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Deed is done

It was a dark and stormy night.

The mist swirled in ghostly whorls. A certain eerie ambience permeated the scene; a pregnant silence bespoke the presence of horrors unknown even to H.P. Lovecraft.

The smell was of dead flesh. Rotting, sulfurous bodies, half-consumed corpses decaying among the autumn leaves, waiting to be discovered by a curious hiker at the expense of his sanity.

My compatriots and I stood before our inanimate adversary, seriously questioning our apparently defunct sense of self-preservation.

As we gazed across the Crim Dell, the Crim Dell gazed back across us.

Legend has it the Crim Dell was dug with the bones of the dead, by an army of gibbering madmen - that is, ex-colonial re-enactors who had gone mad and now howl at the walls of Henrico Mental Institution. Druids blessed the waters with the umbilical blood of deformed children.

It is not traversed by the faint of heart.

As a freshman who had purchased a William and Mary Triathlon T-shirt, however, I was bound to complete it. As an individual wholly dedicated to accuracy and integrity I refused to wear the shirt until I completed all three aspects of the venerated triad.

The Sunken Gardens? I'd been clad only in a backwards Metallica baseball cap and Reebok running shoes when I completed it at 2 AM on a Wednesday morning. A casual visual check of the surrounding area had suggested that the area was deserted—an assumption proven quite wrong when, midway through my run, I nearly had a heart attack when two girls catcalled from their concealed perch *in between the bushes*. In spite of—or perhaps *because of*—this intrusion, I finished my run in just over two minutes, leaving a smoldering trail of grass in my wake.

The Governor's Wall? After a kid down the hall used his subscription to Google Earth to figure out the pathway through the bushes, two other freshmen and I made that run. Incidentally, we jumped the wall just *after* a ghost tour. While I

had (wisely) refrained from attending said tour—on account of my tolerance for fright being slightly below that of a four-year-old girl—my roommate had, and had been regaling me with stories since his return. Bastard.

But the Crim Dell swim was truly a test of mettle. During Orientation, OA Michelle Tresseler had informed me that an acquaintance of hers had been stricken with *systemic poison ivy* following her Crim Dell swim. Systemic poison ivy? How does that even *work*? The Crim Dell is not a test of swimming ability. It's a test of biological foolhardiness.



Chris Peterson
Features Editor

My two friends chose to only dip their toes into the water—certainly a safer course of action, although the presence of the ravenous Crim Dell aquatic life (which range from snapping turtles to two-foot mutant goldfish to a school of small black fish that eat, and I kid you not, try it yourself, *human spit*) meant the risk was not entirely eliminated.

And I? I will spare you the gory details. Suffice to say that after being pricked by a thorny branch whilst probing the murky depths—after being submerged in slimy, odious water up to my eyes—after having fought off the Crim Dell monster with two pine cones and a sprig of poison ivy—I emerged, smelly but victorious, from the swamp.

True, it was sad that I had to incinerate my bathing suit, fumigate my sandals, and scrub myself down under a scathing shower for thirty minutes. My toenails have grown in green, which can't be healthy. And every now and again my roommate reports that, during the night, I occasionally levitate and spew Satanic verse before drinking the umbilical blood of deformed children.

Nevertheless, I succeeded in my conquest. The Crim Dell is certainly doable—although I would implore the College to provide some sort of filtering device, and perhaps an exorcism or two, for those murky waters, so that those poor souls with constitutions less hardy than mine might yet survive this essential College event.

Triathlon: an old and new tradition

Clifton Martin

Staff Writer

Convocation, the Yule Log, serenading the President with the Alma Mater—The College of William and Mary evokes tradition. Yet when questioned as to which tradition is favored among students, the answer almost always seems to be the Triathlon. According to various sources in Swem Library's Archives, the Triathlon seems to trace its origins back to the early twentieth century when bored students realized the inherent euphoria of school pranks. Throughout the decades multiple acts of mischief ensued. Although there was a surge in streaking in the 1960s, a structured system of monkey business had yet to evolve. As to when the Triathlon made its formal debut is still unknown. The name "Triathlon" was not officially bestowed until as recent as the year 2000. For those new students who are unaware of this now honored and respected tradition, which allows us to celebrate trespassing and public nudity, the College of William and Mary's Triathlon consists of three cherished activities that must be completed prior to Commencement:

Jumping the Governor's Palace Wall: Off of Duke of Gloucester Street lays the old residence of the Colonial Governors of Virginia, today part of Colonial Williamsburg. Tradition holds that students are to climb over the Palace walls and then explore the grounds within. Students are encouraged to go in groups so that they may assist one another in getting into and out of the grounds.

Immersion in the Crim Dell: This activity requires the most caution. Students should never attempt to dive into the Crim Dell* as it is very shallow and possibly full of remnants from past tomfoolery. Students should merely wade into the water and frolic about among the gelatinous green that is the Crim Dell.



Ian R. Whiteside

Jumping the wall: Freshmen Jami DeCourcy and Garrett Hatter scout out the area.

Streaking the Sunken Gardens: Get in the buck and run like hell from end of the Sunken Gardens to the other. This event is the most popular and encouraged to be done multiple times. All times of day are appropriate.

Now for those of you still wondering how this cherished tradition originated, I went so far as to go out to the field during Homecoming Weekend and interrogate a few alumni. After many blank stares and some "I don't know," I came across an alum from the class of '97 who gave me the most detailed and insightful answer to put in print:

"I have no idea where it all came from," he said.

"Mischief and mayhem are pretty universal on college campuses," he continued. "Since Williamsburg is such a boring town with very few opportunities for either, those 'events' were pretty much the best we had to offer. As for the name, you could probably tell me better than I could tell you." That, my friends, is honestly the best answer any alum or current student can come up with for now. Of course, Dan Brown is rumored to be basing his next novel around the disputed origins of the William and Mary Triathlon, so I am sure we'll be able to solve the mystery soon enough. Until then, I suggest all of you stop contemplating the purpose and value of the Triathlon and just get out there and do it. It's fun.

