue of whether the Wren cross should be reinstated after President Gene Nichol's decision to remove the cross from permanent display at the Wren Chapel. The Intercollegiate Studies Institute and *The Virginia Informer* sponsored the debate in the Wren Chapel. Nichol declined repeated requests to participate in the debate.

Even before the debate started, supporters of both sides of the issue made their opinions known. Supporters of Nichol's decision wore "I Support Gene Nichol" stickers inside the debate. Meanwhile, a candlelight vigil supporting the Wren cross was being held before the debate outside of the Wren Chapel.

The debate opened by allowing Holmes and D'Souza 15 minutes for an opening argument. Holmes went first and stressed how in religious history a cross was not important in chapels. According to Holmes it was not until the ninth century that the first churches started displaying a cross. Additionally, he stated that the cross

in the Wren Chapel did not appear until 1940, after two centuries without a cross. He stated that if "millions of people carried the cross for thousands of years,"

In D'Souza's opening argument, he argued that the previous policy regarding the cross could be taken down. He mentioned that the cross had been in the chapel almost 70 years without controversy. He decided that it was inappropriate for Nichol for not elaborating on his decision. He also complained to him felt that the cross also posed a hypothetical. He mentioned the names of Tyler, Monroe and three halls were named after them.

The debaters then engaged in a heated exchange. In his rebuttal, Holmes explained the history of the cross and how it was donated to the Wren Chapel by Bruton Parish Episcopal Church. He mentioned the history with the College. He mentioned that Judeo-Christian beliefs still play a role in the college as there are over 100 courses of study in religion in many different de

Debate on Wren Cross makes Virginia General Assembly

Nick Fitzgerald

Features Editor

In the Virginia General Assembly this week, Delegate Robert Marshall (R-Prince William) put forth an amendment to the state budget which would reduce Nichol's salary in half, from \$331,942 to \$155,737, if the Wren Cross was not restored to the Wren Chapel by May 3. The vote was 36-58. Although this was far from passing, it would appear that Nichol, cross aside, has serious political concerns to deal with in the future.

Del. Marshall also explained to his fellow legislators that Nichol was intentionally deceptive, by ordering a secretary to knowingly inform callers and visitors he is not in the office, despite the fact he was seen and photographed by *The Informer* walking back and forth between his house and his office in the Brafferton.

"Now this is the example we should learn in the commonwealth," said the president of a university in the General Assembly.

Earlier in the session, a member introduced a clause in the budget which withheld funding from the college until it said that "any building intended for alteration or modification must be returned to its original state with 45 days." The clause on the controversy was supported by many and considered and was removed from the budget.

Additionally, Del. Terry K. Moore introduced his own amendment, which would require the faculty and alumni, to examine the cross and display in the Wren Chapel.

Wren cross controversy: Nichol, D'Souza and Chapel, Great Hall



Ian R. Whiteside

Nichol's decision to remove the cross from the altar to be intolerant toward Christians. The decision was criticized for being focused on historical accuracy in that the cross was not present until 1940.

...t come into existence until
...without. Holmes also added
...an live and worship without
...years, why can't we?"
...argument, he stated that the
...the Wren Chapel, in which the
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...g about why people who
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...should be offended by the
...and Jefferson Halls, since all
...slaveholders.

On the other hand, D'Souza rebutted Holmes' original argument by saying that Nichol never cited the historical purposes of the building in his decision to remove the Wren cross. Additionally, D'Souza stated that if the cross were to be removed for historical purposes, that the college might as well be reverted to its mission indicated by its charter that stated that the College "propagate the Christian faith [...] to the greater glory of God." When asked about the possibility of having no cross at all so that more students felt welcome, D'Souza countered that not having a cross would be an endorsement of atheism, which, according to D'Souza, is as legitimate a 'religion' as Christianity.

After questioning each other about what they would personally do if their religious beliefs contradicted the symbols at a university, Holmes and D'Souza fielded questions from audience members. In this segment, Holmes and D'Souza agreed that Nichol handled the situation poorly by unilaterally removing the cross without consultation or explaining to the community why some people felt the cross was offensive. They also agreed that a referendum among the William and Mary community would be the best way to reach a permanent decision about the cross.

During the question and answer section, Holmes often cited his argument that William and Mary is a state school but failed to explain exactly what that entailed. Holmes also frequently cited an unnamed Jewish alumnus who contacted him saying that before the Wren cross was removed he did not feel at home and now he does after the cross' removal. He continued to explain that having a cross in a chapel was inconsistent with religious history. Holmes also stated that he would not favor the removal of a number of other religious symbols in the Chapel including the pews, panels on the walls, the organ and seal which includes four small crosses itself. Holmes also did not offer any objection to the original policy of having the cross removed on demand.

D'Souza argued during the question and answer session that it was intolerant to remove the cross as it stopped only a select minority from being offended while offending many more Christians. D'Souza argued that removing the cross was not making the Chapel "equally welcoming to all" as it considered the opinions of the minority over the opinions of the majority. D'Souza also stated that someone offended by the Cross would not be perfectly satisfied until all religious references in the building were removed, making the chapel completely secular.

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...we want our students to
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...Jack Reid (R-Henrico)
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...Kilgore (R-Scott) offered
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...ine the cross' placement
...apel. It passed 83-14.



Ian R. Whiteside

Starting new traditions while breaking old ones: Nichol held the first annual State of the College address and then followed with a community forum where he dodged questions on Wren cross.

Nichol holds his own discussions through speech, forum

Begins State of the College tradition and refuses to address rumors of resignation

Matthew Sutton

Assistant News Editor

President Gene Nichol delivered his inaugural State of the College address in the University Center's Commonwealth Auditorium on January 25. In a 45 minute address to a capacity crowd, Nichol announced his plan to double the number of Gateway students at the college along with a presidential committee to examine the burgeoning Wren Cross controversy.

Nichol devoted part of his speech to address the controversy over his removal of the cross from the College's historic Wren Chapel. He introduced a new committee headed by Dr. James Livingston, the emeritus chair of the College's religious studies department, and law school professor Alan Meese to study the issue. "I will ask its members to examine the role of religion in public universities in general, and at the College of William and Mary in particular—including the use of the historic Wren Chapel," Nichol said. One community member, Gayle Pumphrey, was one of the few in the audience who did not applaud the speech. She expressed her displeasure with Nichol's decision to remove the Wren Cross and seemed largely

skeptical about the new committee set to study the issue. "I think it's ridiculous to appoint a committee and he is wrong on this issue."

Nichol then held a university wide forum on February 6 to discuss his State of the College address, but mainly attracted faculty members skeptical of the president's planned initiative on expanding undergraduate research. Originally scheduled to take place in the Commonwealth Auditorium in the UC, the event was moved to the Tidewater room after an audience member fell and required assistance from emergency personnel. Several professors appeared critical of the drive to expand capstone research, mainly done by juniors and seniors in their respective majors. Questions about money to fund such research and physical space on campus led Nichol to admit "there are no easy answers to such questions."

Alumnus Karla Bruno, ('81), asked the only question about the Wren Cross controversy, challenging Nichol to confirm or deny that he will resign if the BOV overturns his decision. He refused to answer her question, which she repeated several times, just saying, "I'm anxious to hear from the BOV."

New town, new choices

Ever developing center down the road has a lot to offer

Pablo Fierro
& R.C. Rasmus

Staff Writers

Just a two-minute drive from William and Mary is New Town Center, an ever-changing area that is definitely worth exploring. Most people already know about The Consolidated New Town Cinema 12, which is a popular draw for William and Mary students, offering both mainstream and independent feature films in a stadium-style seating environment. However, contrary to popular belief, New Town has much more to offer than just movies.

