

Volume 3
Issue 12
April 23, 2008
Established 2005

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

www.VAInformer.com

An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.
The common sense paper of record on campus.

Free speech advocate proposes significant changes to College's code Hopes to turn W&M into a "Green Light" university

Jennifer Souers
Business Editor

Braum Katz ('10), Student Assembly Undersecretary of Student Rights for Free Speech Advocacy, is actively trying to protect First Amendment Rights at William and Mary by turning the College from a "Red Light" into a "Green Light" university. A very prestigious designation awarded by FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education), a green light denotes campus policies regarding freedom of speech that are in accordance with the Constitution, Supreme Court decisions and other laws. "We have a very 'free speech friendly' administration; I'm just trying to take away any potential for abuse," Mr. Katz said. Readers of *The Informer* may be well aware of these circumstances as first reported in our March issue.

With the support of the Student Assembly and *The Virginia Informer*, Mr. Katz has now presented four proposals to the administration which, if approved, would turn William and Mary into a "Green Light" university. These proposals deal with what legally constitutes harassment, discriminatory language and the right to distribute materials. "People have the right not to be harassed," Mr. Katz says, "but we need to use the legal definition of harassment and not overstep our bounds." Mr. Katz's most pressing provision is one that addresses the time, place and manner restrictions for distributing materials that are currently listed in the Student Handbook. Currently the handbook states that "requests for demonstrations, rallies, vigils, and distribution of materials must be made in writing to the Office of Student Activities at least 48 hours in advance of the event with specific location... The College reserves the right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions upon such expressions" (Student Handbook, pg. 62-63).

Mr. Katz does not disagree with these conditions, so long as they are fair. "I understand and support reasonable time, place and manner restrictions. People's education should not be interrupted. A rock concert outside a classroom interferes with people's learning. But we should make these restrictions as least restrictive as possible." In response to questions about using restrictions to limit the possibility of handing out obscene materials, Mr. Katz argues that there are legal provisions against obscenity that would solve that problem. Mr. Katz is working to allow distribution of newspapers and other materials on the University Center terrace. Currently a "distribution-free" zone, Mr. Katz states that if the administration wants to keep the terrace that way, they need to provide a legal justification for their actions. "The UC terrace



Jennifer Souers

Red Light, Green Light: Katz's effort to change speech code policies in the Student Handbook are drawing significant attention around campus.

has become the center of our campus; this is a place where ideas should be disseminated and shared," he said.

Mr. Katz is also working on a provision to ensure that restrictions placed on banners and posters are legal. He cites the 1973 Miller Criterion, which provides the legal definition to which posters and similar materials must conform. He states that the current language could be abused to restrict posters with language that is not illegal, but simply presents an opinion someone may find offensive. "People have the right not to be threatened; they do not have the right not to be insulted," Mr. Katz argued.

Mr. Katz's provisions are all submitted with the intention of revising the current codes so that legal speech is not restricted. "I just want the policies to match the law," Mr. Katz said. He passionately described his work as contributing to the liberal arts experience. "Free speech is part of the fundamentals; liberal democracy means having things challenged." Currently, he has submitted his proposals to former Vice President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler, new Vice President Ginger Ambler, Dean of Students David Gilbert and College President W. Taylor Reveley. They have not responded directly to his proposals, but have stated that his issues will be placed on the agenda for their summer retreat. Mr. Sadler, in a prior email, stated that these changes might be something that would have to go before the student body. Mr. Katz argued that if William and Mary were to implement his proposed updates, we would become one of the most free speech friendly university codes in the nation. "This is something I feel is worthy of the legacies of alumni Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall, both of whom were staunch defenders of our rights and liberties."

Mail thief discovered, incident kept quiet by administration

Andrew Blasi
Editor in Chief

In late February, post office staff discovered an employee going through student mail in search of valuables such as cash and gift cards. In the April 18th issue of *The Flat Hat* a front page story alleged widespread theft may be taking place at the campus post office.

According to numerous anonymous sources within the college administration and postal services, *The Virginia Informer* can confirm that an employee was caught in the act of theft in late February. The employee was subsequently fired and the tampered mail was resealed and delivered to students.

The employee was removed from the post office the day

they were discovered to have committed theft and is not permitted to return to campus property. *The Informer* cannot confirm the identity of the alleged thief and has no information regarding criminal charges resulting from the incidents. It has also been reported that the Post Master General was notified of the incident.

According to sources, Vice President of student affairs Sam Sadler and Interim Vice President for student affairs Ginger Ambler held a private meeting to discuss the matter soon thereafter. No information or public statement was released by college officials following this incident, which may have resulted in the undetected theft of a significantly higher quantity of student mail.

A tale of two College Professors: The Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority buys professor's house

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

On March 9, 2006 the Williamsburg City Council unanimously approved allocating up to \$310,000 of city funds in a loan to the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (WRHA) for the acquisition of 110 Harrison Avenue. The WRHA is non-profit public agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, separate from the

WRHA BUYS PROFESSOR'S HOUSE
continued on page ten



Kristin Coyner

Low-income housing? This Harrison Avenue property's assessed value of \$286,900 is markedly lower than the WRHA's current asking price of \$389,900.

Inside look at the city council candidates
Page 8



Want to get every issue of *The Informer* in the mail?
E-mail editor@vainformer.com with your name and address, and we will send you an order form and your first issue FREE!

CONTENTS

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

Wren Great Hall hosts historic city council debate

Matt Sutton
Managing Editor Emeritus

The College hosted a debate in the Wren Great Hall on Thursday, April 10, for the six candidates running for Williamsburg City Council. The council hopefuls squared off on a variety of local issues, all while playing to a newly empowered demographic in the city: the College's students.

Before this election cycle, most of the College's students were unable to register to vote in Williamsburg due to the restrictive rules of former Williamsburg voter registrar, Dave Andrews. Mr. Andrews' replacement reversed his interpretation of Virginia's election code and allowed virtually every willing student to register. Estimates vary for the number of registered student voters, but the total seems to be in excess of 1,500, due in large part to the successful registration drives of both the Student Assembly and the Matt Beato for Williamsburg City Council campaign.

The candidates—current William and Mary student Matt Beato ('09), incumbent Paul Freiling ('83), incumbent Vice Mayor and Chair of the College's Economics Department Clyde Haulman, former mayor Gil Granger ('57), Judy Knudson, former head of the City's Board of Zoning Appeals, and local activist Terence Wehle ('77)—all emphasized their commitment to improving town-gown relations. Most cited the need for greater dialogue and outreach between residents and students and between the city government and the College.

The Student Assembly sponsored the debate, which was the first ever to be held on campus. Newly elected SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09) and Senator Sarah Rojas ('10) served as the debate's moderators and asked the candidates a series of scripted questions.

The barriers to student-friendly housing in the city, a long-standing irritant for many in the student body, were a major focus debate's most lively

exchanges. The city's prohibition on more than three unrelated persons living together in a house was a target of criticism by Messrs. Beato and Granger, with the other candidates claiming varying levels of openness to revisiting and possibly loosening it.

Ms. Knudson and Mr. Freiling were questioned about their past efforts on the issue. Mr. Freiling was influential in blocking plans for a student-focused apartment complex on Richmond Road. When questioned on the issue, Councilman Freiling cited numerous problems with the complex's design for his decision but hinted that he would be more flexible on future proposals. Ms. Knudson, as chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals, rejected an appeal for four students to live in a six bedroom off-campus house. When her judgment was called into question, Ms. Knudson staunchly defended her stance and suggested that the College re-open the Dillard complex to accommodate student housing demand.

Mr. Beato faced questions over his experience and suitability for elected office. He defended his candidacy by noting his experience in the Student Assembly and his recent election to the city's Colonial Soil and Water Conservation Board. Mr. Beato also refuted the notion that he was solely after the student vote and painted himself as a candidate eager to reach out to all demographics in Williamsburg.

Some of the candidates showed a lighter side at the debate. Mr. Granger used his opportunity to ask a question of a fellow candidate to inquire about Mr. Freiling's GPA while he attended the College.

The debate was filmed and subsequently placed onto the popular video sharing site, YouTube. The clip can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/wmstudentassembly>. The election for Williamsburg City Council is scheduled for May 6. The six candidates are vying for three seats on the council.

Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

O'Connor to deliver law school's commencement address

Sandra Day O'Connor, retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Chancellor of the College of William and Mary, will deliver the commencement address at the Law School's graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 11, 2008; approximately 220 law students will receive degrees during the ceremony. After nearly a quarter of a century on the U.S. Supreme Court, O'Connor became the 23rd Chancellor of William and Mary in 2006, succeeding former Secretary of State Dr. Henry A. Kissinger in the post. Said Sarah Fulton ('08), President of the Law School's Student Bar Association, "Students could not be more thrilled to have Justice O'Connor speak at our commencement. Having such an important figure in modern history present at graduation is an incredible honor."

Warner speaks about life and challenges in town-hall meeting

Speaking to faculty, staff, students and community members earlier this month during a special town-hall meeting at the College of William and Mary, U.S. Senator John Warner (R-Va.), the Hunter B. Andrews Fellow in American Politics, spoke on everything from highlights of his 63-year career in public service to challenges facing America today to his fondness for the College. Warner said that he has seen a lot of changes in the U.S. Senate during his five consecutive terms in office. Some good – like the increase in female senators and the broadcast of the senate sessions – and others

not so good – like a decrease in bipartisanship and the increasing demand on senators' to devote their time to campaign fundraising. Said Warner of the College: "I've developed a deep, abiding respect and fondness for the College of William and Mary. It's an extraordinary institution."

College students collect long hair for cancer research

The members of the campus and community participated in a hair-donation event earlier this month, organized by students at the College of William and Mary to benefit Pantene's Beautiful Lengths Program. The national program provides wigs to women who have lost their hair due to cancer. The event, organized by Emily Burns ('11), Maura Checchio ('10), Katie McCarney ('10) and Alyssa Gaeto ('10), took place at European Beauty Concepts in Williamsburg. The salon's professional stylists gave free haircuts to all of those who donated. By the end of the day, the students had collected more than 30 ponytails, each eight inches or more in length. Including yesterday's donations, the students have thus far collected about 50 ponytails or 55.625 feet of hair overall.

BOV to support Gateway Program with \$10 Million Pledge

The Board of Visitors and the College announced a plan last week to increase the Gateway William and Mary Endowment to \$10 million by year's end. As part of that effort, Rector Michael K. Powell announced a commitment by Board members to provide \$1 million, which will serve as a dollar-for-dollar match for money raised by the William and Mary community. Gateway William and Mary is designed for Virginia students whose household income is \$40,000 or less and provides supplemental assistance when other financial aid falls short. Currently there are 175 students at William and Mary who receive Gateway funds. In addition to the Board of Visitors challenge, Interim President Taylor Reveley announced Friday that the College has also received a bequest gift of more than \$5 million from the estate of alumna Joan Jarrett Woods that will go toward the Gateway William and Mary Endowment.

The Informer apologizes for the following errors in our April 9 2008 Issue:

Laura Buchanan, not Ian Whiteside, took the SFL concert photography.

Chris Ours, not Nick Hoelker, authored the article titled, "Plan proposed to reform the Honor Code."

For the article titled, "Breaking the sorority stigma," *The Informer* would like to note that alcohol is not permitted in sorority houses per the policies of national organizations and not college policy.

Furthermore, sororities are allowed the host events with alcohol and the college never made a statement that they are unable to attend or sponsor events where alcohol is served.

The John Locke Society co-sponsored the Bay Buchanan event.

The Virginia Informer would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via e-mail to editor@vainformer.com.

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Established 2005

Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

April 23, 2008
Volume 3 Issue 12

The Virginia Informer
CSU 7056, P.O. Box 8793
Williamsburg, VA 23186
editor@vainformer.com
www.VAInformer.com

The Virginia Informer is produced by students at the College of William and Mary. The opinions expressed in articles, photos, cartoons, or ads are those of the writer(s) or sponsor(s). This paper is produced for the benefit of students at the College and is available at no cost for members of the greater Williamsburg community. However, copies should be taken only if they are meant to be read and enjoyed. In the event an individual or group prevents these copies from being enjoyed by others, the cost to that individual or group will be \$15 per copy. Letters to the editor are welcome and can be submitted via e-mail or mail.

Editorial Board

Andrew B. Blasi, Jr., **Editor in Chief**
Nick Fitzgerald, **Editor in Chief, Online Edition**
Jon San, **Managing Editor**
Alex Mayer, **Executive Editor**
Steven Nelson, **News Editor**
Michelle Ju, **Features Editor**
Megan Locke, **Arts & Culture Editor**
Kristin Coyner, **Opinion Editor**

Mission Statement

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.

