



Rape charges dropped; Decker files \$5M suit against accuser

Benjamin Locher

Staff Writer

Forcible rape charges pending against former student Patrick Decker, who was set to graduate this year, have been dropped after a Charles City County prosecutor decided there was not enough evidence to go ahead with a trial. In response, Decker has filed a \$5.5 million defamation suit against his accuser, junior Anne Harrington, alleging that she maliciously and falsely accused him of rape. Decker has admitted to having consensual sex with Harrington at a Delta Delta Delta sorority formal at the Charles City home of Board of Visitors member John Gerdleman on October 28, 2005.

Decker was also tried in absentia at a College judicial hearing after his lawyer asked him not to attend the hearing prior to the then-pending criminal case. He was forced to withdraw from the College.

The civil complaint filed by Decker's attorneys, Thomas Turbeville and Kenneth Yoffy, alleges that Harrington fabricated a story, changed it several times, and covered up the fact that she had sex with another person just hours after allegedly being raped.

In the suit, Decker alleges that Harrington "maliciously or recklessly made [a] false report, knowing that the facts alleged to her friends, the

health care providers, the deputy sheriff, the Commonwealth Attorney, and the college officials were false and misleading."

Attorney Richard AtLee filed a defense on behalf of Harrington reaffirming her contention that she was forcibly raped.

"The defendant [Harrington] affirmatively states that in the circumstances she did not consent to this plaintiff having sexual intercourse with her and that she was sexually assaulted by the plaintiff," AtLee wrote in his response.

The full text of the Decker's civil complaint, Harrington's defense, and other documents are available on the Virginia Informer's Web site. The sheriff's department records and the College's judicial hearing transcript have been subpoenaed and will also be made available on the Web site when they become available.

The police incident report said that Harrington reported a forcible rape and that the medical examiner's report showed bruising on her arm and inner thighs. She admitted that she was intoxicated but "was certain Mr. Decker had forcible sex with her."

Harrington's accounts of the events are not available, but Decker outlined his understating of the evening in his civil complaint. He alleged

CHARGES DROPPED

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Courtesy of Sievers campaign

Student runs for City Council

Junior focuses campaign on transportation and housing

Jon San

Staff Writer

Junior David Sievers is withdrawing from classes at William and Mary for a semester to pursue candidacy in the race for city council.

Although Sievers is not required to withdraw for a semester, he feels his campaign responsibilities on top of schoolwork would prove to be overwhelming.

"As of now, my number one priority is running for city council," Sievers said.

One of the obstacles facing Sievers is the low voter turnout at Williamsburg elections, which occur every two years. In 2004, only 1800 votes were cast out of the 12,000 residents of Williamsburg. Sievers hopes to remedy this situation by personally talking to people about the issues that they are concerned about. This includes campaigning door-to-door, visiting living centers and other similar activities.

"One of my favorite quotes is by Thomas Jefferson who said, 'That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part.' Obviously, I want as much involvement as possible in the upcoming election," Sievers said.

Another barrier is the issue of his age. Sievers is 20 years old, which many members of the Williamsburg find to be too young.

"Some people are afraid that my running for candidacy represents a takeover of city council by college students – however that is not the case," Sievers said.

One of the primary tenants of his platform is his Smart Growth plan which hopes to address the economic growth of Williamsburg.

"We need to plan for future development," Sievers said. "We cannot keep growing without any sort of plan."

Other issues include improving the transportation system in Williamsburg and strengthening the tourism industry. Keeping students in mind, Sievers hopes to make off-

SIEVERS

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THE VIRGINIA
INFORMER

New dorms offer new features... at a price

Gustavo Elias

Staff Writer

The as-yet-unnamed residence at Barksdale Field is on schedule to be completed on July 31, 2006, according to Deb Boykin, Director of Residence Life at the College. The new dorms on Barksdale—which will be available in this year's lottery—will replace Dillard Hall, bringing presently far-flung undergraduates back to campus. The fate of Dillard Hall is currently unknown, but it will not house undergraduates next year, Boykin says.

Because it is still under construction, there will not be a "model room" available in the new dorm for students to scrutinize: students will have to wait until August to see their

residences. According to Residence Life, rooms are projected to be \$400 more than the standard double and single room rates. This price change is more in line with the national norm, and Boykin asserts that the amenities of the new dorms will be worth every penny.

This co-ed dorm will house a total of 387 upperclassmen, with 91 single rooms, suite bathrooms, built-in closets, and a new heating and cooling system. This system allows the resident of each room to control the heating and air conditioning all year. The dorm will house eight Resident Assistants (RAs) in single rooms, a Head Resident apartment, and the Area Director's apartment. The decision to include more singles was based on the results of a student focus group several

years ago, which concluded, among other things, that demand for singles was high.

The first, second, and third floor feature a concept called "cluster-housing." The dorm will be divided into groups—or "clusters"—of 16-18 students, to build small, close-knit communities inside a large dorm. Each cluster will have its own lounge for its own use. The attic (fourth floor) will feature more traditional housing, double rooms with suite bathrooms, and colonial pop-out windows for character. The first south section features two acoustical attuned and soundproof practice rooms, providing residents the opportunity to play and practice music without needing to trek over to Ewell Hall nor worry about bothering neighbors. The first floor south side also enjoys an open porch facing Barksdale Field, a copier room, kitchen, and laundry room. The first north section features an extensive game room, an entire row of lounges designated as a single reading room, duty office, and a roomy multi-purpose room.

Two types of suite bathrooms are available. The first are the traditional suite bathrooms, where two double rooms share a bathroom in the middle with two sinks, toilet, and shower. The new type of suite bathroom will only be available to single rooms. A cluster of four singles will be sectioned off in their own subsection of a hall, and their bathroom will be across from their rooms. These single bathrooms, sectioned off in the clusters, will provide students with more privacy.

Residence Life is confident that students will find the new dorms, with their combination of neo-colonial architecture and luxurious modern amenities, to be the best on campus.



Patrick Allen

Brick and mortar... and more brick: The Jamestown Road dorm construction is on schedule.

Students add \$11M to economy annually

Purchasing power may bring more student-friendly businesses to campus

Amanda Yasenchak

Editor in Chief

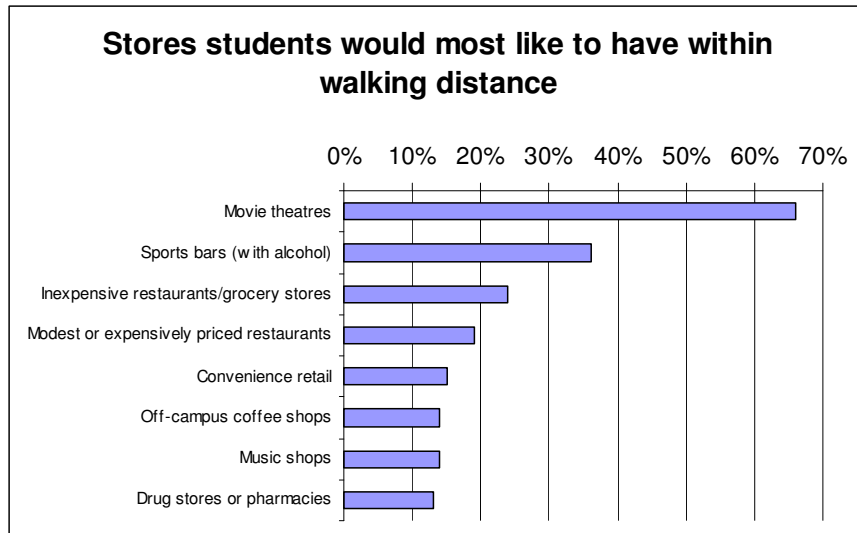
On February 7 the College released the results of last semester's economic survey which reveals that William and Mary brings in more than \$539 million to Virginia's economy. A large portion of that money is spent by students who, according to the survey, would like to see more businesses catered to their interests within walking distance of campus.

The data, which breaks down which businesses students would be most likely to patronize, will be a help the College, which has an "interest in stimulating student retail and entertainment opportunities," according to James Golden, director of economic development and corporate affairs.

Golden hopes that the results of the survey "demonstrate that students have quite a bit of purchasing power." The survey found that students spend an average of \$294 per month on all types of purchases excluding textbooks, school supplies and meal plan items, of which \$169 per month is spent in the Williamsburg area.

The College hopes to draw more student oriented businesses to the campus area. Golden cited the Wawa on Richmond Road as an example of a business that profits largely from the students, saying that if you drew a 1 mile radius around Wawa you would cover nearly all of the College's residence halls, which accounts for the business's success.

The results show that students' first choice of businesses to draw to campus was a movie theatre. New Town Cinema, which opened last fall, addresses that concern. The College will attempt to pursue students' other retail and entertainment interests in order of their ranked choices; they will next pursue



retail clothing stores. The College has not yet been approached by retailers and there are no plans to build retail locations directly on campus.

Students are more likely to patronize a business if it stays open later, the survey found. When considering a restaurant catering to students and located within walking distance, 50% of students said they were somewhat or very likely to increase patronage if the restaurant stayed open until 10:00 PM. 78% of students were likely to increase patronage if the restaurant stayed open until midnight. The results were similar when considering a coffee house within walking distance.

The survey considered patronage of existing local businesses. 93% of students visit New Town and Monticello Plaza at least once a month, while 91% visit the Williamsburg Shopping Center.

Transportation was a factor in the survey, and it was discovered that 56% of students never use the Williamsburg Area Transit (WAT), including 40% of freshmen and sophomores who normally do not have access to a vehicle on campus. Students would be more likely to use WAT if a

continuous loop that ran every 30 minutes was available. Golden says the College will look into increasing the frequency of WAT service.

The economic impact survey collected data from students, faculty and staff to examine spending habits and their economic impact. The College and its community added roughly \$301 million in economic activity in Greater Williamsburg, \$430 million in Hampton Roads, and \$463 million in Virginia in 2005, all of which adds about 7,100 jobs to the commonwealth. William and Mary also attracts approximately 120,000 visitors to Williamsburg each year for admission visits and conferences, adding another \$26 million to the Virginia economy.

The student survey was sent to all 7,596 undergraduate and graduate students and 31% responded. Surveys were also sent to 2,285 faculty and staff members and 17.3% responded.

The study was conducted by the Wessex Group, a market research, strategic planning and business consulting firm. Two of the principals in the study were retired William and Mary professor of business Roy Pearson and current professor of business Don Messmer.

The study cost \$28,000 in total. When questioned why it was commissioned to a private business, Pearson and Messmer said that they did not want to take business school professors out of the classroom and the research was far beyond the understanding of the average business student. The College wanted an independent assessment for a balanced view of the results.

Golden asserted that William and Mary positively affects the economy beyond the scope of the survey. "We're preparing great young people for careers," he said, adding that William and Mary graduates in the professional workforce added significantly to the economic growth of the region.

Subsequent studies in other ways that William and Mary impacts the economy, such as the economic outreach of community service programs

Future of military recruiters rests on Supreme Court case

Alex Mayer

Staff Writer

Last December, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Rumsfeld v. FAIR*, a case that will determine the fate of military recruiters on college campuses nationwide, including William and Mary. It is the latest development in a case brought by a coalition of 26 law schools—led by Harvard Law School—against the Pentagon which concerns the right to ban military recruiters from access to college campuses in protest of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy towards homosexuals—without losing millions of dollars in federal funding as a consequence.

Lt. Col. Rick Monahan, professor of military science, told *The Virginia Informer* that he has "not heard of any [such] discussions" among William and Mary law school administrators. "I was over there just the other day in my uniform...nobody seemed to mind," Monahan joked. As to the trend at other universities, Monahan said it was "of course within any school's rights" to institute whatever policies they saw fit. In regards to the federal government withholding funds from offending schools, Monahan was sure that "the government [is acting] within the law," but that "the Supreme Court will have to decide" whether that law can be applied to this situation.

However, there are some students at the College who would like to see a greater effort made to keep military recruiters off campus. Sophomore Thomas Silverstein, who recently wrote an article critical of the military in *The Flat Hat*, said he was "quite pleased" with the efforts of student activists at other schools, and said he would "love to see William and Mary students engage in a more active push to ban military recruiters from campus." Labeling the wars in which the United States is actively engaged "uniformly unjust," Silverstein said he would actually "rather not see" homosexuals serve in the military at all, denouncing military service as "perpetuating class-based oppression" and based on either economic motives or "blind appeals to patriotic and nationalistic impulses" which he believes are "a threat to free thinking individuals."

