



VIRGINIA INFORMER

R G I N I A

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THE VIRGINIA
INFORMER

Senator Nichol?



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Ever the politician?: Though Nichol makes no effort to hide his history in politics nor his opinions on constitutional law and other political matters, it appears that he will remain President of the College for the time being.

Subpoena of College judicial records quashed by former student

Benjamin Locher

Staff Writer

Former student Erin Rigney has filed a motion to quash a subpoena in the civil defamation suit of Patrick Decker v. Anne Harrington. In the suit, Decker alleges that Harrington falsely accused him of raping her at a Delta Delta Delta party last October. If Rigney had not filed the quash motion, College judicial documents, including witness statements by several students who attended the party, would have become public record on February 15. A judge will now decide whether the College must turn over these documents at a hearing set for March 24 at 2 P.M. in the Charles City County Courthouse, according to a court clerk.

As of press time, a voice mail left for Rigney's attorney Edward Fiorella Jr. was not returned.

Decker's lawsuit comes after criminal charges against him were dropped by a Charles City County prosecutor due to lack of evidence. Because criminal charges were still pending, Decker's attorney advised him not to attend a College judicial hearing. He was forced to withdraw

RECORDS QUASHED

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Despite rumors (and wishes) run very unlikely

Joe Luppino-Esposito

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It has been ten years since Gene Nichol first ran for a statewide office, and those days appear to be long behind him.

Despite some rumors among students and other amateur pundits, it is unlikely that his career in politics will start up again anytime soon.

"He landed a pretty sweet gig at the College," said Luther Lowe, senior and Virginia chair of College Democrats. "A lot of former senators and congressman would love to be president of a university, so I don't see why he would want to leave William and Mary."

Yet even so, since the president's installation over the summer,

whispers began as the Democratic Party in Virginia, looked to be on its heels, having come off another "red" showing in the 2004 election and their gubernatorial candidate Tim Kaine trailing in the polls. The problem became apparent; in 2006, Senator George Allen would be up for re-election, and there was no leading Virginia Democrat to take down the presidential hopeful. Governor Mark Warner was looking to a presidential bid himself, and Tim Kaine, had he lost, could not have run again.

Nichol's name then entered the fray, as history appeared to be repeating itself. Nichol was the University of Colorado Law School Dean before he ran for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in Colorado in 1996. Once again, Nichol

found himself in a high academic position, quickly gaining respect and becoming increasingly recognizable.

"It's possible he could get re-fired up again because of the Jack Abramoff scandal," said J.W. Postal, the political field director for Nichol's Senate campaign in 1996. "I think it's the classic civil rights, human rights and environmental issues that drive him. There's government reform and corruption scandals in Washington. That angers him, the lobbyist issues."

Yet even Postal said that a run, now, is just about out of the question. "I can't imagine it, but he

RUNNING MAN

continued on page five

Nichol's Political History

1996

Ran for Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate against Tom Strickland

1998

Ran for Democratic nomination for U.S. Congress against Mark Udall

Rivalry brewing between SA and UCAB says SA officer

Stephanie Long

Layout Editor



Courtesy of UCAB

Rolling over the competition: Jones claims UCAB has more resources than Student Assembly, giving UCAB an unfair advantage.

One you have been on the William and Mary campus for more than a semester, you quickly learn that the University Center Activities Board (UCAB) is a major part of campus life. One leading Student Assembly (SA) member says that is because there is a rivalry between the SA and UCAB, one that UCAB is winning because of an unfair advantage.

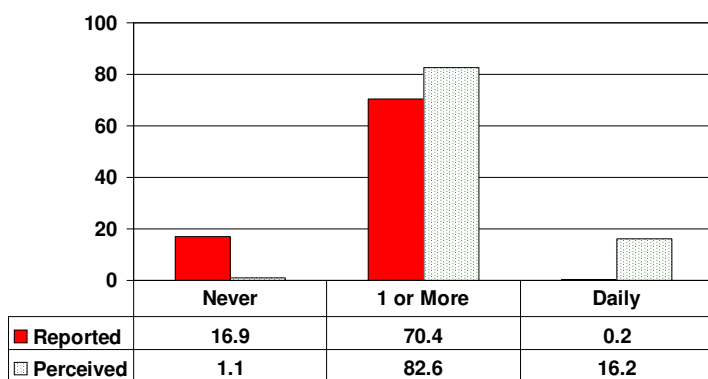
Bryan Jones, current Vice President of Student Affairs for the class of 2008 and former member of UCAB's music committee feels strongly regarding the competition between the two groups. Yet all the while, leaders from both groups contend that any such competition exists.

"UCAB was birthed out of SA," explained Jones. Since the SA plays such a seemingly minor role in organizing student activities, few students realize the

THE SA/UCAB RIVALRY?

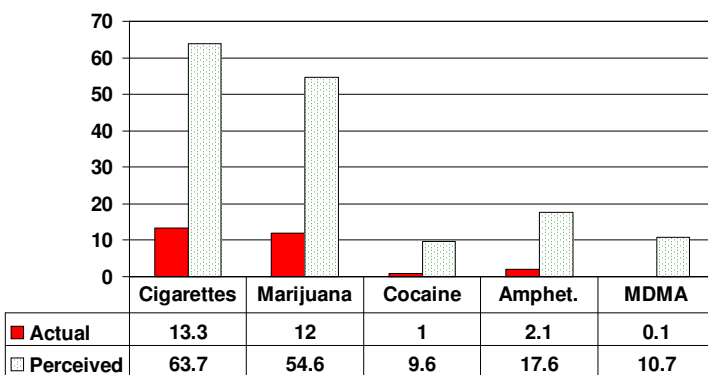
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Perceived 30-day Use of Alcohol



“When students see things portrayed in the media or see extreme events, it leads us to conclude that certain activities are more prevalent than they actually are.”

Perceived Drug Use



All graphs courtesy of the Office of Student Health Education.

Health Survey reveals dangerous perceptions

Ashford Duffy

Staff Writer

In Spring 2005 Student Health Services conducted a survey regarding student habits relating to alcohol, tobacco, drug use, sex and general physical and mental health. A questionnaire created by the American College Health Association was sent to 3,500 randomly selected undergraduate students with 1,246 responding, garnering it an impressive 36% response rate.

Alcohol: According to the survey, during the 30-day period students had in which to complete the questionnaire, 16.9% of the student respondents never consumed alcohol. Of those who did drink, more than 70% had five or fewer drinks the last time they had consumed alcohol.

Participants were asked to list negative consequences they experienced as a result of consuming alcohol over the last year. Almost 40% of students experienced regret and almost 35% experienced memory loss. 8.9% of students reported having unprotected sex while under the influence and 0.5% said they had sex by threat or force.

Other high risk behaviors brought on by drinking were examined in the study. Of those who stated that they drank in the previous 30-day period, nearly one in five chose to drive afterwards. A total of 245 respondents drove after one drink—and 33 drove after having consumed five or more drinks. Sandi Cleveland, Substance Abuse Health Educator at the Health Center, commented that “It’s important for students to create a community where [drinking and driving] is not acceptable. It would be great if students would support alternate modes of transportation by supporting Steer Clear. Also, designating a driver [helps].”

Frequency of drinking was compared between first year, fourth year and Greek students. Members of a fraternity or sorority had the highest percentage of alcohol use, with 89.8% of students having consumed alcohol in the last 30 days, 4.8% of students having consumed alcohol but not in the last 30 days and 5.4% of students never having consumed alcohol. 86.4% of fourth year students reported drinking alcohol in the last 30 days while only 59.2% of first year students reported this.

Drugs Use: Almost 70% of William and Mary students reported never using marijuana; 18.5% of students had not used marijuana in the last 30 days. Only 12% of students had used marijuana one or more times in the last 30 days.

Sexual Activity: The survey examined sexuality and sexual activity. According to the survey, William and Mary students are overwhelmingly heterosexual, with

94.4% of students considering themselves as heterosexual, 1.6% as gay/lesbian, 2.1% as bisexual, and 1.8% as unsure.

The majority of students on campus are single (62.1%) and 36.4% are engaged or are in a committed relationship. Students who were married, separated, divorced and widowed all represented less than 2% of the participants each.

Within the last year, over 41% of respondents had zero sexual partners. Less than 27% had only one sexual partner. The average number of partners among students reporting at least one partner was 1.96.

Difference between perception and reality: Throughout the survey, students were asked not only to record their own experiences, but estimate the behavior and activities of their peers. There was almost always a discrepancy between what the students were actually doing and what students think everyone else does. For example, students perceived that more than 16% of students consumed alcohol daily, while only 0.2% of students actually reported doing so. Students think that 54.6% of students use marijuana while 12% reported using the drug.

Students also think that their fellow students are having much more sex than they actually are. Students estimated that only 2.8% of the student body have had zero sexual partners, while in reality this number is almost 42%.

Cleveland addressed the repeated difference between student perceptions and reality, that “when students see things portrayed in the media or see extreme events, it leads us to conclude that certain activities are more prevalent than they actually are.”

Compared to other schools: The survey compared William and Mary to the rest of the colleges and universities participating in the survey. Over 300 universities have participated so far. Overall, William and Mary’s alcohol use is comparable to other schools. The College has a slightly lower frequency of marijuana use (12% using one or more days a month compared to a nationwide average of 17%). William and Mary students are less sexually active compared to the national average: 35% of William and Mary students versus 46% of students nationwide have had one sexual partner within the last year.

Cleveland says that Health Services will be “using [the survey] data to guide educational efforts by pinpointing problem areas that we want to work on. Students would like to know what’s happening on their campus. Also, it’s a great opportunity to dispel thoughts about substance abuse and sexual activity that could influence their own choices.”

Sex Signals discusses stereotypes, miscommunication

Program called “a great start” for sexual assault awareness

Chase Coleman

Staff Writer

As part of the College’s plan for sexual assault awareness and prevention, Amber Kelly and William and Mary graduate John Mallory came to perform the show “Sex Signals” in the Commonwealth Auditorium on February 28.

According to its website, Sex Signals “explores how mixed messages, gender role stereotypes, and unrealistic fantasies contribute to misunderstandings between the sexes.” The show uses comedy, scripted material and improvisation to accomplish this.

Kelly and Mallory began by acting out an average situation about male and female strangers at a bar. Through asides to the audience, the differences between the sexes became humorously obvious. Getting advice from audience members, Kelly and Mallory continued to act out this awkward first meeting, emphasizing its gauche humor.

The pair then discussed stereotypes. A true lady is expected to have manners,

be passive and have no sexual experience. However, there are equally high standards for a man. He must be tough, aggressive and promiscuous. Mallory joked that “every time a bell rings a man is trying to have sex!” Using these extremes, Mallory and Kelly performed another first meeting scene. Although funny to see, this scene pointed out the dangers in the stereotypes of men and women, likening a man to an animal stalking his prey.

Continuing to play on stereotypes, Kelly depicted the male fantasy as a woman who was devoted to pleasing her man by cooking, cleaning, and constantly having sex with him. Mallory then countered by saying the stereotypical female fantasy is “whacked.” After listing a dozen qualities a woman wants in a man, Mallory declared, “You really don’t want a man. You want some twisted cross between Brad Pitt and Oprah.”