Editor in Chief Emeritus, Joe Luppino-Esposito

Photography/Graphics Staff

Alec McKinley, **Photography Editor**
David Clifford • Nicole Leger • Blake Lucas
Kristine Mosuela • Long Vinh • Ian R. Whiteside

Copy Staff

R.C. Rasmus, **Copy Chief**
Virginia Lynn Butler • Amber L. Forehand • Annie Hughes
Sara Roux • Beth Zagrobelny

Layout Staff

Sam McVane, **Design Editor**

Business Staff

Jennifer Souers, **Business Editor**
Jennifer Lopdrup

Contributors

Bryan Alphin • Eileen Bartolozzi • Adam Boltik
Michael Cohen • Aimee Forsythe • Alex Guiliano • Jacob Hill
Nick Hoelker • John R. Kennedy • Ian A. Kirkpatrick • Boris Kiselev
Stephanie Long • Brian O'Donnell • Morgan Linski • Grace Sherman Patrick Macaluso
• Bert Mueller Charlie Murray • Sarah Nadler • Chris Ours • Matt Pinsker •
Violette Robinet • Swetha Sivaram • Ilsa Tinkelman • Kirk Vernegaard

SA has longest meeting of the year: Community initiative at Sentara Hospital shut down

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

Last week's Student Assembly Senate meeting resulted in quite an uproar. Among the issues covered was a bill appropriating \$10,000 for a green roof on top of Sentara hospital, which donated the land where the new school of education will be built. The proposal was introduced by Scott Morris ('10), a former senator, Director of Support Operations Don West, Head of Facilities Maintenance Bob Leak, Director of Public Relations Kim van Sickle—all except Mr. Morris are Sentara employees—Director of the William and Mary Keck Environmental Field Lab Randy Chambers and Charlie Martino, a contractor from Cooke's Gardens who would be in charge of the installation.

The proposed plan would cover two sections of the roof of Sentara hospital, 16,000 and 9,000 square feet respectively, with a "green roof," a sort of aesthetic rooftop garden. Green roofs provide insulation, reduce runoff and pollution and, in this instance, would help provide

a healthier environment for recovering patients. The committee proposed a donation of \$10,000 that would cover the most critical area directly in front of the second floor lobby. The finished roof would afford many students hands on research experience, as described in detail by Mr. Chambers. The roof would also save approximately \$50,000 annually in energy costs for the hospital, paying for itself after several years, and would transform the facility into a place "that promotes healing in every way possible." Senators Brittany Fallon ('11), Sarah Rojas ('09), Devan Barber ('08) and Caroline Mullis ('09) grilled the presenters for two hours regarding the appropriateness of allocating student activities fees to an off-campus project that they thought benefited too few students. The meeting was the longest of any all year. Senator Steven Nelson ('10) walked out after the senators could not make a decision and chose to send the bill back to the Finance Committee for review where it was tabled the next day. Now that the Senate has completed its last session for the academic year, the bill may be reconsidered in the fall.

WM movie channel airs censored movie

Bert Mueller
Staff Writer

On April 6, the William and Mary movie channel hosted the popular comedy *Beerfest*. The movie, as displayed on the movie channel, was not edited for sexual content, language or violence. Instead, what was edited was a single, short joke at the end of the movie. The joke involved one character getting the "Eye of the Jew"; in other words, a Star of David appeared in his eye as the camera closed in near the end of the movie. The reason for this censorship is unknown.

The UCAB Film Committee, "William and Mary's campus Hollywood liaisons," runs the movie channel. The committee has a three year agreement with Swank Motion Pictures, a film distribution company, to purchase 120 public viewing licenses, each lasting one month, at a cost of \$35,000 per year. The committee has ten members and is directed by Kevin Roelofs. After interviewing the former chair, Trey Comstock, and the current chair, it was made apparent that the film committee had no part

in editing any movies which appear on the movie channel. Mr. Roelofs noted that the only movie in recent memory rejected by the committee was *United 93*, a movie about 9/11.

The role of Swank now becomes more important in determining who was responsible for the censorship. Swank is "the world's largest non-theatrical distributor of motion pictures for public performance." After contacting Swank for information regarding their editing policies, a company sales manager explained that Swank "do[es] not edit the films. We order them from the studio. They must have edited that scene out." He fingered Warner Bros., *Beerfest*'s primary production and distribution studio, as the likely source of the edit.



As of printing, Warner Bros. could not be reached for comment. Jacob Nadkarni ('11) commented, "Of all the things to edit from *Beerfest*, this was a pretty silly one." Another student, James Cassagrande, remarked, "the Jewish people have suffered far worse." Many students expressed frustration over the seemingly arbitrary nature of the edit.

College looks to improve condom distribution on campus

Grace Sherman
Staff Writer

The Office of Health Education, in conjunction with Health Outreach Peer Educators (HOPE), has launched a survey aimed at assessing the current method of condom distribution on campus.

The Health Center currently offers free condoms at the FISH bowl in the Campus Center and at the Health Center itself. However, they are considering offering a service by which students can have condoms sent to their CSU boxes by confidential request.

According to Health Educator Sarah Irwin, the results of the survey will determine the future of the Health Center's method of condom distribution. "HOPE and my office... launched the survey in an effort to find out if we are meeting [student] needs. We will make decisions based on data collected."

The survey has been made available through Student Happenings, and asks several yes or no questions such as, "Do you take condoms from the FISH bowl?" and, "Are you ever embarrassed to take condoms?" The survey also asks students how much they would be willing to pay for each condom through the CSU confidential request system. The options include \$0, \$.25, \$.50 and \$1.00.

"Because this survey was for internal assessment, we were not required to go through a formal Institutional Review Board process," stated Ms. Irving. "However, because we didn't go through an IRB process, we are not able to publish any of the data."

The issue of condom distribution raises larger questions associated with sexual health responsibility. For example, some wonder whether

the College should even be held responsible for distributing free or low cost condoms on campus at all. Devan Barber ('08) stated in an e-mail: "I absolutely believe the College should make condoms available to students—financially, condoms are an insignificant purchase for the College, but they are an extremely important resource for the campus community."

As former president of VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood, Ms. Barber has previously been responsible for distributing condoms funded by Planned Parenthood as well as the College. She feels that the College should do more to help meet student sexual health needs on campus. "The FISH bowl is a great idea, but it's not enough. Not only is the bowl, at times, empty, but I imagine that many students do not feel comfortable taking condoms from a public location."

Ms. Barber also brought up the topic of condom availability in residence halls. Currently, many RAs keep condoms in their room made available upon request. Other residence halls are considering implementing condom machines in hall bathrooms.

Despite a variety of College efforts to make condoms easily accessible, some students continue to express disappointment in the current distribution methods. Annie Brown ('10) thinks that easier access to condoms in residence halls should be the next step. "It's nice that they realize change needs to happen, but where it's needed most is in dorms." Ms. Brown additionally criticized the CSU distribution idea, articulating that it lends itself to negative sexual secrecy, and reinforces the cultivation of degrading and guilty feelings associated with sexual activity on campus.

Make an impact on campus...

JOIN THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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**

Mearsheimer speaks on the “Israel Lobby”

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

On 7 April, international relations students were in for a treat when renowned scholar John J. Mearsheimer spoke for over two hours at the University Center, and signed copies of his controversial new book *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*.

Many Americans do not realize how much support America gives to Israel. It receives annual aid worth 3% of its GDP or 500 dollars for each of its citizens, despite being the 28th wealthiest country in the world. The US has vetoed more UN resolutions that are critical of Israel in the last thirty years than the total of all other countries vetoes combined.

Israel's activities are rarely criticized by anyone aspiring to high office despite Israel's activities consistently conflicting with stated American interests. Mearsheimer explained what he believed to be the basis for this relationship, and refuted the three arguments commonly employed to defend it.

Israel's supporters argue that Israel is a strategic asset, that there

are moral reasons for unconditional American support, and that the majority of American people support Israel; all three of which Mearsheimer explained are not true.

Israel may have been an asset during the Cold War, but today unconditional American support for this tiny nation of 7.2 million people has only stoked the ire of the billion-plus Muslim population, and indeed is one of several grievances that islamofascists have against the United States, says Mearsheimer.

Additionally, Mearsheimer argues that there is no moral reason why a liberal democracy such as the US should support a self described “Jewish state” that clearly favors Jewish citizens, even in the writing of its constitution.

Mearsheimer does not argue that Israel is bad, simply that it is like any other state, and for that reason does not deserve special status. The ADL, (Anti-Defamation League), considered



Ian Kirkpatrick
MEARSHEIMER

an important member of the Israel lobby, has collected statistics showing 78% of Americans favor neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis, and 70% support cutting aid if the Israeli government pursues policies contrary to American interests.

Mearsheimer assured attendees that the Israel Lobby is just like any other special interest group, be it the NRA, organized farmers, or AARP. Their activities are perfectly legitimate, but they are pursuing policies in their interest that may very well not be in the best interest of the majority.

The lobby, asserts Mearsheimer, operates in three primary ways, by exerting influence directly on policy makers, shaping Israel's image in the main stream media, and smearing critics. Lobbyists fund junkets for legislators to go to Israel for free; 10% of all trips by senior officials are to Israel.

When Jimmy Carter's book *Peace not Apartheid* was released, Israel supporters purchased a full page ad in *The New York Times* which included

the publishers contact information. Mearsheimer could not even find an American publisher for his article *The Israel Lobby*, it had to be published in the *London Review of Books*.

There is a narrower range of debate in the United States relative to Europe regarding policy towards Israel. One student responded “as both an Israeli and an American” that Mearsheimer is right about “the relative lack of criticism that Israel receives here in the U.S.”

Mearsheimer concluded by discussing with the audience the possible outcomes from the current situation. Israel could create a democratic bi-national state, where Palestinians would outnumber Israelis- and “abandon the notion of a Zionist state.” Mearsheimer dismissed this, and suggested that they could expel the Palestinians. This would be a disaster, leaving only one realistic option, creating two different states.

Mearsheimer predicted that there will be a positive effect from the publication of his book, and that more and more people are realizing that the US-Israel relationship “is unhealthy...for all concerned.”

Hopkins, Pilchen make leadership switch official

Grace Sharman
Staff Writer

The College held the official inauguration ceremony on April 8 for the Student Assembly officers elected to office in the March 20 general election.

Newly elected SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09) and Vice President Zachary Pilchen ('09), along with Undergraduate Council officers and Senators from the classes of 2009, 2010 and 2011 stood in the Wren chapel and took the Student Assembly oath of office. Chair of the Review Board Billy Mutell ('09) officially swore in the new officers. Members swore to “faithfully execute the office of the Student Assembly of which I have been elected to...and preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the Student Assembly.”

Members were sworn into their respective positions in front of an audience of fellow SA members, friends, family, College President Taylor Reveley and former Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler. Both Messrs. Reveley and Sadler publicly delivered congratulations, and spoke on the value of student

representation and leadership. Mr. Reveley joked with the newly elected executive officials, comparing their switch from Pilchen-Hopkins to Hopkins-Pilchen to the continuing Obama-Clinton, Clinton-Obama debate. “Just as long as I get to be Obama,” quipped Mr. Pilchen. Mr. Reveley also spoke about the dedication it took to run for an office and how impressed he was by all the elected candidates. Mr. Sadler spoke also about the impressiveness of the William and Mary Student Assembly and how he anticipated great things from the next year.

Ms. Hopkins and Mr. Pilchen then delivered a short speech regarding their previous achievements, continued involvement in college affairs, and goals for the coming year. They thanked both President Reveley and Vice-President Sadler for attending, pointing out that Mr. Sadler – who had never missed an SA inauguration to his recollection – had been at William and Mary for 13% of the College's history. Hopkins and Pilchen promised to continue working for students and to make William and Mary a better place.



1 block from campus in Merchant's Square
Great for College events- Fraternities, Sororities and School groups

Oven-Baked Subs **Fresh-baked NY Style pizza**

Wi-Fi available **We accept W&M Express**

110 South Henry Street (757) 476-8999

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

Students for Life hosts pharmacist to discuss the effects of emergency contraceptives usage

Kristin Coyner

Opinion Editor

On April 9, the William and Mary Students for Life sponsored a discussion by pharmacist Neil Noesen on the use of emergency contraception (EC). EC, or "morning after pill," was discussed in the context of its physiological effects on women.

Mr. Noesen is a licensed doctor of pharmacy who works at a hospital in Chicago. In July 2002 while working at a pharmacy Mr. Noesen refused to fill a patient's birth control prescription out of conscientious objection. He also refused out of conscience to transfer the same prescription to another pharmacy.

The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board reprimanded and fined Mr. Noesen for allegedly violating rules of professional conduct. Mr. Noesen contested these charges in court for violating his First Amendment right to religious expression. On March 25, 2008 a decision handed down by the state appeals court stated that board punishment did not violate his First Amendment rights.

Students for Life does not hold a position on contraception which acts to prevent fertilization, as do many types of birth control. As such, Mr. Noesen's presentation only addressed the use of EC, as is consistent with the organization's mission.

The lecture, "Harm associated with the use

of levonorgestrel (Plan B): positive solutions," discussed adverse effects and general ethical issues. Mr. Noesen stated a preference in talking about the hormonal ingredient levonorgestrel, rather than the drug's generic name, saying "I am not here to promote Plan B on behalf of Barr Pharmaceuticals. I am here to give you the facts."

Levonorgestrel is a synthetic hormone which prevents pregnancy in 89% of cases while failing 11% of the time. Mr. Noesen contended that the drug has the potential to cause an abortion, asserting that there are three different types of abortion, each corresponding to the different stages in a new life's development: pre-implantation, embryonic and post-implantation. Through its mechanism of action, and depending on the timing of the menstrual cycle, levonorgestrel can either prevent ovulation, thereby preventing conception, or reduce the likelihood of implantation.

