

The common sense paper of record on campus.

INFORMER

College considers mandatory health insurance for graduate, undergraduate students

Stephanie Long

Layout Editor

While the administration undergoes the process of choosing between four new proposals which might mandate both graduate and undergraduate students to purchase health insurance through the College, the issue has caused many graduate students to object on their own behalf, as well as on the behalf of undergraduates who have been kept in the dark.

The issue of inadequate health insurance was brought to the administration's attention by John Miller, president of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) of Arts and Sciences, whose surveys of students in the graduate school indicated that ten percent of graduate students were uninsured. He, along with the GSA, approached Vice President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler and Christine Britton, the business manager of the Student Health Center, about improving the health care coverage within the population of the graduate students. After collaborating with the representative of MEGA life, Sadler and Britton devised four proposals to change the face of student health insurance at William and Mary.

Currently, MEGA life acts as the school's health insurance provider for those who choose to obtain health insurance through the school. The first proposal changes this arrangement by making health insurance mandatory for all Arts & Sciences graduate students. The second makes it mandatory for all graduate students. The third plan allows for graduate and



Ian R. White

Will we still have that \$5 co-pay?: The College is considering proposals that may force students to purchase the school's health insurance, possibly in addition to private policies.

undergraduate students to a hard waiver option, which states that unless a student can present proof of prior health care coverage by their guardians, a spouse, or the military, they will be required to join the school's insurance program. The final option is to make MEGA life health insurance mandatory

for all graduate and undergraduate students.

When the latest proposals for health insurance were presented at a Town Council meeting on March 19, cries of dissent were

HEALTH CARE

continued on page two

**Contents**

News 2

Features 6

Arts & Entertainment 12

Opinion 14

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Amidst Virginia budget problems, Governor proposes funding a new state college in southern Virginia

Benjamin Farthing

Staff Writer

Amid continuing problems with the budgets of Virginia colleges, Governor Tim Kaine is pressing for a new college in southside Virginia, named the New College Institute (NCI).

In the executive summary outlining the plan, it is proposed that NCI will provide a solution to economic problems being created by the recent drop in manufacturing job opportunities, and the "high levels of out-migration among young people and those with transferable skills."

NCI aims "to provide cost free (scholarship supported) education to qualified students." Its goal is to create a blend of higher university and vocational education with a focus on the residents of rural communities.

Planned courses of study include computer and design graphics, information science, health sciences and health policy, managerial economics, music, music management, music promotion,

art and commercial art.

30 "knowledge managers" will be employed. They will work as "specially trained academic and career advisors." An additional 40 instructors reflects NCI's focus on individual student achievement as well as education.

The annual budget proposed in the executive summary includes \$8 million from tuition and fees in its planned revenue. No details are given on what scholarship opportunities will be provided to its planned 1,000 students.

The budget also plans to annually spend \$45 million on the renovating of the academic buildings and student residence buildings. No details are given on the planned source of this money.

The General Assembly has approved legislation creating a governing board for NCI.

Kaine has proposed to allocate \$4.5 million of the state budget to NCI. Both the Virginia House and Senate have reduced that figure by nearly half in their respective proposed budgets.



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Border patrol: Minuteman Chris Simcox discussed his views on illegal immigration and debated students in the Great Hall of the Wren.

John R. Kennedy

Opinion Editor

Chris Simcox of the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps spoke in the Great Hall of the Wren Building on Tuesday, March 21. Simcox spoke to a packed house about the need to stop illegal immigration to America. The Minutemen Civil Defense Corps is a group of 6,800 volunteers that monitors the border in order to inform border patrol about illegal immigrants crossing. Students of all political views attended, as evidenced by the question and answer session.

The former kindergarten teacher, who studied early human development in college, gave highly reasoned arguments in favor of ending illegal immigration and securing the borders. Portraying himself as a regular American with a wife and children, Simcox spoke about issues that should be important to every American, he claimed.

A part of Simcox's argument rested on the current

Debate on illegals comes to W&M

Founder of "Minutemen" makes Williamsburg one of last stops before D.C. as national debate erupts

treatment of immigrants on the border and also after they begin working in the United States. Among other claims, he said that immigrants are taken advantage of by "coyotes" who transport them across the border. Simcox continued, saying these "coyotes" tend to be violent and untrustworthy. Drug cartels fight across the border to gain access to the American market, sometimes driving large trucks onto American soil, Simcox said. He said that Mexican soldiers facilitate drug cartels and are paid handsomely for their work.

Simcox also spoke about the lack of border patrol agents on the border. He said that they feel betrayed by their government and understaffed. The border patrol have thanked him for his help in the past, he claims. In contrast to America's border situation, Mexico has the most militarized border in the Western hemisphere,

"MINUTEMAN" SPEAKS

continued on page two

# 500 new parking spaces to be available at Adair parking deck by next fall

## Students will have access to majority of spaces

Chaoyen Lu

Staff Writer

Complaints about the insufficient number of parking spaces on campus have been one of the top concerns of William and Mary students. In Fall 2006, in order to help alleviate the parking problem on campus, the new Adair parking deck, adjacent to Adair Hall, will be open for use. With 515 new spaces in the new parking facility, the Parking Advisory Committee has assigned more parking spaces to day students. However, an increase in the parking fees is expected.

The Parking Advisory Committee has come up with new policies for new allocations of parking spaces. The committee based their decisions

on the number of existing spaces that are available for those who possess parking permits, and decided to assign more spaces to day students. At least 25 spaces will be distributed to faculty and staff. Day students will receive 180 to 316 new spaces out of 515, on a first come, first served basis. Another 131 spaces will be assigned to resident students.

This parking space allocation has been approved by the college's administration, however the exact number of spots in each section may change due to column placement and other structures used to indicate where one zone begins and another ends.

The College has increased the parking fees each year for the construction of Adair parking deck. Wade Henley, associate director of Auxiliary Services, said the increase applies to each classification of decal purchase. He stated that the exact amount of increase will also depend on how many numbers of decals will be purchased after the opening of the new parking deck. The proposed rates of increase range from \$15 to \$45.

The spaces on campus will be "fairly divided." Henley said the committee, which consists of faculty, staff and students, has been powerful in terms of shaping policy, which receives few changes from the administration on the recommendations.

The new parking deck may have an impact on parking and traffic patterns. Henley commented that in response to possible increase of traffic, there will be bus services near the deck. According to Henley, the parking regulations are flexible and will adapt to the changes of traffic patterns and parking demands. The Office of Parking Services and Campus Police will be strictly enforcing the parking regulations at the Adair parking deck.

Henley said in addition to current classifications that include faculty and staff, day students, resident students, evening students, restricted use and general use, the committee has been working on possible new classifications of students who may be allowed to park on campus. Currently, most freshmen and sophomores cannot purchase the decals.

For comments and / or questions, contact Wade Henley at [wghenl@wm.edu](mailto:wghenl@wm.edu).



Jan R. Whiteside

**Is 500 enough?:** The new parking deck next to Adair Hall, opening in Fall 2006, aims to provide solution to parking problems on campus with spaces for almost all types of permits. Campus Police and Parking Services will also be housed in the building.

### Allocated spaces at Adair Deck

Faculty / Staff only	25
Faculty / Staff & Day Students	180
Day students only	136
Resident Students only	131
Department Vehicles	16
Handicapped	11
Visitors	10
Timed	4
Service Vehicles	2

## HEALTH CARE: College, students debate insurance policies

continued from page one

prevalent among the graduate students in attendance. These opinions were heard by Sam Sadler, who will be a major player in the decision making process. Miller knows that Sadler heard what the students have to say about the situation and said, "I'm just hoping that Sadler considers our opinion...but I'm under no illusions."

There are positive and negative aspects of forcing all students to be covered under an insurance plan. "The college needs to have everyone on health insurance, it's just safer," admitted Ron Quinlan, a graduate student who attended the Town Council meeting. He feels that undergraduates are being unfairly pulled into the package to appease MEGA life. "They need their premiums to be higher than their payouts...it's like any business, you want it to bring in more money than what you're spending." Students like Quinlan do not believe it is right to force students to be bogged down with such "an unrealistic financial burden" simply to appease an insurance company.

Miller clarified that "the College is not interested in this because they see it as a cash cow, they're more interested in it from an ethical standpoint."

Britton, who says that five times a week she has to deal with a student without health insurance at the Health Center, explained, "We're finding a lot of students who don't have insurance, and that's a major hardship in their lives."

Common objections to the MEGA life plan are that it is a small company and it is only cheap because it has cut back on services. Quinlan, who is part of the Department of Applied Science where students are constantly in hazardous situations, does not feel that MEGA life will provide adequate protection. He said, "I think if the insurance policies were better, there wouldn't be such a huge concern."

Britton disagrees. "It's a good policy," Britton maintained, "and the only problems I've seen with it are that people don't read the policy and don't know what to do with it." The plan returns 100 percent of the costs expended at the Student Health Center, and, despite concerns some students have with the accessibility of the Health Center, Britton insisted that

there are only three weeks of the year when doctors hold appointments for only one hour a day and that doctors are always on call. Furthermore, the insurance is accepted at all Urgent Care and Med Express facilities, so students can go there when the Health Center is unavailable. "I think everyone should have health insurance, and even if it's a small policy, it's better than nothing," concluded Britton.

Also, Miller stated that MEGA life is looking to expand its coverage and include more doctors in its network.

Furthermore, in February of 2007 the school will go out to bid again. The last time the school did this, MEGA life was the best of three companies bidding to be William and Mary's health insurance provider. The decisions made for next year, as Britton put it, are important "in order to make ourselves more bid-able." She also explained that after next year's bid, "we may then come up with a more creative solution."

As for mandating this health insurance, many are unhappy that it will force students who are already under a good insurance plan to switch over, and while you can use it as a Coordination of Benefits, combining the services of both insurance companies, it will be much more expensive. As of yet, the logistics have not been ironed out.

In terms of laying objections to rest, Quinlan maintained, "there's really no easy answer...but I just don't think that mandatory is the right way to go."

Miller, though, stated, "the reason why I think this merits consideration is that if health insurance were to be mandatory in some form, it would make a significant impact upon the quality of life."

Quinlan went on to suggest, "I think everyone needs to be made aware and then everyone needs to talk about it. It's just going to take a while to hammer out the best way to receive student insurance policies."

While Quinlan urges Sadler to keep the current insurance policy for another year in order to develop a more feasible plan for student health insurance, Miller called for action: "I don't think it can stay the way it is, it's rushing headlong into a crisis situation."

## "MINUTEMAN" SPEAKS:

Simcox addresses concerns about organization, makes clear that there is no racial motivation

continued from page one

Simcox stated. Simcox said that Mexico has asked the United States to allow it to process immigrants into America.

Simcox had much to say on the subject of racism. Though he has been called a racist in the past, he believes that his views are not racist, but pro-immigrant. On the other hand, he did say that it is racist to allow immigrants to break American laws without punishment simply because they are not American.

Simcox addressed the McCain-Kennedy bill that would grant amnesty to illegals and make them pay a small fine. He said that the bill encourages immigrants to illegally cross the border and also shows disrespect for American sovereignty. He added that he has been in contact with politicians on Capitol Hill and given testimony on illegal immigration.

