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



Kristin Coyner

Rapid Rise: Interim President Taylor Reveley was sworn in as the College's 27th president.

Reveley assumes presidency Inside the appointment process

Alex Mayer
Executive Editor

When former Interim President W. Taylor Reveley III was appointed the 27th president of the College of William and Mary on September 5, 2008, very few people in the College community understood the complex series of events that led up to the Board of Visitors' decision.

The presidential transition process officially began immediately following the abrupt resignation of former President Gene Nichol on February 12, 2008, after he was privately notified by the BOV that his contract would not be renewed. In Rector Michael Powell's e-mail to students explaining the board's decision, he concluded with the promise that "the College will begin a search for a new president immediately." Mr. Powell also explained that the board had selected Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of

Law W. Taylor Reveley to serve as interim president "until a permanent leader is found."

In an interview just three days after Nichol's resignation, Mr. Powell reiterated that the search for a new president "[has] essentially begun. We will not waste one second in beginning to organize it....It will take as long as it takes to get a powerful and important leader for this school...."

In the midst of the controversy, turmoil and heated emotion that followed in the wake of Mr. Nichol's resignation, the BOV sought to defuse the situation by promising that the careful search for the next president would be an open, transparent process that would take into consideration the input and opinions of all members of the College community.

Yet no presidential search began during the spring semester -- the Board

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Student groups unite to commemorate 9/11

CRs, YDs and MSA plant flags to honor victims; Queen's Guard pays tribute

Steven Nelson
News Editor

On the night of September 10, amidst light rain, a diverse cross-section of the student body paced the Sunken Garden. The hundred or so students were planting three thousand American flags to commemorate the lives lost in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

For the first year, three groups took part in this annual flag display: the College Republicans, the Young Democrats, and the Muslim Student Association. Additional volunteers unaffiliated with the groups also helped with the set up.

At the Wren-side opening of the Sunken Garden, uniformed members of the Queen's Guard stood at attention throughout the day on the 11th, keeping watch over a memorial wreath purchased by the Class of 2009.

Student Assembly President Valerie Hopkins (09) sent an e-mail to the student body on the anniversary, sharing that the Wren building's bell was to toll at the times when the four planes crashed on that morning seven years earlier. The historic Wren chapel was closed to the public for the day, and opened for students to quietly pray and reflect.

Scott Morris (10), chair of the College Republicans, commented, "It is important that we

all remember that our entire country was attacked on September 11, 2001, without regard to race, ethnicity or religion, and it is critical that we remember that in our commemorations." He was pleased that three co-sponsoring organizations were taking part, along with many other volunteers.

Adeela Tajdar (09), president of the Muslim Student Association and secretary of the Student Assembly's Diversity Initiatives department, said, "It was wonderful to see the three organizations come together, when we so often see the two political parties on opposing sides of issues."

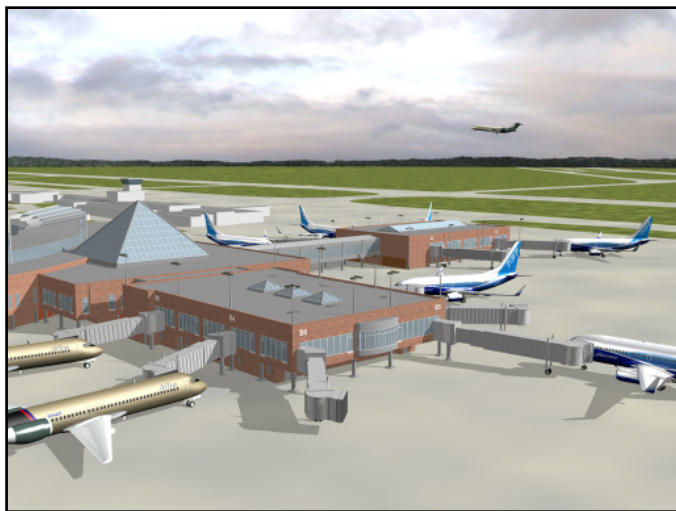
Ms. Tajdar noted that the Muslim Student Association has previously conducted a vigil for those who died in the attacks, and all killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. "I think it is also important to remember the many who have died recently and throughout history due to terrorism and the brutality it evokes. [We are] standing together in an effort to end such targeted hatred worldwide," she said.



Alec McKinley

Flags for the fallen: CRs, YDs and MSA placed 3,000 American flags in the Sunken Gardens.

Newport News / Williamsburg Airport to continue expansion



Newport News Airport

New horizons: Newport News / Williamsburg International Airport to expand and add new concourse.

Jennifer Souers
Business Editor

The Newport News / Williamsburg International Airport is currently undergoing extensive construction and development to expand the size and capabilities of the airport.

The expansion began with the construction of a new parking garage about a year ago, which contains parking spaces for 727 vehicles, with the first floor servicing rental cars. The airport also constructed a new, state-of-the-art, \$14 million air traffic control tower. The new parking garage and air traffic control tower will both be celebrating their one-year anniversary this year, as part of the larger, on-going expansion project. A second parking garage, to mirror the first, will be constructed in the next year or two to support increased passenger traffic. The airport

currently has two existing runways, and is in the process of building a third. The proposed runway would be about 11,000 feet long and is hoped to be completed by 2012, although the date may be extended due to environmental and other regulations.

The bid for the expansion project was awarded to WM Jordan construction firm at the June commission meeting. The company is still in the preconstruction phases of designing and evaluating the plans for expansion. WM Jordan is also responsible for many well-known projects at William and Mary, including the Lake Matoaka Amphitheater renovation, additions and renovations at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and law library and the Laycock Football Center.

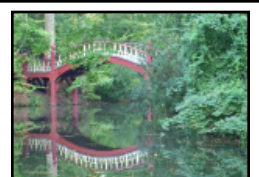
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BOV graffiti investigation closed, no charges filed

Steven Nelson
News Editor

In the spring of 2008, a campus police investigation was launched to uncover the identity of those responsible for widespread and connected vandalism that occurred following the non-renewal of President Nichol's contract by the Board of Visitors (BOV) and Mr. Nichol's subsequent resignation. It is estimated in February that the incident cost the College around \$500. The Wren building, the Tyler Garden, Swem Library and buildings throughout old campus were spray painted with "BOV Visit This: [middle finger]" and other comments, including "Board of Dictators!" According to police Chief Don Challis, the case was never solved and has recently been closed. *The Informer* has been in contact with two sources that have provided an inside look into the investigation.

Not long after the vandalism occurred, some students that were engaged in campus activism were summoned to the police station. The routine was reported to *The Informer* by a current student and recent alum, who feel that the investigation may not have been



File Photo

Cold case: William and Mary Police have not filed charges for last spring's vandalism incident following Board of Visitors ruling on Nichol contract.

conducted properly. The current student, who has asked not to be publicly named, had her dorm room visited by a police officer. "I had absolutely no idea what

this was about. I had witnessed a minor incident the semester before, and I began to think it might be a follow up interview?"

At the station, the student was placed in a room equipped with a two-sided mirror and sound recording devices, where she was left to wait for what was presumed to be a short follow-up interview. The student soon learned that this interview was not regarding the past minor incident, and told *The Informer*, "The officer's first question regarded my involvement with the vandalizing graffiti on campus."

The student reflected, "Surprised and slightly offended, I assured the officer that I had nothing to do with the graffiti, and that I had absolutely no idea who was responsible." Unconvinced, the officer proceeded to question the recent transfer about her experiences with painting and her feelings towards the college administration. The interrogation lasted for about one hour. A recent alumnus shared a quite similar story.

Both were students at the time and active in groups which operated following the Board of Visitor's decision not to renew Gene Nichol's contract. The current student is adamant that the interrogation was unwarranted, "I have

GRAFFITI CASE CLOSED
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Briefly...

Compiled by Jennifer Souers, Business Editor

Chemistry professor named inaugural member of Virginia honor

William and Mary Emeritus Professor of Chemistry William Starnes was honored with membership in the inaugural class of the Southwest Virginia Walk of Fame. During his time as a professor at William and Mary, Mr. Starnes perfected a technology for alternative PVC stabilization compounds that is environmentally friendly, which he has also patented and licensed. The

Southwest Virginia Walk of Fame is inspired by the Virginia Legends Walk in Virginia Beach, and includes other notable members Daniel Boone and George C. Scott.

William and Mary professor and student directing / acting in feature film

Professor Martin Fusi and student Jack Stuart ('09) have been working on an independent film titled *The Outsider*. Both have been working on shooting local scenes around the College and Williamsburg. The film also stars Hollywood actor Larry Holden (*Batman Begins*, *Insomnia*). In an interview with William and Mary news, both Messrs. Fusi and Stuart expressed their pleasure

and excitement for working with Mr. Holden and for the opportunity to create this project around the College and Williamsburg.

High school counselors highly recommending the College

In part of the annual "America's Best Colleges 2009" by *US News & World Report*, a new ranking shows William and Mary in the 25 national universities, according to high school counselors. Awarded a score of 4.4 out of 5 by high school counselors, the College was awarded a rank of 25 out of all universities nationwide. The high school counselor rating is new to the annual report. William and Mary ranked 32 among universities nationwide in the 2009 general ratings by *US News*.

The Informer apologizes for the following errors in our Aug. 27 2008 Issue:

The Information Box for the Special Issue incorrectly listed the date of the issue as "April 27, 2008" instead of "August 27, 2008"

The article "Interview with Congressman Wittman" was incorrectly listed as appearing on Page 8, instead of Page 6.

The feature "Student Restaurant Discounts in Williamsburg" was incorrectly listed as appearing on Page 9, instead of Page 7.

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

To the William & Mary Community: *The Virginia Informer* would like to sincerely apologize for the unacceptable mistake of publishing the phrase "% Colored Students" on the front page of our Special Issue released on August 27th. While attempting to highlight the increased diversity and excellence of the Class of 2012, our staff made an accidental yet inexcusable error during the final layout process within hours before going to print. On behalf of the organization, I offer my sincerest apologies to all those in the William & Mary community.

Sincerely,
Andrew Blasi, Editor in Chief

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Established 2005

Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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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.

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Going Greek A look at fall rush

Sarah Nadler
Staff Writer

With 27.5 percent of undergraduate women in sororities and 25.2 percent of undergraduate men in fraternities, rush is a pivotal part of the William and Mary back-to-school experience. Whether you are a student going through recruitment or an active Greek member, rush tends to be a hectic time for everyone.

Both sorority and fraternity rush began at a Meet the Greeks event on Yates field, which took place August 26. This annual event, sponsored by the Council for Fraternity Affairs (CFA) and the Inter-Sorority Council (ISC), allows potential new members to get a feel for Greek life in general. Meet the Greeks also lets the individual organizations make good impressions on those rushing, and vice-versa.

While both sororities and fraternities on campus have governing bodies, sorority rush is formal and strictly regulated by ISC. Rush for women on campus consists of four rounds: open house day, philanthropy day, skit day and preference night. After each round, those going through rush must rank the houses in order of preference. Recruitment counselors are select women from all houses on campus who help the potential new members through this confusing and emotional process. Cuts are made based on mutual selection, so each round the potential new members visit fewer houses. Rules and regulations are rigidly enforced in sorority recruitment.

In fact, potential new members were even shown videos so they can report if a sorority is "dirty rushing." Sorority women are prohibited from texting or calling potential new members, giving potential new members any kind of item or gift, especially alcohol, and talking to potential new members for more than five minutes. Rush infractions can result in punishments such as fines or losing a round of rush for the entire sorority.

On the other hand, fraternity rush is far more informal. Events are most commonly publicized through e-mails and phone calls once contact information is collected at Meet the Greeks. Though there are some CFA sponsored events such as "Finding the Fraternities," "Greek Recruitment Reception" and open houses, these events are not well-attended and have a very small impact on fraternity rush. Most frats opt for a more personal approach. For example, Beta Theta Pi invited potential new members out for dinner and pool at the Corner Pocket in New Town. Other fraternities host poker nights, go out for pizza or even venture all the way to Virginia Beach for some surfing.

Despite attempts for Pan-Hellenic love, rush does bring out the spirit of competition in the Greek community here at William and Mary. Fraternity bids can be extended as soon as September 15 and "Bid Day" for sorority women is September 14.

Good luck to all those rushing!
More information about Greek Life can be found at <http://web.wm.edu/so/greeks>.