For example, the restaurant scene at New Town is diverse, offering lots of options for the casual visitor. Panera Bread and Quizno's Subs are always a safe bet for a quick and tasty sandwich or bread bowl, while someone in the mood for a more leisurely lunch might want to check out the new and innovative Art Café 26, where patrons can enjoy light fare while viewing original works of art from comfortable, low-set couches. CheeBurger CheeBurger is a 50's retro treat for lunch or dinner, and is excellent just before or after a movie. Be sure to try one of their specialty shakes or malts, or maybe even an Egg Cream or a Chocolate Coke if you're in the mood for something new and different.

If you're looking for something a little more participatory in your dining experience, or even just looking for a place to relax with a cold drink, The Corner Pocket might be the place for you. With a full bar, a hefty menu, and several billiards tables, The Corner Pocket guarantees food, fun, and a comfortable, relaxing atmosphere. However, it is the Center Street Grill that is by far the most intriguing dining option at New Town. The exquisite menu offers a bouquet of gourmet choices, including everything from Ahi tuna to baked brie with figs. If you're looking for a quality place to celebrate with friends or just get away from the tourist traps and chain restaurants, The Center Street Grill is the place for you. For dessert, New Town presents a few solid options. Maggie Moo's makes a mean custom cone or milkshake, but if variety is your thing, then Ben and Jerry's is your best bet.

As far as shopping goes, New Town has got you covered. With Old Navy, Bettina's, Anne Taylor Loft, Pac Sun, and Cassique all conveniently located on New Town's main strip, you

can buy, browse, or even just window shop to your heart's content. Don't forget to take a peek into the new Barnes and Nobles as well. Offering books, magazines, and java as well, this store is a great place to kill a few spare minutes before a show or dinner reservation. If you're into music you may want to head over to Authentic Guitars and check out their fine assemblage of guitars, basses, amps and music accessories. For fans of the graphic novel, the Comic Cubicle Lies tucked away just behind the Corner pocket, and the brand new Computer Concepts of Williamsburg offers the opportunity for specialized computers as well as technological upkeep and maintenance services.

Finally, take a moment to glance at the personal improvement options that New Town has recently added to its impressive repertoire. You might want to try out a new style from Sports Clips or Shear Magic, and if you're feeling up for it, there's Salon Vivace and the New Town spa, located right across from Conte's Bicycle & Fitness Equipment.

Reaching New Town is easy enough. The easiest way is by car, but you can also get there by foot or bus. The center is within walking distance. Just go straight down Compton Drive, then hang a left at Monticello Avenue. When the weather conspires against you, there is another option: the bus system. The easiest route is to take the Red Line from the Jamestown Road stop. For a detailed Williamsburg bus schedule, visit <http://www.williamsburgtransport.com>. You can also visit New Town on the web at <http://www.newtownwilliamsburg.com>.



Shelbi Wilson

What's new?: There's a wealth of shopping, dining and entertainment just a few minutes down the road.

New Town has a lot to offer to the William and Mary campus community. Do yourself a favor and take a day to explore the ever-improving center. Do some shopping, have a nice meal, and see a movie at the New Town Consolidated. Taking the time to explore this new and constantly changing feature of the city may surprise you and open you up a several new and exciting experiences.

Film Review:

The Departed is "classic Martin Scorsese"



Joe Pirro
Film Critic

It's simple: *The Departed* is a return to classic Martin Scorsese. An American remake of the Hong-Kong made *Infernal Affairs*, *The Departed* is the story of a cop and mobster pretending to be someone that they are not. Leonardo DiCaprio plays a Boston police officer sent undercover to take down a mobster, played almost like a caricature by Jack Nicholson. However, DiCaprio comes to realize that Nicholson has a mole, played by Matt Damon, in the police force. The two men, both undercover, try to figure out the identity of their counterpart before it's too late.

The Departed is extremely violent. However, it's a symphony of gunshots and bloodshed. Scorsese shoots a tense, yet hilarious movie that explores the desensitization of American society to violence. It's a movie that's not to be missed and can only be described in one word: cool.

The Departed is the UCAB Blockbuster Movie for February and is showing at the UC Commonwealth Auditorium February 23 and 24.

The Virginia Informer gives *The Departed* an enthusiastic A.

Last year, Joe Pirro was nearly perfect in his Oscar picks. Check out his predictions for 2007. Page thirteen

Jamestown 2007

America celebrates its anniversary with many events at and around the College

Nick Hoelker

Staff Writer

This year, America will be celebrating its 400th anniversary here in Jamestown. Throughout the entire year, Jamestown 2007 will be holding many events to celebrate the occasion.

The signature event will be America's Anniversary Weekend. Queen Elizabeth I and President Bush have been invited to attend. The Queen has indicated she will visit sometime in May, while Bush has not yet responded. Regardless, the event will feature pageantry, musical performances and cultural presentations. There are 30,000 tickets on sale and they can be purchased at <http://www.americas400thanniversary.com>.

From April 24 through May 5, Jamestown settlement's vessel *Godspeed* will commemorate the first landing of the settlers in Virginia by stopping at festivals along the James River. *Godspeed* will also be in Richmond on May 24 and 25.

On May 1 a special exhibit called The

World of 1607 will premiere at the Jamestown settlement. It will compare Jamestown to the rest of the world in the 17th century and showcase many rare artifacts, such as a 15th century copy of the Magna Carta.

From June 27 through July 8, the National Mall in Washington D.C. will feature exhibits and performances showcasing Virginia's traditions, culture and industry.

From September 16 through the 19, a global summit focusing on the Future of Democracy will be held in Williamsburg. It will feature leaders and students from all around the world, culminating a year-long series held at seven of Virginia's top colleges and universities.

The William and Mary music program will also be holding two events to commemorate the Jamestown 2007 celebration with a program on music in 1607. On April 15, the Early Music Ensemble will sing at the Great Hall in the Wren Building. Additionally, on April 2nd the faculty group, the Wren Masters, will perform in the Wren Chapel.

Nooks and crannies of William and Mary Knowledge is power: The College Bell

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The College Bell is much more mysterious than most people realize. When you think about it, we really only have our attention drawn to the bell twice a year: when graduating seniors go up to the little window below the Wren cupola and pull the cord on their last day of classes, and to signal the start of the new term in the spring. Sometimes, we hear it toll on special occasions. For instance, the provost ordered it rung after President Nichol's appointment was approved; the bell tolled 26 times for the 26th president. But for most of the year, the bell hangs unassuming and still, brooding quietly over the campus. This wasn't always the case. There was a time when the campus resounded daily with the peals of what was once called "The Old Yorktown Bell."

From 1717 to 1859, the College's original bell reliably tolled the hour from its place above the Wren Chapel. Records indicate that it was only once interrupted in its duties, when it was broken sometime before the civil war by "boys... having a good time." According to the nineteenth-century Virginia antiquarian R.A. Brock, several William and Mary students crept to the bell and rang it full force at midnight "to the serious detriment of the repose of the more orderly of the matriculates and of the professors." The bell was sent off to the Richmond foundry of David J. Burr & Co., where a smith named James Poe melted down and recast the bell exactly as it had been: with the original 1717 inaugural date and the motto "Knowledge is Power" in raised letters around its base.

This "Old Yorktown Bell" continued to serve its purpose at the College until the second burning of the Wren Building in 1859. The fate of the original bell becomes a bit foggy here. Some records indicate that it survived the fire and lived to toll until the third burning of the Wren by Union Soldiers in 1862. However, an

1860 article in the *Virginia Gazette* implies that the College commissioned a new bell to hang in the newly restored Wren building, leaving it first to hang "suspended in the College lawn" before fixing it in one of the two new Italianate towers of the Wren. "Its tone is admirable," the *Gazette* reported of the new bell, "and can be heard at the distance of 9 or 10 miles."

A concrete trail picks up again after the 1862 burning. The College Bell was certainly destroyed in the fire, and was not recast until after the War Between the States. This is perhaps the most famous incarnation of the College Bell, which, between 1882 and 1888, became a powerful symbol of the enduring spirit of the College of William and Mary. During these years, the College was forced to close due to a lack of funds. However, then President Benjamin Stoddard Ewell rang the College Bell every year in the fall to signal the start of the school term, keeping the spirit of the College of William and Mary alive, even as she lay vacant of students. President Ewell's determination paid off, and the College reopened under his presidency in 1888. To this day, President Ewell is immortalized on his tombstone in the College Cemetery as "The Old Bell Ringer."