During the Q&A period after Simcox's lecture, many students said they disapproved of his views and the way he has carried out his mission. Some said that there is ethnic stereotyping of Hispanics while they are living in America, saying that they are often pinpointed as potential illegal immigrants because of their ethnicity. Others asked Simcox what he thought about supposed racist comments by members of the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps. Simcox answered the questions respectfully and succinctly, showing a broad knowledge of immigration problems.

# Open Minds, Open Dialogue: Students Voice Concerns and Suggestions at Forum on Sexual Assault

**Stephanie Long**

Layout Editor

The administration's worries regarding students' ability to rationally discuss the sensitive topic of sexual assault on campus were dispelled this past Thursday with the Forum on Sexual Assault, co-sponsored by The Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) and *The Virginia Informer*.

The forum, entitled "Open Minds, Open Dialogue" began with a presentation from the mediator, Susan Grover, a William and Mary Law Professor and the Director of the Equal Opportunity Office at the College. The presentation explained campus and state laws regarding rape as well as resources on campus for sexual assault survivors. Grover then posed questions to the audience and panel of representatives from ASAP, The Student Assembly (SA), Every Two Minutes, The Counseling Center, and the Feminist Majority

Leadership Alliance (FMLA).

Students were interested to know how the number of sexual assault reports at William and Mary compared to other college campus, to which Donna Haygood Jackson, of the Counseling Center, assured that they were equivalent to those found at other colleges and lower than the national average. She also added that because of the campus's supportive community, "your numbers may go up, and in essence I want them to because that means that we're providing services to those people who would remain silent," because, "the most important thing is for someone to be able to feel supported and believed."

Questions were raised regarding how to prevent rape from occurring on campus. Panelists addressed positive actions that will be taken in the future, including Sexual Assault Awareness week with which many of the groups present will be involved, as well as the idea of increasing upper-classmen

education regarding sexual assault, as per President Nichol's wishes. This was affirmed by Kate Cunningham of Every Two Minutes, a peer education group, when she said, "We're certainly working in that direction." There seemed to be much hope among the crowd who proposed various items ranging from a complete ban on alcohol on campus to lectures on responsible drinking.

There are many difficulties with taking actions to prevent rape because it is such a "delicate subject," as Donna put it, but she asserted that "forums like this" help to raise awareness and safety on campus. But ultimately the idea of personal responsibility to become aware was agreed upon. As Carolyn Barbadoro of FMLA put it, "you have to convince people to educate themselves." Freshman Matt Beato, who attended the forum, re-affirmed the sentiment of many students in saying, "like so many things, ultimately students can only combat this problem if we solve it ourselves; I believe

we're taking steps to do that."

Richelle Faithful, co-president of ASAP explained that the administration had expressed concerns that an open dialogue might be "overwhelming for the campus community," but she added, "tonight I thought it was well received." She maintained that the administration's primary concern is, "for dialogue to be constructive." She admitted, "it's hard to have informed, structured discussions, but it's certainly not impossible, and that's why it's important to attend events like these so they can go ahead and have discussions in a meaningful way."

Faithful's final conclusion regarding the topic was, "as we could tell tonight, sexual assault is not, by any stretch of the imagination, an easy topic, it's complicated... We can never eliminate sexual assault, but we can certainly create a culture in which we do not condone sexual violence," and that seemed to be the goal of the forum.

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## "He said/She said" program discusses sexual assault on college campuses

**Amanda J. Yasenchak**

Editor-in-Chief

A William and Mary alumnus returned on April 6 to discuss her own story of sexual assault. Together with sexual assault educator Gordon Braxton, Katie Koestner spoke to a packed Commonwealth Auditorium. The program, He Said/She Said – The Katie Koestner Story, was sponsored by the Alpha Chi Omega sorority as well as the Delta Gamma sorority, Student Assembly and the Women's Studies Department. The event was part of Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

Koestner is nationally known for putting a face on date rape. She was sexually assaulted by a fellow student her freshman year at the College in 1991. When her assaulter was proven guilty by the College judicial process but only given a "slap on the wrist" as punishment – he was forbidden from entering her dormitory – Koestner went public with her story, appearing on Oprah, Good Morning America, CNN, MTV, Larry King Live and other shows, as well as eventually being on the cover of Time Magazine's date rape issue.

The program began with the "He said" portion led by Gordon Braxton, a graduate of the University of Virginia who is currently employed by Campus Outreach Services with Koestner and also at Harvard University as a sexual assault educator. Braxton gave an actual scenario of two college students, pseudonyms Jake and Erica, who were friends and went to a party together. The situation was complicated by Jake's crush on Erica, Erica's recent breakup with her boyfriend and both parties' intoxication. Jake and Erica had sexual intercourse but Erica never gave

consent, but she did not say no either. The next day Erica formally accused Jake of sexual assault.

Braxton then led a discussion about the scenario. The variety of comments and questions alluded to the "messiness" of the situation. Student comments included, "Erica was too intoxicated to give consent," "There was responsibility on both ends," "She voluntarily drank," "If you drink alcohol you are incapable of giving consent," and "Both made bad decisions, although he was significantly less intoxicated."

Amidst the discussion Braxton asserted that of the men he knew to be accused of sexual assault, "the majority are not sadistic... [they] get caught up in [our] sexualized culture." In a nation where the courts and universities are ill equipped to deal with date rape, which affects 250,000 Americans each year, Braxton said we needed to focus on changing society. The best advice he could give, Braxton said, was increased verbal communication. "Even if it's awkward, being accused of sexual assault is awkward too."

Braxton then introduced Koestner, who told her story. She encouraged people to "stop debating her credibility" and instead focus on taking a stand. Koestner also touched on her experience as a sexual assault survivor and educator and some of the reactions she has faced. She urged men, who are also often victims of sexual assault, not to be silent, "Not to wait... until you are angry enough... Can you be angry enough now?"

Coming back to William and Mary "closes a long chapter" in Koestner's life, she said. She closed her emotional presentation by saying, "It's hard to speak out... but it's worth it... when you're not standing alone."

## Nichol answers students' questions on the fate of the College and campus issues

**Mandie Constanzer**

Staff Writer

In the lounge area in the upper level of the Tazewell building in the Randolph Complex, about 50 people convened on Tuesday March 14, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the College president, Gene Nichol.

Settling in an armchair facing the crowd, Nichol said that he had no agenda for the night, wanting only to greet students, welcome them back to the College, and engage them in conversation. As a new president, Nichol shared that he has often thought about goals, the future, strengths, and weaknesses of the College in the past year, greeted only by a silence he found "reminiscent of his freshman seminar." The students had many questions to ask.

"Where did the trees go by Millington?"

Nichol answered that this summer is the

scheduled renovation and expansion of the College's science complex. He explained that the large building complex would be modernized and integrated over the next two to three years, with most of the renovation funds already raised. When students complained about the aesthetics of the area, he replied, "It's all good in the long run, but it can be a pain in the ass in the short term." Other students raised concerns about residence hall renovations, and the President explained that there is a schedule for dormitory renovations, but it is very disruptive to student life. Renovations to Preston Hall in the wake of last school year's fire threw the schedule off.

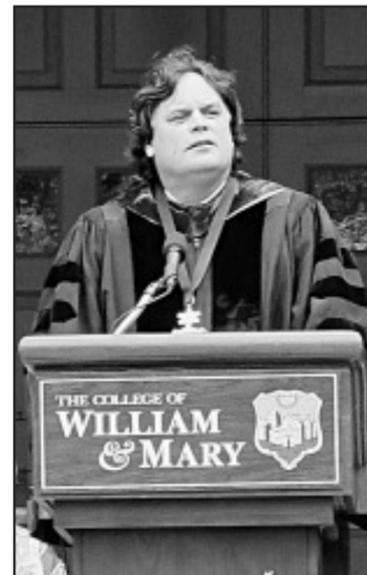
Regarding upcoming construction and expansion at the College, Nichol proudly

announced that groundbreaking for the new Business School would be this summer. The Business School, privately funded by William and Mary alumni, will be founded by the Mason School of Business of Philadelphia. Major renovations will begin in fall at Sentara Hospital – the College purchased the building to house the School of Education.

Parking Services was a hot issue among students, following discussion of the new construction. One student pointed out that the Barksdale residence hall is almost complete, while the parking garage follows a slower schedule. Nichol promised that Barksdale construction was on schedule and that the dorm will be open next school year. He went on to say that parking is a more difficult issue, claiming "parking is hellish on any campus," and the situation was much worse at Chapel Hill. After addressing parking and problems with campus food, students presented

heavier questions.

When asked the strengths and weaknesses of the College, students immediately raised the concern that professors study independently to be more competitive scholastically with their colleagues, and in doing so, cannot always uphold the unique engagement between students and faculty characteristic of William and Mary. Also, the question of what it takes to be a great university today drew comments from the students. Nichol debated the importance of whether "it should mean something to be public," where "great publics" (ostensibly



Jan R. Whiteside

**The Future is Now:** Now that President Nichol has been inaugurated, students can see the future of William and Mary taking shape.

**NICHOL IN TAZEWell**

continued on page sixteen

# Student Assembly winds down school year with new agenda, appointments and contested Senate race

## Lame duck Senate closes with discussions of voting rights, budget veto; newly elected Senate opens disharmoniously

**Nick Hoelker**

Staff Writer

The Student Assembly Senate closed its 2005-2006 session by discussing Williamsburg voting rights, overriding President Ryan Scofield's ('07) veto of the 2006-2007 budget, funding a zip line across Lake Matoaka for use during final exams, and hiring a lawyer to represent student interests. The first meeting of the 2006-2007 Senate was wrought with contention over the election of a senate chairman.

At the March 28 meeting, the Senate discussed voting rights in the city of Williamsburg. Senators Matt Beato ('09) and Senate Chairman Luther Lowe ('06) have launched an easily accessible website, [www.VoteInWilliamsburg.com](http://www.VoteInWilliamsburg.com), to encourage college students to register to vote in city elections. A William and Mary student, David Sievers ('07), is running for a spot on City Council in the May 2 election.

Additionally, Economics Department Chair and Vice-Mayor Clyde Haulman recently proposed that the city should buy properties that are currently available for rental and re-sell them to owners with the stipulation that they must be owner-occupied. This would significantly decrease the availability of off-campus housing for

students.

Since launching the Web site, over 400 college students have attempted to register vote in the city of Williamsburg. However, Williamsburg registrar David Andrews has begun to more strictly enforce registration laws, claiming that he received a mandate to do so from the state after a female college student apparently registered under a

campus. Scofield suggested that the money should come from the consolidated reserves instead of the general budget. However, after the Senate pointed out the consolidated reserves were nearly empty, the Senate overrode the veto by a vote of 14-1-0 with only Senator Richard Hinman (MBAA) voting no. Overriding the veto also meant that blue books would not be funded by the SA.

one academic building energy-efficient, which would then generate \$15,000 in additional revenue per year to pay for the program and make the entire school more energy-efficient. The bill passed 14-1-0 with only Hinman voting no. Senator-elect and SEAC Member Zach Pilchen ('09) praised the bill, saying, "The overwhelming passage of this resolution...should show the administration that this is an issue we students care about. Whether it's our environmental ethic, our distaste for wastefulness, or just an aversion to dramatically rising tuition costs, this is an initiative every sane person on campus can get behind."