One main point of the lecture was the harm inflicted on women through EC usage. "Levonorgestrel will not harm an embryo, but it will act to make the side effects of pregnancy worse...it amplifies the effects of progesterone," said Mr. Noesen. Also, the drug impairs the motility of a fertilized egg traveling to the uterus, increasing the risk of a tubal pregnancy, or an ectopic pregnancy. Another adverse effect associated with EC usage is endometrial thinning, a thinning of the uterus membrane. This results in implantation failure or the failure to maintain a pregnancy. Other side effects highlighted were irregular menstrual bleeding patterns, severe leg pain (thrombosis), chest pain, coughing

and even jaundice.

"Drug information on the Plan B Web site shows that 23.1 percent of women will experience nausea. You may say that is not much, but more than 1 out of 20 women will vomit from taking it," said Mr. Noesen.

Early within the menstrual cycle, Mr. Noesen claimed EC use to be ethical and, in the case of sexual assault, to be a woman's right. Later within the cycle, he maintained that the drug has an increased likelihood of acting as an abortifacient, arguing that at this time it "is better not to use the pill."

After the presentation, the floor opened up to questions from attending students. One question spurred the revelation that levonorgestrel has never been studied for its interaction with other drugs, despite getting nonprescription behind-the-counter access in 2006. Mr.

Noesen noted the difficulties accompanying such a study, asking rhetorically, "Who would receive the placebo?...No one would want to become pregnant."

Another question probed why EC use would only be ethical early in a menstrual cycle, even in the case of sexual assault. In response, Mr. Noesen claimed that "it would be legal to do otherwise, but not all laws correspond to what is ethical."

In reply to a question challenging EC as an abortifacient, Mr. Noesen said that "what is legally accepted as a pregnancy varies from state to state... if gestation has occurred we are basically aborting the mission. We know what's happening after the egg and sperm unite."

Construction projects at college on track for completion

Aimee Forsythe

Staff Writer

According to Facilities Planning, Design and Construction, construction on both the new Integrated Science Center (ISC) and the new business school are still on schedule and should be completed by their projected finish dates.

Construction of the ISC, which is joining Rogers Hall, home to the Chemistry department, to Millington Hall, home to the Psychology and Biology departments, began in January 2006. The first phase of construction is almost complete, and the second phase of renovating both Rogers and Millington will begin when the departments can move into the central new building. The Chemistry department began their transition on Monday, April 21 in order for renovations

to commence in Rogers. However, Rogers 100 is expected to remain useable for classes.

The Biology department also plans to move into the new building within the next few weeks, though there may be some possible delays to the move-in process.

Campus Construction Dates

ISC Phase 1 - Completed

ISC Phase 2 - March 2009

School of Ed - Spring 2010

Business School - Fall 2009

Career Center - TBD

Professor Paul Heideman, chair of the Biology department, has been impressed with how well the construction has stayed on schedule, noting that "academic science buildings are about as complex as buildings can be." Mr. Heideman says the department plans to hold classes in the new building for most of the summer session, provided no major delays arise.

The new Alan B. Miller Hall, which will house both the graduate and undergraduate business programs, is also on track for completion. The business school's Web site features weekly video updates on the latest construction, hosted by the project manager, Rex Holmlin, as well as updated photos of the construction progress. If all continues according to plan, Miller Hall should be ready for student use by fall of 2009.

www.VAInformer.com
All the news that's fit to go online.

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

FEATURES

Controversy strikes the publications council: Committee refuses to fund three new periodicals

Matthew Sutton
Managing Editor Emeritus

There have been a number of recent controversies surrounding the publications council. In addition to a conflict over next year's Editor for *The Advocate* at the Marshall Wythe Law School, the pub council recently denied three new periodicals the ability to receive funding. These include *Lips: Expressions of Female Sexuality*, *The Gallery*, and *WM Comix*. The council is currently under contract with the Student Assembly to have sole power over financing campus publications with student activity fees.

In what many are now calling ideological discrimination, the council's move not to fund *Lips* has caused particular outrage among many students as well as within the Student Assembly; who voted last week to appropriate their own funds to the magazine in a move to overturn the council's decision. According to the co-Editor of *Lips*, Annie Brown, "I first thought that this would be a great way to get help." Brown initially gave a presentation to the council in which she discussed the new magazine's budget and content, demonstrated student interest, and distributed past issues its standing members. The council is comprised of many administrators and student publications which are dependent upon student funding to operate, including *The Flat Hat*, *Dog Street Journal*, *Colonial Echo*, *Winged Nation*, *jump!*, and *The Pillory*.

"We requested \$600, and raised additional money ourselves. It really wasn't that much considering the thousands that other publications get" said Brown. This past year, *The Dog Street Journal* received \$9,800, *Colonial Echo* \$25,971, *Winged Nation* \$5,380, *jump!* \$5,080, and *The Pillory* \$3,775. At the start of the year, *The Flat Hat* projected they would not be requiring student funds, however they are expected to fall short of this goal by the Office of Student Activities. In total, the pub council appropriates nearly \$150,000 of student money per year amongst its members. Brown further stated that "the point of a Publication Council should be to provide help not oversight. When they disagree with opinions and deny funding then that defeats the

purpose of a publications council altogether."

Mark Constantine, Associate Vice President of Student Activities, mentioned different reasons for denying *Lips*' funding, according to Brown. Reasons included that the publication was "not in color or glossy" and that "the nature of the magazine would make the school look bad." According to the outgoing Editor-in-Chief of *The Flat Hat*, Andy Zahn, pub council administrators Brian Whitson and Patty Roberts repeatedly stated their concern over the controversial content of *Lips* and exclusion of male writers.

Zahn asserts that *The Flat Hat* voted neither for nor against *Lips*' application. "I probably would have voted for it if it was only a few thousand dollars," said Zahn. *Lips* request only amounted to six hundred, and ultimately asked for less from the Student Assembly once pub council denied them. In reaction, Zahn noted, "I think that the SA is a better place to get funding rather than the restrictive Pub Council."

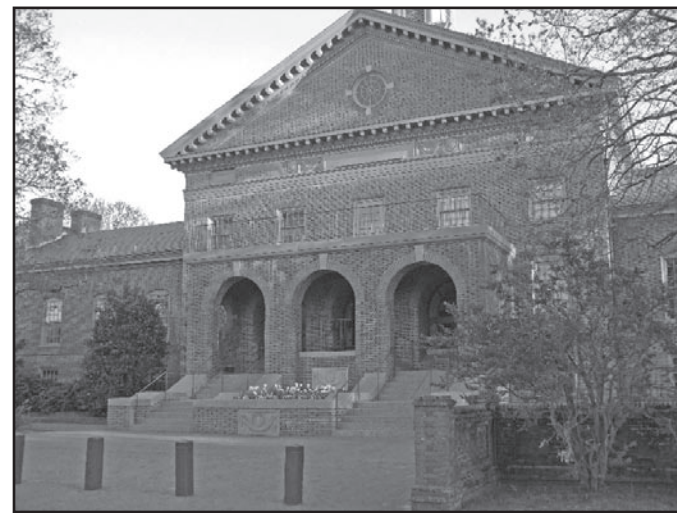
When discussing the matter with *The Informer*, incoming *Flat Hat* Editor in Chief Austin Wright re-asserted that their newspaper did not vote either for or against *Lips*. When contacted, other members of the pub council would not comment on *Lips*, claiming that all proceedings of the Council are "confidential."

Members of *The Gallery*, another new publication which was denied funding, were able to confirm that they were rejected by the council because "there are too many literary magazines on campus." Editor of *The Gallery* Laura Daniels (10) countered, "we feel that our publication is different from the established literary magazines on pub council like *jump!*, *Winged Nation* and *William and Mary Review*. We uphold a very traditional 6x9 print design and also plan to use the internet in different ways to supplement our print issues."

The pub council's contract with the Student Assembly comes up for renewal during the 08-09 academic year and already a number of elected student representatives are expressing concern over these recent events.

"I think that the SA is a better place to get funding rather than the restrictive Pub Council."

"Reasons [for rejection] included that the publication was 'not in color or glossy'..."



Alec McKinley

Empty space: The Mason School of Business and Career Center will soon vacate Blow Hall. The Office of Admissions left last year.

Fate of Blow Hall still unknown, "a work in progress"

Steven Nelson
News Editor

With Miller Hall nearing completion as the new home for the undergraduate and graduate business programs and a new building for the career center being planned, Blow Memorial Hall will no longer be hosting its current occupants.

A large building located between Monroe Hall and Old Dominion Hall on old campus, Blow Hall will cease to be the home of William and Mary's graduate business programs, once Miller Hall is opened for use in fall 2009.

Chair of the Advisory Committee on Space Management and Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss said that future plans are "a work in progress." Mr. Feiss continued to say that consideration "depends on fund-raising for [the] new Career Center as well as future needs for Human Resources, should Thiemes House on Richmond Road need to be vacated in the immediate future."

Dean of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda noted, "There have been a number of discussions regarding the future of Blow Hall once Business moves out. However, we have a number of imponderables, the largest being the plan to build a new Career Center."

Mr. Strikwerda also commented, "Almost every unit currently in Blow has legitimate needs for more space, and Arts and Sciences has great pressure to move the Charles Center out of Tucker Hall and to provide more space for its growing interdisciplinary programs."

Though plans have yet to be finalized, many options are present. As in coming years, the registrar's office, the bursar's office and financial operations—all located on the ground floor—may be the sole remaining operations in Blow after Miller Hall's completion.

Temporary laborers still work without perks

Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

Every day, hundreds of faculty and staff members help the College succeed with its day-to-day operations. While it might be assumed that all of these workers are employed directly by William and Mary, a number of them are not College employees but temporary (temp) workers. These laborers are employed by temp agencies, and in turn, these agencies sign contracts to provide work for William and Mary. Vice President for Administration Anna Martin did not provide an estimated number of how many temp workers are at the College, stating that the number varies from "day to day."

There are several local temp agencies that compete for contracts with the College. According to Area Manager for Headway Corporate Resources Verna Goodman, an

employee for a temp agency that formerly had a contract with the College, William and Mary chooses their temp agencies based on bottom line pricing bids. Ms. Goodman added that when Headway did not offer the lowest bid, their contract with the College was not renewed. The constant switching of temp agencies means that temp workers who wish to remain at the school are forced to resign from their old temp agency and apply for work at a new one.

According to Ms. Martin, temp workers receive their paychecks directly from the temp agencies. However, the College has control over these laborers' wages, since it decides which temp agency to employ.

According to Annette Joseph Walker, an administrative organizer for the Virginia Public Service Workers Union - UE 160, there are

several incentives for the College to use temp workers as opposed to regular employees. Temp workers are not subject to the school's self-imposed minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour. This was confirmed by Ms. Martin. Additionally, Ms. Walker adds that temp workers are not subject to state benefits that regular employees receive, such as additional vacation, sick pay and health benefits.

Since the charge for the school to use the temp agency is locked for the duration of a contract, all raises must occur through the temp agency, according to Ms. Walker. This was reiterated by Ms. Goodman, who stated that raises are negotiated between the workers and temp agency, with some oversight from the College. Ms. Goodman stressed that this was necessary because the temp agency must be accountable to both the school and its workers.

However, Ms. Walker countered

that temp agencies have been unwilling to grant raises, as they must come straight from the agency - since William and Mary will not cover them.

Moreover, Ms. Walker showed that in order to collect paid compensation for such holidays as Christmas and New Year's Day, a worker for the temp agency must work the business days before and after the holidays. The College is closed for a few weeks over Christmas and New Year's, however, and temp workers are unable to work at William and Mary on the required days to collect their pay.

Even though the overall number of temp workers at the College is unknown, it is clear that many of the people who help William and Mary function on a daily basis are denied the perks that are enjoyed by the College's regular employees.

Swimming off the deep end

A romp in the hay



Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton
Humor Columnists

Well, it's that time of year—the sundresses are out, the pollen's everywhere, and fraternity mating rituals are on unadulterated display every Thursday night at the College Delly. Spring is in the air, and the College is in full bloom.

This brings us to the topic of our final column for the year. We're talking, of course, about the immortal words of classic R&B legend Barry White: "getting it on." In the past, when we were asked how we felt about this largely unmentionable topic, we quickly cleared our Internet browser history and most recent downloads—we hope that's enough—and firmly stated that we knew nothing about the subject.

In general, though, our interest in this matter was prompted by the interruption of our daily constitutional last week. It came in the form of a table set up in the Crim Dell meadow, which offered an odd mix of KY Jelly, handcuffs, and York peppermint patties—no, that's not a joke. In addition, we had the pleasure of picking up this semester's edition of *Lips: Expressions of Female Sexuality*. Hahahaha.

Although we at first mistook it for a poorly

designed exam blue book filled with self-indulgent crap, at second glance we realized that it was actually a post-modern, ultra hip feminist "zine." We, like the authors of *Lips*, embrace the idea that sex is not a trivial matter—just ask former Democratic Governor Eliot Spitzer or President Bill Clinton (convicted liar).

While *Lips'* effort this semester was noteworthy, we do think that they missed a few critical stories, especially for the 68 percent of students on campus who have never spoken to anyone of the opposite gender—there *are* only two, after all. We decided to investigate this in our typical hard hitting manner. For example, we'd like to briefly discuss the top three worst places on campus to consummate your relationship with your "partner":

1) **Morton Hall.** Let's be honest—the asbestos levels in this building are highly toxic, and, when combined with its poor structural foundations, any sort of vigorous indoor exercise could be, frankly, dangerous.

