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THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.

The common sense paper of record on campus.

Athletic fee criticized as hidden, excessive

Steven Nelson
News Editor

One thousand one hundred fifty-two dollars is the amount paid by every William and Mary student each year for athletics at the College, primarily for sports such as football and basketball.

An athletic fee is charged at all public colleges in Virginia, though most colleges' fees are "hidden," as English Professor Terry Meyers puts it, from those paying tuition bills.

"It's not just tuition that is driving up the price of an education. It is also fees—and more villainously, because they are so often hidden," Mr. Meyers asserted in an editorial in National Crosstalk.

According to a report compiled by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, William and Mary's annual athletic fee paid by both in-state and out-of-state students was \$1,153 for 2007-2008, an increase of over 8 percent from the previous year's fee.

The athletic fee at Virginia Tech is \$232 per year and is \$607 per year at the University of Virginia.

The Informer contacted Mr. Meyers for his thoughts. "My thinking was that once people saw how much they were paying for something that, really, not many of our students are very interested in, pressure would develop to contain the fee," he said.

"I'm not sure I'm so opposed to a mandatory fee per se, inasmuch a lot of what goes on at a college needs support of some sort from fees, but I do think the William and Mary fee is too high, way too high."

Bills paid by students and their parents do not include a breakdown of all fees being paid. According to Mr. Meyers, there "are a substantial amount of the total 'tuition and fees,' which parents and students always assume consists of fees that are largely nickel and dime stuff, which they aren't."

William and Mary's financial operations Web site seems to confirm this, as it does not detail athletic fees. The site lists fees by semester paid by both in-state and out-of-state students. They include: a \$26 tech fee, a \$2.50 Student Assembly fee, a \$163.50 facility fee, and



Ian R. Whiteside

High fees: Students at William and Mary pay \$1,153 for athletic fees compared to \$607 at the University of Virginia and \$232 at Virginia Tech.

a \$1,600 general fee. The athletic fee is presumably included in the undefined general fee. Though a \$2.50 fee warranted mention on the site, the vastly larger athletic fee was not identified.

Mr. Meyers, in his editorial, suggested that schools should print their approximately 36 fees directly on invoices. According to Mr. Meyers, "In a fetching outburst of frankness, [Vice President for Finance Sam Jones] recently claimed to a student reporter that 'people simply want to know what they need to pay and don't want a whole list of fees.' He added, 'bottom line,' that 'the parents are paying the bill and students simply aren't concerned.'"

One option suggested by Mr. Meyers, which was enacted on a smaller scale under former college President Timothy Sullivan, is to shift some of the athletic fee to academics. "If you shift \$100 per student, that would represent a relatively modest cut in funding for athletics and yet add up to something close to \$750,000 for academics. And I'm pretty sure private donors would step up pretty quickly to make up the difference to athletics."

Editor's note: Athletic Director Driscoll and Football Coach Laycock were contacted several times for this story, but were unwilling to comment. Their point of view is welcome for a follow-up.

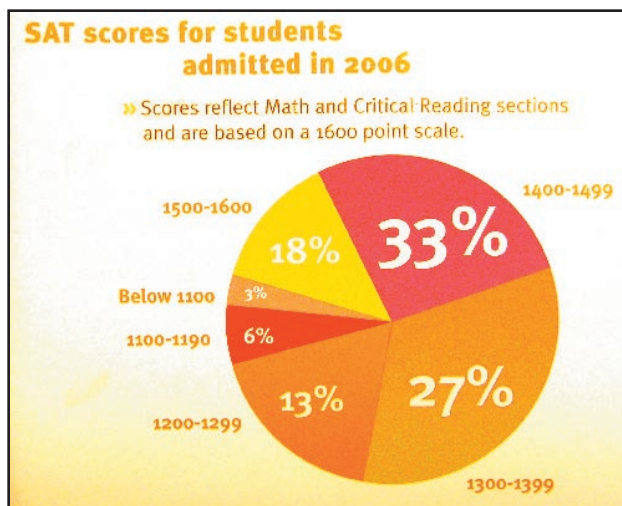
Admissions chart undercuts college's high SAT scores to prospective students

Steven Nelson
News Editor

Last year the admissions office distributed a 'viewbook' to prospective students, attempting to woo them with impressive statistics and interesting information about William and Mary.

Among the facts were the College's proud historic record and a number of interesting details that many current students would be surprised to learn, aside from accidentally eavesdropping on a tour guide showing visitors around.

Within the compilation is a prominent pie chart detailing the SAT scores for students admitted in



Prospective Students Viewbook

"Editorial oversight": Admissions pie chart clearly presents errored information.

2006. Based on the older 1600-point scale, SAT scores read: 1500-1600 (18%), 1400-1499 (33%), 1300-1399 (27%), 1200-1299 (13%), and so on.

Surprisingly, the chart displays the slice allocated to the 1400 range, 33%, significantly smaller than that of the 1300 range, 27%. Furthermore, the 1500-1600 range, 18%, appears visibly smaller than the slice of the 1200 range, 13%.

The pie's contradicting percentages and slice sizes provide an indisputably ambiguous presentation of the SAT scores represented in the true population of students admitted in 2006.

Confounded by the discrepancy, the Informer contacted Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus. Mr. Broaddus affirmed that all stated

ADMISSION CHART ERROR continued on page ten

The Williamsburg City Council "Student Issues" Debate

Tomorrow, April 10th at 8 PM in the Great Hall of the Wren Building

Sponsored by the William & Mary Student Assembly
More information on page sixteen

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CONTENTS

News..... 2
Features..... 6
Arts & Culture..... 11
Opinion..... 14

Inside Presidents' Park
Page 8



General Assembly approves Commonwealth's 2008-2010 budget

Violette Robinet
Staff Writer

In an e-mail sent to the William and Mary Community on March 14, interim President Taylor Reveley announced the approval of the General Assembly's conference committee's recommendations amending the Commonwealth's 2008-2010 budget. The day before, the House of Delegates' and Senate's vote had put an end to what Mr. Reveley referred to as a "difficult 65-day General Assembly session. Attached to the president's e-mail was a memorandum by Vice President of Finance Sam Jones detailing the key amendments to the biennial budget as introduced by Governor Tim Kaine in December 2007.

The first major change to the budget is a 2 percent faculty and staff salary increase, which will become effective on November 25, 2008 and November 25, 2009, respectively. This raise should enable the College of William and Mary to remain competitive relative to its peer universities. Indeed, Mr. Kaine's original biennial budget proposal not to increase salaries for faculty and staff until fiscal year 2009-2010 had caused anxiety amongst administrators who feared that William and Mary might lose ground compared to other institutions of higher learning, whose faculty salaries increase every year.

Mr. Reveley, who with the help of Mr. Jones and those students participating in the annual Road to Richmond has done a great deal of lobbying for the College in the state capital, declared himself "delighted to report that the budget includes raises—albeit small ones—for faculty and staff."

However, there was less happy news as well. The General Assembly also decided to reduce by half the \$559,000 fund for core operations, which had been recommended by Mr. Kaine to complement the \$3 million reduction in spending implemented last fall and will be carried forward as a permanent annual base reduction for 2008-2010. Therefore, the net reduction that Mr. Kaine proposed amounted to approximately \$2.45 million, whereas the General Assembly's decision to reduce by half the amount of support for core operations amounts to a net reduction of \$2.7 million.

Mr. Kaine's initial proposal to increase undergraduate financial aid by \$74,059 for Fiscal Year 2009 was not modified.



Breaking ground: The Business School is safe from the College's uncertain capital outlay plan, unlike the planned School of Education and the renovation of Tucker Hall.

met by a College match. There is in fact a change in state funding policy because institutions are now supposed to absorb the cost of operating new facilities within their base adequacy allocations.

Later in his e-mail, Mr. Reveley expressed his disappointment concerning the House and Senate negotiators' inability to reach an agreement on a capital outlay plan. As Mr. Reveley explained, "The projects in this plan are of enormous importance to the College; they include the construction of the new School of Education building and the renovation of Tucker Hall, among other campus improvements."

The capital outlay plan also includes the construction of Integrated Science Center. Because negotiations on the capital outlay plan were not finished, senior legislators are currently continuing to develop this plan before the session reconvenes.

At present, the General Assembly budget is being reviewed by Mr. Kaine and on April 23, during the so-called Veto Session, the General Assembly will reconvene to consider the governor's amendments to the budget.

As for undergraduate tuition for in-state students, the General Assembly provides incentives for the College to keep the tuition increase for 2010 at 4 percent or below, because of the inclusion of a \$610,000 Tuition Moderation Fund. Moreover, research funding, the amount of which had not yet been decided in February when the conference committee issued its recommendations, will be \$75,000 for biomedical and biomaterial research. During the next biennium, on the other hand, the cost of new facilities coming on-line is supposed to be entirely

Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

Marshall-Wythe School of Law moves up in US News rankings

The College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law moved up in this year's *US News & World Report* rankings of the best graduate programs in the nation. According to the report released last month, the law school came in this year at 30th, tied with the University of Washington. Last year, the school was ranked at 31st in the nation, tied with Ohio State and the University of Wisconsin – Madison. According to Lynda Butler, interim dean of the law school and the chancellor professor of law, the ranking this year was only one point below three schools tied for 27th place. Combined with these high rankings was an increase in enrollment; the law school received a record number of applications, receiving 4,561 applications for approximately 200 spots available in the school's juris doctor program. That total reflected a 7.3 percent increase from last year while the national law school applicant pool dropped 1.3 percent.

William and Mary professor helps draft Kosovo's constitution

Christie S. Warren, senior lecturer in law and director of Marshall-Wythe's comparative legal studies and post-conflict justice program here at the College, was one of three US advisors to provide counsel and guidance to Kosovo leaders during the constitution drafting process over the past year, and will be present when the constitution is signed April 7 in Pristina, Kosovo. A William and Mary alumnus, Ryan Igbanol ('07), also assisted in the constitution drafting process; he compiled and organized all material and information relating to the drafting process to preserve it for historical purposes. The advisors were invited to participate in the constitution signing ceremonies by the US government and the members of the Kosovar drafting team, most of whom are part of the new government of Kosovo.

College holds "Potato Drop" to fight hunger

For the tenth year in a row, the College hosted its annual "Potato Drop," where over 20 tons of potatoes, shipped from Maine, are re-bagged and

donated to area food banks. This year's event was delayed nearly 12 hours as the truck was delayed during the DC Cherry Blossom Festival, but the event, put on in part by the campus Methodist group the Wesley Foundation, was still a success, according to Wesley campus minister David Hindman. Two dozen people turned out to help in the effort to aid local food banks as a part of the United Nations' International Year of the Potato, which was dedicated in order to raise awareness of global hunger, poverty and threats to the environment.

College's marketing program ranked second in the nation

The College of William and Mary's Mason School of Business is one of the best schools in the country for marketing, according to *BusinessWeek's* 2008 undergraduate business program rankings. Schools are ranked in a range of academic fields, including microeconomics, accounting, financial management, business law, corporate strategy and ethics. *BusinessWeek* released an overall ranking in March which placed the College of William and Mary in the top ten of public US business schools and 29th among all US business schools.

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Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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The Virginia Informer is an independent, non-partisan, student run publication devoted to reporting the news to the William and Mary community. We exist to provide an alternative to school sponsored news sources. We do not, and never will, receive any financial support from the College of William and Mary. We will not shy away from controversy or be afraid to challenge the norm. We strive to inform and engage our readers via responsible journalism and in-depth reporting, while fostering and giving voice to opinions that are often shut out by the campus establishment.

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Plan proposed to reform the Honor Code

Nick Hoelker
Online Editor

William and Mary's Honor Code is one of its many long standing traditions, but as with many traditions, it is molded by the College's ever-changing student body. For the past several years, students have sought to reform the honor code, which was last amended in 1997. It is only after these many years of reflection that a new draft is finally being created. The Council of Chairs, the governing body of Honor Systems of all parts of the college, graduate and undergraduate alike, requested in 2007 that the William and Mary School of Law revisit their honor code.

The undergraduate school has followed suite and a committee chaired by Judd Kennedy (08') is already in the process of drafting the changes. This, of course, does not mean that the pledge students take in the Wren Building when they arrive at the College will be altered. Rather, the changes will affect the code beyond the pledge. Broadly, the code is being revisited to make it easier for the general public to understand, to make definitions the of lying, cheating, and stealing more succinct, and to make changes to the amendment process.