While the audience burst with laughter, Kelly and Mallory suddenly brought up the subject of acquaintance rape. Just as rape can turn a good time

into a tragedy, the shift to the discussion of rape immediately darkened the mood. Acting as a man accused of rape, Mallory gave the male’s story, bringing attention to his utter surprise. Mallory’s speech caused many members of the audience to feel sympathy for the rapist, who was no monster. However, Mallory then pointed out that, although she may have never yelled or fought back, the victim did ask the rapist to stop. This fact alone constitutes rape.

Kelly and Mallory explained that the best way to get consent is to ask directly, avoiding miscommunication. It may be awkward to ask a partner if he or she wants to have sex, but Kelly and Mallory stressed that a minute of awkwardness could prevent tragedy for both people involved.

Most of the audience left satisfied with the show’s ability to raise sexual assault awareness as some students stressed that the comedy used really brought out the issues. As one student put it, “it’s a great start” to a sexual assault awareness and prevention program.

RECORDS QUASHED: College’s judicial papers remain under wraps

continued from page one

from school, though he will be allowed reapply without guarantee of admission after Harrington graduates. While Decker admits to having sex with Harrington, he maintains it was consensual.

The Remnant, a campus conservative-libertarian news and opinion journal, has reported that Rigney, who filed the quash motion, has dropped out of school. *The Remnant* also reported that judicial documents show that Rigney claimed she herself was raped by Decker two weeks prior to the incident, offering a potential reason for the quash motion. *The Informer* however has not been able to obtain these documents nor confirm what they say.

A firestorm was set off on campus after this paper became the first campus newspaper to publish Harrington’s name and call for the resignation of John Gerdleman “to prove that William and Mary is serious about combating sexual assault.” *The Remnant* posted a portion of its detailed, online article on fliers that were tacked up around campus. A member of *The Remnant* then photographed facilities management employee, John D. McFarlane, ripping them down. President Gene Nichol soon sent out a campus-wide email apologizing.

Days later, Vice President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler sent out an email criticizing both *The Informer* and *The Remnant*. The papers have received both positive and negative press on local television and newspapers including the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the *Hampton Roads Daily Press*, WVEC-13, WAVY-10 and even FoxNews.com. *The Informer*’s editorial calling for Gerdleman’s resignation made the Associated Press.

Student Assembly ends busy month of February, moves closer to elections

Executive discusses sexual assault, mascot; controversial budget item also in the mix

Scofield's Vetoes

SB 313-031 The MBAA Leeds Net Impact Case Competition Funding Act - Funding for business school group to attend competition; included travel expenses

Senate attempt to override veto failed, 11-4-1

SB 313-035 Elections Reform Act of 2006 - Reasons for veto not specified publicly

Senate attempt to override veto failed when quorum was lost at the last meeting

Matthew Sutton

Staff Writer

Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield ('07) and Vice President Amanda Norris ('07) concluded a busy first half of second semester during which the administration submitted a budget, began planning a new mascot for the College and addressed the growing sexual assault problem on campus.

Vice President Sam Sadler's emotional email to the student body about the sexual assault scandal and the hard hitting response from *The Remnant* drew the attention of President Scofield. He cautioned both Sadler and *The Remnant* saying, "Email was an ineffective way to discuss this very serious subject. Face to face meetings are the best way to conduct this dialogue."

Scofield went on to offer his thoughts on the growing student led demand for reforming the College's judicial process. "It is never bad to criticize the judicial system. I think more of campus needs to know the specifics of it but questioning it is good."

He also promised that a representative of the Executive would attend the forum on sexual assault organized by *The Informer* scheduled for March 16 at 8:00 p.m.

In other business, the retirement of previous unofficial mascot "Colonel Ebirt" by the school has left the College currently without a mascot. President Scofield and Vice President Norris are working on developing a replacement.

Ebirt the large green gelatinous blob inspired both confusion and affection from the student body during his tenure as the mascot. His forced retirement by the College led Owen Gentry ('07), one student who portrayed Ebirt, to approach Scofield and lobby him for a new mascot. Scofield, who played the mascot for his high school, agreed to start the new mascot search and is considering sending an email soliciting ideas from the student body. Vice President Amanda Norris joined with Scofield to support a new mascot saying, "it would rally up lots of spirit at sporting events."

Some of the ideas under consideration are King William, Queen Mary or a generic muscleman mascot named Tribe guy. One idea not likely to be considered would be to reinstate the previous mascot which was a student dressed as an American Indian when William

and Mary's nickname was still the Indians. A student proposal that has its own facebook group advocates the use of the Burger King King.

Max Hlavin ('09) said, "I think it should be the BK King, he embodies all the values of the school, honesty, integrity, and athletic prowess. I sure Burger King would appreciate the free publicity. We need something and we need it fast."

Athletic Director Terry Driscoll wants students to put a proposal together but no decision can be made until the end of this school year or next fall because the College is still awaiting the National Collegiate Athletic Association's decision on the future of the Tribe nickname.

In the budget that the Executive submitted to the Senate the student group, Voices for Planned Parenthood was allocated money for a controversial line item. Listed as Planned Parenthood Ride Service, the line item sought student funds to advertise transportation to and from abortion clinics.

The Administration gave fifty dollars out of the requested seventy dollars to this item. Finance Secretary Jess Zappia ('07) said, "The EAC gave the ride service line item \$50 for the pamphlets they mentioned that they would need to advertise the ride service. Most publicity was given \$10, but the nature of these pamphlets is different than an event publicity. This is a service that the club is offering, and so we felt like the information pamphlets were justifiably fundable."

The vice president of Students for Life, Katie Poandl ('07) said, "We wish that a woman would never be in a situation in which she felt it was necessary to have an abortion. We also hope that any woman considering an abortion would be informed of the negative emotional, psychological, and physical consequences that can result from the procedure. However, we understand that some students consider an abortion a service they would like to be available, and the EAC was operating with this definition in mind when they made budget decisions."

No one from Voices for Planned Parenthood could be reached for comment.

Election season will dominate the focus of the student government when students return from spring break. Scofield and Norris are likely to run for reelection and might face possible challengers from the Student Senate. Elections will be held on March 23 and campaigning will officially start on March 15 at midnight.

Senate restricts Exec spending and opens wallet for student activities

Nick Hoelker

Staff Writer

In a busy month from February 14th to the 28th, the Senate passed eight bills, two sponsored by Senator Matt Beato ('09), two sponsored by Senator Harry Godfrey ('06), and one bill each sponsored by Senators Sean Barker ('07), Cait Smith ('08), Shariff Tanious ('08) and Scott Fitzgerald ('07).

The first bill considered was The Executive Off-Campus Account Spending Reauthorization Act, sponsored by Beato. The bill limited the amount of checks the SA Administration is allowed to write to ten and would place a cap of \$500 per single check and \$1,000 total from the account per month. The bill passed 15-1-0 with only Chairman Luther Lowe ('06) dissenting.

Next, the Senate considered Godfrey's Bill to Request the Re-Appointment of James Dillard II to the Board of Visitors of William and Mary. Dillard, a Republican, is a former delegate was appointed by former Virginia governor Mark Warner (D) to the Board of Visitors during a recess. However, Dillard endorsed two Democrats, including a former staffer, for the state house in the 2005 elections. According to Godfrey, as revenge, House Republicans failed to confirm Dillard's appointment. Godfrey, who stressed Dillard's excellent service on the Board, proposed in his bill that the Senate would recommend that current governor Tim Kaine (D) appoint Dillard to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia or another state college's board, given his record of advocacy for education. Senator Stephanie Glass ('09) expressed concern that the Senators were "not hearing both sides of the story," but nevertheless the bill passed 10-0-6.

As the Executive Update began, Chairman Lowe moved to override the veto by President Ryan Scofield ('07) of the MBAA Leeds Net Impact Competition Funding Act, passed at the February 7th meeting. Scofield cited that his objection was that transportation was being funded. Many senators supported the override but those opposed took several parliamentary procedure steps to defeat the override. In the

end, the override fell short by one vote. The same bill was reintroduced at the next session without transportation being funded, and it was passed.

The third bill brought up before the Senate was Barker's Help Keep the Meridian House Clean and Safe Act, which came to the floor on February 21st. The Meridian Coffeehouse is a non-alcoholic venue that many students frequent. The Meridian had previously requested the school's administration for "a vacuum cleaner, a gutter system, a small couch, a comfortable chair, music supplies, a doormat, and two floor rugs," but was rebuffed in their efforts. Barker, an employee of the coffeehouse, consequently asked the Senate to appropriate \$500 for these items. The bill passed unanimously.

Afterwards, Beato introduced the Elections Reform Act which had been discussed in committee but only three Senators attended the meeting. The bill proposed would reform the Elections Code to allow students studying abroad over the spring semester to run for office the following year, ban the dispersion of food and drink for campaign purposes, force candidates who campaign together to split the cost of campaign materials equally between them, and increase the penalty for repeated minor campaign violations. Fitzgerald also added an amendment that would decrease the penalty for negative campaigning.

Due to the previous lack of discussion on the issue, many senators became irate over several sections of the bill. Vice President Amanda Norris ('07) failed to control the increased commotion. However, because the election's information sessions began the day after the meeting, it was unable to be sent back to committee. The bill passed 10-4-1. Senator Brett Phillips ('08), who voted against the bill, said that it was "sketchy to have the incumbents change the rules 24 hours before the election begins." However, President Scofield vetoed the legislation and when the Senate moved to override the veto on February 28th, Senator Beth Burgin (Law School), who had not attended the previous meeting to debate or vote on the bill, left the room to break quorum and prevent

the Senate from even taking a vote on whether or not to override Scofield's veto.

Smith introduced The Sexual Assault Awareness Week Speaker Act of 2006 to provide funding to bring two speakers to campus to discuss sexual assault, including William and Mary alumna Katie Koestner. Koestner was a freshman at the College when she was date raped, and she has since made national news, appearing on both the cover of *Time* magazine and on Larry King Live, and is considered the preeminent speaker on date rape. Fitzgerald proposed allotting \$4,500 for Koestner and another presenter. However, some Senators expressed concern that the matter had not yet been discussed in committee and would like to see it considered at a future meeting. Despite those concerns, the bill passed 11-4.

The last meeting of the month took place in the Board of Visitors Room on February 28th. The first proposal was Tanious' Keep the Barrett Computer Lab Safe and Secure Bill. The act encouraged that card readers be installed on the doors entering the Barrett Hall computer lab, as right now anyone is able to enter the lab at any time of day. The Senate agreed that this was an important security matter and unanimously passed the bill.

The Senate also considered the Student Night Life Referendum Act, sponsored by Fitzgerald. The bill proposed a student-wide referendum suggesting the soon to be vacated Parking Services building (or an equivalent location) be converted into a non-alcoholic social outlet. Fitzgerald brought in a group that proposed a hookah bar and said that he had the support of most members of the school administration. The Senate favored the idea, passing the bill unanimously.