According to the 1940's college historian A.E. Kendrew, the bell that currently hangs in the Wren cupola is dated 1889, and was cast in Cincinnati by Messrs. Vanduzen and Tift of the Buckeye Bell Foundry. Its works, which operate both the bell and the hands of the Wren Clock, are made of brass in an iron frame. During the restoration of the Wren building in the early 20th century, this same bell was suspended from the scaffolding and rung unflinchingly upon the hour. Interestingly, the College Archives still have a piece of the original "Old Yorktown



Ian R. Whiteside

The sweet sounds of William & Mary: The College Bell in the Wren cupola has gone through several incarnations.

Bell" bearing its inaugural 1717 date. The fragment was passed from the widow of Thomas H. Wynne to R.A. Brock to his daughter, Elizabeth Brock, who eventually donated the relic to the College.

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John Locke Society Statement on the Wren Cross Controversy

The recent decision by President Gene Nichol to remove the Wren Chapel Cross is a profoundly unwise move based upon questionable logic. In an institution that helped plant the seed and fan high the flames of American Democracy, arbitrarily altering a decades old tradition is a precedent that we hope will be reversed.

William and Mary's most famous alumnus, Thomas Jefferson, wrote in the Declaration of Independence about a string of abuses that he attributed to Britain's King George III. However, King George III had limits placed on him by Parliament, which made sure that his power would never be absolute as many monarchies were at the time. However, even this limitation by a more democratic system did not stop the series of abuses being committed against the British citizens living in the thirteen colonies. It would be ridiculous to suggest that the exact same situation exists with the exact same magnitude, but parallels can be drawn. President Gene Nichol's power is limited by the Board of Visitors, and the Student Assembly was only consulted after the fact. This being said, President Nichol should have done a better job investigating how the student body and the William and Mary community as a whole felt about the removal of the Wren Cross.

A College is not a business where major decisions affecting Campus tradition and culture can be made unilaterally and quickly. It is a community where all have a voice and all should be considered. This sounds very much like President Nichol's own words, but in our opinion, where he erred was in not endeavoring, through such mechanisms as town-hall meetings, a referendum vote of the student body, or bringing all sides of the issue together for closed door talks, to hammer out a compromise that is acceptable to everyone. This lack of consultation has continued with his latest measures. Were all sides consulted as to whether or not showing on Sundays and a plaque were acceptable solutions? Does it reach the heart of the issue? Has he worked to ascertain where the heart of this issue lies? Our fear is that the answer to all these questions is an unfortunate no.

The 20th century theologian and political philosopher Reinhold Niebuhr warns those in power to carefully consider their action for fear of ironic consequences. President Nichol could do well to keep this in mind. He did not consider his action carefully, and ironically, made the Wren Chapel infinitely less welcoming to many members of the William and Mary community.

-The John Locke Society Board of Trustees



Pops concert offers two lucky gamers chance of a lifetime

Chris Davis

Staff Writer

Two video gamers will have the chance to do what so many others dream of at the College band's "pops" concert on March 2 and 4.

In conjunction with the 2nd Annual Video Game Tournament, the winners of both the Super Smash Bros. Melee and Wii Boxing games will play live in front of an audience and accompanied by Dr. Evan Feldman's band, which will play, fittingly enough, a Nintendo medley.

"A group of students selected the two games because you can cheer on both games, and because you don't have to be a video game cultist to play them," said Feldman.

In addition to the video game-based part of the program, the concert will feature a number of theme songs from cartoons like "The Simpsons," "The Jetsons" and "The Pink Panther." Fully utilizing the benefit of the large screen in the UC Commonwealth where the concert will be held, students have created clips of each cartoon to show while the band plays the corresponding theme song. "The music is kind of fluff, but the experience of putting it together is not fluff," said Feldman. "Because you actually have to match the music and the video, it's like conducting a film score...live."

The band promises to present a unique multimedia experience well worth attending.



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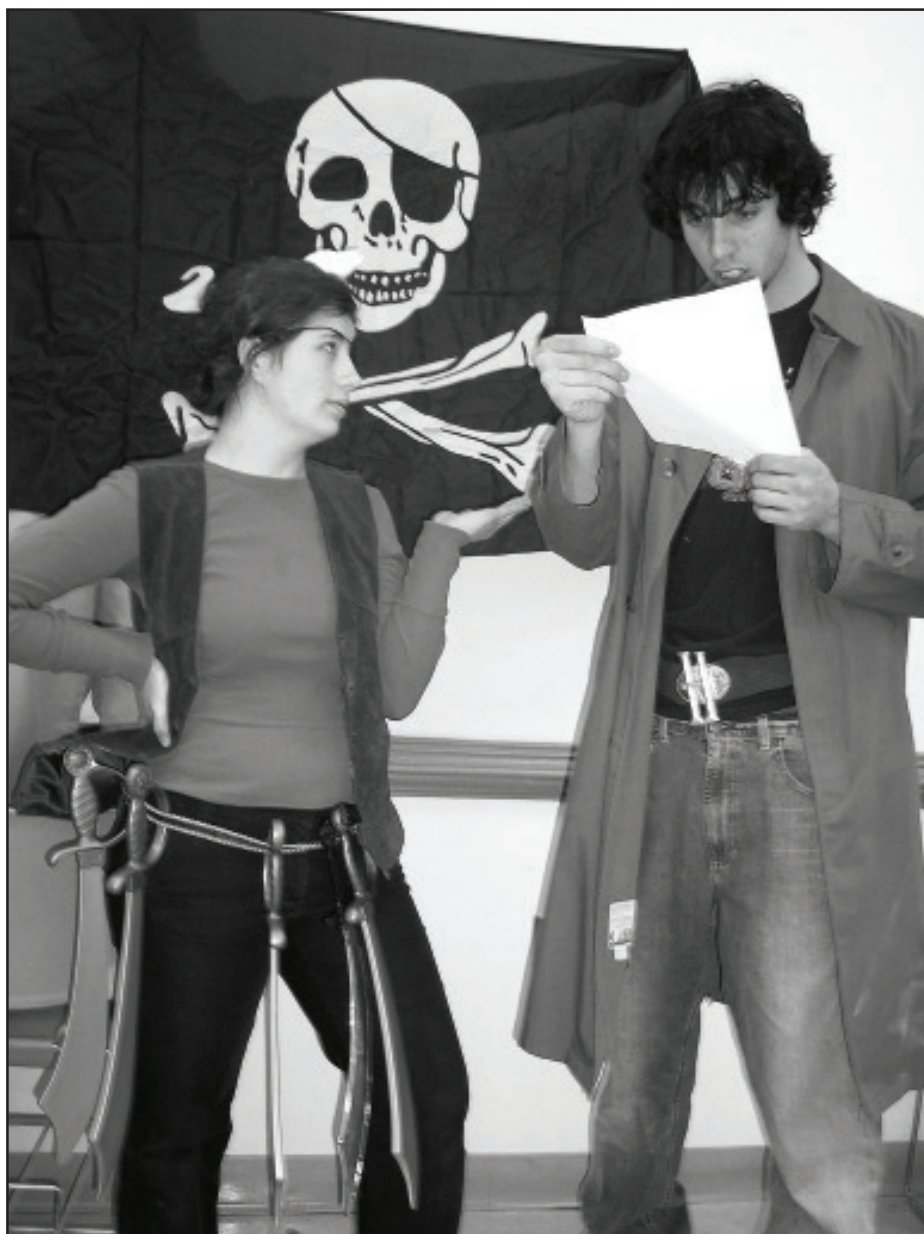
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Hamlet's new "Right Hand Man"

Shakespeare in the Dark to perform unique adaptation



Courtesy of Thomas Baumgardner

Shakespeare rewritten : Danielle Meeker and Andrew Favaloro rehearse for *Right Hand Man*, a version of *Hamlet* with a humorous twist.