SA senators, students encourage Reveley to sign Amethyst Initiative

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

In 1984, the Federal Highway Act (or National Minimum Drinking Age Act) denied 10 percent of highway funding to states that did not change their drinking age to 21. Twenty-four years later, the drinking age debate is all but moot. The Amethyst Initiative was developed to change that.

The initiative is an effort by university presidents and chancellors who have signed their names to a public declaration to, at the very least, reopen the debate on lowering the national drinking age. Current signatories of the initiative include the presidents of Duke, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins, Tufts, the University of Maryland, the University of Ohio and the University of Massachusetts, among others.

Student Assembly senators at the College have brought the issue up in the SA and have started a Facebook group to build up broad-based support for the effort. At its most recent meeting, the SA Senate, comprising undergraduate and graduate representatives, unanimously passed a bill that endorsed the Amethyst Initiative and encouraged President Reveley to join the 130 other college presidents in signing. The bill was sponsored by Senators Steven Nelson ('10), Ross Gillingham ('10) and Ben Brown ('11).

Advocates of the initiative see a critical

opportunity approaching in the drinking age debate, because the law mandating the 21-year age limit is up for renewal next year. If Congress were to remove the funding restriction, states would have no disincentive to debate the drinking age. Interestingly, Chancellor of the College Sandra Day O'Connor was one of the dissenting justices in the 1988 case South Dakota v. Dole, when the Federal Highway Act was challenged in front of the Supreme court, but was ultimately upheld. Ms. O'Connor wrote that she could find no way to tie the drinking age to highway funding.

Web sites for the Amethyst Initiative and Choose Responsibility contain a plethora of information about the effects of the high drinking age. The Web sites state, for example, that the only other countries with a drinking age as high as the United States' are Indonesia, Mongolia and Palau. Other information on the Choose Responsibility Web site disputes the notion that a higher drinking age has saved lives in drunk driving accidents.

Dr. John McCardell, the founder of Choose Responsibility and the organizer of the Amethyst Initiative, will be speaking at William and Mary on October 22 about his efforts. Dr. McCardell formerly served as the president of Middlebury College. His speech will take place in the Sadler Center under the sponsorship of the John Locke Society, Students for a Sensible Drug Policy and Libertarian Students Association.

New independent alumni organization established, gives voice to issues

Jon San
Managing Editor

The Society for the College (SFTC) is a new, independent organization of alumni, students, faculty and friends of William and Mary, providing a voice for its members for important issues. The society's mission statement of "engag[ing] the larger College community to help The College of William and Mary be the best public university in the country while exercising good governance, honoring the College's history and traditions, and pursuing academic excellence and intellectual freedom." While not affiliated with the Alumni Association, the society helps to educate its members about issues going on at the College, as well as advocating on behalf of its members.

SFTC focuses its activities on three key areas: good governance of the College, an emphasis on honoring and preserving the College's history and traditions and pursuing the academic excellence needed to make the College the "best liberal arts university in the country."

Currently, the SFTC has been supporting the College on its search for a president, and




Society for the College

SFTC directors: President Andrew McRoberts ('87) stands with colleagues on the Board.

approves the selection of President Taylor Reveley. SFTC President Andrew McRoberts ('87) has stated that "the Society is encouraged by the fact that Reveley will stay at the helm for a few years, and are happy with the Board's decision...we believe that Taylor Reveley is committed to academic excellence... Excellence must be the top goal of a premier academic institution like ours." Other issues SFTC is focusing on include the College's short-term and long-term financial stability, transparency, accountability and efficiency from organizations including the Board of Visitors, the W&M Foundation, the Gateway Program and the Diversity Committee.

The board of directors for SFTC includes alumni, students and faculty. The directors include Mr. McRoberts, president, secretary and treasurer Susan Adams ('81), Susan Briggs Eley ('57, '62), Nancy Booth ('58), Barbara Grant ('59), Matt Ames ('80), Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08), Student Director Jennifer Souers ('10), and Faculty Director Dr. Paul Davies. The society is also affiliated with the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), is a 501(c)3 organization and does not take any financial assistance from the College. More information on the Society and its issues can be found at its Website www.societyforthecollege.org.

Jennifer Souers currently serves as the Business Editor of The Virginia Informer.



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GRAFFITI CASE CLOSED: Campus police investigation into BOV graffiti produces no charges

continued from page two

never vandalized school property, as I have very strong beliefs about the integrity of our school's historic buildings and about the integrity of others' property in general."

The officers conducting the interrogations described the investigation as employing a "name to name" strategy, in which a person of interest is cleared of suspicion by providing the names of friends who he thinks may "know more." Both sources confirm this detail. The current student notes, "[the officer] continuously assured me that my name was given to him by another student as a person of interest. He kept saying things like, 'Your friends will never know if you give their name up. After all, one of your friends gave me your name.'"

These encounters were not isolated. According to the current student, "Upon talking with friends or students who had a similar experience we came to realize that the police might not have been using a purely 'name to name' strategy. The majority of us were featured in both of the school newspapers during the controversy

surrounding the BOV's decision."

When the current student told the interrogating officer about her involvement in pro-Nichol groups, and that she had made posters, she said, "The immediately requested to see the posters and the paint I used. My entire 'interrogation session' ended with a personal police escort to the Meridian coffee house where I was forced to surrender my posters for 'font and paint matching.' I still haven't gotten those back."

The alumnus said of his interrogation, which he strongly feels was unwarranted, "It was harassment, blatant harassment. It seemed like 15 minutes of investigation work had been done. A third grader could have done the work of going through a newspaper." Reflecting months later, the student who was contacted noted of her interaction with the police, "I feel as though they do not trust me, and I now feel as though I cannot trust them. This is not the way a police department is supposed to make me feel."

Pilchen resigns at first Senate meeting of year

Nick Fitzgerald and Ian Kirkpartick
Editor in Chief (VIO) and Assistant News Editor

At a meeting of the SA Senate on September 2, SA Vice President Zach Pilchen ('09) resigned from his office. In a statement, Mr. Pilchen outlined the timeline of his misappropriations, asserting firmly that the only accidental purchase was that of two movie tickets. "That instance was an accident. Later in early May I was running low on personal cash, made several small purchases with the SA card and I would reimburse the first chance I got."

Mr. Pilchen's statement was followed by words from SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09). "As I'm sure most of you can understand," she opened, "it's border line unbearable to be here and be giving this address...I can't think of anyone I've spent more hours working with, talking to and confiding in, so it's difficult for me to imagine the SA without him. I really respect him for deciding to resign. This shows that he is putting the best interests of the SA before himself. I do not condone his behavior or approve of his decision. Had I any knowledge of it, I would have told him so," she said. Ms. Hopkins asserted that student confidence in the SA is "at an all time low." To that point, she has officially opened up the vice president selection process, via application, to all interested members of the student body....The time frame for the selection, as provided by the SA Constitution, is 14 academic days; Ms. Hopkins must select a replacement by September 22.

Among other things mentioned during the SA's meeting were the 400 freshmen who have registered to vote in Williamsburg this year, as well as numerous other acts of legislation, including the First Aid Kit Act, the Student Choice Mascot Committee, the Limos on Election Day Act, the AED Act and the Amethyst Act. The Amethyst Act would make a formal recommendation that the College administration join the Amethyst Initiative, a group of college leaders who would like to re-open debate on the national drinking age.

The SA election commission for the year was also formed at the meeting. Senators Matt Beato ('09), Walter McClean ('09) and Jazmine Pina ('11), President of the Class of 2009 Kevin Dua ('09) and Jennifer Souers ('10) were formally selected to serve on the commission. Ms. Souers will serve as chair as she did in last year's commission. The commission's first task will be to oversee the class of 2012's election later this month.

For more detailed information on Pilchen's resignation and this SA Senate meeting, please visit VAInformer.com.

Jennifer Souers currently serves as the Business Editor with the Virginia Informer.

New 527 to support student-friendly city council candidates

Alex Mayer
Executive Editor

Students for a Better Williamsburg (SBW) -- a newly created, student-run 527 -- is getting off the ground this semester in an attempt to prepare and successfully run a student-friendly candidate in the next Williamsburg City Council election. The group was founded by SA Senator Michael Douglass ('10), who acts as the group's director, along with Josh Karp ('10), director of strategic operations, and Nick Fitzgerald ('09), communications director. Excerpts of the group's inaugural press release have been excerpted below:

SBW is officially registered as a state and local PAC with the State Board of Elections, and is officially registered as a 527 group with the Internal Revenue Service.

According to the group's mission statement, SBW is "dedicated to empowering students of the College of William & Mary, Williamsburg's

largest and most underrepresented voting bloc. We will raise awareness about student-relevant issues in our community...[and] will provide much-needed representation for a group which currently has none....[SBW] aims to be the most credible advocate for students in Williamsburg."

Ever since the city registrar decided that students were allowed to vote in Williamsburg, there has been a huge push from the SA to get students not only interested in local politics, but to act on this interest at the voting booth.

This influx of student registrants and increase in interest prompted then-junior Matt Beato to run for Williamsburg

City Council in a May 2008 election, but he was ultimately unsuccessful.

"After Matt's loss, everyone thought a lot about what could have been, and how we can win in the future," said Mr. Douglass. "And two points were agreed to by most everyone: that Matt's campaign didn't have enough money and that it didn't have enough time. By creating this group, we're hoping to raise the money for someone interested in the same issues students are, and raise awareness so that, if a candidate comes along, the campus will be ready."

"I have always believed that greater participation from William and Mary students in Williamsburg politics and government would enhance the quality of life for all in the community," Mr. Beato said. "I believe that the formation of SBW will help to accomplish this goal that I advocated during my campaign -- to build bridges and create solutions in our community."



Students for a Better Williamsburg

Founding fathers: From left to right, Josh Karp '11, Nick Fitzgerald '09, and Michael Douglass '11.

After Matt's loss, everyone thought a lot about what could have been, and how we can win in the future

SBW's executive board, headed by Mr. Douglass, is committed to keeping the PAC as SA-unrelated as possible, despite Mr. Douglass' currently-held office. The board has pledged to refuse any SA funding and wants a minimum of SA members involved. "Simply put, SBW can take sides," said Mr. Karp. "We are political by nature, so unlike the Student Assembly we can endorse candidates and implement issue advocacy as a subset of the student population. We are an interest group, not a government," he said, "and I think that has the potential to make us far more effective."

The PAC has received donations totaling over \$1,000 as of late August. "I was surprised that we were able to bring in so much money in such a

short time after our creation. I filed the paperwork to create SBW less than two months ago; if we can keep these sort of numbers coming, I think SBW can bring about significant change," said Mr. Douglass.

Donations have ranged between \$1 and \$100 dollars. "I think this demonstrates SBW's real ability to reach out to college students, most of whom don't have that much cash floating around," he said. "We are committed to raising our money in small-dollar amounts, but what it's basically going to come down to is a willingness to work hard and put real time in to talking to people all over campus. I really couldn't be happier with how things are going."

The PAC's Web site can be viewed at www.sbwpac.net.

Nick Fitzgerald currently serves as Editor in Chief of The Virginia Informer Online.

'Drunk Bus' no longer Under new leadership, Steer Clear expands its mission, improves image

Jon San
Managing Editor

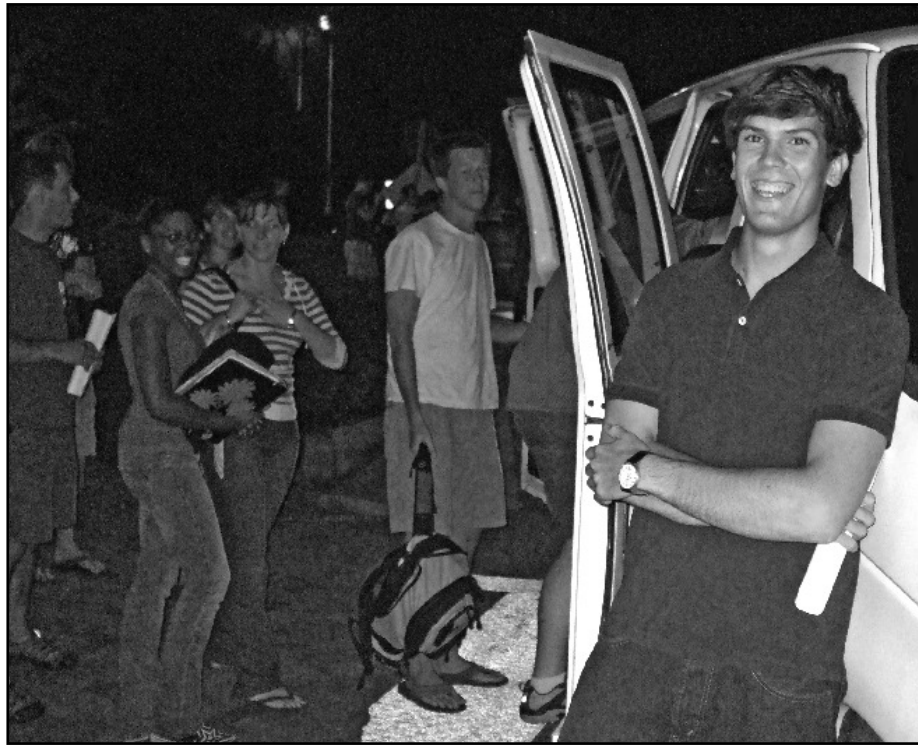
The merits of having a free, late night taxi service on a campus where a public transportation system exists only during the 9 to 5 workday are obvious. Yet, for the past three years, Steer Clear has been considered an unreliable service of last resort. Its schedule was erratic and unknown to most students and its unflattering moniker, the "Drunk Bus," threw its legitimacy into question.