Harvard Law School revoked their ban on recruiters two years ago after the government threatened to use a provision of a 1994 law known as the Solomon Amendment to withhold federal funding, unless military recruiters were allowed access to the campus. A 2004 ruling by the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia blocked federal enforcement of the law, however, and allowed Harvard to continue to ban military recruiters. Harvard is awaiting the Supreme Court's decision before reinstating this policy.

Pro-Life student violently attacked by abortion supporter

A female sophomore who was engaged in an educational demonstration was assaulted near William and Mary's Crim Dell Amphitheater Tuesday night. She was passing out palm cards at William and Mary Students for Life's luminary memorial for victims of abortion. The student's name is not being released until her permission is obtained.

"I saw her attacker push her to the ground," said junior Teri Tolpa. "At first [the student] seemed shocked, then she was upset when she realized what happened. I feel sorry for her, she's such a sweet, soft spoken girl."

"I was shocked by this act of intolerance," said Vice President of Students for Life, Katie Poandl. "The

assailant was free to peacefully protest, but instead resorted to violence. This is not the behavior of most William and Mary students."

Tolpa went with the student to file a report with campus police after the attack.

Students at the luminary memorial were passing out palm cards in front of the memorial, which featured 100 luminaries. The palm cards read, "Each candle represents 35 abortions performed in the US on this day. 52% were performed on women less than 25 years old. These candles are a memorial for the grieving mothers and their children."

The luminary memorial is part of Students for Life's Second Annual Pro-Life Week.

Many other top law schools, including Boston College, Columbia, Stanford, and Georgetown, have been considering following Harvard's lead. Student organizations at a number of universities have also passed resolutions calling for military recruiters to be banned from campus.

The controversial policy in question, adopted in 1993, allows homosexuals to serve in the U.S. military only as long as they don't reveal their sexual orientation. School officials object to the military's policy because they believe it contradicts the law schools' nondiscrimination policies that protect students from bias based on race, gender, and sexual orientation. Allowing recruiters on campus, so the argument goes, would be a tacit admission of the school's acceptance of the military's perceived "anti-gay" policy.

Lt. Col. Monahan noted that policies like "don't ask, don't tell" are decided not by military officers but by civilian leadership for the Department of Defense, and that the military will be ready to implement any changes should a shift in policy occur.

The Supreme Court is expected to deliver a ruling on the case later in the year.

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Student Assembly Senate takes on new issues for new year

Investigation of fund misallocation underway



Alex Randy Kyrios

The debate goes on: President Ryan Scofield (left) addresses the concerns of Law School Senator Beth Burgin as Chairman of the Senate Luther Lowe ('06) debates.

Alex Randy Kyrios

Staff Writer

The Student Assembly Senate began the new semester by voting on and approving four bills. Two were sponsored by Senator Scott Fitzgerald ('07), one from Matt Beato ('09), and one from Richard Hinman, the MBA graduate program's delegated senator.

Senator Beato's bill, the Williamsburg Voter Registration and Enfranchisement Insurance Act, was another step in the ongoing efforts to restore Williamsburg voting privileges to students. The only other college town in the state in which students do not enjoy these rights is Radford, home of Radford University; Williamsburg only recently began denying College students their local voting privileges. The issue has been a focus of Student Assembly policy since last semester. Beato's bill creates a task force that will work on contacting affected students and creating a dialog with Williamsburg officials. Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08) called the bill a "perfect" mechanism for resolving the issue. Concerns were raised from Senator Stephen Cobb, an at-large graduate student senator and law school student, that such

actions could constitute illegal political lobbying; at his suggestion, the body approved an amendment to the bill requiring all work and monetary appropriations from the group be legal. The bill was approved unanimously by those present, passing 18-0.

On a less prominent issue, Senator Fitzgerald introduced the Improved Drainage Act. Many students have encountered obstructive puddles in New Campus that appear every time it rains, especially around the sundial. According to Fitzgerald, Facilities Management had not improved these conditions because they believed students did not care about them. The bill, which passed 16-2, was proposed to prove otherwise. One dissenter, Senator Nate Elberfeld ('06), jokingly suggested Fitzgerald "wear some boots," and mused that the puddles provided "interesting symbolism" regarding life's sometimes difficult paths. Senator Hinman, "having dealt with [Facilities Management]," recommended a strong presentation of the approved bill to Facilities Management.

Fitzgerald's other bill, the Fiscal Transparency Act, struck a much more dire tone. According to him, the Finance Office uses an estimate of 6,500 students when

allotting student activities fees, when the actual number is closer to 7,650; Fitzgerald said 6,500 has not been an accurate count for around 20 years. The result of these constant miscalculations is a large amount of student activities fees missing, over a million dollars possibly being transferred to the general fund. Fitzgerald called this misusage "absurd" and the Senate voted on the bill on February 7. His bill served as a reprimand to the parts of the administration responsible and prescribed reforms, such as annual report to the SA Senate of these calculations.

"If it's true," commented Senate Chairman Luther Lowe ('06), "Every single person in this room should be irate." He encouraged "[embarrassing] the administration for essentially screwing over students" but warned that without SA-provided data on the matter, there would simply be "incentive to cook the books." The bill passed with a resounding 20-0 vote. Afterwards, Fitzgerald said the vote "shows the student body stands unanimous in questioning the administration on where this money has been going," and added that he hoped to "finally find out some information" when he presented the bill to the administration.

The most controversial bill before the Senate, heard after Fitzgerald's, was Hinman's MBAA Net Impact Funding. It was a request for funding for four MBA students to attend a case competition and discussion of ethics and "socially responsible business practices" at the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business. The College's Mason business school was invited along with some of the nation's top business schools, such as Stanford and Duke. Colin Jones, an MBA student and one of the four going on the trip (Hinman was not amongst them), emphasized the event's potential to add to the reputation of Mason, which has

risen significantly in rankings but remains outside the nation's top twenty. Hinman requested \$2,550 for the trip, which was to include airfare, two hotel rooms, meals, the cost of attendance, and a rental car.

Senators were supportive of the mission of the trip. Senator Brett Phillips ('08) even proposed allocating \$3,000 for "wigggle room" to the delegation. His amendment to change the amount failed by an 8-12 vote. Most of the opposition to the actual bill came from the fact that in the past, the Senate had not funded travel or food expenses for student groups. The bill passed by a vote of 14-6, with Senators Phillips, Sean Barker ('07), Fitzgerald, Elberfeld, Harry Godfrey ('06), and Luppino-Esposito voting against. Senator Beato called it "appropriate to fund

graduate programs as well" as undergraduate ones. Phillips voted against the bill in protest of the failure of his amendment, and Elberfeld because he preferred an arrangement in which the group would partially refund the Senate; parliamentary procedures prevented him from proposing this. The other votes against protested the new precedent. Senator Barker said he "liked the idea of the competition" and "gladly would have voted up to 1,600 [dollars]" but called the final vote "unfair" to organizations who were denied travel and food expenses in the past. He "hopes [President Ryan Scofield] vetoes it."

The Senate meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in Blair 229, and in Blow Memorial Hall's Board of Visitors room on the last Tuesday of every month. Check the Informer's web site, www.VAinformer.com for updates.

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

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Scofield waits for appeals of EAC budget for student activities

Matthew Sutton

Staff Writer

Despite the alarming increase in reported rapes at the College, the Student Assembly, led by President Ryan Scofield ('07) and Vice President Amanda Norris ('07), has presented a budget to the Student Senate under funding Every Two Minutes and One in Four, among most other groups due to an increase in organizations requesting funding.

The new budget for 2005-2006 does not reflect the importance that President Nichol has placed on preventative education. In this year's budget presentation, One in Four asked for \$1,438 but was allocated only \$845. Every Two Minutes sought \$635 in funding but was budgeted only \$340. Another group organized to combat sexual assault, the Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention, was also under funded. The Alliance requested \$470 but was given \$265. As of the printing of this newspaper, no appeal has been filed by these groups.

In the wake of the unprecedented number of sexual assaults reported last semester, President Gene Nichol and Vice President Sam Sadler announced several initiatives in a college-wide e-mail. In particular, they singled out the efforts of both of these groups: "We will substantially increase our use of peer-to-peer programming—including that developed by One in Four and Every Two Minutes. It seems clear that these efforts offer the most effective means to reach the student community."

Last year, neither One in Four nor Every Two Minutes received the funding they sought. In the 2005-2006 budget, One in Four requested \$1,788 in funding but were budgeted only \$1,438. Similarly, Every Two Minutes requested \$390 but only received \$220. So in that respect, this slight is not unprecedented.

The budget process remains a mystery to most students. The process begins when each full-time student at the College—undergraduate and graduate—pays a student activity fee of \$82. Next, the SA president appoints members of the student body to a group called the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) to hear budget requests from all the student groups on campus.

The EAC, chaired by Jess Zappia ('07), spent last weekend hearing presentations from the different student groups and then deliberating to produce a preliminary budget. When asked about the criteria the EAC uses, she said, "We look for activities that will bring about the most involvement on campus and increase the diversity of types of activities offered on campus."

Walter McLean, a freshman member of the EAC, offered his own perspective on how he evaluated student group requests. "The nature of the event was the most important consideration. We would ask ourselves a few basic questions: Is this event in line with the aims and goals of the club? Is this event attainable and will it draw attendance? Are all the line items needed/appropriate/allowed?"

The EAC then produces a preliminary budget which is sent to President Ryan Scofield, who has ten days to hear appeals from the student groups and make changes. Once these appeals have been heard, President Scofield sends the budget to the Senate chair, Senator Luther Lowe ('06), who then gives it to the finance committee. The committee, headed by Senator Scott Fitzgerald ('07), marks up the budget and presents it to the Senate, where it is voted on.

The recent discovery by the Senate finance committee of a possible shortfall of funding to student activities may affect the process, but that is yet to be seen.

Executive Update

- After the printing of the last issue of *The Virginia Informer*, the Scofield administration re-evaluated their policy of having closed meetings and opened them to the media
- Scofield appointed Matthew Wigginton ('06) and William Angley ('08) as the two newest members of the SA Review Board. Wigginton and Angley are filling the seats of Patrick Vora and Mike Golub, who left to study abroad.

SIEVERS: Student hopes to draw college, community support

continued from page one

campus more affordable, since currently 42 percent of Williamsburg rentals are deemed unaffordable by the U.S. government. Increasing off-campus social activities and job opportunities is another priority for Sievers. He also hopes to tackle the village's strict living policies that allow only 3 people to live in a house.

"The 3 person per house rule seems to be unfair for students," Sievers said, "and I hope to resolve the problem if elected."

In order to be put on the ballot, Sievers must collect 125 signatures of registered voters.

The last time a student ran for city council was in 2004 when four students attempted to run for candidacy. Three of them were unable to even make the ballot due to stringent policies. One, Rob Forrest, made the ballot but was forced to live off-campus in his van due to certain technicalities. Forrest received 300 votes of the 1800 votes cast in the election.

In his spare time, Sievers is an avid cyclist and is also involved in Student Environmental Action Coalition and is Chair of the Trainings Committee for the Sierra Student Coalition. He plans to resume status as a full-time student at the College after the election. Other information pertaining to David Sievers can be found at his website, www.voteSievers.com/.

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

On page 2, the "Fast Facts" box on Virginia21 should have listed "Terry Kilgore," not Jerry Kilgore.

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

Music students forced to cram into Ewell's limited practice space

Peter Bronez

Staff Writer

Proper usage of Ewell Hall's practice facilities continues to be a point of contention between the music department and students. Despite efforts to restrict access, security problems have left the recital hall (107) a 24/7 practice space for all practical purposes.

Repeated checks consistently revealed the hall to be either in use by students preparing for a recital, students practicing independently, or open and empty.

Music department chair Katherine Preston has spearheaded the efforts to restrict the use of the hall, stressing the need for a well-maintained, high-quality space for student recitals, the concern for the expensive equipment housed there, and the risks posed by students using the space late at night.

