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**Update:
Student who survived police run-down free of charges in incident**

Joe Luppino-Esposito

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

On October 24 the charges against freshman Karmella Ressler were thrown out by a judge. Ressler now says that she and her family will be seeking compensation for the medical bills and damage to her bicycle.

"The judge just had this look on her face that was priceless," said Ressler following her court appearance. "As Trooper Lawson was explaining that I had been hit on campus, in a crosswalk, by a police officer, her eyes just kept getting wider and wider. She said that if the weaving had not taken place then we probably would not have been standing there but that she still felt it was the officer's responsibility to carry out his duties without hurting pedestrians."

Ressler is relieved that the whole ordeal is nearly over. Since she was not found at fault, she now has legal standing to ask for compensation from the College. She stresses that she and her family are not out to make money on the accident, only to recover damages.

"I was just happy to see the justice system work. I was worried that since it was a cop against me I was going to lose, but I didn't and it was because I wasn't wrong."

Alarming Silence

The Informer "lights a fire" under the administration with investigation, leading to changes for fire alarms in dormitories

Benjamin Farthing

Staff Writer

In the wee morning hours of September 9, an unknown group of people set off a fire extinguisher, which in turn set off the fire alarm in Gooch Hall. Minutes later, an estimated 70 residents huddled on the grass of Dupont Triangle.

About 90 students reside in Gooch.

The absent students were still in bed, unaware that the alarm had gone off.

"I didn't even realize that something had happened until the next day," said Adam Muzyzcyk, a freshman resident of Gooch.

The problem was in the placement of the alarms. On each floor, there is only one alarm equipped to sound when an alarm is pulled. Unfortunately, the hallways are split, preventing three or four rooms on each hall

from receiving a noise loud enough to wake the average resident.

I contacted Chris Durden, Assistant Director of Residence Life, as part of my investigation. He was also contacted by concerned parents, and promises were made look into the matter. Although stating that the alarms "are tested annually and meet all pertinent state fire codes," Durden agreed that additional alarms were needed, and the parents received assurance that these alarms would be installed in the next week. After a week had passed, the parents received assurance that these alarms would be installed over fall break.

The alarms were not installed over fall break, nor were they installed in the month that has passed since then. Last week, after contacting Durden again, the parents were told that Simplex, the company that installs the alarms, was on campus, and the alarms would

be installed within the week.

On November 2, the alarms were, in fact, installed. However, Durden reported that the new alarms only "offered a slight improvement over the single horn," but they have found an alarm with a more distinctive sound, and are working on finding a way to get the current power systems to accommodate them.

The delay seems to have been caused by a lack of parts. In the first two weeks that the alarms were supposed to have been installed, Simplex did not have the necessary parts on campus. After that, the order for the alarms seems to have gotten lost somewhere in the bureaucracy.

Regardless of the installation of the new

FIRE ALARMS

continued on page two



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Shouting fire in a crowded dorm: New horns were installed in Gooch Hall on November 2, but they are still not loud enough for all residents to hear.

Nichol shares constitutional, political thoughts with students at DuPont Hall lecture

Stephanie Long

Layout Editor

"Professors in the House," the Dupont/Botetourt Hall Councils' self-proclaimed attempt to "bridge the gap between the Administration and

the student body here at the College of William & Mary," took an important step forward when they featured President Gene R. Nichol in the Dupont Pit on Wednesday, October 26.

For approximately half an hour, Nichol spoke mostly about

Constitutional law and former Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor, William & Mary's newest chancellor, and then, for an additional thirty minutes, answered student questions. The topics Nichol discussed, while very revealing in terms of his own personal political ideologies, threatened to cross the invisible line between students and their professors.

Nichol began by commending Justice O'Connor and expressing his great admiration for her. He admitted to seeing her as a role model, despite her overall "record as a fairly conservative justice," because of her "courageous and sort of selfless decision-making in a way that's rare in American Constitutional law and American politics." He went on to talk about her decisions concerning, what he jokingly referred to as, "two non-controversial issues for presidents of universities to talk about: abortion and affirmative

action." Despite O'Connor's conservative views, she made liberal decisions on both of these issues, upholding a woman's right to abortion and maintaining the need for affirmative action. Nichol claimed, though, that it was not her liberal rulings that impressed him, but rather her apparent mentality that, "my friends don't want it, my colleagues don't want it, I don't even necessarily think this is the way I wish the world was, but I'm going to do what I believe is in the nation's best interest even at some personal cost."

Later on in the evening, President Nichol, in light of all the discussion concerning O'Connor, was asked what the chancellor of the College actually does; he answered, chuckling, "That's a little flexible." He explained that, in the past, the

NICHOL LECTURE

continued on page two



Ian R. Whiteside

An executive privledge: The "Professor in the House" program featured President Nichol.

Powerful politicos a force behind Virginia21

Alex Randy Kyrios

Staff Writer

Last month, the *Informer* featured an overview of the student lobbying organization Virginia21. That analysis of the organization's "grading" system of state delegates, as well as the structure of Virginia21 itself, served as a base from which to probe deeper with some questions for the group's communications director, Dave Solimini, a 2004 graduate of the College. Questions asked of Solimini ranged from: Who makes the decisions regarding which bills count for GPA calculations? What is the role of eminent Richmond grocer James Ukrop, Virginia21's chairman? and How much of the group's efforts go towards lobbying, versus towards informing and mobilizing its target of young voters?