Megan Locke

Staff Writer

The tables are turned and Horatio becomes the star in Shakespeare in the Dark's upcoming performance of *Right Hand Man*, an adaptation of *Hamlet*. *Right Hand Man* starts where Shakespeare's *Hamlet* ends, with only Horatio left on stage to tell the bloody story of the prince of Denmark. Horatio thus recounts the events in *Hamlet* from his own perspective. His character is more fleshed out than in the original, and now has "a penchant for practical jokes and [is] often in the wrong place at the wrong time." The Horatio of *Right Hand Man* portrays the tale of *Hamlet* in a more lighthearted tone, and audiences will find themselves laughing rather than weeping as one of the world's greatest tragedies is transformed into a comedy.

Thomas Baumgardner ('09) directs *Right Hand Man* and also wrote the script for it, mixing Shakespeare's text with his own original monologues for Horatio. He thinks of *Right Hand Man* as bringing the story of *Hamlet* full circle. Even though Horatio does not have many lines in the traditional play, Baumgardner points out that Hamlet's stalwart friend begins and ends the action of the play, and is therefore an important character who deserves a story of his own.

Right Hand Man is Baumgardner's debut

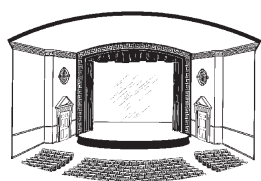
as a director, although he has had plenty of experience as an actor. "It is frustrating not to get up there and do [the actor's job]," Baumgardner says, since he has done so much acting himself. However, he enjoys his new role and allows his actors lots of room for creativity. "They usually come up with better ideas than I have," he says.

Andrew Favaloro ('10) stars as Horatio in the play. Favaloro always liked reading *Hamlet* in high school, and says he likes getting to look at Shakespeare's work from a different viewpoint. Favaloro also enjoys being part of a tight-knit ensemble. "The cast is small, so all of us have gotten closer to each other and to the director," he remarks.

Favaloro's fellow cast member Danielle Meeker ('09), who plays Marcellus and various other roles, notes that much of the action in *Right Hand Man* was thought up on the spot during rehearsals, giving many of the comedic bits an improvisational feel. "It's funniest when the characters break the fourth wall," she says.

Shakespeare in the Dark will perform *Right Hand Man* on Sunday, February 18 and Monday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium. Fans of Shakespeare, and those who simply want to see something fresh and new, should not miss the premiere of this promising new play.

See *Right Hand Man* on February 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. in the UC Commonwealth.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Movies

The Tournees Festival
*The French and Francophone
 Film Festival at the College of William and Mary*
 Opening Night at the Kimball Theatre
 Fri., Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Stupeur et Tremblements (Fear and Trembling) Not rated

Volver (R)
 Fri., Feb. 9-Thurs., Feb. 22
 6:45 and 9 p.m.
 Feb. 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 22 screening room

Iraq in Fragments Not rated
 Sun., Feb. 11-Fri., Feb. 16
 7 and 8:45 p.m.
 Feb. 11, 14, 16 screening room

Climates Not rated
 Fri., Feb. 23-Thurs., Mar. 1
 7 and 9:10 p.m.
 Feb. 24, 25, 27, Mar. 1 screening room

The Ritchie Boys Not rated
 Mon., Feb. 26-Sat., Mar. 3
 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.
 Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 2, 3 screening room

February Schedule

Live Performances

The College of William and Mary's
 Botetourt Chamber Singers Gala Concert
 Sat., Feb. 10 at 8 p.m.
 All seats \$15

The Williamsburg Youth Orchestra presents
 An Evening of Romance
 Featuring Pavel Ilyashov
 Sat., Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.
 Adults \$12, Students \$7

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation presents
 An Evening with the Presidents: The Role of the
 Executive and the Bill of Rights
 Sun., Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m.
 Adults and Youths (6-17 yrs.) \$12, Children under 6 \$5

The College of William and Mary's Department of English presents
 Ralph Ellison and the South
 Lecture by Arnold Rampersad, Professor of English, Stanford University
 Thurs., Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m.
 This event is free but tickets are required

Waller Mill Elementary Fine Arts Magnet presents
 The Journey of a Lifetime
 Sat., Feb. 24 and Sun., Feb. 25 at 1:30 p.m.
 Adults \$3.50, Seniors/Children \$3

Pirro's picks for Oscars 2007

Little Miss Sunshine could upset Departed for Best Picture



Joe Pirro
Film Critic

On Tuesday, January 23, nominations were announced for this year's Academy Awards. The Academy loves surprises, and there were plenty to be found. *Dreamgirls*, an early favorite, led the way with eight nominations, but failed to garner a nomination for Best Picture. Also, Leonardo DiCaprio had been expected to be nominated for his performance in *The Departed*, but was nominated for *Blood Diamond* instead. So why didn't *Dreamgirls* get nominated for Best Picture? The Academy nominates on a preferential

ballot, marking their best pictures from 1-5. The films with the most number 1 and 2 votes get nominated. So while *Dreamgirls* probably was on the majority of ballots, it didn't get enough support to make it into the top five, allowing *Letters from Iwo Jima* to slip in at the last moment.

The nominations did go as expected, though, with a couple of pleasant surprises (who wasn't happy that Abigail Breslin was nominated for *Little Miss Sunshine*?). There is plenty of time until the awards ceremony on Sunday, February 25, but until then, *The Virginia Informer* takes a look at the major categories and predicts the winners, while discussing who should really take home the statue for the highest honor in Hollywood.

The Academy Awards air February 25 on ABC.

Best Picture:

Who Will Win: The guilds and critics associations have been sharing the love this year, so it's pretty difficult to predict who is going to win. However, it looks like Scorsese's Boston crime epic, *The Departed*, will take home the Oscar. If there's going to be an upset, look for the little movie that could, *Little Miss Sunshine*, to walk away with it come Oscar night.

Who Should Win: The best two films of the year, *Children of Men* and Pan's *Labyrinth*, aren't even nominated. So if stuck to the five nominees, Clint Eastwood's lyrical masterpiece *Letters from Iwo Jima* deserves the gold.

Best Director:

Who Will Win: The Academy really doesn't like Martin Scorsese. They have nominated him over and over again but refuse to give him an award. However, it looks like it's finally Marty's year for *The Departed*.

Who Should Win: While *Letters from Iwo Jima* is the better film, it's time to give Scorsese his due. It's been a long time coming.

Best Actor:

Who Will Win: While Forest Whitaker has been winning every award so far for his portrayal as Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*, the Academy may choose to award the biggest loser in Oscar history, Peter O'Toole, in the film *Venus*. However, Whitaker should or "will" just barely beat the aged thespian.

Who Should Win: Ryan Gosling easily gives the best performance of the year for his role in *Half Nelson* as a drug addicted teacher who gets caught by one of his students.



Departed enters strongly: Matt Damon stars in the favorite for Best Picture, *The Departed*. The film's director, Martin Scorsese, is also nominated for Best Director.

Best Actress:

Who Will Win: No one can beat her. No one can stop her. On February 25 Helen Mirren will win the Oscar for *The Queen*. Don't place any bets against her. Trust us.

Who Should Win: Mirren by a landslide; in a year full of incredible female performances, she stands out as Queen Elizabeth II in one of the best films of the year.

Best Supporting Actor:

Who Will Win: The weakest category of the year is also the most difficult to predict. The race really comes down to Alan Arkin as the grandfather in *Little Miss Sunshine* and Eddie Murphy in *Dreamgirls*. Murphy will probably win, but are we ready to live in a world with "Academy Award Winner Eddie Murphy"? I think not.

Who Should Win: Jackie Earle Haley in *Little Children* gives the strongest supporting role of the year. It's just too bad the film didn't get a wider release to be noticed by audiences.