"[The situation] is a disaster waiting to happen," said Preston. "The pianos are for performance, [not for use] on a day-to-day, wear-and-tear basis."

The music department maintains two grand pianos in Ewell: an eight-foot Yamaha, generally left on stage, and a nine-foot Steinway concert grand which is locked offstage when not in use. In June 2005, the music department spent \$10,000 reconditioning the Steinway, including hammer regulation, cabinet touch-up, and other technical work.

The presence and availability of these high-end pianos draws students to Ewell. Music students also cite Ewell's superior acoustics and the general lack of practice space around campus as reason to practice there.

"[Ewell] has so few practice rooms, especially for brass players, who can't use the small rooms," said a French horn player who attends the law school. "I practice in [Ewell] all the time, usually late at night or on the weekends."

While aware of the shortage of practice space, Preston pointed out that the department's 800 students have access to the basement practice rooms, as well as their professors' offices.

"We could easily support another full time teacher if we had the space," Preston said. "[We have] too little space, [but the recital hall] is a special place. No other space on campus is appropriate for recitals...It's used quite heavily."

In addition to recitals, the recital hall is used for rehearsals,



Joe Luppino-Esposito

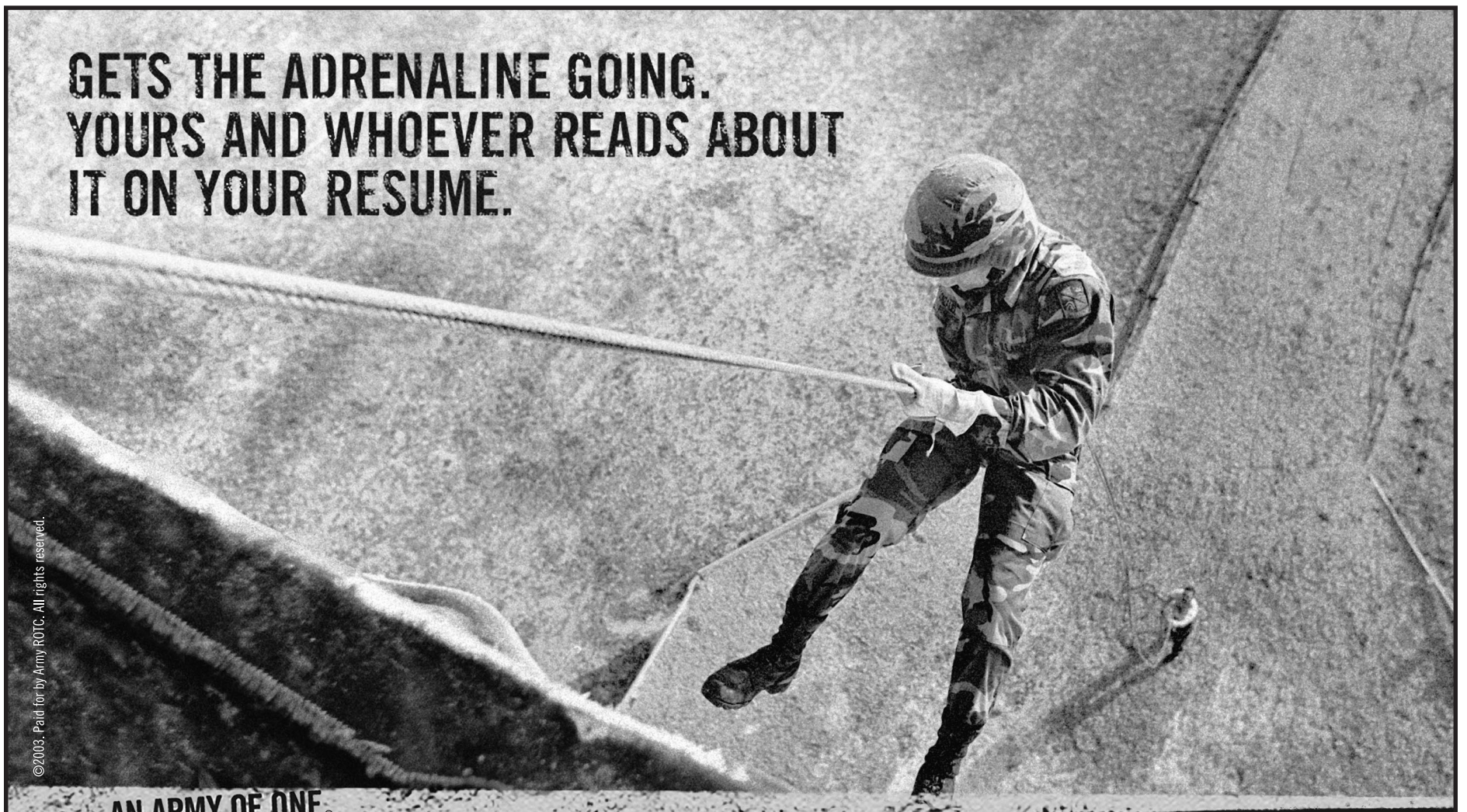
The Great Hall: Cellist Shannon Dailey ('06) is relegated to the hallway in the Ewell Hall basement.

houses the Ewell concert series, and is occasionally used by the English department.

The music department made the decision to restrict access to several rooms in Ewell during summer 2003, after receiving complaints from housekeeping about messes left by students staying in the rooms overnight. \$10,000 was spent to put swipe locks on the recital hall, as well as the choral room (151), a large classroom (154), and the band room (207).

Students who wish to use the recital hall or other rooms should contact Ann Brogden (ahbrog@wm.edu) or fill out an online form (www.wm.edu/music/roomresv.php) to reserve a time. All rooms are free to students during the week, and \$25 for weekend events due to housekeeping expenses. Off-campus groups must pay \$75 to reserve the recital hall, or \$50 for other spaces.

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Who's reading your Facebook profile?

Across the country, school administration and police use popular website to screen students

Chris Peterson

Features Editor

Nineteen year old Cameron Walker was just another Fisher College sophomore this past September: wandering through the streets of Boston with friends and enjoying his duties as Student Government Association president.

Now he's a poster boy for the dangers of not policing your Facebook account.

According to the *Brown Daily Herald*, Walker was expelled from Fisher College after he posted a message in a Facebook group that criticized a campus police officer who, Walker alleged, tried to provoke students into situations where they could get arrested. Walker—who held the “Duke of Propaganda” office in the group—was found in violation of the Fisher Student Code of Conduct clause.

“I was stupid,” Walker told the *Brown Daily Herald*, referring to his decision to join the Facebook group, which was made in jest, he said. “I had bad judgment... [but] I clarified it as a joke, [and] I did not deserve to get expelled.”

This is not the only such occurrence. A quick search of “Facebook” on Google News (<http://news.google.com>) returns 472 results, many of which record instances of student misdeeds being found by college officials—which adds a new, scarier dimension to the phrase “Facebook stalking.”

A sampling:

The University of Missouri-Columbia has instituted a “task-force” to “discipline students for profiles containing evidence of misconduct or illegal activity.”

A Duquesne University student may be expelled from school for making homophobic remarks on Facebook in response to a gay-straight alliance group on campus.

After Penn State beat Ohio State University this past October, police found all the evidence they needed to indict several students in a Facebook group entitled “I Rushed the Field After the OSU Game (And Lived!).” The police, not the administration, initiated this investigation after they received an anonymous tip.

Similarly, students at George Washington University managed to lure local police to a non-alcoholic house party by advertising with

a Facebook group called “Beer party!” in order to prove—and photograph—that police were in fact using Facebook to check student behavior.

Chris Hughes, a Facebook co-founder, told the *Informer* that there was nothing Facebook

“Companies should not be logging into the site,” said Hughes. “Even if an employee had a log in from her/his old school, s/he would still only have access to that one single account, not to the entire network. Technically, this type of usage is illegal because of our

of whether or not they are logged in or even have a Facebook account. The tech news site www.slashdot.org features thousands of posts regarding the legality and morality of the exploitation of the Internet by employers and colleges to dig up information on college students.

Jared Flesher of the *Wall Street Journal* suggests that students take an active role in their web presence by cleaning up their Facebook or MySpace and establishing a more legitimate personal website with a resume and list of activities.

The administration of the College has similar worries, especially Vice President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler. “I am [increasingly] concerned about what students put up on Facebook about themselves,” said Sadler in an email to the *Informer*. “Facebook has many good points, but it is not a confidential system and others have used it to secure personal [data] about people and even engage in criminal activity.”

“It is no longer unusual,” Sadler continued, “when students first apply for a job or even an internship, for a company or agency to first Google the person’s name to see what is on the Internet about the applicant, and to then go on Facebook and read that person’s entries. Depending on what is found there, a decision can get made about whether the person will receive an interview or not.”

“What is put on Facebook for fun,” Sadler warned, “can have significant consequences.” And although “there is no proactive use of Facebook in the student judicial process,” Sadler did say that there have been “one or two instances where information that was on Facebook has been used as supportive evidence in a judicial hearing,” though that evidence was provided to the administration by fellow students via tips. Sadler is quick to assure that, “the administration isn’t surfing Facebook to see if incriminating [material] can be found.”

Sadler said that the administration has been discussing how best to educate the student community about “Facebook and its possible uses: the good and not so good,” and suggested that, in the accessible public domain of the World Wide Web, students need to monitor their online persona as diligently as they manage their real world reputation.



Just Checking Up: While Bayard Johnson checks his friends’ facebook sites, college administrators, police and future employers could be checking his.

could do to stem the tide of nosy administrators.

“It’s certainly not what we designed Facebook to be used for,” said Hughes in an email last week, “but there’s not much we can do about it.” Hughes points out that “if users do not want faculty or staff to see their profile information, all they have to do is go to the ‘My Privacy’ section and change their settings. They can make it so that only students can see the info or even so that only friends can.”

Perhaps more frightening to students, however, is the revelation that the ramifications of one’s Facebook profile might extend far beyond college. The *Wall Street Journal* reported on January 12th that companies have been using Facebook, other social networks and Google, to screen applicants. Hughes said he heard that “recruiters with online email addresses log in to look up job candidates who attended the same school.” This is not approved, nor strictly legal.

Terms of Agreement. The key clause reads: “You understand that the Web site is available for your personal, non-commercial use only... You further agree not to harvest or collect email addresses or other contact information of members from the Website by electronic or other means.”

Though Facebook reserves the right to collect personal information about its users; that has not contributed to the present dilemma, according to Hughes. “Simply put, we have never provided our users’ information to third party companies, nor do we intend to.”

Students may underestimate how visible their web presence is. Vanessa Valensuela of the Arizona State *Arizona Daily Wildcat* reported on January 20th that her landlord had made snide remarks about pictures of her on Facebook. If you post a link to your ‘My Photos’ page anywhere else on the Internet, it allows Google to archive your page and make it accessible to anyone, regardless

Africa and Mosaic houses provide for special interest groups on campus

John R. Kennedy

Opinions Editor

New cultural houses will be coming to campus next semester with the addition of the new Africa and Mosaic Houses.

According to an Interim Report of the African Studies Department 2004-05, the Africa House began as an effort to “make the College more attractive to African and African-American students who are currently either bypassing it for fear of social isolation, or dropping out once they get here.” The Mosaic House will be a “co-curricular, co-educational dorm” designed to “encourage and support

serious dialogue about cultural and social difference,” according to a description obtained from Residence Life.

The Africa House will become an extension of the international studies program. One can apply to live there as one would apply to live in Reves Hall or one of the language houses. The Africa House is open to all students and will not limit its residence to any particular ethnic or regional outfit, according to Professor Berhanu Abegaz. The Professor also said that if there is excess demand in the future, those who are majoring in African Studies or have taken courses in African Studies will be preferred. Currently, there are no academic requirements necessary

to live in the Africa House. One student, William Kilby III said, “Yes I’d consider it, I’m interested in African affairs, and since I’ll probably end up taking a fair amount of courses on Africa anyway, I wouldn’t be deterred by a studies requirement.”

There are academic prerequisites to live in the Mosaic House, however. The Residence Life description states that applicants “will be required to take six credits in the area of cultural/gender/sexuality diversity.” The Residence Life requirements entail that one course in diversity issues be completed before moving into the Mosaic House. A second diversity course must be taken the first semester in the dorm, if it has not already

been taken. Considering it is in its first year, the Mosaic House will allow some students to be accepted even if they do not have the necessary course requirements, so long as they still have a strong application. A wide range of positions will be available within the house and there will be programs sponsored by the Mosaic House.