Will Sealy ('09), a native New Yorker, found the lack of a working weekend transportation service to be an enabler of drunk driving and a detriment to the College's social dynamics. "Being from New York City," said Mr. Sealy, "I was used to going out at night and always having a way to get home – whether it was the subway or taxis. So, I never witnessed drunk driving, which is maybe why it was so apparent to me when I got here."

Mr. Sealy felt inclined to improve the College community by fixing the flawed Steer Clear service. However, while safety was Mr. Sealy's primary goal, making social opportunities more accessible was a close second.

His decision to revamp Steer Clear was influenced by an experience he had during his sophomore year. After getting home one weekend with the help of Steer Clear, Mr. Sealy planned to use the service again the following weekend, but his call to Steer Clear was met with a recorded message informing callers that vans would not be running that night.

Originally, Steer Clear, which was managed by the Council for Fraternity Affairs and the Inter-Sorority Council, required each fraternity and sorority to have two members apiece serve as drivers for the month. Unfortunately, this system was nixed when each



Alec McKinley

Meet the new boss: Director Will Sealy ('09) stands in front of a Steer Clear van during a driver training course.

organization's national office forbade its chapters from requiring their members to drive due to liability issues and the risk of injury. This caused Steer Clear to be volunteer-run and, as a result, unreliable.

During the past year, Steer Clear drivers were unpaid volunteers with no incentive or binding obligation to serve. "If a Steer Clear driver was supposed to work one night but then found out that their friend was having a birthday party," said Mr. Sealy, "they could cancel the service that night without fear of punishment. It led to a very unreliable experience."

Mr. Sealy approached the CFA and ISC in the fall of 2007, hoping to help repair the ailing service. At the time, he had no intention of taking it over. But soon after, members of Greek Life approached Mr.

Sealy and offered him the position of Steer Clear director, which he accepted. He quickly went to work re-writing the constitution and by-laws.

Now, thanks to one student's efforts, Steer Clear is a popularly used mode of transportation, which operates Thursday through Saturday between the hours of 9 pm and 2:30 am. The program gives approximately 300 rides per weekend and has just acquired a second van that will deal exclusively with off-campus travel. The Steer Clear staff is led by Mr. Sealy and his executive board of six students along with 45 drivers – each of whom is paid eight dollars an hour by the Student Assembly, an extremely competitive salary for any campus job.

Jack Starcher ('09), the assistant director of operations, gave an overview of Steer Clear training, which is mandatory for all drivers.

"In addition to passing a defensive driving class," said Mr. Starcher, "we simulate certain events and emergency situations and also require a sit-down training session on Steer Clear."

One of these possible emergency situations, according to Scheduling Chair Sarah Will, would be the transport of an inebriated passenger to the hospital because of alcohol poisoning.

"In emergency situations like that," said Ms. Will, "the driver would need to make sure that everyone gets home safely after the passenger has been taken to the hospital."

Despite their serious roles within Steer Clear, Mr. Starcher, Ms. Will and Mr. Sealy each mentioned that for many party-goers, the party doesn't stop after they board the Steer Clear vans.

STEER CLEAR EXPANDS PROGRAM

continued on page ten

Del. Pogge discusses College finances, privatization

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

Brenda Pogge, delegate to Virginia's 96th district recently discussed various issues relating to the College, the Commonwealth and the nation with *The Virginia Informer*. Ms. Pogge's district encompasses part of the City of Newport News in addition to parts of James City County and York County just miles from the College.

The Virginia Informer: Can you further explain the Higher Educational Institutions Bond Act of 2008, which passed the General Assembly along with your support?

Del. Pogge: The Higher Education Bond Act of 2008 is a part of future planning. Its purpose is to free up funding to state universities during a time of economic hardship, without raising taxes, to fulfill the state's obligation. The total amount of money created by these bonds is \$350,565,000 statewide. The caveat is that it can only be spent acquiring, constructing and equipping revenue producing projects, i.e., expansion / renovation projects that will bring in more tuition. It will allow for many projects to proceed that have been in the planning stages for a while. Specifically, William and Mary will receive funding for the renovation of its graduate student dormitories (\$2,500,000) and the renovation of the Campus Center and Trinkle Hall (\$35,000,000).

VAI: What are some of the initiatives

that you hope to advance in the next 2009 General Assembly session?

Del. Pogge: Last year, I put a juvenile justice reform bill through the General Assembly, which brings juvenile felonious offenders up to speed with their adult counterparts. From now on, juveniles who receive a deferred disposition when charged with a felony will have their fingerprints retained. This next session, I am going for retaining juvenile DNA. This is to help crack down on juvenile-related offenses, which we are seeing more of because of gang activity, even in James City County and York County.

I am always looking for ways to cut state spending. North Carolina has approximately 8 million people and a budget of \$21 billion, whereas Virginia has about 7 million people and a budget of \$42 billion. The Governor just uncovered another \$1 billion shortfall that was predictable when economic estimates came out that 2010 was supposedly going to see a 6.8% growth in the economy. In Virginia, we have a balanced budget amendment in the state constitution and the past budget was balanced by predicting far more revenues than what were known to be coming in. Had we just made a 0.5-1 percent increase to the budget instead of a \$5 billion increase, we would not be looking at what we are looking at now.

VAI: You expressed disappointment over the appearance of the Sex Workers Art Show (SWAS) at William and Mary last year. What were your reasons for doing so?

Del. Pogge: My major objection to the SWAS was a concern over a level of pornography displayed in the performance. It clearly surpassed the community standards and was in violation of the Virginia code concerning pornography. The only act of "censorship" that occurred was that of the College requiring the show comply with the Virginia state code in its contract with the SWAS. We are a civil society that operates under the rule of law. The best way to strike a balance between state involvement, taxpayer funding and free speech rights is to comply with the laws.

VAI: You have been the co-patron to a bill in the General Assembly which would require any alien in Virginia to present legal documentation before enrolling in a public institution. What are your reasons for supporting this legislation and would this help reduce costs at public universities, ameliorating the governor's recent budget cuts?

Del. Pogge: I supported legislation requiring aliens in Virginia to present legal documentation before enrolling in any public institution because I believe that illegal aliens should not be entitled to state services, period, except in life-threatening circumstances. The amount of taxpayer dollars being spent on our illegal population is enormous when looked at on the whole.

VAI: Would it be advantageous for the College, or other Virginia higher educational institutions, to begin a move toward becoming private?

Del. Pogge: I think that there are two things that we like to see in education:

affordability and accessibility. I think that by going private you would definitely see the doubling of tuitions because they are subsidized by the state. Fewer and fewer people would go to college, especially at an institution like William and Mary. I think it would be sad to see the transition, although I do believe the free market system would fill the gap. That could bring tuition rates down and would force universities to cut their own spending.

VAI: Just recently, the College has been listed by the Foundation for Individual Rights (FIRE), a free speech advocacy organization, as a "red light" for its restrictive speech codes. How can the Commonwealth encourage its universities to afford students their Constitutional rights?

Del. Pogge: The definition of free speech has not been applied consistently at William and Mary for some time. It appears that anything goes unless you are talking about politics, religion or just expressing your opinion, even in private conversation. I am referring to the "bias reporting" program. The state should not have to "nanny" universities into compliance with the United States Constitution. There is a procedure in place whereby the Boards of Visitors are expected to oversee the proper operations of schools. The governor and members of the House of Delegates should ensure that appointees to the various Boards of Visitors understand the basic guarantees of the Constitution and will defend the interest of the students in protecting them.

Snakes in a Dell: Copperheads in the most romantic tourist spot?

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

Despite rumors of dangerous creatures dwelling in the Crim Dell, one is unlikely to find a copperhead or a water moccasin in or around the well-known pond.

Professor Randy Chambers, the director of the Keck Environmental Lab, estimates that there are over a dozen types of snakes on campus including black snakes, garter snakes and worm snakes. Fortunately, the copperhead is the only poisonous snake on the list. Mr. Chambers recalls that his last encounter with a copperhead on campus was actually in a dormitory, but says that “encounters are few and far between.” While these nocturnal creatures can be found in the College woods, they will not make an effort to travel to the area surrounding the Crim Dell, Mr. Chambers said. There are two reasons for this. First, they prefer more vegetation than the

Crim Dell offers, and secondly, they avoid well-traveled, developed areas. Mr. Chambers noted that if you do happen to be out in the woods at night and notice a salad-like scent, you may actually be near a copperhead; the snakes are known to emit an odor reminiscent of cucumbers.

Some have also claimed that there are water moccasins, also known as cottonmouths, swimming in the Crim Dell. While Mr. Chambers confirms that there are snakes in the Crim Dell, he explains they are actually the nonpoisonous brown water snake and banded water snake. Both have patterns on them, and are often mistaken for water moccasins. Water moccasins tend to be much wider and can float almost entirely above the surface of the water, while other water snakes’ bodies are slimmer and float just below the surface. Luckily, according to Mr. Chambers, a poisonous water snake has never been found on campus.



Alec McKinley

“Do as I say and you live”: while copperheads can be ruled out as potential Crim Dell dangers to Triathlon-goers, other types of snakes call the area home.

Professor Spotlight:

Christie Warren travels world, teaches law

Brittany Lane
Contributor

In an increasingly globalized world, International and Comparative Law Professor Christie Warren not only teaches pertinent subject matter, such as Islamic law, comparative constitutional systems and international human rights law, but also travels the world, speaks multiple languages and scales mountains.

Originally from the San Francisco Bay area, Professor Warren attended high school in Oakland, CA, and received her BA from the University of California at Berkeley during the late '60s and early '70s, when, as she says, “it was a pretty intense time to be in that part of the country.” Majoring in comparative literature required Professor Warren to achieve fluency in several different languages, including Latin, Spanish, French, Swedish and English. She went on to receive her JD from the University of California at Davis.

Prior to arriving at the College of William and Mary, Professor Warren pursued work in post-conflict and developing countries around the world for nearly ten years. She discovered her passion when she became “frustrated that legal experts,” including herself, “were sent into post-conflict environments to help re-establish the rule of law without being educated in any other legal systems except their own.” She wished to bolster American law schools by providing this essential training to the next generation.

Professor Warren left the Golden State for Williamsburg after being in Cambodia for two years. Still working abroad fairly often, she corresponded with long-standing William and Mary law professor Jayne Barnard who encouraged her to think about formulating classes anchored in her work. Collaboration proved challenging, however, especially while she worked for the UN in East Timor right after the post-referendum violence ended. While living on a UN boat in Dili Bay, she said, “The electricity and Internet connections were very erratic, and it took me more than an hour to read Professor Barnard’s short e-mail message.” Consequently, Professor



Christie Warren

International Law: Professor Warren contributes her diverse global background to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

Warren waited until she returned to Williamsburg to discuss the matter and later joined William and Mary faculty in January 2001.

With a number of admirable achievements already under her belt, Professor Warren also assisted the recently independent nation of Kosovo with their constitutional process this past spring. She was one of the three advisors to the drafters of the constitution.