2) **The Crim Dell.** Unless being covered head to toe in a green, fungal slime is sexually appealing, then you'll probably want to avoid the "no pants dance" in this cess pool. The Crim Dell's pH rivals that of Chinese-made battery acid, so this future superfund site should be avoided at all costs.

3) **The Wren Great Hall.** Just think about it: the cold, ancient hardwood floors, all of those portraits. It's just too weird. The last thing you

want when you're trying to get warmed up is to be staring into the gigantic, mannish face of Queen Anne above the Wren fireplace.

Additionally, because we do represent the dwindling number of social conservatives here on campus, we don't have quite the editorial freedom of our colleagues at *Lips* or at *The Flat Hat's* sex column. When we asked our editors how likely it would be for *us* to start a sex column for *The Informer*, we were told that there are already three columns ahead of us that would receive priority before we could experiment in our new, salacious subject matter. They are, in no particular order,

1) A biweekly reprinting of the writings of Maureen Dowd-wannabe and *Flat Hat* columnist Devan Barber ('08).

2) A spoken word / slam poetry review by former *Informer* staffer and resident dunce Chris "Petey" Peterson, current whereabouts: unknown.

3) Excerpting from the forthcoming eight-volume memoirs of former President Gene R. Nichol entitled, *It's Not Fair: My Life Story*.

Because the presence of any of the above three columns seems highly unlikely, we will, instead, redouble our efforts for next year to defend what's left of taste and decency here at the College. Until then, we bid you *adieu*.

Survery claims prescription drugs rarely abused at W&M

Steven Nelson
News Editor

As the exam period of fall 2007 approached, the campus was blanketed with fliers from a student group called Health Outreach Peer Educators (HOPE). The fliers used a play on words from popular drinking game "Never have I ever..."

to grab attention for their message. "Never have I ever... abused prescription drugs to study," said the fliers, with pill bottles for decoration. According to the flier, 90 percent of college student have never taken prescription drugs to study.

One sophomore, who wishes to remain anonymous, claimed that "about 90 percent of people I know have used them [to study]." The statistics, generalized across colleges, referenced the use of widely prescribed medicines such as Adderall and Ritalin, used to treat ADHD and abused to increase studying ability.

The statistics HOPE used are from a 2005 study published in the *Journal of American College Health*. Courtney Dowell, the substance abuse health educator at the College, notes the consequences of taking such medications.

According to Ms. Dowell, "using prescription medications that are not prescribed to you (and not being

managed by a physician) can have dangerous consequences." Abuse of ADHD medicine may result in medical side effects, including heart problems and seizures. Unauthorized—ie, non-prescribed—possession of these medications is punishable to the extent of Schedule II drugs, which include cocaine, crystal meth and some opiates. First time offenders who possess between five and 49 grams carry a mandatory minimum federal sentence of five years in prison. Typical pills and capsules are from five to 30 milligrams, making such penalties unlikely.

“First time offenders who possess between five and 49 grams carry a mandatory minimum federal sentence of five years in prison.”

“Its like coffee but actually works; it makes you want to learn more,” says the frequent student user contacted for this story. Ms. Dowell has cited a medical synopsis, which concedes that “stimulants increase alertness, attention and energy” but come at the cost of “increases in blood pressure, heart rate and respiration.”



Steven Nelson

Not a student's best friend: A very limited number of William and Mary students are thought to abuse prescription drugs.

Professor Spotlight:

Stacey Pelika expresses love for students, political science

Bert Mueller
Staff Writer

She might have recently joined the Government department in 2007, but Assistant Professor Stacey Pelika conducts herself in the classroom with the aplomb of a veteran. Ms. Pelika, who received her PhD in political science from the University of Wisconsin, has a Facebook profile and claims to enjoy quirky movies and television shows, alternative folk, rock, country music and "baking really good chocolate chip cookies" in her spare time. Here is what she had to say the *Informer*.

The Virginia Informer: You teach courses on political science. Is that an interesting subject?

Stacey Pelika: Absolutely! Political science is a topic that is always interesting, because it's always applicable to what's going on in the world at the time. A Government course will almost always involve making links to current political happenings in the United States or abroad.

VAI: Why should anyone major in government?

SP: Majoring in government is great preparation for a variety of careers, because you learn how to think about a single topic—politics—through a variety of lenses. Political science draws on economics, psychology and other disciplines in addition to having its own approaches.

VAI: What's the best part about teaching at William and Mary?

SP: The students. It's great to teach students who are so engaged and inquisitive. I also couldn't ask for better colleagues than my fellow faculty in the Government department.

VAI: What is the craziest thing that's ever happened in one of your classes?

SP: Without going into details, I once had a student pull me into the hall during class and bring up a very personal topic. I went along with the conversation at the time but later explained to her how inappropriate it was.

VAI: According to your music playlist, you listen to some pretty hip music. How hip are you?

SP: I think that depends on the context. When I lived in San Francisco, which is a center of hipsterdom, I wasn't very hip. On a Williamsburg scale, I'm probably pretty hip, though.

VAI: Were you hip in high school? What clique did you run in?

SP: I was definitely not hip in high school! I was a nerd who hung out with other nerds, mainly people who were also on the newspaper staff or the math and science teams. I lettered in math and science, but refused to get a jacket because I realized how nerdy it would be.

VAI: What's your favorite quirky movie?

SP: Probably either *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* or *Amelie*. I like movies that play with narrative and style, probably in part because they're a nice diversion from all the political media I watch for my research. I'm also a big fan of *Fargo* because it captures my home state of Minnesota so well...in the parts when people aren't getting murdered.

VAI: Did you ever meet Condoleezza Rice when you were at Stanford?

SP: No, although the professor I worked for served on a committee with her. From what I know, they didn't get along very well.

Swem Media Center struggles with funding

Michelle Ju
Features Editor

Gadgets and gizmos—they're a fascinating part of the underappreciated, underground world located in the basement of Swem Library that specializes in assisting students with media production and software. Despite the recent joint benefit concert and comedy show held by the Campus Musicians Union for the benefit of the Media Center, Director Troy Davis maintains that the Media Center was in no part involved with the planning of the event.

"We're not losing funds. We're privately funded. Our challenge is to make the most of that, especially when you start something without the assurance that it will succeed," said Mr. Davis. The Media Center opened two years ago in April 2006 and has been privately funded since.

Though the Media Center has only been in existence for a short time, its influence on campus has been significant. "We're starting to gain entry into classrooms. We are *the* place for equipment, instruction, expertise. We collaborate with the faculty. Anything related to class multimedia projects, co-curricular projects, editing, making those experiences known and assisting students who have no experience beyond film studies students."

The Media Center has been operating thus far on generous donations from alumni. "If you are funded by private money, money runs out. Unless we have a steady stream of money, if the camera breaks, it can't be fixed. But we're in it for the long run. Given the current state budget, we're singing the same old sad song as any other department,"



Michelle Ju

Media Center solvency: The Media Center's financial future depends upon private donors.

explained Mr. Davis.

The concert was intended to raise awareness about the Media Center, as well as some money. Media Specialist Kevin Horatio noted, "We don't usually do any fundraisers. The concert was made to raise awareness on our behalf by the student musicians. When fliers were produced, they said that the Media Center would be shut down, and that was a misconception." As the Dean of Universities Libraries Connie McCarthy stated, the event "was entirely a student affair, and that's not really been our approach. They are passionate about the Media Center, and I don't have a problem with it, even though it's not going to get us a million dollar endowment."

The concert, organized by members of the Campus Musicians Union Shane Cooley ('10) and Thomas Harrington ('10), was packed with appearances from both campus and off-campus bands,

including Eddy Charlton, Ultra Violet Ballet, and The Asylum. "My affiliation with the Media Center is simply that I'm a student, and I care about it. We didn't expect to raise money from poor college students right away," Mr. Cooley said. "They're not necessarily losing funds, but they're not getting any help either. They're not in dire need, but if they don't get replenishing funds, and if their mic breaks, they won't be able to get a new one. We did make some donations. The main purpose was to raise awareness and push the administration to actually give William and Mary funding. The Media Center is viewed as unimportant, and it's not funded and supported by the administration."

The future of the Media Center rests in the hands of the donors who professed to have strong interest in the cause of campus technology and recognized the need for its integration in the classroom experience.

Ms. McCarthy said, "We've been fortunate with start-up funds to buy equipment, but we're looking for private, large donors we can establish as endowment. We have had some additions to the library collections but not in the Media Center."

How to vote in the Williamsburg City Council Election

* Vote on May 6, Election Day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.. If you live on or near campus you are in the Stryker Precinct and vote at the Williamsburg Community Building, 401 North Boundary Street, which is about 3/10 mile from Confusion Corner. If you live in the Berkeley Precinct, vote at the Williamsburg Christian Church, located at 200 John Tyler Lane.

* If you will not be on campus or will be taking a final on Election Day, you can vote in-person absentee. You can go to the Voter Registrar Office at 412 North Boundary Street from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the two Saturdays prior to the election, April 26 and May 3.

Drink of the Week Cranberry Chesecake



Ian R. Whiteside

Ian Whiteside
Staff Writer

- 1.5oz Vanilla Liqueur
- 1oz Cream
- 3.5oz Cranberry Juice

Directions: Combine ingredients in a shaker with ice. Shake for a maximum of five seconds. Strain into glass and serve.

Substitutions: If you find the cream to be too heavy for your liking, substitute half & half. Milk is too thin for this drink.

Notes: A rich, sweet drink. Best kept for dessert. For this particular drink, I chose Dr. McGillicuddy's vanilla liqueur. There are other vanilla liquers available, but they tend to be on the pricey side.

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

No country for light beers: Few dark beers stand up to the wine-dominated French alcohol market

Jon San
Managing Editor

France is a country infamous for butting heads with the United States over many international issues. The differences extend beyond the political domain, as well: fast food vs. *cuisine gourmet*, SUVs vs. Smart cars but, most importantly, beer vs. wine. The warm, fruity flavors of red and white wines are preferred over the malt-infused, traditionally Anglo-Germanic beverage of a cold brew. And while France boasts tens of thousands of different wines, all delicious in their own right, beers brewed within the borders of France are a far rarer breed, since most are imported from Belgium, the Czech Republic and Germany. I took a look at four beers that will most likely not be coming to a Bloom near you:

1. Kronenbourg 1664 (1 fleur-de-lis)

First brewed in 1664 in the Alsace-Lorraine area of France, Kronenbourg is by far the most "American" of the French beer family. It is, without a doubt, the Natty Light of France. 1664 has the lowest alcohol by volume percentage (ABV) of those beers reviewed (4.2 percent) and can be bought for less than €1.5 per liter. More importantly, 1664 is McDonald's beer of choice for its French menu, meaning that you can simultaneously enjoy your *Royale* with Cheese with a cold glass of Kronenbourg. The taste is far less diluted and watery than cheap, light American beers (eg, Natural, Busch, Coors) but is hard to describe as especially tasty. However, for those American college students homesick in France, a sip of Kronenbourg will instantly bring back memories of the good times spent with old, faithful Natural Light.

2. Desperado (3 fleur-de-lis)

"The quintessential girly-drink that all the guys hate to love" would be the best description of this French beer. While at first glance it may seem like a Corona knock-off due to its yellow color and Latin-American font style,

Desperado is a refreshing departure from other French beers. The secret lies in the hint of tequila that gives this beer a lemon-lime flavor. However, the addition also results in the 5.9 percent ABV, and after a couple cans you will certainly feel the buzz. My only complaint is that Desperado is a rather expensive luxury, costing the equivalent of almost five dollars for a 75 centiliter bottle and, at the very least, double that amount at a bar.

3. Jenlain Amber (3 fleur-de-lis)

When pouring Jenlain Amber (Jenlain also offers "blonde," "fresh" and "spring" flavors), the first thing I noticed was its unusual orange color. While it is obviously called amber for good reason, this beer almost seemed to emanate an otherworldly shade of orange. It reminded me of the orange flavored cough medicine that I dreaded taking when coming down with a cold as a kid. Clearly, the differences could not be more distinct. When I first tasted Jenlain Amber, I immediately thought of Guinness or Bass although it was not quite as heavy or filling. You can even smell the barley aroma before taking a sip, and afterwards, the natural, earthy taste lingers for a while. Jenlain Amber is certainly not a "party beer" that can be consumed in mass quantities (the 7.5% ABV logically prevents that) but should instead be savored – a drinking style that often goes amiss at the College.

4. Pietra (2 fleur-de-lis)

Pietra comes from the Mediterranean island of Corsica, the birthplace of the legendary Napoleon Bonaparte. And while the famed French general was a great leader in his own right, Pietra is far from the uncontested leading French beer. This beverage's claim to fame is that it is brewed with chestnuts. While certainly a step up from American light beers and Kronenbourg, Pietra is not especially tasty.