Lastly, Godfrey introduced The Council Candidate Forum Act which would have the Student Assembly sponsor a forum every two years for Williamsburg City Council candidates to discuss their plans and entertain questions with students. The bill also called on \$100 for publicity purposes and was passed unanimously.

The meeting ended abruptly on Burgin's exit and the loss of quorum.

Walk, dance, cook and play to feel good about yourself

Love Your Body Week to raise awareness of eating disorders, body image issues

Amanda J. Yasenchak

Editor-in-Chief

Monday March 20 begins the annual Love Your Body Week, sponsored by William and Mary CARES – Collegiate Awareness Regarding Eating Smart. In the United States, as many as 10 million females and 1 million males are suffering from an eating disorder. Many of these are college students.

The theme of 2006's Love Your Body Weeks is "Be Comfortable in Your 'Genes.'" Each day features different

and the Executive Pastry Chef. Those interested should sign up at the UC or the Caf beginning this week.

On Tuesday is the student panel on eating disorders which features William and Mary students sharing their personal stories.

For those who remember getting up early for the morning walks with former president Timothy Sullivan each year, President Gene Nichol has stepped up to the tradition on Wednesday morning at 7 AM.

Wednesday evening is the second annual "Celebrating Our Bodies" Dance Showcase, featuring a variety of campus groups, including Pointe Blank, Tribal Dancers, the Swing Dance Club, Ballroom Dance Club, FASA and the Rec Center Fitness Demo Team.

Thursday offers the Body Fair from 4 to 6 PM at the UC Terrace. The Sit and Be Fit program offers hints for those William and Mary students too busy to get to the Rec Center. A free Master Fitness Class will be offered that evening.

CARES is sponsoring a Dodgeball tournament on Saturday. All proceeds will go to the National Eating Disorders Association.

"Celebrating Bodies" Art Display will be featured throughout the week in the UC Lobby. Also ongoing will be the Great Jeans Giveaway at various locations throughout campus. Finally part with a pair of jeans or any other item of clothing that no longer fits but you were hoping you could get back into one day. All

events and programs which promote eating disorder awareness and healthy body image.

CARES has partnered with Dining Services to provide two healthy cooking classes at 4 and 6 PM on Monday. Participants will have the opportunity to work with the Executive Chef

items will be donated to charity.

For more information about Love Your Body Week or to find out how to get involved with William and Mary CARES, please contact Michelle Alexander, mmalex@wm.edu, or visit any of the week's events.

Scary Statistics

- Four out of ten Americans either suffered or have known someone who has suffered from an eating disorder.
- 91% of women recently surveyed on a college campus had attempted to control their weight through dieting, 22% dieted "often" or "always."
- Americans spend over \$40 billion on dieting and diet-related products each year.
- The average American woman is 5'4" tall and weighs 140 pounds. The average American model is 5'11" tall and weighs 117 pounds.

courtesy of the National Eating Disorder Association

Love Your Body Week 2006

Monday, March 20

Healthy Cooking Class, 4PM Lodge One
Healthy Pastry Class, 6PM, The Commons
Football Dining Room

Tuesday, March 21

"W&M Student Panel on Eating Disorders", 8PM, UC Tidewater B

Wednesday, March 22

"Walk with the President", 7AM, Wren side of the Brafferton. *FREE mugs to the first 100 walk participants and FREE hot beverages from the Daily Grind for ALL walkers.*

2nd Annual "Celebrating Our Bodies"

Dance Showcase, 7PM, UC Commonwealth

Thursday, March 23

"Body Fair", 4PM – 6PM, UC Terrace
Freebies! Massages! Lots of information designed to help you take care of yourself!

Sit and Be Fit, 6:30 PM, Tucker Hall, Room 202

"Master Fitness Class", 7:30PM, Rec Center Gym

Saturday, March 25

Dodgeball Tournament, 2PM, Rec Center Gym
Entry fee - \$10 (student teams) and \$20 (faculty/staff teams) - Six people per team. Free t-shirts for the first 8 teams.

Sign up beginning 3/13 at the Rec Center or during LYBW at all events.

Deadline to register your team is Wednesday, March 22nd.

All Week

Great Jeans Giveaway, Various Campus Locations

"Celebrating Bodies" Art Display, UC Lobby

Come see a display of art work donated by Tangelo and the W&M Art Department.

"Our community is struggling with matters that challenge us at our core. Our conversations, though difficult, even crushingly so, can reflect the values we hold close. We'll talk more broadly about this in the days ahead."

- Gene Nichol

Come to the Forum on Sexual Assault

Thursday March 16th

Andrews 101

8 PM

Join the discussion...

Sponsored by The Virginia Informer
& the Alliance of Sexual Assault Prevention

THE SA/UCAB RIVALRY?: Class of 2008 officer details problems in funding, administrative support for SA

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SA used to be the sole source of activity planning. Mark Constantine, assistant vice president of Student Affairs and head of Student Activities, saw a need to implement a group which would organize more large-scale events. UCAB was the result.

But according to Jones, when UCAB was created, many people who were involved in planning SA events switched over to UCAB. Also, the Student Activities Department, which is the key source of funding for activities, began to “drift away” from class events. Due to the SA’s smaller staff, it was unable to coordinate events with as high a turnout which caused the Student Activities Department to lose confidence in it.

Though Jones believes strongly in this rivalry, but the same can not be said for all SA members. James Evans, the SA’s chief of staff for Ryan Scofield stated, “I fully support UCAB doing the bulk of the programming on this campus because they’ve proven themselves to be efficient and competent.” He accounts for the amount of funding they receive as a reflection of their excellent work on campus. Furthermore he claimed, “I don’t believe students in general would gather there is a rivalry when they attend events like Pat McGee or The Roots and see SA members and UCAB members working together in service of students.”

UCAB echoed Evans’ sentiments. Though hesitant to discuss the subject, Trevor Rudolph, the executive director of UCAB, denied the assertions made by Jones and affirmed, “I am unaware of such a ‘supposed rivalry.’ I have a positive working relationship



Playing their hand: The Student Assembly is no longer the primary campus wide programming body, though many of their sponsored events are open to the entire student population, such as the Class of 2008 Charity Poker Tournament. With a limited number of participants in SA, the gap in programming between UCAB and the SA grows every year.

with every member of the Student Assembly I know.”

To this Jones replied, “It may not be a rivalry yet, a full scale rivalry, but you do see that the attitude that UCAB has for SA is as if we’re inferior to them,” the roots of which extend back to the creation of UCAB.

Funding is the key element separating the two groups. This year Jones’ class requested over \$4,000 from the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC), which is an entity of the SA executive office of

Scofield. The class received only \$1,200—30% of what they had asked for. UCAB on the other hand received 75.9% of their \$123,786 request, and were granted a budget of \$94,000—an increase of \$19,500 from the previous year.

The ease with which UCAB receives approval and funding for events in comparison to the Student Assembly has left Jones feeling frustrated and even “sabotage[d],” so much so that he is retiring from office this year. He stated, “I have to

operate around a system where even if I was last minute or two weeks in advance, I can still be delayed very, very easily. UCAB can go in there a week before and say, ‘Hey, we need a certain amount of money because we need to pay for meals or a hotel that we didn’t know about,’ and they’ll get it right then and there.”

All of these things work to the advantage of UCAB which has, according to Jones, given the group a feeling of superiority. Jones recalled of his UCAB experience, “I actually got out of UCAB as soon as possible once I realized the attitudes that the UCAB had for SA. And since I was involved in both, my love for SA goes a little bit deeper.”

Despite feelings members of the two groups may or may not have towards one another, Jones and other SA members feel that they are not given the same opportunities that UCAB has been given and are almost helpless. This has incited Jones to express his fear that, “Because Senate has the precedence of saying ‘no’ to many organizations and now UCAB is all of the sudden saying a lot of ‘yes’es’... that’s going to draw more support for UCAB and that’s going to undermine the Student Assembly’s roles, and before you know it the Student Assembly’s going to phase out and UCAB will take over the student government’s role.”

Jones suggested leveling the playing field and providing equal opportunities between the two groups. Finally, he re-emphasized, “I like both groups... and I think we should all work together and be equal players, but we’re not.”

RUNNING MAN: Title of “president” proves better than “senator”

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would be wonderful,” said Postal. “But I think after two races, he is done.”

President Nichol was not available for comment (as he was also taking Spring Break) but university spokesman Bill Walker set the record straight. “There is absolutely, positively no truth to this rumor. I’ve checked, and the president has a full-time job here and is happy to concentrate on it. You can mark this off your book,” assured Walker.

Everything seems to be falling in line from a political perspective as well, as Virginia Democrats are preparing for the midterm elections without Nichol. In saying that he is “in contact with Democrats across the Commonwealth,” president of the William and Mary Young Democrats, Mark Turnbull, said, “I have not heard anything that would lead me to believe that Gene Nichol is running for the U.S. Senate in 2006.


“The William and Mary Young Democrats will be meeting with Harris

Miller in the next month and have extended an invitation for James Webb to do the same.” Both are potential Democratic candidates.

Nichol ran his campaign in 1996 with the nickname “Clean Gene,” as he, along with some other candidates at the time, vowed to not accept any money from political action committees (PACs). “The Senate campaign was really a campaign finance reform campaign... he wanted to separate money from politics,” said Postal.

The campaign gained Nichol many admirers, including Postal. “He’s my hero... I don’t think he’ll be running this time. It would be bad for William and Mary, but great for the state. I just wish if it happened, it could be here in Colorado.”

In 1998, Nichol once again ran for the Democratic nomination, but this time for the House of Representatives in the 2nd Congressional District of Colorado. Despite raising \$300,000, Nichol lost to current Congressman Mark Udall.




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The Virginia Informer apologizes for the following errors that appeared in our February Issue:

On page eight, Ben Locher’s article, “Charges Dropped” should have read: “When they arrived, the three went upstairs, Decker and Harrington had consensual sex...” instead of implying that Jason Mustian was also engaging in intercourse.

The Virginia Informer would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via email to VAinfo@wm.edu.

SOMETHING NEW IN A CITY
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A trip back to colonial times reveals a whole different world. But no place you visit is more unusual than the new Yankee Candle Williamsburg.

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Courtesy of Virginia Department of Health

Potassium Iodide: What the W&M community needs to know to protect itself from possible nuclear radiation

Are you on the pill?

The way to save your life in just one little pill! The potassium iodide pill, that every student can get at the Student Health Center, may be enough to save you from radiation if the Surry Nuclear Power Plant encountered a major leak.

Chaoyen Lu

Staff Writer

Since it is rarely advertised, students may not be aware that the College is located within 10 miles from the Surry Nuclear Power Plant and therefore

within fallout range in the event of a reactor accident. Not many students at William and Mary know about this medication provided by the Student Health Center.

Potassium iodide—KI for short—is a supplement help mitigate the effects of exposure to radioactive iodine. If taken properly and quickly, it can block absorption of the radioactive material by the thyroid gland and reduce the risk of thyroid cancer. KI helps mitigate the effects of only one

isotope (of about 30) that would be of concern in an airborne release, according to Kevin Pearce, Emergency Planner for the Peninsula Health District. It cannot, however, protect against other radioactive contaminants or a so-called “dirty bomb.”