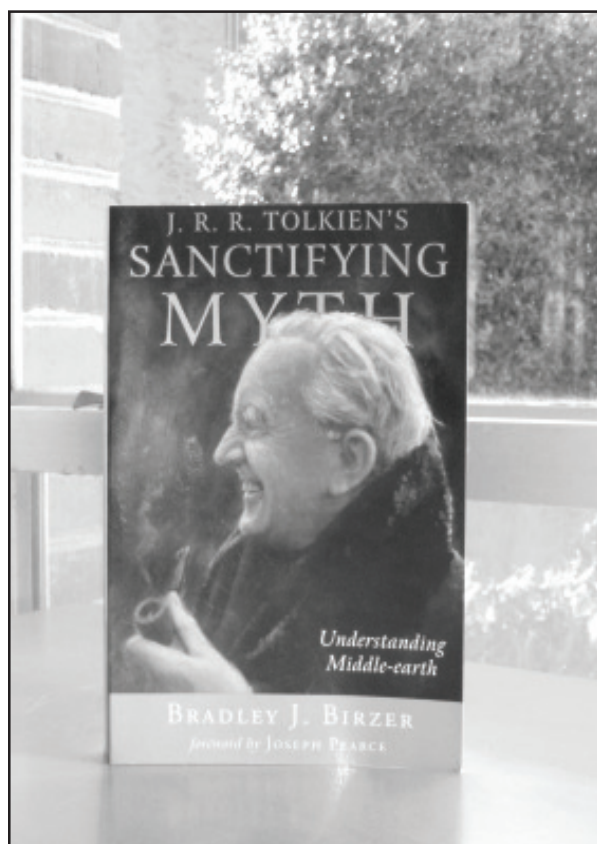
Best Supporting Actress:

Who Will Win: Did anyone ever think that an American Idol loser would become an Academy Award winning actress? Jennifer Hudson will take home the statue as a scorned singer in *Dreamgirls*. Of course, if voters are squeamish to award a reality show castoff, they'll give it to Cate Blanchett in *Notes on a Scandal*.

Who Should Win: Blanchett is positively phenomenal and Adrianna Barazza is incredible in her emotional role in *Babel*, but *Dreamgirls* and this year's Best Supporting Actress statue belongs to Jennifer Hudson.

Book Review: Sanctifying Myth

Birker argues that LOTR sought to return Western world to faith



Mandie Constanzer

Stephen Dause

Staff Writer

Call it a culture war, call it ideological posturing, call it what you will. Bradley J. Birzer's recent book interpreting J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Sanctifying Myth*, could be portrayed as a somewhat obscure caveat in the ongoing dialogue of what is and what is not reality in this world.

According to Birzer, Tolkien did, as the title of the book implies, have a deep passion for mythology. Perhaps that is a strange characteristic of a Roman Catholic, but the nuances and oxymorons only begin there.

The theme of Tolkien's life, and that of other Christian humanists like his old friend and acclaimed apologist C.S. Lewis, was that of connecting mythology to the material world in a very real way. The story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, Tolkien would always say, is the one "true myth" that connected the realm of the divine with the world of fallen man.

That said, Tolkien would ardently negate any suggestion of allegory in any of his myths. The *Lord of the Rings* even contains Roman Catholic-specific allusions, but his purpose was not to sneak in a Christian story under a different name and subliminally influence his increasingly wide audience.

One of the interesting back-stories the reader learns is that Tolkien was very private with his mythology, and if not for the encouragement and support of Lewis, would probably never have had *The Lord of the Rings* published.

Also covered in the book is the strange connection between the "hippie" environmentalist movement of the 1960s and '70s and Tolkien's Middle-earth, something which Tolkien regretted, considering the obvious theological differences he had with the hippie movement.

"Regardless of what the entertainment industry, environmentalists, fantasy enthusiasts... or any other element of the modern and postmodern world does to, or with, Tolkien and his legacy," argues Birker, his one true and consistent vision was to "use myth to return the Western world to faith and right reason."

For the number of citations and footnotes in the comprehensive, though fairly short book, one might think it were a political, ideological or religious argument rather than one of a literary nature. Birker would say that this just demonstrates how fiction reflects how a culture and society thinks and feels.

**J.R.R. Tolkien's Sanctifying Myths:
Understanding Middle-Earth**
By Bradley J. Birzer
Published by ISI Books
Paperback List Price: \$15.00

Hippie Comparisons: If alive Tolkien would likely disapprove of Birker's comparison of Lord of the Rings to the hippie movement. Tolkien kept his mythology a secret and always denied that his epic is an allegory.

Staff Editorial:
**On committees,
 petitions and politics**



Ian R. Whiteside

In or out?: President Nichol enters his office over winter break. Minutes later, his staff told *The Informer* that he was out of the office.

On February 1, a *Virginia Informer*-sponsored debate was held in the Wren Chapel—with the controversial cross in full display—between William and Mary religious studies professor Dr. David Holmes and *New York Times* bestselling author Dinesh D’Souza. The Wren Chapel, with overflow into the Great Hall, was filled to capacity with students, staff, faculty, and local and national media. This debate featured two diametrically opposed views on the Wren cross, but the two men espousing those views were able to exchange them in a reasoned, intelligent manner. This is the kind of atmosphere that President Nichol, despite his articulate e-mails and emotionally loaded sentiments, has refused to personally engage in or support. Some will argue, however, that his newly formed committee on religion is just that—an extension of the concept of open, informed debate.

In theory, it should be. It should be representative of a wide variety of students, alumni, faculty and staff, all of whom have varying viewpoints on this issue. It should be a committee of many, coming together and making determinations and decisions based on facts and intelligent argument, not on divisive rhetoric or predetermined position. It should be a committee that the entire William and Mary community can be proud of, one that critically examines President Nichol’s decision, not one which obsequiously whitewashes our president.

Upon initial examination, this committee—handpicked by the president—does not appear to exemplify any of these aspirations. From the student perspective, there are only *two* student representatives—hardly enough to encompass the full range of viewpoints on this issue. What’s more, both of the representatives chosen have signed petitions openly endorsing Nichol and his flawed decision. The other alumni and faculty also appear to be overwhelmingly tilted in his favor according to some of the members selected who expect to be outnumbered from the start.

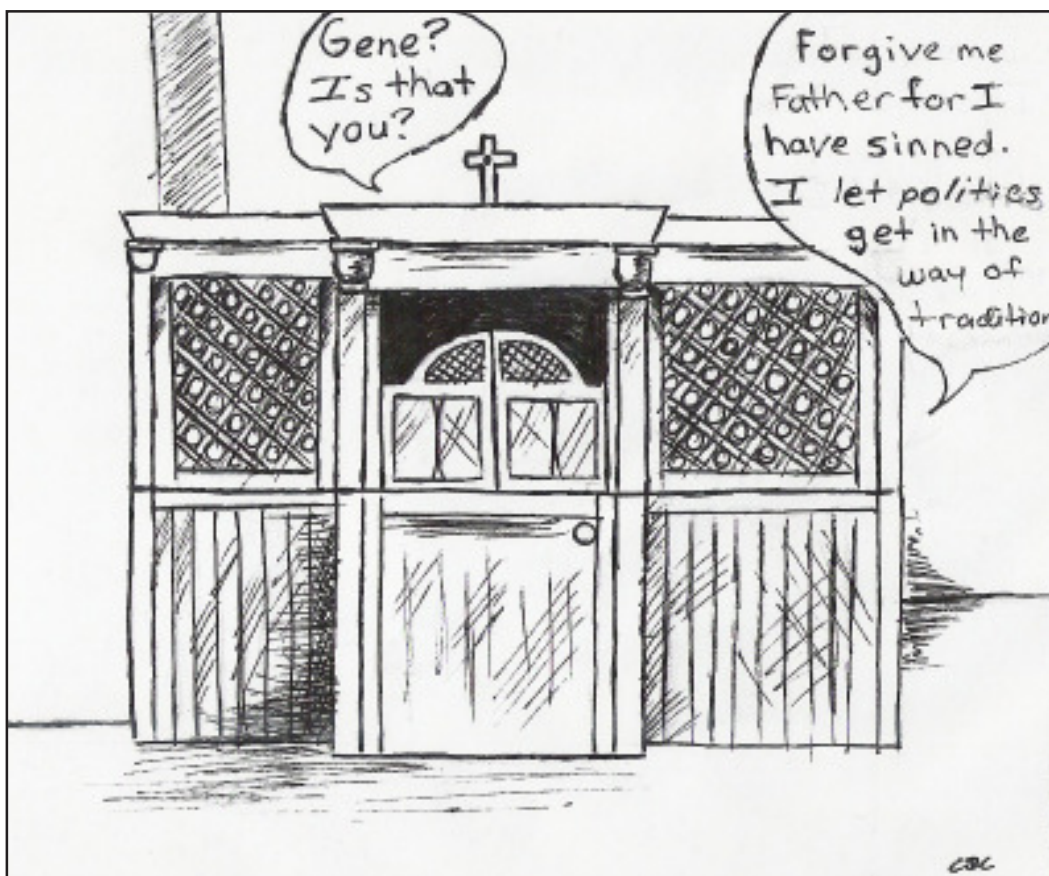
This is hardly the balanced committee that Nichol promised to the community, nor is it approaching this issue with an impartial and open mind. This committee has high hurdles to clear, and while our confidence in the committee is low, we will vigilantly report its progress