*Editor's Note: It is extremely dangerous to dive into the Crim Dell. In the past this was a popular method of jumping in the Crim Dell, but may (and did in 2003) prove to have tragic consequences.

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The Crim Dell: Photogenic pond or bacteria's best friend?

The Virginia Informer investigates safety of the water's shallow depths

Gustavo Elias

Staff Writer

Do sea creatures live in the Crim Dell? If you fully submerge yourself in the water, will you later grow an extra hand out of your forehead? These and other wild myths surround the Crim Dell, the picturesque pond bordering Old and New Campus. As part of the famed Triathlon which many students try and complete before graduation, hundreds if not thousands of college students have entered the murky water. But many will not jump in, citing safety and health concerns. This motivated *The Virginia Informer* to investigate and see what the Crim Dell is really made of. With this investigation, we looked to see whether it was safe for students to take the plunge into the Crim Dell as part of the Triathlon.

The main components we looked at were fecal coliform bacteria – a group composed mostly of strains of *E. coli* – levels, pH (level of acidity), and the ratio of phosphorus to nitrogen. The pH of the Crim Dell was neutral and where it should be, at 7.06. This is where the pH of regular tap water is. Astonishingly, the bacteria level was at 0! Unfortunately we cannot say the same for some of the other bodies of water around the campus and Williamsburg, such as the storm-water pond near Lake Matoaka. It has a high bacteria level of 429, way above the average of 99 for ponds. This is one thing that you do not want to get stuck in. The ratio between phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) is a good indicator as to whether the water is hospitable for algal blooms. Algal blooms are spurts of algae growth in the water, making the waters smelly and murky, unfit for swimming. An N:P ratio of approximately 16:1 provides the conditions necessary for algal blooms. For the Crim Dell, the ratio is 1:1, providing algae-free waters.

During autumn, when the trees around the Crim Dell shed their leaves onto it, how do they disappear so quickly? How does it stay so clean all the time? Do employees of the College dust off their rowboats and sweep the waters for leaves using nets? Do the new koi fish eat it up? A bubbling system is

used to maintain clear waters. This system allows aerobic (oxygen loving) organisms to decompose the leaves that drop down to the bottom. These organisms release ammonia (NH_3) and ammonium (NH_4^+) as waste byproducts. Other harmless bacteria in the water convert these two compounds into nitrates and nitrites (NO_3^- and NO_2^- respectively). Anaerobic bacteria convert these nitrates and nitrites into gaseous nitrogen, which are then released into the atmosphere. These are the basic elements of the nitrogen cycle, one of the most important nutrient cycles found throughout the ecosystem, mainly terrestrial ones. Another reason why the Crim Dell stays so clean is because of the high turnover rate. This is due to the inflow of water from an underground stream beneath the Sunken Garden and the outflow through a spillway.

However, aerating and turnover alone are not enough to combat algal blooms. We got in contact with Facilities Management regarding techniques they use to suppress them. They claimed to use bubbling for the algal blooms but assert that they perform no other maintenance. However there must be some sort of algacide used to keep them from occurring. It is odd that the administration told us this, because a number of students have come up to me reporting that they saw a truck earlier this year dumping a blue chemical into the Crim Dell. The Dell was reportedly colored blue on Admitted Students Day last year, and people reported seeing blue crystals being thrown into the water. The school suggests a student-run group on campus could have been responsible. Whatever the case may be, we believe there is something other than bubbling being done to suppress algal blooms in the Crim Dell.

As for other myths behind the Crim Dell, there were also reports of a Fire Truck dumping water into the Crim Dell. The local Fire Department (FD) uses the pond to test/service their pumper trucks. It is part of the College's effort in assisting the local FD. The Facilities department of the College also claims that no fish inhabit the Dell, but we have the picture to prove that koi fish are swimming in these waters.

Thanks to the analysis of the results by Dr. Randy



Ian R. Whiteside

What's actually in the Crim Dell: The mysterious koi fish have appeared from thin air, evidently, as no one will take responsibility for them.

Chambers, an environmental science professor at the College, the results were not what we were expecting. Turns out, it IS safe to jump into the Crim Dell due to the aforementioned factors. So if you don't mind getting wet, a little dirty, and nice and cozy next to some koi fish, feel free to jump right in.

Special Thanks to Drs. Chambers and Forsyth and Ian R. Whiteside for their great analysis and assistance in this project.

The Tribe 12...

-compiled by Chris Peterson

Many students may think twice about entering the murky Crim Dell waters, but some have thrown caution to the wind and participated in the College tradition anyway. The 'Tribe 12 sought the college students' opinion:

Have you jumped in the Crim Dell? Why or why not?



Emily Bagiensky, '06
No, definitely not. It's disgusting, people have died in there, and people have found water moccasins in it.



Scott Brandt, '09
I've done in twice - on consecutive nights, actually.



Ashleigh Dechow, '08
I just transferred here - I know nothing about the Crim Dell.



Kristie Dorfler, '09
No, but I plan on doing it in the nude during the dead of winter.



Ksenia Ferrand, '07
I have not done it yet, but only because I haven't had a chance to or found a night my friends and I actually thought it was a good idea.



Abigail Fine, '09
No. I'm still working up the nerve to do it. I did stick my toe in though.



Shelley Knewstep, '06
No, because I don't think it's safe, and I'd rather not risk health on something as silly as the Triathlon, as important as the tradition may be.



Scott Leverty, '08
No, because the water is a very funny color.



Chris Miller, '08:
No. I can't even swim!