The first bill considered during the April 4 meeting was Senator Greg Teich's ('07) "Zip Line Act" to appropriate \$650 from the consolidated reserves to operate a zip line across Lake Matoaka during the week of final exams. Despite much debate among senators, including Senator Scott Fitzgerald ('07) questioning its necessity, the bill passed 13-2-1.

Next, the Senate discussed Lowe's "Strengthening our Attorney" program by partnering with Student Legal Services. In 2004, the Senate assigned \$30,000 for the purpose of funding a lawyer to counsel students on issues of interest to William and Mary. Lowe's bill would give Student Legal Services the power to hire an attorney with the consent of a panel of five student representatives. The bill passed unanimously, 15-0-0.

Following the passing of this bill, several senators left the room, thus breaking quorum and preventing the Senate from discussing other business.

The first meeting of the 314th Senate foreshadowed a much more contentious body for the 2006-2007 school year. The Senate was to elect a new Secretary and Chairman, but the Senators encountered

### SENATE RACE

continued on page five



**I, state your name:** Newly elected senators and class officers must take an oath of office and swear to protect the Constitution of the Student Assembly at an Inaugural Ceremony at the Wren Chapel each spring.

fraudulent address. Andrews actions have outraged senators, including Beato, who said the convenient timing of these restrictions was, "too coincidental to be a coincidence." Lowe pledged to bring the issue before the City Council and state legislators

Next, the Senate moved to override Scofield's veto of the 2006-2007 budget. Scofield vetoed the budget on the ground of a \$1,045 line-item that funded recycling on

At the end of the March 28 meeting, Senator Sean Barker ('07) introduced a Bill to Encourage the Improvement of William and Mary's Energy Efficiency. The Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) made a presentation, demonstrating the several problems with the school's energy policy which result in massive energy costs. Barker's bill would have the Senate sponsor a program to attempt to raise \$80,000 to make

### Online SA updates

Follow the continuing debate over the Senate Chair election and other SA news.  
[www.VAInformer.com](http://www.VAInformer.com)

## Reelected SA President sets agenda, fills cabinet positions with few new faces

**Matthew Sutton**

Staff Writer

Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield ('07) and Vice President Amanda Norris ('07) won their second term defeating challengers Sean Barker ('07) and Constance Sisk ('08); and Cliff Dunn ('09) and Matt Pinsker ('09) with 58% of the vote. This unprecedented second term allows Scofield and Norris to control the agenda of the Student Assembly for one more year.

They both took their oath of office from SA Review Board Chair Tucker Hull ('06) on April 9 in the Wren Chapel. Following his oath, Scofield gave an inaugural address in which he summarized the accomplishments of his previous term and urged the newly elected members of the SA to come together and work with him. He also thanked the seniors who contributed their time both to the Student Assembly and his re-election campaign.

The graduation of the class of 2006 leaves several positions open in the SA Cabinet that Scofield and Norris can fill to reward supporters. New nominees for the various posts include, Casaundra Maimone ('07) for Academic Policy; Bradley Justus ('07) for Finance; Anna Bovill ('07) for Health and Safety; Anne Andrews ('07) for Public Affairs; and Ben Bromley ('08) for Internal Affairs. Two cabinet members from this year have been re-nominated with Lydia Bailey ('07) again being tapped for Diversity Initiatives and Megan Dorward ('07) for Student Life.

Notable among the new nominees are Bradley Justus ('07) the new editor of the DoG Street Journal for the Secretary of Finance seat and Anne Andrews ('07) the former liaison to Richmond on behalf of the SA for the Secretary of Public Affairs. Justus who previously served as Deputy Secretary of Finance highlighted in his application the need for fair and efficient budgeting, "I think it is important that we as a SA are

always vigilant in ensuring that these funds are spent as efficiently as possible."

Andrews cited in her application the lack of student voting rights in Williamsburg and promised to continue SA involvement with this issue. "The SA has made great strides over the past year within the City of Williamsburg and with legislators in Richmond. I want to continue to work towards this goal."

The newly nominated Cabinet does not include many newcomers to the SA, as many of the positions are being filled by former deputies or others with Student Assembly experience. Matthew Dinan ('09) commented on the new cabinet, "I think it would have been good if there was more diversity and fresh blood in the newly nominated cabinet so the Administration could send a progressive message although the appointment of Anne Andrews is a step in the right direction."

# Stem Cell Research 101: Wesley J. Smith discusses bioethics

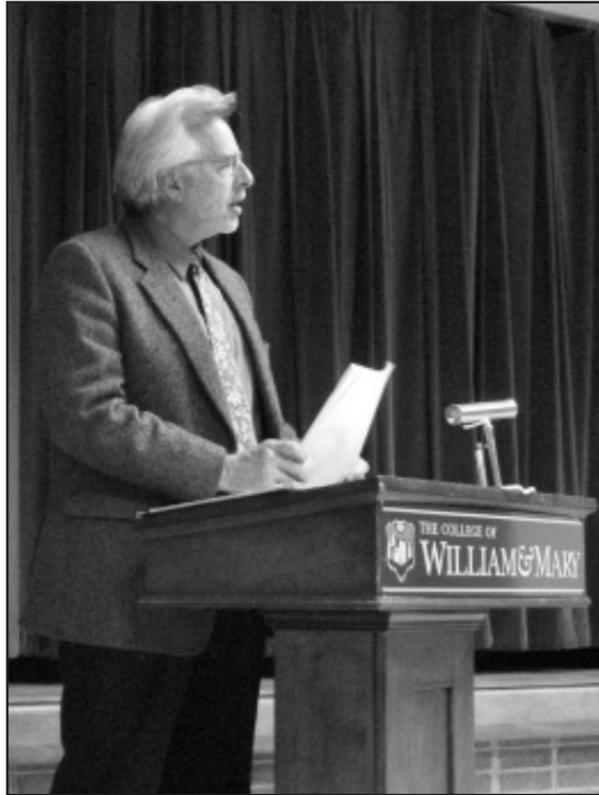
Stephanie Long

Layout Editor

Wesley J. Smith, in his lecture "Bioethics: Creating A Disposable Caste of People?" addressed a question, which bioethics has brought into discussion. As he puts it: "Does human life have intrinsic value simply because it is human? In other words, does being human matter?"

Smith, who is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute where he works as a special consultant for bioethics and culture, believes that it does. And thus he came to William and Mary to discuss his opinions regarding the topic. While the majority of his speech focused on the complications and controversies of stem cell research, he touched upon several important topics such as Terri Schiavo's death, euthanasia, and eugenics—all of which pose many ethical questions.

In his speech, Smith dissolved many of the assertions made by those in favor of stem-cell research. "Embryonic stem cell research is controversial because in order to get embryonic stem cells you have to destroy the human embryo." Embryonic stem cells are seen as more desirable than adult stem cells because, allegedly, they have the potential to form any tissue in the human body, and "in the long run they will prove more advantageous than adult stem cells because of that supposed capacity." But Smith verified that, to date, only one type of cell has been created from an embryo, and there are over 200 types of tissue in the body. "So," he said, "they



**Is human life valuable just because it's human?:** Distinguished attorney and author Wesley J. Smith came to William and Mary to discuss the controversy surrounding bioethics and stem cell research.

are a long way from proving that it can create every tissue in the human body."

Smith also discussed the fact that millions of eggs would be required to potentially help everyone who could possibly benefit from stem cell research or regenerative medicine. In order to meet this quota, many labs have been asking women to "super-ovulate, that is, they are given a hormone which would cause them instead of producing one egg to be producing ten or 15, that's very hard on the body and it can lead to side effects such as death, infection, or ovaries the size of grapefruit." It is because of this issue that both pro-choice and pro-life feminists have begun a group called "Hands Off Our Ovaries."

Ian R. Whiteside

Smith also called to mind the possibility of our country going to more desolate countries and taking eggs and stem cells from natives of those countries, as was done in Africa in the hope of curing AIDS. And looking at another point in history, Smith made it known that, "in the late 60s and early 70s, live fetal experiments were done in this country, paid for by the government," during which living people were being experimented on. All of these examples call into question just how far researchers would be willing to go in the future.

Ultimately, Smith's opposition rests in the fact that all of these actions de-value human life. "This is not a right wing issue or a left wing issue, in my view it's a human rights issue."

In his latest book *A Consumer's Guide To A Brave New World* as well as his book *Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America*, Smith elaborates on his opinions regarding bioethics.

# SENATE RACE

continued from page four

some bitter arguments.

First, Senator Beato was unanimously elected to the office of Secretary, charged with taking roll and recording votes after Senator Victor Sulkowski ('07) withdrew from the race.

The Chairman election proved to be divisive and controversial. The candidates were outgoing Secretary and third-year Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08) and fourth-year Senator Scott Fitzgerald ('07). Senator Brett Phillips ('08) was nominated but withdrew his candidacy.

An 11-10 vote by written ballot in the open session was in Luppino-Esposito's favor. It resulted from extensive closed-session deliberations and seemed to signal his victory. Immediately following the vote, Senators Shariff Tanious ('08) and Sulkowski, along with the executive's Communications Director, Tom Moyer ('07), declared that the vote had to be conducted by an open vote and in public as per the Freedom of Information Act, as the SA Senate handles public money. Thus the election was declared void after the votes had been counted.

*Editor's note: Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito is the Assistant Editor-in-Chief of The Virginia Informer.*

## APRIL Schedule

### MOVIES

**Neil Young: Heart of Gold** (PG)  
Mon., Apr. 10-Sun., Apr. 16  
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.  
Apr. 10-15 screening room (35 seats)

**The White Countess** (PG-13)  
Sun., Apr. 16-Sun., Apr. 23  
6:30 and 9 p.m.  
Apr. 16-22 screening room (35 seats)

**Manderlay** Not rated  
Sun., Apr. 23-Sun., Apr. 30  
6:40 and 9:10 p.m.  
Apr. 23, 24, 27-29 screening room  
(35 seats)

**Sophie Scholl: The Final Days**  
Not rated  
Sat., Apr. 29-Fri., May 5  
6:30 and 8:45 p.m.  
Apr. 30, May 1, 4 screening room  
(35 seats)



*Kimball Theatre*

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

## APRIL Schedule

### LIVE PERFORMANCES

**The Williamsburg Symphonia presents**  
**Subscription Concert #4: European Masters**  
Wed., Apr. 12 and Thurs., Apr. 13 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$37, \$27

**The Kimball Theatre and Playwrights Premiere Theatre present**  
**Winning Liberty Land: An American Musical Comedy**  
**About how History is Made**  
Fri., Apr. 14, Sat., Apr. 15 and Fri., Apr. 21, Sat., Apr. 22 at 7:30 p.m.  
General admission \$12, Seniors/Students \$10

**Choirs from Penn High School, Mishawaka, Ind. And**  
**The College of William and Mary present**  
**Songs of Americana**  
Sun., Apr. 23 at 3:30 p.m.  
The event is free but tickets are required

**2006 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture**  
**Featuring Newbery Award Winner Russell Freedman**  
**The Past Isn't Past: How History Speaks, and What**  
**It Says to the Next Generation**  
Fri., Apr. 28 at 7 p.m.  
The event is free but reservation tickets are required

# The economics of the Econ Chair's proposal

## City of Williamsburg and the College need each other but the College (and the students) are not going away anytime soon

**Derek Gage**

Guest Columnist

Professor Haulman's proposal for the city of Williamsburg to purchase houses around campus, renovate them and make them owner occupied is neither an original idea nor conducive to campus-community relationships. His plan originated with Craig Raborn in his article "Coping with Colleges: How Communities Address the Problems of Students Living Off-Campus." When considering such a plan, the tremendous impact students have on rental and property rates in the city must also be considered. Many more progressive, constructive strategies, if employed, would accomplish the dual goals of strengthening the relationship between the community and College while keeping students under control off campus.