Over the years, Professor Warren insists that the best part of the College is her students. Her feelings are especially affirmed by one of her former Islamic law seminars. When she walked into the classroom one day, “the students had spread prayer rugs throughout the classroom, were playing Qur’anic chants on a boom box and had cooked an entire Middle Eastern meal to serve while they gave their really excellent lecture.” Only at William and Mary.

Outside of the classroom, Professor Warren loves to travel. Her family has vacationed in India, Kenya, Peru and Laos, though she’s particularly fond of Nepal, where she enjoys the sport of high-altitude trekking. (It helps that she used to be a marathoner.) On July 4, 2000, she welcomed the sunrise atop Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania with her 14 year old son. Adventurer, athlete, scholar and mother – Christie Warren embodies them all.

Dollars and sense for students: Uncle Sam’s helping hand US bails out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

Alex Guiliano
Staff Writer

With the country still in the midst of a financial crisis, the federal government took another large step this past week in alleviating the widespread problems in the housing market. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two US government-sponsored mortgage giants, have been bailed out by the federal government in an attempt to restore confidence in the financial system.

Combined, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have provided the American public with roughly 80 percent of the mortgages issued this year. A meltdown by either or both companies

would be a sign of financial chaos. In order to prevent such a doomsday (yet very realistic) possibility that they would fail, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson has decided to make

\$200 billion in taxpayer funds available to back the troubled companies.

The significance of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the US housing market goes beyond its \$5 trillion portfolio; without the existence of either, millions of Americans would be unable to afford their mortgages. Fannie Mae was created by Congress in 1938 with the objective of providing more Americans with mortgages they could afford. Its counterpart Freddie Mac was created in 1970 in order to create more competition within the housing market. Though each eventually

became a private enterprise, there has always been a longstanding implicit guarantee from the government that neither would ever fail.

Neither company provides mortgages to individual borrowers; instead these companies provide the financing that mortgage lenders use to offer even more mortgages. Unfortunately, the primary cause of the current crisis in the US housing market is the fact that banks were giving out too many mortgages to individuals who were simply incapable of ever paying them back in full. With the housing market in steady decline, the companies together posted a net loss of over \$5 billion in 2007; it

had been 25 years since the last time a combined loss had occurred.

While the stock market rallied one day after the bailout was announced, it has not been

s u s t a i n e d .

Lehman Brothers, an investment bank currently facing significant hardships, has many investors remaining skittish about the stability of the financial market. In addition, while the housing market has shown signs of improvement, almost 10 percent of American single-family homeowners are in danger of foreclosing in the coming months. While it is too early to tell the long-lasting effects this government bailout will have, it’s clear that the US housing market isn’t out of the woods just yet.

While the housing market has shown signs of improvement, almost 10 percent of American single-family homeowners are in danger of foreclosing in the coming months.

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Drink of the Week

Hurricane: No, not the 40

Emily Nunez

Director of Outreach

As we weather yet another active tropical storm season, what better way to welcome the rain and wind than by drinking that traditional favorite, the Hurricane.

Ingredients:

2 oz. Light Rum
2 oz. Dark Rum
2 oz. Passion Fruit Juice
1/2 oz. Lime Juice
1 tablespoon Superfine Sugar

Directions: Pour the ingredients into a shaker with ice and shake until your wrist gets tired, or until you think it's ready. For garnish, you can add a chunk of pineapple or a cherry. If you want the full effect, the drink can be made in a Hurricane glass, but a cocktail glass will do. If you find yourself running short on passion fruit juice, pineapple juice works just as well.

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

Alumni Spotlight: Keith Fimian, former Tribe football star, running for Congress

Chris Kuntz

Contributor

There has perhaps never been a William and Mary alumnus as enthusiastic as Keith Fimian. Mr. Fimian graduated from the College in 1978 with a degree in accounting, was the star running back on the football team and a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

In his junior year, Tribe football defeated Navy, Virginia Tech and Virginia, something that had never been done before and has never been done since. In his senior year he was voted captain, and in the following fall he was invited to training camp with the Cleveland Browns. Mr. Fimian injured his knee and his NFL dream died, but his journey to success was just beginning.

Mr. Fimian worked for Peat Marwick as a certified public accountant for seven years and then started a business with his brother in 1987. His business, US Inspect, grew from a room above a garage into the nation's largest home inspection company with 300 employees and 8,000 sub-contractors nationwide.

Mr. Fimian has also been a leading contributor to his community. Besides raising three daughters in Northern Virginia with his wife Cathy, he is president of the Youth Leadership Foundation, an organization serving disadvantaged youth in Washington, DC's, inner city. He maintains that this work is "so important because it teaches inner-city kids how to discipline



Keith Fimian

FIMIAN

much more successful in school and in life. Mr. Fimian added, "It has the potential to radically alter our inner-city for the better."

I met Mr. Fimian this summer when I volunteered to work on his Congressional Campaign. He is currently running for US Congress

in Virginia's 11th District, just outside of DC. With so many students at the College from Northern Virginia, this race is particularly pertinent. The current Congressman, Tom Davis (R), decided not to seek re-election after 14 years in office, and after expressing initial interest in the Republican Senate nomination, Mr. Davis decided to take some time off from political office.

Coincidentally, both Messrs. Davis and Fimian have daughters that currently attend William

and Mary. Mr. Fimian explained, "It's wonderful to have shared experiences in a sport, or a fraternity, or even a major where you hang around with people and get to know them better."

Students that successfully complete one of their programs are

much more successful in school and in life. Mr. Fimian added, "It has the potential to radically alter our inner-city for the better."

I met Mr. Fimian this summer when I volunteered to work on his Congressional Campaign. He is currently running for US Congress

In Fimian's junior year, Tribe football defeated Navy, Virginia Tech and Virginia, something that had never been done before and has never been done since.

In reflecting on the current economic slump, Mr. Fimian noted, "We're dealing with a real budget crisis down the road that no one wants to talk about. There isn't going

to be enough money for higher education...A private company could not survive how the federal government operates."

In order to succeed in the real world, Mr. Fimian advises students to "go with your gut and don't believe everything you're told. The truth is, the real world operates much different than a college campus."

Ode to the odiously pronounced campus buildings

Eric Ames

Contributor

Despite our convenient location in what was once a hotbed of rebellion, the College of William and Mary retains many of its old and beloved British conventions. We proudly show guests our old college building, which may have been designed by British mathematician Sir Christopher Wren, and our ancient royal charter. We even have our own ceremonial mace. There is, however, one more component of our British heritage which we keep alive and well here at the College, and that is our inability to pronounce certain words correctly.

Many readers will, doubtless, be familiar with the peculiar manner in which our dear sister Britannia insists on pronouncing place names. She adamantly refuses to announce the second "w" in "Warwickshire," and will hear of no objection to her unintelligible muddling of "Worcestershire." Although some may think we have severed all but the most nominal and honorific ties to those on the other side of the pond, we at William and Mary carry on their tradition of nonsensical speaking. Whereas elsewhere, they would presume to say "Taliaferro" as it is written, we, the more proud and the more cultured, are loath to be caught saying anything other than "Tolliver." What is more, no member of the Tribe will ever name his or her son "Oliver," but will opt instead for far more refined spelling of "Aliafferro," and we will never have our martinis served with anything other than aliaffs. But the

namesake of the Taliaferros is not the only bastion of unique Williamsburg pronunciations. Many of us familiar with pronouncing the name Fauquier in our jejune, provincial manner were shocked to learn that it is properly pronounced as some God-awful Francophone monstrosity. We pay our respects to our dear patron Lord Botetourt by simply trying not to mangle his name, for if we dropped the last "t" the pronunciation would sound terribly silly, and if we pronounced both the "t" and the "r" we would sound like complete idiots. Thus we do him proud by making up a pronunciation in the manner of those in his mother country.

Given our obsession with this institution's sheer antiquity and roots in the British monarchy, we should all do our best to embrace the British linguistic legacy by changing the spellings or pronunciations of building-names we find too simple. Blow Hall, for example, could be spoken with a short vowel instead of a long vowel, or we could keep the current pronunciation and change to spelling to "Blaux" or "Blough." In the case of Dupont, whose syllabic emphasis remains a mystery, we could begin saying it with a nasal French accent on the last syllable so we could keep maintain some consistency with its close neighbor Fauquier. Furthermore, we could alter the spelling of Tucker to become "Tuckre."

Now go forth, men and women of the Tribe, and be not afraid to speak in what we all know to be the proper ways of our Britannic forefathers. Carry on this great tradition, and besides, it's fun to confuse the tourists.

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Turmoil at the Democratic National Convention: Exclusive *Informer* report

Steven Nelson
News Editor

When *The Informer* applied for press credentials to attend the Democratic Convention in Denver, the Democratic primary season was not yet over. Zealous supporters on either side of the Obama / Clinton competition made the convention a sounding board to express their feelings about the outcome of the primary process. The thrill of securing credentials also provided an opportunity to learn about a potential divide in the party first-hand.

The divide was evident during the week of convention events. Outside of the Pepsi Center, candlelit vigils and pro-Hillary rallies were routinely held throughout the week, sporadic groups of Hillary supporters roamed downtown Denver with large Hillary campaign posters and on the night of Hillary Clinton's address, the convention hall was packed with supporters wearing t-shirts and campaign stickers.

A few women I ran in to sported "Only Hillary Gets My Vote" t-shirts. Several pledged to vote for Senator

John McCain in order to defeat Senator Barack Obama, who they designated as "the fraud." One had flown in all

the way from Texas to express her opinion. At a reception for Rock the Vote, I even ran into a former staffer for Senator Joe Biden who vehemently told me that she did not want Obama / Biden to win. She was beside herself over the perceived injustice done to Mrs. Clinton in the primary campaign. Many of her former supporters now seem to see it as their duty to secure her a second run for the Democratic nomination in 2012, provided Barack Obama loses in the general election.

Sunday, August 24, the night I arrived in Denver for the Democratic Convention, yielded no signs of the promised re-creation of the 1968 Democratic Convention. The entire city was desolate, lacking protests of any kind. The only visible sign of '68-like reprise was the enormous police visibility, with riot gear and plastic blue "handcuffs" around every corner.

A protest march had occurred Sunday during the day, but no one talked about it. On Monday night the Green Party presidential ticket of Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente held a rally at a coffee house on the edge of downtown. Cindy Sheehan and M1 from Dead Prez were on hand to show their support. A photographer from the Chicago-based magazine *In These Times* shared with me that she had to choose between the rally and an anti-capitalism march downtown. It was raining, so the speeches seemed more promising. Following impassioned oratory about

police brutality and the government's attempts to subjugate large portions of the American populace, we went to catch a bus to a vigil for Hillary Clinton.

We soon learned that the Denver city buses had stopped operating due to a protest. We ran in the direction of the anti-capitalism march and found four blocks of the city cordoned off by multiple layers of riot police. Curious on-lookers, hotel guests who had been blocked from their hotels and many participants of the march assembled near the police line. Protesters who had left the cordon without arrest spoke of tear gas and a charge with riot clubs.

Fifty protesters were put in handcuffs and around 200 were temporarily detained before being allowed to leave the cordon. A particularly agitated crowd assembled

near the place where the arrested were lined up. Chants of, "If you arrest these people, we'll burn the city

down!", "Tell me what a police state looks like - this is what a police state looks like!" and "No cops, no KKK, no fascist USA" continued for hours as the riot police appeared ready for a second charge. According to many protesters who had fled the tear gas, there had been no provocation to yield the heavy-handed response. The march had been unauthorized and police, they said, had arrested participants for this reason alone.

Wearing press credentials did not

Wearing press credentials did not yield the expected courtesy from officers; asking police what had occurred resulted in a stern directive: "Get back!"



Steven Nelson

Standing firm: Clinton supporters show loyalty to their candidate and air their grievances outside the Democratic National Convention.

yield the expected courtesy from officers; asking police what had occurred resulted in a stern directive: "Get back!" Standing five feet away and armed with no more than a camera and press credentials, the response was surprising. In anger, a fervent chant of "They say get back, we say fight back!" developed, and buildings in direct sight of the police cordon were spray painted with

numerous profanities. If someone had indeed decided to fight back, the situation was poised to explode into police-protester violence on the scale of the '68 Chicago convention. As hours passed, exhausted protesters dispersed and those arrested on the march were loaded into large vans and taken away.

