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THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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The common sense paper of record on campus.



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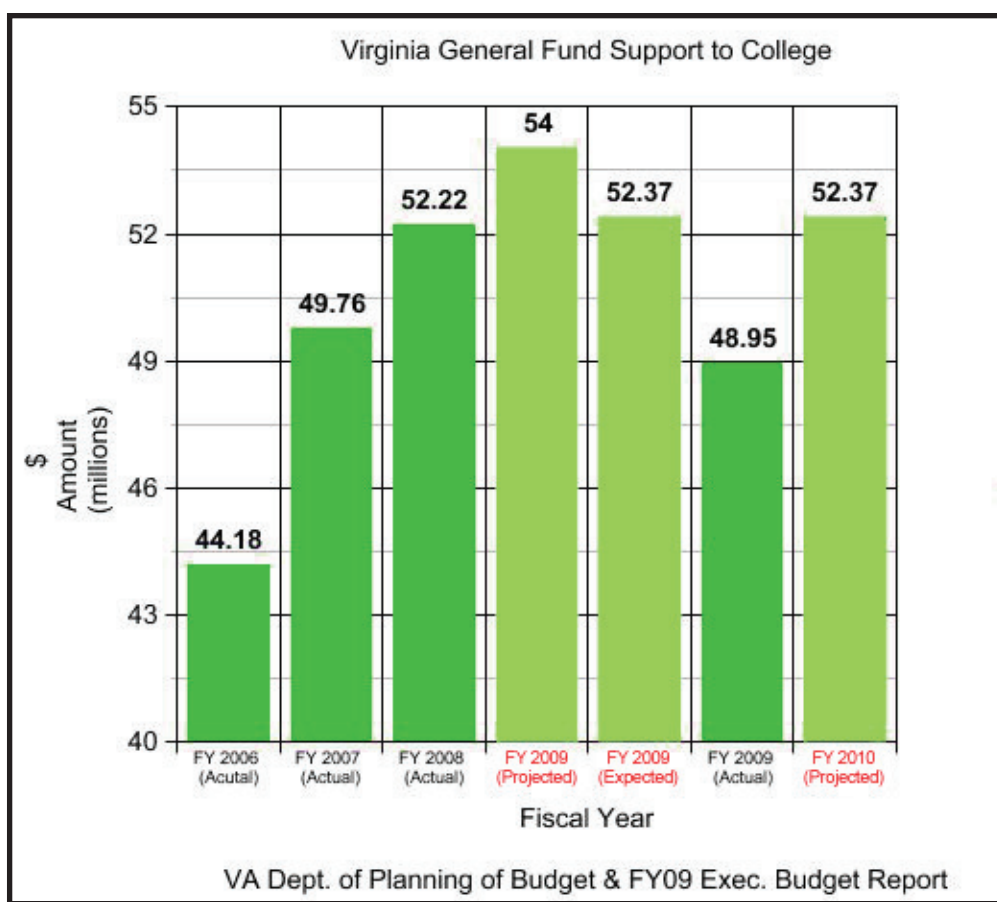
Exclusive interview with President Reveley see page 9

College ranked #1 in lowest loan default rates see story on page 3

College administration considers mid-year tuition increase, spending cuts amid state budget shortfall

Andrew Blasi
Editor in Chief

On October 8, Governor Tim Kaine announced that the College of William and Mary and the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) would each be required to absorb a seven percent reduction in anticipated Fiscal Year 2009 state funding, totaling \$4.88 million. This latest development comes following the Commonwealth's reduction in expected funding support by \$2.7 million during the last fiscal year. According to Sam Jones, the College's director of finance, no information is presently available regarding a further reduction in funding that the College may need to absorb in FY 2010, but it is expected to be at least equal in size to the present year. The Virginia Department of Planning and Budget has presently forecast the College's funding levels for FY 2010 to be equivalent to this year's funding



levels prior to the Governor's reduction, but this is subject to change depending upon future economic conditions.