In 2002, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) distributed potassium iodide pills to students, faculty and staff via the W&M Student Health Center. The Health Center launched a public advertising on campus and gave out around 1,600 pills to students.

The 2002 distribution of KI to the general population was for those persons who

wanted the available medication, said Pearce. It was never intended to provide medication to every household within the 10 mile boundary. Pearce stresses that the Peninsula Health District has enough KI for all those individuals that could be affected or evacuated in case of an accident.

Over a year ago, Dr. Moses, the Director of the Student Health Center, contacted the VDH to ask what to do with the remaining pills and did not receive any response from VDH. Subsequently, the Health Center took the information on potassium iodide off of its website. Christine Britton, Business Manager of the Health Center, says that they had just assisted the VDH in the past and the Center’s action was more preventive than proactive.

The stock of potassium iodide tablets at the Health Center will expire in 2007. Do people on campus still need to have the pills?

Pearce said that there is no requirement for the Student Health Center to issue the pills and no reason to have an aggressive campaign. Pearce said that given the historical improbability of a nuclear accident and the recent inspection of the facility, the nuclear power plant is not a threat to the W&M community, since potassium iodine is not necessary, “unless there is an emergency.”

Few disagree that the chances of a nuclear accident are slim, but why the College would

not provide a prudent, inexpensive avenue for students to protect themselves remains unclear.

There are some potential side effects to KI, such as gastrointestinal disturbances, minor skin rash, and allergic reactions. Anyone with

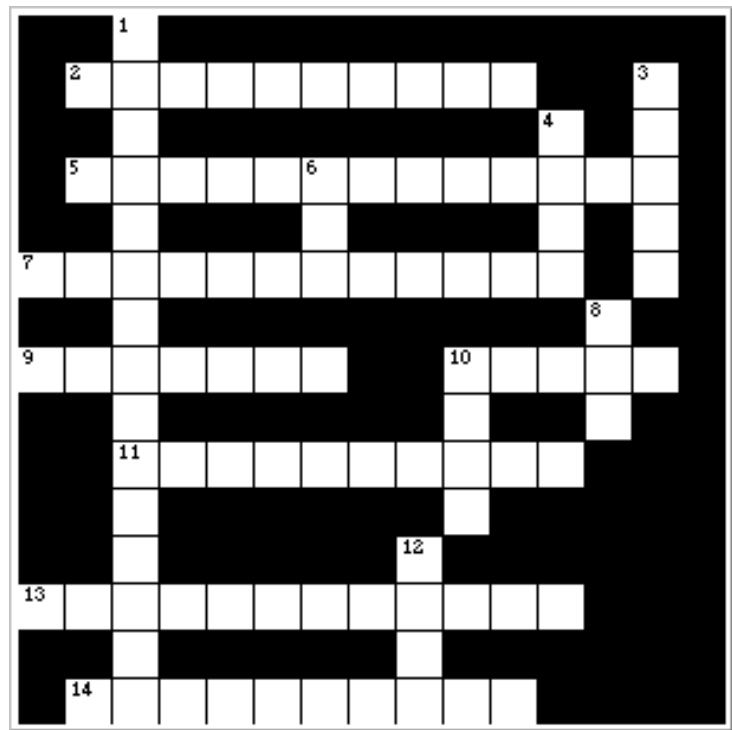
iodine allergy should consult doctors before taking potassium iodine. As of this printing, the Student Health Center still provides KI pills and instructions for taking them.

Feel like you aren't prepared?

For more information on this topic or other Emergency Preparedness Information, please visit the website of the Virginia Department of Health at www.vdh.virginia.gov or contact Mr. Pearce via email at Kevin.Pearce@vdh.virginia.gov.

The Office of Health Education is available for questions at 221-2195.

W&M Trivia Crossword



Down:

- 1) The largest college drive of its kind in the nation.
- 3) W&M is the only American school to have this kind of charter.
- 4) Swem only offers this kind of trade coffee.
- 6) Nichol's former employer
- 8) Popular center currently under construction.
- 10) Will speak at 2006 Commencement.
- 12) Almost all dorms fall within 1 mile radius of this.

Across:

- 2) An alternate to fair trade coffee.
- 5) The kind of city Colonial Williamsburg offers its guests every afternoon.
- 7) Visit to pick up your iodide pills.
- 9) Show playing constantly on WMTV.
- 10) U.S. President and graduate of W&M.
- 11) Jefferson peeps into girl's bathroom here.
- 13) First chapter established at W&M.
- 14) Humorous discussion of a serious issue.

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on page
sixteen!

Hope you like Thinkpads

Next year's freshman class will be required to buy IBM laptop as part of MyNotebook program

Ryan Lintelman
& Chris Peterson

Staff Writers

Members of the class of 2010 will be required to purchase a laptop before they can attend William and Mary, in accordance with the new myNotebook program.

According to Gene Roche, the chair of IT, the movement was an effort to standardize the laptops that students were already bringing to school in an effort to facilitate support and technological integration. "By looking at the models of Wake Forest and Harvard, for example, we saw that laptop computers could enhance classroom discussions, though not replace them," said Roche. And the decision to try to have all students move to the Lenovov IBM Thinkpad T60 was prompted by a desire to make the repair process smoother. "It doesn't make a difference to

us which computer students bring to campus, but it makes sense for us to encourage people to buy a certain brand. Not just from a cost standpoint, but it's easier for support," said Roche. Furthermore, by standardizing the program through the school, students receiving financial aid will be able to roll the cost of their laptop into their packages.

But are College students interested in technical integration? Although information provided on the myNotebook website (www.wm.edu/mynotebook) claims that "99% of freshman brought a laptop to campus," the amount of students who actually bring a computer to class—much less

use it for note taking—is far lower. Trevor Buckley, '09, said that although he brings his Mac laptop to class, it's far from necessary. "[It's] not essential at all. I mean, [the ability to wirelessly download Powerpoints or access Blackboard during class is] nicer...but of course some professors even prefer that you don't bring your computer, since people often



Ian R. Whiteside

Working hard or hardly working?: IT hopes to increase classroom use of laptops with the MyNotebook program but critics doubt students will bring their laptops to class to do schoolwork instead of instant messaging and playing games.

aren't doing work on them."

Roche says the College realizes this. "We want to let the faculty use technology in ways that work for them. It will probably take five years to have some large portion of classes making use of laptop computers, but our goal is to work on a common platform. In

some classes, they won't be used, and of course, in some they don't need to be." According to Roche, the notebook computers will not be in any way used to

LAPTOPS

continued on page ten

The Tribe 12...

-compiled by Gustavo Elias

Next year IT will begin to implement its MyNotebook program, where every entering freshman will be required to purchase a laptop through the school. This month, *the Informer* asks students...

What do you *really* use your laptop for?



Crystal Adams, '07: For talking to people online, checking my e-mail, and listening to music.



Samrin Andallib, '08: I use it to type up Physics lab reports and I use it in class to take notes.



Drew Barr '09: To search the web, write papers, and listen to music.



Dave Powell '06: In class, I take my notes on it.



Kyle Doeblor '07: Pretty much everything.



Katie Hurley '09: I use it for movies, music, instant messaging, and some work.



Nathan Jamerson '09: For slacking off; I use it in class for instant messaging people. If you're bringing a laptop to class, then you're not taking notes.



Ashley Kelly '06: I look at powerpoints, professor's notes, talking online, and checking my e-mail.



Arielle Kuiper '07: To keep in touch with my family overseas.



Tim Nielsen '09: Taking notes in class...otherwise nothing.



Virginia Boardman '09: I check my e-mail on a regular basis, do research, instant message, and listen to music.



Brett Roth '08: I use my laptop for homework and the Internet.

Little Thing

In which the author, scatterbrained by the mists of midterms, rambles incoherently about assorted articles of interest that you will nevertheless feel compelled to read because of its witty subtitle

I'll admit it. It's been difficult, for me, to pull things together in this week leading up to spring break. Between midterms, work, football, and the assorted things I do for the paper (check out our new podcasts, by the way), I've just been too busy to write a formal column. Shucks, I even slept through my Macro class.

(Sorry, Clyde. It's not you, it's me. Really. I friended you on Facebook to make up for it, though.)

In the vein of Peter King, then, I'd like to relay a few thoughts that have been bouncing around my head recently. They are, to paraphrase King, and probably flirt with infringing his copyright, a few things I think I think.

The Decker Case Has Gone Far Enough



Chris Peterson
Features Editor

The College is, for a college campus, a dull place. To deny this is to lie. I work at Swem, and I know full well that it is the most continuously populated place on campus. Let's look at it comparatively: at some colleges, they actually have *daily* newspapers. Can you begin to fathom that? The *Informer*, I know would love to print more often, but there's

little enough for us to report on as it is. This is why the *Flat Hat* so often fails to report a weeks worth of actual news every Friday. The open secret is that in any given week at William and Mary, not enough happens to justify a newspaper issue.

Who can be surprised, then, that the Decker case has inspired so many to gossip, to argue, to analyze? It's the biggest thing to happen on campus all year.

That said, we (and when I say we, I mean collectively, as human beings) are sometimes prone to forget that those whose names are in the public eye are people too. Whether their celebrity is derived from fame and fortune, or infamy and loss, they still eat, and sleep, and worry about love handles, and read their own names being discussed by others.

I think mistakes were made by "both sides" when it came to the reporting of this issue. Perhaps some more marginal newspapers rushed headfirst into private issues out of an understandable concern for full education. Perhaps a more established paper did disservice by failing to report the full facts out of an understandable concern for the parties involved.

Journalists are often asked by society to act the part of jackals, scrounging amidst carrion for hunks of information to be nicely packaged for those who deign to avert their eyes, hold their noses, and accept what facts are presented to them. And I think it may be time to call the jackals off and let the wounded have some dignity as all parties involved prepare for the trying days ahead. They have had their days—wanted or unwanted—in the court of public opinion. They should be allowed to concentrate now in the court of law.

Why myNotebook Will Fail

I think whoever is behind the myNotebook program here at the College has the best (if biased) attentions but an awful sense for the student dynamic. When I sit in class I am hard-pressed to find a student who uses their laptops to take notes. Most sit on AIM or play Flash video games. I don't bring my laptop to class because A) I don't want to unhook it from all my peripheral devices, but mainly because B) I have enough trouble paying attention as is and if my shiny Powerbook were in front of me I'd pay no attention at all.

If I were a teacher, I'd be livid. The irony is fantastic. The result of this movement can only be school-sanctioned slacking. Maybe this is the College's way of surreptitiously getting us to slow down—but I doubt it. The reputation of the College as an academic boot camp is far too conducive to mental masturbation and institutional one-upmanship. The only way this could be worse is if IT had a plan to keep tabs



Courtesy of W&M Pershing Rifles

In honor of her majesty: The Pershing Rifles/Queen's Guard is the official colorguard for the College of William and Mary events, including basketball games.