The proposed layout for the code begins with the familiar statement of purpose and history of the code. It then, unlike the current code, includes the College's

honor pledge and the most basic form of the code, "Students of the William and Mary community pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal." The code's format will also include subsections in the code. By creating more divisions, the committee hopes to make the document easier to read and follow.

The language of the code will also be changed. For example, the former definition of lying is the, "expression of a material untruth made with the intent to mislead another or with reckless disregard for the truth of the matter asserted." The newly proposed definition for lying is: "a deliberate expression of a material untruth made with the intent to mislead another. Lying includes, but is not limited to, forgery or the use of false identification." Even though these reformed definitions may be easier to understand, some students worry that making definitions too succinct might make them less forceful when they are strictly interpreted.

The amendment process found in section 8 of the honor code will be expanded under the new plan. The existing code stipulates that any enrolled student may propose an amendment by appealing to the Council of

Chairs, where it then goes under review of the Council and the President of the College. The proposed changes to this protocol include different types of amendments: general, procedural and supplemental. General and procedural amendments may still be proposed by any member of the student body and are approved by the Council of Chairs and the President of the College. Supplemental changes, however, are proposed by the Honor Council to create program specific procedural rules as needed in line with the honor code.

The committee hosted its first of two Q&A sessions on March 23rd. There were about six students not of the Honor Council who showed up with their inquiries at this meeting. A second session has not yet been scheduled.

Once the reform is completed it will be brought before the entire student body for approval as a referendum and must then be approved by the Attorney General of Virginia's Office. Finally, the newly revised code will be signed into action by the President of the College.

Stay up to date on future Q&A sessions and the proposed changes at:
<http://www.wm.edu/deanofstudents/honorsystem>.

Admissions Office defends use of racial and ethnicity statistics in "prospective cards"

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

Spring marks a time when many high school students descend upon college campuses. William and Mary maintains high campus visitation rates and employs intensive marketing literature in order to attract college-bound students. Approximately 25,000 students and parents annually attend information sessions and campus tours offered by the College. The month of April has the highest volume of campus tours, as admitted high school seniors visits often overlap with those of rising juniors.

At these sessions and tours, prospective students receive a wealth of information about the College. In turn, students can themselves choose to give information back to the College by means of "prospective cards." According to Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus, the majority of students actually choose not to fill these cards out. For those students who do offer up their information

prior to applying, prospective cards can involve more than offering up basic information, such as home address and birth date. The W&M prospective card also contains an optional ethnicity selection. Dean Broaddus noted that a declining number of students are filling out this selection saying "the unknown group has grown." Actual figures on the number of students who leave the ethnicity option blank are not compiled by the Admissions Office.

For those students who do fill out this section, what use does the Admissions Office have for prospectives' personal information?

"We do sort based on how a student self-identifies. There are times of year where admissions programs necessitate data entry prioritization for targeted outreach. This could be for race and ethnicity

or other factors" Dean Broaddus said. Programs aimed at enhancing College diversity often involve using backlog prospectives' data as obtained through ethnic self-identification.

The College, like many other universities, also purchases information from the College Board, which can obtain students' ethnic information. Ultimately, when a student offers up their information to the College Board or even to William and Mary itself, he or she consents to become the target for sophisticated marketing techniques. These techniques often aim to structure

an incoming class using factors unrelated to academic achievement, including geographical location, student class year, and yes, ethnicity.

Dean Broaddus contended that students who do not to fill out specific elements of prospective cards are not necessarily treated any differently than if they had provided all of the information asked for. In fact, these students effectively remove themselves from being subjected to the marketing techniques associated with ethnically targeted campaigns.

Make an impact on campus...

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The *Informer* is the only paper at William and Mary that is entirely independent of the College, meaning we report the truth and go in-depth to publish what others dare not print!

COME TO A MEETING:

**Mondays
7:30pm, Blair 201**

A Glance at W&M Dining Initiatives.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Just 4 You and Fresh & Healthy pages are available on our dining website offering nutritional menus, information and links

W&M Dining actively participates with campus vegetarian groups to develop menus and specific menu items

We Co-sponsor "Love Your Body Week" with CARES

We serve over 40,000 meals per week

We proudly provide zero trans fat oil and biodegradable service ware, vegetarian/vegan options and select organic foods. We also offer an all campus Fair Trade, Shade grown and Organic Coffee Program

We recycle our cooking oil into bio diesel fuel

W&M Dining has recycled over 15,900 lbs of our cardboard, cans & bottles since January

For more information on these factoids or additional information on Dining Services, please visit our web site at
www.wm.edu/dining

Prominent conservative advocate Bay Buchanan urges students to become campus leaders

Violette Robinet
Staff Writer

At first glance, the legacy left by the Founding Fathers might seem obvious to any American college student. The names of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton or Benjamin Franklin immediately evoke the images of leaders who founded the country and built the legislative frame that would shape the future of the nation.

Yet, in a lecture titled "How do the principles of the Founders operate on a campus like William and Mary?", delivered at the UC Commonwealth on March 31, prominent conservative pundit Angela "Bay" Buchanan addressed the question of their legacy in a new way.

Ms. Buchanan, who is currently the president of the educational conservative foundation The American Cause, began her political career as treasurer of the United States under Ronald Reagan from 1981 to 1983. She managed her brother, Pat Buchanan's, 1992, 1996 and 2000 campaigns for president of the United States and has also served as a political analyst and anchor on the radio and TV, notably on CNN.

Ms. Buchanan started her lecture with a diatribe against a campaign of intimidation that she thinks has been underway in Washington for the last 20 to 25 years. "If you want to close the borders, you're called a xenophobe," she said. Fearful of getting bad press and subject to pressure from their peers, she said that many modern-day politicians "have no guts." She added: "Washington has failed us". According to Ms. Buchanan, several bold politicians, once in power, worry about nothing but their own political survival and refuse to do anything controversial. "They toss their principles to keep their titles," she explained. However, in doing so, politicians not only betray the American people, but also the core legacy of the Founding Fathers. Ms. Buchanan worried that, contrary to the founders, who always spoke up for their principles, there is no leader today "fighting tooth and nail for our values." She went on to say, "we are losing this country."

The example Ms. Buchanan picked to illustrate her argument was what happened last February, when senator and presidential candidate John McCain denounced the comments of



File Photo
BUCHANAN

the Republican radio talk show host Bill Cunningham who had just endorsed his candidacy. During the show, Mr. Cunningham had repeatedly referred to Senator Obama as Barack Hussein Obama, emphasizing Mr. Obama's Middle Eastern sounding middle name. By willing to remain politically correct to get good press, Mr. McCain had, in Ms. Buchanan's view, "thrown Cunningham under the bus" and given up the value of loyalty.

However, Ms. Buchanan did not only want to deliver a pessimistic message to William and Mary students. She was also here, she said, to praise boldness and action, which she considers to be the true legacies of the Founding Fathers. "We cannot sit around just complaining," she said. "Now, it falls on us. And you are no less responsible than I am, even if you are a student." She even further emphasized the need for students to take action: "If not now, when? If not us, who?"

One might well ask, "how can I take action?" For Ms. Buchanan getting involved starts with speaking up and standing up for your values. She admits

it takes a little boldness, but profoundly believes in the power of debate.

The first benefit that comes from debating is that it enables you to discover "the kind of steel you're made of," Ms. Buchanan declared. When challenged by adverse views, you first feel the intimidation, but then you have to come up with solid arguments to convince your opponent. Through debate, "you'll find out what you believe in, where is the passion in you."

Ms. Buchanan also emphasized that the true value of debate lies in its ability to influence people's views and decisions. For instance, Ms. Buchanan stated that "what it takes to be pro-life is to speak up, whenever you can." You never know who might be receptive to your arguments Ms. Buchanan acknowledged that the girl who is listening to you might have heard nothing apart from pro-choice arguments her entire life, and what you say might change her point of view. What is more, if she is ever confronted with an unexpected pregnancy, she might even think twice before considering an abortion.

Before leaving, she repeated one last time: "Ignore all the names you're called, you just need to know what is in your heart."

A new Iraq: Scowcroft advisor Matt Sherman lectures on Iraqi future

Joe Luppino-Esposito
Editor in Chief Emeritus

Matt Sherman, senior advisor to The Scowcroft Group gave a speech entitled "Iraq: Assessment of the Surge and Prospects of Reconstruction" on April 2 to a crowd of students and community members.

Mr. Sherman outlined one of the key strategies of creating a "perception of force" as one of the main reasons that "the surge" has been working. Joint command stations that housed US soldiers, Iraqi police and Iraqi soldiers were set up throughout Baghdad. The men there would stay for 10 days to up to two weeks, so that proximity made the extra 30,000 troops appear to be much larger.

Mr. Sherman also believes that much of the peace has come from the "Shia-fiction" of the country. Many Shia Muslims, who had been oppressed under Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, have now taken control of the government, as they make up the majority of the country. With this strength, the need to rebel against the government has declined. However, that has not always been the case.

Muqtada al-Sadr, a Shia cleric and one of the most important leaders amongst the insurgency, has declared a ceasefire since August 2007 when there was an inordinate amount of Shia infighting. Mr. Sherman said he was able to sneak into one of the clerics sermons and was able to see the "zombie-like behavior" in which many Shia follow him.

Mr. Sherman was also clear that the conflict in Iraq has many other factor

involved in it, notably the influence of Iran in the southern region. Mr. Sherman credits Iranian intervention into the internal Shia politics to be another primary reason for a slow down of violence in the south.

One of the biggest risk the Iraqis and Americans are taking involved the hiring of nearly 90,000 Sunni fighters to be a part of their forces. Mr. Sherman sees this as a "bottom-up" strategy to stave off any unrest amongst the Sunnis who have not accepted their ejection from power.

As for the future of the conflict, Mr. Sherman worries about the polarizing directions that Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) will take in 2009. Mr. Sherman believes Mr. Obama will be the nominee for the Democrats. "Regardless of who wins, what you're going to have in Iraq, generally, is a force of between 30 to 40 thousand soldiers for the indefinite future," said Mr. Sherman. Mr. Sherman added that the "complexities" of the situation will be a surprise to Mr. Obama and that the strain on the military will be equally shocking to Mr. McCain. Yet he does see the debate as a healthy one, and he is glad that the war in Iraq will likely be a major campaign issue.

Mr. Sherman also accepted questions for over 30 minutes, most of which addressed the failures in Iraq and speculation about the future, as well as his experiences there. He feels that there is more stability now than before. "We haven't been there for five years: we've been there for six months ten times," Mr. Sherman said.

Army colonel discusses Afghan insurgency

Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

On March 26, Colonel Patrick Donahue spoke to a group of students and faculty on "Combating a Modern Insurgency in Afghanistan."

Mr. Donahue was introduced by Government Professor Rani Mullen who explained that Mr. Donahue had served two tours of duty each in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Donahue was most recently in Afghanistan from May 2005 through March 2006 and commanded a 5,000-man brigade in a mountainous portion of the eastern part of the country, roughly the size of North Carolina. This means that about one-seventh of the troops currently stationed in Afghanistan were under his command.

He stated that a major difference between his tours of duty-- the first in 2003 and the second in 2005-2006--was that the army did not understand the Afghan people the first time around. Mr. Donahue said that during his first tour, the army underestimated the power of Pashtunwali, the Pashtun way of life.

Pashtunwali encompasses seven elements: hospitality, justice and revenge, asylum, nation, honor of tribe, land and the honor of women. Mr. Donahue provided several examples of the importance of Pashtunwali in Afghanistan. One story involved four navy SEALs who were attacked, three of whom died. The surviving soldier asked a tribal elder for asylum which was quickly granted. When one of the attempted killers asked the elder to hand over the navy SEAL, the elder refused to do so. The colonel also told of a male United States soldier who entered a compound that only contained women. Even though the serviceman was only inside the space for five minutes, there was so much outrage at his perceived dishonoring of women that Mr. Donahue had to spend two months appeasing local Afghans. News of the scandal eventually made it all the way to President Hamid Karzai's office.