over the next few months.

Tactics like this are the reason why we are not surprised that the situation has escalated to new heights, with all eyes on Williamsburg with every passing week. The photo above, of President Nichol entering his office only a few minutes before *The Informer* was told he was not there, was used by Robert Marshall on the floor of the General Assembly as reason why Nichol’s salary ought to be cut. Why did President Nichol refuse to answer our invitation for nearly a month? Perhaps we will never know. What is clear is that evasive stall tactics are doing little to encourage an end to this rift, and they need to stop.

Some on this campus have been extremely critical of the both the national media’s coverage of this issue, and, in particular, this newspaper’s coverage. The group “Our Campus United” has claimed that “outside figures” have hijacked this issue for their personal political gain. Strangely, two of the four “figures” listed on their Web site are, in fact, alumni: Vincent Haley (’88) and Cesar Conda (’83). In our opinion, these are hardly strangers to our community and to our traditions. Even President Nichol has said that we should include the opinions of those who came before us, as their input is truly valuable to the discussion. It is especially ironic that Brian Cannon (’04), one of the spokesmen, has political aspirations of his own, making this the perfect stage to launch into his rumored run for delegate.

The Virginia Informer’s coverage, including our previously mentioned debate, has been a prime mover in holding Nichol accountable for his actions. Without our coverage—and the coverage of those committed to intellectual diversity, a marketplace of ideas, intelligent argumentation (all things which Nichol claims to desire on a college campus)—there would be no committee on religion, however skewed it may be, no dueling petitions, no discussions from the Board of Visitors, and, most importantly, a wide ranging debate on this campus and in the greater Williamsburg community. If Nichol truly seeks informed and open debate, he and his supporters should be thanking us for the wide discussion we and other media have helped to spark—but we aren’t holding our breath.



David Clifford

A special thanks

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If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*, please contact us at editor@vainformer.com.

Letters to the Editor

Weighing in on alumni...

Dear Editor,

“Alumni get free pass at Homecoming” was a great article and I agree with you completely. As a member of the Kappa Alpha order I was in utter shock as I attended the tailgate on Homecoming. I am a sophomore so this was the first time I went with my fraternity, nonetheless I felt as if I was in some kind of dream, and it was incredible. I honestly could not believe people were drinking in public, especially where on this campus a student has to meet with the dean for something as little as having an empty beer can in their room. After being kicked out of our unit for

broken beer bottles, I feel we were also completely mistreated by the administration. The entire judicial process was ridiculous in itself. There was no evidence that we threw the bottles, but since it was in our unit we were forced to take responsibility. It also seems the administration’s conceited attitude towards it student extends to issues beyond alcohol and the judicial system, but that’s for another day. Good article.

Nick Patin
 Class of 2009

...and an alum weighs in

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sponsoring the recent debate in the Wren Chapel over the removal of the historic Wren Cross. While Professor Holmes attempted valiantly to stand in for a conspicuously absent President Nichol, his heart was plainly not in it. I would credit Mr. D’Souza the win for his expertise in debate, his fine rebuttal of Holmes, and his many points unrebutted by Professor Holmes.

Sadly for Professor Holmes, the result of the debate was never in doubt, even before it started. The facts were stacked against him.

Fact: President Nichol’s unilateral decision was (admittedly) poorly made. Yet, he has not reversed this poorly made decision. Fact: There is no consistent logic to why the Wren Cross should be removed, but other Christian symbols, statements, architecture and furnishings should remain in the Wren Chapel. (Aren’t they also similarly unwelcoming and offensive?) Fact: There are dozens, perhaps hundreds of symbols, items, names, devices,

organizations, statements, religious practices and people that are permitted by the College all across campus that could be (and are) unwelcoming or offensive to some. Yet, they are not removed, denied, defunded, shut down and kicked out. No. Only the Wren Cross is removed, leaving a vacant statement of intolerance behind on the altar. Fact: While President Nichol talks a good game about tolerance, being “welcoming”, and unity, he has not tolerated the Wren Cross, has not welcomed the many thousands that deeply care about the return of the cross and the former policy, and has caused the deepest division at the College since the days of McCarthyism.

Poor Professor Holmes never stood a chance. While I appreciate your newspaper bringing Mr. D’Souza to campus, a far lesser debater would have won just as easily.

Andrew McRoberts
 Class of 1987
 Manakin-Sabot, VA

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This paper is produced for the benefit of students at the College and is available at no cost for members of the greater Williamsburg community. However, copies should be taken only if they are meant to be read and enjoyed. In the event an individual or group prevents these copies from being enjoyed by others, the cost to that individual or group will be \$15 per copy.

“Whore culture” is no cause for celebration

The Sex Workers Art Show

The Sex Workers’ Art Show is a tour that exhibits the performance art of prostitutes, strippers and porn stars. It purports to offer a wide range of perspectives on the sex industry. They strut across stages in burlesque style and call it art. There is spoken word, multimedia, and musical entertainment as well. Our fellow students have invited the Sex Workers’ Art Show to entertain the campus and there are numerous questions that can be asked about this tour, but the most important is: how could an educated group of students welcome this foolishness as an art form?

Moral limits are always being tested in our society. “How can we best chip away at the moral norms of past generations?” the progressives ask. *The Virginia Informer* has covered the Sex Workers’ Art Show in the past, and continues to offer information about it in the interest of free speech. Nonetheless, while I would not oppose the show’s right to free speech, I can certainly oppose this disgusting art form in a purely social context.

What was once only allowable in private burlesque houses is now gracing the stages of universities. But to what purpose? How does a burlesque show offer society an enlightening contribution? How does it differ from that now-famous pornography *Pirates*? My question is not “Can the show come to campus?” but, “Should the show come to campus?”

If audiences believe that this is art, art can fall under an incredibly broad umbrella of activities. If enough people at the college desired, we could have white supremacist art shows. But is that really artistic? Art can be defined incredibly loosely. I need only an audience that would be willing to admit that I represented something artistic in my creation. Then I could receive funding and tour the country.

Therein lies the problem (or the solution). The audience has invited the Sex Workers’ Art Show to come and express their art form. If no one wanted them to come to our campus, they would not come. This is not something that is being heaped upon us by a distant administration, but welcomed with open arms by students among us. Thus the blame can be directed at a small minority of liberal students with strange sexual interests.