Like more prominent lobbying organizations such as the National Rifle Association or the American Civil Liberties Union, Virginia21 provides it base, as well as the general public, with a rating for incumbent politicians based on the voting record of the politician relative to the position of the lobbying organization on the same issue. As discussed last month, this "GPA" system comes from specific points earned by delegates, but sometimes this rating system seems a bit arbitrary. Solimini explained that the "legislative report card is entirely student-driven." He referred to a "Student Steering Committee... made up of the 15 elected student body presidents of Virginia's public colleges." This

committee apparently controls policy decisions for the organization.

Ukrop chairs the Board of Directors, which Solimini called "a bipartisan group of political, community, and business leaders." Former delegates Anne Rhodes and Alan Diamonstein—a Republican and Democrat, respectively—are board members, as well as James Hazel, former finance chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. Jeff McWaters, another member, is the finance chair for Jerry Kilgore's gubernatorial campaign. The Board works "within the direction the Student Steering Committee decides," and helps "to ensure Virginia21's financial security." Ukrop was named as a "significant contributor" of the Board, but Solimini indicates the Board as being deferential to the Student Steering Committee.

As for how much effort goes into lobbying and how much goes into informing and mobilizing voters, Solimini noted "the General Assembly is only in session two or three months out of the year." Most of Virginia21's effort, then, seems to be focused on the voters. "Rather than tell young people to get involved 'because it is a good thing to do,' we believe that young people will get involved because they care about the issues that affect them," he said. He sees the lines between lobbying and informing as blurred; by communicating directly with the voters and explaining issues and delegates' positions on them, Virginia 21 can achieve the twin democratic goals of a more aware electorate and a more responsive legislature.

FAST FACTS: Virginia21's Rankings

Highs, lows, and averages

Highest-rated delegates:
James H. Dillard III (R-Fairfax)
Thomas David Rust (R-Herndon)
Robert Tata (R-Virginia Beach), 4.2 GPA each

Lowest-rated delegate:
Mark L. Cole (R-Fredericksburg), 0.7 GPA

Average Democrat GPA: 3.75 (38 delegates)
Average Republican GPA: 2.43 (61 delegates)
Average GPA: 2.91

College town scores

Average Charlottesville GPA: 2.55 (2 delegates)
Harrisonburg delegate's GPA: 1.9
Blacksburg delegate's GPA: 4.0
Local delegate's GPA: 4.0

People you may have heard of...

Thelma Drake (Congresswoman, R-2nd): 1.7
Viola Baskerville (D Lt. Gov primary cand.): 4.0
Jerry Kilgore (twin of R gubernatorial cand.): 2.5
Bob McDonnell (R Attorney General cand.): 1.7
"Chap" Petersen (D Lt. Gov primary cand.): 4.1

Kaine elected governor; GOP leads in other top spots

Benjamin Beiter

Staff Writer

Democratic Lieutenant Governor Tim Kaine was elected to succeed the outgoing Governor Mark Warner as Virginia's chief executive. Voters favored Kaine over his Republican opponent, Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, 52% to 46%. Republican State Senator H. Russell Potts, running as an

independent, garnered 2% of the vote.

Pledging to address the state's transportation, education, and economic needs, Kaine struck a conciliatory note in his victory speech. "We can do this by coming together as Virginians, by pulling together," he said.

Kilgore congratulated Kaine on his victory and lauded his opponent's long career in public service, but also sought to rally his supporters for future political battles. "Over the course of this campaign, we fought hard," Kilgore said. "We fought diligently for lower taxes, for limited government, for trusting the people, for the values and the vision that defines our Republican Party, and folks, that fight is not over."

Despite garnering more votes than Warner did in his 2001

election, Kaine's coattails appeared too short to carry the rest of Democratic ticket to victories. Republican Bill Bolling was elected lieutenant governor over Democrat Leslie Byrne, and the attorney general race between Republican Bob McDonnell and Democrat Creigh Deeds remains too close to call at press time.

In the 64th District of the House of Delegates, which includes Williamsburg, James City County and parts of Surry County, incumbent Billy Barlow (D) defeated Troy Lapetina (R) with 54% to 45% of the vote. Independent candidate Albert P. Burckard Jr. received 1.3% of the vote.

Virginia's gubernatorial election was viewed by many in Washington as a barometer of the current political climate. As the Bush Administration has stumbled in recent weeks, Democrats have attempted to position themselves to reap the benefits come next year's midterm elections. Kaine's victory will likely become the model for red state Democrats in 2006.

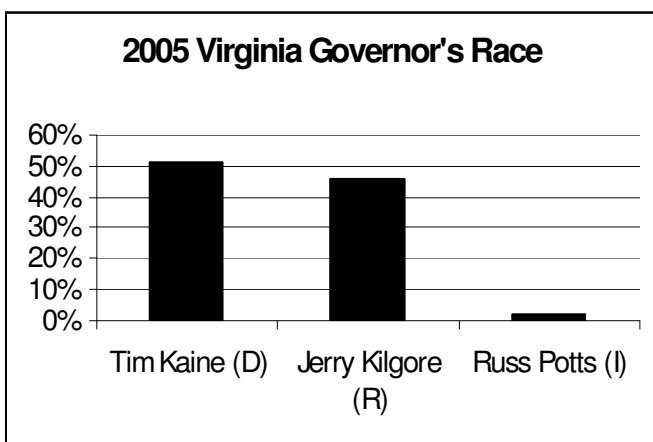
Early in the campaign, Kaine sought to frame the election as a referendum on the

policies of the Warner administration. Kaine cast himself as the logical successor to the popular Warner. Virginia's constitution prohibits governors from serving two consecutive terms.

The Kilgore campaign sought to make the election a referendum on Kaine, attempting to cast Kaine as a tax-raising liberal, fundamentally out of touch with Virginia voters. Kilgore assaulted Kaine's opposition to the death penalty in a number of controversial television ads.