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

The down-low on Williamsburg student discounts

Restaurant	Address	Number	Discount
415 Grill	415 Richmond Rd	229-4020	10% with ID
Black Angus Grille	1433 Richmond Rd	229-6823	20% with ID
Buon Amici	5201 Center St	220-8188	10% with ID
Capitol Pancake and Waffle House	802 Capitol Landing Rd	564-1238	20% Local Discount
Chebburger Cheeburger	4915 Courthouse Ave	565-5580	New Town Freaky Fridays: 10% with ID
Coldstone Creamery	4615-A Monticello Ave.	258-1100	10% with ID
Colonial Pancake House	100 Page St	253-5852	10% with ID
Corner Pocket	4805 Courthouse St	220-0808	Half-off pool on Mon nights with ID
Doraldo's	206 Armistead Ave	258-5001	10% with ID
Gazebo House of Pancakes	409 Bypass Rd	220-0883	10% with ID
IHOP	1412 Richmond Rd	229-9628	Tuesday between 4 and 9-50% off with ID
Kyoto	1621 Richmond Rd	220-8888	10% with ID
Lenny's Gourmet	445 Prince George St	253-0458	15% off ID after 5 on Monday-Friday
Mama Mia's	521 Prince George St	253-2225	Specials with ID
Manhattan Bagel	1437 Richmond Rd	259-9221	10% with ID
National Pancake House II	1605 Richmond Rd	220-5542	10% with ID
Old Mill Pancake House	2005 Richmond Rd	229-3613	Varies
Pierce's Pitt BBQ	447 E. Rochambeau Dr	565-2955	10% with ID
Polo Club	1303 Jamestown Rd	220-1122	10% with ID
Red Hot and Blue	1624 Richmond Rd	259-1670	10% with ID
Rita's Water Ice	135 Monticello Ave	259-7482	10% with ID
Sal's by Victor	1242 Richmond Rd	220-2641	10% with ID
Seasons	110 S. Henry St	259-0018	15% with ID
Subway Station	135 Monticello Ave	229-7827	10% with ID

"Trayless" experiment reduces waste in dining halls

Morgan Linski
Staff Writer

The SEAC-led "trayless" experiment at the Caf last month generated telling data about the benefits of going trayless. Dining officials now estimate that reducing food waste via a trayless system would save more than five Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of water annually if implemented permanently.

"The responses were overwhelmingly positive," said SEAC facilitator Zach Miller '08. "I think it was a big success."

SEAC members measured and weighed the garbage amassed during four trayless lunch periods last month and compared it to the amount of garbage generated during normal lunch periods. Dining Services also recorded changes in the amount of water used.

According to the data, 22.75 hours of running water would be saved if the Caf went trayless for a week, amounting to about 3,822 gallons of water per week and 122,304 gallons per year.

"There's a good chance that we'll probably [go trayless] at least once a week next year," said Commons Director Larry Smith, after reviewing the data.

While SEAC predicted a drop in food waste on trayless days because students can't load their trays with food they won't eat, only a small change in waste was recorded.

"The numbers were inconclusive, but we are confident if we had more consistent measuring practices we would have gotten better results," Mr. Miller said. These practices include measuring waste from more meal periods and factoring in the number of take-out boxes used.

Students surveyed as they left the Caf showed mixed feelings about the change. Over 200 surveys reported an overall 3.67 out of 5 satisfaction rating. Based on the environmental and health benefits, 81 percent of students were in favor of extending the program. Surveys reported that 55 percent of

students thought they threw away less food without trays, while 45 percent did not.

"Some found it an inconvenience," Mr. Smith said, since students could not put all their food on a tray and sit down. Bulletin board comments reported everything from satisfaction to outright anger.

"It's just a question of whether we're going to let a few peoples' preferences outweigh the preferences and feelings of the vast majority of students," Mr. Miller said, who received comments from "Keep up the good work!" to "Nature can take care of herself."

For now, students can still load their trays at the UC and the Marketplace.

"The set-up in the other dining halls is less conducive to getting up multiple times for food," Mr. Miller said. However, Mr. Smith said it's a possibility that the trayless program will be extended to the other dining halls in the future.

"We are working really hard to be as green as we can," Mr. Smith said. Other "green" efforts include using biodegradable cups and take-out boxes, planting a garden behind the Caf and using trash composts.

"The College is doing whatever we can to work with sustainability," said Resident District Manager for Dining Services Phil DiBenedetto. "We're taking lots of baby steps and getting everyone involved."

Mr. Miller remains positive about the progress that can be made despite disagreements with the administration over the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which would

make the College carbon neutral.

"We are excited to move forward with the food sustainability campaign regardless of the situation with administration, since we have such a good relationship with Dining Services," Mr. Miller said.

Kevin Dua reads *The Informer*...



Joe Luppino-Esposito

so should you!

WRHA BUYS PROFESSOR'S HOUSE: City Council approves \$310,000 to transfer Harrison property to housing authority

continued from page one

city council, which seeks to provide affordable housing to low and middle income individuals and families. The WRHA was to have 12 months to repay the loan and in case of a problem repayment would extend until December 31, 2007. At this point, the City could have this loan foreclosed upon.

Much debate has surfaced regarding the wisdom of the council's action, as the city may fail to recover thousands of dollars from this action. In all, taxpayer dollars have entailed \$277,000 for the purchase, \$7,000 in "carrying costs," and \$134,000 in renovations. In addition, there will likely be an approximate \$10,000 realtor's fee at time of sale, assuming that the house is sold at its asking price of \$389,000. The WRHA denied a FOIA request by *The Virginia Informer* to disclose the costs associated with actual renovation.

Williamsburg's Director of Finance, Phil Serra, has stated that the interest rate fluctuated between 4-4.5% over this time. The loan to the WRHA was made on a zero interest basis, which factors into an appreciation loss for the city, totaling some \$30,000.

Thus, the Harrison house will actually lose the WRHA at least \$69,000, based off of city manager Tuttle's admission of \$418,000 in purchasing and renovation costs. Further, this assumes that the housing market will not cause the current market price to drop even more, as the property was initially listed for \$450,000.

Dr. David Kranbuehl, a chemistry Professor at the College, entered into a binding contract on the property on February 22, 2006 for \$275,000, secured with a \$15,000 deposit. He now cites the downturned housing market as partial explanation for the property's situation saying "Let's face it: we are heading toward the worst economic situation since the depression, so obviously housing is down." But in its most updated information, the Virginia Association of Realtors reports that the average sales price of homes in Williamsburg fell only 5 percent in December 2007.

The reasons as to why the house has not yet sold and its inflated costs seem to be much more complex. For an explanation, a story involving two College faculty, Dr. Kranbuehl and Economics Professor Clyde Haulman, the Williamsburg City Council, and the WRHA must be told.

Dr. Kranbuehl is a resident of Harrison Ave. and current president of the West Williamsburg Heights Neighborhood Association. He describes his lead-up to acquiring the property as: "I saw the owner had died. I talked to her kids about a price, which was lower than they had expected to get through a realtor, and so I bought the house. Over the course of 3-4 months, I explored what the housing authority was. And they said 'yeah we'd love to have this because we know what we can do with it.'"

Before the WRHA got the contract, Dr. Kranbuehl had an inspection, but not an appraisal on the property. He stated "There is a city assessment so I knew what that was, but I did hire someone for several hundred dollars to come in and tell me what was going to need to be replaced and what things had to be done...the city assessments are supposed to be congruent with appraised values so I didn't feel that such was worth my time. \$275,000 is and was, in my opinion, a good deal." However, if the home were to have been sold on the market instead of to the housing authority an appraisal would likely have been necessary.

In 2006, the house was assessed by the city at \$147,000, and is now assessed at \$286,900 for fiscal year 2008. City Assessor, John Matton, notes that "Over the past several years the market has been very active and the assessments were quite different [from appraised values]."

Dr. Kranbuehl also cited a desire to maintain "responsible owners" in the Williamsburg Heights neighborhood, asking "Are we going to have rent controls? They [certain rental owners] are going to be making more money hand over fist. And these are the same people that aren't going to put money in the house to make it attractive...Right now my whole neighborhood is fantastic and I would be happy to help any student and have at times when there was a slumlord to sue."

Specifically on the city's involvement, he stated "Someone on the WRHA must have talked in private with council and then they talked about it with the city manager. That's how these things are made." Some speculation has been raised as to whether property

would have been sold on market at a value lower than its \$277,000 purchase. Producing cash up front for the down payment, as through a WRHA loan permits sidestepping of an appraisal, as a lender would not be needed.

The March 9, 2006 council meeting in which a vote was taken on the loan was the first time that the issue was raised publicly. When approving these funds for acquisition, the Council did not disclose that Kranbuehl already had the contract and it would need to be assigned to the WRHA. Williamsburg city manager, Jack Tuttle, downplayed risk in city involvement saying "We've received a request from the WRHA to assist them in converting a property into a region of the city that is currently threatened by excessive rentals. The rental percentage is 62 percent. The proposal from the housing authority is to invest \$25-30,000 in the property for the conversion...When the property is sold the city will either recoup the total amount or we could end up with a loss and that's the risk we take."

Mayor Zeidler responded in this same meeting with "From what I know of this I think that it's a terrific opportunity for the city and the housing authority to help preserve the neighborhood and to also provide an opportunity for home ownership."

Speaking next, Dr. Haulman strongly advocated for the loan saying "This is a unique opportunity and we do owe a debt of gratitude to David Kranbuehl who has taken action and spent a fair amount of his own money on an inspection...Neighborhoods work because they have a balance of owner occupied-rental homes, the key is to make sure the balance does not tip one way too far or the other." Dr. Haulman also serves on the board of commissioners for the WRHA, where he often advocates for such a balance.

Then-councilman Billy Scruggs said that "I think I can safely say that this is not directed at getting students out of the neighborhood but it may decrease the opportunity for multiple rentals in one house."

The WRHA inserted an owner-occupied restriction in its deed. However, this is not the first house that the city has helped with loans to the Authority, but it does appear that it is unique in its acquisition and selling. At the same meeting, Haulman insisted on this not being a new proposition. There are questions as to whether the council overpaid for the purchase of house, which an appraisal would have shown. Further, doubt has been cast on the misestimating of the renovation costs, which have exceeded \$30,000 (in fact, \$134,000).

Andy Hungerman, the current WRHA Director, believes the purchase and renovation are still worthwhile and that it is premature to pass judgment before the sale of the house. Although not director when the deal was made, he strongly supports the actions of the WRHA. Regarding a potential loss of

taxpayer funds, Hungerman said "You think it's a loss yet because it hasn't sold--we could be in negotiations with someone right now. Until that property is sold and everything becomes public, right now there are certain things that don't need to be shared."

He further asserted that the difference between the actual and the projected renovation costs was not that relevant, saying "This is not necessarily wrong. Guess what? It shouldn't have even been rented as it couldn't pass a section 8 review. So somebody may come in and inspect the property, but you don't know until you get started on the work."

"There are people out there whose interests are not egalitarian and who try to get property on the cheap. Whether or not the funds were wasted on this property, that depends on what happens at the end of the day" said Hungerman.

In the wake of the attention that the issue has received, many city council candidates, in addition to Haulman have commented on the Harrison property and city involvement. One candidate, Paul Freiling, has retracted his original support for city involvement with the WRHA on this property.

Gil Granger, who lives on Harrison Avenue, said in the recent student debate "I think it was wrong of the housing authority to take it off the market and take two apartments out just to put in one house...It is not a fragile neighborhood, it is a very nice neighborhood."

Matt Beato ('09) responded to the same question by saying "This housing was workforce housing and now it's being sold for over \$300,000 which is not affordable housing for many people in the local workforce. It would cost us far too much money to keep doing this."

True to his position, Haulman responded by saying "I think that this was a good decision made by the city and I think if other opportunities come up we will take them."

Ying Yang Twins' concert offers students a balance between rock and rap

Alec McKinley
Staff Writer

Lake Matoaka, usually the picture of natural serenity, was brought to life with an energetic concert by The Ying Yang Twins this past Saturday. Concertgoers knew the rap duo mostly from their hit album U.S.A. (United State of Atlanta), which was released in 2005 and reached #2 on U.S. charts.

In a national competition on the music website Eventful.com, William and Mary students and Williamsburg residents managed to vote the College to a number one spot and get the Ying Yang Twins to come to campus. After a few scheduling conflicts and delays UCAB finally confirmed April 19th for the date of the concert.

Opening for the Ying Yang Twins was William and Mary's own Thao Nguyen and The Get Down Stay Down. Mrs. Nguyen met fellow bandmate and drummer Willis Thompson while earning a degree in Sociology and Women's Studies at the College.

Thao won over the crowd with her soulful crooning and skillful guitar work. Songs like 'Beat' and 'Swimming Pools' created a relaxed aura that permeated through the audience. Other singles like 'Geography' and 'Bag of Hammers' were also well-received.

Following the opening act was a performance of William and Mary's hip-hop dance troupe The Syndicate. Coming out in all white T-shirts, members of

The Syndicate danced to tunes from M.I.A., Timbaland and Dead Prez. A highlight of the performance was a well-choreographed dance to a remix of Daft Punk's Harder Better Faster Stronger.

When the Ying Yang Twins came on stage the entire amphitheater went wild. Promoting their new album coming out this fall, the Ying Yang Twins performed many popular songs including "Whistle While You Twerk" "Get Low" and "I Need a Dime". After much fanfare the Ying Yang twins introduced their mixmaster, DJ Scientist. Throwing together some complex mix and scratch routines, DJ scientist had the crowd enthralled. The second half of their performance was a collection of Rap, R&B and Rock songs



Matoaka: The concert opened with Acts Thao and They Get Down Stay Down.

that the Twins sang along too driving the energy energy to an all time high.

An exciting night of rock, hip hop and dancing, overall, the Ying Yang Twins concert at Lake Matoaka Amphitheatre was well worth the wait.