Mr. Donahue then explained how working more with the Afghans has helped to advance the war effort. He explained that Americans now employ Afghans to conduct raids on compounds of suspected enemies. The colonel stated that doing so has led to voluntary compliance for entry about 90 percent of the time. He added that the Americans have also been training Afghan soldiers to be their replacements once the United States leaves the country.

Mr. Donahue also touched on a range of other issues including an explanation of how Afghanistan's mountainous terrain combined with weather can make fighting difficult, details about the difficulty of bringing together Afghans and Pakistanis to cooperate in sharing resources and a discussion of the importance of non-military government agents in Afghanistan.

The colonel ended his lecture by reminding the audience that the average age of a United States soldier in Afghanistan was 21 and that we as college students should do whatever we can to support our troops.

Love us? Hate us?

Please send letters to the editor.

editor@vainformer.com

W&M SFL holds annual benefit concert

Eileen Bartolozzi
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 2 in Lodge 1, the William and Mary Chapter of Students for Life hosted their annual benefit concert, which was entitled "In Support of Women." The evening comprised various musical talents and testimonials and was intended to raise funds for the local pregnancy resource centers Catholic Charities and Care Net. These two organizations provide women with resources to make an educated decision when faced with an unplanned pregnancy.

Testimonies presented by several members were interspersed with occasional comments from the MCs. However, the central entertainment was of the musical variety, beginning with performers Ryan Laney and Kenny Merut. Their act was followed by the melodic harmonies of the male Christian *a capella* group, One Accord. The grand finale of the event was the string and vocal combo Dan Paris and Raymond Lai, both members of the band String Theory. The pair preformed several songs before closing the event by leading the entire assembly in the alma mater.



Ian R. Whiteside

Students for Life: The SFL event raised funds for local pregnancy resource centers for help with unplanned pregnancies.



Ian R. Whiteside

Rock for life: SFL brings performers to raise funds for local pregnancy resource centers.



Ian R. Whiteside

New SA settles in, expresses outrage at stolen ping-pong ball machine

Ian Kirkpatrick
Staff Writer

Student Assembly President-elect Valerie Hopkins ('09) had mentioned, prior to the selection of her cabinet, that cabinet level positions have been "revamped," and that a much-debated pilot test of a coeducational sexual assault prevention program will be held Wednesday, April 2.

Theft on campus was decried by senators, including Walter McClean ('09), who said he was "pretty upset" about the ping-pong ball machine that was only in the UC for 10 days before it was stolen, encouraged an investigation. Another senator mentioned that a trash compactor had been stolen last year.

The housing selection process may become easier for rising juniors and sophomores. Many get bumped but are often reinstated, some as late as July, making it difficult for them to get off-campus housing. Students who do not get housing often then require a car to reach campus. In addition to this they pay the same fee for a parking decal (\$275) that students who voluntarily live off campus pay. This issue was addressed by the Senate, with a recommendation to lessen the charge to such students.

Senators Michael Douglass ('11) and Ben Brown ('11) are co-sponsoring legislation to make the SA more transparent, mandating senators to provide biweekly reports, suggesting that failure to do so be an impeachable offense. Also proposed is the distribution of their contact info to the students they represent via CSU boxes.

In the executive-level Public Affairs Committee, a questionnaire for the six candidates running for

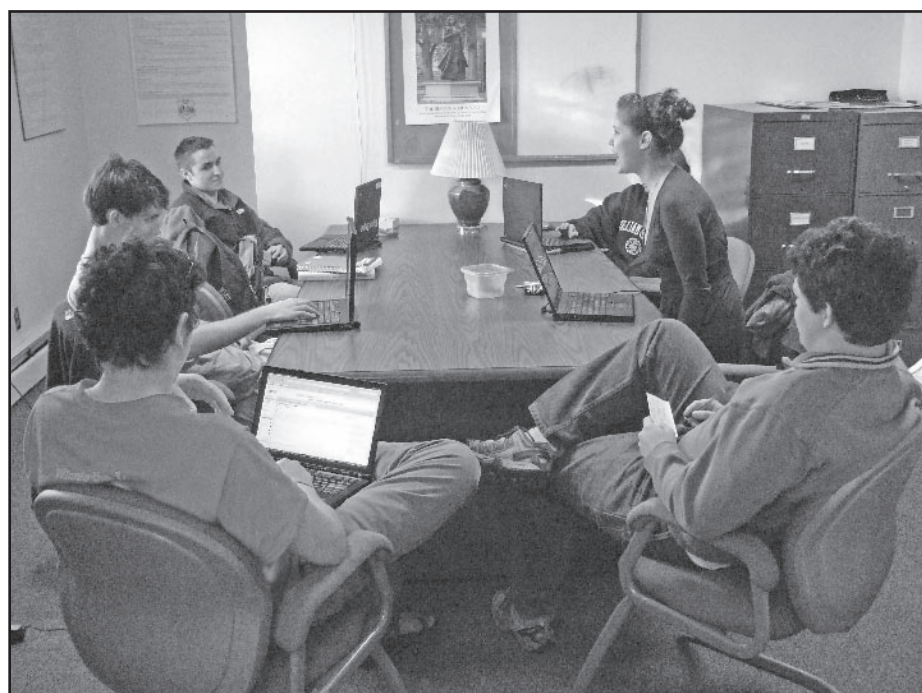
Williamsburg City Council is being compiled. The Student Assembly is also hosting a first-ever student issues debate on campus prior to the May 6 election, with issues including nightlife and housing to be addressed by candidates.

The Student Assembly has in recent years provided blue test booklets, and will continue to do so. Students have used over 40,000 SA-provided exam booklets since they were introduced, and 5,000 will be appropriated for the 08-09 academic year. Outgoing Student Assembly President and incoming Vice President Zach Pilchen ('09) addressed concern that "this is an academic venture that we are funding," and "it may not be appropriate use of student activities fees."

Senator Matt Pinsker ('09) introduced four bills in the last session, addressing the Queen's Guard, student drinking and the school mascot. The Queen's Guard Act would bring back an old tradition that ranked with the Yule Log in popularity, where at the Queen's Ball the color guard would perform with demilitarized rifles. Due to safety concerns the tradition was ended.

Mr. Pinsker's proposes to move the color guard outside during the event to avoid injury. He also introduced the Mascot Recommendation Act and the Kegs Act, which would try to make student drinking more environmentally friendly by reducing littered cans and bottles.

Inauguration for the new Student Assembly officers will take place 3:30 pm on April 8 in the historic Wren Chapel.



Alec McKinley

Jumping for joy: President Valerie Hopkins is excited at the prospect of supporting a new philanthropy on campus.

WANTED: Students who want to make an IMPACT on campus

-Writing -Editing -Photography -Web design -Podcasting -Advertising

Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 201

Inside a Palestinian refugee camp: a student's perspective

Alex Mayer
Executive Editor

I have been presented with unique opportunities while studying abroad in Amman, Jordan. Undoubtedly, one of the most remarkable is the recent trip I took to a Palestinian refugee camp located on the eastern edge of Amman.

The Wihdat refugee camp—officially known as the “Amman New Camp”—is the second-largest Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan and home to more than 50,000 displaced persons.

Many such camps were established after the 1948 Israeli War of Independence, in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven from their homes in what is now the state of Israel. Wihdat was officially organized in 1955, and today houses 5,000 refugees in 1,400 temporary shelters constructed by the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA).

The Wihdat camp I visited bears little resemblance to the original—or, to the typical American image of a “refugee camp.” There were no walls, no gates, no guards—the camp is essentially just another neighborhood in Amman. The boundary between the camp and the rest of the city was imperceptible.

Shops and stalls lined the streets, leaving little room for our vans to squeeze through. The single-story buildings, though somewhat shabbier, were hard to distinguish from any other structures in downtown Amman.

At the end of the street, we arrived at a UNRWA-run all-girls elementary school. Spray painted Arabic graffiti covered the dirty whitewashed exterior walls and bright UN-blue doors.

We were quickly herded inside where we met with older Palestinian refugees in the school's modest library. The refugees told us about their experiences as well as life in the camp. The area director for UNRWA—himself a refugee—discussed the UN's role at the camp, which includes the provision of education for 22,000 Palestinian children for the first ten years of schooling. After this period is over, children are then transferred to Jordanian public schools.



Courtesy of Alex Mayer
Smiles through the struggles: Students in the camp were often excited to see Americans visiting their school.

UNRWA also provides other health, relief and social services in the camp.

Speaking through an interpreter, the refugees, ranging in age from 60 to 80, recounted memories from their childhood in the British mandate of Palestine. Most expressed bitterness towards the British, whose military presence in Palestine lasted from the years following World War I until the year 1947. All of the refugees accused the British of secretly aiding the Jewish militias in Palestine during this period, which they said gave Jews an unfair advantage over Arabs in weapons and resources. If an Arab was found with “even a single bullet,” the refugees said, he was hanged.



Courtesy of Alex Mayer
Taking it to the streets: Mayer finds a range of emotions in refugee camp, from bitterness and hostility to curiosity.

Several people expressed gratitude to Jordan for giving them so much: the Jordanian government constructed permanent housing for the refugees, coordinated basic infrastructure and services and even offered all refugees Jordanian citizenship, the only Arab country to do so as yet. However, the refugees also expressed uncertainty about the futures of their grandchildren.

Hostility towards Israel was unanimous—stories of Israeli intimidation, brutality and forced displacement of entire Arab villages during the 1948 war were repeated with variations by all the refugees. Each wished for the chance to be able to return to their old villages—most of which no longer exist—if only to be buried there.

After the discussion, we were given a short tour of the school, including stops in several classrooms. The Palestinian girls that we encountered—the equivalent of junior high students in the US—were excited to see Americans, shyly giggling and crowding around us, asking our names. When asked where they were from, all the students responded: “Palestine,” and could still tell us the name of the village or town from which their families originated.

Not everyone was friendly. We encountered far more anti-Americanism than anything we had found in the rest of Amman—most Jordanians, we found, are extremely friendly. One of the refugees in our discussion group angrily accused us of being “Israeli spies,” and attempted to argue with us about America's support of Israel. He stormed out when it was clear that this topic would not be discussed.

Upon our exit from the school, our vans were swarmed by excited Palestinian children, many of whom had never seen Americans before. After finally clearing a path through the sea of children, we finally began the trip back down the street toward the main road. The streets were now absolutely jammed with thousands of Palestinian students who had just been released from school. As our van crawled through the mass of students, a teenaged Palestinian spat at my roommate sitting in the front seat.

While hope for resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict lies with this young generation of Palestinians, it is evident that, 50 years later, a reservoir of bitterness and anger still remains as an obstacle to lasting peace.

he is currently employed. Mr. Fisher commented that “CRS is still a good place, but things have tightened up.”

Alumni Spotlight:

Author Fischer discusses his time at the College

Jennifer Souers
Business Editor

Dr. Louis Fisher is the award-winning author of over a dozen books and several hundred articles, an esteemed constitutional law expert, and a William and Mary alumnus ('56). Mr. Fisher, who is currently teaching a class at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law entitled “Presidential Power after 9/11: the New Rule of Law,” recently came and spoke to several undergraduate government classes, where he discussed the situation at Guantanamo Bay Prison and its historical connections to the 1940s Nazi saboteurs' case. Afterwards, he graciously agreed to sit down for an exclusive interview with The

Informer to speak briefly about his accomplishments since his own undergraduate years at the College.

Mr. Fisher fondly recalls his time at William and Mary as a time of personal change. After taking classes for two years and not finding anything that piqued his interest enough for

“For every two hours of science homework and studying I had, I would set aside two hours for poetry, literature, etc. It was important to me to have that balance in my life.”

“It made me uncomfortable,”

he said. Outside the classroom, Mr. Fisher was active in cross-country and track, and also found the time to read avidly for pleasure. “For every two hours of science homework and

studying I had, I would set aside two hours for poetry, literature, etc. It was important to me to have that balance in my life,” said Mr. Fisher.

Having continued his career in the sciences, Mr. Fisher further narrowed his subject field through graduate school, ultimately studying atomic and molecular spectra at Johns Hopkins University. “The further I went, the more specific and narrow the topics became,” he said. While working in New York, Mr. Fisher began taking undergraduate level classes in the social sciences, which ultimately convinced him to leave the field of chemistry and begin writing and researching.