Carl Scott, '07
No, it's not really a priority of mine. I prefer to stay dry and clothed.



Tiffanie Tsui, '07
I plan on it. I want to jump in when it's raining and the water is warmer.



James Wilson, '06
Yeah, I did it like fifteen times freshman year. I used to jump off the bridge, but since a student was killed three years ago doing that I don't think anyone does that anymore.

Student group of the month: International Relations Club **Veni, Vidi, Vici**

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Did you know that you have reigning world champions living and working right under your nose? They took the world by storm in 2004 at Egypt and did it again in 2005 at Scotland, winning the Outstanding Delegation Award both times. They are your William and Mary International Relations Club.

The IR Club is a group of students who

not at all stodgy. As President Katie Spatz is fond of saying: "We don't want you to just go to conferences to work and be serious. We really want you guys to have fun!" The atmosphere at the club's meetings is light and friendly, and thanks to hardworking Vice-President for Campus Affairs, Arielle Kuiper, members have lots of opportunities to get together for parties and social functions.

This year, the IR Club is off to a great start, having garnered more than a dozen individual awards as well as the "Outstanding Large

Delegation" award at their first Model UN conference of the year, NCSC, at Georgetown University. They host their prestigious high school conference, WMHSMUN, the weekend of the 19th, and will be sponsoring lectures, forums, and social events through the end of this semester. In the spring, they will travel to schools in Virginia, New England, and Canada to participate in Model UN simulations before sending a delegation

to the WorldMUN competition in Beijing in March. There, they hope to bring home a third consecutive world championship title.

If the International Relations Club sounds interesting to you, don't be afraid to come and check out one of their meetings, held on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in Tyler 102. They take new members all year long and no experience is required, so don't be shy. For more information, check them out online at www.wm.edu/so/irc.



Courtesy of the I.R. Club

International Renown: Senior members of the club won the 'Best Large Delegation Award' from the Georgetown Conference.

are interested in international affairs and diplomacy. In addition to hosting expert speakers and educating their members about global issues, the IR club also participates in Model United Nations simulations across the country and around the world. The Club also plans, coordinates, and executes three annual conferences themselves; one each for middle schoolers, high schoolers, and new William and Mary IR Club members.

Even though they are the very best at what they do, IRC meetings and conferences are

Army leaders increasingly sought by business world

The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps is designed to help students reach their full potential. The program can accomplish that in numerous ways, including quality instruction, physical fitness training and scholarships for qualified students.

It's been reported that Army officers with five to 10 years experience are in high demand in private industry.

When E. Michael Moone was manager of sales recruiting for Proctor & Gamble Co. several years ago, he hired a number of young ex-Army officers. Now that he's president of the Beringer Winery in California, he's still hiring them.

"I prefer officers to MBAs," Moone said. "MBAs may be smart, but they can't park their bikes straight."

Edward Hanes, an executive recruiter in Richardson, Texas, feels the same way. A former employment manager for the Texas Instruments, he said, "I'd just hire a captain with an accounting degree. The MBAs don't have the sticking power."

Hanes said the Army men and women leave today "is different from the way it once was; its officers are primed to succeed in business."

The fact is more than ever before, Army officers are prepared to succeed in and out of the military. And many are primed for success through participation in Army ROTC.

Army ROTC training builds confidence, develops leadership skills and creates self-discipline.

ROTC is a college elective that teaches skills essential for career success, such as management, organization and leadership. In teaching officer skills, Army ROTC combines courses in military science with summer training sessions to develop

Soldiers in the Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Army ROTC consists of several courses taken as part of a regular course load and usually counts for college credit. It is neither a separate school nor a college major.

Cadets enroll in military science classes the same way they register for all other college courses.

At the Leader's Training Course, cadets undergo rigorous training in leadership and management skills, as well as physical fitness. The advanced course provides further instruction in leadership development, organization and management, tactics and administration and builds on the military and personal skills taught at either the basic course or the Leader's Training Course.

The most important fact any prospective cadet should know about Army ROTC is it gives students the tools they need to start a successful career.

In and out of the classroom, Army ROTC teaches cadets to meet and overcome a variety of challenges.

After four years of hard work, cadets will graduate with a college degree, a commission as a second lieutenant and the leadership skills, confidence and experience necessary to succeed in any career they choose.

To find out further information about Army ROTC at William & Mary, contact Captain Matthew Lutz at (757) 221-3611 or email malutz@wm.edu.

This article was written by Mr. Steve Arel, Editor of The Leader, a publication written for LTC students, parents, families and friends. It was used by permission.

Williamsburg Area Transport – Is it insufficient? Students cite lateness, unreliability as top complaints

Amber L. Forehand

Staff Writer

Deprived of cars, but still left with places to go and people to see, public transportation has turned into a necessity for most college students, especially freshmen and sophomores. Servicing the College of William and Mary is the Williamsburg Area Transport (WAT). Many students have complaints about WAT's efficiency.

In the past fiscal year (307 days from July to June), WAT provided 527,427 bus trips, an average of 1,716 trips per day. Only 28% of all riders during the academic school year are students. Out of that 28%, 90% ride the Green Line, 8% ride the Red Line, and only 2% ride the Blue, Grey, Orange, Tan, Purple and Yellow lines.

The Director of WAT, Richard Drumwright was available to comment on students' concerns. Construction on Richmond Road, as well as all over the college campus, has negatively affected bus schedules. However, the construction has caused delays in both Williamsburg residents' and tourists travel, as well as students and other WAT riders. According to Drumwright, "Williamsburg is a growing area. We must accommodate this."

Route changes and other radical changes must pass through plenty of red tape, including numerous board meeting, but WAT insists that they are doing what they can to better their system. This year they added the Tan Line, which stops at Lowes', Walmart, and even Miller Mart.