Polls showed Kilgore leading Kaine for most of the campaign. It was only in late October that Kaine took the lead in the race.

Kaine promised throughout his campaign to make education a top priority, and vowed to help make higher education more affordable for Virginia students. In addition to plans for a new four-year state college in Southside, the only region in Virginia without such an institution, Kaine would like to divert funds into scholarships for qualified college students entering careers that "serve the community" such as teachers, nurses, doctors, and police officers.



NICHOL LECTURE: Some surprised by political nature

continued from page one

position has been honorary, as was the case with George Washington. He also talked about the accomplishments of former chancellors Lady Margaret Thatcher and Henry Kissinger. Finally he explained that the chancellor's duties include visiting the school several times a year to attend classes and give lectures, as well as to help the school out with fundraising. Ultimately the chancellor's job is to be advisor to the president. When Nichol was asked about how well he thought this would work considering his and the new chancellor's contrasting political views, he replied, "I work with people all the time...that I don't see eye to eye with politically, but you find a lot of things to pursue in common, particularly when it comes to higher education and the like."

During the question and answer session, students were not shy to make political inquiries, specifically regarding Nichol's personal political views. Questions ranged from "How do you think international law will affect American law in the future?" to "What would be in your [United States] Constitution?" to "Do you have a presidential premonition of what the NCAA will say about 'The Tribe'?" Students seemed to jump on the chance to learn as much as they could from the president, indicating that the gap between the administration and students is still quite large.

Is it going too far, though, for the president to be expressing his political ideologies—which were clearly defined over the course of the evening despite Nichol's attempts to be non-judgmental—to the student body? Students in attendance acknowledged the definite emergence of his politics during the session, but also his diplomatic way of handling the questions asked of him. Freshman Steve Hayet said, "I could tell he had strong opinions on those subjects and he let us know how he felt, but he didn't tell anyone they *had* to or *should* feel a certain way." In an interview later that evening, Nichol also explained, "I tried just to talk about interpreting the Constitution." He stated later that he didn't think anything he said was "too much of a political statement, just sort of describing what's happening in American Constitutional law." It seems, though, that the constant problem of unconscious or unintentional imposition of beliefs upon the student body remains a dilemma, even outside the classroom, with which the administration has had to deal.

Many students at the College have an earnest desire to become closer with the Administration. Drew Barr, a freshman, said, "In terms of the whole concept of professors coming to talk, I think it's great. After all, we're paying money to learn ideas from their point of view and they have a lot to teach us and know a lot more than we do."

FIRE ALARMS:

continued from page one

fire alarms, more than a month had gone by wherein The College has recognized a problem concerning fire safety, yet had failed to address it.

To further complicate the situation, four out of the five buildings in Boutetourt are built in the same layout as Gooch. This would mean that there are three other buildings with the same fire alarms problem. Potentially, 60 more people may easily sleep through a fire alarm. Durden said that any changes to Gooch would possibly "serve as a model for the other buildings." One would hope that the time it is taking to complete the changes in Gooch will not also serve as a model for the other halls.

Through these issues, The College has proved that it will take action to improve potentially dangerous situations when necessary, it just might end up taking a long time.

To Be the "Tribe," or Not to Be the "Tribe"

College decides to keep Tribe; Ebirt still gone

Becky Hammond

Staff Writer

On November 1, the College completed its self-evaluation of the use of the Tribe nickname, as mandated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) ongoing investigation of university nicknames and mascots with ties to racial, ethnic or national origin groups. In a letter accompanying the self-evaluation, President Gene Nichol asserted that the "'Tribe' powerfully and pointedly describes the remarkable sense of attachment and commitment that William and Mary students, staff, and faculty feel toward one another and their institution." Many students are pleased that the College will remain the Tribe, but many students

possible future mascots, appeals, or decisions if the "Tribe" is found to be offensive.

Brett Phillips, Student Assembly Senator for the Class of 2008 and Tribe Football player says, "I agree that the NCAA has the right to investigate the universities participating in its tournaments that have potentially offensive nicknames. But I believe that after the investigation and after we finish our report, they will find the 'Tribe' to be inoffensive because of the historical background of the College."

The College has always had positive relations with surrounding American Indian tribes. President Nichol stated, "Nearby Virginia Indian tribes have affirmed their acceptance of the nickname, which highlights, of course, the historical connection between the College and its role in educating Native Americans." In 1697, the College established a school to educate male Indians in reading and writing English, arithmetic and religion. The Brafferton, today the offices of the President and Provost, was constructed in 1723 to house the school, which closed during the American Revolution for lack of funds.

A group of alumni visiting for Homecoming was heard reflecting fondly upon their years at the College when the team was known as the Indians. During World War II, the school adopted the nickname "Indians" along with a person in an Indian costume as a mascot. The mascot was eliminated in the late 1970s and replaced with two feathers in the William and Mary logo. The nickname was switched during the 1980's because of the College considered it to be inappropriate. Tribe was selected as its successor because of its inclusive qualities.

The current NCAA investigation is completely unrelated to Ebirt and its removal. The athletic department decided to discontinue the use of Ebirt, which was never the official mascot of the College, because it did not sufficiently represent the character of the Tribe.

There have been several other mascot-like creatures roaming around Zable Stadium during football games. Common sightings are of a pig or a bear. These characters are simply walking advertisements for companies, such as Smithfield, Camelot Bears, the Daily Press, and Chic-fil-A that donate money to athletic programs. In exchange for their generosity, the athletic department agrees to have someone dress in their costume to advertise their products.