Between 24 and 36 students are expected to live in the Mosaic House with the support of two faculty advisors. These new houses have been endorsed by the William and Mary NAACP. At this time Residence Life does not know where the news houses will be located.

Media production studios rocks the media center in Swem

Chaoyen Lu

Staff Writer

Do you think the basement in Swem is spooky? If so, think twice or conquer your fear. The new services offered in the Media Center are an exciting addition to the availability of campus multimedia production.

From digital video editing to music composition; graphics design to web development, the Media Center provides students with diverse technological solutions to creative problems. It incorporates all the necessary high-tech equipment in the newly-outfitted media production studios.

Even if one is technologically illiterate, the Media Center is staffed with workers who are "here to help," according to director Troy Davis. Whether one is working on a personal project or a class assignment, the staff will do their best to help from the very beginning to

the end. Soon the Media Center will offer workshops to students, offering instruction in everything from movie editing to podcasting.

"Everything can be reserved," said Davis about the Media Center's business model. Unlike the public computer labs, users can enjoy a personal space in the reserved studio up to five hours. Cameras can be reserved in three day blocks, and external hard-drives can be borrowed for up to four weeks. Moreover, checking out a digital video camera or a light kit is as easy as checking out a book: all it takes is a swipe of your I.D.

Davis hopes the Media Center to be an "experimental environment." He said that in this teaching and learning community, anyone who wishes to realize an idea is welcome to have the first-hand experience of the real world in the Media Center. More information is available at the Media Center website, <http://swem.wm.edu/services/media/index.cfm>.



Ian R. Whiteside

Updating Swem: Kevin Williams will soon be able to access the technology necessary for his musical needs in the basement of Swem once it is transformed into the media center..

Media Center Contents:

- Five fully equipped Apple Macintosh-based, acoustically isolated production studios.
- Multimedia Software for student use.
- Digital equipment including camcorders, microphones and tripods.
- Much more!

Information from: <http://swem.wm.edu/services/media/gear.cfm>

Disinterested in Democracy

Editor's Note: Two pictures were removed because of uncertainty of copyright infringement. Since we were unable to contact the original owners for permission, we didn't want to risk a suit over infringement. Originally, this article opened with two images: one of a burning American flag, and one of the "Buddy Jesus" from the movie "Dogma." This article will only make sense if you imagine that both of those things still exist at the top of this column, so start imagining.

These two images are the most irreverent things I could think of. The first protests the symbol of our nation, our heritage, and our military sacrifice; the latter mocks the predominant religion in our country.



Chris Peterson
Features Editor

Yet I can rest securely tonight, knowing that, while some may take offense these images, no one will come and burn down Jefferson Hall during the night. For the most part, people will, to paraphrase Voltaire, disapprove of what I say but defend my right to say it.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for much of the Middle East. In case you've been too caught up with the art of the Serial Stenciler to notice, Mesopotamia is rioting once again. But this time, it is due to the words and images—not the customs—of Westerners.

On September 30, 2005, the popular Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* published 12 satirical images of the Prophet Muhammad. These caricatures—some which featured his turban replaced with a lit bomb, some with him receiving terrorists in heaven, and others much more benign—were meant to speak out against censorship. Several Danish writers had been unable to find artists for their

children's books about Islam because of fear of reprisals by Muslims. A strict reading of Islamic law forbids the depiction of Muhammad to guard against idolatry, though pictures of him are not unprecedented. The paper wished to make the point that the religious beliefs of some should not control the expression of others: certainly a fundamental tenant of Western political philosophy.

The point was made, and the results have been catastrophic.

The paper has received two bomb threats. The cartoonists are now in hiding. Eleven Islamic countries have demanded punishment from the Danish government. Libya, Iraq, and others have severed diplomatic relations with Denmark. After a Jordanian newspaper reprinted the cartoons to educate citizens about the crisis, its editor—who called for Muslims to be "reasonable," saying "who offends Islam more? A foreigner who endeavors to draw the prophet as described by his followers in the world, or a Muslim with an explosive belt who commits suicide in a wedding party in Amman or elsewhere?"—was placed under arrest. Several Islamist organizations have demanded that the U.N. place sanctions on Denmark.

On February 5th, while Americans watched Bill Cowher shed a tear over the Lombardi Trophy, tear gas boiled through the streets as protesters burned the Danish and Norwegian embassies in Syria and Lebanon.

Now, I am no Muslim. I cannot tell you how it felt to suddenly see a cartoon of Muhammad when the mere thought of it had been a great taboo. Moreover, not much is sacred to me. I've always held that it is gravely important to never take serious things seriously, because then you end up doing stupid things to defend moral uncertainties—like those "Pro-Lifers" who bomb abortion clinics.

I am not surprised by the reaction of the Muslim community. I am disappointed by it. But I think the most important fact to be drawn from this episode is this: the Middle East is not Western.

This sounds stupid to say, since it seems so obvious. However, the fact that it is so clearly true is exactly what has duped people

into not believing it ever since we went to war with Iraq. We have been led to believe that Westernization is not a 2,000 year cultural evolution, but rather a quick fix that can be slapped on, like

Spackle, to any political void that needs filling. When President Bush said in 2003 that the war in Iraq could lead to a "global democratic

“ We have been led to believe that Westernization is not a 2,000 year cultural evolution, but rather a quick fix that can be slapped on, like Spackle, to any political void that needs filling. ”

revolution," he was very clearly wrong.

I am distressed by these riots because those in the Middle East have demonstrated that they are not as receptive to Western concepts as we would like them to be—or, rather, need them to be, for this war to have any lasting effect. Syria, Iran, Iraq: these countries and more have all called for the censorship of Danish newspapers. And when the Danes explain that their government, while disapproving of the editorial position of the newspaper, is powerless to intervene, these countries do not understand. The concept of a government that willingly lays down its power, like an institutional Cincinnatus, is completely foreign to those who have lived under strict regimes all their lives. It took Americans centuries to appreciate the value of freedom of expression—and we had a 2,000 year head start by virtue of being Western! And yet we expect Iraqis to understand free speech in but a few years!

Anyone familiar with the case of Salman Rushdie knows that impiety is punishable by death in the minds of many religious Muslims. In the Western world, some of our most irreverent authors (Jonathan Swift comes to mind) are some of our most revered. And until the Middle East comes to understand, on its own terms, that freedom comes with strings attached—that tolerance sometimes means putting up with harmless intolerance—democracy will not, as the President has implied time and time again, take root, but rather shrivel and die, suffocated in the Arabian sands.

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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CHARGES DROPPED: Decker files civil suit

continued from page one

that he and law student Jason Mustian were accompanying Harrington to the formal and began flirting with her and kissing her on the bus ride to the party. When they arrived, the three went upstairs, had consensual sex, and were then interrupted when the party was called off. They continued flirting and making out on the bus ride home. After they both returned to Harrington's house, Harrington lost interest, started flirting with another individual named Alex, and ultimately had sex with Alex that same evening. The next day she accused Decker and Mustian of holding her down and "gang raping" her, according to the complaint. The suit cited statements Harrington made, alleging that she originally tried to cover up having sex with the second student.

Mustian was never charged with a crime and was later acquitted in the College's judicial hearing.

According to the incident report, Decker was arrested at 2:44 A.M. on October 30 in his Cabell Hall Apartment in the Randolph Complex. He was later released on bail. Now that the charges have been dropped, he has petitioned the

Commonwealth of Virginia to have the charges expunged from the record.

If a settlement is not reached in the law suit, it will eventually go to a jury trial.

On campus, reaction has been mixed. Because this incident was one of six alleged rapes on campus since last semester, the College has instituted new plans to prevent sexual assault. They include education programs, victim support, and discipline.

During the first week of class second semester, an anonymous person or group of people placed yellow fliers across campus referring to the incident.

They read, "Anne Harrington: I know what you did last semester. Care to revise your statement?"

College President Gene Nichol reacted harshly to the fliers. "The flier was anonymous. It was cowardly — posted secretly, one supposes, by night. It was designed to injure. It may well have that effect. It was designed to intimidate. It may do that as well. It is unworthy of any member of the College community. It wounds our fabric. And it leaves me outraged," Nichol said in a campus-wide e-mail.

“ Mustian was never charged with a crime and was later acquitted in the College's judicial hearing. ”

To see the official court documents and more information

visit our website: VAInformer.com

Student Groups of the Month: One in Four & Every Two Minutes

Peer education for sexual assault prevention

Chase Coleman

Staff Writer

Always an issue on college campuses, sexual assault has been at the forefront of the students' and administration's attention for the past few weeks. The services of groups such as Every Two Minutes and One in Four are needed now more than ever. These groups teach students how to empathize with and help people who have been sexually assaulted with Every Two Minutes focusing on women and One in Four focusing on men.

Men are not usually the victims of sexual assault, so One in Four uses their program to instill in men "a sense of the emotional trauma and stress that sexual assault can lead to," says One in Four President Brian Jarcho. One In Four's presentation—which is heavy on statistics — delineates the ways men should help friends who are victims. Since One in Four is part of The National Organization of Men's Outreach for Rape Education (NO MORE), chapters across the nation give the same presentation, titled *How to Help a Sexual Assault Survivor: What Men Can Do*, written by William and Mary professor Dr. John Foubert. Known commonly as "The Men's Program," studies show it is highly effective.

Every Two Minutes has the more traditional responsibility of educating women on campus about sexual assault and how to respond. The group hopes that through peer education, women may gain a better understanding of all the resources available to victims of sexual assault. Every Two Minutes President Kate



Ian R. Whiteside

Approximately every two minutes: The all-female peer education group is an integral part of President Nichol's plan to combat sexual assault on campus.

Cunningham explains that the presentation shows women "how to best take advantage of the resources we have on campus and...how to support [a victim's] needs." Although Every Two Minutes is not part of a national organization, many other college campuses have requested their scripts and training materials.

One of the aspects of the College's expanded sexual assault education program is increasing the use of both Every Two Minutes and One in Four. Every Two Minutes recently updated their script, and they plan utilize technology that will enable a student to easily find something from the presentation on the website. Both Every Two Minutes and One in Four plan to give more presentations geared specifically toward upperclassmen. One in Four is currently working on new programs to complement the Men's Program.

In light of the recent rash of sexual assaults at the College, the dedicated members of Every Two Minutes and One in Four will continue to educate the student body. To book a presentation for One in Four, e-mail their vice president, J.T. Newberry, at jtnwb@wm.edu. To book a presentation for Every Two Minutes email any member.



Courtesy of John Foubert

NO MORE: Past members of the all-male rape prevention group are currently participating in the nationwide "One in Four" RV Tour.

THE VIRGINIA
INFORMER

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

Mondays at 7:30 PM
Blair 201
VAinfo@wm.edu

The William and Mary Counseling Center

A resource for victims and all students



Joe Lippino-Esposto

The Counseling Center is available to all William and Mary students free of charge. If you are the victim of sexual assault you should contact the Counseling Center as soon as possible. Rape and sexual assault are considered emergencies.

In the event of an emergency during the academic year, a student can often be seen immediately. During regular working hours (8-12 and 1-5), a student can come directly to the Counseling Center at 240 Blow Memorial Hall or call the office at 221-3620.

Emergency service is also available outside of business hours, at night, and on weekends by calling the Campus Police at 221-4596. They will contact the counselor on call. If the counselor determines that the student should be evaluated immediately, they will make arrangements to see the student at the Student Health Center.

The Tribe 12...

-compiled by Chris Peterson

As the College struggles to cope with sexual assault on campus, many female students have questioned their safety. The Virginia Informer asked twelve women:

**As a woman, do you feel safe on campus at night?
What can the College do to increase safety?**



Emily Barrows, '09:
I feel really safe, but parts could be better. I tend to walk around with groups, which is safer anyway. Maybe the College could advertise students escort services better and make them seem more normal.



Betsy Finch, '08:
I think overall the campus is a safe place, but we could take steps by increasing lighting on campus—little things that would make everyone feel more comfortable.