Later in the week, activist group Tent State and the Iraq Veterans Against the War hosted a free concert for 10,000, featuring politically infused groups such as the Coup, Flobots and Rage Against the Machine. The only requirement for admission was to take a leaflet announcing that there was to be an unauthorized march afterwards and all were invited to participate -- and risk arrest in doing so. Following an electrifying concert filled with radical political commentary, the musicians and the Iraq War veterans led a march of thousands to the distant Pepsi Convention Center. Police prowled the route, but there was no crackdown, perhaps due to size, perhaps to avoid a riot or perhaps because of the emphasis on non-violence and the leadership of the veterans at the front of the procession.



Steven Nelson

Security clearance: Police were out in force around the Democratic National Convention and at the many protests around Denver.

The Six-Pack Diet

Beers that build character

There are certain evolutions that every college student experiences during their four year educational tenure: narrowing one's focus on a major, the establishment of a tightly-knit group of friends and last but not least, the letting-go of certain freshman year binge-drinking habits. Let's put it this way: if you're a senior and still think that it's cool to drink a cube of Busch Ice every weekend, either you have just recently discovered beer, or you're on the precipice of a disease many people refer to as alcoholism. As many of us seniors transition into the workplace within a year, our drink of choice should adequately reflect this newfound maturity. That means losing the case of Natty and pick up a classy six-pack of quality brew.



Jon San
Managing Editor

The following is a selection that I created using the useful "Pick Six" Bloom / Food Lion deal which allows you to make your own six-pack for only \$8.49. Ratings are awarded on a four star scale.

1. Pete's Wicked Ale (2 stars, 5.3% ABV)

Immediately, I asked, "What's so wicked about it?" At 5.3 percent ABV it's marginally weaker in alcohol content than other comparable ales. Also, Pete must have had a sweet-tooth because his ale certainly has a candied taste. It's not overpowering though; in fact, my main reservation regarding this self-described "exceptionally smooth ruby-brown ale"

is that it tastes watery. Nice try, Pete, but if I want a diluted beer I'll stick to the faithful Natural family.

2. Leinenkugel's Summer Shandy (1 star, 4.2% ABV)

According to Dictionary.com, a shandy is defined as "a mixture of beer and lemonade." Leinenkugel adds a dash of summer to this equation by mixing beer with lemonade – something that intrigued my curiosities more than my taste buds. I've never had a problem with the Leinenkugel brand, so I was surprised when I took a sip and thought that I had mistakenly combined seltzer water with Bud Light. Whatever attempt they made at replicating the taste of lemon failed miserably: I was left with a bitter and sour taste in my mouth – a truly unpleasant and confusing feeling.

3. Sam Adams' Octoberfest (3 stars, 5.7% ABV)

Despite its being a few weeks early, the Octoberfest fall seasonal beer from Samuel Adams can be enjoyed year-round. Unlike the previous two beers, Octoberfest tastes full and undiluted. It has a pleasant aftertaste but doesn't try so hard to be different or unique; it simply tastes good. And in the end, isn't that all that matters?

4. Harvest Moon Pumpkin Ale (2.5 stars, 5.6% ABV)

Let me start by saying that Blue Moon is one of my favorite beers and pumpkin pie is one of my favorite desserts. Would such a combination rise to my expectations or would it crash and burn? Interestingly



Jon San

FRATDAQ up 17%: Reward your liver with a classy selection of fine beverages.

enough, the answer lies in between. After my initial taste, I was convinced that the pumpkin ale was going to be the best among the six beers reviewed. It's pleasantly spicy with a full flavor. However, the aftertaste leaves much to be expected. As my roommate described it, it tastes of rust and vegetable oil. Even worse, it lingers, prolonging your misery.

5. Redhook ESB (3.5 stars, 5.8% ABV)

The dominant beer of this group, Redhook ESB (Extra Special Bitter) excels in all areas. It has a great flavor which continues after you swallow (unlike the pumpkin ale) and it has a little more kick than the Sam Adams. For someone that has never had an Extra Special Bitter before, I was pleasantly surprised by Redhook – in a

much better way than the Leinenkugel.

6. Newcastle Brown Ale (2.5 stars, 4.7% ABV)

Self-described as the "one and only" brown ale, Newcastle certainly has high expectations for itself. I would deem it "one among many other equivalent beers." It doesn't stand out like the Redhook did. For what it's worth, its odor is reminiscent of that of a dead skunk -- so plug your nose and bottoms up.

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

'Steady progress' made with gender gaps in W&M athletics

Brittany Lane
Contributor

Do gender gaps exist in William and Mary athletics? If so, where are they and what is being done? Assistant Athletics Director of Compliance Pamela Mason pointed out the 2003-2004 Division I Athletics Certification Self-Study of the College, which can be found in a PDF file on the official College athletics Web site. Every ten years, compliance administrators like Ms. Mason review the athletic departments of other institutions based on a range of issues, including their pursuance of gender equity.

In fact, the 2003 study contains an entire section dedicated to equity. It outlines different issues and breaks them down to four parts: describing how the institution completed the area of study; providing data

demonstrating the institution's status and commitment; identifying areas of deficiency; and explaining how the future plan for gender issues addresses this area. Such issues include, but are not limited to, scholarships, participation, equipment and supplies, scheduling of games and practice times, traveling, tutors, coaches and locker rooms.

Some of the issues do appear to harbor discrepancies. For example, the study reports that from 2002-2003, the male total equipment, uniform and supplies expenditures equaled \$123,908, whereas for women, it only equaled \$83,568. Of course, sports such as football, which have more players who need more equipment and space, need to be taken into account. At the time the study was conducted, women's teams overall had fewer and smaller locker rooms than men's teams. Currently, the women's soccer, field hockey and gymnastics teams all share the same locker room. Change is taking place though, as the women's lacrosse and volleyball locker rooms have been updated in the past year. In addition, football was actually one of the last sports to upgrade their facilities.

Salaries of coaches also differ, with men being paid more. However, salary is linked directly to the award of tenure, and many of the men's coaches have been around for longer.

Crucial medical and training facilities provide equal access to all athletes, and the proportions of grants-in-aid are awarded at the same level of athletic participation rate for men and women.

Roughly 20 years ago, former instructor Debbie Hill coached volleyball and track and taught part-time. She believes that William and Mary's athletic program is not there yet,



Brittany Lane

Rules of the game: Gender gaps in Tribe athletics are steadily being erased.

but that it's making "steady progress," particularly within the last 15 years. Ms. Mason contends that changes cannot be made immediately, but the administration is keeping a finger to the "pulse" of the campus's needs.



Brittany Lane

Tribe pride: Men and women's athletics bring pride to the College and serve as an integral part of the community.

INSIDE REVELEY'S APPOINTMENT: The fast rise of the College's 27th president

continued from page one

determined that "after coming to campus last spring and meeting with the faculty, staff and students, it was clear our community was not yet ready to proceed and that serious challenges suggested an immediate search would be unproductive." The board also announced that no action would be taken to initiate an in-depth presidential search over the summer either.

When students returned to campus this fall, the future of the presidency at the College was still very much uncertain. Rumors had been flying all summer that the board had no intention of ever starting a presidential search and had already decided to drop the "interim" from Mr. Reveley's title and appoint him the next president of William and Mary.

On September 2, independent sources confirmed to *The Informer* that the BOV had decided to formally appoint President Reveley as the next president, and that the decision would be publicly announced by the board that weekend. *The Informer* posted the story on its Web site that day.

The next day, students received a more cautious e-mail from Rector Powell, praising the record of then-Interim President Reveley, and noting that "steadily and increasingly," the board had received suggestions that Mr. Reveley's interim status be dropped. However, Rector Powell carefully avoided saying that a final decision had been reached, stating instead that although retaining Mr. Reveley as president "might" be a "meritorious course," the board was still "reaching out" to the College community to gather input and "gauge which path is preferred

and in the best interest of the College." Mr. Powell concluded his e-mail by announcing that the BOV would meet Friday, September 5, to "discuss the options...and make a decision on how to proceed."

However, in the second-to-last paragraph of that e-mail, Rector Powell referred to Mr. Reveley as "President Reveley" -- already without the "interim" designation. In hindsight, this slip may have indicated that a decision on retaining Mr. Reveley as president had indeed already been reached, despite Mr. Powell's insistence that the board at that time had not yet determined on which "path" to proceed and was still considering input from the College community.

And indeed, on September 5, 2008, students received another e-mail from Rector Powell announcing that the Board had in fact "decided to eliminate Taylor Reveley's interim designation and formally appoint him" the College's next president for a three-year term.

Mr. Powell went on to again extensively praise Mr. Reveley's record as interim president, saying he "exceeded every expectation." While Mr. Powell admitted that selecting a president without a national search is "unusual" and "not done lightly," he argued that the "unique" circumstances surrounding Mr. Reveley's appointment justified this "change in direction."

Mr. Powell reminded students that Mr. Reveley had been fully vetted in the previous presidential search -- he had in fact finished second to Mr. Nichol during the final selection process.

Newport News Airport to add new concourse, runway

continued from page one

The airport is currently seeing the development of new parking structures and constructing a new concourse and other passenger service facilities. Construction is expected to begin in late September or early October, now that the airport has officially secured federal grant money. In regards to expanding the number of airlines that service the Newport News / Williamsburg International Airport, the public affairs office has indicated that while nothing is yet definite, the airport is talking to current airlines in order to expand current services, as well as talking to new airlines in the hope of expanding offerings to

customers. Newport News currently serves three major airlines -- AirTran, Delta and US Airways -- and it is expected that at least one of the current airlines that operates out of Newport News will occupy part of the new concourse. The airport will offer the new space, consisting of an additional six gates to the airlines it already serves, and new airlines in the long term. Additionally, the airport desires to see new additional routes added to those already offered, including routes to destinations on the West Coast and possibly even international flights. The new concourse will service domestic flights on the first floor and will later expand into servicing

international flights on the bottom floor of the concourse, where customs and other international services will be housed. Additional baggage claim carousels will be added after the opening of the new concourse.

With the expansion project underway, the airport's passenger numbers continue to be strong. Passengers traveling through the airport have risen about 4.7 percent in the past year, and continue to rise. It is expected that with the new construction and expansion of services, the airport will be able to service more passengers and will continue to see these numbers rise in the future.

STEER CLEAR IMPROVES STUDENT SERVICE: Plans to add second van to expand the fleet

continued from page five

"When I asked one rider where he wanted to go, he responded, 'Dude, I just want to drive around and see where all the parties are at,'" said Mr. Sealy. "And while we require riders to have a specific destination in mind when they get in, if they want to get off early at a different party, that's totally fine."

For Tribe parties, Steer Clear is a safe and fun method of getting around on the weekends. However,

what about off-campus students stuck writing papers in Swem on Friday nights? Providing any student, sober or drunk, with a ride is the expanded mission goal of Steer Clear, and Mr. Sealy and company are certainly up to the challenge.

"I really want this campus to be safer and more accessible," Mr. Sealy added, "and if Steer Clear is the way I can do that, that's what I'll do."

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Take some time out for the arts

An introduction to music, theater, visual arts and more at William & Mary

Megan Locke

Arts & Culture Editor

College life can be hectic and tiresome. It's easy for students to let their time at school slip by without experiencing all the benefits of a world-class university. One perk that students shouldn't miss out on is the dizzying array of music, theater, visual arts, film and dance available right here on the College's campus. Despite its small size, William and Mary provides all of the above and more to its students in terms of entertainment.

Location is a key element to enjoying the arts as well. On campus, you are never more than a short walk away from a concert venue, performance stage or art gallery. Outside of a college campus or metropolitan area, such institutions being within close proximity of where you live is a rarity. The other benefit of campus entertainment is its student-targeted prices. Many shows are free, have a suggested donation or issue discounted admission to students.

The theater selection at William and Mary is especially varied. The College presents four Main Stage shows every year one of which is a major musical. Last year's season started with the nostalgic and campy musical *It's a Bird... it's a Plane... it's Superman!* This upcoming theater season will open with what is sure to be a crowd-pleaser: *Damn Yankees*.

Apart from the College's theater department, a host of other student theater groups offer entertainment for William

and Mary matriculates. Sinfonicon stages an annual light opera, such as last winter's brilliant performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Shakespeare in the Dark produces both well-known Shakespeare plays as well as more modern shows inspired by the Bard. Mystic Theater often aims to perform experimental or "edgy" shows, including last spring's *Caligula*.