The most recent cut in funding support not only represents a real loss in the state's base level

funding to William and Mary by more than \$3.4 million as approved by the legislature in May, but also represents a further cut in the

STATE BUDGET CUTS continued on page eight

BOV, faculty contribute over \$168K to Democratic candidates in '08 race

Eric Ames
Staff Writer

Research collected by *The Virginia Informer* from the Center for Responsive Politics' website [opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org) reveals that the faculty and administration of the College have made at least \$193,705 in contributions to political campaigns and political action

committees for the 2008 election cycle. *The Informer's* findings are based on a survey of the faculty of several academic departments, as well as of the College's administrative bodies. Of those researched, 25 individuals donated to political candidates or causes.

In total, faculty and administrators donated \$24,545 to Republicans, and \$168,560 to Democratic candidates, party committees

and PACs. A total of \$600 was donated to a third-party candidate. Of the 25 donors, only six donated to Republicans.

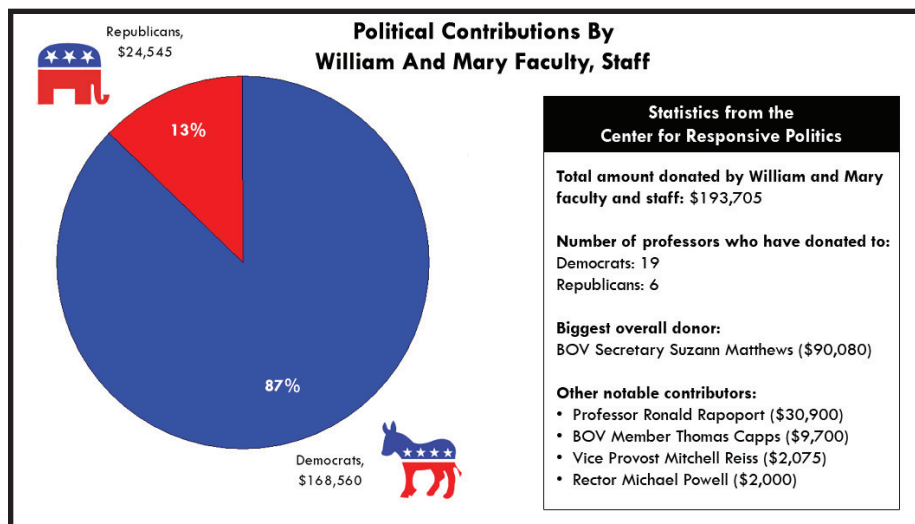
Among the contributors is Professor Lawrence B. Wilkerson, who gave \$500 to Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) in 2007. Professor Wilkerson also donated \$600 to Jonathan Powers, a congressional candidate in New York running as a member of the leftist Working Families Party, an organization frequently identified as a front group for the community organization network ACORN.

The most prominent Republican contributor from among the faculty at the College is Vice Provost for International Studies Mitchell Reiss, who donated \$2,275 to former Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. Mr. Reiss was Governor Romney's national security advisor during his presidential campaign.

The single largest contributor from the faculty is Professor Ronald Rapoport, who gave \$2,300 to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, \$4,600 to Congressman Chet Edwards (D-TX) and \$24,000 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Other faculty contributors include: Professor David Dessler, who gave \$250 to congressional special election candidate Phil Forgit; Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss, who gave \$500 to Barack Obama; Dean of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda, who gave \$200 to Barack Obama; and History Professor Heather Huyck, who gave \$400 to Hillary Clinton and \$1,400 to the liberal PAC EMILY's List. Physics Professor Marc Sher has also donated \$2,222 to Barack Obama, and law Professor Alan Meese has donated \$250 to John McCain.

Of the total amount donated, members of the Board of Visitors have given \$146,058, roughly 75 percent of all College donations. Political donation is nearly universal among members of the board, with Rector Michael Powell having donated \$2,000 to John McCain's presidential campaign, and BOV Secretary Suzann Matthews, the BOV's single largest donor, having donated \$90,080 to a variety of Democratic candidates and committees. The single largest Republican donor on the board is Thomas Capps, who has donated \$9,700 to Republican candidates.