Teresa Gorbett, Grad Student:
Walking at night, I feel comfortable on campus. The school should look into preventative action rather than grief counseling after the incident, as well as alcohol awareness and how that contributes to sexual assault.



Nicole Hailey, '07:
I usually feel pretty safe on our campus. I try to stay out of situations where my safety might be compromised, and I make sure to stay alert when I'm walking by myself. I always have my keys and my cell phone handy at night.



Corinna Hann, '08:
I don't feel as safe as I used to, especially late at night after meetings, walking alone or even with other girls. This campus tends to get a bit sketch after the sun goes down with the colonial lighting and all.



Kate Heller, '07:
I think that Colonial Williamsburg and William and Mary foster an image of security that isn't necessarily true beneath the surface. There is a definite feeling of safety on campus due to the camaraderie between students; however, recent events prove this to not be fact.



Nicole Keenan, '06:
In terms of sexual assault, I know that most crimes, sexual assault or not, occur inside the home so walking around, I almost feel more safe on campus. I'm not as familiar with the areas off campus, so I am less comfortable with those.



Michelle Kelley, '09:
I feel relatively safe being after dark by myself. Some of the paths could be better lit - there are places where I feel less safe.



Heather Ortega, '07: The recent sexual assault reports haven't shaken my belief that this campus is safe. That being said, I also know that bad things can happen anywhere. I think the college administration is doing a good job of being supportive.



Rosemary Overbey, '09:
I feel pretty safe because I think the choices you make impact your safety. Choosing to walk alone at night; choosing to be alone in strange people's rooms are not safe decisions. The College has good programs already in place.



Ashley Shuler, '08:
In light of the recent incidents, I am more aware of my safety. I now take greater precautions. I do feel that the College is doing its best to promote safety on campus.



Kimberley Thoreson, '08:
I feel as safe as I did last year, before the reports [of sexual assault]. I try to walk with a friend or group though. The College does what it can do, with the escorts and such. People need to understand it is an open campus where people can come and go freely.

Dispelling the mysteries of faith: The Latter-Day Saints Student Association

Benjamin Farthing

Staff Writer

The Latter-Day Saints Student Association, better known as the LDSSA, is opening its doors to everyone on campus. The student group is associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and, in turn, with the Mormon faith.

“The goal of the LDSSA is the spiritual edification of the members on campus, and of all other students interested,” said junior Steven Merrell, president of the group.

Contrary to some assumptions, the LDSSA and the LDS Church actually share similar basic beliefs with other Christian groups. For instance, members worship God and Jesus Christ, and accept the Bible as the word of God. Bringing people joy through

the gospel of Jesus Christ is one of their main goals. The Mormon faith does not deny the relevancy of Biblical texts, but rather includes certain post-Biblical texts included by the Church’s founder, Joseph Smith.

In room 215 above Kimball Theatre, LDSSA holds scripture study classes Wednesdays at 7:00, Thursdays at 2:00 and Fridays at 1:30. On Monday nights, it hosts a variety of events, which range from pancake dinners and pool parties to wrapping presents for underprivileged children. Beyond these, the LDSSA also participates in activities and service projects which include playing in volleyball tournaments, hiking local trails and singing carols to the elderly.

All are encouraged to come visit the classes, or join in any of the activities. One can contact LDSSA via email at latday@wm.edu with any further questions.



Benjamin Farthing

Spreading their word: John Brassel teaches local students who are part of the Latter-Day Saints Student Association.

Consider the Leader’s Training Course an incubator

Schools from around the country put forward impressionable students with an interest in the military, and what emerges are motivated cadets poised to be future Army leaders.

The summer of 2005 marked the 40th year of the incubation process at Fort Knox, a process renowned as one of the world’s best leadership development programs. Since 1965, the course has instilled the institutional military knowledge that forms the foundation for a lifetime of leadership.

Students take away skills from this encampment that they can apply not only in a military career but also in the civilian world: time management, organization and self-discipline,” said Joe Bartley, LTC’s public affairs officer. “These are traits they can apply in all walks of life, as a student and as a person. They take away more than just military training.”

LTC, as it’s known as today, is a product of the ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964. The legislation aimed to beef up officer candidate rolls and attract higher-quality prospects by offering incentives to join the program.

Perhaps most notable of these were scholarships and larger subsistence allowances to cadets in the ROTC advanced course. But the package also introduced an abbreviated curriculum option for students who did not enroll in ROTC as freshman but later developed an interest in the program, opening a new market that included junior and community college students.

Congress’ backing authorized 5,500 two- and four-year scholarships, hiked the cadet monthly subsistence allowance from roughly \$27 to \$50 and established a two-year ROTC program. The shortened program paved the way for LTC, creating a six-week basic camp that a student who did not complete the basic ROTC course on campus.

Fort Knox welcomed the first class of some 900 cadets in June 1965 to what was known then as Basic Camp. They reported from various colleges and universities around the country.

The training proved similar to that of traditional basic training. The course centered on basic soldier skills such as rifle marksmanship, map and compass reading and physical training.

At the program’s peak 3,000 cadets cycled through Fort Knox each summer. These days, about 1,200 cadets are part of the program annually.

The basic course became Camp Challenge in the early 1980s. That moniker endured for two decades until it changed again four years ago to Leader’s Training Course.

The current name, officials say, is a truer reflection of the summer offering. The focus of the 29 day course has changed

from basic soldier skills to leadership where cadets spend more time heading up squads and platoons and overseeing tactical activities.

Many course organizers nowadays purposely avoid calling LTC a camp. Part of that, Bartley said, stems from misconceptions in the past.

He remembers one year helping cadets prepare press releases so media in their hometowns could publicize their attendance; one student asked him how the release might appear in a paper. When Bartley said it would likely read that he took part in the camp, the cadet declined to fill out the form. He didn’t want people to think he was merely attending some fun-filled experience for youths.



courtesy of Cadet Robert Gibbs

Men and women on a mission: William and Mary Army ROTC students are among the hundreds of students who have passed through the Leaders Training Course.

Organizing the Leader’s Training Course is a year-round mission. Scheduling training sites begins 18 months in advance, and choosing specific types of training begins in earnest the day after a course ends.

Although LTC is designed to replicate the training a student might have received on campus their freshmen and sophomore years, it goes far beyond the traditional program to give cadets an experience unlike any other, he said.

“By immersing them into this type of environment and providing the [state-of-the art training] venues that cannot be replicated, it gives a kid more quality training,” said Major Rick Angeli, LTC chief of the last 18 months. “They don’t get the repetition they would on campus, but they get depth.

“It’s more focused on motivating kids and qualifying them with those things they need to be successful as ROTC cadets.”

Fort Knox provides equipment and sites on which to conduct training. The post also enlists several of its drill sergeants to indoctrinate cadets to the Army life.

There’s also the Army Reserve’s 100th Division, which for

years has supported the program by conducting several aspects of training.

Cadet Command and Eastern Region spend between \$8 million and \$10 million a year to stage the course. That includes everything from bringing in and housing cadre to equipping cadets to using training facilities at Fort Knox.

The financial impact, though, is even more widespread. Surrounding communities such as Radcliff and Muldraugh see their hotels fill every summer with soldiers supporting the course and family members traveling to watch their sons and daughters graduate.

“These folks eat in the restaurants, they shop in our stores, they buy gas at our gas stations,” said Kelly Barron, executive director of the Radcliff-Fort Knox Tourism Commission. The organization has played host to a Family Day reception, held the day before graduation, for the last 15 years and sponsors a cadet spirit award. “It’s very important to us.

“We look forward to it every year.”

Bartley this year will take part in the summer training for the 26th time. It will be his last. He retires in September.

As LTC’s senior member in terms of tenure, he said men and women who graduate LTC leave in better shape mentally and physically than in years past.

“When you look at where you want these cadets to go and what you want them to be — the future leaders of the Army — this is the right track to be on and the right mode to be in,” Bartley said.

Course officials say LTC will continue to change in coming years to meet ROTC and the Army’s ever-changing needs. But they don’t believe its ultimate mission — producing future Army leaders — will disappear.

“Let’s face it,” Bartley said. “A lot of students don’t know what they want when they first go to college. By having this avenue, it’s a way to get quality students into our program.

“We know we’re not going to contract everyone who comes through here. Those we can’t, hopefully, we can put another friend of the Army out there.”

By Steve Arel, Eastern Region ROTC

If you have interest in more discussion on the topic of leadership contact Captain Matt Lutz in the Department of Military Science in the Western Union building at 221-3611 or malutz@wm.edu.

Book Review: Candyfreak

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Have you ever been to a nice, upscale restaurant and listened to a sommelier talk about wine? That's the way that Steve Almond talks about candy bars. Case in point: "One has to work the teeth through the sturdy chocolate shell, which gives way to a distinct, moist snap, through the crisped rice (thus releasing a second, grainy bouquet) and only then into the soft, caramel core." And again: "The teeth break through the milky chocolate shell, sail through the mild caramel only to encounter the smoky crunch of the almonds, and finally the rich tumescence of the dark chocolate."

Then there are the candies that Almond doesn't much care for. For example, anything made with coconut: "I feel as if I'm chewing on a sweetened cuticle." Or the festive Easter Marshmallow Peeps, which are: "composed of marshmallow dyed piss yellow and sprinkled with sugar." Hungry yet? Almond's book, *Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America*, takes a unique and fascinating look at the American candy industry and the delicious bars that they produce.

Candyfreak is a travelogue as much as it is a culinary study. We hear about lost drivers' licenses, missed planes, and bus rides, as well as factory tours and chocolate tastings. Almond maintains a candid, inside-joke style of writing. He tells you what he is

thinking as he tries each candy and visits each factory. Unfortunately, he also tells you about his irrational fears and worries, cluing you in to his troubled childhood and adult feelings of isolation. Luckily for the reader, Almond seems to know that these tidbits are a tad tiresome and keeps them to a minimum.

The star of Almond's book is not himself, but the somewhat obscure candies that he sets out to profile. He stays away from the bigger companies - Hershey, Nestlé, and Mars - and focuses on the little guys, the independent local candy bar makers that have just one or two products and distribute to just

one or two states. The reader is introduced to the Valomilk of the Midwest, the Idaho Spud of the open range, the G o o G o o Cluster of the Deep South, and many other homespun delectables from all over America and is taken on tours of the

factories that produce these bars, introduced to their makers, and taught about their flavors and histories.

If you do end up going to the store to buy this book I strongly recommend that you pick up one or two of those little truffles or chocolate bars that they have right next to the cash register. Reading Steve Almond's book without having something to nibble on might make you a bit crazy. *Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America* is a well-researched and wickedly funny book that is well worth your time.



Chocolate Goodness: Freshman Russell Smith taste-tests some candy that Almond might review.

Joe Luppino-Espósito

Just look at things another way

Every year as the entertainment world is reaching the loud, glittering climax of the Oscars, the cynical come out of the woodwork. Everyone has heard them, whining and complaining about how the only movies that this country pays attention to are papered over with money, covered in blood, and seething with sex. They say that politics has corroded the canvas and that pretentious elitism has taken over the stage. They say that the common man can't appreciate art for its own sake anymore. Give me a break. One only has to look around to see that art — the real throbbing, pulsing force that Homer and Picasso once stood for — is not some soot-covered dying thing, but alive and working busily away. You just have to know how to look for it.



R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

Cynics look at a stenciled painting on a dumpster, or a sticker on a stop sign, and say, "That's vandalism. That's just trash." I look at it and see someone who took the time to carefully craft and choose their design, then just as carefully place it where they could. People look at chalk drawings on the sidewalk and sketches on someone's notebook and say, "That's just boredom made visible," but someone thought up those drawings. Someone drew them and shaded them. Someone cared. People pass some kid playing a piano in a hotel lobby and say, "He shouldn't be doing that," but he is: his fingers are striking the keys and forcing notes into the air.

When I see a six-year-old taking hundreds of pointless pictures with his first camera, I don't shake my head and ponder pennies. He and I both know that he's creating art. When I see a gloomy girl writing poetry in a spiral notebook, I don't tell her to "brighten up." She and I both know that she's creating art. Look at the jeans and jackets that so many rip apart and then lovingly sew back together. Look at the corkboards as you walk down the hall of a dormitory. Listen to the whistling, clapping, and humming that go on around you every time you step into public places. If you know how to look, there's art everywhere around you.