Student group of the month: Pershing Rifles/Queen's Guard Playing with guns (heavy ones) on campus has never been better

Jon San

Staff Writer

The Pershing Rifles Company of William and Mary, also known as Company W-4, is unlike any other fraternity. Not only do they wear \$1000 dollar Queen's Guard uniforms and perform elaborate maneuvers with 12 pound rifles, but they also march at some of the most prestigious events in the state, all the while remaining students here at the College.

At the College, the Company has 12 active members. In addition, it has 3 inactive members, including 2 who have just returned from a tour in Iraq and another who is studying in Japan. Contrary to popular belief, not every member of the Pershing Rifles is involved with the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

College junior Solomon Chang's attraction to the Pershing Rifles was fairly simple. "The [Queen's Guard] uniform was very appealing to me, and I also was interested in learning the rifle drill tricks. Not to mention the deep sense of ceremony and tradition that surrounds the Pershing Rifles."

The Company is heavily involved in color guard ceremonies at events like baseball games, football games, Veteran's Day and Homecoming.

According to Company Commander Jimmy Lucas, '06, "We also marched at the governor's inauguration, which was a pretty cool experience, and we commemorate the

events of September 11 by marching on the Sunken Gardens."

While images of boot camp cross peoples' minds when they think about the Pershing Rifles, the group is actually not that physically challenging.

"The time commitment, not necessarily the physical rigor, is the most demanding aspect of being a member of the Pershing Rifles," Lucas said.

A regimen of two hours of rifle trick practice a week is mandatory for all members in addition to outside training—according to Mandie Costanzer, "you have to be able to handle a 12 pound rifle pretty well." There is also a required meeting on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. at the ROTC building.

The Pershing Rifles is open to everyone. Like a typical fraternity, new members are recruited; and they must undergo a pledge process before they become a full-fledged brother. Chang, who holds the S5 position, which makes him responsible for recruitment, said, "We have three pledges this spring which is surprising since we haven't had a spring pledge class since 1999."

But what does a Pershing Rifles member do after graduation? Lucas said, "The national organization has set up an alumni group entitled the Varsity Rifles which is open to former Pershing Rifles."

Sophomore Tim Lee added that "many alumni are financially involved in helping current Pershing Rifles members pay for their

expensive uniforms and other accessories."

Another expense for members of Company W-4 is the cost of traveling to competitions. The highlight of the competitive season is the National Society of Pershing Rifles National Convention and Drill Competition (NATCON). The event—which took place last year in Indiana—will be held this year from March 24th to 26th in Washington, D.C.

Sophomore Matt Hanson said, "While we are there to compete, it's always great to see the other teams. Some of the teams, particularly Clemson, are really proficient in their rifle drill tricks and it's always exciting to see their performances."

In addition to learning the rifle tricks, members learn saber maneuvers, how to properly salute, and grasp the qualities of a distinguished leader. In fact, the slogan of the National Society of Pershing Rifles is "ROTC creates leaders; Pershing Rifles helps create the best leaders."

General John J. Pershing founded the group at the University of Nebraska in 1894. Originally designed as a morale booster for ROTC units, it eventually evolved into something greater. Numerous political events, including presidential and governor inaugurations, feature Pershing Rifles performances. Notable alumni include Colin Powell, James Earl Jones, and G. Gordon Liddy.

To contact the Pershing Rifles, email rifles@wm.edu.

on students so that they couldn't access anything outside of Word during a class—an intrusion that I certainly hope would foment a revolt amongst our bespectacled masses.

I am not a laissez-faire capitalist but I cringe at the thought of spending an insane amount of money for a clearly inferior workstation simply because IT wants to standardize their support requests. I don't care if Harvard is doing it. When we have the endowment, the diversity, and the name of Harvard, *then* maybe we can justify this program.

Dick Cheney's Firearms Mishap

I'm a liberal civil libertarian from New England. I wear a "Halliburton" hat as a joke. I'm no fan of Mr. Cheney's

politics. That said, the media needs to stop hounding Cheney for what was an unfortunate accident. The only person Cheney needs to apologize to is the man he shot. Manslaughter? There is no intent! Surely the Vice-President has less clumsy ways of offing himself than birdshot!

The Media Center in Swem

Is awesome. And everyone should check it out.

Speaking of awesome things, visit our oft-updated website, and listen to our podcasts. Our podcasts can be accessed directly in iTunes by going to <http://vainformer.com/podcasts/> subscribe. Our broadcaster, the esteemed David Culver, could lull Stalin to sleep with his soothing voice. And I spend much of my free time working on it. So go check it out.

LAPTOPS: "IBMs" to be as vital as "ABCs" for class of 2010

continued from page eight

detract from the student/teacher relationship. "We don't want to detract from faculty-student interactions, which of course are the reason that people come to William and Mary—to experience those. We just want to create new types of communication that can be beneficial to learning."

According to the website, computer labs, once the pride and joy of a university's technical reputation, have become obsolete. Schools "recognized the impossibility of ever building enough computer labs to meet

growing demand and began requiring entering students to purchase computers as an alternative method of assuring universal access."

But what kind of freedom will students have under the new program? Though Roche hopes that all students will opt into the program, "I'm not saying that if there's a student whose father works at Dell he shouldn't buy that kind of computer—he could just send it home and have daddy fix it in a day." However, continues Roche, "I think it makes a lot of sense for us to

encourage people who don't have a strong opinion about what kind of computer to buy when they come to college that the option we offer has a lot of strong points."

Students will still be able to run Linux or Unix on their Wintel machines, although Roche recommends that they configure their computers for "dual boot," so that they can be booted in both operating systems.

However, Mac users—a growing demographic—present "a particular problem," says Roche. "Let's say I'm a professor teaching an

Introductory Psych class and I decide that we're going to do a case study that requires students to bring their laptop computers in for a week of class. Now if everybody's got it working okay except for that one student whose Excel runs a little differently because he's got a Mac, I don't want to have to spend time in class working out that problem."

Roche recommends that "dyed-in-the-wool" Mac users consider buying Virtual PC, available for a discounted price through the school, in case they have to use some programs for which there is not a

Mac version. Under the new program most computer labs on campus will be specialized for different disciplines as students run generic programs, such as Firefox, Word, and Excel, on their personal laptops.

"Program capability is the goal," said Roche. "And as the next five years progress, more and more of this stuff is going to be on the web, so it won't really matter. You'll be able to take advantage of all of this stuff as long as your computer can run a web browser."

The MyNotebook Proposal

- All incoming freshmen must have a notebook meeting specific hardware and software specifications. Students will keep their computers for four years, though a two year refresh cycle is also possible.
- Grants and/or loans will be available to students on financial aid. Low cost loans will be available to all students who need assistance in purchasing a notebook.
- The College seeks to offer the lowest possible price on a business class computer meeting College specifications. Ordering, delivery, setup and orientation will be managed by the College in close cooperation with the vendor.

- Selected packages will include a four-year warranty and insurance. Students purchasing from the recommended program will be eligible for on-site support. Students purchasing machines from other vendors will have to arrange hardware and software support on their own.
- As part of that procurement process, the College will negotiate a support agreement including loaner machines, on-site spare parts inventory and reimbursement for warranty work.
- The College will expand wireless service to cover all academic buildings and public spaces.

Additional services, such as wireless printing, battery swap locations, recharging stations and computer work spaces, will be established to encourage students to carry computers.

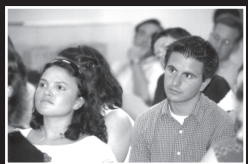
- The College will pursue licensing agreements for software that allows students to install copies on their personal machines at a reasonable cost.
- Public access computer labs will be scaled back and investments will be refocused on upgrading computer classrooms and on building specialty labs to provide hardware and software with requirements that exceed the capacity of the required notebooks.

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A Greek double standard or proper adjudication?

As fraternities vanish from campus, some students wonder what actions will be taken against Tri Delta for their drunken formal in October

Benjamin Farthing

Staff Writer

Last year the fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon was kicked off campus and suspended following alcohol related violations. This semester, fraternities Psi Upsilon and Kappa Alpha are in the process of being evicted, and Psi Upsilon is being suspended until 2008. Recently, the sorority Delta Delta Delta held their formal, which had to be ended early because of excessive drunkenness. It was at this party at Board of Visitors member John W. Gerdelman home that a rape allegedly took place. The College has issued no sanctions against DDD.

Michelle Shimberg, the national president of Delta Delta Delta, stated that "Delta Delta Delta staff, volunteers and local advisors are working closely with our William and Mary chapter to ensure all members fully understand the policies and expectations of social hosting," and that chapter leaders have "cooperated with DDD officers throughout the investigation and probation."

So why has there been such swift action against SAE, KA, and Psi U, and no action against DDD? Anne Arseneau, Associate Director of Student Activities, stated that "the details are *very* different." She said that the behavior at the DDD formal was "linked to privately held parties that started before the event." She pointed out that SAE was on probation at the time of the incident, and that they were found to be serving alcohol to minors. Investigations into the DDD formal found no evidence that underage persons were served alcohol.

Some students feel that the details were not so different. "It doesn't make sense that the three frats were thrown off so quickly while Tri-Delt has no action against them," said freshman Adam Muzyczyn. "What they did was at least similar."

Matt Beato, a Student Assembly Senator for the class of 2009, had a different opinion. "The College's policy is that groups should only be sanctioned if the infraction has an effect on the college community. Did this party meet that standard? I don't know."

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The art of sex

She moves like water, this woman, her earth-colored body slowly undulating like a hypnotic cobra. Her hips sway back and forth as her arms trace slow swirls through the air. Every now and then, she bats her eyelashes like delicate black butterflies. The woman on the stage in front of me is over 45 years old and must weigh at least 200 pounds, and she's still got it. She is a mother, a real-estate agent, and a former sex worker. Her name is Simone de la Getto, and she is an artist.

Simone, and her fellow troupe members are a part of the Sex Workers' Art Show, a stunning spectacle whose mission is to de-stigmatize the sex industry. To the close-minded, the show might appear to be nothing more than a glorified peep show, a series of stripteases and readings from sexually explicit novels performed by glorified street trash. To the trained eye, the show is a beautiful, artfully executed celebration of the individual and of the human body. Brought to the College by Junior Sean Barker in conjunction with the William and Mary Department of Women's Studies, the Sex Workers art show dares to look for art where many can see nothing but sin and shame. And they succeed. Oh, do they succeed.

Each of the acts features former workers in the sex industry. In their own ways, they celebrate their lives and their stories through every medium imaginable. One

reads from her book, telling of how she and another sex worker once attempted to outdo each other's fake orgasms while taking turns with a client. Yet another performs acrobatics on the aerial hoop, shedding her costume as she expertly performs one gymnastic feat after another. One woman even runs through the audience anxiously looking for her clothes after being led blindfolded onto the stage wearing only a black pair of

panties and a strip of black electrical tape over each of her nipples.