WAT has even made attempts to extend their hours to accommodate students, but they can only expand when the resources are available. As of right now, WAT runs from 6 AM – 8 PM, Monday through Saturday, between the months of September to May. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day hours are extended from 6 AM – 10 PM.

The most common complaint among students is the buses' chronic lateness; the Red Line seems to be the most oft-named culprit. Freshman Adam Muzyczyn said, "The Red Line bus often comes later than scheduled, leaving passengers to stand outside in sometimes very bad weather conditions." When told of these complaints, Drumwright apologized for the inconvenience and said he had yet to hear of any complaints. In order to serve the community better, the administrators at WAT must first receive criticism.

It has also been alleged that the bus schedules and maps posted on their website, www.williamsburgtransport.com, are wrong. Drumwright replied that they are constantly updating their website.

WAT is striving for a better relationship with the College. They currently have college interns managing their website, regularly changing the schedules when needed. They have also planned a meeting with some of the college's board members in November.

WAT encourages questions and concerns. To report a late bus, call 220-5493, extensions 1, 2 or 3 with the bus line, stop and time of day.



Stephanie Long

Need a ride?: The Williamsburg Area Transport may not be your best bet.

Dispelling the mysteries of faith

Balfour Hillel: Jewish Campus Life

Alex Randy Kyrios

Staff Writer

The oldest surviving monotheistic religion is alive and well on the College campus in the form of Balfour Hillel, the only student group dedicated to Judaism. The College's Hillel group is just one branch of the international "Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life," which boasts over 500 chapters. Existing to serve all Jews on campus, Hillel is a nondenominational Jewish group which caters to Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Jews alike.

The group is named for the renowned Jewish sage, Hillel, who lived around the first century B.C. He famously summed up the Torah with the phrase, "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor." Some scholars believe this served as the direct inspiration for Jesus of Nazareth's similar dictum. Recently, Balfour Hillel has been celebrating the "High Holidays" of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—the two most important holidays in Judaism—and has been a part of the Student Assembly's Department of Diversity Initiatives.

Hillel's only regular meetings are Shabbat—or Sabbath—services, at 6:00 PM on Fridays (as Sabbath begins at sundown) at the Hillel house at 100 Chandler Court. The services are religious, but one does not need to be

Jewish to attend. For High Holiday services, Hillel coordinates rides to four area synagogues and temples; nondenominational Beth El in Williamsburg, Reform Temple Sinai in Newport News, Conservative Rodef Sholom in Hampton, and Orthodox Adath Jeshurun in Newport News. Hillel leadership also meets regularly. The current president is junior Gina Sobel.

According to Hillel's vice president, sophomore Sara Slater, the organization not only works with Jewish students on specific

forbidden by Jewish law. At the beginning of the semester, Hillel participated in the Cultural Mosaic event sponsored by the Department of Diversity Initiatives. An interfaith open mic night in Lodge 1 is being planned with the Muslim Student Association.

Hillel is also planning a musical festival in association with Daniel Pearl Music Days. Pearl was a journalist of dual American-Israeli citizenship kidnapped by alleged members of al-Qaeda in Pakistan in January 2002. He was held hostage for around a week before he was executed. Since then, his family established the Daniel Pearl Foundation "to address the root causes of this tragedy, in the spirit, style, and principles that shaped Danny's work and character." Through this organization, worldwide Music Days are coordinated around the October birthday of Daniel in remembrance of his love for music.

In an ongoing project, Hillel is sponsoring the fifth annual Hillel Regional Shabbaton in April. Hillel chapters from across Virginia will meet at the Weinstein Jewish Community Center in Richmond for fellowship. The College's Hillel has organized this event every year since its inception, securing its status as an invaluable resource for Jewish students in the Commonwealth. More information on Hillel is available at their web site, <http://www.wm.edu/so/balfour-hillel>.



Faith and Culture: Some Hillel members enjoy shabbat dinner at Temple Beth El on Jamestown Road

Alex Randy Kyrios

Jewish issues—such as helping students keep kosher on campus and sponsoring trips to Israel—but it seeks to spread understanding of Judaism and work with other cultural groups on campus as well. While Judaism does accept converts, proselytization is

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on the wall:
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Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary

The Phoenix memorializes the undying spirit of the College

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Have you ever been walking by the Crim Dell and wondered why we have a massive coin with a bird stamped on it lying around? Ever wonder why the same weird looking bird is in the background of the most important portrait at William and Mary? Ever wonder where the English department's alumni newsletter got its name? For the more than four hundred years that the college has been open, this unique symbol of the phoenix has been associated with it. As time marches on, the symbol becomes more and more meaningful as a reflection of the spirit of the school.

The phoenix is a mythological bird, and legend has it that at the end of its life, a phoenix becomes engulfed in a curtain of flame and burns to cinders, only to be reborn from the ashes. The myth of the phoenix has its origins in Egypt, but was eventually adopted into Greek and Roman mythology, and eventually into the folktales of Russia, Persia, and Western Europe. During the Middle Ages, the bird became associated with Jesus, who, according to the Christian religion, was raised from the dead after three days. In the early eighteenth century, the symbolism of the phoenix was applied to the College of William and Mary.

The phoenix originally referred to the first fire in the Wren Building, which occurred in 1705. Professor James Blair,

the founder of the College, promised that William and Mary would be like a phoenix, something beautiful rising from the charred shell of the old Wren Building (which, incidentally, was called "the College Building" back then). In fact, Blair's portrait, which hangs in the Muscarelle Museum of Art, has an image of a phoenix rising from the base of the Wren in its background. However, the

symbolism of the firebird doesn't stop at the first Wren fire.