Don't you dare tell me art is dead - that it's lost in blood, money, or pretension. Art is everywhere; on the ground, on the walls, and in the air, just waiting to be recognized and appreciated. Just because it isn't mass-produced and packaged, just because it isn't hanging in a gallery somewhere, or sitting on some CD, doesn't mean that it isn't art. If you take the time to look, you can see the Mona Lisa on a gum wrapper, on a brick wall, or in a bathroom stall. You just have to take the time to look.

Choosing the perfect restaurant for Valentine's Day

Shelbi Wilson

Staff Writer

With February 14 approaching quickly, you might be worried that it is too late to make plans that are worthy of a Hallmark card, but that is not the case. Planning a memorable evening for Valentine's Day doesn't have to be a struggle! Read on for a few tips for creating a fun and hassle-free night.

When picking a restaurant for Valentine's Day, it is important to think about the atmosphere of the location. This particular holiday is all about romance, so the atmosphere should reflect this. Crowded restaurants will be loud and may require long waits. Prevent this dilemma by avoiding locations that could easily be crowded, such as chain restaurants. Instead, opt for restaurants that allow for reservations, such as the taverns or more upscale restaurants. These locations will ensure a table for you and your sweetheart.

Another important aspect is dessert. As a finish to a great dinner or by itself, dessert makes any holiday just a bit sweeter. Many restaurants will have holiday specials in addition to their normal offerings. If you are looking for a particular dessert, it is worth your time to call a few restaurants and inquire about their dessert menu for that evening. Several restaurants known for

their dessert offerings include the Fat Canary, the Trellis, Aroma's, and the Regency Room at the Williamsburg Inn.

If you have finished dinner and it is still early, there is no need to end the night just yet. Kimball Theatre will present *Love Letters*, a play about life-long friendship, at 7:30 pm. In addition, with New Town Cinemas just around the corner, a good movie is easy to find. Be sure to check event listings for more ideas.



**Happy St. Valentine's
Day from The Virginia
Informer!**



Sweet Plans: The window at Wythe's displays its vast selection of Valentine's Day candies, making it an enticing spot to pick up something for your sweetheart.

Ian R. Whiteside

Oscar Nominations: Predictable, but room for surprise

On the morning of January 31 at 8:30 EST nominations were announced for this year's Academy Awards. As always, there were snubs (*Walk the Line* was left out of the Best Picture race, and where was Don Cheadle as Best Supporting Actor in *Crash*?) and there were surprises, such as Keira Knightley's inclusion in the Best Actress category for her performance in *Pride and Prejudice*.



Joe Pirro
Film Critic

However, this year's nominations weren't as surprising as they could have been. The Academy nominates on a preferential ballot, meaning that members rank the top films and performances on a scale of one through five. The films and actors with the most number one and number two votes are nominated. *Walk the Line*, a winner for Best Picture at the Golden Globes last month, was probably on a majority of ballots, but in the number three or four slots, allowing *Munich* to take the final nomination.

As expected, Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain* led the pack with eight nominations, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor, among others. However, there's still plenty of time left before awards are handed out on March 5th. Will there be upsets and surprises? Of course; it's the Academy Awards and voters love surprises. Before then, *The Virginia Informer* takes a look at the top races, predicts

who will win and discusses who *should* win the most coveted awards in Hollywood.

Best Picture:

Who Will Win: *Brokeback Mountain* has won practically every guild award, as well as winning Best Picture Drama at the Golden Globes in January. The only movie that really has a competitive chance is *Crash*. It's picking up momentum, and Lions Gate (*Crash*'s distributor) is sensing that Hollywood is tiring of *Brokeback* buzz, which it is. Still, barring a massive upset, *Brokeback Mountain* will take home the top prize in March.

Who Should Win: This is much harder to decide. All five films nominated (*Brokeback Mountain*, *Capote*, *Crash*, *Good Night, and Good Luck*, and *Munich*) are very good, but in the end the award should go to *Crash* or *Brokeback Mountain*, which lack the major flaws that plague the other nominees.

Best Director:

Who Will Win: Ang Lee will take home the Oscar after winning the Director's Guild award along with the Golden Globe. After losing for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, Lee is overdue for Academy recognition.

Who Should Win: Steven Spielberg puts up a good fight for his powerful *Munich*, but Ang Lee truly deserves it for his quiet, lyrical portrait of four people in destructive relationships in *Brokeback Mountain*.

Best Actor:

Who Will Win: The lack of a Best Picture nomination for *Walk the Line* actually helps Joaquin Phoenix in this race. Avid supporters

of the film can only endorse it by voting for Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, so Phoenix is the dark horse of the race, replacing Heath Ledger who slips to third for his performance in *Brokeback Mountain*. However, the award will easily go to Philip Seymour Hoffman for his portrayal of Truman Capote in *Capote*.

Who Should Win: Hoffman's performance is a true tour-de-force. It's one of the best performances in at least a decade. Hoffman makes the viewer loathe, love, and empathize with Truman Capote all at the same time.

Best Actress:

Who Will Win: If there's an upset on March 5th it will be Felicity Huffman in *Transamerica* beating Reese Witherspoon for *Walk the Line*. However, Reese will still pull off the win, but just barely.

Who Should Win: Every second Witherspoon is on the screen in *Walk the Line* the film just simply ignites. She steals the film from Joaquin Phoenix, which is not an easy feat.

Best Supporting Actor:

Who Will Win: This is the most difficult race to predict and it will come down to George Clooney for *Syriana* or Paul Giamatti for *Cinderella Man*. However, since the Academy won't give Best Director to Clooney for *Good Night, and Good Luck*, they'll choose to reward him here.

Who Should Win: Paul Giamatti has been criminally overlooked for too long. Give him his due, it's about time.

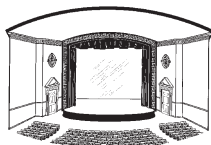
Best Supporting Actress:

Who Will Win: This is a loaded category full of great performances. Michelle Williams may end up with the Oscar for her tortured housewife portrayal in *Brokeback Mountain*, but Rachel Weisz will probably take home the prize for *The Constant Gardener* after picking up some major awards in January. However, this one's almost too close to call.

Who Should Win: This race should be no contest. Amy Adams in *Junebug* is an absolute revelation. Her character, a spirited, naïve, caring young woman, instantly becomes the heart of the best film of the year.

The Academy Awards air March 5th on ABC.

For more of the latest reviews of films playing on and around campus check out the Film Reviews section at VAInformer.com



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

MOVIES

- Paradise Now* (PG-13)
Thurs., Feb. 9-Mon., Feb. 13
7 and 8:45 p.m.
Feb. 9-11, 13 screening room (35 seats)
- Breakfast on Pluto* (R)
Sun., Feb. 12-Fri., Feb. 17
6:45 and 9 p.m.
Feb. 12, 14, 15, 16 screening room (35 seats)
- The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till* (NR)
Thurs., Feb. 16-Wed., Feb. 22
7 and 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 17-19, 21 screening room (35 seats)
- Bee Season* (PG-13)
Mon., Feb. 20-Sun., Feb. 26
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
Feb. 20, 22, 23, 25 screening room (35 seats)
- Nine Lives* (R)
Sun., Feb. 26-Thurs., Mar. 2
7 and 9 p.m.
Feb. 26, 27, Mar. 1 screening room (35 seats)
- Ushpizin* (PG)
Tues., Feb. 28-Sat., Mar. 4
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
Feb. 28, Mar. 2, 3 screening room (35 seats)

- William & Mary Botetourt Chamber Singers: Gala Concert*
Our Favorites
Sat., Feb. 4 at 8 p.m.
All seats \$15
- The Williamsburg Symphonia presents Family Concert*
Sun., Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.
All seats \$5
- Playwrights Premiere Theatre presents Love Letters* by A. R. Gurney
Thurs., Feb. 9-Sat., Feb. 11 and Tues., Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m., Sun., Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.
Adults \$24, Seniors \$18, Students \$10
- Family Focus – Williamsburg and Grafton present : Wiggle, Jiggle, Clap, and Sing Along with Betsy Q*
Sat., Feb. 11 at 11 a.m.
General admission \$5, Seniors/Students/Children \$4
- The Kimball Theatre presents Moliere Than Thou: A One-man Introduction to The Playwright's Classic Comedies*
Written and performed by Timothy Mooney
Wed., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m.
General admission \$10, Seniors/Students \$7

- The Williamsburg Youth Orchestra presents : A Night of Romance Featuring Chris Mooney*
Sat., Feb. 18 at 8 p.m.
Adults \$12, Students \$5
- An Evening With the Presidents The Role of the Executive and the Bill of Rights*
Sun., Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$12, Children \$6, under 6 \$3
- William and Mary's Improvisational Theatre*
Sat., Feb. 25 at 8 p.m.
All seats \$5
- The College of William and Mary School of Education presents The Hauben Distinguished Lecture Featuring Jonathan Kozol*
Mon., Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.
The lecture is free but tickets are required

Come to the Kimball Theatre on DoG Street!

Nooks & Crannies of William & Mary

Ol' Spotswood is a "blast" from the past

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Everyone has seen the idyllic postcard image: the Wren Building, situated next to the Brafferton and the President's House, the statue of Lord Botetourt and three very old cannons. The first two cannons, aptly named, "William" and "Mary," are relatively innocuous. Originally surrendered at Yorktown by General Cornwallis, they were loaned to the College in the 1920's and have sat in silence on the front steps of the Wren ever since. However, the third cannon, called "Ol' Spotswood," has a different story to tell. It is a story that stretches into the present day, involving battles with American Indians, tributes to Confederates and Revolutionaries alike, and the firing of ammunition ranging from bricks to potatoes.

Ol' Spotswood was created around the year 1713 for use at Fort Christiana, an outpost in Brunswick County, Virginia. While there, it was used to guard against American Indian raids, earning the title of "The Heroic Indian Fighter: Ol' Spotswood," in honor of then-governor Alexander Spotswood. Soon thereafter, the cannon's history becomes blurred. Through oral tradition passed down by the Barners and Jones families, both of Old Virginia stock, the cannon was found years later at the bottom of a well. It was hauled out and set up on the family farm over the grave of John Barners, who had fought during the Revolutionary War and whose ancestors once manned Fort Christiana. By tradition, it was fired every 4th of July in memory of John Barners.

Around the turn of the century Ol' Spotswood's trail became concrete once again. A judge by the name of N.S. Turnbull came across the cannon in 1900 and mentioned it to his friend, Dr. Lyon Gardiner Tyler, the son of President John Tyler and then president of the College of William and Mary. Dr. Tyler offered to buy the cannon for the College, for the whopping price of \$5. Turnbull, conveyed the president's offer to the owners of the Barners' farm, and was eventually forced to pay more than triple the president's price— a staggering \$18 instead. After the two men settled on the deal, the cannon was brought to Williamsburg on February 19, 1901 and installed in front of the Wren, with a plaque saying that it had been donated by "Friends of the College." Unfortunately, it would not be



Explosive Success: Ol' Spotswood stands as a monument to early American settlements.

long before Tyler would come to regret his purchase.

Soon after Ol' Spotswood's arrival, some students filled it with a double charge of black powder and fired it off, subsequently producing a noise loud enough to break every window in the Brafferton and the President's House. It also set off one of the most interesting and short-lived traditions in William and Mary's history. Over the next few years Ol' Spotswood' blasted constantly, most often in celebration of the College's victories in football and baseball, with one shot fired for each point that William and Mary scored. Still, the fun was not entirely safe. On one occasion the local constable was once nearly decapitated when a load of bricks shot from Ol' Spotswood came flying towards him.

To assuage the fears of local residents, Tyler tried to stop the venerable cannon from becoming a public menace: he had a local blacksmith block up, or "spike," Ol' Spotswood's fuse hole. When word of this got out, a group of students stole the cannon and hid it near Lake Matoaka. It was returned to the Wren after one month with a newly cleared fuse hole. Tyler retaliated quickly, having

last time. Confederate veterans, surrounded by their families stood proudly during the ceremony as several shots were fired from a small cannon that had been lent to the town for the day. Suddenly, the familiar loud blast of Ol' Spotswood joined in, rocking the area and startling everyone present. Apparently, a student dragged the cannon to the ceremony as a salute to the Confederacy. He then promptly dragged the cannon to nearby Matthew Whaley High School. There, he loaded Irish Potatoes into the cannon's muzzle and began firing at the school's side wall, quickly covering it in a mess of mashed potatoes. In response to this incident, Tyler had the cannon's mouth plugged once and for all.