For over 30 years, Mr. Fisher worked at Congressional Research Service (CRS) in Washington, DC, where he became a widely respected author and expert on constitutional



File Photo
FISHER

law, frequently testifying before and consulting with officials in Congress. Mr. Fisher left CRS in 2006, after a disagreement over differing views on the war in Iraq and institutional failures associated with it. He then began working for the Law Library of Congress, where

he is currently employed. Mr. Fisher commented that “CRS is still a good place, but things have tightened up.”

When asked what he is working on currently, Mr. Fisher revealed that he is putting the finishing touches on a new book entitled *The Constitution and 9/11: Recurring Threats to American Freedom* and is, as always, in the middle of writing several articles. Mr. Fisher also regularly teaches classes at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, where he teaches a single one-week course per semester.

Swemming off the deep end

Are we funny? We report, you decide



Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton
Humor Columnists

Once again, we are forced to ascend our lofty rostrum in an attempt to clear up some recent misunderstandings between ourselves and the oft-mentioned but little seen humor e-zine *The Pillory*. On April 1—a day best known for a heavy occurrence of less-than-witty “pranks” and “shenanigans”—an article on *The Pillory*’s Web site was posted, which told the story of freshman Zeke McCarthy. Apparently, Mr. McCarthy is the only person on campus to unironically enjoy reading our humor column.

Excited by our 50% gain in readership, we attempted to contact Mr. McCarthy for a combination interview / pig roast inside Lodge 1. According to *The Pillory*, they were unable to get in touch with Mr. McCarthy for any comments regarding his enjoyment of “Swemming off the deep end.” But true to our hard hitting, investigative style here at *The Informer*, we went beyond where *The Pillory* would normally stop—no, not this past week’s Skiffy meeting, as most of their staffers already sit on its

Elvish High Council—and, through a combination of Mr. McCarthy’s Facebook mini-feed and Gchat status, we were able to corner him in the third stall of the UC’s basement bathroom.

Once Mr. McCarthy got over the initial shock of sharing a bathroom stall with two other men—a familiar scenario for the editors of *The Pillory* among heated duels in the *Dungeons and Dragons*’ adventure module “Pyramid of Shadows”—he clarified some misconceptions that *The Pillory* reported without consulting him.

First, Mr. McCarthy did not find the latest edition of “Swemming off the deep end” to be even remotely amusing. “Reading it was like watching someone repeatedly bash their head against a brick wall,” he said unamusedly. “You guys are about as funny as AIDS. I really mean that.”

Secondly, Mr. McCarthy’s facial movements were also commented on by an anonymous *Pillory* informant, who was quoted as seeing Mr. McCarthy smile while reading our column. This is factually impossible, as Mr. McCarthy suffers from a virulent case of lockjaw. Now, we don’t know much about biology or standards for proper diagnosis, but, as former employees of the William and Mary Health Center, we believe this is a direct result of an insufficient dietary intake of fresh fruits and vegetables. “You’re thinking of scurvy, not lockjaw,”

Mr. McCarthy insisted. “You idiots.” We remain confident in our initial assessment.

Mr. McCarthy was particularly incensed by *The Pillory* article through the quotes of Professor Morris Hottentot, who said, “To even think about smiling at [“Swemming off the deep end”], you’d need to contract some form of neurodegenerative disease.”

“I do have a neurodegenerative disease,” Mr. McCarthy said. “And I still don’t think it’s funny.” Mr. McCarthy suffers terribly from the ravages of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, more commonly known as the feeling you get after eating at the UC’s “Real Food on Campus” dining facility.

The interview abruptly came to an end when we asked Mr. McCarthy about how he would rate *The Pillory*’s level of humor on their so-cited “Campus Humor Index.” Upon informing Mr. McCarthy that *The Pillory* is, in fact, a humor magazine and not a collection of Harry Potter-themed erotica, he suffered what appeared to be an immediate shutdown of his central nervous system.

Sure enough, he was dead. With his passing, we return now to our original readership level of two. Hopefully, *The Pillory* will take more time to get its facts straight in its next appraisal of “Swemming off the deep end.”

Breaking the sorority stigma

Isa Tinkelman
Staff Writer

Greek organizations have always been notoriously associated with drinking, but do these social brotherhoods and sisterhoods really deserve their reputations? Students who share this view cite rowdy frat parties and “unofficial mixers” as instances of events where high-risk drinking seems acceptable, normal and expected. However, there are two sides to every story. After all, not every Greek event resembles a scene from *Animal House*. Associate Director of Student Activities Anne H. Arseneau helped shed some light on this issue by sharing her knowledge and understanding of the drinking policy for sororities here at William and Mary. According to Ms. Arseneau, not only is alcohol prohibited in sorority houses, but also at any official sorority function, party or philanthropy event. Sororities cannot advertise, sponsor, finance, attend or participate in any activity where alcohol will be available. Furthermore, sisters found violating the school’s alcohol policy even at non-official sisterhood gatherings or parties that are

not affiliated with their sorority may face repercussions from their respective chapter and national authorities as well as those outlined by the college. In lieu of these and other possible consequences, sisters are generally forbidden to wear their representative letter apparel when attending any such event, with the understanding that individuals who drink irresponsibly are doing so of their own accord and not in association with their sisterhood. Some sororities even require all of their new members to take an alcohol education program before being initiated. Sororities understand that they have acquired a bad reputation for themselves, and whether or not they deserve it, they are actively fighting its cause. The Genesis group, for instance, is an organization made up of 42 national and international Greek organizations that are dedicated to reducing the amount of high-risk drinking that occurs on college campuses. Hopefully, with the help of programs like these, sororities and fraternities can finally be seen as the honorable societies that their creeds, mottos and mission statements make them out to be.



File Photo

Animal House?: Arseneau discusses drinking policy for Sororities at the College.

College’s Chancellor O’Connor launches new programs at Georgetown and Arizona State

Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

In an article in *Parade* magazine, William and Mary Chancellor and former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor criticized the growing influence of interest groups trying to influence the judicial system. She blames this on partisan elections which can often lead to millions of dollars being spent on single race. Ms. O’Connor expressed doubt about whether or not these elected judges could remain objective in spite of receiving campaign contributions. She proposed doing away with judicial elections and praised the Colorado and Nebraska models of having a commission of independent citizens recommend judicial candidates to the governor who selects one of the candidates. For states that have judicial elections, Ms. O’Connor recommended that citizens learn



File Photo
O’CONNOR

all they can about judicial candidates and that they be wary of campaign promises to a rule a certain way on a case.

Ms. O’Connor also stated that she had been working with Georgetown University and Arizona State University to help better legal understanding.

One of these programs is for children and named *Our Courts*. It allows children to participate in an online simulation where they play the role of a judge. The other is named the Sandra Day O’Connor Project on the State of the Judiciary and creates a dialogue between experts and lawyers on how to safeguard the role of the court system. Ms. O’Connor did not reference any such programs for William and Mary in her article. Inquires made to Ms. O’Connor’s office through William and Mary University Relations were not returned by press time of this article.

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Williamsburg's strangest park: A look inside President's Park

Aimee Forsythe and Kristin Coyner
Staff Writer and Opinion Editor

Are you a connoisseur of presidential trivia? Well, you're in luck. A short trip down Route 199 will bring you to the only park in the world that features the heads of all 42 American presidents.

Over the course of just five years, architect David Adickes and his crew constructed 42 statues to pay tribute to our country's presidents. The statues were then transported to Williamsburg, Virginia and erected in what is now President's Park, which opened four years ago in March 2004.

Each president's bust is accompanied by biographical information including weight, height, education level, previous jobs, religion, family, quotes, salaries and accomplishments. In addition to taking in pertinent facts about US history one can also read up on some fun, obscure and largely useless presidential trivia. For example, our 11th President, James Polk, had a gall bladder operation without anesthesia. Thomas Jefferson, in addition to being the author of the Declaration of Independence, introduced spaghetti and ice cream to the US. Think you are a standout overachiever? John Quincy Adams, who had a pet alligator, negotiated a treaty with Sweden at the age of 15. In a demonstration that obesity is not just a modern problem, President William



Kristin Coyner

Hail to the Chief: Williamsburg's President's Park offers a unique experience in American history.

Taft weighed 332 pounds and got stuck in a bathtub, which led to the installation of an oversized bathtub in the Oval Office bathroom of the White House.

Statues range in size from 16 to 18 feet tall and enunciate distinct features, such as pupils that project out on rods. The beards of several presidents have endured "executive accidents," and now await replastering, while the bust of President Ulysses Grant is currently undergoing a total plaster reconstruction.

Visitors can also personalize their tours according to six different themes, including first ladies, constitution and bill of rights and assassinations and near misses. Facts associated with these themes are color-coded on each president's information board. For instance, if you follow the blue tour, you will learn that first lady Elizabeth Monroe had the presidential residence painted white, giving it the title "White House."

Interspersed throughout the statues are 14 "Defining Moments of Our Nation's History" boards, some of which have recordings with descriptions and actors quoting famous figures, such as Patrick Henry and Abraham Lincoln. You might be a bit disappointed by the few that are broken.

The park tour lasts a little over an hour. If you get tired, there are benches throughout the park and a drink shack halfway through the tour. To complete your visit, climb aboard the Air Force One replica and get your picture taken in the oval office located in the gift shop.

The park is open year round and its hours of operation vary. For further information on visiting hours, call beforehand at 757-259-1121.



Kristin Coyner

Impressive: Thomas Jefferson's stern visage is one of the 42 presidential busts in the park.

Drink of the Week Tom Collins



Ian R. Whiteside

Ian Whiteside
Staff Writer

- 2oz Gin
- 1oz Sour Mix or Sweetened Lime Juice
- Club Soda to fill
- 1 Maraschino Cherry (optional)
- 1 Orange Slice (optional)

Directions: In a glass filled 2/3 of the way with ice, stir together the gin, sour mix, and club soda. Garnish with the cherry and orange slice.

Substitutions: Instead of buying sour mix, you can make your own. Just mix 8 oz. of lemon or lime juice with 2 tablespoons of sugar.

Notes: A perfect drink for the warm days ahead, the Tom Collins has a wonderfully light and refreshing taste.

Editor's Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with all local, state and federal law.

The Pregame warm-up: How to start the night off right

Matthew Sutton
Staff Writer

Drinking at the College takes many forms, from the sophisticated wine snobs (read: Franzia and Arbor Mist enthusiasts) to the freshmen downing bottle after bottle of the infamous bum wine, Night Train. Normally an integral part of most social scenes, drinking most often takes place at parties range from the themed events at the units, off-campus house parties and to the Delis. Over the last year I've explored a wide selection of beers and written about various aspects of drinking culture, including most recently, a guide to the 21st birthday. Until now, I have not studied the pregame phenomena.

The pregame is an underappreciated part of our campus drinking culture. Pregaming is a traditional college ritual which typically consists of consuming a significant amount of alcohol in a short period of time before important events, such as football games, formals and, more rarely, job interviews. The time constraint is especially important to note here, as the drinking in pregame is typically quick and intense. Most students will be introduced to this art of pregame during their four or, for the lucky few, five years here in the cultural mecca known as Williamsburg.

Let me just say at the onset — to appease the remaining Puritans at this school who think that consuming more than two drinks in a hour is a mortal sin—that I do not advocate or condone alcohol abuse. For one thing, alcohol is much too precious to be abused. But seriously, drinking in moderation has proven scientific benefits. That's a fact, so next time try telling that to the bouncer who has just confiscated your fake ID.

“Pregaming is a traditional college ritual which typically consists of consuming a significant amount of alcohol in a short period of time...”

Power hours are a mainstay of the proper pregame. Taking one shot of beer every minute for one hour is the normal version of the game, although I have heard rumors of a daring few who have tried substituting various spirits in place of beer. For other drinking games, quick card games like "F*** the Dealer" are preferred over more time intensive games like Kings. There is a sex divide in the pregame drink selection, as mixed drinks are most popular for girls while most guys seem content with the standard issue Natty Ice. Pong is typically excluded for the festivities, due to the time issues

Pregaming Staples

- Power hours
- Quick card games
- Gratuitous amounts of alcohol

in setting up and playing this sport of champions.