As everyone knows, the Wren burned twice more: in 1859 and again three years later in 1862 when it was razed by drunken soldiers from the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment. In addition, the President's House right next to the Wren was accidentally set on fire November 23, 1781 by French Soldiers who

were quartered there after the siege of Yorktown. The phoenix has also been applied to the period when the college was closed due to a lack of funds, from 1881-1888.

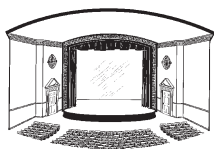
At first, the phoenix referred directly to the fire of 1705. Since then, it has come to mean a lot more to the school," said Stacy Gould, University Archivist. When the Wren and the President's house burned, they were rebuilt. When the school was closed in the late 1800's, President Ewell rang the bell every year at the start of the term to remind Williamsburg that the school was still alive. Every time things looked hopeless, the school rose from her ashes, shook herself off and continued on.

The phoenix has long been called the "unofficial mascot of the school." It has lent its name to everything from a nineteenth century debate club to a modern partnership with middle school-aged kids. There has even been talk of making it Colonel Ebirt's successor. Why has this mythological bird stayed around our campus for so long? Because it represents the spirit of our school; the will to keep on even at our darkest hour, to rise up out of destruction and failure and keep going, to go from a pile of ashes to the king of the air. The phoenix is a symbol of the interminable spirit of William and Mary.



Jan R. Whiteside

Rise up from the ashes: The William and Mary Phoenix is an inspirational figure to the College that has seen many hard times in its 312-year history.



Kimball Theatre

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LIVE PERFORMANCES

**The Williamsburg Symphonia presents
Latin Rhythms**

Tues., Nov. 8 and Thurs., Nov. 10 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$37, \$27

**Binns of Williamsburg presents
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Sat., Nov. 19 at 10 a.m.

All seats \$15

Christmas With the Coyotes

Fri., Nov. 25-Sun., Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$15, Seniors/Students \$12

**The Williamsburg Symphonia
Holiday Concert**

Sat., Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4 at 1:30 and 3 p.m.

All seats \$18

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Tues., Dec. 6 and Wed., Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$30, Seniors/Students \$27

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Pianist, Vocalist, Raconteur

Sat., Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

All seats \$20

The Chesapeake Bay Wind Ensemble in Concert

Sat., Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$10, Seniors/Students \$7

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER Schedule

MOVIES

Junebug (R)

Thurs., Nov. 3-Wed., Nov. 9

6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Nov. 3, 4, 6-8 screening room (35 seats)

Broken Flowers (R)

Wed., Nov. 9-Thurs., Nov. 17

7 and 9 p.m.

Nov. 9-14, 16 screening room (35 seats)

**The Fifth Annual Virginia
Peninsula Jewish Film Festival:**

Rashevski's Tango Not rated

Sat., Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

(opening night \$15)

Bit by Bit Not rated

Sun., Nov. 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Gloomy Sunday Not rated

Sun., Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.

Watermarks Not rated

Mon., Nov. 14 and Tues., Nov. 15

6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Nov. 15 screening room (35 seats)

Walk on Water Not rated

Wed., Nov. 16 and Thurs., Nov. 17

6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Nov. 17 screening room (35 seats)

2046 (R)

Fri., Nov. 18-Wed., Nov. 23

6:45 and 9 p.m.

Nov. 18, 19, 21, 22 screening room (35 seats)

Aristocrats Not rated

Fri., Nov. 18 and Sat., Nov. 19

10:30 p.m. only

Everything is Illuminated (PG-13)

Tues., Nov. 22-Wed., Nov. 30

7 and 9:10 p.m.

Nov. 23-29 screening room (35 seats)

Constant Gardener (R)

Tues., Nov. 29-Mon., Dec. 5

6:45 and 9:15 p.m.

Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 5 screening room (35 seats)

Grizzly Man (R)

Thurs., Dec. 8-Wed., Dec. 14

6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Dec. 8-10, 12-14 screening room (35 seats)

Innocent until proven guilty

On November 2, students at the College received an email from Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler about an alleged sexual assault in Charles City County involving two William and Mary students. While the victim was, understandably, left anonymous, Sadler identified the alleged assailant by name.

Sadler's message to the community had an essential point: "It is important for everyone to remember that Patrick has only been charged with this crime. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty."

Let us remember this later if Patrick proves to be innocent. With his name released in Sam Sadler's email, the one mode of communication from the school that many students actually pay attention to, Patrick is already a marked man.

Does anyone remember back in September 2003, when another male college student was accused of rape? While his name was not immediately released in Sadler's email to the College, hours after the incident was reported the alleged assailant's mug shot was displayed prominently on the Student Information Network's (SIN) homepage. *The Flat Hat* and *The Dog Street Journal* both addressed the alleged crime with the information that was

available at the time; a fraternity brother allegedly raping a non-student minor. The mug shot was taken down a few hours later but the damage had been done.

In January 2004 the non-student minor withdrew her charges. The student plead guilty to two misdemeanors: providing alcohol to a minor and having sex with a minor, although the minor admitted that the sex was consensual. The student was sentenced to 30 days in prison, a \$500 fine, and nearly that much in restitution to the minor.

Was there a Sam Sadler email with a correct account of the story? Was there a "Message to the Community" to tell us all that the young man was innocent? No. There was a small article in *The Dog Street Journal* and a news brief in *The Flat Hat*.

When we contacted the Administration on why Patrick's name was released via Sadler's email we were told that since he had been publicly charged by Charles City County, that not releasing the name would have raised more questions on campus and in the community.

Do the students have the right to know the identity of an alleged rapist? Perhaps. But the alleged rapist is still innocent until proven guilty. And if he is proven innocent, the students have the right to know.



Amanda Yasenchak

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.