The first and most important step in the process requires the city of Williamsburg and the College to realize that they need each other. The success of the city and the College are

intertwined. A healthy university contributes to a healthy community with each invested in the other. The College, through its endowment, is literally invested in the community through the New Town project. By targeting students directly through Haulman's housing plan and the so called 'brothel' rule, the city creates an "us against them" environment with students, resulting in calls for suffrage in the city and even student candidacies.

Perhaps by understanding the economic conditions created by demand for student housing those relationships can be improved. Students have to live somewhere. The College

“ A healthy university contributes to a healthy community with each invested in the other. ”

is either unwilling or unable to provide sufficient housing, requiring some students to live off-campus, creating negative consequences. Students are loud, messy, transient, and keep strange hours (trust me, I am one), therein lies the problem.

An interesting and noteworthy study on the impact of student housing on local markets was conducted by The University of York in December 2000. Since student

populations continue to boom and colleges cannot keep up with demand, the reliance on off-campus housing has also increased. This reliance creates unique student markets where "students were living in particular types of property, in geographically specific neighbourhoods, and renting from landlords who would be unwilling to [rent] to other groups" according to the study. Landlords are confident about demand in this market, resulting in more supply, although it does not negatively affect other groups seeking housing such as low-income or young professional households. Few people want to live near a college; without excessively high demand the York study found "young professionals and low-income households tended not to be in competition for the same properties as students".

Living in a college town like Williamsburg can be difficult. The fate of the town and the College are intertwined. The College should therefore not face opposition when it tries to build new dormitories as occurred during the Barksdale project. Some students will inevitably choose to live off campus, creating friction with the surrounding community. Making homes around campus owner-occupied only will not alleviate this problem.

One possible solution which would still allow students to live somewhere, since I

don't think the College is going away anytime soon, is to regulate the density of student residences in a particular area. This solution would allow for the elimination of the 'brothel' rule while easing students into the surrounding community. Since student housing poses a problem based on distribution not on the number of students living together, Craig Raborn thinks this plan would achieve the "dual benefits of protecting the neighborhood, while also exposing the student population to any positive influences from living among single-family homes." Either way the College and Williamsburg must learn to coexist and maintain an open dialogue.

### Informer Podcasts

Listen to Economics Professor Clyde Haulman defend his housing proposal.

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

## The Tribe 12...

-compiled by Tony Doucet

After the Clyde Haulman housing proposal announced while students were on Spring Break and increasing support for a student candidate for City Council, David Sievers, the relationship between Williamsburg and the College seems to be on shaky ground. This month, *the Informer* asks students...

### What can the city of Williamsburg do to be more student friendly?



**Doug Bunch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Law:** The city that hosts the Alma Mater of the nation should allow students to vote within its own boundaries.



**Sean Evans, '09:** Relax housing restrictions that target students. In addition, it seems like there is a surplus of police, and this is money that could be better spent elsewhere.



**Shuruq Fillo, '09:** Before we can make any physical changes, we have to change the thoughts of the community.



**Scott Firestone, '08:** There should be 'hipper' places to go within walking distance, or they should fix the bus system.



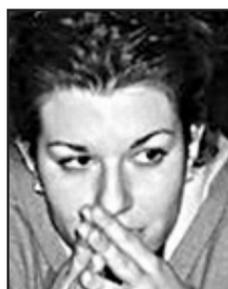
**Jenny Geldermann, '09:** They could actually have the buses come on time for once.



**Ryland Greenhouse, '07:** More college student entertainment within walking distance, like shops, restaurants and entertainment venues.



**Ian Howley, '08:** Openly involve students and the younger community in key decisions.



**Bess Kaye, '08:** Better public transportation and allowing students into city government.



**Sarah King, '09:** The bus system needs to be greatly improved, they're always running late.



**Salar Mohandesi, '09:** Removal of the three person rule because it discriminates against students, especially since the college doesn't guarantee on-campus housing.



**Matt Whalen, '06:** Let students vote in city council and especially mayoral elections. Housing off-campus is also a big issue.



**Jessica Zappia, '07:** The three-person rule, noise ordinances and family residence percentage requirements should all be dropped. Also voter rights should be given to students.

# “Revolutionary City” connects past to present

## Colonial Williamsburg’s new program offers interactive history performance on DoG Street

Chase Coleman

Staff Writer

In its eternal mission to connect modern people to American history, Colonial Williamsburg has begun “The Revolutionary City,” a much anticipated program that runs every afternoon from approximately 2:30 to 4:30 on the Capitol end of Duke of Gloucester Street. The two-part event uses audience interaction and live acting to depict life in Williamsburg on the eve of and during the Revolution, 1774-1781.

On the first day of the program, titled “Collapse of Royal

Government, 1774-1776,” visitors see the residents of Williamsburg dealing with increasing problems of British control, such as the dissolving of the General Assembly. Many of the scenes illustrate issues with which modern day viewers are very familiar. Colonial men discuss the fine line between terrorism and fighting for liberty, and an

unemployed carpenter debates whether or not to enlist so that he can provide for his family. From such portrayals, visitors see that the people of 18<sup>th</sup> century Williamsburg faced many of the same problems as modern Americans.

The second day, “Citizens at War, 1776-1781,” depicts Williamsburg during the Revolutionary War. After listening to a reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Capitol, visitors view vignettes concerning the effects of the war. Visitors experience both the lows, such as British occupation of the city, and the highs, such as the hope for separation of the church from the government. With an emphasis on the war’s effects on average citizens, the second day also emits a hint of modernity that connects visitors to the past.

“The Revolutionary City” often focuses on the common person of that era, and audience interaction plays a major role. In between staged events, the characters of “The Revolutionary City” walk through the town and talk with visitors about a variety of issues, including liberty, assistance from France, and even others’ inability to follow directions. During the scripted scenes, the audience often cries “Huzzah!”



Ian R. Whiteside

**It’s worth closing one end of DoG Street:** Guests and employees believe “The Revolutionary City” to be a success, even if joggers have to divert their routes.



**Are the tar and feathers real?:** Colonial Williamsburg’s new program features a unique combination of live action performance and education to engage audience members of all ages.

to good news, and, at the end of each day, everyone marches in a procession.

Many guests believe that Colonial Williamsburg’s experiment with interactive education is a change for the better. Many families—which comprise the majority of the audience—welcome the participation, which is much more engaging for both children and adults. Employees of Colonial Williamsburg also are happy with “The Revolutionary City.” Master Silversmith George Cloyed, who helps fire the cannons at the end of the first day, calls the program a “tremendous success,” and he is glad to see the excellent turnout. Before the program started, there was some worry that the managed access of Duke of Gloucester Street would cause problems for joggers, but Cloyed, along with most others, say that this poses no hindrance.

Although many of the same characters play a role in both days, it is not necessary to see “The Revolutionary City” in chronological order, nor is it necessary to stay for the duration on each day. Since admission is free with a William and Mary ID, students can come and go as they please.

## “Fired up” about cooking

According to the National Fire Academy more than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid disaster. The following life-saving tips could make a big difference; by incorporating them into your life now, while the moment is still fresh, you could help save a life.

### Did you know?

- 82% of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. It is also the leading cause of fire injuries.
- Deaths due to fires caused by cooking are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one’s chance of dying in a fire by 50%.

Following these simple fire safety tips can boost survival rates dramatically. Please share them with your readers because knowledge is the best fire protection.

### Cooking Fires Life-Saving Tips

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- A serious fire can start in just seconds.

- Always wear short, tight-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Keep towels, pot holders and curtains, away from flames and heating elements.
- Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup which can ignite.
- If a fire breaks out while cooking, put a lid on the pan to smother it. Never throw water on a grease fire.
- Heat oil gradually to avoid burns from spattering grease. Use extra caution when preparing deep-fried foods.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Double-check, ensure range and all heat producing appliances are turned off in the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house.
- Make sure all small appliances are turned off.

Between January and February 2006, fire drills were conducted for the spring semester in all dormitories. All students that participated in the drills were warned that negligent cooking is the leading cause of fire on campus. During January to March 2006, reported 62 separate incidents of cooking fires; this is down from 92 reported fire incidents in 2005. Twelve of the 62 fire incidents reported to campus police in the last three months involved cooking. This number is still high but down from the 14 reported last year during this time frame.

*Courtesy of the W&M Department of Fire Safety*

# New Chancellor offers advice to students

UCAB sponsors Q&A session amidst inaugural festivities

**Gustavo Elias**

Staff Writer

On April 7, newly appointed Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor participated in a question and answer session at Phi Beta Kappa Hall. This UCAB sponsored event provided students with the opportunity to listen to what the newly appointed Chancellor had to say on a wide array of topics, including her past, her points of views and her advice to students. President Gene Nichol moderated the event.

One of the first questions asked by President Nichol was why did she want to become Chancellor. O'Connor playfully replied to the audience "Your President must have caught me at a weak moment." She was on the court when Former Chief Justice Warren Burger was Chancellor at the College, and he would always talk about how much he loved the College. O'Connor had also served on the Board of Colonial Williamsburg in the past, given speeches at the College, and loved the charming town of Williamsburg.

O'Connor's journey to the Supreme Court was filled with hard work and dedication. She described how hard it was for her to find a job after graduating from Stanford Law School in 1952. At one of her first interviews at a law firm, one of the first questions asked of her was how well she could type. The degree of gender equality there is now did not exist fifty years ago. One of her first jobs was with a California law firm where she worked without pay until the payroll had money to pay her. Her love for solving problems for public interest superseded her need for money at the time.

President Nichol later tried to pry answers about her political stance on issues such as Affirmative Action and abortion, but to no avail. At one point, President Nichol asked, "Do you worry that Roe vs. Wade will be overturned?" with O'Connor's response being "I don't think I need to answer that question. That is a non-issue, I have already written about it." When asked about the recent Supreme Court appointments, O'Connor admitted she wished a woman had replaced her, saying the country has lost ground with the lack of another woman on the court.

Later on the session, O'Connor discussed her personal life. She told the story of how she and her husband met at Stanford while proofreading a law paper together. Her heroes are her parents. She grew up on an isolated cattle ranch in Arizona with her father. She described her father as intelligent and fun to be with. She also looked up to her maternal grandmother, who would take care of her during the school year, since her ranch was too far from school. She loved outdoor activities, such as tennis and golf, although she says cattle ranch girls aren't supposed to play golf. For her, balancing family and work was difficult; she never had time for herself.

At the very end of the session, Chancellor O'Connor provided student with two very important pieces of advice: learn to read fast and write well. While she was on the Supreme Court, she had days where she had to read about 1500 pages of documents a day. She also said the most successful people write succinctly, quickly, and effectively. She encouraged students to partake in public service, saying that it is very satisfying work. O'Connor left the session on a positive note, reassuring students that "Life takes weird turns, and if you take those turns, you might like them."