The next time you're headed out to Williamsburg's thriving social scenes, take an extra hour beforehand and do a proper pre-game warm-up. As anyone who's 21 can tell you, the delis are an expansive place to begin your night. The most emotional time of the month for me is receiving my monthly bank statements, detailing an constant outflow of my hard earned cash to the well-heeled proprietors of the Green Leafe, Paul's and the College Delly. Without the joys of pregame, seniors and others of age would probably have to start panhandling at the UC patio just to make ends meet. Who would want that?

In accordance with the regulations set forth by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Cheers, Salute!, L'Chaim and Slainte to you (legal) imbibers at William and Mary.

Editor's Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with all local, state and federal law.

Untangling the jurisdiction of local police forces

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

The several police forces at work in Williamsburg are the William and Mary Police Department, the Williamsburg City Police, James City County Police and York County Police. The WMPD has jurisdiction on the College campus and on roads with college property on either side. Since the College campus is located within the City of Williamsburg, it is also within the jurisdiction of the Williamsburg police. It is therefore possible for both the Williamsburg police and WMPD to patrol in the same area.

While James City and York Counties are located close the campus, their police only come to campus when called on for extra support. According to WMPD Chief Don Challis, there is a

mutual aid agreement in place, by which the WMPD can call upon Williamsburg for additional support in emergencies and for preplanned special events. The Williamsburg police may also call upon the James City County and York County police for supplementary backup. Besides these two instances, these two county police forces do not patrol campus.

The WMPD is fully accredited by Virginia and offers all the standard services of a police force, as well as additional services to the College. The variety of programs and services that the department offers includes unlocking rooms on scheduled requests, providing fingerprinting for employment or testing purposes, as well as a host of other programs. WMPD's headquarters is located on Ukrop Way at the parking deck.



Alec McKinley

Protect and serve: WMPD is the most familiar to students but it can call on several other local forces.

Criminal Offenses	2006	Arrests	2006
Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0	Illegal weapons possession	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	Drug law violations	13
Sex offenses - Forcible	2	Liquor law violations	9
Sex offenses - Non-forcible	0		
Robbery	0		
Aggravated assault	0	Disciplinary Actions/ Judicial Referrals	2006
Burglary	10	Illegal weapons possession	0
Motor vehicle theft	0	Drug law violations	5
Arson	0	Liquor law violations	315

Student leader who opposed Nichol has dorm room vandalized

Andrew Blasi, Jr.
Editor in Chief

Joe Luppino-Esposito, editor in chief emeritus of *The Virginia Informer*, the independent campus newspaper at the College of William and Mary, had the front door of his dorm room heavily vandalized early the morning of April 1 between 4:00-4:30AM.

"I thought it was the sound of water running, so I got up to make sure we didn't have a flood on our hands," said Luppino-Esposito, a senior at the College.

Instead, he opened the door and heard someone quickly run away. But Luppino-Esposito could not see who was at his door: it was covered in shaving cream—the can being the source of the mysterious sound—and glitter, and the doorway was blocked with several copies of *The Informer* duct-taped together to form a wall. The issue used included the cover story of Nichol's resignation.

"The message was not lost on me. I know that people on this campus think the newspaper and I are responsible for Gene Nichol quitting, and vandalism is the way they like to express their anger about it," said Luppino-Esposito.



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Vandalism: Joe Luppino-Esposito awoke to find this covering his door.

Immediately following the resignation of Nichol, some of the former President's supporters spray-painted obscene gestures and other messages aimed towards the Board of Visitors on several campus buildings, including the historic Wren Building, the oldest academic building in continuous use in the United States.

"I'm just worried about what will come next for students who dare to speak up and stand up for what they believe in," said Andrew B. Blasi, the newly-named editor in chief of *The Virginia Informer*. Blasi said that the newspaper would be following up on the

story in the coming days. "The sixty members of *The Virginia Informer* and I expect a statement from the university regarding this incident that includes what they plan to do to deter these types of personal attacks against students."

"Year after year the school talks about diversity," said Luppino-Esposito. "But what about intellectual diversity? What about getting some protection for students who, after seeing incidents like this, will be intimidated to exercise their rights?"

It's time for William and Mary to tackle these issues, because they are becoming enormous problems. Conservatives need a safe haven on campus from radical students who want to silence them."

Luppino-Esposito also said that Campus Police responded quickly and were investigating the incident.

"I know I'm not afraid of these cowards, and no one else should be either,"

he said. "I'm just afraid many will be intimidated enough to stay quiet and refuse to question the environment around them, and that's very bad for the future of free speech on this campus."



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Tolerance: Not the first incident where conservative students have been targeted on W&M's campus.

Mary Washington police armed with M4s

Ian Kirkpatrick
Staff Writer

Not long after a Student Assembly referendum found that a majority of William and Mary's students perceive campus police unfavorably, rumors emerged that police at nearby Mary Washington University were buying automatic weapons.

The Informer contacted Mary Washington Police Chief James C. Snipes. He explained that they have recently acquired M4s, the civilian model of the AR-15, within the family of weapons which includes the M16 and other military weapons.

"I've been chief for five years, and I've been asking since the first day," said Mr. Snipes. "It was a question of

funding," he said.

The police force recently "had the option of swapping their old shot guns for new rifles," and did so. They did so in part to synchronized their equipment with local Fredericksburg police.

Mary Washington student Jason Walsh cites this action as an example of "the rampant militarization of our police forces in the country over the past 30 years."

Mr. Walsh quoted Mr. Snipes as saying that the M4 "is a more aggressive looking weapon ... It is a military looking weapon." He asserts this quote is evidence that such weapons serve as a psychological intimidation tactic against citizens, not for safety.

SAT SCORES MISSREPRESENTED: Admissions Office makes editorial error on SAT pie chart

continued from page one

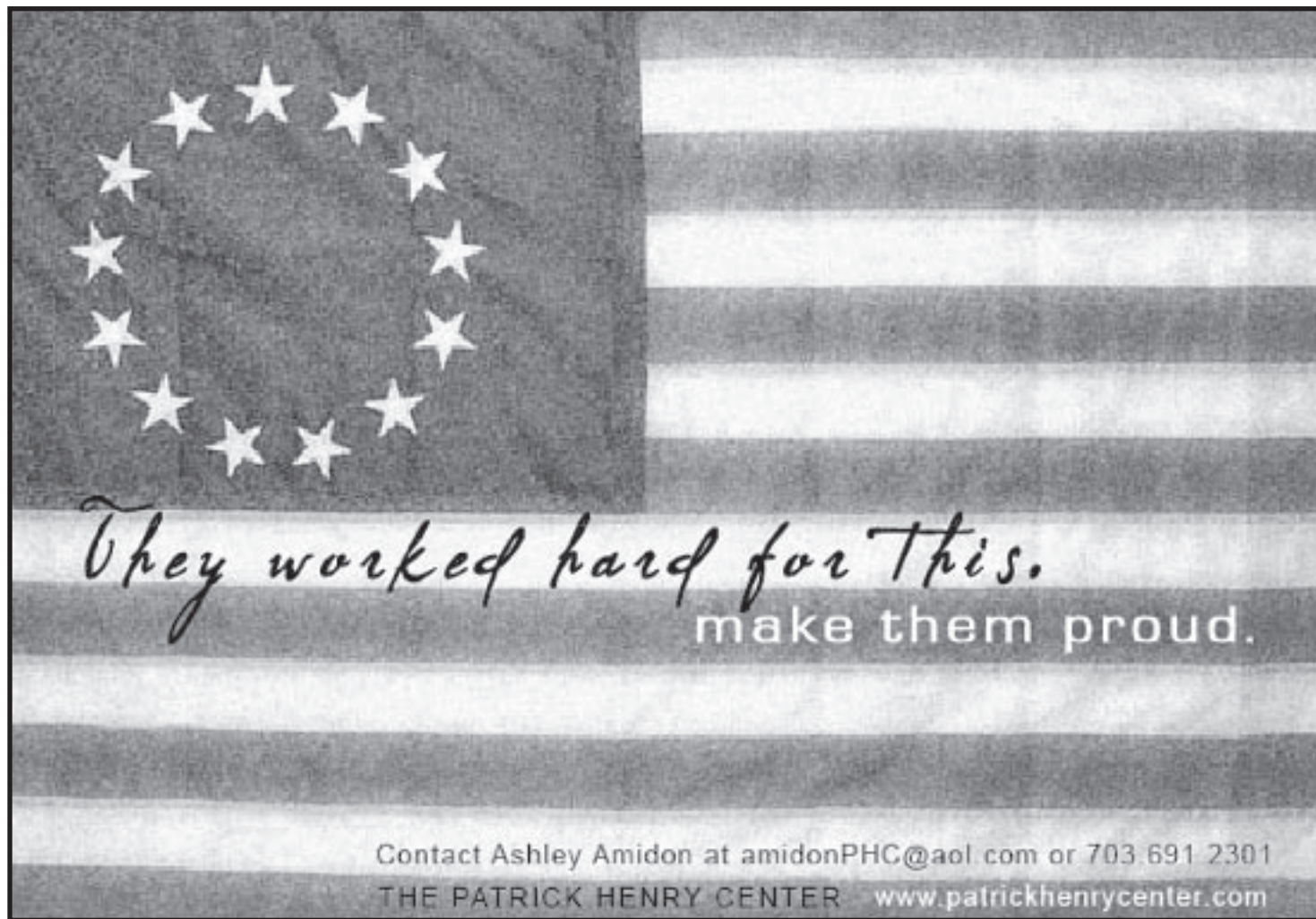
percentages were accurate, but that "the pie chart is not an accurate visual representation of the data."

"This is attributable to a miscommunication and an editorial oversight by which the data was updated, but the graphic was not. Although the graphical error is regrettable, the substance of the information remains accurate," says Mr. Broaddus.

The chart may not have been a convincing indicator to prospective students of the top SAT scores earned by William and Mary students, as the higher ranges were disproportionately small compared to the over-enlarged lower ranges.

According to Mr. Broaddus, the informational booklet containing the SAT pie chart was distributed to approximately 75,000 prospective students last year.

Mr. Broaddus, who recently oversaw another year of record undergraduate applications to the College, notes that a few of the promotional booklets may still be available in the lobby of the new admissions building on Jamestown Road.



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Movie Review:

Run, Fatboy, Run is a comedic surprise for first time director SchwimmerPatrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

Run, Fatboy, Run. At first, I thought it might be a sort of spoof of one of my favorite films, *Run Lola Run*. Although the opening scene was undoubtedly a nod in that direction, the bulk of the film was far from it. That's not to discourage you from seeing the film, but naturally a comedy of this nature usually lacks real substance. This one certainly attempts inject some meaning into the laughs, but the message is often lost in the heavy comedic undertow.

The film follows Dennis (Simon Pegg) and his attempts to win back his ex-fiancée Libby (Thandie Newton), who he left at the altar five years previous. Dennis is an irresponsible man with an unimpressive job, - a security guard at a ladies' lingerie store. After his fiancée meets another man named Whit (Hank Azaria) and begins dating him, Dennis decides to mimic his competition and run a marathon. In the end, it becomes more of a test of his will. The main message of the film - persevere!

Perseverance...is that a novel concept? Of course not; we've seen it several times before in several other films. That is why I say this movie lacks substance; it tells us nothing

new. But, in its defense, I doubt it was ever meant to. Director David Schwimmer is most recognizable for his comedic role in the TV series *Friends*. Although it's been a while since we've seen anything out of him, I can't deny that David Schwimmer's directorial debut is a fair attempt to regain his old reputation. The comedy was incredibly witty, much in the same fashion as *Shaun of the Dead*. Furthermore, the cast consists mostly of Brits, whose dialogue is naturally wittier than most Americans'; I think everything is funnier in a British accent (*The Royle Family*, anyone?).

Lastly, I'd like to comment on Simon Pegg. He's become one of the newly recognized faces for comedies in the US, but I saw something very different from him in this film. Although this film lacked substance, it didn't lack emotion. Mr. Pegg's portrayal of a man that wants to change was funny, of course, but it was also believable. I doubt Mr. Pegg will deviate too far from his comfort zone, but I see a lot of potential in him, and I think we can expect some pretty great things in the years to come.

Run, Fatboy, Run is definitely worth the comedic value for the entrance fee, and it was an overall pleasant film to watch. For this, I give it a B.