This final act effectively ended the glory days of Ol' Spotswood. Aside from the replacement of its wooden carriage in 1986, Ol' Spotswood has sat silently in the the Wren Courtyard for almost a century. Like Lord Botetourt, the Coat of Arms, and the Phoenix, it has grown into a symbol of the College. Its age, experiences, and stately appearance have earned it the right to be called, as it was fifty years ago, "a familiar old friend of the College."

the cannon re-spiked the day after it was returned. Students occasionally persisted in their mischievous endeavors by running extra-long fuses through the front of the cannon and firing it off that way.

1907 marked the culmination of the events surrounding Ol' Spotswood. During the dedication of a monument to the Confederate Army in Williamsburg, the cannon's voice was heard for the

Renovation for the celebration



Amphitheatre to play role in Jamestown 2007 Anniversary celebration: Formerly the home of "The Common Glory," an outdoor drama of America in the Revolution which ran for 30 years, the Matoaka Amphitheatre will be renovated to accommodate events coinciding with next year's 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement. The cost is expected to be \$7.5 million, of which \$5 million is from an anonymous donor and \$2.5 will be paid by the state. Construction is expected to begin in the spring.

Photo by
Ian R. Whiteside

Compiled by
Amber L. Forchand

Sexual assault: Our solution

The November 2 incident at the Charles City County home of Board of Visitors member John Gerdelman is already a thing of the past. The matter has moved into civil court, as all charges were dropped against the accused male student, who has since sued his accuser for \$5.5 million. It is reprehensible that anyone would make such a false charge, but it is a matter for the civil court to decide. It is also reprehensible for Gerdelman to display such reckless disregard for the health and safety of the students at his home and to create the type of environment in which there is a higher likelihood of a sexual assault occurring. Gerdelman should resign his position on the Board of Visitors to prove that William and Mary is serious about combating sexual assault.

Furthermore, we are appalled at Vice President Sam Sadler, as he did such a lackluster job in alerting the student body that the charges had been dropped, as well as his lack of regret for his grievous error in releasing the accused's name.

Despite these unfortunate events, it appears that this first report of the year led to a watershed effect of victims speaking out and reporting their attacks, which is positive.

President Gene Nichol, along with Sadler, has released a comprehensive report regarding what William and Mary, as a community, intends to do about this serious situation. We feel that although the solutions may help, they are still incomplete and fail to address the primary concern: prevention. Of the eight major goals that Nichol outlined in his e-mail to students, half addressed response and the other, prevention, and poorly at that.

The idea of mandatory programs that can be organized by Residence Life are the most effective, as they are based in the homes of students, the same way that the information is disseminated when students are freshmen. In addition to Nichol's proposed programming for transfer students, there ought to be continued mandatory hall programs for upperclassmen as well, especially in

fraternities and sororities. A refresher course on the topic is certainly something that can only serve to alleviate the situation. For students living off-campus, the Dean's office should run a similar mandatory program, with a hold on registration being the penalty for failure to attend, for any student.

There must be some balance in the presentation of these programs, something that has been lacking in the past. The on campus peer-to-peer groups, including *1 in 4*, help to foster the idea that males are always in the wrong in situations when they are accused of sexual assault. This type of attitude, also pervasive within the administration, does little to prevent sexual assault, it only serves to shock and scare students, and little to educate. More attention needs to be paid to basic ground rules for men to follow regarding situations of date (acquaintance) rape as other universities provide, as this is a frequent type of offense at the College.

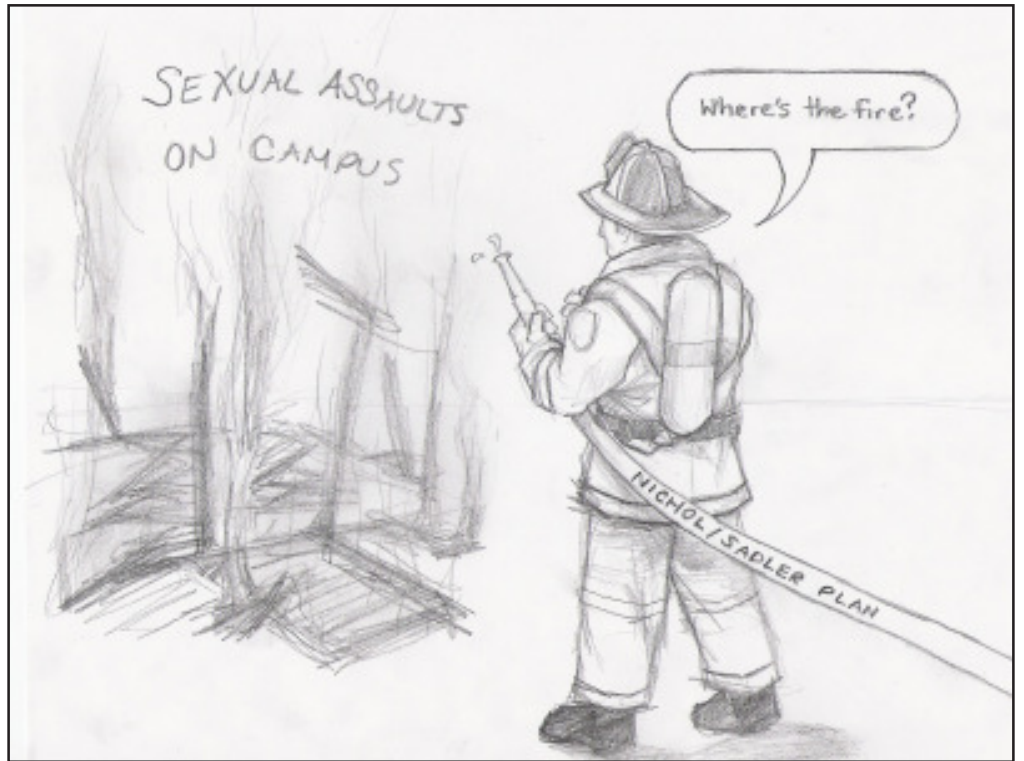
Students must be conscious of basic safety concerns. Something as simple as locking a door could prevent a possible attack. Most students on this campus are deceived by the sense of community and feel locks are not necessary. The time is now to wise up and think a bit more cynically about how secure we are in our rooms.

Education on the effects of alcohol and its relation to sexual assault must also be reiterated on all levels. Many of these assaults occur because of the intoxication of one or both of the persons involved.

We will readily admit that no plan can be 100% effective, but the above is a good first step. In the meantime:

Men: Remember that "No" means No and that you should be sure that a woman gives her sober consent.

Women: Be careful with alcohol or other substances that lower inhibitions. For the sake of all women, do not make a false claim; you hurt the chances of other women being taken seriously who *have* been the victims of sexual assault.



Devin Mawdsley

A Special Thanks

The Virginia Informer would like to sincerely thank an anonymous donor who has made the publishing of this issue possible. Without support from private donations, *The Virginia Informer* could not survive. 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 who has given us the tools to grow and to improve the paper. We are also thankful for the support we have received from Kellie Bowen and the Collegiate Network. Without all of these people, this issue would not have been possible.

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

Letter to the Editor

On behalf of the campus NAACP, we were pleased to see Nick Fitzgerald's article, entitled "You Know, I'm Not a Reverse Racist, But..." in your November issue. Although we were encouraged that he did take the time to attend our event, we disagree with Mr. Fitzgerald's opinion, and regret that he did not benefit more from the lecture since his article failed to critically examine any points made during the lecture.

Whether he agrees with the particular positions of Joe Kincheloe and Shirley Steinberg, they do represent a sizeable academic community with a range of political viewpoints who all have the same opinion about the nature of racism in America—it is a deeply-rooted historical phenomenon that we should continue dismantling. This academic community agrees that whiteness needs to be addressed in the interest of well-rounded, empirical analysis about race.

And whether or not Mr. Fitzgerald appreciates the veracity of Kincheloe and

Steinberg's activist-scholar viewpoints, they were one of the most outspoken leaders against the racist study, *The Bell Curve* by Herrnstein and Murray in the mid-1990s. Their book, *Measured Lies: The Bell Curve Examined* was a highly praised along with another work, *White Reign: Deploying Whiteness in America*. Copies of each book were left with the NAACP and I am happy to announce that we plan to generously donate a copy of each book to Mr. Fitzgerald.

We, the NAACP, encourage unguarded, but fair dialogue about racial topics, particularly if it pertains to William and Mary. If Mr. Fitzgerald, or other members of the Virginia Informer are willing, we would be happy to host a roundtable about whiteness and how it impacts campus in the spring. This is our open invitation.

Richael Faithful
Class of 2007
President, William and Mary NAACP

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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Agree? Disagree? Let us know!

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

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

Email letters to VAInfo@wm.edu.

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It's no laughing matter

On January 31st, Sarah Weddington gave a speech at the Commonwealth Auditorium in the University Center. In the famous Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, Weddington was able to argue in favor of abortion-on-demand in America. In contrast to the laws of a majority of the states, the Supreme Court said that abortion could be performed in all 50 states.

Weddington was comedic and jocular. Though she argued the death sentence for millions of the unborn, a ready and willing audience howled with laughter at her quips and jokes.

I quickly began to realize that Weddington's tone was light-hearted because the subject she was dealing with was so necessarily cruel and barbaric. A certain amount of desensitizing was necessary to deal with the business of abortion. It was a deceitful practice of hiding the Truth. Instead of telling the truth about her contacts with the famous "Jane Roe," who brought the case before her, Weddington stated falsehoods and the audience accepted them as fact. Weddington did not mention the fact that "Jane Roe" is now pro-life. Though Weddington worked hard to gerrymander her story into something resembling the truth, her efforts were seen as a lie to all who knew the true facts of *Roe v. Wade*. Come to know the truth and it will set you free, Mrs. Weddington.

Women's rights might have sounded important to Weddington, but when confronted with a discussion of the rights of the unborn, a deafening silence could be heard. The women she cares about are already born. Few give the Pro-Life movement credit, considering that abortion kills far more unborn women than unsafe abortions ever did. This might just be another situation where the truth was ignored in Weddington's speech.

Just as Weddington was able to fool the audience into believing that her work was done for women's rights, NOW, NARAL, and the Democratic Party also fool the American people into believing that abortion is a women's rights issue. Though there are feminist groups in America that believe abortion is always a wrong choice for women, pro-choice feminist groups have hijacked the issue. Feminists for Life visited campus thanks to the work of Students for Life, whose leadership is largely female. Why would all of these women want their "reproductive rights" revoked?

Abortion is not a women's rights issue. If all women honestly believed that abortion was a fundamental choice, we would see no problem with passing abortion legislation. Half of those attending the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. would not be present. As Weddington might hope, America's abortion law would be very similar to Europe's. Thank God it is not.

The devastation brought forth on the unborn cannot all be attributed to Sarah Weddington. It can be attributed to judges, lawmakers, presidents, and worst of all: the American people. Ignoring the rights of the least among us, our foundation crumbles. As the tide of anti-life thought sweeps America, few speak against it loudly enough. T.S. Eliot's famous poem once said, "This is the way the world ends, not with a bang, but a whimper." Here's to hoping that your whimper is heard.



John R. Kennedy
Opinions Editor

Extending the Honor Code to the entire community

Stephanie Long

Layout Editor

The first words all undergraduate students utter during the Honor Pledge are, "As a member of the William & Mary community..." And to be a member of the William & Mary community is to live by the values set forth by the Honor Code. I fear, though, that there are some members of the William and Mary community who have not incorporated the Honor Code into their lives, and are not even expected to.

The code is failing in its exact intent: to provide a sense of "mutual trust" throughout the William and Mary community. While both the majority of the student body and the faculty have been moved to the expected ends of the Honor Code, the staff at William & Mary—including cafeteria workers, housekeeping staff, maintenance crew and others—are not required to abide by an honor code.