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fit to go online.



## S4 rallies students for the privatization of Social Security

Nationwide student group draws bipartisan support

**Nick Hoelker**

Staff Writer

A new non-partisan group is appearing on college campuses throughout the country, encouraging the privatization of Social Security. The organization, Students for Saving Social Security (S4) was founded by Jonathan Swanson at Yale University and Patrick Wetherill at Haverford College in March 2005. According to Jeremy Tunnell, the group's Internet strategy coordinator, approximately two-thirds of college students nationwide support the idea of personal accounts, and consequently S4 has expanded to over 250 schools in all fifty states in the past year.

The organization encourages abolishing the current Social Security system and replacing it with one entirely based on personal retirement accounts. According to their website, [www.secureourfuture.org](http://www.secureourfuture.org), the current system will be facing a \$4 trillion dollar shortfall in the next seventy-five years, which translates into over \$25,000 of debt for the average worker. By reforming the system to use only personal accounts, the Web site argues that workers from every socioeconomic class would receive higher rates of return, with an investment of just \$84,000 generating over \$1.2 million in retirement wealth.

The group has played an active role in encouraging both students and legislators alike to support the privatization of Social Security. S4 has brought in Social Security experts to

give lectures and hold roundtable discussions at schools across the nation. Additionally, the group has rallied in Washington, D.C., and in summer 2005 held an event on Capitol Hill in which members met with senators to discuss Social Security reform. According to Tunnell, the organization will further focus on convincing members of Congress of both parties who are opposing personal accounts to reexamine their views.

At William and Mary, students have varying views about Social Security. When asked if he thought privatizing Social Security was a good idea, senior Steve Urciolo said, "No, I don't. Such a system unfairly benefits the rich while placing an undue burden on the poor. Social Security may not have been meant as a means of subsistence, but the fact of the matter is that millions of elderly Americans rely on it to survive."

On the other side of the argument, freshman Jacob Hill criticized the current Social Security system, saying, "The elderly who tend to have more at their point in life are taxing the youth, who tend to have less to subsidize their retirement. But it's impossible to subsidize their retirement with Social Security. It's merely an immoral tax scheme."

If you would be interested in starting a William and Mary chapter of Students for Saving Social Security, contact their outreach director Evan Dent ([evan@secureourfuture.org](mailto:evan@secureourfuture.org)) or visit their website at <http://www.secureourfuture.org> to register.

# The Inv of Sandra Day

Introducing  
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# Investiture & Inauguration of Sandra Day O'Connor and Gene R. Nichol

**"Big Nick" and the cowgirl from Arizona:** April 7, 2006 marked a historic day for William & Mary. The rain held out long enough for the hundreds of students, faculty, staff, academic delegates and other guests to witness the investiture of Sandra Day O'Connor as chancellor and the inauguration of Gene R. Nichol as our 26<sup>th</sup> president. Speeches were given, oaths were taken and the spectators tried their best to get that perfect photo of the new president's "bling bling" as SA President Ryan Scofield ('07) so eloquently referred to her medallions. A reception followed on the opposite side of the Wren Building with drinks in champagne flutes and cookies with the Wren immortalized in chocolate offered to all guests. UCAB later sponsored a question and answer session with O'Connor and Nichol, giving students the opportunity to find out more about the new chancellor.

all photos by Ian R. Whiteside



## Typical Situation

I'm not sure what I expected at college, but it certainly wasn't any of the things that have defined my freshman year: institutional arrogance; libraries overflowing even when exams were more than a week away; NoVa kids, swollen with the status quo, collars popped as high as their egos, espousing Christian conservatism to agreeing ears.

Where, I ask you, are the bohemians? The wildly wide eyed starving hysterical naked (coeds) that I, libidinous and Real Worlded, expected to see at satisfying intervals?

We call ourselves a College, a place of higher education, but when the wildest thing on campus is our beloved president's unbeloved mullet, I say to you that *we have failed*.

We are the bitter bastard children of the College Board, deemed too dumb (or unconnected) for Harvard but too privileged for the "safety schools" that we chant derisively at football games, as our own student sections sit unfilled—the absences speaking louder than those who came.

I don't know if God is dead, but Thomas Jefferson sure is, and—at the risk

of iconoclasm—I don't think he's done anything for us lately.

Our bricks are less elegant than stagnant, and in the fetid waters of the Crim Dell spawn the students that smell of sameness. I was told, when I applied to the College, of the energy and talent of its students. And after my short time here, it seems to me that for the vast majority that energy is expended only into our academics. We are smart, to be sure: but our academics accomplishments are only surpassed by our abounding apathy.

Excuse my somewhat irreverent and depressing attitude, but frankly, we're not providing the type of college education to make the \$137,000 that myself and other out-of-staters pay worthwhile. Matter of fact, I'm not sure we're providing the type of college education that makes a college education worthwhile.

I've yet to come across a college education during my first semester of allegedly receiving one. I've had plenty of

*schooling*, but I could have gotten that anywhere—and frankly, I was more impressed with my high school's ability to instruct than much of what I've received here so far.

As secondary students, we are told tales about the wonders of college life. The interesting movies; the interesting people. The life experiences that are never to be forgotten. The incredible, life-affirming sense of freedom. So on and so forth, *ad nauseum*.

But what of that happens at the College? I ask you: have you ever heard of, much less seen, a campus as constantly dead as this one? A professor of mine called it quiet—I will agree, if we use "quiet" in the same way that it is used to describe the grave.

I, for one, am tired of having my hand held. I think the prohibitions of the campus (for instance, the one against any events after the end of classes, for fear that they might interfere with studying) reek of the condescension I had *hoped* I'd left behind in kindergarten.

I've heard that freshman year at any

college is never easy. But could this really be it? Could the vaunted college experience really merely consist of endless Swimming? Must we be confined to four years ruled by the "William and Mary high-five," when, after waving at someone, you realize they are far too engrossed in their own affairs to notice you and the jovial greeting becomes an abashed adjustment of hat or hair?

If so, I suppose I understand why those who tell me that they drink only out of commiseration do so. Because, if my freshman year here is any barometer of those to come, the outlook is pretty damn depressing.

The circumstances are not beyond our control. We, as students, can strive to break the chains of conformity (civilly, of course) that bind us as surely as Sally Hemmings. Colonial Williamsburg is not where the past lives: it is where the past retires and becomes senile. And if we—the young, with our boundless energy and potential—cry out for the College to embrace the future, perhaps we may be allowed to embrace the college experience too.



**Chris Peterson**  
Features Editor

SOMETHING NEW IN A CITY  
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Quite an unusual place.

# How does W&M diversity stack up?

The Virginia Informer investigates socioeconomic and religious diversity on campus

Ryan Lintelman  
& Chris Peterson

Staff Writers

In ushering in the 2005-2006 academic year, much ado was made about the College's efforts to increase diversity on campus. In printed word and in speeches, campus leaders such as President Gene Nichol and Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus claimed the campaign was a step forward for the college.

A report on student body makeup compiled by the College's Office of Institutional Research notes that only 5,171 students identify themselves as white, meaning that as many as 31% of William and Mary students are of minority backgrounds.

While such statistics do indicate progress in the area of ethnic diversity, they fail to speak to the larger question of overall variance within the student body. Evidence indicates that the College still has a long way to go in welcoming students of diverse economic and religious backgrounds in relation to its fellow universities.

The College's recently announced Gateway Initiative, which will allow Virginia residents whose family income totals less than \$40,000 a year to graduate debt-free through grants and work study programs, has received mixed reviews from the College community due to questions about its relevance.

While not as progressive as similar programs at peer institutions such as Harvard, where families in the same income bracket can expect to pay nothing, this initiative was intended to help fiscally underprivileged students if cost of tuition is a factor in attending William and Mary.

According to the initiative's website, [www.wm.edu/gateway](http://www.wm.edu/gateway), only 300 current students meet the criteria for aid eligibility. Even at its expected height in 2012, the Gateway Initiative is only expected to help around 600 students, or 7% of the college's student body, pay for tuition.

In fact, statistics released by the college's Office of Institutional Research for the 2003-2004 academic year show that 45% of the students attending the College declined even to apply for financial aid. Of the 3,106 students who did,

roughly a third reported an annual family income of over \$100,000.

Perhaps most telling, more students (446) chose to leave their annual income field blank—denying themselves a chance for need-based financial aid—than those who reported an annual income below \$40,000.

The College—where the average total cost for a year of education, room and board for an in-state student is \$14,000 and \$31,000 for non-residents—is in some ways hamstrung by its financial dependence on the state government. William and Mary also lacks the \$22.3 billion endowment that Harvard enjoys, \$80 million of which it invests every year in its scholarship fund, according to the University's Office of Financial Aid. The College's \$409 million endowment pales in contrast even to the University of Virginia, whose \$1.9 billion endowment allows a greater degree of independence from the state.

According to statistics kept by the OIR, the College also appears less religiously diverse than peer institutions.

Last year, 2,690 of the 5,673 undergraduate students enrolled at the College failed to specify a religious preference. Of those 2,983 that did, however, 86% affiliated themselves with some form of Christianity. According to the OIR's report, only 33 students at the College identified as Muslims, 119 as Jewish, 14 as Buddhist, and 56 as atheist.

Catholicism is the single most populous branch of Christianity on campus with 951 members, although Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians each boast over two hundred adherents.

These statistics—both in terms of students' reporting a religious preference and in terms of reporting Christianity as their religion—are strikingly dissimilar from peer institutions.

At Dartmouth College, less than 30% of the class of 2004 even chose to specify their religious preference.

Similar apathy was found at UPenn, where only 15% of the undergraduate population chose to identify themselves religiously. Of those students, 55% are associated with some branch of Christianity, while 10% are Jewish, 13% identified themselves as practitioners of "Eastern Religions," and 12% are atheists or agnostics.

Perhaps an even more telling example of Christian

predominance in the College's student body is in the demographics of faith-based extracurricular groups. Of the 33 religious organizations on campus, 28 identify with a branch of Christianity.

Habeeb Noor, '08, of the Muslim Student Association, noted that "religious organizations and multicultural views need to be sustained and fully supported in universities in order for diverse thought to flow freely, unimpeded by xenophobia and intolerance. It's always been a goal of our organization to do our part to educate and inform our peers about the views, perceptions and beliefs in Islam, a religion which demands tolerance of its followers, teaching us to respect people and cultures for what they are."

A sophomore member of the group, Mohammed S. Nauage, said that, while he feels "very comfortable as a Muslim [since] people respect my faith...I feel a lot of people are really not all that aware about Islam. It's not a matter of religious tolerance, but religious diversity."

While noting there are possible areas of improvement in interfaith relations, junior Paul Brockwell, a Christian member of M.S.A., said that, "it's unfair to completely overlook the religious understanding around campus. There certainly are Christian groups less inclined to accept other religious traditions as legitimate, but there are also a good number of people dedicated to interfaith dialogue and understanding."

Geoffrey Brown, the Director of the Judaic organization Balfour-Hillel, reports that there is "unequivocally no overt conflict between the [Christian and Jewish] groups. There's a lot of outreach between the groups to make an inclusive environment."