For listeners and performers alike, live concerts are readily available on

campus. UCAB's Fridays @ 5 series features indie bands in Lodge 1 and on the Sadler Center Terrace, while UCAB's Homebrew series gives students a chance to hear exclusively campus-grown bands. UCAB's annual homecoming and spring concerts also bring nationally-recognized bands to William and Mary, such as last year's Guster and Ying Yang Twins concerts. The College's newly renovated Lake Mataoka amphitheater is quickly becoming a popular venue for larger-

scale concerts such as these.

If you like more classical fare, the William and Mary Symphony Orchestra holds about five concerts a year, including a specially themed Halloween concert. Other ensembles with regular performances include the Wind Symphony, jazz music ensemble, the concert choir, Early Music Ensemble and the many world-music ensembles at the school.

Dance lovers can enjoy the spring and fall performances put on by the College's Orchesis dance company, and film aficionados should regularly check Student Happenings for news of the various screenings being held by different academic departments and student organizations on campus. The Kimball Theatre in Merchants Square screens both popular and obscure movies, and hosted a large-scale film festival last spring.

Finally, the Muscarelle Museum of Art offers both permanent and rotating collections in its galleries next to next to Andrews and PBK Halls. Its newest exhibit is "Extreme Explorations," featuring antiquarian maps, oceanic watercolors and underwater photography. Admission to the Muscarelle is always free for students.

Be sure to keep reading Arts & Culture to stay updated on the latest offerings at William and Mary!



Alec McKinley

Rockin' out with Thao with The Get Down Stay Down: Take advantage of the many free and discounted music concerts that are available at the College all year round for every music taste.

Book Review:

A potent mix of *Guns, Germs, and Steel* that shapes our history

Jeff Bergemann

Contributor

For those of you who are interested in the hows and whys of the development of humanity, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* is a must for your busy reading schedule. Jared Diamond begins with a simple question: Why do some groups of people have lots of money, technology and goods while other groups of people have very little? To determine the answer, he goes back to the beginning – the very beginning.

How does something as distant as the evolution of Homo Sapiens or the first great dispersals of humanity have an effect on whether I am now either playing a Nintendo Wii or living in a pre-industrial society deep in the Australian Bush? Mr. Diamond convincingly argues for the importance of several factors that all the major trends in human history can be traced back to. These include factors such as geography, plant

and animal diversity and even the major axis of each continent.

Mr. Diamond demonstrates a startling breadth of personal experiences with a wide array of cultures and impressive research from a myriad of sources. He then uses these resources to illuminate each broad factor of human development with well-chosen microcosmic examples from throughout the world.

Among the fascinating perspectives included is Mr. Diamond's consideration of the Pacific Islands. He reasons that the islands were first inhabited by one group of people that was relatively homogenous. Since each island has different geographies, the diverging cultures that emerged after initial habitation served as a kind of natural experiment in the effect of geography on the development of human cultures. Some groups grew and formed mini empires while others regressed to earlier states of technology.

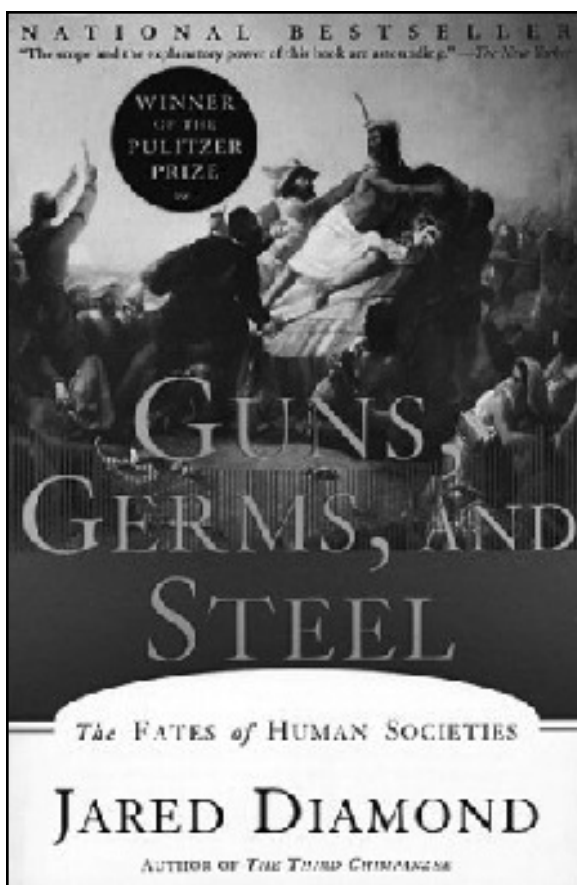
In another part of Mr. Diamond's book, it is suggested that one factor that led to China falling behind the West over the last several hundred years was

its excellent geography for political unification, which protected it from many outside threats. Since there wasn't a lot of competition between other countries, as in Europe, it only took decisions by a few leaders at one point in time to completely reverse the great lead in technology and wealth that China previously held.

Guns, Germs, and Steel consistently emphasizes that

it is the environmental factors that are important in the development of human societies, not any innate superiority of one ethnic or racial group. While this is a valid hypothesis, it leaves his work open to the possible criticism that Mr. Diamond overly promotes something called "geographical determinism." This theory postulates that Europeans were able to colonize and subjugate so much of the rest of the world not because they were innately superior, but because their natural geographic and environmental resources predictably allowed for this. Such a stance can be problematic in its own right. In my opinion, Mr. Diamond tries to avoid such extremism. He recognizes that environmental factors had a large influence on societal development, but the path that history took was not destined to occur solely because of these factors.

Overall, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* is a well-written book that is a must read for anyone who wants to understand both global history and the state of the world today.



Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies

Author: Jared Diamond
Pages: 457
Publisher: Norton, W.W. & Co.
ISBN: 9780393317558
List Price: \$17.95

Movie Review:

Being locked in and hanging on to translation is just the beginning

Patrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

Julian Schnabel received rave reviews and the film was hyped up enough, so I figured it was time to see *Le Scaphandre et la Papillon*, or, for the English-only speakers, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. The film focuses on Jean-Dominique Bauby, the editor of French magazine *Elle* who suffered a stroke and, subsequently, acquired a condition known as locked-in syndrome. He is able to understand and comprehend everything, but unable to talk. He can only respond to yes or no questions by blinking his eye. The film follows Bauby's progression in writing his book, which was done by blinking an eye while someone reads him the alphabet.

There are both strong and weak points to this film. First off, the plot is somewhat dry; there is little progression as far as a story goes. But the film is less about the story than it is about the main character. That being said, I will make myself clear – if this film was trying to have the viewers feel sympathy for the disabled, it certainly didn't work. The concept of the locked-in man writing a book is certainly worth a spot on the news, but as a full film, it's not very interesting.

So, what saves this film? First, the film is shot almost entirely as if it were through Bauby's eyes. It's interesting because you actually feel locked-in. I

liked the perspective. In a way, it gave some needed color to the pretence of the film. Second, although the film is more about the making of the book *Le Scaphandre et la Papillon*, there are many parts during which Mathieu Almaric, who plays Jean-Dominique Bauby, narrates excerpts from the book. Bauby -- though sometimes a bit melodramatic -- has some interesting and insightful things to say.

The main theme of this film is determination, which is reflected in the title. The stroke and subsequent condition of locked-in syndrome was the diving bell that brought Bauby down, and those who helped him interpret his thoughts with just the blink of an eye helped him to become a butterfly, going back up. It's all very basic, and it certainly isn't anything we haven't heard before. But, the theme aside, this film has merit mostly because of its style. However, if you're looking for something profound and, on the whole, moving, then look for something different.

The film was largely entertaining and easy on the eyes. The acting was also very good, and the perspective and style are definitely unique. I recommend watching the original French version, with subtitles for those who need it, as the English dubbing isn't very good. I give it a B.



Promotional

Writing by blinking: *Papillon* is a story of determination and perseverance against the odds.

The Finer Side:

From manners to myth: Why we still shouldn't wear white after Labor Day



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

It's been a tradition of mine every fall: putting the white shoes away after the Labor Day holiday. When I was a little girl, the pretty white party shoes went back in the box and into the back of the closet -- where they would remain until the coming Easter Sunday (that is, if they still fit). Now, as a young woman in college, the white shoes I wear in the office during the summer stay at home while the classic black, brown and red shoes come in the suitcase back to school. As someone who still cares about the rules of fashion that are now too often perceived as "archaic," I found myself wondering where the origin of this no-white-after-Labor-Day rule came from.

After a little bit of digging, I found out that the rule comes from the place I now reside: the South. And upon further research and reflection, it makes sense -- of course a fashion rule such as this would come from the South.

The idea itself was very simple: white is a cooler, summer color.

As the seasons changed from the heat of summer to the cool of winter, people naturally traded their loose, cooler summer clothes for the heavier, darker materials of winter. The South took this natural process and formalized it into a tradition. It quickly became a status

symbol to not wear white after Labor Day, because it showed you had the social status of having many different articles of clothing, and the social intelligence to know the rules.

Today, the no-white-after-Labor-Day rule pretty much applies only to shoes. And yes, there is such a thing as "winter white." Winter whites include creams and the very brightest snow whites. If you're a true fashionista, however, it's time to put the light summer suits back in the closet, and bring back the dark colors.

Questions or comments for Jennifer? Contact her at business@vainformer.com!

A good deal at Grand Shanghai

Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

Like everyone else at William and Mary, I recently found a menu for a newly opened Chinese buffet, Grand Shanghai, in my CSU box. I also noticed the included 10 percent discount card. Impressed by their effort to reach out to students, I decided to go check out Grand Shanghai for my next review. They are about three miles down Richmond road, right next to the Food Lion by the Prime Outlets.

I went over for lunch on a Saturday, and upon entering found myself in a stark but pleasantly calming space with classical music playing in the background. The restaurant was very well decorated with Chinese art on the walls, but nothing was over the top. They definitely had the right decor.

Their buffet caught me by surprise -- it was much larger than I had expected. They had multiple buffet bars, as well as a short order grill similar to the one found at Mongolian BBQ, the premier Chinese buffet in Williamsburg. Grand Shanghai had all of the typical Chinese dishes, such as General Tso's chicken, as well as a selection of less familiar items. They had an excellent variety of meat dishes, particularly chicken. All of their meat was very tender and delicious, and not the least bit tough or stringy, as is often the case with Chinese food. If you're a particular lover of Chinese seafood dishes you may want to go elsewhere, but their regular meat dishes were amazing in both quantity and quality.

The refreshing cleanliness of the food also made the experience enjoyable. It's not exactly "health food," but Grand Shanghai's offerings were much less greasy than food at the typical Chinese restaurant.

The lunch price of \$6.95 was very reasonable, and their \$9 (with discount) dinner price is also fair. It is two dollars more expensive for dinner than the Happy Leaf and \$5 cheaper than Mongolian. They have just a little less variety than Mongolian, but many of their dishes were just as good and often superior in quality. Their distance from the College may deter students from visiting, but I highly recommend stopping by for lunch if shopping at the Outlets, or if you are just in the mood for quality Chinese food.



Kevin McCrory

Dig in: Williamsburg's newest Chinese restaurant is a well-priced choice for students looking for quality Chinese food.

Like what you see?

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Informer meetings are every Monday 7:30 p.m. Blair 223

When science and art collide: Extreme exploration at the Muscarelle

Rachel Smith
Contributor

Nestled between Morton and Phi Beta Kappa Hall rests the Muscarelle Museum of Art, a hidden jewel on William and Mary's Campus. Established in the 1970s in order to showcase the priceless artwork the College had accumulated over the past three hundred years, the Muscarelle has continued to create a rich cultural atmosphere for students, faculty and members of the Williamsburg community. One of the museum's current exhibits, Extreme Exploration, consists of three parts: Celestial Images; Beyond the Edge of the Sea; and



Alec McKinley

Underwater Creations: Extreme Exploration reveals the beauty found in nature

Underwater Exploration. The exhibit pays tribute to works of art inspired by science.

Celestial Images: Antiquarian Astronomical Charts & Maps glorifies an age in which the creation of astronomical charts was both a science and an art form. During the Renaissance, the invention of the printing press allowed for both the dispersion of scientific material and advancements in astrology. Combined, the surge of artistic talent, scientific advancements, and an increase in the production of documents during the Renaissance led to the creation of scientific pieces that were appealing to the eye. The best example of the union between the arts and the sciences is a series of pieces at the Muscarelle detailing constellations, cosmologies and other celestial phenomena. These prints are so elaborate that in order to comprehend the science in the art you must look past the detailed mythological depictions of Capricorn and Orion's Belt to see the stars.