It's been said that all art is rebellion, that in order to be art something has to push back, to force us to shift perspective. The Sex Workers' Art Show does just that. The performers cross the boundaries between the world of the everyday and the world of the sex worker to show us that the human body is beautiful, that sex itself is beautiful, and that those who choose to make sex their careers have as much a right to respect as any other human person. Through art, the members of the troupe show their audience that sex work is nothing to be ashamed of, and that those who are a part of the industry are talented, intelligent, and beautiful human persons who deserve respect. The acts show that underneath it all, we are all people. Some of us may be parents, some may be real-estate agents, some may be sex workers. And some may be all three.



R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

Book Review: *Lost and Found* This "book of trash" evokes thought, emotion from simple items

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Do you remember that time in high school when you opened your locker and found a love letter addressed to someone else? Remember walking out of the grocery store and seeing someone else's doodles on the back of your receipt? Remember coming out to your car and seeing a note flapping under your windshield wiper? Davy Rothbart does. In 2001, Rothbart released the first issue of *Found Magazine*, a home for all of those crazy little notes, letters, and photographs that people happen to find on the street. The magazine grew to be so popular that three years later Rothbart released a compilation of his favorite pieces. He called it *Found: The Best Lost, Tossed, and Forgotten Items from Around the World*. Some parts of his book will make you burst out laughing. Others will make you cry. One way or another, every page will hit you in a way that you never could have imagined.

Essentially, *Found* is a book of trash; it contains photos of dirt-streaked pieces of loose-leaf paper and crumpled post-it notes. It's what is written on the trash that is truly

amazing. For example, take one of my favorites: a note found attached to a red balloon that reads, "I wish that I won't flunk 6th grade." There are also more serious pieces as well — notes written in Hungarian from a young woman who has just arrived in America alone and frightened, a series of heartrending letters from a woman in jail to her boyfriend, a few postcards from incarcerated Jews in a Nazi concentration camp.

The pieces collected in *Found* show us snapshots of ourselves. What makes the little letters and notes so powerful is the fact that we can relate to them so easily. We feel for that little kid wishing on a balloon because we've been there too. We connect with the senders of these love, or hate, letters scribbled on dirty pieces of paper because, in a way, we see ourselves in their writing.

Found: The Best Lost, Tossed, and Forgotten Items from Around the World is among the best books that I have ever come across. It's funny, sad, foolish and delightful all at the same time. It's not a strenuous read and it's simple to pick up and put down. Treat yourself to a few of the powerful little pieces in *Found*. You'll be surprised how much a few pieces of trash can make you think.

New York style pizza in Williamsburg?

Stephanos Pizza & Subs is a student friendly addition to Merchant's Square



Patrick Allen

A taste of the north: The latest addition to Colonial Williamsburg's offerings to the student body is Stephanos Pizza and Subs which provides all the charms of a New York pizza place for moderate prices.

Shelbi Wilson

Staff Writer

Have you visited the pizza place in Merchant's Square? Did you know there was one? It's a nice change of pace to the regular norm of Papa John's, Dominos, and the like.

Stephanos Pizza & Subs is right next to Season's on South Henry Street. It is a large restaurant with flat screen televisions and plenty of booths and tables. Numerous windows flood the place with natural light and oldies play the background. The restaurant is trying to attract students with wireless internet and the ability to pay with W&M Express.

Stephanos has a wide selection of subs & sandwiches from Veggie to the Chicken Philly to Barbeque. All are at reasonable prices ranging from \$3.99 to \$8.49. They also have

salad selections, including Caesar, House, and Greek varieties. Their pizza is New-York style and is ready in no time at all — the service was quick. They come in two sizes 12" and 16", similar to a medium or large pizza from the regular pizza places. Types of pizzas include Supreme, Thai Chicken, Five Cheese, Grilled Barbeque Chicken, and Mediterranean. I had the Mediterranean pizza and it was great! Prices range from \$11.99 to \$16.99 depending on what size and type you order. The restaurant also carries a limited selection of sides, desserts, Coke products, and alcoholic beverages.

Stephanos Pizza & Subs is located at 110 S. Henry Street in Merchant's Square. Their hours are 11am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, 11am to 11pm Friday and Saturday, and 10am to 8pm on Sundays. For more information, call (757) 476-8999.

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Potter Series Ignites with the *Goblet of Fire*

Like the incomparable books by J.K. Rowling, the films in the massively popular Harry Potter series continue seem to get better with age. The fourth film, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is no exception. After Chris Columbus nearly ruined the first two movies, Alfonso Cuarón revived the series with 2004's *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, and now with the most recent film in the series, it's improved even further.

In his fourth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry, Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, faces off in the greatest of wizarding championships: the Tri-Wizard Tournament. Two other European schools of magic are staying at Hogwarts and students from the schools participate in three very dangerous and trying tasks. Through it all, Harry encounters his first crush as he is enamored with fellow student Cho Chang. Unfortunately for Harry, Cho is smitten with Cedric Diggory, a fellow competitor in the Tri-Wizard Tournament. However, what would a Harry Potter film be without a little life-threatening danger? In the end, Harry once again encounters intense peril, near-death, and a showdown with his nemesis, Lord Voldemort.

Surprisingly, a British director helms the movie, a first for the series. Mike Newell, who

also directed *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, injects his British sensibility into the series, which is a very positive aspect in the film. Steve Kloves does an impressive job with the script, which takes Rowling's massive book and trims it down to a taut, two and a half-hour movie.

The child actors continue to mature in their trade and bring a lot of heart and humor to the film. However, as always, the adult actors steal the show. Brendan Gleeson as Mad-Eye Moody is the most fun to watch, but Miranda Richardson comes close as a gossip columnist known as Rita Skeeter. Also, for the first time in a Harry Potter film, there is a moment of true emotion as a



Joe Pirro
Film Critic

father's grief-filled wails tear through a crowd in the film's climax, and it's chilling.

Visually, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is a feast. It's even more successful as a thriller, and Newell is able to get away with it due to the film's PG-13 rating, a first for the series. For the first time, the movie captures what it's like to be a teenager, from awkward situations before dances to fights with friends. By the thrilling climax, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* has become the best film in the series to date, which is quite the feat. **The Informer gives *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* an A-**

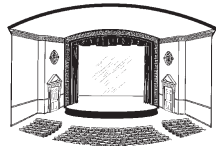
The next best thing to studying abroad at Hogwarts



Courtesy of Heather Byrnes

Are you a Gryffindor or a Slytherin?: Wizards and Muggles, William and Mary's Harry Potter appreciation society, is the place to go for those heated debates over possible typos in J.K. Rowling's popular series. Members are sorted into Houses - Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff - which accrue points and have unique t-shirts the member are proud to flaunt. The group meets every other Wednesday at 7 PM in Tucker 216. Be sure to attend the Quidditch tournament on April 8 on Yates Field, if for no other reason than sheer curiosity of how you can play without brooms.

***Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is the UCAB Blockbuster for March. It is playing at the UC Commonwealth Auditorium at 7 and 9:30 PM on March 24 and 25. Admission is \$2.**



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2006

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Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary Rest in Peace: The William & Mary College Cemetery

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The very first time that I walked out of the back door of Blair Hall and headed towards Monroe Hall I had to do a double take. Was that a cemetery? Right in the middle of campus? Yes. Yes, it was! Right behind Blow Hall and enclosed by a low brick wall is what's known as the College Cemetery. The little patch of ground is the final resting place of at least nine people, of whom only three of the graves are marked. Its story is an interesting one, and one that has not always been happy.

The cemetery was officially sanctioned a century and a half

ago on January 18, 1859. All five members of the William and Mary Faculty met together and voted to set aside a small piece of land as "a burying ground for the professors of the College and their families & the students." Apparently, the idea for the cemetery came from then-president Benjamin Stottart Ewell, who wanted to move the remains of his father onto the campus. For some reason, President Ewell chose never to have his father reinterred. He however did have his mother, his sister, his daughter and her husband, her husband's mother, and himself laid to rest in the College Cemetery. A diagram drawn in the early 1920's by former librarian Earl Gregg Swem and a woman named Mrs. R. M. Crawford shows that the members of the Ewell family are buried against the western wall of the plot.

Two professors are also at rest in the cemetery. T.T.L. Snead, a professor of mathematics, was buried there in 1872. Professor Snead came to the college at the age of 20, and he stayed on, first as a student and later as a professor, for the remainder of his life. Professor Lucien Minor, possessor of the largest marker in the cemetery, was laid to rest there in 1860 after being moved from his original grave at Bruton Parish Church. Minor was a professor of law at the College and an active member of the Sons of Temperance, a secret society that supported the temperance movements of the 19th century. It was this society that was responsible both for Professor Minor's reinterment and for the construction of the obelisk over his body.

Much of the mystery surrounding the College Cemetery centers around the students that have been buried there. It is positively known that the remains of B. Thorton Turner, who drowned in 1873, reside there. It's however possible that two more young men have their final resting places in the cemetery. One is a law student named Richard H. Jones who died in 1861. The College requested that he be buried on the school plot, but it is not known for certain whether Jones' family honored this request. Another student, identified only



Hold your breath: Many of the legendary members of the College are buried on this small plot behind Blow Memorial Hall.

as Thorton, is believed to be buried there as well, but the only evidence is oral tradition.

For half a century, until 1924, the cemetery lay neglected, not walled in, and had only two of its graves marked. When construction began on what was then Blow Gymnasium, it was found that some workmen were leaving building materials and equipment in the cemetery. In response, *The Flat Hat* ran a series of articles and editorials imploring the College Community to do something about the miserable state of the plot, especially the unmarked grave of President Ewell, who, according to tradition, kept William & Mary alive during the Civil War by ringing her bell once every year at the start of the new term; he furthermore lobbied the Federal Government for funds to reopen the college and to repair the damage done by the Union Army to the Wren Building.

The pleas of *The Flat Hat* staff were soon heeded. A fund was raised, and a wall was put up around the cemetery. In addition, a tombstone was purchased and erected in memory of President Ewell, who was hailed as "the Old Bell Ringer" and "the best friend old William & Mary ever had." The college organized a ceremony at the cemetery, in June of 1924, which was repeated for many years afterwards. It commemorated President Ewell as well as other members of the College Community who had passed away over the course of the year. This ceremony, now held on the Sunken Gardens during Homecoming, no longer involves the College Cemetery.

Interestingly enough, it is technically still possible to be buried in the College Cemetery. Such a burial would require the approval of the Board of Visitors. However, an interment hasn't been held there for over a hundred years, so don't hold your breath. For now, you know the story of those random tombstones and the stories of the nine, or ten, or eleven people who are buried in the College Cemetery.

Harboring Resentment: *Development* Arrested

Joe Pirro

Film Critic

On Friday, February 10, two major events were televised. One, of course, was the Opening Ceremonies to the Winter Olympics in Torino. The other, however, was far more important: Fox aired what they said will be the final 4 episodes of *Arrested Development* on their network. The show, numerically, went out with a whimper, as barely 3.5 million Americans tuned it. Critically, however, the show went out with a bang, taking jabs at Fox and the American public for not catching on to their great show.

Arrested Development premiered in November 2003, to the best reviews any show has ever received. The San Francisco Chronicle said it was "far and away the best sitcom on broadcast television," while Entertainment Weekly said that "once in the history of time comes a sitcom like *Arrested Development*." Tom Shales, television critic for the Washington Post, wrote a column begging his readers to watch the show to help keep it on the air. *Arrested Development* even won the Best Comedy Series Emmy in 2004, beating the final seasons of *Frasier* and *Sex and the City*. The accolades continue to pile up for the show.