Perhaps as a freshman who was accepted Early Decision and has a deep-rooted love for this school I am slightly biased in my high opinion of the community that exists on campus. But I maintain that the Honor Code truly characterizes the way I view the college. And in the five months that I've been here I have observed that most students feel comfortable leaving their belongings unattended and keeping their doors unlocked. This shows me that the ideologies of Honor Code are assumed to be recognized across campus, but perhaps this is only because of a false

The Honor Code

As a Member of the William & Mary community. I pledge, on my Honor, not to lie, cheat, or steal in either my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust of which we are all stewards.



sense of security that the Honor Code creates.

It seems to me that if the Honor Code explicitly states that its purpose is to develop, "a community of trust," that it should be extended to include the entire community. And who would argue that the staff workers that we see every day and talk with and get to know are not part of the community? Is Curtis, who works at the Caf, a stranger to the William & Mary community? What about Stacy who serves our ice cream? These two people, among many others, are being denied the right to fully integrate into our community by not being held to an honor code.

When I discussed my thoughts with Greg Teich, Chief Financial Officer of the Honor Council, he professed that, "Ideologically I don't see flaws, but administratively I do." The issue with making this goal a reality is due to the fact that the undergraduate and graduate student bodies each have their own Honor Code as does the faculty, and staff

members don't fit into any of these categories. Teich and the Honor Council have yet to figure out how to correct this problem. "I'd like it [the Honor Code] to extend but I don't know how feasible it would be," Teich concluded.

This problem reasserts the issue, though, in that it reflects that there are certain members of our community who are not being recognized. Why can't an honor code be created which all staff members are required to accept at the time of their employment? I believe that any difficulty that doing this would present would be negligible in order to accomplish a complete sense of community.

I would like to reiterate that I write this not in suspicion of the staff workers on campus, but rather with the conviction that the Honor Code needs to be altered. Then it will actually be doing its job of providing a sense of security and trust throughout the entirety of the William and Mary community.

Being PC 101: A lesson from Marx

Benjamin Farthing

Staff Writer

Imagine a society wherein there are many areas of political, social, and economic debate. Imagine that, in these areas of debate, only certain viewpoints are deemed appropriate, and siding with an inappropriate viewpoint will result in an attack from employers, government officials, and anti-free-speech vigilantes. Imagine a society that executes extra punishment for alleged thoughts, but only in cases where the criminal held a viewpoint that was *inappropriate*.

Now stop imagining. You live in that society.

In American society today, and especially on college campuses, it is a sin to take the wrong viewpoint on an issue. Consider the forced diversity program known as affirmative action. If a person expresses that he supports affirmative action, he is accepted with a nod and no more thought is given to the matter. If a person expresses that he opposes affirmative action, one of two things happen. Either debate quickly ensues, or the person is branded as a racist. Assuming debate ensues, and the person continues to oppose affirmative action, then the person is also branded as a racist.

Let's consider the issue of raising children. If a person says that she supports the idea of a woman pursuing a career rather than raising children, or that she feels that daycare is a suitable method for raising children, then — fair enough — she gets a nod and no more thought is given to the matter. Now if a person says that she is not comfortable with daycare, and that she would prefer to put her career on hold to raise her children herself, she will be branded by self-interviewing journalists as a hindrance to the women's rights movements. If — God forbid — a man were to express these same views, he would quickly be branded as sexist.

And what of alleged hate crimes? The very premise of this misguided system, to punish someone for thoughts or feelings, should instill thoughts of a totalitarian regime handing out sentences for differing political thought. While there is a difference between prejudices and deep political thought, hate crimes are only there to punish prejudices that are *inappropriate*. The idea of an appropriate prejudice may seem absurd, but consider recent events in Chesapeake, when, according to initial police reports, a man ran up to two proselytizing Mormon missionaries and shot them both, killing one and sending the other to the hospital. Only a few days later, the police released a statement saying that this was not a hate crime. They reported no motive, no reason at

all for the murder and attempted murder, except for the fact that the missionaries were wearing tags identifying them as members of the minority religious group. Now, if this report had been released at a later time, perhaps after they had caught the criminal and discovered that he had no prejudices against Mormons, this would not be an issue. But the fact is that the police had not yet even caught the man, and they were saying that no hate crime had been committed. Now switch around minority groups. Consider a situation with a white criminal and a black victim. The white criminal has yet to be apprehended, and the police know of no motive. Would they have been so hasty to declare that no hate crime had been committed? Of course not, because prejudice against a minority race is *inappropriate* and an outrage, but prejudice against a minority religious group is *not* viewed as *inappropriate*, and hardly makes the news.

The source of this hypocritical system of values is even more outrageous than the system itself. It should not be surprising that an idea that favors certain minorities while attacking the majority has its roots in Marxism.

Political correctness bases its ideas on a Marxist theory developed in the most prominent hotbed of Marxist ideology to ever exist — The Frankfurt School. This think-tank was created with the purpose of figuring out how to keep alive their theories, which were quickly being proven incorrect as none of the working class was rising up against the bourgeoisies. They then devised both the supposed solution to their problems, and the foundation of political correctness: Critical Theory.

The purpose of Critical Theory is, not surprisingly, to criticize — specifically, to criticize without offering solutions. In the case of The Frankfurt School, the criticism is of Western civilization. Political correctness follows close behind by blaming western culture and the white male for the plights of various minority groups.

Perhaps the most terrifying of all, is that the Frankfurt School believed that for their ideals to be realized, all people must be freed from the evil grasp of western society. Critical Theory was designed to slowly bring about the destruction of western civilization.

Political correctness is not simply foolish and hypocritical. It is dangerous. Its origins rest in a Marxist theory designed to destroy civilization as the west knows it.

It is time to start calling political correctness what it truly is: Cultural Marxism.

“Especially on college campuses, it is a sin to take the wrong viewpoint on an issue.”

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From the Informer web archives... Serial Stenciler strikes Old Campus

Chris Peterson

Features Editor

A winter break of discontent fomented vandalism in the heart of a person or persons unknown, as several old campus landmarks received unapproved coats of paint this past Wednesday.

The Washington Hall sign was spray painted with a red anarchist logo, while the McGlothlin-Street Hall sign was covered in a more intricate network of an anarchist logo, a peace sign, and a female gender symbol.

The statue of Thomas Jefferson that stands between these two buildings received the most attention from the vandal(s). The bronze face of the famous alum was painted blue and his crotch red. A butterknife was placed in his uplifted hand, and the brick platform beneath the statue read "Sex with slaves=Rape!"

Maintenance staff remained befuddled as to how to best restore the statue early Friday afternoon.

"The signs, they're easy," said one worker who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We just repaint them. I've got a whole collection in my room. The statue is tough, though, because we want to avoid using chemicals that might damage the bronze finish."

This was not the first time the college has

been vandalized, said the man.

in drag, or it might have been two Mary's—one sitting on the other's face, and then another one of Mary pleasuring herself."

"I'm kind of rooting for him," he continued as he looked through assorted materials to cover his cleaning rag with. "But sooner or later, he'll feel the need to make himself known...and then I imagine he'll go away for a while."

Update January 29th, 2006

Reports have reached the ears of the *Informer* that the serial stenciler has struck again, covering the back of the Commons with both the "Wilma and Mary" stencil shown above and a new one that depicts a caricature of President Bush with the word "MURDERER" under the picture.



"The Wren building has been hit before too. And behind Swem—you probably didn't see it—there was this really detailed graphic earlier. I mean intricate. There was one with William and Mary—if William was

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Fair for who?

Free trade coffee no longer an option on campus

Nick Fitzgerald

News Editor

Coffee drinkers on campus must now purchase Fair Trade products at vendors across campus. The UC, Java City at the Caf, Starbucks at Swem, and the Daily Grind all offer Fair Trade coffee as part of their regular, daily brews.

initiative on campus has been entirely student-led. "A student group came to me last semester, and I said, 'Let me see what I can do for you.' I think we should support what issues we feel are socially acceptable, do what we can. We think it's the right thing to do. If a group or organization comes to me with something feasible and works for the college community then we try to get along and help the college wherever we can."

Economists criticize Fair Trade products. Opponents argue that because Fair Trade essentially subverts the normal workings of the market and institutes a price floor on coffee—guaranteeing growers \$1.26 per pound—consumers are forced to pay more in order to ensure Central and South American workers get a "living" wage. A living wage is one which someone could reasonably be expected to live off of given the socioeconomic and cultural context of their geographic region. The problem with this stems from the fact that "reasonable" and "fair" when determining wages is extremely subjective and open to interpretation.

On campus, however, there is no additional cost to the students to provide Fair Trade coffee as compared to any other kind. "It costs [Aramark] a bit more, but not the students," DiBenedetto said. "There's no additional cost, no increase in price at all [to the students]." DiBenedetto also alleges that Fair Trade will not affect the price of meal plans.

Fair Trade pushes a social agenda, one that

attempts to "protect" workers from the coffee market, big coffee corporations, and middlemen importers. Because of this, not everyone on campus may wish to support what Fair Trade stands for. Should students be refused the choice at the College? "I think if we were charging more, you'd have a valid point," DiBenedetto said. "There's no cost to you. We try to do something that we can do without charging any more. There's no impact on you other than maybe the flavor of coffee. We researched a number of different companies to try and get the best price for [Aramark]."

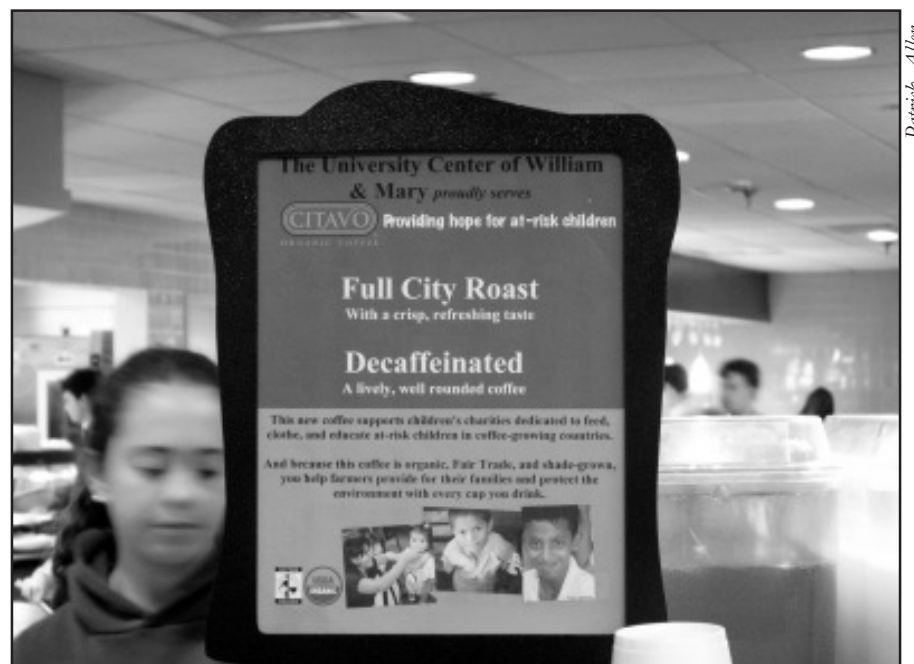
The Daily Grind is a completely Fair Trade business, as are, now, both the UC and the Caf. The only place where students can choose between Fair Trade and Free Trade is at Starbucks in Swem, which, according to DiBenedetto, will be switching to all Fair Trade in the upcoming months.

What is Fair Trade?

According to the advertisements located in the Mews and in front of Java City Café, "when you buy Fair Trade Certified coffee, you're helping ensure farmers get fair trade prices for their coffee, which helps them grow something much more important than coffee—their community....Fair Trade is based on a direct relationship with producers, one in which they are paid a guaranteed living wage. A Fair Trade floor price reduces the devastating effects of the boom-and-bust coffee market on farming families."

According to www.transfairusa.org, the official Fair Trade Certified Web site, Fair Trade ensures that farmers "receive a fair price for their harvest—a minimum of \$1.26 per pound...have access to credit and direct access to American markets, cutting out exploitative middlemen, [and] benefit from cooperative programs supporting social and commercial development."

Phil DiBenedetto, Aramark employee and director of dining services at the College, explained that the Fair Trade



Patrick Allen

Consumers denied product choice: Starbucks at Swem is the only place on campus to still offer free trade products but will switch to all fair trade in the future.