When we look at the behavior that is supported by this tour (on its website it admits to supporting prostitution and “whore culture”), we can only assume that the students that support this tour support prostitution and “whore culture” – otherwise, they would not invite the tour. Prostitution clearly degrades women and makes them appear as objects of sex and not as real people. It is appalling and sad that a small minority of students in our college believes that this behavior is beautiful and should be welcomed in our college.



John R. Kennedy
Opinion Editor

Protest for “peace” supports military failure

Alex Mayer

Staff Writer

When President Bush visited Williamsburg recently to speak to Congressional Democrats at Kingsmill, he was greeted with a student protest organized by the left-wing Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). The posters advertising the protest suggested showing the president its disapproval of the recent “troop surge” in Iraq. I found this puzzling.

First of all, I am almost certain that the students that attended the protest were not really protesting the President’s decision to change tactics or strategy. In fact, I’m sure most of them would welcome a departure from the President’s previous “stay the course” policy, as well as the replacement of the “old guard,” including Donald Rumsfeld, whose efforts up until now have proved ineffective.

Instead, these students were protesting because they saw the 20,000 additional troops as an “escalation” of the war. As if it weren’t really a “war” already, and we’re somehow making it “more” of a war by sending more troops. No, “escalation” is an effective catchphrase because of all the ominous implications it has in connection to Nixon’s decision to bomb Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

Leaving aside the pros and cons of comparing the Vietnam conflict with the current one, there is a simple and fundamental difference between Nixon’s “escalation” and Bush’s shift in strategy. I would think it would be clear to everyone, but in their zeal to make Iraq into another Vietnam, the left has overlooked the simple fact that Bush, unlike Nixon, is not expanding the conflict *outside* the borders of Iraq. A true analogy today would be if Bush had decided to start bombing Syria or Iran because of their involvement in fueling the insurgency in Iraq – but that’s not what he’s doing.

The President has explained that the “troop surge” is not just a simple matter of numbers. It is also accompanied by an important shift in the rules of engagement and attitude of how we fight the war. The restrictions on our troops – not being allowed to go into areas dominated by Shi’i militias, for example – will be lifted, removing a major obstacle to providing security for the country. The unanimous approval of the brilliant General Petraeus as the new leader of U.S. forces in Iraq will bring a fresh outlook and focus to our efforts there, and if all

elements of the new plan are implemented successfully, there is a real chance at seeing a change of fortune in Iraq.

But maybe the protestors didn’t really care about troop surges or new strategies. Maybe they were just protesting because they “want peace.” This really baffles me. That notion revolves around the assumption that without the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq, the conflict there – and against Islamic fundamentalists worldwide – would end. As if the simple presence of U.S. troops is in fact the only thing standing in the way of peace. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

To illustrate this point, let’s take a look at history. Remember Neville Chamberlain? He was a self-described “man of peace.” As British Prime Minister before Churchill in the 1930s, Chamberlain championed the goal of peace at any cost. The world watched as Adolf Hitler annexed Austria and took the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia. In response to this aggression, Britain signed the Munich Agreement, which excused Hitler’s conquests in exchange for a “promise” that he would not invade any more territory. Chamberlain returned to Britain triumphantly, famously waving a copy of the agreement and announcing “we have achieved peace in our time.” Hitler took the rest of Czechoslovakia and invaded Poland within months.

Now, there is nothing wrong with Chamberlain’s sentiments. Certainly peace is a noble goal, and one that we are all striving for. But peace is not simply the absence of conflict, and it cannot be achieved when one side simply stops fighting. Why? Because the enemy – the Nazis, in Chamberlain’s case, or Islamic jihadists today – will not just lay down their arms if we withdraw. They will keep fighting and attacking, because *their* goal is not peace.

Peace can be achieved, however, through victory. And I believe that most Americans want both. So instead of protesting the president’s decision to give our armed forces the power they need to defeat this enemy, let’s support him in it – whether you are liberal or conservative – because that is the surest course to peace.

Let the words of Churchill be our rallying cry: “We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire... Neither the sudden shock of battle nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job.”

The significance of life

Stephanie Long

News Editor

I have based my life on Socrates’ assertion that the only thing I know with certainty is that I know nothing, and I have chosen to live in a non-confrontational, open-minded way. For years I was convinced that the most important thing we can do with our lives is question constantly in an attempt to get as much knowledge as we can about why we are here for what would otherwise seem like a pointless period of time on earth. But on the weekend of January 20, at a conference held by Students for Life of America and at the 34th annual March for Life which I attended with other William and Mary student from its own chapter of SFL, I realized how much more there is to life.

To me, the pro-life vs. pro-choice controversy begs the ultimate question that many of us try to avoid: what is the point of life? The controversy is no longer centered on where life begins. Science and technology, such as sonograms, have shown us that life begins at fertilization, and that an unborn fetus is most certainly alive. This was what the General Assembly of the state of Virginia asserted in the bill which was offered on January 10 of this year. And even some pro-choice people will grant this, as does Judith Jarvis Thomson in her “Defence of Abortion. The question now has become what value is there in the life of a fetus, and is that value more or less than that of the life of a mother?

Those who accept the pro-life stance as a whole believe in the intrinsic value of human life from the point of conception onwards, and thus would answer that the value of life is equal

in the case of the mother and the fetus. The only recognizable difference is age. A young woman in her 20s may have as much to contribute to the world in the future as the fetus may in being born. An old man on his deathbed may be able to provide some wonderful insight into the world. The works of artists and writers may serve as a source for inspiration to others long after they have died. Life, then, is what we make of it, and I believe that all lives are equally important.

“What is the point of life?”

To me, this is so evident, that I am beginning to doubt Socrates’ mantra. After a while, following Socrates’ method of questioning *will* result in some answers. This is because, at some point in life, we must realize that certain truths cannot be ignored. Our country was ever-changed one Tuesday in September of 2001 when terrorists attacked the Twin Towers and 3000 innocent Americans lost their lives. And yet, the fact that the same number of innocents was killed yesterday, and today, and will be killed tomorrow does not merit anywhere near as strong a response in this country. I can no longer ignore that there is something very wrong with this.

Now, I still maintain that Socrates is correct in saying that we, as humans, are incapable of understanding the true purpose of our existence. But instead of just accepting that to be the case and using it as an excuse to live life idly or even to try to seek understanding in vain, I believe we are called to live. We must live in an attempt to find happiness. We must live in an attempt to find peace. We must live in an attempt to uphold the values of truth and love. The truth is that no life is insignificant. Love will lead us to the understanding that we have a responsibility to maintain life.

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Meese plans to invite W&M community to committee

Matthew Sutton

Assistant News Editor

The burgeoning campus fracas over President Nichol's decision to remove the Wren Chapel cross has sparked dueling petitions, a formal debate held in the Chapel, and a newly appointed committee asked to render a Solomonic judgment.

National pundits and angry alumni have made their voices heard on the issue and now it's up to one law school professor known for his affable demeanor to co-chair a committee tasked to resolve the controversy. Sporting a stellar résumé, Alan J. Meese, the Ball Professor of Law at the Marshall-Wythe law school is set to study the issue along with fellow co-chair Dr. James Livingston, the emeritus chair of the College's religious studies department.

Formerly a law clerk for both Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and for the well-respected 7th circuit judge, Frank Easterbrook, Meese boasts a solid conservative pedigree. A quick review of his published scholarship and public lectures places him in the mainstream of the Republican legal world. In addition to his writings he also holds a position on the board of the Virginia Federalist Society.

No stranger to the national stage, Meese has appeared on MSNBC in opposition to the 2000 Florida recount and last year he appeared on NPR, arguing that the Senate should confirm Samuel Alito, President Bush's nominee to the Supreme Court.

On the surface, his appointment seems to be an act of crude political balancing, yet at the same time, Meese holds a

reputation as a consensus builder within the William and Mary community. Government Professor Clay Clemens remarked on hearing the news of Meese's appointment, "If anyone can help conduct a reasoned discussion of these issues and help produce some conclusions that will calm the waters, it is Alan (and of course Jim Livingston as well)."