There also has been discussion about the Business School having their own mascot. A character called "Tribe Guy" is unofficial, and is simply someone dressed as a large green hand holding up a #1 sign. Its first appearance was supposed to be at the Homecoming game, but it became too intoxicated at the MBA tailgate and was unable to attend the game.

There is currently no official Administration or Athletic Department speculation about a new mascot. The rumor of Tribe becoming the Royals or Ebirt becoming King William came from an unnamed student organization's speculation.

A Tribe Cheerleading captain, Sam Hazell, said,



Photo courtesy of Eric Cobbin

Move over Ebirt, here comes Tribe Guy: Students celebrate Homecoming with the Business School's unofficial mascot

"This whole Ebirt controversy is ridiculous. Last year at the games, everyone was making fun of Ebirt. Now, we hear them wanting Ebirt back. It's quite embarrassing. People need to forget about it and just move on. Students should start paying more attention to how well the team is doing this year, rather than our lack of a mascot."

Results of William & Mary's Self-Evaluation of the name, "Tribe"

We find the use of our nickname and logo to be consistent with our long and venerable history as an institution that has educated and honored Native American peoples. Both the contemporary and historic view of the Native American community in our region has been supportive of our use of the nickname and logo. Our actions are fully in keeping with our deep commitment to build an inclusive community characterized by human equality, pluralism, and mutual respect.

(View the rest of the self-evaluation at www.wm.edu/NCAA)

have expressed concern over the dismissal of Colonel Ebirt as the school's mascot, although the athletic department claims that Ebirt was never the official school mascot.

William and Mary is one of 33 schools under investigation by the NCAA. If a NCAA-affiliated school's mascot, nickname, or image is found to violate the organization's ideals of "cultural diversity and gender equity, the principle of sportsmanship and ethical conduct, and the principle of nondiscrimination," the school will be prohibited from displaying the offensive material at any of the eighty-eight NCAA sponsored and controlled championships. The investigation has been targeted solely at schools using American Indian names, symbols, images or references.

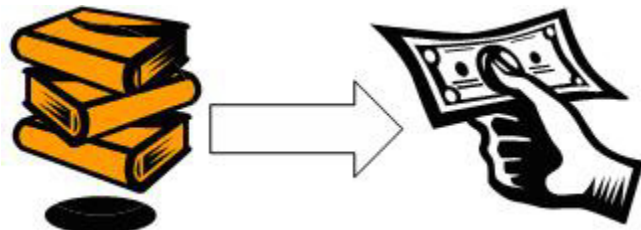
Each school was instructed to conduct an internal investigation to determine the effect of the mascots or nicknames on students, athletes, administration, communities, and local American Indian tribes. The College's self-evaluation committee consisted of Provost Geoffrey Feiss (Chair), Vice-President for Public Affairs Stewart Gamage, Assistant to the President for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Chon Glover, Director of Athletics Terry Driscoll, Executive Vice President of the Alumni Association Karen Cottrell, Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors Bob Archibald and Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield. The committee sought the opinion and input of the Board of Visitors, alumni, faculty and athletes. Student feedback was solicited through the Student Assembly and student multicultural organizations. Students and graduates of American Indian heritage along with Virginia Indian tribal leaders were approached as well. The committee found the use of the Tribe nickname to be consistent with NCAA ideals and that the name should be retained. (See box: Self-Evaluation Results)

The College awaits the NCAA's decision, while the other schools have each received their ruling. Eighteen schools will continue their Indian-related nickname and mascots, but now must comply with new guidelines. These schools included seven with the name "Indians," five with the name "Braves," "Savages," or "Redmen," and six with specific American Indian tribe names, such as Chippewas and Seminoles. The other schools removed all Indian references.

The Florida State University Seminoles were originally found to be in violation of NCAA policies; yet the University issued an appeal. They are the only school thus far to win such an appeal, and did so because the local Seminole Tribe of Florida supports the mascot. However, several other Seminole tribes in other states are not standing behind the Florida tribe in its support.

Neither the William and Mary Administration nor the Athletic Department is currently speculating about any

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Top union boss visits campus

AFL-CIO head Sweeney confused on point of visit



Benjamin Farthing

Workers of the world, unite: AFL-CIO chairman John Sweeney is surprised by labor conservatives.

Benjamin Farthing

Staff Writer

On October 4, the Tidewater Labor Committee of the College hosted one of the most influential names in organized labor, John Sweeney, the head of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). According to advertisements of the event, Sweeney was supposed to speak on the campus move against sweatshops and the state of the labor union in general. However, he ended up using his platform to go beyond his scheduled topics.

While the crowd of about 20 waited for Sweeney, junior Andrew Shoffner, a member of the Sweat Free Campus Campaign, gave a short speech. This organization is affiliated with the Worker's Rights Consortium, an organization committed to the nationwide effort to create and enforce codes of conduct to regulate the working conditions of those who make college apparel. Shoffner spoke on the need for the College to invoke a policy to regulate the production of Tribe apparel. Currently, the College has no such policy and the conditions of workers are unknown.

Shoffner's speech conveniently ended as John Sweeney arrived. The audience witnessed the head of the largest labor union in America speak about the working conditions in licensed collegiate apparel factories, which he did for three minutes. After those three minutes, Sweeney diverged into precisely the same political rhetoric that caused the loss of 25% of his union earlier this year.

Sweeney spoke about the evils of conservatives, specifically of President George W. Bush and his administration of "cronies." Even after the Teamsters Union and the Service Employees International Union both left the AFL-CIO in July of this year because of Sweeney's reelection as president, Sweeney continues to try to politicize the union. Sweeney used his podium at the College to denigrate Bush's Social Security plan, promote nationalized health care, and endorse Tim Kaine, the Democratic candidate for governor of Virginia. Sweeney criticized the war in Iraq, stating that the AFL-CIO had issued a statement "demanding the withdrawal of troops from Iraq."