Othello reinterprets tragedy as clash between culturesSwetha Sivaram
Staff Writer

In Shakespeare in the Dark's *Othello*, director Mike Mott rendered this version of the Shakespearean play as a collision of cultural misunderstandings that are amassed through false notions of honor shared both by the Christian characters and the Moor, or Muslim character. These misunderstandings and the devious cunning of the master villain Iago doom the two newlyweds, the Muslim Othello and the Christian Desdemona. Rinterpreting the difference between Desdemona and Othello as religious in nature, the play seeks to exhilarate and to thrill. It is a refreshing take on one of the most brilliant tragedies of Shakespeare.

The play opens with a festive wedding featuring Desdemona and Othello dressed in Arab garb and dancing together with their friends to the hymns of Moroccan music.

Othello's cultural distance from his wife sets the stage for a confrontation between Desdemona and the fears of Othello, which Iago exploits with ease. Honor is critical in the play. The loss of honor, specifically the loss of one's reputation, drives both

the Moor and Christian characters to tragic overreaction.

The props were minimal but had a good impact on the audience. The use of Moroccan music and of Othello's knife, exquisitely curved in the Oriental style, enhanced the experience of viewing this play. The lighting was quite soft on the eyes. The costumes were used to full effect, but were not cumbersome or over elaborate.

The acting was enjoyable and pleasant. The character of Iago, played by Zan Gilles, is portrayed not only as an insidious, but also as a humorous and disgruntled subordinate. His manipulation and motives are somewhat shadowed by his dark humor. When he says, "Hell and night / Must bring this monstrous birth to the world's light," as he plots his schemes, there is a feeling of foreboding in one's veins. Alex Kyrios as Roderigo, constantly challenged and half-blinded by his lust for Desdemona, plays up his sense of humor, eliciting laughter and bringing tears to the eyes of his audience. Desdemona and Othello, played respectively by Molly Marie Fitzhugh and Rolfe Shiflett, were quite authentic to their characters.



Lan R. Whiteside
Othello: The Shakespearean drama was reset in religious terms.

Gym Class Heroes show brings eclectic music to MatoakaBrian O'Donnell
Staff Writer

Most William and Mary students would probably be studying on a Wednesday night, but when UCAB's spring concert event featuring Gym Class Heroes arrived last week, school books were cast aside. Many students may only know them through their hit single "Cupid's Chokehold" from last summer, but the group displayed its diverse musical talents on April 2 at Lake Matoaka.

Opening first was Tyga, a young rapper and cousin of Gym Class Heroes singer Travis McCoy who remixed Plain White T's summer hit "Hey There Delilah" into his own hip-hop beat. Kidz in the Hall, a lyrical rap/DJ duo who met each other at the University of Pennsylvania, followed suit with another high-energy performance. They were backed by Tim William, a mohawked keyboardist and singer with 80s musical influences. To the delight of the crowd, William broke out his Keytar, a guitar and keyboard hybrid. Next was I Am The Avalanche, a head-banging, black-clad punk band from Brooklyn who sent some in the audience into a moshing frenzy.

The variety of styles fittingly set the stage for the headliner's unique blend of alternative rap, rock and pop hooks. The show stumbled to a start when Mr. McCoy mistakenly greeted the crowd with, "What's good West Virginia?!" but then he smoothly corrected himself and the band picked up with "Shoot Down the Stars."



Courtesy Photo

Gym Class Heroes: Popular band performed hit single "Cupid's Chokehold", among others to the College.

Highlights included "Peace Sign," a new song from the band's upcoming album during which audience members were encouraged to give alternating hand gestures. During "Clothes Off!," a cover of a 1986 Jermaine Stewart song, the crowd enthusiastically threw various articles of clothing on stage to donate to Goodwill. Of course, the radio-friendly smash hit "Cupid's Chokehold" was also featured.

The encore was "New Friend Request," a song in which Mr. McCoy ponders his experience with confusing online relationships on MySpace. He surprised the audience by secretly walking to the middle of the amphitheater. Surrounded by fans, he performed the impressive finale to a show that only disappointed those who expected a typical MTV pop band.

Briefly... Top upcoming eventsMegan Locke
Arts & Culture Editor**TOPDOG/underdog April 10-12, 8 pm, PBK Studio Theatre**

WMT Second Season and IPAX are jointly presenting *TOPDOG/underdog* from April 10-12 in the PBK Studio Theatre. Directed by Francis Tanglao-Aguas, this dark comedy tells the story of two brothers named Lincoln and Booth. The siblings must face the ghosts of their past in order to confront a bleak future filled with poverty and racism. Showtimes are 8pm on April 10, 11, and 12. There is also a matinee on April 12 at 2pm. Tickets are \$5.

Dance Minors Concert April 11-12, 8 pm, Adair Studio

Choreography by students who minor in dance or are completing an interdisciplinary performance studies major will be featured in concerts on April 11 and 12 at 8pm in Adair Studio. No admission fee is required. Please call 757-221-2785 for more information.

Mother Courage and Her Children April 17-20, 8 pm, PBK Hall

William and Mary Theatre will be staging *Mother Courage and Her Children* on April 17-19 at 8pm and April 20 at 2pm in PBK Hall. Written by Bertolt Brecht in 1939 to counter the rise of Fascism and Nazism, the play tells the story of a woman who profits from the devastation wrecked by war. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for general admission. They can be purchased at the PBK box office or online at <<http://wm.tix.com/Schedule.asp?OrganizationNumber=1690>>.

Screen on the Green April 20, 8 pm, Sunken Gardens

UCAB will be showing the feature films *Juno* and *Cloverfield* in the Sunken Gardens on April 20 starting at 8pm. *Juno* is a comedy-drama about a teenager who faces an unexpected pregnancy. The movie was the surprise indie smash hit of last fall. *Cloverfield* is horror film in which five young New Yorkers must confront a monster that terrorizes the city. This event is free.



Blake Lucas

College Cooks: Students of any level of cooking proficiency are welcome to join the new Culinary Club.

Get your taste buds tingling with the Culinary Club

Megan Locke
Arts and Culture Editor

Devotees of the Food Network and students who are simply sick of Caf food can sink their teeth into this: a new Culinary Club is starting up at the College. Co-founders Justine di Giovanni ('11) and Isabelle Thibau ('11) are both eager to share their love of cooking and their secrets to avoiding bad college food.

Living on a meal plan during their freshmen year made both Ms. di Giovanni and Ms. Thibau realize how much they missed home-cooked meals and whipping up their own culinary creations. For Ms. Thibau, "cooking isn't just about preparing foods, it's also about learning different cuisines, being artistic, understanding basic chemistry and just exploring gastronomy in general." Since learning about foods is very important to her, Ms. Thibau believes that others at the College are probably interested in exploring cooking as well. She approached Ms. di Giovanni about starting a culinary club, who happily agreed to help her.

The club welcomes cooks at all levels of skill and experience. "I believe with a little instruction anyone can learn most of the fundamental cooking elements, and a really experienced cook won't suffer from reviewing the basics from time to time either," said Ms. di Giovanni. Much of the focus will be on food that can be prepared in a dorm kitchen, which should appeal to a wide range of students. Over time, Ms. di Giovanni and Ms. Thibau plan to adjust the Culinary Club's activities to fit the needs and goals of its members. As Ms. Thibau reiterated, "This club is geared simply to anyone who appreciates food and wants to know more."

She is excited to introduce dishes from many different types of cuisines to club members. She has created several recipes that she plans to prepare during future club meetings. All of her recipes will be easy to make, in light of the limited resources and space that most college students have to work with. "One of my favorites for summer is a simplified salade nicoise that is easy, appetizing, and healthy," she said.

Ms. di Giovanni's specialty is comfort food. "I make a really simple chicken alfredo pasta dish that I presented at Dorm Cooking 101 earlier this semester," she said, "and it's probably your whole calorie allotment for the day right there, but it's definitely worth it." She also loves using fresh, natural ingredients in her cooking.

The club held an interest meeting on March 31 to discuss plans for next semester, when club activities will be in full swing. At the moment, the club is hoping to meet on late Monday afternoons in the French House's kitchen. Ms. Thibau and Ms. di Giovanni also discussed possible special club activities, such as holding potlucks, putting on demonstrations for the campus, hosting guest speakers, taking field trips to local restaurants and touring the inner workings of the College's dining services.

Ms. Thibau encourages anyone who loves food to check out the Culinary Club. "There's something about making your own meal or a meal for others that is extremely satisfying. I know what's in it and I know it took a lot of skill and art to make it," she said. Students who want to be on the listserv to receive more news about the Culinary Club should email Ms. di Giovanni at jadigiovanni@wm.edu.

The Finer Side:

What your wardrobe says about you: Part II

Last issue I discussed how what you wear around campus says something about you before you even open your mouth. This issue, I'm addressing an even more important issue: what your wardrobe says about you at an interview.

Summer internship interviews are beginning to take place and seniors are just finishing their job searches for after graduation. Either way, this is undeniably a crucial time in many students' lives, and what you wear had better reflect that. Many professionals have commented that our generation acts and looks entitled; young professionals forget that they have to climb the ladder in order to get to the top. The easiest and most important way to overcome that sentiment is to act and dress appropriately for your interview! There are a few simple things you can do to reinforce the idea that you are the best person for the job.

First off, make sure to dress conservatively. That means NO short skirts, NO loud colors, NO loud makeup, and NO wrinkles whatsoever. Ladies, skirts must

fall below the knee. Put on the stockings if you have to. Also, take off the thick black eyeliner, and go



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

light on the lipstick; for those of you who don't wear makeup, put on some mascara and blush. A tiny bit of makeup never hurt anyone. Keep the jewelry to a minimum. Break out the pearls, and put the chains away. Show your potential employer that you know what "appropriate" is. Find a signature color and stick to it. No matter how much you love to interview, you will be nervous. One way to calm your nerves is to know you look good. If your favorite color is pink, wear a blouse with pink in it under your black suit.

Gentlemen, learn how to use an iron—it's not that hard. You don't always have to have on a matching suit. Many times, employers actually think it looks more pretentious for young graduates to interview in a matching suit. This is a judgment call you will have to make depending on the type of place you are interviewing with. It might be more appropriate to wear just a nice jacket over your pants instead of a matched suit.

No matter what your gender is, NO STAINS. EVER. Tide is currently running a commercial where a man goes into an interview with a stain on his shirt and the stain starts yelling louder than the man is talking. This is completely true: if you have any type of stain on your shirt or jacket, this will say more than anything that comes out of your mouth.

Bottom line: show your employer that you put time and thought into your outfit, and by extension, that you value both their time and the job or internship for which you are applying. The message you are trying to convey is "I am competent, I am the person you want, I will give back to this company and carry my weight and I understand that I am here to learn." Your outfit should radiate respect and humility; if you make your potential employer feel that you are competent and also show that you don't already think you know everything about everything, you can be guaranteed they will definitely think more highly of you.

Questions or comments for Jennifer? Email her at editor@VAInformer.com!

Aberdeen Barn offers country class

Matt Pinsker
Food Critic

Many students recognize Aberdeen Barn as a strong supporter of Tribe Athletics, but have never had a meal there. Its food and service is right up there with the best of Williamsburg, however it is much more reasonably priced.

A very pleasant smell came from the restaurant as I approached it from my car. The exterior has the rough appearance of a barn, but inside I found a clean, wooden interior with barn tools and pictures on the walls. The restaurant was softly lit by lights on wagon wheel chandelier hanging from the rafters.

I was politely greeted and seated by the hosts. I found the chair to be extraordinarily comfortable and the wooden table to be very well polished.

A basket of thick pretzel sticks with soft cheddar cheese for dipping were put out for me to snack on while I looked over the menu. I started out with the French onion soup (\$4.75) and did not have to wait long at all before a very hot and good sized

crock of soup came out, complete with melted cheese on the surface and crouton underneath. It was a pleasant change getting French onion that was not over-salted or had too many onions.

Being at a steakhouse, I naturally ordered the top sirloin (\$19.95) as my entrée. It came with a house salad and my choice of a side; I chose wild rice. The house salad was absolutely superb. Normally a salad is nothing to get excited about, but this one was

very fresh, well-arranged and served at the perfect temperature. Shortly after I finished my salad my steak and rice came out, along with a couple rolls.