Arrested Development, an ensemble comedy, was about the corrupt, but loving Bluth family. Michael Bluth, played by Jason Bateman, was running the company's business following the arrest of his father for embezzlement and "light" treason (building mini-palaces for Saddam Hussein in Iraq). Interactions with the rest of the family led to hilarious

“Over the past two and a half years, the Bluth family has been the brightest part of television, a medium which has sunk further and further since the rise of reality television.”

situations. Liberal "activist" Lindsay led an anti-circumcision campaign, while her sexually ambiguous husband, Dr. Tobias Funke tried to become an actor. Michael's older brother, G.O.B. (or George Oscar Bluth) tried to stage his comeback as a magician, while his younger brother Buster began dating his next door neighbor played by Liza Minelli.

Over the past two and a half years, the Bluth family has been the brightest part of television, a medium which has sunk further and further since the rise of reality television. It was a sad, sad day when Peter Liguori (President of Fox Television, hereafter referred to as the evil-doer) announced that *Arrested Development* would be replaced by *Skating with*

A DISAPPOINTING DEVELOPMENT

continued on page sixteen

Funny Money: Comedian to give monetary advice to college students

Chase Coleman

Staff Writer

Everyone knows the stereotype of the broke college student. You might even be one. However, comedian and award winning speaker James Cunningham can turn your financial woes around with his critically acclaimed seminar, *Funny Money*.

With a degree in theatre and drama from the University of Toronto, Cunningham has toured the world as a comic. Over the past few years he has been touring the United States and Canada as both a comic and a

teacher, giving a seminar on how to manage money. In both 2003 and 2004 Cunningham won the "Best Lecture" award at the National Canadian Organization of Campus Activities conference, and he has been nominated for "Campus Comedian of the Year" numerous times.

What is so special about Cunningham's lecture? The idea sounds intriguing: comedy combined with economics. Cunningham uses his knowledge and own personal experience to relate economic ideas to students. Designed exclusively for college students, the lecture, explains Cunningham,

teaches them "everything they need to know about budgeting their money, managing their debt, and investing for their future." In order to explain these financial concepts, Cunningham uses volunteers from the crowd. In previous seminars, members of the audience have even had a chance to win cash prizes.

In this age of rising education costs, financial planning has become imperative. The debt incurred from college loans can often seem daunting to students, and some students have trouble keeping track of the money they have. Worry not: the *Funny*

Money website claims that the lecture "will have even the most financially challenged student back on their feet." Cunningham teaches students how to handle these difficult problems through the art of comedy. Even students who are familiar with budgets and debt can learn from Cunningham's discussion of investment, which explains the various ways to secure one's future. Anyone who sees *Funny Money* will come away filled with both knowledge and laughter.

James Cunningham will be giving his seminar at 8 p.m. at the U.C. Commonwealth Auditorium on March 29th.

On riots and emails

The intolerable rise against free speech is increasingly alarming

The right to free speech is under siege not only in our world but also on the William and Mary campus. While riots orchestrated by hate filled mullahs in the Middle East in response to satirical cartoons are not surprising, the intolerance of our own college administration to independent newspapers surely is.

The link between cartoons that sparked violent protests around the globe and Sam Sadler's recent email might seem tenuous at first glance. They are, however, both linked by a common misunderstanding about freedom of speech that should alarm every student. The ability to speak and write freely brings forth ideas and messages that can be considered deeply upsetting, embarrassing and even blasphemous. It is precisely these ideas that are the most controversial that should be given the greatest amount of protection.

Yet journalists, particularly college journalists, are forced to censor themselves. There are simply some things that cannot be printed. Some issues are just too sensitive. Print an article criticizing some aspect of a

certain religion and risk the wrath of angry students. Print an in-depth article covering sexual assault and risk the outrage and *censure*-ship of the school administration.

Colleges and universities above all other institutions should value the free flow of ideas especially over a matter that deeply affects every member of the student body. Instead of responding to our substantive proposals on sexual assault Sam Sadler has sent out an email questioning the integrity and motives of *The Informer* and *The Remnant*. The retreat from the principles of free exchange of ideas is especially shameful from an institution that produced Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall. We at the *Informer* will continue to press for answers to the serious questions that still have not been addressed.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." In the administration's world it appears they would prefer the former.



Amanda Yasenchak

Standing up for minority rights

Joe Luppino-Esposito

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It was about this time last year that I, as a Student Assembly Senator for the Class of 2008, came forward with a proposed amendment to the Department of Diversity Initiatives. The amendment suggested that along with the categories of multicultural, religious, gender and sexual orientation, there ought to be a category of "political" in order to assist a very marginalized community at William and Mary: conservatives.

I was told that for many reasons, conservatives weren't a minority. First of all, you cannot single out a conservative just by looking at him, as you can with other minorities—although I am still trying to figure out what it takes to know someone's sexuality and religion by sight. These groups also said they had nowhere to go—which seemed odd, considering that Susan Grover, the Equal Opportunity Director addressed the Senate and said they came to her in the first place and that is why the department was proposed.

So if you look above the sarcasm, it is clear that my argument was well-grounded, but crushed nonetheless. The problem was that there was one thing I could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt; that conservatives were hated by some, and that people did not want us on campus. I had documented plenty of stories from students,

but they were laughed off as insignificant. I spent the last year rest-assured that I was right, knowing I had fought the good fight.

And then on February 7, a student attending a vigil for the thousands of murders committed by abortion every year was assaulted near the Crim Dell. A blow to the face and another strike while she was down gave the girl a nice bruise on her head and left the left on campus reeling. That weekend, Stephen Braunlich, a senior and president of Americans Collegians for Life, was able to tell a packed room at the American Conservative Union's conference of the incident, letting the world know of William and Mary's hostile environment for conservatives. The "progressives" on campus had been exposed as haters and intolerant, as I argued a year ago.

Is an "I told you so" in order? You better believe it. It is inexcusable that the College has taken so long to react to the discrimination. The President's Committee on Diversity is considering a diversity statement that mentions "academic diversity." What the College needs to adopt is the full Academic Bill of Rights to guarantee that conservatives can speak openly in class, without fear of retribution from fellow students, or worse, the professor. The College needs to realize the genuine value of diversity of ideas and thought on campus and recognize the fact that diversity is actually more than skin deep.

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** and all of the **Collegiate Network**.

If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*, please contact us at VAInfo@wm.edu.

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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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.

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Free speech before “tolerance”

Alex Mayer

Staff Writer

Recently, the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) sponsored a forum on the controversy over the publishing of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in a Danish newspaper, which has sparked protests, riots, and violence by Muslims worldwide. The forum, which took place in Rogers Hall on February 27, consisted of four panelists: Government Professor Rani Mullen, Junior Sulaiman Bah, Junior Ayah Ibrahim, and Law School student Junaid Ahmad.

While each spoke intelligently and eloquently on the controversy, all the speakers seemed to have the exact same opinion – and each made the same flaws in their arguments. Professor Mullen claimed that democracy is “not just about rights,” but about the responsibility “not to cause offense,” and that we all have a duty to show “common courtesy.” Bah agreed that there are some expressions of speech that “should not be tolerated.” Ms. Ibrahim also cautioned that “sensitivity to certain groups should be respected in a plural society.” Their sentiments mirror a recent Boston Globe editorial, which stated, “[N]ewspapers ought to refrain from publishing offensive caricatures of Mohammed in the name of the

ultimate Enlightenment value: tolerance.”

Perhaps I'm mistaken, but I never thought of “tolerance” as the most important Enlightenment value. I always associated the most important Enlightenment ideals to be the pursuit of knowledge, free thinking, and the right to critically analyze any issue – no matter how “sacred” or “off limits.” Thankfully, the West's great Enlightenment thinkers like Voltaire, Locke, and Montesquieu did not feel themselves limited by a fear of “offending” others with their ideas.

Was it a good idea for the Danish newspaper to print cartoons it knew would provoke hostility in the Arab world? Maybe not. But the debate is beyond that now. The cartoons were published, and now it is not so much a dispute over the content of the cartoons as much as the principles by which the Danish newspaper printed them.

Sadly, most Western – and especially American – news outlets seem to agree with the MSA forum's panelists. The cartoons of Mohammed have been reprinted in only a handful of U.S. papers – none of them major. In fact, the cartoons have been reprinted more widely in Muslim countries than in the West.

What is the reason for this cowardice? While there are many explanations, the most concerning is a lack of conviction in

the greatness of Western culture. The moral equivalency of “multiculturalism” has taught us that “tolerance” does not just mean respecting other beliefs, but believing that they are all of equal value. In essence, there is no reason to fight Islamic radicalism – with its suppression of women, abhorrence of religious freedom, and censorship of thought and press – when it has become “intolerant” to suggest that Western society is any better. And when Western civilization surrenders the right to defend its most cherished values – freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of the press – we are not only giving up the very things that make our civilization great, but we also surrendering our ability to defend ourselves.

The historian Arnold Tynbee once stated: “Civilizations die from suicide, not by murder.” The world was able to confront and defeat the totalitarianisms of the 20th century: fascism, Nazism, and Stalinism. In each case, these systems were not brought down by military strength alone – the ideological foundations on which they were based were also completely discredited and destroyed. Today, the world faces a new totalitarianism: Islamism. And like those before it, Islamism is fighting a war with the West not just on the battlefield, but in the realm of ideas. We must not shrink from that battle.

A biased opinion regarding journalist and reader bias

Stephanie Long

Layout Editor

I first noticed the blue flyers that appeared on bulletin boards late on February 17 from the Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) proclaiming the lack of “fair-minded journalism” on campus and calling for those in support of their vaguely expressed cause to “wear red on Monday, February 20.” I was unsure at the time if these flyers were in response to the articles appearing in the February issue of *The Informer*, which had come out the previous Monday and incited controversies such as the printing of Anne Harrington's name and an editorial calling for John Gerdelman to step down, or to *The Remnant's* response to the issue.

A representative of ASAP assured me that it was *The Remnant's* flyers—put up on February 21 directing people to their coverage of the Decker-Harrington controversy, and mentioned by President Nichol in a campus e-mail. While ASAP's motives for the flyers was to reassert the support on campus for those involved in these unfortunate situations, *The Remnant* still felt it necessary to put up counter-posters late on February 19 calling for those in support of “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,” to wear blue on that same Monday. Because red and blue are common colors to wear, I knew that no logical William and Mary student would relate a student's clothing choice based on the flyers, thus I didn't concern myself with the battle between the two.

What the dispute did incite, though, was a strong desire to address the ideas of reader bias and journalistic integrity.