However, Brown—who estimated the Christian population on campus is "closer to 97%, with many students just not specifying their affiliation or claiming to be irreligious"—concluded that there were instances of interfaith "ignorance, rather than insensitivity" on campus.

Work remains to be done, but it appears that William and Mary is becoming more diverse in a process likely to play out on a more visible stage in coming years.

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# The Big, the Bad and the Ugly: The Virginia Informer predicts the hits and misses of this summer's anticipated blockbusters.



**Joe Pirro**  
Film Critic

It's that time of year again. School's almost finished, the weather's getting nicer, and the studios are rolling out tons of movies for the summer. Some of these films will be huge successes and some will be major flops - only time will tell. Before then, *The Virginia Informer* takes a look at what you can expect at the theatre this summer.

## The Big:

1. *Mission: Impossible III*: The season starts out early with the third installment in the popular series. Tom Cruise is back with recent Academy Award winner Philip Seymour Hoffman as the villain. With *Lost* producer J.J. Abrams in the director's chair, what could go wrong? It's not like Tom Cruise is crazy or anything, right? Right? (May 5)

2. *The Da Vinci Code*: The ridiculously popular book by Dan Brown gets the big screen treatment with Ron Howard directing Tom Hanks as symbologist Robert Langdon. This should be nothing short of a massive success worldwide. (May 19)

3. *Cars*: Pixar and Disney release their first film as a joint

company and their first film together since November 2004's *The Incredibles*. With the voice talents of Paul Newman, Owen Wilson, and George Carlin and the writing and directing team from *Toy Story 2*, *Cars* should be another win for Pixar, the studio that can't seem to do anything bad. (June 9)

4. *Superman Returns*: After a long absence from the big screen, the caped hero returns to the screen. Relative newcomer Brandon Routh plays Clark Kent as the film picks up after the second installment. We'll just completely disregard the other Superman movies. (June 30)

5. *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*: The second Disney release on the list has a lot of anticipation behind it. Will the reunited team be able to do it again? Will Johnny Depp be just as great as Jack Sparrow? Will the supposed surprise ending make the audience ready for the third movie in 2007? The answer to all three questions is probably yes. (July 7)

Honorable Mentions: *X-Men: The Last Stand*, *The Break-Up*, *Lady in the Water*.

## The Smaller:

1. *Art School Confidential*: Terry Zwigoff returns with his follow-up to *Bad Santa*. Of course, hilarity will ensue. (May 5)

2. *A Prairie Home Companion*: Directed by Robert Altman, this 'adaptation' of Garrison Keilor's hit stars Meryl Streep,

Kevin Kline, Tommy Lee Jones, Lily Tomlin, John C. Reilly, and Lindsay Lohan. Yes, you read that correctly. (June 9)

3. *The Science of Sleep*: Ready for another provocative brain-teaser? Michel Gondry, the man behind *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* is back. (August 4)

Honorable Mentions: *Strangers with Candy*, *A Scanner Darkly*

## The Bad:

1. *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift*: The first one? Bad. The second one? Atrocious. It can't get better, and this one doesn't even have the incredible acting talents of Vin Diesel and Paul Walker! (June 16)

2. *Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties*: Unfortunately, some idiotic producer in Hollywood decided it would be a good idea to spend money to make this movie. Nothing else even needs to be said after a title like this. (June 23)

3. *Little Man*: So Shawn Wayans is a criminal. But he really wants a baby, so he mistakes a man that looks like a baby for a real baby. And get this- the man that looks like a baby is played by Marlon Wayans. Oh, get your Oscar ballots ready. (July 5)

So there you have it: a full season of some great movies, good fun and some true travesties. Have a great summer!

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## A taste of Asia in Williamsburg

Top's China offers inexpensive dining for students willing to make the trip

**Shelbi Wilson**

Staff Writer

You hear it all the time: "Williamsburg just doesn't have any decent Chinese restaurants." There is a wealth of other Asian-inspired cuisine restaurants - Chez Trinh, Miyako, Kyoto, and the like. Mongolian Barbeque is also a favorite with students, but most would say they wish there was another choice. Just this past week, however, I was introduced to Top's China in the Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center. It may be just what you're looking for.

Top's China looks like a hole-in-the-wall type of place, but don't let that fool you. There are several tables available for dine-in eating and they have extremely quick service. There is a downside - Top's doesn't deliver, so if you don't have a car, you will have to take the bus. They also don't take credit cards - only cash or check. These facts aside, the food is inexpensive, allowing you to order several of your favorite items and still have money to spare.

Their menu has a wide selection of items that are broken down into about twenty different categories. They range from appetizers to soups to different meat and/or vegetable entrees and combination platters. Prices range from \$1 to \$13, with the most entrees available for \$4 to \$7. Entrees come in two different sizes, pint or quart, and typically come with white rice. The combination platters come with an egg roll and pork fried rice. The menu also lists a wide variety of hot and spicy items, including spicy Sesame Chicken or Beef and General Tso's

Chicken or Beef.

Top's China is located at 5251-25 John Tyler Highway in the Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center, right off Highway 199. You can also get to this location by taking the Red line bus through Williamsburg Area Transportation. They are open from 11 AM to 10 PM Monday through Thursday, 11 AM to 11 PM Friday and Saturday, and noon to 10 PM on Sundays. Please call (757) 220-6868 to place orders or request more information.



Shelbi Wilson

**The Not-too-far East:** Top's China dispels the all too common belief that there are no good Chinese places in Williamsburg.

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

On page eight, the headline on Ryan Lintelman and Chris Peterson's article incorrectly suggested that incoming freshmen will be required to purchase IBM Thinkpad laptops. Students will be required to purchase laptops and Thinkpads are encouraged to standardize technical support.

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

# Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary Oliver: College eyesore or modern masterpiece?

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

I'm not going to lie to you; the first time that I saw "Oliver" on his concrete pedestal next to Barksdale field, I thought that he was an air-conditioning unit. Or a generator. Or an electrical box. Long story short, it never would have crossed my mind that Oliver was a sculpture. Why? Because to an untrained eye he looks like a piece of industrial equipment. In reality, Oliver is the brainchild of Robert

Engman.

The sculpture may look like a piece of machinery at first glance, but closer study shows

that he is a marvelous piece of modern art. Oliver's father, the sculptor Robert Engman, was the co-chair of the Fine Arts department at the University of Pennsylvania during the 1970s. In 1979, Engman decided to take a sabbatical from his work at U. Penn. and took up the position of "sculptor-in-residence" at the College of William and Mary. This meant that Professor Engman was required to teach only one class per semester, while the rest of his time was to be devoted to his own creative interests.

Engman began work on Oliver almost as soon as he came to the College. Even though he had worked in stone, wood, plastic, and glass, Engman decided that his next project would be a "marriage of art and science": an abstract sculpture made of aluminum, one of the most difficult mediums that the artist could have chosen. The first thing that Engman did was create a model of Oliver. The model was made of lightweight wood (it could be picked up with one hand) and was only a few meters around, but it took

more than 40 hours to make.

Work on the real Oliver began after Reynolds Metals donated the 1,600 anodized aluminum bars that would eventually make up Oliver's body. Once the raw materials were in hand, Engman moved his base of operations to 310 Second Street: Peterson's Welding Shop. Over the next several weeks, customers would come in and see the artist working away at his sculpture. He would good-naturedly answer their questions, but never stopped working. According to

Engman, Oliver was the first thing that he thought about when he woke up in the morning. He was totally devoted to his work

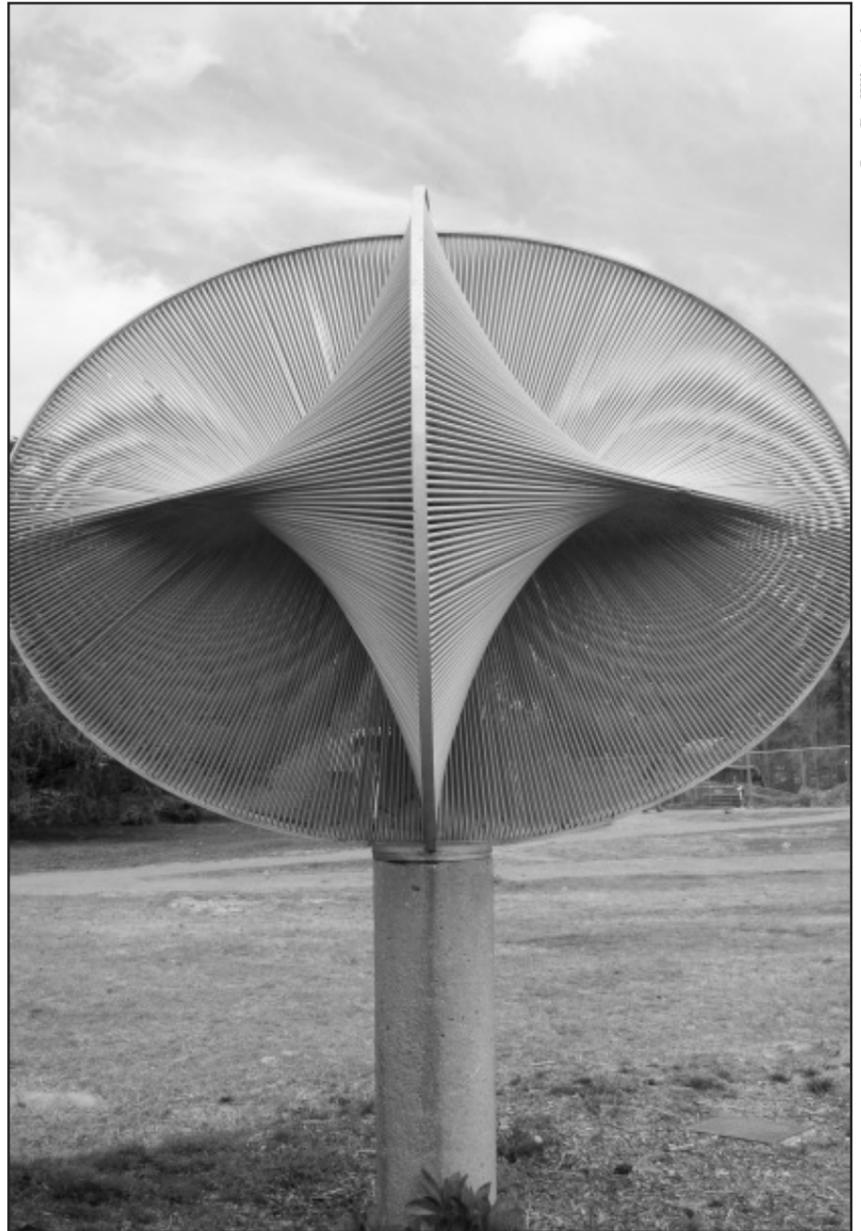
Oliver took just

two months to complete, but Engman said that it felt like it took 27 years. This is understandable when you consider his work method: "If I were 1/16 of an inch off in my original design," he said "then the error would accumulate in each part until I'd be 1/2 inch off in the final assembly, which couldn't be tolerated. So my accuracy is within 1/64 of an inch." In the end, \$6,000 worth of metal bars was transformed into an amazing \$60,000 dollar sculpture, which now sits just next to Barksdale Field between Andrews and Millington.