During his speech, Sweeney told a story wherein two young conservatives, both in the labor force, approached John Kerry during his 2004 presidential campaign. When Kerry found out that they were in the labor force, he asked why they were not supporting him. They responded that they sided with the conservatives on most other issues.

When later asked if he thought that these conservatives represented a larger community of people that was discouraged from joining the union because of the political statements unrelated to labor that the union has made, Sweeney stated that all of the concerns of the union "must be addressed," and then continued to dodge the question.

It is this idea that Sweeney will eventually have to accept. Not everyone in the labor force necessarily votes Democratic. If the AFL-CIO is to survive, Sweeney will have to focus on labor issues, and stop using his power to push his own political ideas.

Kissinger has admirable legacy as chancellor

John R. Kennedy

Opinion Editor

On October 4, the administration of the college announced Sandra Day O'Connor as the newest Chancellor of the College. O'Connor fills the important position in the College, previously filled by Dr. Henry Kissinger. Many students are ignorant of the past Chancellor's involvement with the school.

The chancellorship of William and Mary has always been a prestigious position, established with the eleventh article of the Royal Charter signed in 1693. Royal officials in London created the Chancellor as a means to have a direct influence in the business of the college. The Chancellor would give council on all major issues of policy relating to the College – day to day matters were left to the lower ranking president. Viewed as the temporal and spiritual head of the College, the chancellor would direct the general goals of William and Mary. George Washington was chosen for the position in 1788, heading a long list of

global celebrities who have held the position.

In more recent years, the job has been filled by Former Chief Justice Warren Burger in 1986, Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1993, and Former Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger in 2000. With the retirement

"Invaluable contributions to the College are still Dr. Kissinger's legacy."

of Dr. Kissinger now comes retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Today, the role of the chancellor is more ceremonial than it was in the 18th century. For example, Dr. Kissinger provided help to the College by extending its international reach of student programs. Invaluable contributions to the College are still Dr. Kissinger's legacy. President Gene Nichol put it best by saying, "We honor [Dr. Kissinger's] fine service, and extend our deep appreciation for his dedication to the College and the nation." Kissinger was successful in changing the face of William and Mary to that of an

international university.

Since his official installment on Charter Day of 2001, Dr. Kissinger has dealt with many student protests regarding his role in world politics. Despite this constant badgering, Dr. Kissinger still says that he enjoyed his tenure as Chancellor and was happy to interact with all the students at William and Mary.

Dr. Kissinger's list of accomplishments on the global stage include his 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in ending the Vietnam conflict, negotiating an end to the Yom Kippur War in the same year, and many other victories for American foreign policy.

The College will now be accepting another highly successful individual into the ranks of the chancellorship. Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1981, she was appointed by then-President Ronald Reagan and has served until this year when she resigned from the court.

College Republicans host husband and wife Congressman and State Senator

Prominent Virginia couple discuss steroids in baseball and student voting rights in Williamsburg

Matt Pinsker

Staff Writer

On October 13, two elected officials spoke at the meeting of the William & Mary College Republicans. Congressman Tom Davis, whose 11th District includes the rapidly expanding and densely populated area of Northern Virginia, was the keynote speaker.

Representative Davis answered students' questions on a wide range of issues, and, specifically, addressed the U.S. budget and the economy in general. The congressman said that this county is coming out of the "shortest and most shallow recession in American history."

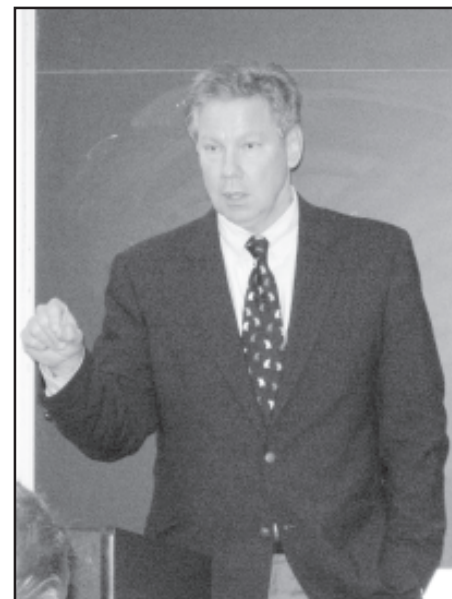
Earlier this year, Rep. Davis chaired the Congressional committee investigating steroid use in Major League Baseball. When asked about his position regarding the intrusion of performance-enhancing narcotics into the national pastime, Rep. Davis expressed disappointment with Baltimore Orioles first baseman Rafael Palmeiro, one of the players who was suspended for steroid use, and explained that San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds did not testify because he is under criminal investigation.

Rep. Davis is well known as a moderate Republican with views that span both sides of the political spectrum. He supports funding for stem cell research, but not the harvesting of stem cells. He has also spoken against President George W. Bush's Social Security plan.

Rep. Davis also spoke about Virginia's two senate seats; when a student said he had heard rumors about the possibility of Ben Affleck running against Senator George Allen (R-VA) in 2006, Rep. Davis joked that Affleck "followed John Kerry around like a lapdog" during Kerry's presidential campaign. When Rep. Davis was asked if he had any comments about the possibility of he himself running for Senate

should a seat open up, he said that it was a possibility.