Beyond the Edge of the Sea: Diversity of Life in the Deep-Ocean Wilderness features watercolors by Karen Jacobsen. The dimly-lit gallery room's dark turquoise walls and the low hum of the Muscarelle's chillers create an eerie feeling of being underwater, as if you yourself are under the sea with the real-life inspirations for Jacobson's pieces. One of Jacobson's most elaborate works, tubeworms, is modeled after an underwater ecosystem. It depicts a large of a bouquet of red and white tube-shaped worms that have taken up residence in a deep sea hydrothermal vent.

The final segment of Extreme Exploration,



Alec McKinley

Heavenly Sights: Star charts capture the Renaissance spirit of discovery

which is called Underwater Explorations, can be viewed on the first floor of the Sadler Center. The underwater photographs that line the walls of the first floor were taken by Dennis Liberson, a William and Mary alum. Photos of vibrant orange clown fish floating among their sea anemone homes and schools of slim barracudas cause you to forget, for just a moment, that you are surrounded by the hustle and bustle of college life. These photographs are a minute representation of the life that exists beyond our perspective of the world, and are the closest that some of us will ever get to the real thing.

Extreme Exploration's pieces show us that science not only serves as artistic inspiration, but also that it is its own masterpiece, something that humans have struggled to replicate for ages. The exhibit will remain on display until November 2, 2008.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Live Performances

Dean's Shostak's Crystal Concert

Sept. 17 – Oct. 31, M,W,F 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
All Seats \$7

Bobby Blackhat Blues

Sat., Sept. 20 7:00 p.m.
All Seats \$15

A Day of Positive Discipline

Sat., Sept., 27 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
\$50 single, \$75 couple

The Second City on Tour

Sat., Sept. 27 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
General Admission, \$25, Seniors/Students \$20

Grand Medley of Entertainment

Mon., Sept. 29 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Colonial Performance Ticket \$12

September Schedule

Movies

GasHole (Not Rated)

Sun., Sept. 14 – Fri. Sept. 19
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 15, 17, 19 screening room (35 seats)

When Did You Last See Your Father? (PG-13)

Sun., Sept. 14 – Sat. Sept. 20
7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Sept. 14, 16, 18, 20 screening room (35 seats)

Brideshead Revisited (PG-13)

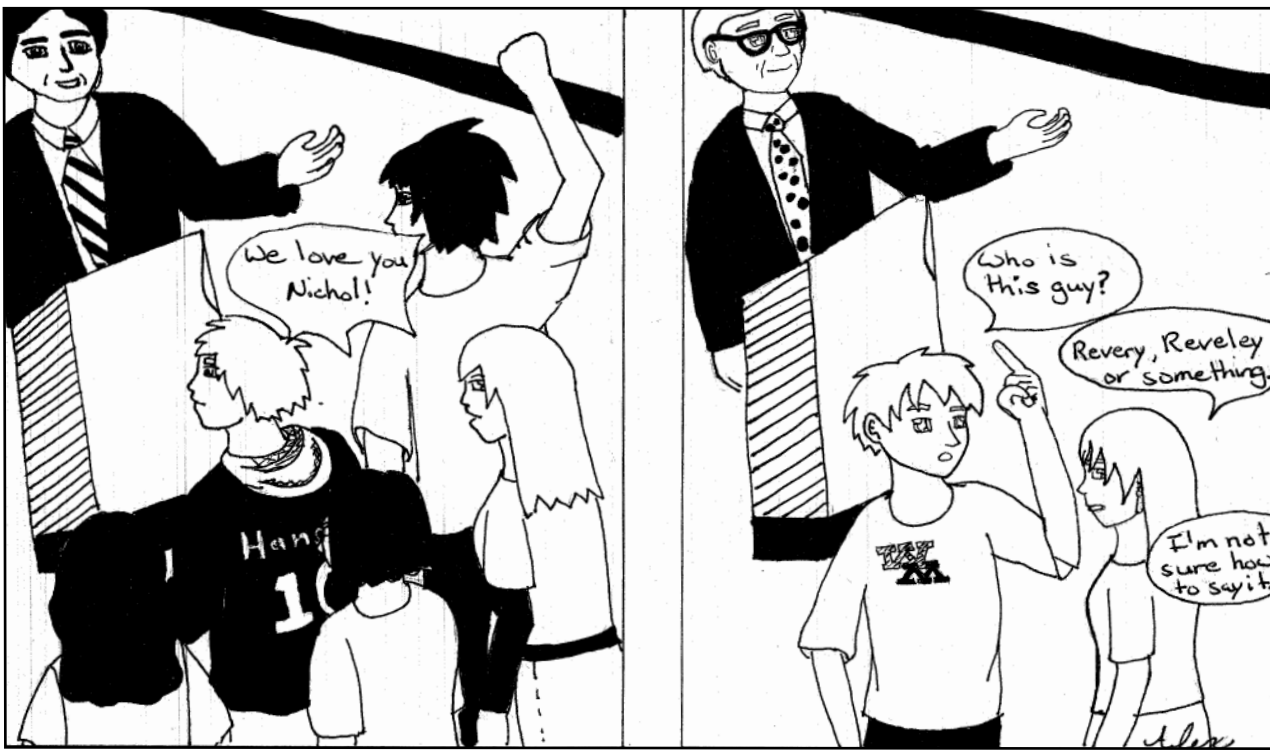
Sun. Sept. 21 – Wed. Oct. 1
6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Kabluey (PG-13)

Sun. Sept. 21 – Fri. Sept. 26
7 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.
Sept. 21, 23, 25 screening room (35 seats)

Mongol (R)

Sun., Sept. 28 – Sun., Oct. 5
6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Sept. 28, 30, Oct 2-4 screening room (35 seats)



Staff Editorial:

Student indifference abounds after Reveley decision

The *Informer* has noted the relative silence – some would incorrectly say ambivalence – of the student body in reaction to the appointment of Taylor Reveley as the College’s next long-term president. Indeed, in a September 3 e-mail to students, just two days before the Board of Visitor’s decision was announced, Rector Michael Powell neglected to even include the “interim” designation, but perhaps inadvertently referred to Taylor Reveley as “President Reveley.” Further, the BOV made clear its lack of enthusiasm for a presidential search when it announced last academic year that such a search committee would not be formed over the summer. In the same e-mail, Mr. Powell stated that the board would permanently remove Mr. Reveley’s interim status provided that there was a wide consensus for doing so among alumni, staff, administrators and students. The notion that his appointment was hasty does not ultimately carry weight.

Had the sentiment existed that the rector’s decision was potentially damaging to the College in not establishing a presidential search committee, one would think that there would have been a public movement against giving Reveley permanent status as president. The veritable silence on the issue that began last spring belies this notion.

Further, the campus collectively yawned when Mr. Powell strongly hinted that the board would act to appoint Mr. Reveley as president. Students were notified, and could have risen up to make their apprehensions – if any – known to the BOV had they really felt like they were being robbed of anything.

Yet, it is this relative lack of enthusiasm for Mr. Reveley which gives us hope for his successful administration. With modesty and experience, Mr. Reveley has been quietly pursuing initiatives of vital importance to the College over his past six and a half months in his interim presidency. His record of success as the both the dean of the College’s law school and as interim president is promising.

We wish to express our approval of this decision, which in our view enables the College to get back to business. This should be a unifying goal. The selection process cannot be considered sacrosanct in and of itself; the BOV is at liberty to appoint whomever they choose as president. Moreover, an extensive “selection process” – the absence of which has been noted by some critics of the decision – would consist of nothing more than a year-long expense of time and resources. Aspiring administrators and self-righteous students would commit themselves to

committee after committee’s worth of meaningless, expensive discussion on politically correct topics ultimately irrelevant to the College’s future. Since the College has already found an effective and successful leader in Taylor Reveley, subjecting our community to yet another long period of anxious uncertainty would not have been in our best interest. Let us not forget that Mr. Reveley had already been thoroughly vetted and examined back in 2005, when he was ranked second in an open and competitive presidential selection process. The past six months have afforded the BOV a truly unprecedented ability to assess Mr. Reveley’s management skills and decision making abilities, which, in our opinion, are worthy of note.

The board acted in the long-term best interest of the College, and we extend our sincere congratulations to Taylor Reveley for his appointment as the 27th president of William and Mary. Doubtless, we will have points of disagreement with President Reveley in the future, but right now he deserves to be acknowledged for his accomplishments thus far.

Talk is cheap. Those administrators who actually *act* to improve the long-term health of this college are the ones worthy of praise.

Next SA vice president must build upon past successes

As the vice presidential selection process continues, we believe it is necessary to outline what the characteristics of a qualified and common sense candidate would be. Ideally, these are characteristics not limited to individuals in the Student Assembly, but are also exemplified by individuals who share an understanding of the workings of student government at the College. The ability to talk productively to both administrators and city officials is of paramount importance as well. As we have seen from

the past two years, it is in working cooperatively with these influential groups that some good change can be accomplished.

In fact, we would be remiss in failing to point out that the former vice president exemplified many of these necessary qualities to a tee -- and with a certain unconventional style that appealed to the student body. It is unfortunate that all of this progress was, to an extent, tainted by his misguided actions.

While it would not be a requirement, in our mind, for the next vice president to be

an SA outsider, we would look favorably on the appointment of someone with a fresh perspective. An individual who could offer a new take on the workings of the SA – but still advance upon the successes of the past few years – would be most desirable. To that end, we await the decision of the vice presidential search committee, which will hopefully arrive by the end of the week.

‘I may have lost, but we, the student body, aren’t losing’

Progress made on students’ rights, but more can be done

I ran for Williamsburg City Council last semester because I believe that for a government to be effective, it needs to accurately represent its citizens. In the City of Williamsburg, those citizens include about 6,000 students who live, work and study here. My campaign tried very hard, but at the end of the day we fell just short.



Matt Beato
Contributor

If you analyzed the situation just a few years ago, you would have come to the conclusion that the student body was losing in Williamsburg. Then, Williamsburg’s voter registrar abruptly reversed his policies to prevent students from voting in Williamsburg, which had prohibited us from having a voice in our local community. Looking around during that time period, you could see obvious signs indicating that this was the case. In the downtown area, right by the College, there were few businesses that catered to students at all. The off-campus housing situation was also rocky. A proposal—albeit, one that wasn’t perfect and which could have been refined—to develop student-friendly housing at the Southern Inn was laughed out of the Planning Commission. A house on Scotland Street which could easily have accommodated more than three people was laughed out of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Dozens of students were evicted for violating Williamsburg’s one-size-fits-all rule which forces most living spaces to have no more than three unrelated occupants, even if the dwelling has six bedrooms.

While we couldn’t muster the votes for a victory, I’m proud of what William and Mary students did in response to these actions -- we fought back in a way that was civil and just. We responded by contributing over 300,000 hours of service to the Williamsburg community, and by speaking out civilly at city and neighborhood council meetings. When a corrupt voter registrar was finally fired, 1,400 of us responded by registering to vote.

Today, all that work is paying off. I am extremely impressed with what city officials are doing to remedy the mistakes made several years ago. The city’s new Economic Development director works with students to attract student-friendly businesses, and new businesses are appearing more and more frequently, from Doraldo’s Pizza to the upcoming Green Leaf Underground. Every candidate in last year’s city council elections admitted problems with the three-person rule and admitted the need for more-student friendly housing. And no students have been evicted for violating the three-person rule since 2007. Despite the progress we have made, there is always room for improvement. If you’re reading this, you should take a moment to consider volunteering in Williamsburg, registering to vote in the city, or even plan to attend and speak up at a local meeting.

If the last few years have taught us anything, it is that responding within democratic process and with civic participation works. Our future is bright in this city -- but only if we continue working to make it so.

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). The College is not responsible for the content of The Virginia Informer.

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How, then, should we live on this campus?

Upon learning of Zach Pilchen's ('09) intentional pilfering of student funds, I immediately thought of a biblical axiom: "Be sure your sins will find you out." "Sin?" you might ask yourself? For some, this word is anathema, rejected out of hand in favor of broad categorizations of "bad behavior." Others of us possess a worldview that incorporates the concept of sin, with the accompanying belief in a higher authority to whom we are ultimately accountable. We believe that actions qualifying as sin are more significant than mere failures to adhere to "community standards" or the College's Honor Code, because these violations are not just against our peers, but ultimately against the will of that higher power.