Try Thaipot for delicious food and great service

Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

The Thaipot in New Town is a new Thai restaurant, located behind the movie theater and sharing a wall with the excellent restaurant of Buon Amici. They have opened very recently, so I decided to check them out for lunch.

I stepped inside and was amazed by the setup. The place was beautifully decorated and well lit with both natural and artificial light. The decorations included absolutely beautiful (and expensive) wall hangings and little knickknacks from Thailand. The entire scene was very charming. Traditional Thai instrumental music was playing in the background.

I was politely greeted and taken to my comfortable seat. From studying the menu I could see that they served East coast Thai (as opposed to West coast, which uses a lot of coconut in its cooking). They had a large selection of vegetarian and seafood options as well as the more regular foods. They also had different prices for lunch and dinner. Most lunch items were about \$7.95, while dinner items were about \$13.95. Soups were priced at \$5.95, while most salads were at about \$10.95.

When I first tried my water, I noticed a rather unusual, although not unpleasant taste. Later, I realized that they mix some apple and lemon into their water, which does more than add flavor, but also helps counteract the spiciness of a meal. However, none of the food I ordered was spicy, and from looking at the menu, none of the other dishes looked too spicy either.

For an appetizer, I ordered the Satay chicken (\$6.95). I did not have to wait long before four skewers of medium sized chicken came out with a small dish of peanut sauce. I bit into the chicken and was amazed by the taste and flavor. It was juicy and had only a little curry. The chicken was at a

good and hot temperature, and mixed very well with the peanut sauce. I really enjoyed this, and finished the dish quickly. My only complaint was that the peanut sauce was at room temperature, rather than heated. As I finished the appetizer, I was really looking forward to the main course.

For the entrée I ordered the chicken fried rice. I like to see how well a restaurant can do the basic items before I ever try the other ones. Again, I did not have a long wait before a large scoop of chicken fried rice on a plate was brought out to me. Many places that serve fried rice just have tiny pieces of chicken and little bits of veggies mixed in. Thaipot did nothing so menial. Their fried rice was loaded with whole chunks of chicken, broccoli and other vegetables. Nor was it over-salted; it had its own distinct flavor. This fried rice was its own meal, not just a side item, and I devoured it all.

For dessert, I tried their fried banana with ice cream (\$5.95). Soon came a plate with a large scoop of ice cream at the center of a shell, with four slices of fried banana in each of the corners. There was a cherry on top, and everything had been drizzled with honey. The dessert was very enjoyable, but a little expensive considering what I got. The banana pieces were small and there were only four of them. It would have been superb if more banana pieces were included with this desert item. Still, this is the kind of dish that one can split with a date.

The servers were all very attentive and efficient. I was very pleased to see that they timed everything very well. Not once did I have the inconvenience of still working on one dish when another was brought out. Not including the tip, my bill for the three courses was \$22.75. I encourage you to try the Thaipot, as their food is very good. Their dinner prices are a little higher than what most students are willing to pay, but their lunch prices are very reasonable.

Movie Review:

Smart People lacks substantial plot, falls short of hype

Patrick Macaluso
Movie Critic

With a solid cast—including Dennis Quaid, Thomas Haden Church, Ellen Page and Sarah Jessica Parker—*Smart People* had some good hype. This movie fell very short of justifying this hype, however. It's going to be difficult for me to give a plot synopsis without giving away too much information, but here it goes: *Smart People* follows a six month period in the life of Lawrence Wetherhold (Quaid), who is a tenured English professor at Carnegie Mellon University. He struggles to find direction in his life, which is interrupted by his adopted brother (Church), his academic-obsessed daughter (Page) and a doctor (Parker), who happens to be a former student whom (like all of his students) he doesn't remember.

I usually like to elaborate a little bit on the plot, but that is difficult for this movie. The plot doesn't really have a direction, and it doesn't seem like it comes to any real conclusion. None of the four main characters are the least bit likable; you will leave the cinema with a bad taste in your mouth, and it won't be from the extra grease on the popcorn.

The plot doesn't have anything to show us that most anyone can relate to. The only thing that this film solidified for me is my real distaste for English. The main character is exactly what you would expect from an English professor, not unlike Jeff Daniels's character in *The Squid and the Whale*.

What the film lacks in plot, substance and direction, though, it makes up for in acting. I was afraid that I would only be able to envision Ellen Page as the character Juno, but as likable as Juno was, Vanessa Wetherhold was more or less despicable. However, as much as the actors tried to carry a film with no plot, no theme, no direction and no character development, it was a failure. Oh well, bad ideas get bad reviews I suppose.

The movie fell short of every expectation, especially the one that we have for all films—that is, tell us a story! For that, I give it a C-.

The Finer Side:

Informer's Beauty Picks for Spring 2008

It's that time of year—*The Virginia Informer's* spring beauty picks 2008! Through much trial, a little error and lots of research, The Finer Side brings you the best beauty products of spring 2008. Some are classics, some are new, but you won't want to be without any of them this summer!



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

1. **Frederic Fekkai Glossing Cream** (\$19.50 - \$26.50, Sephora.com) This is by far the most amazing hair product you will ever try. Smoothing this onto dry hair after it's been styled means that you will never worry about frizz or dullness again. The combination of olive oil and UVA/UVB protectors ensures that you will not have to worry about added oil in your hair, and you will also be protecting it from the nasty summer sun!

2. **Cargo BeachBlush in Miami Beach** (\$26, Sephora.com) It's always important to have the perfect bronzer during the summer. You'll find it in this product. The combination of color stripes mean that you can use this from late spring to early fall, layering on more color during the height of summer.

3. **C.O. Bigelow Mentha Lip Shine in Spearmint** (\$7.50, BathandBodyWorks.com) This will become your new favorite lip gloss. Acting as a lip gloss *and* a mint, the 2 percent spearmint oil acts as a breath freshener. This gloss never gets sticky, and comes in cinnamon and peppermint flavors as well.

4. **Physicians Formula Organic Tinted Moisturizer** (\$9.95, CVS stores) This national drugstore brand has just released a new organic product line boasting ECOCERT and EcoBlend

certifications. Not to mention that this tinted moisturizer is a nice smelling, light feeling product that's perfect for hot summer weather. This new line could become an environmentalist's best friend

5. **OPI Nail Lacquer** (\$6.95, OPI.com) OPI's nail lacquers have been a girl's best friend for years. Praised by almost every beauty magazine, these humorously named colors last forever on nails and come in so many shades, it will take you a lifetime to sample them all—but don't let that stop you from trying!

6. **Bare Escentuals Prime Time Eyelid Primer** (\$16, Sephora.com) This has become my personal "can't live without" product. This gives any eye shadow (whether cream or powder, expensive or cheap) staying power to last through the entire day. Anyone planning on working long hours as an intern or otherwise needs this product!

7. **Stila Cherry Crush Lip and Cheek Stain** (\$24, Sephora.com) Stila's new creation, marketed only through Sephora, has become a much talked about wonder-product. Infused with real cherry extract, this stain adds a wonderful healthy glow



Jennifer Souers

Spring 2008 Winners: (Clockwise, left to right) CO Bigelow Mentha Lip Shine, Physician's Formula Tinted Moisturizer, OPI Nail Lacquer, Bare Escentuals Prime Time, Stila Cherry Check & Lip Stain, Bobbi Brown Gel Eyeliner

when worn as blush under foundation, or a lively punch when worn on lips. But don't shy away from this miracle product; though it looks bright in the container, it goes on very sheer and natural looking.

8. **Bobbi Brown Long-Wear Gel Eyeliner** (\$19, BobbiBrownCosmetics.com) Bobbi Brown revolutionized the makeup world for brunettes, and her long-wear gel eyeliner has become the staple of many makeup artists. This eyeliner, which comes in 15 different wonderful shades, stays on all day and can form a dramatic clean line or a smudged one, depending on your preference.

Nooks and Crannies of William & Mary:

Rule #1: You don't talk about Flight Club

Brian O'Donnell
Staff Writer

So you think your little club is pretty cool, huh? Maybe won a few awards, brought some cool people to campus? Imagine strutting into class one day in your leather flight jacket, aviator glasses, army pants and high-topped boots. "Sorry I'm late," you smirk, "I was just flying back from Jamestown. Thought it would be a nice day for a spin." In the early 1930s, while most cars were maxing out at 30 mph, a few ambitious students got to take lessons at the first collegiate "department of aeronautics" in the country. Established by President Julian Chandler in 1931, the Flight Club's 17 novice pilots developed their skills on a fleet trainer, two open-cockpit Kitty Hawk biplanes and a Curtiss Robin monoplane, complete with green and gold stripes with a William and Mary seal on the fuselage.

It goes without saying that aviation wasn't a new thing at the College. In 1786 the idea of flight was so popular that a "Balloon Club" was created, and

by 1801 the club had obtained its own hot-air balloon. The crew, led by club president JS Watson, attempted to raise the balloon on the courthouse lawn. However, an eddy of wind pushed it into the courthouse, tilting it sideways, and the engine engulfed the canvas in flames. It only took the team a few weeks to repair, and the first balloon flight in Virginia history was again attempted. This time, spirits of wine were used as extra fuel for the windless day, and the launch went off without a hitch. A crowd of onlookers gathered and declared that they had "never seen a more beautiful sight," comparing it to a solar eclipse. Later in 1929, a group of students built and rode their own 37-foot glider on campus.

Mr. Chandler is lauded for reinvigorating the school. He tripled the student body and endowment by accepting female students, built most of the on-campus dormitories, and prepared plans for the Sunken Garden. He also foresaw aviation in the school's future. Mr. Chandler convinced Williamsburg to buy land for an airport, on which he built a \$16,000 hangar. He even had a large "airport arrow and meridian marker" painted in bright yellow and black

on the newly constructed Monroe Hall's roof for night flying.

Mr. Chandler then hired Colonel Earl Popp, a former army pilot, to teach a four credit ground school training course called Aeronautics 101" to 40 students. The colonel did this in exchange for free use of the College's laboratories for all of his students at Popp's Riordan School of New York, a traveling university conducted aboard a small steamer that docked at Jamestown. His first understudy, YO Kent, and Mr. Chandler's son Julian later instructed the course as well. The 17 students who actually flew paid \$7.50 for hourly lessons and attended three lectures a week.

Flight club members were the big men on campus. Lou Carner, a star football player and pilot, once described their favorite pastime: flying to Jamestown, turning back toward campus, and shutting the engines off halfway home. They would glide silently over Landrum and the other women's dorms, where the "sunbathing beauties" on the roof and lawns would giggle and flee to cover.

The Flight Club was so successful that in 1933 it won the Loening Cup for "best

collegiate flight school" in the country, beating Harvard, Dartmouth and Purdue and winning the club \$100 in the process. The victory brought the College a lot of fame, and in 1932 fabled aviator Amelia Earhart visited campus to give the commencement address and become an honorary Flight Club member. In her speech she focused on women in higher education and flying, and mentioned the only female member of Flight Club, Minnie Savage.

Mr. Chandler died in 1934, and with him, support for Flight Club. The cost of insurance and maintenance for the club simply outweighed the fading novelty of the program. It left behind three future pilots, over 750 hours of logged flights, the Loening Trophy and a broken propeller that now resides in the Alumni House.

There you have it. William and Mary was the first American college in the sky. Those early birds shot for the stars, built that castle in the clouds and a slew of other flying clichés. But the sky really was the limit. So the next logical step? Space. How about that, Harvard?

Book Review:

Krugman promotes progressive economics and liberalism in *The Conscience of a Liberal*

Michael Cohen
Staff Writer

The conventional wisdom these days on economics tends to favor the right, and so it is refreshing to see a serious and thoughtful work that not only questions that wisdom, but also advances something new and different. Such is the nature of Paul Krugman's *The Conscience of a Liberal*, a book whose goal is to galvanize support for progressive economic policies in the years to come.

While Mr. Krugman is unambiguously in favor of expanding the role of the welfare state (in a move comparable to the New Deal), it would be unfair to criticize or overgeneralize his positions. It takes brains to win the John Bates Clark medal in economics, write a college textbook on microeconomics that we use here at William and Mary, and teach at MIT, Yale and Stanford. Mr. Krugman is far from perfect, but he deserves to be taken seriously.

The book's argument, written in clear and simple prose, centers around economic inequality,

specifically income equality. Krugman traces how the policies of the New Deal, especially its income transfer programs and union protection, helped to create a secure and prosperous middle class whose members were on surprisingly equal economic terms. Today however, the situation is very different, and by many measures income inequality has risen considerably.

According to Mr. Krugman, the reason for this lies in the rise of so-called "movement conservatism," basically an amalgam of neoconservative intellectuals, Christian conservatives, and the libertarian heirs to Milton Friedman. All of these groups, according to his explanation, shared a common interest in dismantling the institutions of the New Deal and Great Society while promoting policies that benefited the rich while neglecting the poor. Needless to say, they receive the brunt of Mr. Krugman's indictment for our present situation.

One of the more mixed sections of the book is Mr. Krugman's analysis of movement conservatism's rise and methods. His insights here aren't inaccurate so much as they're incomplete and erring on the shallow side. *Conscience* doesn't recognize that there may be some legitimate criticisms of the New Deal and Great Society coming from movement conservatism. Moreover, his repeated and partially evidenced claim that movement conservatism's success lies primarily in exploiting racial prejudices is not very convincing and feels like a hasty reduction of a complicated issue.