Also at the meeting was Virginia State Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis (R-34th District), the wife of Rep. Davis. She represents many students at the College; her district includes much of Fairfax County. Before she was elected to the State Senate, Sen. Devolites Davis served six years as a member of the House of Delegates, described the Senate as the more moderate of the two bodies. In light of the Williamsburg registrar's controversial decision to prohibit on-campus William & Mary students from voting in local elections, Sen. Devolites Davis said she was very interested in forming uniform registration and voting policies for all college students in the state. The issue had not been brought to her attention before, but Sen. Devolites Davis seemed eager to hear all sides of the issue.



Joe Luppino-Eposito

An iron fist: Rep. Davis is in the national spotlight as chairman of the committee cracking down on steroids in baseball.

The Leslie Byrne connection

Representative Tom Davis was elected to United States Congress in 1994, unseating Democrat Leslie Byrne, who ran unsuccessfully in the election on Tuesday for the position of Virginia lieutenant governor.

After losing her seat in Congress, Byrne was elected to Virginia State Senate, and was then unseated by Jeannemarie Devolites Davis in 2003.

Student Assembly wrapping up semester with a bang (and a squirt)

Student media banned from Executive Cabinet meetings

Matthew Sutton

Staff Writer

The Student Assembly (SA) Executive, headed by President Ryan Scofield ('07) and Vice President Amanda Norris ('07), has banned the press from weekly cabinet meetings, leaving some students puzzled and angry.

The *Virginia Informer* was the first paper on campus to cover a cabinet meeting this year, which was held on September 25. When an *Informer* reporter sought access to the cabinet meeting on October 16, one week later, communications director Tom Moyer declared the meeting closed and asked him to leave the SA office.

When asked why the meetings were suddenly and unexpectedly closed to the press, Moyer stated that "students do not want to hear every little thing that the Executive is doing." He also claimed that previous administrations have had similar policies, and that the exclusion of the press was a "long-standing precedent."

A source close to the Scofield Administration speculated that Moyer may have other reasons for the press ban. A recent article in the *Informer* infuriated the press secretary, because a senior Administration official was accurately quoted as questioning donating to a charity for victims of domestic violence.

In stark contrast to the excessive secrecy of the Executive, the other two elected branches of the student government, the Senate and the Undergraduate Council, both hold all of their meetings in public. The Undergraduate Council advertises the dates of its meetings on its Web site, and encourages the public to attend: "These meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome!"

Senator Matt Beato ('09) commented on the disparity between the openness of the Senate and the secrecy of the Executive, saying, "The Senate opens its meetings to the public because it's both the legal thing to do and the right thing to do. Virginia Freedom of Information Act regulations and the Student Assembly constitution require Senate meetings to be public, and even if there was no law requiring it, I believe we would still open meetings because students have a right to know how their representatives are acting."

When asked whether this is a step forward or backwards for greater transparency for the student government, Beato said that "keeping



Entertain the motion: Vice President Amanda Norris and Senate Chairman Luther Lowe are the leaders of their branches of the Student Assembly at this Senate meeting which is open to the public, unlike the Executive.

the cabinet meetings closed to press clearly does not fit in with this progress."

The Administration's retreat to a cloak of secrecy may be expected, however, if Tom Moyer's obsessive press management is any indication. In fact, two sources speaking on deep background that were present at the November 6 cabinet meeting independently confirmed for the *Informer* that Moyer explicitly forbade cabinet members from speaking to members of this paper specifically.

Several students reacted with hostility towards the Executive when they heard about the press ban.

Freshman Matthew Dinan commented on the controversy saying, "I think this is an absurd, even criminal affront to the students' right to participate in their government. This is a poor reflection of President Scofield and Vice President Norris and makes it very difficult for me to consider voting for them when they run for re-election."

Junior Chris Manipula stated, "I think that is ridiculous and I think they are just scared."

Alice Harman ('09) said, "this shows that they [President Scofield and Vice President Norris] may not be in touch with what the student body wants."

Right to vote in Williamsburg for students a Senate priority

('09). In an official comment, Senator Greg Teich ('07) praised the bill, saying it represented "the sentiments of the student body at large," and called the ban "ridiculous" in light of students' "reasonable judgement."

Another opinion bill, the Declaration for Student Enfranchisement, addressed the issue of students' voting rights in the city of Williamsburg. The bill, sponsored by Senator Phillips, was in support of allowing College students, specifically those who reside in dorms on campus, the ability to vote in local Williamsburg elections. Phillips argued that at every other Virginia school, with the exception of Radford University, students have the right to vote in the local elections of their respective cities and towns. Before the vote, Phillips called for all senators to decide unanimously in favor of the bill, in the interest of sending a clear and unambiguous message to the city of Williamsburg—more specifically, however, to the city's registrar, who made the official decision to prevent on-campus students from voting in this context.

The last major opinion bill was the Extended Library Hours Act, sponsored by Senator Fitzgerald. The bill was a formal recommendation to extend Swem Library's operating hours to 2:00 AM on regular weekdays. Library staff had opposed such a change in the past on the grounds that additional security would have to be paid for those hours. Some senators reported that William & Mary Campus Police have hired a few new officers, and have already agreed to have one stationed at Swem during the hours in question, effectively eliminating Swem staff's argument. The bill passed with 19 senators supporting and two abstaining; it will, most likely, be the first proposal on the floor to yield tangible results, as committees are already discussing such an extension.

Senator Godfrey also sponsored a bill congratulating the International Relations club and Model United Nations for some recent and past competition successes; it passed 16-3-1. The three senators who voted in opposition to the bill saw it as unnecessary and somewhat biased, given Godfrey's personal association with the club.

Senator Barker presented two bills on behalf of the Department of Diversity Initiatives for international disaster relief. In the first bill the SA donated \$250 for an iPod Nano to be raffled off to raise funds, as well as awareness. Another bill put up at the last meeting by Barker that vowed the SA would match fundraising up to \$1500 failed because of senators' opposition and sudden shift to be more conservative with the consolidated reserve funds.