Letter to the Editor

The article "Both sides of the Iraq War debate square off in the Sunken Gardens", which appeared in the October issue of this publication, is riddled with falsehoods, mischaracterizations, and undisguised bias, and, as President of the Tidewater Labor Support Committee (TLSC), I feel a sort of duty to take issue with some of its writers' more egregious lapses in journalistic ethics.

First, as event organizer I should have thought that the writers would give me or someone else affiliated with TLSC an opportunity for an interview, however brief that might have to have been. I was imminently available before, during, and after the event and am befuddled by this oversight. The editorial staff might even be reminded that, as I both had a class with and ran in a Senate race against your Assistant Editor in Chief, there is very little reason why the writers should not have known whom to seek out for comment beforehand.

Secondly, the characterization of Debra Moore's remarks found about halfway through the article borders on libelous. To say that Moore does not think that Saddam's abuses were a problem is to make an inference that there are no grounds for making. Saying that human rights violations were not the cause of the War is not tantamount to saying that human rights violations are not a problem. The essence of Moore's position is taking the Bush Administration at their initial word, for in the run-up to the War the primary stated rationale for the invasion was the presence of weapons of mass destruction, which do not and did not exist, in Iraq. If you want to beat up on drunks then pick on the Stalinist George Galloway, because I have met Debra Moore and have got to tell you that she is no drunk.

Thom Silverstein
Class of 2008
President, Tidewater Labor Support Committee

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

On Page 1, Debra Moore is President of the Eastern State Hospital Chapter of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE), Local 160 (not Service Employees International Union, Local 161).

The rally in DC was scheduled for September 24, not September 29.

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

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

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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“You know I’m not a reverse racist, but...”

Nick Fitzgerald

News Editor

During the week of October 17, the William & Mary chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sponsored “Minority Advocacy Week.” This week of guest speakers, lectures, films, and seminars culminated on Thursday with a lecture/discussion entitled “You Know I’m Not a Racist, But...”

The discussion, held in Andrews 101, was attended by about 50 people. It was led by a husband-and-wife team, both of whom are white: Joe L. Kincheloe, a professor of education at the City University of New York Graduate Center; and Shirley R. Steinberg, an associate professor at the City University of New York Graduate Center, and also at Brooklyn College. According to their biographies, Professor Kincheloe “is the author of numerous books and articles about pedagogy, education and social justice, racism, class bias, and sexism, issues of cognition and cultural context, and educational reform...” Associate Professor Steinberg “is the author of numerous books and articles dealing with popular culture, issues of race, class, gender” and other books dealing with homosexuality, inner city education, and multiculturalism.

Call me prejudiced, but after hearing only that much about them, I couldn’t help but develop some preconceived ideas about what they were going to say. *Two angry liberals spouting off their view of the world, and expecting anyone with half a brain and a bleeding heart to agree with them. Educators and elitists both, never afraid to combine the two.* But since I had to be there anyway, I hoped that they would surprise me with some compelling insights that might dispel my belief that liberals are incapable of serious intellectual discourse—a bias I’ve formed over the past few years thanks to people like Cindy Sheehan, Hillary Clinton, Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, and Nancy Pelosi, just to name a few.

The lecture opened with a discussion on “positionality.” Essentially, it is the idea of knowing and understanding yourself, where you come from, your background, and how it affects your perception of the world. Kincheloe and Steinberg believe that before any serious discussion of race or social justice can be brought to the table, all involved must first have a firm and definite grasp on their own position and their own biases, and, most importantly, identify those things that have impacted how they act and how they think.

This idea was reasonable, rational, and intellectually motivated—I thought that perhaps my preconceived notions about liberals would be proven false. As it happens, however, it was at this point that the discussion took a severe downward spike from which it would never recover.

“Race,” Kincheloe said, “is a socially constructed dynamic. White people need to understand that they too are an ethnicity.” “Whiteness,” Steinberg said, is an “invisible construct by which everything else is measured. Dress, speech,

good, bad, thought, expressions of intelligence are all established by white norms, by which everyone is evaluated.”

Steinberg attempted to use the recent controversy about the NBA’s new “dress code” to bolster her statement. It was clear that she believed it was a racist decision by white NBA commissioner David Stern to require NBA players to remove their “bling” and dress “business casual”—that is to say, “appropriately”—and with a certain bit of decorum. Steinberg said, “‘appropriately’ equals white, not black.”

And what do two black NBA players have to say about the dress code? LeBron James doesn’t see a problem with it: “It’s a job and we should look like we’re going to work.” Carmelo Anthony says, “Roll with it.”

Keep in mind, the NBA is not a public enterprise—it is a private business that hires workers who are paid a salary to perform a specific task. NBA players are employees—their job is to play basketball, and play it well. Their employer is the National Basketball Association. Now, most jobs have dress codes, whether it be a uniform at a restaurant or a suit-and-tie in a law firm. Is the NBA any different? Should it be? The answer to both of these questions is most definitely “no,” however Kincheloe and Steinberg will tell you otherwise.

Steinberg then recalled a time when she and her husband were house hunting. They asked their realtor about a certain house, but apparently the realtor steered them away from it, saying it was in a “bad neighborhood.” “What does ‘bad neighborhood’ really mean?” Steinberg asked. “‘Too black,’” she answered. Kincheloe commented that, “Whites see the world in a particular way. Norms are inscribed by race and class.” I don’t know if the realtor considered a good, safe neighborhood to be a “white norm,” but I *am* willing to bet that if any neighborhood, regardless of demographics, is prone to crime, sexual predation, or drug use, any good realtor would be sure to steer all of his clients away from it.

Steinberg’s demeanor was sarcastic and animated, and she became more vitriolic as the lecture continued into the realm of politics. “What was that thing back in 2000?” she asked rhetorically. “I don’t know what you’d call it. I guess you could call it an election.” The Bush Presidency, according to Kincheloe, has been nothing but Christian fundamentalist language interpreted and acted upon through a “right-wing lens.”