Journalism is something that is easy to criticize yet difficult to undertake. To write objectively, the goal of any good journalist, is impossible. There is an undetachable filter which exists in the mind of every person and becomes evident in the way any person expresses her views. Thus journalists are being unfairly

criticized for failing to live up to their idealistic aspirations, for even the most open-minded person in the world cannot write without revealing her opinion—

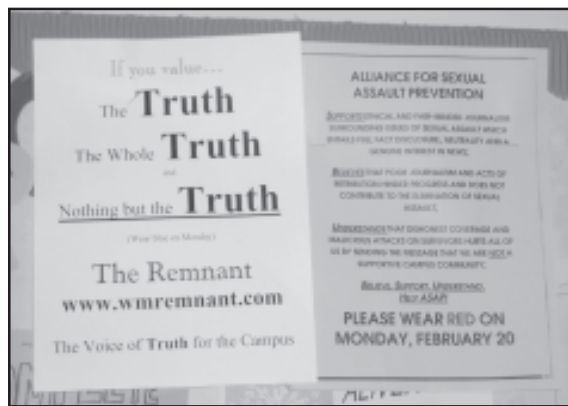
however subtle it may be.

But this concept is a two-way street. And just as one cannot communicate thoughts without her thoughts passing through her filter, one cannot absorb thoughts without them going through the same filter. Thus bias, meaning one's own opinions, is an unconscious part of every human being and affects each person in more than one way.

In light of the sexual assault tragedies of the past year, it makes sense for emotions to be high, and everyone, especially journalists, should take special care to recognize the sensitivity of the issue. But the facts need to be presented, and I think *The Informer* did a good job of providing informative and considerate articles regarding the court case between Decker and Harrington. Nevertheless, there were still many complaints.

Because *The Informer* is an investigative paper, it has become synonymous with controversy. It is also known that the majority of our writers are conservative, which is certainly a group that is not well received within the liberal campus community. But *The Informer* is doing what no other paper has ever dared to do: it is covering important issues that are affecting our campus that other papers are overlooking. *The Informer* as a whole should be applauded by the entirety of the student body instead of criticized because of the personal beliefs of the staffers.

It seems to be the trend, though, for people to pick up the latest issue expecting to see slanderous attacks



on anything and everything. Within the Opinion section, commentaries such as these have free reign, but on our other pages what we print are facts that reveal the truth—whether it is what the student body wants to hear or not.

Journalism acts as a way to provide information, and one should read the news with the hope of being informed. This can only be done if one looks at the news on the whole instead of getting caught up in trivial semantic details, which may or may not reveal the journalists' bias. It is one thing to read a newspaper critically, taking into account that some bias is present in the writing. In fact, I encourage thinking about what is presented in our articles and formulating your own opinion. But many people read the news looking for, and I would go as far as to say that some actually hope for, bias, and this action is a form of bias in itself.

Ultimately, we all need to take responsibility for our own bias. For instance, I do not deny that I write this from the viewpoint of a journalist who has been offended by closed-minded comments made by members of the student body, and even Sam Sadler, regarding recent issues and the way they have been presented in the news. But people would rather deny their own biases and continue to criticize others without justification and in complete hypocrisy.

Bias is truly in the eyes of the beholder, thus everyone should constantly be aware of its presence, not only in others but in themselves.

College students or preschoolers?

The College of William and Mary might be considered a higher level form of preschool. Sometimes I am just waiting for a professor to tell me its naptime. Why?

We are adults in the legal sense and yet a climate of artificial, childish treatment fills the air of this campus. For example, honor code rules or judicial violation proceedings cause us to have the misconception that we are held to a higher standard as students of a prestigious institution. They are excuses to only hurt students and not help them. If you ask me, there is a lack of humility as a result of these higher standards and grandiose academic claims.

Further separating us from the real world is the lack of freedom within Greek life.

Greek fraternities and sororities know the definition of “kid gloves.” They receive this treatment by campus police constantly. Before dance parties, campus police stop by to tell the fraternities a standard set of guidelines. Fraternities know the rules, but an ageist mentality is still prevalent in the minds of administration and police. The police visits are really just meant to be intimidating.

The College has recently made its move against Psi Upsilon and Kappa Alpha. In an explicit move to undermine fraternity life at William and Mary, the administration kicked both off campus. Last year, Sigma Alpha Epsilon lost its housing. A myriad of fraternities before have lost housing as well. Whatever the circumstances of their demise, the College is all too willing to kick another fraternity off campus if it can. KA's recent expulsion occurred because of broken bottles in their basement and missing ceiling tiles, supposedly. Essentially, KA was kicked off campus on a technicality. The administration is excited.

You could say these fraternities broke the rules by encouraging underage drinking, drug use or not paying fines. Or you could say that the College of William and Mary is just another extension of an oppressive government structure that encourages a guilty until proven innocent mentality.

The College supports the morally conservative efforts of President George Bush and Virginia while at the same time, it invites liberal speakers who would never support the overbearing alcohol and drug policies that the college has adopted.

Thomas Jefferson, an often mentioned alumnus of William and Mary, once said: “I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.” In a climate of legal conformity such as that of this college, it's pleasing to hear that our most famous alumnus would not oppose a bending of the rules. For a stiff college like ours, a bending of the rules would be very welcome.



John R. Kennedy
Opinions Editor

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We will print them... probably.

Contra Café is democratic and delicious!

A fair alternative to fair trade

Tony Doucet

Staff Writer

Fair Trade coffee has now become the only option for a cup of joe on campus. Starbucks, which, before last month, offered customers a choice between free and Fair Trade coffee, has now made the transition to an exclusively Fair Trade selection of brews. Is there another option available?

There just might be. It's called Contra Café, and it's brought to you by the same people who fought Communism in the 1980s in Central America. "At the height of the Cold War, the Contras fought for political and economic freedom in Nicaragua. Their heroic efforts forced democratic elections and led to the fall of the Sandinista government," according to their website, contracafe.com. "Today, a cooperative of former Contras grows an exceptional coffee high in the mountains of northern Nicaragua. Contra Café roasts this outstanding coffee and delivers it fresh to your home."

The Contra Café brand of coffee is grown at a higher altitude than most other South American coffees, high in the mountains of Nicaragua. These high altitudes and unusually cold nights allow for exceptionally slow growth and development of the coffee cherries that, when hand-picked and depulped by a Contra

farmer, ensures that the resulting roast is unique.

The overwhelming opinion of Contra coffee, after a private taste-testing, was positive: unusual, but tasty. It has a strong, yet sweet taste that seems to appeal on several different levels. One tester described it as "rich, but not too heavy," while freshman William Jordan-Cooley called it "bitter-sweet." Another student said it was "better than Caf coffee."

But why would the average William and Mary student decide to purchase, or even advocate the brewing of, Contra Café on campus as opposed to Fair Trade coffee? Assuming the taste of the coffee itself doesn't convince you, then how about this: while Fair Trade coffee pays its farmers around the world in the vicinity of \$1.20 per pound, Contra coffee pays its farmers \$1.51 per pound of coffee. Arguably, it ends up helping the farmers more than free or Fair Trade coffee would, while producing what some would call a better product for practically no extra cost to the consumer. Not to mention, it promotes democracy around the globe.

What did Phil DiBenedetto, head of dining services at William and Mary, have to say about this intriguing new brand of coffee? While DiBenedetto was certainly sympathetic to the plight of the Contras and



The taste of freedom: Freshman Patrick Allen is enjoying a nice cup of coffee that could be from Freedom Fighters if Dining Services opts to accept Contra Café

was interested to taste the coffee, he expressed regret that Aramark could not begin purchasing coffee from such a small vendor. As with the Fair Trade coffee, he said that the help that he gave needed to have the biggest benefit for largest number of people.

While DiBenedetto expressed regret that dining services could not serve Contra Café, he suggested an interesting idea. Perhaps *The Informer*, in conjunction with dining services, could sponsor a tasting in the near future to raise awareness about the Contras and their delicious coffee.

As of right now, the only way to purchase Contra Café is via their web site. A 16 ounce bag of coffee (whole beans or grounds) is \$10. Eco-grounds, the fair trade certified coffee served at Java City on campus is around \$10 for only 12 ounces, depending on the variety.

While Contra Café may not be available on campus yet, the Contras still provide a fine coffee for a fair price. So if you're looking for a delicious coffee that also helped to stop Communism, then look no further than Contra Café.

DISAPPOINTING DEVELOPMENT: Fox cancels critically acclaimed series in favor of reality TV

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Celebrities (hereafter referred to as "the trash"). However, *Arrested* refused to go down without a fight. In an episode titled SOBs, or (Save our Bluths), narrator Ron Howard begged people to watch the show, as the characters wondered if their company would be saved by the Home Builders Organization (HBO, anyone?). In the final episode, they even poked fun at "the trash" as Buster stated he thought *Skating with Celebrities* was a good show, and a "train wreck on ice."

Last May, when Fox announced their fall lineup, it looked as if *Arrested Development* may have been cancelled. That's when the evil-doer (before turning to the dark side) announced he was proud to bring *Arrested Development* back for another season. Well, here we are, three months before the television season is over, and Fox has all but cancelled the show. It's a shame Fox didn't treat it like a hot cousin (any avid fan will get that joke), but opted to promote shows like *American Dad* and *The War at Home* instead. There's a chance that ABC or Showtime might buy it from Fox, but until then, life just seems empty without the Bluths.

Economics Chair and Vice Mayor Haulman proposes anti-student housing plan

Student/candidate Sievers condemns Spring Break vote

Alex Randy Kyrios

Staff Writer

A new proposal from the Williamsburg City Council could make off-campus life for College students even more difficult.

This idea, however, has the distinction of coming from Vice Mayor Clyde Haulman, who is also a popular professor and Chair of the Economics Department. The plan would charge City Council with borrowing money to buy homes in neighborhoods, close to the College, where many residents rent. The homes would then be resold, but the new owner would be required to live there. City officials would also encourage residents selling their houses to put a clause into the house's title mandating owner residence. This would put an end to landlords who could take on students as tenants.

City Manager Jack Tuttle, according to Carol Scott of the *Daily Press*, felt Haulman's proposal was compatible with "the city's ongoing effort to balance off-campus student housing with long-term residential housing,"

and would look into the specifics of the plan.

Junior David Sievers, who has taken a semester off to run a grassroots campaign to get elected to City Council, was highly critical of Haulman's concept and its timing. He told the *Informer* that he was "deeply disturbed" at the proposal's "deliberate timing and underlying ethos." He said that the fact that it was brought up during spring break "belies the divisive nature of city council, something my campaign is working to reverse." He decried the fact that students have no voice in the matter. Sievers described the attitude of the proposal as "dirty politics" and "exactly the type of thing that made me want to run" for City Council.

General student reaction to the plan can be described as frustrated. Freshman Kaia Grant felt Haulman "raises perfectly logical points in favor of trying to increase the number of permanent residents," but complained that the plan "has a discriminatory tone against young people." The proposal "is unfair and short-sighted," according to sophomore Evan Rockkind. He pointed out that off-campus students are more likely to buy groceries in the City and support its economy, and was upset "that a professor would try to do this." Junior Daniel Reisch took a harsher

Wake up with Freedom Fighters at the UC

The Informer will be hosting a taste-testing event for Contra Café at the UC Center Court coming up soon!

Look for updates at VAInformer.com.



SIEVERS

Crossword Solution