In that same vein, Senator Fitzgerald sponsored the Fiscal Responsibility Act which limited the spending ability of the consolidated reserve funds of the Office of Student Activities. A yearly cap was set so that the fund would maintain a healthy balance from year to year.

Editor's note: Senators Joe Luppino-Esposito and Shariff Tanious are both members of The Virginia Informer. Joe is our Assistant Editor-in-Chief and Shariff is our accountant.

Alex Randy Kyrios

Staff Writer

During the month of October, several opinion bills from the Student Assembly Senate were proposed, many of which favored increased student freedoms on and off campus. Sophomore senators Joe Luppino-Esposito, Brett Phillips, and Shariff Tanious sponsored significant bills, as did Sean Barker ('07), Scott Fitzgerald ('07), and Harry Godfrey ('06). If other SA institutions can be persuaded to cooperate with these proposals, College and city officials could be compelled to make serious positive changes.

Many students even vaguely familiar with SA politics are aware of the present issue of gun control on campus—watergun control, that is. The subject of banning water guns on campus has been addressed through several mediums, including via a referendum last semester, a Facebook group, and in many of the campaigns for offices of the Class of 2009. Senator Matt Beato ('09) made the repeal of the watergun ban a central theme of his platform, and was one of a dozen senators to vote in favor of the Aquatic Weapons Ban Repeal Act, which was introduced by Luppino-Esposito and Tanious. Three senators—Senate Chair Luther Lowe ('06) and two graduate school senators—were in opposition, and five abstained. Controversy surrounding this issue arose when the exiting members of the previous Senate rejected, by an extremely narrow margin, a similar bill in the wake of a referendum indicating approximately two-thirds of the student body supported a repeal of the ban. As an opinion bill, this proposal alone does not change College policy, but represents a first step in the direction of allowing toy guns. Provisions are expected to be included in any more official attempts, outlawing "harassment" with guns, a concern raised by Senator Stephanie Glass

Breaking in Preston



Language Houses throw move-in bash: The residents of Preston officially commemorated their return to campus after fire destroyed the building in May 2005 with a multi-cultural celebration involving Chinese fireworks, traditional Muslim song, and breaking a bottle of sake on the corner of the building.

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Professor Profile

Philip Daileader

Chris Peterson

Features Editor

Were it not for the fact that a professorship at William and Mary was a more lucrative prospect than “playing the bass line to ‘My Girl’ for fifty bucks at weekend weddings,” history professor Philip Daileader might not be one of the most sought-after professors at the College. Had he decided to continue playing music in Baltimore bars rather than pursue a graduate education at Harvard, students would be deprived of his famous lectures, which one pupil likened to “a free comedic performance three days a week.” Luckily for students of history here at the College, this self-described “superficial blowhard” chose to pursue a professorial career.



Medieval Times: Professor Philip Daileader poses with model catapult in his office.

Daileader—a native of New York, whose Queens brogue has all the litting grace of a trash compactor mated with a cement mixer—was educated at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore as an undergraduate. Students may be surprised to learn that this loquacious lecturer “hated public speaking [in college]. It’s bizarre that I went into a speaking profession.”

A former professor at the University of Alabama and SUNY New Paltz, Daileader is in his seventh year at the College: an impressive tenure for someone who was initially only offered a one year contract. “At the end of my first year, Wayne State in Detroit offered me a tenure-track job, but when I told the College I was heading out, they wanted to keep me around. I was happy to stay—Detroit is kind of a grim place.”

Indeed, Daileader—for whom the College was a close second to Johns Hopkins in his undergraduate application days—is quite happy in Williamsburg. “Every school, from Podunk U. to Harvard, says they want professors to be great teachers *and* great scholars, but William and Mary is one of the few places to mean it. The jury is still out on whether we can be all things to all people, but I think we do a good job of trying, and I enjoy being a part of that.” The College is less “academically cutthroat” than Johns Hopkins was, says Daileader. “[You] had to be a baby grad student, because, although I personally had some great teachers, undergraduate education came low on the list. William and Mary assigns top priority to its undergraduate education. It’s a different environment.”

Educational philosophy is not the only change of pace Daileader has experienced. His professorial career has spanned the Mason-Dixon line, exposing him to cultural differences that may not be evident to students who haven’t traveled away from home. For instance, Daileader doesn’t necessarily agree with a 2003 poll that revealed most students and professors at the College identified as “liberal.”

“Having taught at SUNY New Paltz—which is ten miles from Woodstock, where the mayor is a member of the Green party—I’d say this school isn’t especially left-leaning. The student body isn’t nearly as left-leaning as other institutions, especially most Northeastern schools. There’s a certain amount of balance among the undergraduates. No: William and Mary has

too much riding on its history to be a real free wheeling leftist school.”

Nevertheless, the differences in intellectual culture can certainly provide a shock, even after seven years in Williamsburg. “Sometimes, when I’m talking to some of my colleagues, I feel like Pope John Paul II because I’m so far to their right—but when I talk to my neighbors, I feel like Karl Marx. It’s an unusual dichotomy.” The

strength of the old cultural divide is still strong, says Daileader. “Abortion, today, has the same emotive power that slavery had in the nineteenth century. I’m concerned that Americans don’t handle this issue as delicately and properly as it needs to be handled. If there is another civil war, it will be over abortion—and probably again be North versus South.”

While it is certainly beyond even Daileader to prevent a second Civil War, it is hardly beyond his scope to adapt, in the schoolroom, to such intellectual differences.