These facts weaken his book somewhat, but not entirely, because Mr. Krugman is more of a scientist than a partisan.

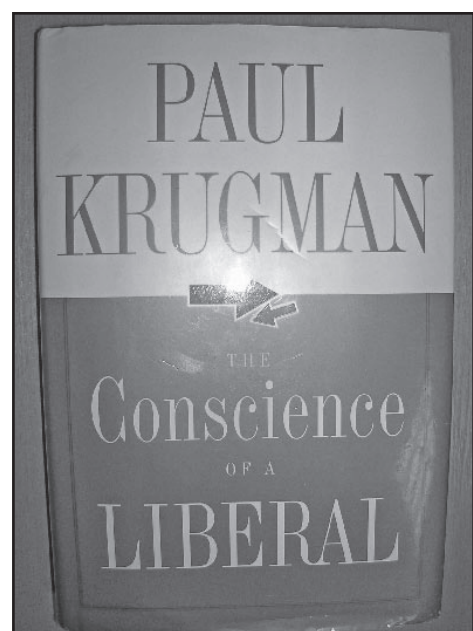
The Conscience of a Liberal

Author: Paul Krugman
Pages: 352
Publisher: W.W. Norton
ISBN: 0393060691
List Price: \$25.95

His economic arguments are largely persuasive, mainly because they're backed up by careful research and careful thinking. He doesn't make the moral argument for his revolutionary programs because he doesn't have to—the statistics generally support his arguments, and when there are ambiguities, he acknowledges and explains them.

A case in point is his call for universal health care, which he reasonably sees as a more efficient solution to America's health care woes than our current one. After sweeping aside the usual barrage of straw-man criticisms, his advocacy for socialized insurance (not, he points out, the equivalent to socialized medicine) comes off not as radical but as rational. In areas like this one, his arguments aren't particularly partisan. Rather, they simply point out what works and what doesn't.

There is room to disagree with *The Conscience of a Liberal*, especially with regards to its foundational belief in the importance of maintaining a degree of economic equality. But whether one supports or rejects Mr. Krugman's call for a "new New Deal" one must come away from his book with a measure of respect for a cerebral and provocative work that may indeed shift one's conscience on the important economic issues of the day.



Like
what
you
see?

JOIN
US.

Informer
meetings
are every
Monday
7:30 p.m.
Blair 201

IPAX's TOPDOG/underdog comes out on top

Sarah Nadler
Staff Writer

Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize winning drama *TOPDOG/underdog* tells the story of two African-American brothers, Lincoln and Booth. The two men live together in a shoddy apartment without running water and are unable to overcome the trauma of being abandoned by their parents as children. As a result, they spend their adulthood dealing with poverty, racism, alcoholism, gambling and sibling rivalry. The play only has two actors: Jack Stuart, playing Lincoln, and Michael Harris, who played Booth. Both did an incredible job of relaying the raw emotion present in this drama to the audience.

TOPDOG/underdog opened Thursday, April 10 in Phi Beta Kappa's Studio Theatre, and was played in the round. Messrs. Stuart and Harris did a remarkable job of keeping the audience engaged; I never felt left out of the action no matter where the actors were positioned. The set was minimalist and did not change. The few props, including an old dirty mattress, a bottle of Aristocrat, a makeshift wash pail reminiscent of the third world and a flimsy cardboard box table all exemplified the poverty of the two brothers.

The play's action consisted of dialogue between the two brothers. The characters were always drinking, and the actors did an excellent job of playing drunken men. As a result of the alcohol, the conversations exchanged between the brothers were often repetitive, hypothetical and whiny. Towards the end, I began to be very bored by the conversation.

In spite of this however, the play was incredibly interesting. Lincoln, a former card hustler, works as an Abraham Lincoln reenactor and remarks on how much he likes his job because he gets paid to sit there and think. Booth, an unemployed homebody, expresses his desire for Lincoln to teach him the trade of hustling. Each time they drink, Booth begs Lincoln to play cards with him.

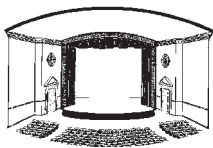


TOPDOG/underdog staff

Tough love: Brothers Booth and Lincoln (played by Jack Stuart and Michael Harris) engage in sibling rivalry in IPAX's production of *TOPDOG/underdog*.

Nevertheless, there is more to the cards than their lucrative nature. The cards serve as a foil to reveal the deep seated sibling rivalry present between the brothers. In typical younger brother fashion, Booth wants to prove he is just as quick as his older brother. Lincoln wants to protect his younger brother from the violence of hustling, but Booth views this as a smug way for Lincoln to preserve his reputation. This rivalry proves to be the demise of the brothers' relationship at the end of the drama.

The quality of acting on the part of Messrs. Stuart and Harris was astounding. I felt like I had a front row seat on their emotional rollercoaster. One can only imagine the pressure of being one of only two actors in a play, yet the two leads demonstrated incredible professionalism. Despite its two and a half hour length, the play entertained me and is rife with entertaining and witty irony. Don't come expecting to leave happy, though; this play is a tragedy in every sense of the word.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Live Performances

Wit's Last Stake

Thu., Apr. 24, May 1, 8, 15 at 8 p.m.
Adults \$12, Children under 6 \$6

The William and Mary Department of Theater, Speech, and Dance presents

Morning

Fri., May 2 at 7 p.m.
Tickets free, but required for entrance

French Chimes and Choir Concert

Sat., May 3 at 3 p.m.
Tickets free, but required for entrance

The History of Rock

Sat., May 3 at 8 p.m.
General admission \$15

Laughing Redhead Studio presents

Clean Comedy Night

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

May Schedule

Movies

4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days Not Rated

Tues., Apr. 22-Sat., Apr. 27
6:30 and 8:30 pm
Apr. 23-25, 27 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)

Beaufort

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. 26, 28-29 screening room (35 seats)

Paranoid Park (R)

Mon., May 5-Fri., May 9
7 and 9 p.m.
May 5-8 screening room (35 seats)

In Bruges (R)

Fri., May 9-Wed., May 14
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
May 9-10, 12-13 screening room (35 seats)

Taxi to the Dark Side (R)

Tues., May 13-Sat., May 18
7 and 9 p.m.
May 14-17 screening room (35 seats)

OPINION

Staff Editorial:

Go green

College must enact speech code changes

Freedom of speech is an individual right that is at the very heart of this nation. Such freedoms are something to be treasured in universities, where new ideas are the lifeblood of the academic world. Currently, many within the William and Mary administration seem to understand the inherent worth of allowing free speech on campus. But there are more steps that need to be taken to ensure this is maintained and expanded. The first step must be to reform our speech code, transitioning us from a “red light” to a “green light” university, as awarded by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE).

Braun Katz '10, the undersecretary of Student Rights for Free Speech Advocacy, has been working tirelessly to reform the current speech code to designate the College as a FIRE “green light” university. We commend his outstanding

leadership in this effort. His recent proposals to the college administration, which address such matters as harassment and threats as well as reasonable time and place restrictions, would ensure that protected speech is not limited if enacted.

The Virginia Informer strongly advocates for the implementation of these proposals. By reforming our code, we will prevent any future abuses of limiting speech. Furthermore, if we improve our code and receive a “green light” designation from FIRE, our College will join the ranks of other select universities which have proven their dedication to the defense of liberty. These changes will guarantee the free exchange of ideas and continued presence of differing opinions. It is without reservation that *The Virginia Informer* advocates for the preservation of freedom of speech at William and Mary by implementing these reforms.

A look back at *The Informer*

Matt Sutton
Managing Editor

I joined *The Informer* in the first month of my freshman year. Unlike some of the decisions I made freshman year, I have never regretted this one. Moving in to my first home at the College, Dupont Hall, and sweating in that miserable August weather, I met my hallmate (and truly hilarious future partner in comedy), Nick Fitzgerald. Nick was an enthusiastic salesman for the fledging paper and convinced me to meet Amanda Yasenchak and Joe Luppino-Esposito, the two co-founders of *The Informer*.

I was immediately struck by their energy and enthusiasm. They envisioned a truly independent student newspaper that would combine hard hitting news coverage and an editorial page friendly to campus conservatives and libertarians. They have succeeded admirably.

William and Mary needed a paper like *The Informer*. Like so many other great liberal arts universities around the nation, W&M had unfortunately succumbed to the intellectual doldrums of unquestioned liberalism. This philosophy, which appeared bold and original in the uproar of the 1960s, had grown complacent and sclerotic.

Its slogans—diversity, multiculturalism, and social justice—were chanted daily by its chief priests in the administration and more disappointingly received fawning coverage in the official school newspaper. Spooning out its liberal pabulum, the administration and its enablers in the press seemed to be the problem. Unaccountable, with virtually no oversight, they had grown emboldened.

We at *The Informer*, like many at the College, had seen that the Emperor had no clothes and had the courage

to report it. I encountered a group of editors, reporters, photographers, and staffers like no other at *The Informer*. We all were eager to test the College's stated commitment to intellectual diversity.

Soon we met the reality of liberal discourse on this campus. Our papers were stolen and vandalized. The administration, once patronizing, soon turned actively hostile, refusing us the interviews and information they doled out to their favorites. Some of our more enlightened peers took to Facebook, crafting hate groups, advocating the physical destruction of our paper or commentary on what bodily orifice we happened to reside in. Joe saw his dorm door vandalized, and typical of most attacks on the paper, it took place in the middle of the night.

Our crime was and has been exercising our protected First Amendment right to provide a voice to opinions shutout by the campus establishment. For most students at the College, T.S. Eliot's immortal question, “Do I dare disturb the universe?” is an idle hypothetical for countless “Safe Zone” or awareness events. For a student journalist at *The Informer*, this was a daily reality. All of them rose to the challenge. Taking William F. Buckley's maxim to heart, “despair is a mortal sin,” I never saw any member of *The Informer* grow disparaged or bitter at these attacks.

I am proud of the change that *The Informer* has brought to William and Mary from giving so many students a voice to forcing other campus publications to step up their efforts. If there was justice in the world, Joe Luppino-Esposito and Amanda Yasenchak would be recognized for their service. Not willing to hold my breath, I offer my thanks to them here for the opportunity to work with them. I predict the continued presence of *Informer* in the years to come will be a living reminder of their courage and vision.



Joe Luppino-Esposito
Editor in Chief Emeritus

During finals my freshman year, Amanda Yasenchak and I knocked on doors, giving a spiel about our new project, *The Virginia Informer*. We wanted to create a newspaper that reported on stories the liberal establishment and college administration had no interest in discussing. We got about 12 names. Come August, that list fell to 11, including Amanda, myself and an eager freshman I Facebooked over the summer.

And so began *The Informer*.

Now, two presidents, three years, 26 editions, over 60 staffers, hundreds of pages and thousands of copies later, *The Informer* has become a fixture.

Rumors (and, perhaps, hopes) of our demise have been greatly exaggerated. In the first two years, we were told we could not compete with the established campus media. This semester, some have said that there is no reason to continue, now that William and Mary's worst president has exited stage (far) left.

There are some clear reasons why *The Informer* will continue indefinitely.

First and foremost, I am honored to be leaving the paper in the hands of Andrew B. Blasi, Jr. Andrew has been one of the paper's most active members and has a remarkably holistic approach. He understands our mission and goals, and will execute them well. His lieutenants, Jon San and Alex Mayer, have the experience to keep the ship on course, sticking to deadlines and ensuring a near-perfect product. Nick Fitzgerald, that eager freshman, is now a senior, ready to take on our next frontier with *The Virginia Informer Online*, which will undoubtedly revolutionize media on campus. The section and department editors—Steven Nelson, Michelle Ju, Megan Locke, Kristin Coyner, R.C. Rasmus, Jennifer Souers, Sam McVane and Alec McKinley—are ready to lead their staffs and will push them every issue to put out a newspaper that they can all be proud of. All of these leaders, along with the assistant editors, writers, copy editors, layout designers, photographers and other staffers are the most qualified people on campus to perform these jobs. I will miss them all, dearly.

Luckily, we do not operate in a vacuum, and there are many factors that led to our success. The motivation that Amanda and I had for creating the newspaper was to have real competition in campus media. *The Informer* does not create news: we just care more about this College and about our fellow classmates than to reprint administration-approved press releases.

Some stories are hard to find; a female student hit by a police car while on her bicycle and *she* winds up with a ticket, for example. Other stories are covered, in brief, by others, because of a lack in community understanding: see the story on a two-foot tall cross. Still, other stories are important to all, but the greater issues are not raised. A faculty strike is an obvious headliner, but the conduct of the deans and provost in the execution of the strike is where the real story exists.

Through all these stories, *The Informer* has kept a fighting spirit, and has welcomed challenges. Some are petty and juvenile, coming in the form of shaving cream. Others come from the establishment. When a professor exclaims, publicly, that prospective students reading *The*

Informer is “not good,” I know we are doing something right.

Therein lies the most important aspect of why *The Informer* must continue. For a university of our caliber, students' deference to the status quo is frightening. Colleges are funny places today, in which “conservatives” rebel and “progressives” fight to continue the same policies that have been in place for decades.

The last administration was the culmination of that dangerous standard. Clearly, the majority student opinion was against *The Informer's* stance on the issue. However, the paper enjoyed an increase in staff five fold. It gives me great pride to know that those brave enough to be independent come out to our meetings every Monday night doing their part to change hearts and minds.