When I first saw the steak I was disappointed by the size, but as I cut into it I realized just how thick it was and doubted whether I would be able to finish it. The sirloin was tender, thick and juicy, and was cooked to perfection. The seasoning on top was also fantastic. My rice was very pleasant, and the rolls were nice and soft.

Somehow I managed to eat everything, and was still interested in dessert. I selected the Mother Lode (\$4.95), a hot brownie covered with ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate syrup and a cherry. It was delicious and I savored every bite.

My entire meal at the Aberdeen Barn was very comfortable and relaxing. My server Jean did an excellent job. Her timing was absolutely perfect on bringing out the dishes. A pet peeve of mine is when you're still working on a dish and another is brought out, but this did not happen once. There was always a few minutes

between each part of my five-course meal. She was very attentive without being overbearing, and had a clear knowledge of menu items. I could not have asked for a better waiter. My meal came to \$32.61 (not including tip) and it was worth every penny. I can recommend the Aberdeen Barn highly for almost any occasion, whether it be a date, a relaxing evening or a birthday celebration.



Matt Pinsker

Steak barn: Aberdeen Barn offers excellent food for a reasonable price set in a old-country, quiet atmosphere.

Book Review:

Besançon recounts Nazism and communism ideologies

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

A Century of Horrors: Communism, Nazism, and the Uniqueness of the Shoah, written by Alain Besançon and translated from French by Ralph Hancock and Nathaniel Hancock, recounts two great horrors of the 20th century and the differences in how each is remembered. According to Mr. Besançon, the world properly recalls the horrors of Nazism with revulsion, but sees communism as a good idea gone awry. The logic of both systems inevitably leads to mass murder; however, the victims of the Holocaust and the shock involved in exposing the whole Nazi system forced the

world to realize the evil of Nazism. In contrast, communism managed a far quieter and more secretive method of mass killing and destruction.

Mr. Besançon focuses upon the theological and political effects and origins of Nazism and communism. While both remain strong socialist and atheist ideologies, theological elements of each do exist in heretical forms of Christianity, such as Gnosticism, Marcionism and millenarianism.

Unfortunately, Mr. Besançon operates from a strange definition of ideology. "By this term I mean a doctrine, in exchange for conversion, promises a temporal salvation that claims to conform to a cosmic order whose evolution has been scientifically deciphered and requires a political practice aimed at radically transforming society," he writes. Such a long and difficult definition operates in contrast to the usual notion of an ideology as a holistic philosophy covering all or most aspects of life, including the moral, political and economic. However, Mr. Besançon's definition of ideology comports with the attempt of many intellectuals of the 1950s (and even today) to blame the mass destruction of the 20th century on the concept of theory. Ideology is not in itself to blame, but rather the fault lies with the kind of ideology that resulted from the collectivist philosophies of fascism and communism.

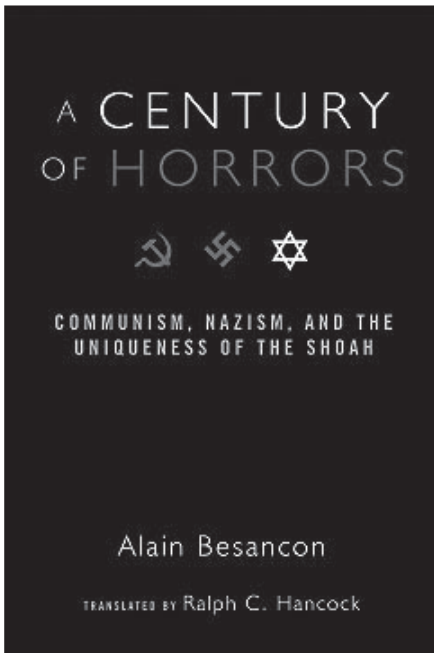
Mr. Besançon characterizes the two political schemes as "heterozygote twins." He touches upon the moral, political and theological corruption

A Century of Horrors: Communism, Nazism, and the Uniqueness of the Shoah

Author: Alain Besançon
Pages: 300
Publisher: ISI Books
ISBN: 1933859180
List Price: \$18.00

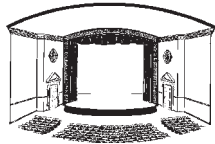
that occur in each regime. In the end, he regards communism as the worst evil, since it is far more insidious and tends to corrupt more thoroughly. It also has more widespread support due to its somewhat universalist message (although to qualify, communism really only preaches salvation for the prologue, even though everyone thinks that they can attain such status). The rest of the book attempts to help the reader understand just how these horrors managed to thrive among otherwise normal people.

Well-written, well-argued and well-thought, *A Century of Horrors* offers several points of consideration for any topic concerning Nazism, communism and the Holocaust. Mr. Besançon's book suffers at points from his apparently limited knowledge of economics and his philosophic bent away from theoretical understanding. However, in the better parts of his book, he becomes a fantastic philosopher and social analyst.



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Wed., Apr. 16 at 8 p.m.
General admission \$8, Seniors/Students \$5

April Schedule

Movies

The Orphanage (R)

Fri., Mar. 28-Wed., Apr. 2
7 and 9:10 p.m.
Mar. 28-Apr. 1 screening room (35 seats)

Persepolis (PG-13)

Wed., Apr. 2-Fri., Apr. 11
6, 7:45 and 9:30 p.m.
Apr. 2-10 screening room (35 seats)

Bamako Not rated

Sun., Apr. 6 at 7 p.m.

Indigenes (R)

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

The Savages (R)

Sat., Apr. 12-Sun., Apr. 20
6:30 and 8:45 p.m.
Apr. 12-14, 16-18 screening room (35 seats)

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (PG-13)

Fri., Apr. 18-Wed., Apr. 23
6:45 and 9 p.m.
Apr. 19-22 screening room (35 seats)

4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days Not rated

Tues., Apr. 22-Sun., Apr. 27
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
Apr. 23-25, 27 screening room (35 seats)

Beaufort Not rated

Fri., Apr. 25-Wed., Apr. 30
6:15 and 8:45 p.m.
Apr. 26, 28-29 screening room (35 seats)

Grace is Gone (PG-13)

Tues., Apr. 29-Sun., May 4
7 and 9 p.m.
Apr. 30, May 1-2, 4 screening room (35 seats)

Staff Editorial:

Enough is enough

College community must take action against streak of crimes

William and Mary has long been known as a relatively safe place. Further, it purports to be a tolerant and welcoming institution. However, over the past few years and particularly the past few weeks a number of outrages have taken place that call this perception into question. *The Virginia Informer* urges our college community to objectively evaluate the following instances in a very serious manner before relying on this status quo mentality. In February 2006, a female student was physically assaulted while participating in a Students for Life sponsored event. Exercising her right to distribute literature that denounced abortions, she was intentionally struck in the face by an unknown individual. While it is easy to condemn such a crime, regardless of one's personal views, it takes more than words to rectify the situation. To date, the assailant has not been caught.

In February 2008, a group of unidentified students spray painted obscenities on a number of our College's structures, including the historic Wren building. Costing over \$500 in repairs, drawing a number of questions from prospective students and creating more unnecessary bad press for the College, this behavior is not becoming of students at a "public ivy." It has been almost two months since this crime was committed. To date, the vandals have not been caught.

Just last week, on April 1, this streak of cowardly acts hit home for our organization. Editor in Chief Emeritus of *The Virginia Informer* Joe Luppino-Esposito was the target of a late night strike against his dorm room. While this event was well reported in the campus and local press, little has been done to address the crime.

Have we now arrived at the point where the College community has become

accustomed to these misdeeds?

It appears that the College community does not understand that tolerance is intended for and required of all people on all ends of the political spectrum. There is no doubt that had these types of incidents been carried out against a student or an organization that *did* conform to the majority opinion on campus, the response would be markedly different. Liberal tolerance is not a one way street in theory, but it is another story in practice.

We have gone through many task forces, committees, focus groups and a Bias Reporting System to address issues of *perceived* discrimination. Yet there have been no roundtable discussions, debates or studies on how to stave off these attacks of *actual* discrimination against groups and individuals for their beliefs and actions. The hypocrisy is apparent in the response, or lack thereof.

There is a chilling effect on free speech at William and Mary when students may fear retribution for speaking up and speaking out. We need to return to a civil discourse and abandon fists, spray paint and shaving cream.

These acts are not funny. They are criminal.

Students need to be aware of these situations and aggressively and actively condemn them. As a community, we need to discourage others that may think that this form of behavior is acceptable.

Furthermore, *The Informer* demands a statement from the College regarding the most recent incident that includes a plan for deterring these types of personal attacks against students and organizations.

The College's history proves that we are above such acts of intolerance. It is time that the William and Mary community stands up and says that enough is enough.

“It appears that the College community does not understand that tolerance is intended for and required of all people on all ends of the political spectrum.”



“The College considers bias incidents unacceptable and contrary to our commitment to a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community.”

- Bias Incident Reporting System

David Clifford

Rethinking the athletics fee



Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

Recent events have shown that William and Mary students can get excited about athletics. The buzz at the College was incredible when the men's basketball team made their run to the CAA championship game earlier this year and when the football team reached the Division I-AA national semifinals in 2004.

Nevertheless, these flashes of athletic success have come at a price. As reported in this issue of *The Virginia Informer*, every student, regardless of whether they are from in-state or out-of-state, pay \$1,153 a year in athletic fees. This fee is nearly five times as much as Virginia Tech's fee and nearly double the fee at UVA—two schools that have perennially strong basketball and football programs. If the athletics department decides that it can use this exorbitant fee to make our basketball and football team contenders year after year instead of cinderella teams once every several years, then they should try to do so. The hints of student enthusiasm that the school has seen so far when our teams are competitive show that the student body can be enthusiastic when our teams are of a high-quality, and support for winning teams is certainly an asset to the school.

However, it is very doubtful that our football and basketball teams can be successful on an annual basis. As such, most of the \$1,153 athletics fee could be much better

spent at the school. Since William and Mary has already been hit with a \$3 million budget cut from the state as well as the withdrawal of a \$12 million donation - and must continue to fund new initiatives like Gateway Program - any source of funds is vital to the health of the College. Additionally, when William and Mary's football and basketball teams are not successful, student attendance at these games is sparse at best. Therefore, most of the students do not receive much, if any, personal benefit from their astronomical fee.

One way to lower the athletic fee would be for William and Mary to move down from Division I to Division III. In doing so, we would save money by not being allowed to give out sports scholarships. The money saved on scholarships could be rerouted to fund academic or merit scholarships. Also, since Division III is weaker than Division I, the College could be competitive in a number of sports without needing to increase talent.

Some may contend that having well-funded teams helps the college receive donations. This may be true, but most of these donations do not benefit the College as a whole, and instead go towards the athletics department, thus only benefiting the sports teams themselves. The most glaring example of this is the recent construction of the \$12 million Laycock Football Center.

If the William and Mary athletics department cannot make better use of the \$1,153 athletics fee, then the school should put it to better use by improving the school or even giving it back to the students through

Thank you from all of us at *The Virginia Informer*

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Saying what you believe at William & Mary

The right to speak freely - at your own risk



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

"Far be it that anyone truly think differently."

I uttered these words out loud in front of the University Center on February 13, the day after former College President Gene Nichol resigned. Before you roll your eyes and let out a sigh in anticipation of this being another anti-Nichol *Informer* piece, rest easy: we have all moved on to frying larger fish.

Apparently on this campus, though, such a statement can cause a tenured professor to take near physical action against an undergraduate student. Modern languages Professor Bruce Campbell, busily engaged in accosting other *Informer* staffers for their lack of "decency," overheard my comment. This prompted him to rush over, shove his index finger in my face and loudly shout "You know what...!"

In reminding Mr. Campbell of his problems with depth perception and other general distance issues, the situation quickly diffused. Nevertheless, it serves to illustrate the fragile condition of the College's intellectual atmosphere. After all, what prominent member of a liberal arts institution, ostensibly possessing a sound mind, would actually engage in such behavior, all in a reaction to mere words?

It is interesting how those who are to act as the guardians of "openness" at the College, professors, have been shown to contribute in small and great ways toward subverting truly open thought. In a very prominent way, we recently saw many of our professors fail to teach, often in a blatant disregard for those students who held a divergent opinion on the matter of Mr. Nichol's resignation and non-renewal. Free thought is hindered in smaller ways too, as when course readings and assignments incorporate only certain worldviews.