It's interesting to note that Oliver has a twin at the University of Northern Iowa, which was also created by Robert Engman. It's called "Industrial Technology Sculpture" and is brown rather than white.

One way or another, from now on, whenever you see William and Mary's glorified kitchen whisk while taking the detour past the new Barksdale Dorms, you can truly appreciate the painstaking work that went into creating him.

“ I thought that he was an air-conditioning unit...In reality Oliver is the brainchild of Robert Engman. ”



Ian R. Whiteside

**Abstract Oliver:** The loveable statue, Oliver, stands proudly next to Barksdale field honoring its creator, former sculptor-in-residence at the College, Robert Engman

## The movies aren't what they used to be

When I was a little kid, my parents used to take me to the Uptown Theatre in Washington D.C. The Uptown is a relic from the 1970s, with brass railings, a recessed concession stand and nowhere to park. The theatre is huge - I'm talking a 70 x 36 foot

screen - with a bright red curtain and two levels of seating. But the giant screen and the novelty of the vintage décor weren't what made a trip to the Uptown so incredible. It was the experience: it was standing in line in the freezing cold for hours before the show started and then rushing through the doors to get a good seat; it was hearing



R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment  
Editor

people clap and cheer when Yoda picked up a light saber and hearing them cry when it looked like Nemo was lost forever. It was the experience that made the trip so good.

It saddens me that the movie experience seems to be dying out. Nowadays when I go to a movie at New Town in Williamsburg or at the Hoffman Center up in Springfield I feel like I've stepped onto a sterile assembly line. People hush you as soon as you set foot in the theatre.

No one screams, no one cries, no one smiles. Some people even have the nerve to stop little kids from laughing and clapping. What the hell is this?! Is this entertainment? Is

“ When I go to a movie at New Town in Williamsburg or at the Hoffman Center up in Springfield I feel like I've stepped onto a sterile assembly line... Is this entertainment? Is this an experience? Not for me. ”

this an experience? Not for me.

The experience comes from being in the movie. Sitting back with a giant-sized Coke cup and a bucket of popcorn and letting the flickering lights wash over you isn't enough. You need to wonder, to be engaged in the action on the screen. You need to forget that you're sitting in a theatre and put yourself in the graveyard or the precinct or the island on the screen. You need to feel for characters the way that little kids do, to think of them as real people,

think of them as friends and enemies. Then you'll laugh. Then you'll scream. Then you'll be taking part in an experience.

I remember the days when every trip to the movies was a major event. I remember being excited beforehand and laughing or screaming during the show and talking about it after it was over. People say that the quality of modern movies is slipping, but I don't think so. We still have comedy. We still have tragedy. We still have beautiful sets and brilliant actors. The movies aren't slipping; we are. When you're part of a culture that hushes kids during Disney movies you know there's something wrong. The people at the Uptown have it right. They aren't afraid to enjoy themselves at the movies. They aren't afraid to react to the show, to make noise or even to throw things. They aren't afraid to applaud after the show is over. They know how to put themselves in the characters' places. They know how to live the experience.

What's the harm? Who loses out if we put the experience back into the movie? I say bring back the experience. Clap when the movie's over. Laugh when something is funny. Smile when little kids cheer. Maybe if each of us does our small part, we can put the magic back into movies.

# Stay Tuned

## The Informer has more in store

The 2005-2006 school year is almost finished and will likely prove to be one of the most eventful in recent memory. The College has seen both triumphs like the transition of new President Gene Nichol and investiture of Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor and tragedies like the sexual assault scandal in the fall and recent death of junior Zach Vaughan in a unfortunate accident on campus.

We at *The Virginia Informer* started this independent newspaper to provide the community with a real choice about the news that affects us all. We have provided hard-hitting and balanced coverage of the Administration's response to the sexual assault crisis, specifically highlighting the Patrick Decker case, where a male student was named in a school-wide email in a rape case that was later dropped. Together with the Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention, *The Informer* sponsored a campus-wide forum on sexual assault.

*The Informer* broke stories in the fall relating to campus safety and police misconduct on campus. Staff writer Benjamin Farthing uncovered problems with the fire alarms in Gooch Hall in the November issue prompting action by college officials. Fire

safety at the College is a timely issue after the fire at Preston Hall last year.

The campus police were also scrutinized by timely journalism. *The Informer* reported on the case of a student bicyclist who had been struck by a campus police car while in a crosswalk and then issued a ticket. The publicity that ensued led the judge to drop the charges against the victimized freshman student.

While our main print competitor has suffered from an embarrassing series of ethical lapses and the negotiation of a new contract eliminating their salaries, we have expanded our presence on campus from a traditional print newspaper to a frequently updated website and the first ever podcasts from student media at W&M.

Next year we plan on developing our online presence to become the preeminent online news source on campus. *The Informer* will continue to aggressively cover the stories that impact campus life, from the drive to secure student voting rights in Williamsburg to the performance of the Student Assembly. For all the readers and sponsors of *The Virginia Informer*, we want to thank you for your continued support. See you next Fall.



Devin Mawdsley

### A Special Thanks

*The Virginia Informer* would like to sincerely thank **Robert Beck** who has made the publishing of this issue possible. We are proud to serve the William and Mary community by providing copies free of charge, and by not by taking student activities fees, as other publications do.

We would also like to thank **Ben Wetmore** from **The Leadership Institute** and **Kellie Bowen, Colin Sharkey, Stephen Klugewicz** and all of the **Collegiate Network**.

If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*, please contact us at [VAInfo@wm.edu](mailto:VAInfo@wm.edu).

### Letter to the Editor

I read the March 19 DAILY PRESS story with great interest. Students are reacting to their emotions rather than conducting research on the topic of campus crime. I have not come across any articles about the W&M rape issue that discuss the Clery Act and Title IX requirements. I have been involved with the topic of campus rape for the past two years. By educating students and staff about campus crime laws, we were able to force the University of Virginia to change its Confidentiality Clause in the University's Sexual Assault Policy. It appears that neither the W&M Administration nor the students are acting responsibly as they search for solutions to rape.

I am concerned that newspapers and student papers continue to use the name of the victim or the accused. There is no gain to naming either. The rationale *The Remnant* uses rests on the assumption that the victim made a false accusation. The saying "Every person is innocent until proven guilty in a Court of Law" is being applied to this case; the basis being that the accused must be innocent since the Commonwealth declined to move forward with a criminal case. INVALID assumption! The criminal court Standard of Proof for a finding of guilty is "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt". This differs greatly from the Standard of Proof for determining guilt in civil litigation, which is "Preponderance of Evidence". A civil lawsuit may take 2+ years to resolve. What recourse does the victim have 2 years from now if the accused is found guilty in a civil court? Her college years have been plagued by a few who choose (and are allowed) to defame her simply because of the Commonwealth's decision? The Defamation of Character suit and unnecessary media coverage is a shameful attempt to silence the victim. Unless the police charge the victim with making a false statement, there is very little probability that the Defamation of Character case will go to trial.

The Clery Act is the landmark federal law that requires colleges across the US to disclose information about crime on their campuses. The law is tied to participation in federal student financial aid programs. The general public is not aware that W&M staff were REQUIRED by law to notify the student body immediately that a rape had been reported to the police or risk being "fined" up to \$27,500 by the US Dept of Ed.

In addition, Title IX prohibits sexual harassment, including sexual assault. The Federal Title IX guidelines clearly require that the school promptly investigate and resolve the situation, and mandate the Standards of Proof for a college tribunal. A letter from Sadler to the Community stated that the College employs a different standard of proof from that of the criminal code. By using a higher Standard of Proof, W&M may be in violation of Title IX Guidelines. In May 2004, the Office of Civil Rights levied a fine upon Georgetown University for several violations, including the fact that the Assault Board Standard of Proof was higher than set forth in Title IX.

Most rape cases are kept within the jurisdiction of the school and "deals" are made during Sexual Assault Board hearings to let the accused "off the hook." Using an administrative solution to resolve and deter criminal actions is unacceptable. Rape should not be confused with sex. Rape is an act of empowerment. Rape is a crime. The College must react to a report of rape as it would to any other crime. Until they understand the complexities of this crime, no progress will ever be made to resolve this issue on their campus.

Susan Russell  
Founder, [uvictimsofrape.com](http://uvictimsofrape.com)

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# Please don't slam the door

**Benjamin Farthing**

Staff Writer

In a few months I will send forms to Salt Lake City, informing them that I am ready to join the 60,000 young Mormons serving missions. I will then spend every hour of the next two years of my life improving my knowledge of spiritual matters, and sharing that knowledge with everyone who will listen.

My friends have pointed out that they will all have nearly graduated when I return. My academic advisor warned me that I will have to reapply for admission. My goal to publish my creative writing will get put on hold.

All of these things are certainly true, and yet they do not concern me much.

Keeping in touch with friends will not be difficult. Reapplying for admission turns out to be little more than filling out a few forms. Two years will give me plenty of time to distance myself from my writing and be able to edit it to perfection.

But these are not the reasons why I am not concerned about putting my life on hold.

I am not concerned because I believe in what I'm doing. I feel that this is right, therefore everything else seems trivial.

Unfortunately, too many open, accepting, and tolerant people do not extend their openness, acceptance, and tolerance to religious matters. Too many people are nothing more than rude to missionaries. I have been told by people that what I am doing is not just foolish, it is offensive.

So why are so many people offended by missionaries? Aside from the common dinner interruptions, I have heard accusations ranging from saying that we are so insecure with our faith that we force others to join, to people saying we think we have to save everyone from going to Hell. Both of these are far from the truth.

We proselytize for the same reason any other organization proselytizes. We have a message we want to share. We feel we have something that will improve peoples' lives.

So if I end up in your hometown, realize that I am just trying to tell people about what is important to me. And please, don't slam the door.

# Poor race relations continue in our colleges

**Gary Aldrich  
& LeShawn Kee**

Special Guest Writers

Recently, we lost two of our greatest American treasures, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King. They dedicated their lives to fighting for racial harmony and equality for every citizen. Their contributions to America have helped to make our country a much better place. Unfortunately, it is clear that the problem of poor race relations at our institutions of higher learning is still a major issue. As a result, there have been calls for more diversity. Despite the countless long-standing diversity programs and increased funding on campuses nationwide, students are still polarized.

Further, the number of Black students entering college is still far too low. Despite all the time, talent and treasure expended on the issue, colleges and universities still deserve an F for poor race relations.

Diversity programs and increased funding to study the problem are clearly old ideas. To be sure, these ideas have provided significant improvements. Universities and colleges have strict policies in place to punish any student that disobeys the rules. Unfortunately, problems persist. There are still too many who choose to disobey the rules and commit a racially motivated act upon another student.

And, the same tired answers are used to address the issue of how to improve cooperation between Blacks and Whites. There have been no noticeable efforts to look in a different direction for solutions. Administrators, students and policymakers are not encouraged to seek new and more dynamic answers to the question. Thus, we continue to notice allegations

and reports that feed the argument made by a minority of liberal decision-makers, who claim more funding and more "sensitivity" training will solve this dilemma.

Isn't it time for new voices and new answers to the problems that plague too many of our institutions of higher learning? First, everyone should endeavor to look to positive means for solutions because it is everyone's responsibility. Student groups across racial lines should work together to spark open debate and communication in an effort to improve their schools. Minority conservatives should also step into the debate and partner with other conservative groups to foster new ideas that do not focus on racial differences, but on similarities among the student body. Such a partnership will assist in providing many examples of racial harmony and cooperation.