Indeed, it is his firm policy to present his classes in such a matter that it will be palatable to all. “I want the neoconservative war hawks and the communists and the atheists to all be able to come to my class and feel welcome. I try to create an environment that is easy to adapt to. I have ex-students working for labor organizations and ex-students working for Dick Cheney. It is very important to be exposed to all the sides of a debate.”

Daileader attributes this policy of openness to his own experiences in ideological reformation. He believes that one of the greatest strengths of the College is the influx of out of state students who bring different beliefs into the student body. “We’re all products of where we grew up. Listen, for the first 17 years of my life, I was deeply Irish Catholic in part because I didn’t know there was anything else. I’d heard rumors of Protestants, sure, but I really didn’t know anybody from a different way of life until I went to Johns Hopkins and my roommate was from Wisconsin.”

More than anything else, Daileader prides himself on being a “personal mind trainer. [It is my goal] to make your mind stronger. Students can believe anything they want, as long as they can explain it to me. It’s of the utmost importance that you examine what you once held to be true so that you can back it up. It’s important to know that you actively affirm what you believe, and don’t just passively accept it.” According to Daileader, there are few academic institutions better suited for this sort of intellectual reconstruction. “I think students are good at repeating the line from admissions that William and Mary is a unique institution, but I don’t think they grasp to what extent it is. It’s a high quality state school that balances high powered graduate research with a focus on undergraduate education. We’re aiming higher than any other school than I can think of.”

And according to College students—who have awarded Daileader one of the highest scores at ratemyprofessor.com—Professor Daileader is a major contributor to that lofty goal. Unfortunately, students will have to wait until next fall to join one of his classes as Daileader will be on a research sabbatical in Europe this spring.

College Republicans, Young Democrats meetings boast notably different atmospheres

Jon San

Staff Writer

Strange happenings have been occurring in Blair 205, and politically motivated students rather than ghosts are to blame. The room, which hosts both the College Republicans and Young Democrats, has been known to shake with ferocious chants of “Kilgore!” and “Kaine!” respectively. Perhaps that is exaggerated, but in any case, both groups are composed of students who actively participate in local, regional, and national campaigns. However, despite the shared ideals of phone-banking, canvassing and flushing (trying to increase voter turnout in, for example, heavily Democratic areas), the groups’ meetings are as different as night and day.

On Thursday at 7 pm I made my way over to James Blair Hall to sample what the College Republicans had to offer. Upon entering, I made a quick scan of the

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

“The members take the club very seriously, almost business-like.”

room: sitting in a semi-circle was a group of about 25 members quietly chatting. The members were predominantly white male students with a handful of females, including the chairman. I took a seat near the back of the room among this homogeneous crowd. After issuing the usual list of announcements (cookout at a candidate’s house, “Operation Pumpkin”, and block walks), one of the club officers presented the speaker: Mr. Chris Giblin, a member of the Federalist Group, a conservative lobbying firm based in Washington D.C. His speech, although somewhat dry at times, was incredibly informative for any student wishing to work in the D.C. area after law school. After a couple of surprisingly germane questions (one being if collegiate financial aid would decrease due to budget cuts) the meeting wrapped up with a member sternly pleading for help at the phone-banks and other last-minute campaigning activities. As a neutral observer, it seemed like the College Republicans were extremely well-organized. After the meeting adjourned, a member approached me and we spoke briefly about the club. He informed me that they usually have a speaker every week for roughly an hour along with the usual laundry list of activities. Additionally, from what I could glean from my one visit, the members take the club very seriously; almost business-like. They were absolutely dead-set on making 3000 campaign phone-calls in seven days. Although it seemed that many members would agree that the victory of the candidates the club supports would be the ultimate reward, the group also had the opportunity to participate in

a conference call with the Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman. It is clear that they are intent on winning elections for their conservative candidates. However, such an atmosphere, while effective and ambitious, may turn-off less politically inclined potential members.

On the other hand, the Young Democrats, who meet on Wednesdays at 8 pm, conduct meetings with a more light-hearted atmosphere. That’s not to say that they don’t take their duty seriously, but the meeting was much more relaxed and laidback. However, I did have some trouble finding out when they meet, since it is unlisted on their website. I entered the room and was shocked by the merry chit-chat of nearly 40 people. I checked the room number again; could this be the right club? Could the Young Democrats be composed of a cheery, friendly group of students? Apparently so. Even more surprising was that the majority of members was women (roughly 25), although they were led by a male officer. The group wasn’t as racially homogenous as their Republican counterparts. But just like their conservative brethren, the chair began the meeting by reading off upcoming events (flushing, canvassing, etc). Afterwards, instead of introducing a speaker, he asked the “question of the meeting” which was “Who is your favorite Virginia Democrat?” However, some members exclaimed that they would rather discuss “Which Virginia Democrat they would rather sleep with.” Frequently a member would shout out a joke condemning those “evil Republicans” or sing the praises of a certain Democrat. Such jesting kept the mood light and didn’t make me feel too much like a newcomer. As jokes and innuendoes were continually slung around, I almost forgot that this

YOUNG DEMOCRATS

“As jokes and innuendoes were continually slung around, I almost forgot that this was a politically motivated club.”

was a politically motivated club. Like the College Republicans, the Young Democrats closed their meeting with a review of their campaign activities. However, the highlight of the meeting for many was undoubtedly the Post-election Party, which promises, despite the election’s outcome, a jolly good time.

Both meetings were very well conducted although it was apparent to me that the College Republicans were much more organized and focused. On the other hand, they were overly sober in comparison to the Young Democrats who seem to cater to students who are looking for a political, albeit social, group to get involved with.