It would seem that there is an insidious aspect to the call for the supremacy of diversity at the William and Mary. If, despite all of our external differences, we ultimately end up thinking alike, having an internal sameness after all our time here, I would argue that we have been greatly failed in our liberal arts education.

At the College, the vigorous exchange of thought is also hindered by those students who are too timid to place their views out into the marketplace of ideas, possibly for fear of being described by a standard collection of meaningless labels. I must admit to being susceptible to this form of self-repression at times, holding my tongue in conversation and in the classroom. However, this should not be so in a free society, let alone in the university setting, as the outcome is an unhealthy one.

My challenge is to the latent element of independent thinkers on the campus of William and Mary: dive into the intellectual dialogue and butt heads in debate if necessary, even if you and others are made to feel uncomfortable. Rather, this is likely an indication that you are effectively voicing your ideas.

Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee that speaking up on this campus will not lead to adverse repercussions. This past Tuesday, April 1, Editor in Chief Emeritus of *The Virginia Informer* Joe Luppino-Esposito's ('08) campus dorm was vandalized in a clear signal against activism conducted outside of the mainstream. Mr. Luppino-Esposito had his door covered with shaving cream and old newspaper issues in this act.

Ironically, some individuals have called for Mr. Luppino-Esposito to "grow a pair," preferring to look on this crime as a mere prank. This assertion is absurd, as the incident will clearly have a lasting effect on the extent to which students feel safe in voicing their opinion on campus.

I urge students to act in the manner opposite to this effect. Regardless of professors or peers, we should be thinking differently.

Greek girls getting what they deserve



Sarah Nadler
Staff Writer

Students of William and Mary, it is Greek philanthropy season. While I'm sure that many of you are overjoyed that your Facebook inboxes are overflowing with invites to all-you-can-eat extravaganzas, sports tournaments and performances, I would like to take the opportunity to address a larger issue: the state of the sorority system at William and Mary. I would also like to provide some suggestions for future Greek community service events.

The student body places a considerable amount of blame on female Greek organizations for promoting drinking, inappropriate conduct, and cliquishness. While I will not deny these are problems present within the Greek community, I do feel that a large degree of blame should rest with those individuals who exhibit these negative characteristics, particularly while at public philanthropic events. A prime example that revealed these trends in the Greek community was last month's Derby Days philanthropy hosted by the fraternity Sigma Chi.

After the Inter-Sorority Council (ISC) discovered that 75.2 percent of respondents either agreed or somewhat agreed that the environment of Derby Days encourages inappropriate behavior, changes were made to make this year's event more successful. For example, the lip-syncing performance was held in the public venue of Lodge One. Nevertheless, bountiful alcohol consumption still took place. This, however, was not because Sigma Chi or any sorority forced their girls to drink, instead because several individuals chose to drink at or before the event.

Similarly, while some sororities had classically trained dancers perform at the lip sync competition, other sororities tried to be comical. These performances were refreshing, being that last year 68.2 percent of the women polled said that they either somewhat agreed or agreed that Derby Days actions were degrading toward women. That being said, it is funny that some sororities took it upon themselves to dance in a provocative manner, including skimpy apparel and sexual dance moves. The dance acts themselves were decided upon by each sorority, just as I think they should be. If a sorority chooses to represent itself in a certain way, it deserves the judgments that come along as a result of their actions.

What is unfair, however, is when sororities accrue reputations for drinking and acting promiscuously and then complain that such judgments are unwarranted. My advice for such organizations is to clean up their acts at public events, such as this spring's philanthropies. Philanthropies are meant to include the whole campus and give back to a good cause, so perhaps if sororities wish to be rid of certain stigmas they should reevaluate how they represent their organizations at campus wide events. After all, in the end it is the College that many people are sure to be watching and judging.

Another major complaint about sororities at William and Mary is that a palpable cattiness exists between organizations. Sure, during rush everyone tells you they have friends in each campus sorority, but let's be realistic here: certain rivalries do exist. A recent instance of this was when catty remarks were made in one sorority's Derby Days skit about individuals in another sorority. This occurred despite ISC regulations

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If William and Mary sororities want to lose their reputation for exclusivity, they should start by not mocking each other publicly.

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that prohibited such behavior. While I will not name those guilty of this Greek *faux pas*, the organization dropped out before the ISC could file a complaint and remove them from the competition. If William and Mary sororities want to lose their reputation for exclusivity, they should start by not mocking each other publicly. Such actions reflect badly on the entire Greek system at our school, discourage girls from rushing, and cultivate a hostile environment instead of promoting a fun and helpful atmosphere.

If sororities want more respect on campus, it is time they take responsibility for their actions. If you say you do not want an inappropriate environment, as 75 percent of sorority girls did, then don't make it one! Save the drinking, sexy dancing and cat fighting for after the philanthropic, pan-Hellenic and campus-wide events. Greek organizations should be about fun. When it comes to representing your organization in front of the William and Mary community I am forced to quote Ron Burgundy: "Stay classy."

Greek life at William and Mary is what its members make it. Though it is your choice to act however you please, know that your organization and the entire Greek system at William and Mary will be judged based on what you do.

Editor's Note: Sarah Nadler is a member of Chi Omega. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the whole sorority.

Campus firearm bans: when to consider a removal



Bryan Alphin
Staff Writer

As we approach the first anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings, the American people contemplate the Second Amendment in today's world. Questions arise over the constitutionality of denying citizens their right to bear arms on college campuses. Simply put—any government violation of a citizen's right to keep and bear arms is unconstitutional. However, even though such a ban has no grounds, does it make sense to have students who

are arguably surrounded by the influences of alcohol and high levels of stress possess firearms on campus?

Certainly not. I am a life member of the National Rifle Association, the oldest lobby group and constitutional advocate in the country. I trust the organization's commitment to constitutional protection (unlike the ACLU's clear rejection of this and other rights, such as the freedom of religious expression in government places, among other things. But that is neither here nor there).

I do, however, want to state that the blanket insistence upon "gun rights" for anyone at any place is not reasonable and is not safe. Our founding fathers made sure that the right to

keep and bear arms was fixed in the Bill of Rights because they knew it would be the only forceful means for citizens to defend their liberties. Providing that students reside in an environment where liberties of speech and democratic thought are not threatened—where security is ensured—I see no reason for a student to possess a firearm on a college campus. If these rights to liberty are no longer ensured on the college campus though, the converse regarding student firearm possession becomes true. When students can no longer engage in the free expression of their basic constitutional rights, then a discussion on removing the ban would become an entirely appropriate one.



Joe Luppino-Esposito

On the trail: Candidate Matt Beato ('09) hopes to impress voters with his plan.

Williamsburg City Council candidates set to square off in the Wren Great Hall

Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.
Editor in Chief

The six candidates for Williamsburg City Council will be participating in the "Student Issues" City Council debate sponsored by the Student Assembly tomorrow, April 10, in the Wren Building's Great Hall at 8:00 p.m. Among the candidates are a current student, Matt Beato and Professor Clyde Haulman.

In an e-mail to campus media, former President Zach Pilchen said "Not only is this the first debate of its kind in City history, but with 1,000+ students registered to vote in Williamsburg (and

hundreds more registering before the April 7th deadline), this election cycle is the first in which local politicians must consider the interests of William and Mary students as part of the electoral process." Mr. Pilchen added that some of the questions posed to the candidates will include the three person to a house rule, transportation issues and town-gown relations.

All six candidates plan to attend. Along with Mr. Beato and Mr. Haulman, an incumbent, other candidates include incumbent Paul Freiling and challengers Terence Wehle, Judy Knudson and former Mayor Gil Granger.

President Hopkins hopes to continue success, her way

Nick Fitzgerald
Editor in Chief, *Virginia Informer Online*

After the recent win in the Student Assembly General Elections by incumbents Valerie Hopkins and Zach Pilchen, *The Virginia Informer* was able to obtain an exclusive interview. President-elect Valerie Hopkins corresponded with *The Informer* to discuss her goals for the coming year.

Virginia Informer (VAI): What are your general goals for the 2008-2009 academic year?

Valerie Hopkins (VH): This past year we tried incredibly hard to make the SA more accessible and relevant to students. In the coming year, we will use our position to continue student empowerment as our main goal. We envision Student Empowerment on many levels: within the SA by expanding our executive branch, within the larger student body by increasing accessibility and accountability, expanding the student role in the Presidential Search Process, the Commencement speaker selection process, and more.

Student Empowerment takes on another guise in the form of working on our extended orientation program to encourage students to discuss taboo topics such as consent and the role of alcohol in sexual encounters.

We will work to continue Student Empowerment within the City of Williamsburg. We want to continue the ethic of voter registration during freshman orientation. We are currently working on creating an Alliance for Off Campus students similar to RHA so that they can collectively discuss issues of mutual interest and deliberate over solutions. We also plan to continue to harness the engagement and the interest that members of the community felt in the wake of President Nichol's resignation so that they are aware how decisions that affect them are made. It is very important to me that students take ownership of their college experience and invest themselves in the place that is giving them so much. This will take the form of increased student-BOV interactions, and more.

VAI: What has been your and the Student Assembly's general role in student voter registration over the past few weeks?

Hopkins: As soon as we learned over the summer that students regained the right to vote after being systematically disenfranchised for far too long, Zach and I and members of the Executive and Senate Public Affairs committee began brainstorming ways to make sure that every student knew that the draconian anti-student policy had been changed, and give them an

opportunity to register if they wished. I am very proud of the high number of students, especially freshmen, who have committed to having a voice in this community, and I hope that voter registration continues to be an SA initiative long after my term as President expires. In the past few weeks, we have certainly been making a final push to inform students of their opportunity to change Williamsburg history. We've had a registration station at the Daily Grind, and offered to come to people to do personal registration. Right now, however, we've begun to shift our energy into educating voters about all of the candidates. We sent all of them

candidate questionnaires, which we will compile, publish and distribute to all of the registered voters in our community. We will be hosting the first on-campus debate for City Council on April 10 at 8pm in the Wren Building. The debate will also be recorded, put on YouTube, and disseminated.

VAI: Do you think Matt Beato will win a council seat? If he does, how do you think the town will react, and what

effect do you think his win will have on town-gown relations?

VH: I don't want to make any prophesies about the election, but I am positive that due to the high profile nature of this election, if Beato does win, it will have to be because the town, not only the student body, also supports him. In that regard, I think many year-round residents will be pleased to elect him. Beato's platform is for One Williamsburg, and he has promised that if he is elected, he will work for ALL of his constituents, regardless of age or duration of residency in Williamsburg. His position as a student and a member of the Student Assembly gives him a unique opportunity to liase effectively with members of the student body and members of the Council and city staff, so in that regard I can only imagine that we would see wider, more open town-gown communication.

VAI: Skeptics have claimed that a Hopkins/ Pilchen administration is nothing more than a co-presidency, despite the fact that you each have certain specific administrative roles. How do you respond?

VH: It continues to perplex me that a lot people have been so taken aback by our switch—for us it has always seemed like a natural progression; a physical manifestation of everything we stand for, and of how we approach our office. We've both had very fulfilling years in our positions, but we both feel ready to do something just a little bit different. For Zach, this means returning to his roots in the Senate as the presiding officer, and for me, this means representing the students during BOV meetings instead of watching from the side.

Additionally, I would challenge the pejorative use of the word co-presidency. Beginning with our first campaign last year, Zach and I have approached our relationship as equals, eschewing titles in favor of partnership and of producing the best possible outcome. We often bring differing opinions to the table, and it is in discussion and formulation that we come up with the most optimal ideas and solutions. Although it may be a break from years past, it is how we have found the most successful partnership.

The dynamic of equality that we espouse should not be mistakenly interpreted to mean that I am foreshadowing "one more year of the same," or that I intend to do everything the way that Zach did it. Zach and I are certainly different, and the coming year will undoubtedly bring challenges different from the ones we can now foresee, just as this year did.



Joe Luppino-Esposito

A change at the top: After a year of serving as president, Zach Pilchen ('09) must now look to Valerie Hopkins ('09) to lead the Student Assembly.