Punishment for those who sin is also a part of this worldview, as are the concepts of repentance and forgiveness during the process of reconciliation. But without an ultimate authority, there can be no uniform and final measure of right and wrong, and therefore no decisive knowledge of just punishment. Absent this view, individuals are insufficiently prepared to answer the fundamental question: What does it mean to act ethically and how do we know when we are doing so?

These are difficult questions that are not easily answered when one subscribes to the postmodern worldview advocated by many in higher education generally and on this campus in particular. Postmodernism is, by definition, a worldview skeptical of all things and individuals absolute in nature, including the belief in a higher power and specific lists of wrong behavior. Now, I do not know Zach Pilchen personally and I cannot rightly comment on his belief system. However, I do know that simply fulfilling GER 7 or taking a myriad of religion courses will not successfully equip a person to act ethically in life's large and small decisions. I do know one biblical injunction, though, which if followed in this case would have changed everything: the so-called Golden Rule, do to others as you would have them do unto you.

In an interview with *The Virginia Informer* shortly after the theft was uncovered, Mr. Pilchen stated, "Just the first one [illicit use of the debit card] was accidental, and then it was just like, as long as I'll rectify that, I'll just do this. And again I was running low on money and made a stupid, stupid decision. The debt has been paid back."

We are all fallible human beings, prone to make mistakes; however, our excuses for such behavior serve to reveal basic flaws in our thinking. Personal rationalization of morality occurred on the fly here and ended in a profound personal failure. In a collegiate environment where identification of clear ethical footholds is often said to be impossible, and absent our previous parental guidance, there is a great risk of abandoning past standards for risky substitutes. To be sure, the precepts enumerated in the College's Honor Code are upheld by many, but when the rubber meets the road, when no one is looking, and when we are told by the powers that be that belief in standards and ultimate authority is folly, we create for ourselves a recipe for disaster.

Daily lifestyle challenges, in the absence of a guiding force, leave us stranded, adrift in a sea of moral equivocation. Unfortunately, if we persist in this direction, we are likely to fail to live up to the ethical standards necessary for the success of a cooperative society in the future.



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

A necessary resignation

Earlier this month, former Student Assembly Vice President Zach Pilchen ('09) admitted to wrongly using the SA debit card for over 16 transactions, amounting to almost \$140. Mr. Pilchen then



Joanna Sandager
Contributor

addressed the Student Assembly and announced his immediate resignation from office.

Upon hearing the news, I could not help but suspend my shock and laugh at the irony. One year ago, I wrote my first column on a similar political scandal. Brandon Eickel, student president of James Madison University, plagiarized a large part of his online campaign platform from Mr. Pilchen and his running mate, Valerie Hopkins ('09). Campus outrage led to another publication's staff editorial calling Mr. Eickel's actions "the theft of ideas" and "an egregious crime."

These critics then vehemently called for his resignation.

Unlike the masses who called for a trip to the gallows,

I defended Brandon Eickel, calling his resignation unnecessary. I condemned him as wrong, but believed we were all overreacting. Last time I checked, none of us can walk on water, so I tend to expect

some moral shortcomings from my peers.

Replace Mr. Eickel with Mr. Pilchen and ideas with student funds and it sounds like we are where we were one year ago. Though, this time it is different. Mr. Pilchen's resignation was necessary, not only because of his embezzlement, but because of the standards he set for himself and the

William and Mary community one year ago. It was not just his reputation at stake, but all of ours, when he decided to repeatedly abuse his power -

power that wasn't even his anymore. If we had low standards of leniency and second chances, Mr. Pilchen's resignation would have been unnecessary; instead we

have set our standards high and now it is our job to bear the burden.

Some may wonder why I am choosing to rub salt into

Mr. Pilchen's wound even after his resignation, perhaps believing that the past should be put behind us in favor of more important issues. To do so would be cutting him an unfair break. No one wants

to expect the worst from one of our own. However, Mr. Pilchen's early response to this affair was light-hearted and unapologetic. Not once in the initial reporting of the scandal was an apology given. Whether his behavior began as an accident or not, it recurred too many times afterwards to be regarded as a simple human mistake. His actions warrant a loss of trust.

To be sure, no one is perfect. Had Zach Pilchen been a private

It was not just his reputation at stake, but all of ours, when he decided to repeatedly abuse his power -- power that wasn't even his anymore.

student without any prominent obligations to our community, we may not have even batted an eyelash. Once in the

spotlight, though, achievements as well as blunders become public business. It is a lesson hard learned, and not just by the former vice president. We as a community must hold our leaders accountable and choose them wisely. When push comes to shove, their abuse is a result of the power we give them.

If we wish to remain a beacon of excellence, we must choose leaders that embody our standards not only in their words, but their actions. President Hopkins' committee to select the new SA vice president must take such expectations into account. The decisions our leaders make reflect back on us and it is our responsibility to make sure that that reflection is crystal clear.

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Point-Counterpoint | Election 2008

ECONOMY

This is the first in a four-part Informer debate series in which students representing Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain and Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama will argue why their candidate's position on each issue is the better one.

Our topic this week is the economy. Polls indicate that the economy is the single most important issue on the minds of American voters this election cycle. Most Americans also agree that the economy is in rough shape at the moment, and many Americans are worried about their financial future. Which candidate has the better policy to get America's economy back on track?



Ben Kyber
Class of '10

Throughout the country, ordinary Americans are finding themselves struggling to make ends meet in the face of numerous economic challenges.

Sadly, eight years of failed Republican economic policies have done little but exacerbate the problem. With the support of Sen. John McCain, the Republican leadership recently passed legislation that allows US-run corporations to move their manufacturing operations to countries with extremely lax labor and environmental standards in order to operate more cheaply. As a result, American workers are finding themselves increasingly unable to compete in the global labor market.

Sen. Barack Obama provides a sharply different path for the American economy. In an Obama administration, enforceable labor and environmental standards would be a prerequisite for US participation in trade agreements. In addition, Mr. Obama supports indexing the minimum wage to inflation, a move that would help wage-workers to retain some degree of economic security despite rising prices. Finally, Mr. Obama supports a variety of tax relief measures that would benefit the middle class, small business owners, and seniors. In November, the choice is clear: Barack Obama is the only candidate that can steer the economy back on track and help guarantee the American middle-class the financial security they so desperately need.

Insera The problem isn't free trade, but the taxes and restrictions that our own government is placing on American businesses. Free trade encourages businesses to grow, while taxes and restrictions limit them. In addition, the fact is that some jobs simply will not come back to America. Instead of demanding that the government "save" these jobs, Mr. McCain encourages the retraining of workers for new and growing industries.

Mr. Obama's suggested "tax relief measures" pale in comparison to those of Mr. McCain. Furthermore, many of Mr. Obama's "tax relief" measures will not actually reduce taxes, and some will in fact increase them. Mr. Obama's healthcare plan would give small businesses a tax refund for 50 percent of new health costs -- but the other half will still be borne by small business. Mr. McCain's plan to give all Americans a \$5,000 tax credit for healthcare costs not only allows families to pick the healthcare plan that is best for them, but it also avoids the unnecessary additional taxes and healthcare costs that taxpayers and businesses would have to pay for universal healthcare of lower quality.

Kyber Unrestricted free trade does encourage business -- it encourages business to ignore human rights concerns in other countries and to leave the United States. Neither is good for the American worker.

Mr. Obama understands that in today's world, globalization is happening whether we like it or not, which is why he also supports improving access to retraining for displaced workers. Importantly, the Obama plan contains a provision for the creation of five million new "green jobs," which would simultaneously take advantage of a rapidly growing industry and would also help make the United States a global leader in environmental protection.

Mr. Obama also supports repealing the capital gains tax on small business start-ups, as well as providing a tax credit to self-employed small business owners to help reduce their payroll tax burden. Under the Obama health care plan, families would still be given the opportunity to choose the type of insurance that is "best for them," but a guaranteed minimum level of care would fill a desperately needed gap in our healthcare system for the millions of Americans who are still uninsured.

Insera If you look at Mr. Obama's healthcare plan, you will find that his plan destroys pharmaceutical companies -- as similar universal healthcare plans have around the world -- and since pharmaceutical companies generally put about 90 percent of their profit back into research on new drugs, the government would have to supply the extra money for this research. Where will that money come from? In proposing this government-run system, Mr. Obama shows himself to be just another a tax-and-spend liberal, no different than his running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, except that Mr. Obama is perhaps more clever in the way he will hide these new taxes from the American people.

Ben has tried to argue that small government is somehow a bad thing. John McCain believes otherwise. After all, letting people keep their own money, letting business flourish without the restraints of burdensome taxes, providing incentives to use all of the energy sources available to us, and having a smaller government that can more efficiently provide its services to those that really need it -- that doesn't seem like such a bad thing.



David Insera
Class of '11

The McCain-Palin position on the economy is quite simply one of less government. Sen. McCain advocates keeping taxes low while also reducing out-of-control spending. Instead of raising taxes and creating vast new programs, Mr. McCain believes in allowing Americans to keep their hard-earned money and letting them make their own choices on how to spend it. He wishes to promote an individual's degree of choice in their own financial

affairs by not only keeping taxes low, but also allowing each family a \$5,000 tax refund to help pay for health insurance.

In contrast, Sen. Obama's federally regulated and mandated plan for healthcare would saddle American taxpayers with even more taxes and hit businesses with between \$5,000- \$13,000 in additional healthcare costs.

In addition, Mr. McCain sees that there is a simple reason why jobs are leaving America -- and it's not free trade's fault. Rather, it's because America has the second-highest corporate income tax among industrialized nations. Why would a company stay in America when it can get cheaper labor and lower taxes abroad? Mr. McCain will lower this burdensome tax and provide incentives for R&D to keep American businesses competitive.

Kyber I'd like to start by addressing David's question: "Why would a company stay in America when it can get cheaper labor and fewer taxes abroad?" Given the choice, a company will move wherever it can minimize its costs and maximize its benefits. The problem with a "free-trade" plan is that the movement of goods and capital is free, but the movement of labor is not. In other words, an American worker cannot easily move to Nicaragua to change jobs and vice-versa. Thus, without equally imposed labor standards, such as those supported by Mr. Obama, "free trade" is anything but free. The assertion that our corporate tax rates make a bigger difference than massive wage differences and money saved from not having to comply with environmental standards is simply not true.

As for the concept of "smaller government," I'll say this: the government provides thousands of vital programs that step in where the market won't to help level the economic playing field and encourage equality of opportunity for all Americans.

Insera The argument that having the second highest corporate tax rate among developed nations does not play a major role where companies base their business is simply nonsense. Ben's logic seems to suggest that we need government to shield business at all costs. But those costs include higher prices for consumers, less efficient business here at home, and less incentive for nations to trade with us. In addition, free trade works both ways. We can sell to these developing nations and make money here at home while providing goods at a lower price to American consumers. Lowering our corporate tax rate, keeping trade free, and providing tax incentives for R&D and technology, as Mr. McCain advocates, will benefit both American consumers and American small businesses.

I would also like to point out that of the two candidates, only Mr. McCain has shown himself willing to try to reform and control spending in Washington. He has fought wasteful earmark spending in both parties and even voted against several Republican bills because they did not include guarantees of reduced spending and a balanced budget. Mr. McCain has taken a stand on spending limits, a balanced budget, and earmark reform, something his opponent cannot claim.

Kyber The notion that unrestricted free trade works both ways is a nice one, but it's just not accurate. By introducing thousands of low-paying jobs into the economies of these developing countries, our free trade agreements lower wages in those countries and serve mostly to maintain the status of their large lower classes. Do we really expect the *maquilladora* workers, working for a couple dollars a day, to buy American-made products? How will we make money here at home from that arrangement? Frankly, we won't.

I won't disagree with David that Mr. McCain has taken a strong leadership role in the Senate to combat wasteful spending and earmarks, but I will say that given his record it's a bit strange for him to have chosen a running mate who supported the infamous Alaskan "Bridge to Nowhere" as a gubernatorial candidate before killing the project once she was elected.

Messrs. Obama and McCain provide entirely divergent views on the future of the US economy. Whereas Barack Obama supports changing course on many of our current economic policies that have proven again and again to be disasters for working Americans, John McCain's views essentially represent more of the same.