There have been substantial improvements in race

relations throughout the years, but it is clear that the "old" approach is no longer working. It is time for decision-makers to adjust to the times and seek new solutions. The

“Isn't it time for new voices and new answers to the problems that plague too many of our institutions of higher learning?”

formation of strategic alliances to foster debate and open communication among Blacks and Whites would be a significant step in moving from an F to an A, if the real goal is to improve relations between race and culture.

But, if the hidden goal of the leaders firmly in control of campus politics and policy is to continue racial disharmony so that a victim class can be maintained for political gain, we will be doing a great disservice to the memory of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

*Gary Aldrich and LeShawn Kee are from The Patrick Henry Center, Fairfax, VA*

## Students Defending Soldiers

### Opposition to radical groups that diparage our troops at war

**Jacob Hill**

Guest Columnist

In recent days and weeks, this college has been plagued by a number of flyers by a radical leftist organization known as the Students for a Democratic Society. In showing their dissatisfaction with the ongoing war in Iraq, this group of new age hippies has resorted to morally reprehensible tactics to elicit emotional responses from whatever audience they can gather. Incapable of providing a cultured and intellectual opposition to a war started because an evil dictator would not

uphold terms of a contract given to him fourteen years prior to conflict, this group resorts to posting flyers of murdered American soldiers with emotional rhetoric such as "His girlfriend called him Freddy" "killed in the name of AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." Continuing along this line, in order to make their presence known on campus, they resort to posting flyers with their initials along with the clenched fist of radical revolutionaries, racist black power organizations and violent dictators.

During Admitted Student's Day, a group of these radical hooligans placed themselves in front of William and Mary Hall, broadcasting protest songs and holding up cardboard placards. While many new students were attempting to weigh their decisions of whether or not to come to an institution of higher learning, they were forced to get a dose of some of the more unsavory elements of this college.

Some may not understand how vicious and derisive this group's chicanery really is. As the son of a military officer, who grew up surrounded in a military culture, a world traveler, and a decent human being whose mother taught him basic proper ethics, I have a better vantage point than most. The SDS appears entirely unaware that the 1960s are long dead. They cannot seem to comprehend that the current military is a professional volunteer service. None join under compulsion,

and almost all feel a great sense of patriotism and duty. These people provide the most important service to any of us, protecting our lives, property and well-being from physical violence. All are fully aware of the danger of such a career. Yet, they still sign up in amazing numbers, most citing the reason for doing so as a sense of duty to their country and a desire to serve. It'll be a wonder if anyone of the SDS ever serves anyone beyond the other side of a Starbucks counter.

Their form of debate is a logical fallacy. Emotionalism and chicanery are not markers of intellectuals or decent humans. Quite the opposite, they are markers of primitive beasts who know only how to deal with others in terms of demands and violence. While the SDS apparently claims to stand for peace, their members constantly have to be arrested for violent actions, and many of their members support violent action against the government.

Unlike the SDS, I am not advocating violent action against those with whom I disagree. Instead, I propose that any decent individual would shun the members of such an organization and dissociate themselves from them. As a human being, which requires the use of my reason, I know that I certainly would not wish to be associated with such a vile group.

## Agree? Disagree? Let us know!

The Virginia Informer accepts Letters to the Editor. Letters can be on anything that has been in the paper, or even on something that we may have missed. We appreciate reader feedback!

Letters may be printed anonymously, although we ask that the writer puts his/her name in the correspondence with the promise that it will not be printed. Letters should be approximately 100-300 words in length, concise and clear.

Email letters to [VAInfo@wm.edu](mailto:VAInfo@wm.edu).



**Taking up arms:** The SDS, once a powerful anti-Vietnam War movement in the 1960s, is attempting a revival.

# 'Caf Man' Larry Smith offers fresh look at the Commons

Nick Fitzgerald

News Editor

Day-in and day-out, thousands of students are fed by the Commons Dining Hall, a.k.a. the Caf. Newly renovated for the 2005-2006 year, the Caf offered students better facilities, new menu options, and a friendly, enjoyable environment in which to eat.

Over the past year, however, the new Caf has come under fire by students. Many, whether it be in casual conversation with friends or written on the Caf's official comment cards, have expressed concerns about some of the Caf's policies, operations, and food quality. Complaints about portion size, meal plan policy, and Caf temperature are some of the biggest worries students share.

In an attempt to help get students' questions and concerns heard, and to get some straight responses, *The Virginia Informer* secured an audience with local William and Mary celebrity and director of the Commons Dining Hall, Larry Smith—a.k.a. Caf Man.

Thanks to Facebook, Smith has become a legend in the minds of William and Mary students. Caf Man, known for his good-natured and mild-mannered demeanor and extraordinary amounts of paperwork he lays on a Caf table every day, was more than willing to participate in an exclusive interview with the *Informer*.

**The Virginia Informer:** Many students feel that the portions at the Caf aren't enough. Some even claim that Caf workers have denied them food while they have been in line.

**Caf Man Larry Smith:** Each serving size is approximately four ounces, with unlimited seconds, thirds, fourths, fifths. We need to get people through the line as quickly as we can, especially because things are made to order. If we let all employees [give out as much food as they want right away], then food might run out. We control portions just to set a precedent: it's just a practice, just a rule. You can come back as much as you want, we never ever deny that. No one ever denies anyone food.

**Informer:** Is it true that football players are supposed to get bigger portions than other students?

**Caf Man:** Never! A [Caf employee] was written up for that two years ago.

**Informer:** At the beginning of the year,

students with the unlimited meal plan were able to swipe in other students who may have, for whatever reason, forgotten their card. This is no longer the case. Why?

**Caf Man:** [The card] was designed to be used in a different manner. That's another thing, [like portion size], that can get out of whack.

**Informer:** How do you decide the menu for any given day? How much diversity is in the menu, and what kind of healthy or vegetarian options are regularly offered?

**Caf Man:** A large part of the menu is derived from student input, especially the comment cards. The menu is created in four week cycles, typed up, and put on a spreadsheet. So here [picks up spreadsheet] is the menu for the next four weeks. The only thing we do change occasionally is the fish. Maybe one week, salmon will have a great price. Almost 50% of the menu is made up from student input, the surveys that students fill out, and those comment cards. I read every one and try to do the best I can in responding to students' concerns.

[As far as health food goes], to be very blunt, I think we have one of the best vegetarian stations in the country. The veg station has its own cycle; it's very hard to duplicate this. We're able to do this because of the size of the campus. We do half veggie, half Vegan. We get a lot of comment cards about the vegetarian station. It's hard to please everybody.

And you know, 85% of our food is made to order fresh, every single day. All of our desserts are made in our bakery downstairs; they start down there at about 4:30 in the morning.

Also, everything here is done with margarine—we don't use butter. We also have a lot of brand name stuff. We don't buy the cheap stuff. We do the best that we can to buy the best brand names based on our budget.

**Informer:** And what's your story, Mr. Smith? How did you end up here?

**Caf Man:** [Laughs.] Well, after I graduated from college I played professional football in Canada. But I hurt my leg, and I got cut. I needed a job, so I joined the Coast Guard and became an officer. I was in Vietnam for about a year, and then I then became a commissary officer in North Carolina. They sent me over there for training and I've been doing that ever since—been doing it for 30 years. I've done food service at Columbia, Duke, and Sarah Lawrence. I have four children, all graduated from college, a great



Jan R. Whiteside

**Behind the Counters of the Caf:** While most students only see the Caf while waiting online, reporter Nick Fitzgerald found out about life from the other side of the counter in his interview with the infamous 'Caf Guy.'

wife, great family. Williamsburg will be where my wife and I will retire. I'm 61 now.

**Informer:** One big complaint students have about the Caf is the temperature. It's often very cold in the Caf, especially underneath the large vents.

**Caf Man:** I won't dispute that at all! Unfortunately, it's an adjustment that needs to be made by the contractor. Over the summertime they are going to adjust the whole thing. I'd like to tell you that we can fix this ASAP, but unfortunately it has to be adjusted by computers and everything. We are trying to do a job with that as fast as we can, it's something that the contractors are working on.

**Informer:** What is your opinion of Curtis' singing?

**Caf Man:** Curtis is 100% absolutely off-key, but I love him to death. He's a great addition to the camaraderie at the Caf.

**Informer:** You seem to have a lot of paperwork to do. It seems like no one has this much paperwork to do in a single day. And why do you do it all up here?

**Caf Man:** [Laughs.] If people want to ask me questions, people can come right up to me. We [Caf employees] can react quickly. We try to make it a home atmosphere where we are approachable. That's why I do all my

paperwork up here. You can interrupt me anytime you need something. All of my paperwork is folders of everything that's going on. [Picks up a stack of folders.] Licensing, outdoor furniture, construction, cleaning, summer projects, bananas veg fest, tennis cookout, audits, specials, food advisory notes, Java City, new ideas for the bakeshop, Fair Trade coffee; it's all here. If people ask me something, I have it right there. It does me no good to make somebody wait for me to get on a computer when I have all my business right there. It's a different style, but that's how I do it.

**Informer:** In closing, if you could give students one message about the Caf, something that you think every student should know, what would it be?

**Caf Man:** Our biggest goal is making the students feel comfortable. We have meetings every week talking about how we can make this a friendly place where students get great treatment. We want this to be a place where students are proud to bring their parents to eat. Customer service is our key—great, fresh food, of course, but customer service. Also, the comment cards. They are very important. We try to implement them as quickly as we can, because it's important to keep open communications.

## NICHOL IN TAZEWEEL

continued from page three

William and Mary) lead academia by equality of opportunity and education. The president said the College is unique by having the strongest educational experience because it is a small school with a public mission. He insisted that "great privates do not want to do what we do and great publics cannot do what we do," and that "the truth is we do not have peers." The College isn't like UVA, Berkeley, or any private schools; instead, it falls in with Dartmouth, Princeton, and Harvard, but the College has a mission those schools do not.

Turning away from the College's mission, a student brought up last semester's sexual assaults and the lack of community discussion regarding the incidents. Nichol pointed out that the Fifth Amendment does not fit into the College's judicial process the way it does in the federal system. The College judicial process is not meant to model the criminal justice system, only to regulate activity that falls short of criminal behavior and is based on clear and concise evidence, not proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Upon mention of the Decker case, Nichol only said that although

the Commonwealth will not prosecute, he still cannot return for this spring semester. Repeatedly stating, "I can't comment on it," Nichol claimed the Family Privacy Act limits how much he can say on the matter, a fact that left many students disappointed after emails promising discussion of the opaque issue.

Scattered questions addressed the inefficient use of energy on campus, the state of the athletic department, and past financial difficulties that affect renovations, such as fixing the Brafferton Building. Built in 1720, Nichol claims that he can see through the bricks to the outside. Nichol tied these questions into his conclusion, which encouraged students to take steps toward meeting the future. The President called the student body and faculty "substantially, dramatically non-diverse." Stressing the need for progress in diversity, he reminded students that the College cannot be a world leader until diversity is achieved. Nichol told the students that William and Mary was "born to be someplace great."

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Wednesday April 26 at the UC