Not even Lynne Cheney, wife of the vice president, was free from verbal attack. According to Kincheloe and Steinberg, Lynne Cheney only wants white American history to be taught in America’s schools, and certainly not black history. They portrayed Mrs. Cheney’s view as: only the history of American men like “presidents and war leaders”—who, as you might guess, are all white—should be taught to America’s children. Apparently, they are not familiar with Mrs. Cheney’s children’s book *A is for Abigail*, an almanac of great American women. Featured in illustration on the cover are Emily Dickinson, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Sacagawea, and Abigail Adams. Also featured inside is Wilma Mankiller, first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation.

I was truly shocked, however, when Steinberg likened American politics today to the politics of the pre-Civil Rights era. George Wallace’s politics, she said, are now “mainstream.”

George Wallace, for those of you who don’t remember from AP United States History, was the Democratic governor of Alabama who refused to allow two black students to walk through the front door of the University of Alabama in June of 1963, in a radical and futile attempt to halt desegregation. As a “mainstream” American I find this not only insulting, but idiotic. She is only drawing attention to her own ignorant extremism if she believes that a majority of America is crying “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever,” as Wallace did all those years ago.

Kincheloe and Steinberg didn’t hesitate to take a jab at Fundamentalist Christianity either, the followers of which were, to a large extent, responsible for Bush’s presidential victory in the 2004 election. “Fundamentalist Christianity has shaped American politics in the past few years,” Kincheloe said. Steinberg sarcastically observed that, in her opinion, the “language of racism has infiltrated churches. I don’t think Jesus would be Christian today.” Of course, as we all know, Jesus was actually Jewish—but that’s besides the point.

Kincheloe and Steinberg purport themselves to be advocates and educators of social justice, but their lecture threw gasoline on the very fire they claim to want to extinguish. The absurdity and idiocy of Steinberg’s remark only serves to expose the hypocrisy on which her fragile, self-righteous perspective on race is built. She and her husband are completely blind to their own biases. My question is, what is their agenda? What aspect of social justice are they attempting to further? Disparaging the majority will bring them no closer to bringing equity to the minority, but they do not realize this.

The discussion then turned to the idea of political correctness, one of the most unhelpful, divisive social contrivances ever created. Steinberg felt that political correctness has not gone far enough to assist the marginalized in today’s world. In fact, she felt obligated to assert, apparently on behalf of the entire black population of this country, that remembrances such as Black History Month and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day are “tokenistic” products of political correctness, and simply not enough. She also found it “ironic” that Black History Month is the shortest month of the year, as if whoever instituted it decided to place it, intentionally, in a month with only 28 days.

Surely, Shirley, you need to check your history. In actuality, it was a black man by the name of Carter G. Woodson—the second black American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University—who instituted Black History Week in February of 1926 to celebrate the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. It was not until the 1960s that Woodson’s original institution in remembrance of black history was carried on throughout the entire month.

Ironically, it would be in Joe Kincheloe’s and Shirley Steinberg’s best interests to reconsider their own “positionality” in their noble quest to bring racial justice to society.

Intellectual play lacks common sense

Academic elitists might say that as a conservative, I am not intelligent enough to dissect the essential teachings of that great mind, Howard Zinn. But that person would be wrong—Howard Zinn is no great mind. Howard is the writer of many left-wing tracts including the famous book *A People’s History of the United States* and the play *Marx in Sobo*. The latter was recently sponsored on campus by the Progressive Student Alliance, the Charles Center, the Sociology Department, and the Sociology Club.

Marx in Sobo is a play about Karl Marx’s experiences in Britain and how they affected his personal views. It is about the complexity of Marx’s thought and the relevance that his ideas supposedly still have in today’s world. The main character is none but Karl Marx himself, aptly played by Mr. Robert Weick. If one were to judge the initial feeling of the play, they might say it was about as “punk” as most plays usually get. The main character is dressed like Karl Marx and he usually does not feel it inappropriate to speak to individual audience members while walking off the stage. He sometimes

makes references to modern day events like the war in Iraq, Halliburton, or the Enron scandal.

To address the more dogmatic parts of the play, Howard Zinn clearly intends to represent Karl Marx in a light that few in modern society have ever seen him in. One might wonder why anyone in modern day America would honestly claim that Karl Marx’s ideas could work. To understand this problem, one must understand where Zinn draws his ideas from. His ideas incorporate parts of Marxism, anarchism, socialism, and social democracy, according to Wikipedia. His ideas are out of the mainstream, to say the least—perhaps that’s why the *Marx in Sobo* bus came to a liberal arts college like ours?

Nonetheless, in the interest of intellectual discourse, I felt it my duty to view the aforementioned play and give my take on it. Now, the reader should not assume I think *Marx in Sobo* was terrible just because it railed on the free market or made cracks about Enron. It would be unwise to say that I did not like it because the program had quotes