The paper, and I especially, have been accused of hating the College for doing this. Since when is challenging authority so wrong? When did blind faith become a virtue? *The Informer* embodies the nature of a liberal arts college: to question everything and leave no stone unturned. Some called it being “mean-spirited.” I call it reporting the news.

The Virginia Informer has been the most important group I have been a part of in my entire life. It has defined my career at the College, for better or for worse, depending on who you ask.

I know for one student, Matt Sutton, it is a positive definition. Matt, who is graduating a year early, has been with the paper from the beginning. He started as our intrepid Student Assembly reporter who broke down the barriers of what was a closed system. He went on to become managing editor this year. Matt's job description became something to the effect of: “Help keep Joe from losing more hair than he already has.”

Matt, you were the best advisor anyone could have. You are loyal, trustworthy, prudent and supportive. In the event my aspirations for high political office come through, you will be the first person I call to be chief of staff, but I know you are probably too noble to get into politics...or to work for me. All kidding aside, I thank you very much for your work and for keeping my head screwed on straight this year.

Amanda turned a dream into a reality. As with most of my elaborate schemes, like creating an Italian American Student Association, or proposing a new master college plan, or turning the SA into a parliamentary system, *The Virginia Informer* would have been lost in between classes and about ten-too-many causes.

Amanda, you decided that this idea actually made sense, and you molded it and shaped it to actually work. We have been together for longer than the paper has been around, but as it has grown and flourished, so have we. As cheesy as it sounds, *The Virginia Informer* did bring us closer together. Needless to say, I could not have done it without you. I thank you, and I love you.

Finally, after just surprising most readers that I actually have a heart, I have one last thank you. It goes to people I have yet to meet. *The Virginia Informer* embodies a legacy that I will take with me for many years to come. To those brave souls that will take on the task of challenging the norm, I thank you.

When the light that shines down the path to the future is so powerful that it is blinding, that future will undoubtedly be bright. Such is the case for *The Informer*, and words can never express how much joy that brings me.

A humorous end to the school year: break from stress and gawk



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

It is a curious thing, when a number of individuals seem to think true contributions to the campus consist of pinning declarative buttons on their North Face backpacks or wearing anomalous clothing for a day. Beyond providing opportunities just for hilarious gawking, the sincerity with which these displays are made, as possessing inherent

meaning, is striking.

Now, it would seem instructive for students to heed the clarion call of their leader Barry Hussein Obama (**I reserve the right to use that appellation purely on the basis of finding it funny**) on this matter: "My attitude is that I'm less concerned about what you're wearing on your lapel than what's in your heart." In what way are the public demonstrations seen

around campus actually affecting a cause, or are they merely devolving to fantastical attempts to resemble the radicalism of the 1960s? Is it that you desire to seem better aligned with the more acceptable side of an issue?

Truthfully, I was a little disappointed that Barry recently saw it politically advantageous to again wear that oh so trite symbol—the US flag lapel—in working toward securing the Democratic nomination. I just now hope to hear "I actually wore for the flag lapel before I was against it" sometime this election cycle.

Yes, these all may be wonderful little actions, but they are hardly contributing in a productive manner, other than providing occasional fodder for laughter. Yes, maybe these antics are sparking a reaction, and therefore a "dialogue" of sorts, but to what avail other than to reinforce a collective sense of approval for politically correct pet projects on campus?

It goes without saying where we recently saw the

greatest manifestation of a certain button which symbolized support for a certain college administrator. More universal movements outside and inside the College are the usual AIDS ribbons, wear orange for Burma day, etc.

In the 60s man, little activist projects like this really took it to the man. Now, your activist project entitles to be in literal admiration of the man, or in the case of the "Gender-bending Day" pretend to be the man.

On the college campus, these silly events sure do cause a reaction, usually projecting something to the effect "I care more about ___ than you." I suppose cross dressing is meant to say something to the effect of "I care more than you about gender being based on ___."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank certain members of the William and Mary student body for providing a humorous end to this academic semester, much to the reduction of my own level of pre-exam angst.

Williamsburg City Council and WRHA abuse power



Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

As reported in this issue of the *The Virginia Informer*, the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (WRHA) purchased a house at 110 Harrison Avenue in 2006 at a price of \$275,000, which was nearly double the assessed price of \$147,000. This money came directly from the taxpayers as it was appropriated by the

Williamsburg City Council. The person who sold the house was Dr. David Krenbuel, a chemistry professor at the College. Dr. Krenbuel is a friend and coworker of Vice-Mayor Clyde Haulman, an economics professor at the College.

The city stated that the house was dilapidated and unfit for occupancy. Previously, the house had been a two-rental duplex where low-income workers lived. However, instead of just cleaning up the house, it was completely renovated along with granite countertops and placed on the market for resale. The sale price of the house is currently over \$300,000 and it has not sold. The WRHA has mandated that the property be owner-occupied, meaning that it would be too difficult for low-income workers to live in the house.

Moreover, this is in stark contradiction to WRHA's mission to provide affordable housing. According to their website, the WRHA's mission is to provide "safe, decent and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, elderly and the disabled." Changing the occupancy requirement from rental to owner-occupied makes it much more difficult for the people whom WRHA are supposed to help to find affordable housing.

The city claimed that they went forward with this transaction because they feared that if there is too high a percentage of rental properties in Williamsburg, discouraging people from moving into the city. However, this claim is erroneous as Williamsburg faces a much greater demand for affordable housing due to the presence of the College and the large number of service-sector employees. Additionally, it is ludicrous to expect people to choose to live here based on an arbitrary percentage of rental versus owner-occupied properties. Moreover, the city has failed to follow through with keeping an amount of rental properties in some neighborhoods. In West Williamsburg Heights, where Harrison Avenue house is located, 62 percent of the houses are renter-occupied. However, there are neighborhoods in the city with no rental-occupancy. Yet, the city has not made any efforts to boost the number of rental properties in this area.

Therefore, I implore city council and the WRHA to stop abusing their power and focus on WRHA's mission of developing affordable housing in Williamsburg. With a large amount of renters in the city due to the large student population and low-income workers, there is a strong need for low-income housing in the city, especially in close proximity to the College and Colonial Williamsburg. City council and the WRHA should stop giving bogus excuses about maintaining a threshold of owner-occupied properties and be more transparent about the true motives behind removing rental properties, especially when there are significant claims of cronyism and pricejacking.

WARNING: A plea to women to consider the facts about EC



Stephanie Long
Staff Writer

I fear for my classmates who, in spite of the lecture given by Pharmacists for Life speaker Neil Noeson, chose to purchase Plan B emergency contraception from Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX) on Thursday, April 10. My fear is that because VOX does not define a life as beginning at conception, those who do can cause an abortion.

My opinion is that life begins at conception; that is, life begins when a sperm has fertilized an egg. My opinion is that life is sacred from conception until death and that no one has any right to take away the life of another.

But my opinion really doesn't matter right now. We've all heard the arguments and facts about the development of the fetus as well as the strains put on an unexpecting mother. What matters now is the decision you've made based upon these arguments.

If you believe that life begins when a sperm fertilizes an egg, making a zygote, you need to know that the morning after pill can end a life.

Here are the *facts* about the process of levonorgestrel, the chemical name for the form of EC handed out on April 10:

If taken early in a woman's menstrual cycle, levonorgestrel may prevent the egg from being fertilized altogether, in which case the drug would be working as a contraceptive. If taken

later in the woman's menstrual cycle, after the egg has already been fertilized, levonorgestrel will cause the endometrial lining in the woman's uterus to thin so that the zygote will not be able to implant and will be terminated.

It is untrue that if levonorgestrel is taken too late to prevent a pregnancy it won't have any adverse effects. While levonorgestrel will not harm or abort an implanted egg, the drug can result in a greater risk of side effects during pregnancy. Progestin, the hormonal ingredient in levonorgestrel, can also cause morning sickness. Thus, a pregnant woman who has taken levonorgestrel is likely to have increased episodes of morning sickness. Furthermore, progestin is linked to ectopic pregnancy, which is the implantation of an egg in a woman's fallopian tube rather than in her uterus. While 2% of natural pregnancies are ectopic, 10% of pregnancies complicated by levonorgestrel are ectopic. Other possible side effects include fatigue, headache, jaundice and stroke. It is also common for women smokers over the age of 35 to have heart attacks due to taking levonorgestrel.

Mr. Noeson asked those of us who attended his lecture to tell our friends about this information because, "These are things everybody should know." I agree, and felt compelled to share with the students what VOX would not. I encourage all those considering the use of Plan B to educate themselves about the possible harm that emergency contraception can cause.

The staff of *The Virginia Informer* wishes you an excellent summer!

We look forward to another year of hard-hitting, investigative reporting.

A look at the candidates for Williamsburg City Council

Compiled by Ian Kirkpatrick

For the first time in the history of Williamsburg- and as you realize, Williamsburg has a long history- a student at the College of William and Mary, Matt Beato '09, is running for a city council seat. After the SA's recent rock the vote campaign more students are registered in the 'Burg than ever before. We want you to be informed, as our name might imply, so here we have compiled descriptions of the respective candidates platforms. Remember to vote, the election is on the 6th of May, with early voting on the 26th and 3rd.



Courtesy of Matt Beato

MATT BEATO, '09

Mr. Beato's City Council bid was inspired by what he has described as poor economic policy on the part of local government, and the overall lack of a student voice in the community. He is well acquainted with student interests, having served as a Student Assembly Senator for three years as well as Chairman of the Senate this past year. Mr. Beato also became the first current student to hold public office in Williamsburg when he was elected to the Williamsburg Soil and Water Conservation Board. Concerning the issue of housing, Beato said "the local area will need 50,000 workers over the next 10 years" and the current policies that the city is pursuing will make it harder for these needed employees to find housing. Regarding universal Pre-k Beato says simply, "we can't afford it." Currently, Mr. Beato is juggling a full course load as well as campaigning for a city council seat.



Courtesy of University Relations

GIL GRANGER '57

Mr. Granger is a wealthy businessman in the city; he owns over 100 properties and has held previous public offices in the Williamsburg. As the owner of Williamsburg area rental property, Mr. Granger has an immediate material incentive to see the 3 person rule eliminated. Unfortunately, he was unable to respond to *The Informer's* request for an interview so there is little more to disclose on his candidacy.



Courtesy of City of Williamsburg

CLYDE HAULMAN

Professor Haulman has been a member of the William and Mary faculty since 1969, and is currently Chairman of Economics Department. He has held a city council seat for the past 8 years and is seen by many students as having done little to address their grievances. The current vice mayor has and continues to support deed restrictions, dismissing criticism with the sentiment 'if you don't like it don't buy it.' He has also defended the Harrison Avenue purchase, which has become a "lightning rod" of student discontent with the city's behavior. He was "instrumental" in starting the Sharpe Community Scholars program.



Courtesy of Paul Freilings

PAUL FREILING '83

Regarded by many students as the best incumbent for his more open views, recently he reconsidered his stance regarding the three person rule. Additionally, he has said that the Harrison Avenue purchase was a mistake. Mr. Freiling is also the only candidate fighting to improve public transportation on a larger scale, as a board member for Virginians for High Speed Rail. He is a strong supporter of universal pre-k and believes it to be an essential in maintaining equality of opportunity.



Courtesy of Terence Wehle

TERENCE WEHLE '77

As a licensed real estate broker, Mr. Wehle is well versed in city matters. He explains that *The Flat Hat* "must have misunderstood" many of his positions during their interview and that he does indeed care about a broad range of issues beyond curbing local government growth.

Mr. Wehle told *The Informer* that the three person rule needs to be reviewed and that right now the appeals process is very arbitrary. He insists that the wording regarding any restrictions needs to be explicit, including square footage, the number of closets, etc. to ensuring fairness. When it comes to student friendly businesses, Mr. Wehle thinks less government is the answer, saying "government is not needed every step of the way, but it can help facilitate a business' entry into the community."

JUDY KNUDSON

Ms. Knudson has a long record of civic involvement, and was even Assistant Dean of Admissions at the college. Currently a member of the Planning Commission, Ms. Knudson has supported several initiatives which restrict the amount of affordable housing in Williamsburg. Including the construction of a 24,000 ft² building of condominiums, selling for \$800,000 each, because the current ratio (57% rental properties to 43% owner occupied homes) is "unhealthy." When questioned by Stop 22, a local group meant to curb some of the governments' activities, about the reasoning behind the project, she responded, the City of Williamsburg "should be more like a city." Indeed Ms. Knudson seems to think that student housing is a school issue, and the city should have little involvement. She suggested that the college make use of more of its own properties such as the Dillard Complex, because improved public transportation has made it more accessible.



Courtesy of Judy Knudson

Thank you for a great year from all of us at *The Virginia Informer*

The Informer is an independent publication and does not receive any public funding, unlike other publications at William and Mary.

We would like to especially recognize some of our private supporters.

Informer Sponsor

Mr. Richard Beard - Mr. Lance Kyle

Friends of *The Informer*

Mr. Robert Beck - Mr. Alberto Chalmeta - Mr. John Gleie
Mr. Sanford Whitwell

The Collegiate Network
The Patrick Henry Center

The Leadership Institute

If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*, please contact us at editor@vainformer.com.

The Virginia Informer is a nonpartisan group, with pending 501(c)3 tax status.

Love us? Hate us?

Please send letters to the editor.

editor@vainformer.com