The College's head of public relations, Brian Whitson, offered a similar view, "I can't think of two better individuals to co-chair this committee. They bring broad perspective and experience."

When asked to comment on his appointment, Meese choose to note not his political leanings but instead his ability to work well with people of different views and his long experience working with various College committees.

Graduating first in his class from the College in 1986 with a double major in Ancient Greek and Economics, Meese has a long history of involvement with the school. Currently the Vice President of the Faculty Assembly, Meese has also taught an undergraduate freshman seminar. Frequently seen at Tribe sporting events and other College gatherings, he appears to be the consummate institutionalist.

For all of his ties to the school though, Meese is also known as a perceptive and independent thinker. An early critic of President Nichol's Gateway Initiative, he has written opinion pieces for the Flat Hat challenging campus orthodoxies. Clemens noted that, "He is never hesitant

to challenge the prevailing wisdom, and often does. He employs both relentless logic and wit to get others to examine the premises of any discussion or decision." In that vein he, unlike some alumni, claims no special memories of the Wren Chapel during his undergraduate years. Even his Phi Beta Kappa initiation was held in the Capitol building in Colonial Williamsburg.

While admitting he is not a church-state scholar, Meese, whose specialty mainly revolves around antitrust law, does have a strong background in Constitutional law. A Fellow at the Institute of Bill of Rights Law,

he is familiar with the legal aspects of the debate and has participated in countless programs under the Institute's auspices. Meese has also written articles on Affirmative Action, Economic Liberties, Judicial Review, and the Free Speech Rights of Corporations. His legal

background though, he quickly cautioned, does not qualify him to have the final word on the subject. "Certainly the Establishment Clause creates the boundaries within which the College must operate. Within those boundaries the College may, depending on the issue, have some discretion about how to address some of the questions the committee will be examining."

President Gene Nichol, in his State of the College address, has called upon the entire College community from faculty and staff to alumni to be part of the Committee's bailiwick. A small group of students held a press conference on February 5th to announce the formation of a lobby group, Our Campus United, calling for "an end to politicized debate over the cross". During that event, one of the group's leaders, Paul Brockwell, a junior at the College, suggested that the debate be mainly restricted to current students and exclude both alumni and Virginia taxpayers.

Meese seems comfortable with the parameters of the committee and said, "We will work hard to hear from students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College." To accomplish this task, Meese listed written submissions and public forums as possibilities. Meese ended the interview by acknowledging the "leadership role" that the College has played in the nation's history and seems willing to examine the usage of religious symbols at other universities. "At William and Mary it behooves us to engage the larger community on these issues because we exist as a part of a larger world. No one has a monopoly on truth and therefore we should welcome a broad discussion."

Nichol's Appointees

Co-Chairs

Prof. Alan Meese
Prof. James Livingston

Members

Sulaiman Bah ('07)
Dean Deborah Basket
Brian Blount ('78)
James Brinkley ('59)
Prof. Dave Douglas
Prof. Julie Galambush
Holly Hollerith
Prof. Lu Ann Homza
Jim Murray (J.D. '74)
Kate Perkins ('07)
Robert Thompson ('77)
Terry Thompson ('67)

Dollars & Sense for Students

Investing for the first time: Where to start and what to buy

Andrew B. Blasi Jr.

Business Editor

Investing in the stock market is without question a risky venture, but it is also a venture that can yield exceptional benefits to us as students who can turn a little into a lot within a relatively short period of time. In addition, unlike in years past, when it comes to investing in the stock market today you *can* adequately manage the total amount of risk you are willing to take with your money. Even better, there are options available that allow us to enter the stock market with only a very small amount of cash that maintain little to no commission fees.

If you have read my columns in the past and look to the Recommendation Tracker, you can see that I have offered advice on individual stocks that I believe are either opportunities or potential losers. Although these individual stocks have the potential to yield large gains and maintain a small amount of risk because they are respectable companies, many of you may still feel uncomfortable amount putting all of your eggs into one basket—remember Enron? That was also a well respected company. Because of this, I come to you today with an alternative method of investment, an alternative that has personally generated me a great deal of profit with an even smaller amount of risk: Exchange-Traded Funds, otherwise known as ETFs.

ETFs are funds that trade like stocks but are instead a basket of stocks put together that share a commonality. For example, if you were thinking that the telecom industry was a good place to invest five years ago, you may have considered investing in one of the largest industry firms at the time, WorldCom. If you had held this stock directly, any amount you bought into would no longer exist.

Today, we as investors no longer need to bother with such risky business; instead, as Barclays Financials famous iShare ETFs slogan states, we can "Think in Ideas" and invest within the entire telecom industry at once. ETFs

allow us, as members of society, to take the Warren Buffet approach to investing: to take a look around you, assess what people are buying and who is buying it, to see what is currently interesting people, and where and when they are doing it. All of these general notions of our lives can be applied to locations for investment, and ETFs allow us to take advantage of trends instead of stocks. For example, if people are spending more on gasoline, ETFs allow us to invest in all gasoline companies at once and thus we don't have to worry if Chevron is doing better than Mobil.

You may still be asking yourself, "Where I can find these ETFs, which ones should I pick, and how can I start investing in them?" The best place to lookup ETFs is a Web site called www.ETFconnect.com. When you get to the Web site, you may search for an ETF under "Find a Fund," and then take some time to look around and explore the vast database of options.

In addition to economic industries such as oil and telecom, ETFs also allow us to invest in specific foreign countries if you feel that country's economy will grow overall. In terms of recommending certain ETFs, I highly suggest iShares. Information on iShares can be found on the Web site mentioned above, and are highly reliable and well managed. In the case of an Enron-like disaster in, for example, the oil industry, the managers will do their best to uphold the value of your investment that was lost.

In addition, I highly recommend diversifying into multiple ETFs. By adequately diversifying your ETFs, you may save yourself from losing a great amount of money; when one falls, the other rises because of it. Typically, you don't lose money in the short term, and over the long term they all tend to grow, just at different paces. Over the past six months, my six ETFs have grown a total of 14.3%, with the lowest up 2.5% and the highest up 28.2%. All are investments with the potential to lose value, but they are much safer than individual stocks—and if you pick them right, they tend to outperform the overall market.

Recommendation Tracker	Last Issue	Now
Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT)	Hold	Hold
Procter & Gamble (NYSE: PG)	Hold	Buy
FedEx (NYSE: FDX)	Hold	Buy
United Parcel Service (NYSE: UPS)	Hold	Buy
American Airlines (NYSE: AMR)	Hold	Buy
Southwest Airlines (NYSE: LUV)	Buy	Buy
US Airways (NYSE: LCC)	Hold	Hold
ExxonMobil (NYSE: XOM)	Hold	Buy
ChevronTexaco (NYSE: CVX)	Hold	Hold
Schlumberger (NYSE: SLB)	Buy	Hold
Baker Hughes (NYSE: BHI)	Buy	Hold
Pfizer (NYSE: PFE)	Sell	Hold
Merck (NYSE: MRK)	Sell	Hold
General Dynamics (NYSE: GD)	Sell	Sell
Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT)	Sell	Sell
Northrup Grumman (NYSE: NOC)	Sell	Sell
Comcast (NASDAQ: CMCSA)	Sell	Sell
Verizon (NYSE: VZ)	Sell	Sell
Google (NASDAQ: GOOG)	Buy	Hold
eBay (NASDAQ: EBAY)	Buy	Hold
Archer Daniels Midland (NYSE: ADM)	Buy	Buy

Lastly, in terms of where it is best to start investing, I must recommend Sharebuilder. With zero start-up fees and only \$4 for every stock purchase, it makes even a \$100 investment worthwhile. In addition, you can continue to build up your shares of ETFs as time continues, little by little, for only \$4 at a time.

And there is even another bonus. Sharebuilder is running a program whereby every new account will receive a free \$50 Barnes and Noble gift card that can be used to purchase textbooks or anything else at the bookstore. Check them out at www.sharebuilder.com.

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