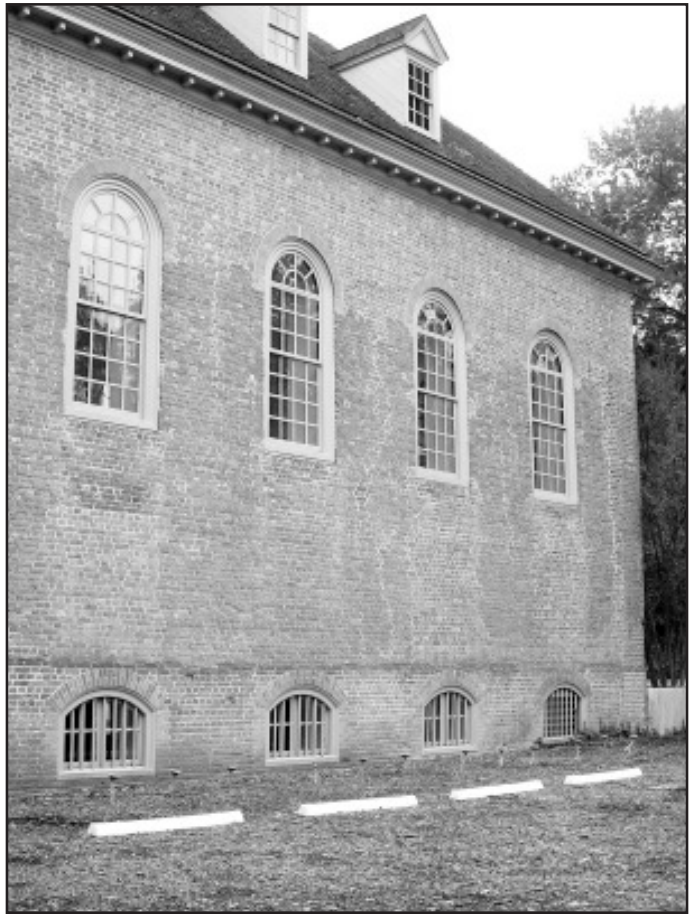
John R. Kennedy
Opinions Editor

from such venerable communist sympathizers as Pope John Paul II and Shakespeare. “Karl” even degrades the nation’s most foundational religion by saying that Jesus Christ is dead and will never return, but these are not the reasons why I disliked the play. I disliked the production because it plays historical revisionism with one of the most misguided economic theorists in the existence of mankind.

Throughout the play, “Karl” claims that people have made mistakes with his brand of communism. *Communism really isn’t that bad! It’s the people that instituted it who made it bad!* “Karl” says that his ideas are purely justified because injustice is occurring and it must be rectified. Going against all modern, rational economic theory, Zinn paints Karl Marx’s ideas as though they were corrupted by evil men like Lenin, Stalin, and Mao. Though a command economy is consistently proven impossible by Economics 101 classes, the “brilliant” Howard Zinn writes plays about its modern day importance. “Karl” trots his book out numerous times and reads

from it as if it were the Bible. Shortages, long lines, lack of work, depression, little incentive, and all of the other painful but predictable ramifications from Marxist theory are not mentioned in the play. Never mind the violent practices of such great communists like Stalin, Mao, and Castro.

In America, only on a liberal college campus could such wildly ignorant ideas be thrown about and received with the applause of a packed audience. As I watched the play, I began to realize that the separation between the real world and this college campus was even larger than I thought. One can only assume that the organizations I mentioned at the beginning of this article did not know the basely false claims that “Karl” would make or they would not have sponsored the play. Even with the knowledge we have about the failures of Marxist economic theory, which are routinely taught in economics classrooms, people like Howard Zinn continue to believe that Marx’s ideas are the wave of the future. In the foreseeable future, that wave is likely to be slammed many times by the myriad successes of the capitalist system.



Joe Luppino-Esposito

An alternative to parking at the Hall?: Makeshift parking lot for construction vehicles next to the Wren Building.

Informer investigates...

Campus eyesore: A parking lot next to the Wren Building?

As one of the most beloved buildings on campus, the original “College Building” that dates back to the College’s founding in 1693 and the oldest academic building in continuous use in the United States, it is disheartening to see what appears to be a parking lot alongside the Richmond Road side of the historic building.

The Richmond Road side lawn is covered with wood chips, while the Jamestown Road side has grass, and there has always been service and utility vehicles parked on the wood chips from time to time. But for the past few weeks there have been white parking blocks placed beside the building with vans and other vehicles parked there around the clock.

Dave Shepard, the deputy director of Facilities Management, says that the soil is reinforced and is suitable for the parking of motor vehicles. In the past, Catering Services vehicles occupied the spots when they held events at the Wren. The parking blocks have been added recently to accommodate the contractors working on the President’s House. “The blocks are there for them to use as a staging area,” said Shepard. He also stressed that the blocks would be removed following the construction and that the space will once again be occupied by university vehicles.

Safety tips for Winter traveling

courtesy of the Fire Safety Department of the College of William and Mary

Winter weather will soon be officially here. In order to enjoy our winter more, be prepared for the changes that it may bring. Let’s look at some tips that will make your winter more enjoyable.

- ❄️ If your car needs a tune up or is due for regular service, get it done now.
- ❄️ Mechanical problems can leave you stranded in the winter.
- ❄️ Make sure your battery and charging system are up to in good condition and keep your battery charged.
- ❄️ Check the cooling system. Making certain the antifreeze will protect your car to the winter temperatures you’ll experience in your area
- ❄️ Keep your gas tank close to full, for a couple of reasons. In the summer, you can take a chance and run down to nearly empty. But, in the winter, if you do get stuck or stranded, the engine will be your only source of heat.

- ❄️ Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape and that your windshield washer reservoir is full. On a snowy or messy day, you can easily go through half a gallon of fluid trying to keep your windshield clear. For that reason, it’s also a good idea to keep some extra fluid in the trunk in case you run out.
- ❄️ Make sure your rear window defroster works.
- ❄️ Make sure you have good tires.
- ❄️ Make sure you have some basic supplies in your car in case you get stuck. Always carry a good ice scrape and a snowbrush. It’s also advisable to carry a shovel and something to help with tractions, such as sand or kitty litter. You might also want to carry a blanket, additional winter clothing, and a good pair of boots.
- ❄️ The very best thing you can do to reduce problem in winter driving is **give yourself plenty of extra time to arrive at your destination.**

The Virginia Informer wishes to honor our Veterans



Our country will never forget your sacrifice

Be on the lookout for the January/February 2006 issue!

Merry Christmas & Happy Channukah from The Virginia Informer!