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CONTENTS

News..... 2
Features..... 5
Arts & Culture..... 11
Opinion..... 14

Titan of Regnery publishing to visit College
Page 5



NEWS

Law, business, economics faculty clear up myths, recommend action on world economic crisis at forum

Bert Mueller
Assistant News Editor

On October 15 at 6:00 pm, a large group of Williamsburg residents and a smattering of William and Mary students gathered in the Admissions Office Auditorium to attend a forum on the economic crisis of the past few weeks. The forum, moderated by Mason School of Business Professor Dick Ash, featured commentary from four professors: John Boschen, Till Schreiber, John Merrick and Eric Kades. The forum was set up in four informational segments, followed by a question and answer session. Mr. Ash opened the forum by assuring the audience that the system can be fixed.

Mr. Boschen began by explaining the reasons behind the housing bubble. He highlighted low interest rates as the main cause. The Federal Reserve, between 2002 and 2004, lowered interest rates below market value. As it became advantageous to borrow and investors found that mortgage rates were also extremely low, the housing market steadily ascended. He explained that as housing prices kept rising, a market for high-risk assets tied to mortgages developed and ended up leading to the frozen credit markets as housing prices plummeted.

The only economics professor on the forum, Mr. Schreiber, discussed the impact of the burst housing bubble on the credit market and suggested that unemployment will likely rise to about

8 percent. Students in the audience weren't excited by that prediction, although Mr. Schreiber's suggestion that students become regulators garnered a few laughs. He compared this economic downturn to the recession in the 1980s and suggested that better regulation and low interest rates could help the economy. Low interest rates, he explained, were what got us out of the DotCom burst. His suggestion of keeping interest rates low was puzzling, given that Mr. Boschen had just suggested that low interest rates were what caused the mess in the first place and that this downturn was the market correcting itself.

After the presentations of Messrs. Boschen and Schreiber, Mr. Merrick presented an assortment of remarks that seemed unfocused in comparison. His main point was that "truth squads" need to be sent in to ensure a better process of market-to-market accounting in the government's purchase of assets from troubled banks. Mr. Merrick said, "If I were going to do anything here, I'd send the truth squad out to the institutions and help the Fed and these banks figure out where the market is -- what the fair



University Relations

It's business time: Mason School of Business Professor Dick Ash spoke to students and Williamsburg residents on business ethics.

market price is."

Although the other three panelists barely mentioned the bailout plan that recently passed Congress, Mr. Kades had some positive things to say about it and claimed that because of the activist role of the government, there is now a "reduced risk of a depression." He suggested that there needs to be greater transparency in the system and that previously hidden contracts between institutions need to be forced onto an exchange to allow open books. Meeting his prescribed need for greater regulation, Mr. Kades hinted that an Obama victory would be better, as his advisors are more apt to regulate the

market.

During the question and answer session, an elderly gentleman stood up and said that he'd lived through the 70s oil crisis, the 80s recession, the DotCom burst, Enron "and now this." He asked, "What's the Mason School of Business doing to teach people to be ethical?" "Ethics are taught at home," Mr. Ash replied. "We give them the grey situations." Despite the fact Mr. Ash had asked that no questions be political in nature, two adults brought

politically charged statements about oil drilling and Iraq to the floor -- and were quickly reproved by the moderator. One questioner was concerned about inflation from the bailout and the reserves injected into the economy in the prior year by the Federal Reserve. Mr. Schreiber told him he shouldn't worry, while Mr. Boschen was a bit more cautionary and said that inflation may be a problem in the long term, but the current situation should not be a worry to college students trying to afford a living. Notably, a serious discussion of the consequences of the \$700 billion relief package or any potential alternatives was absent from the seminar.

Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Assistant Opinion Editor

W&M students use weekend to make a difference

On Saturday, October 18, W&M students participated in the annual "Make a Difference" Day. About 360 students participated in the event by volunteering for projects in both the Williamsburg area and in Petersburg, VA. The approximately 50 students who traveled to Petersburg participated in a beautification project along the Route 36 corridor as part of a partnership with the Phoenix Project. W&M students also volunteered time through such service organizations like College Partnership for Kids and the College's chapter of Alpha Phi Omega.

Daly wins 300th game

Tribe women's soccer head coach John Daly won his 300th game as head coach on October 3 when the Tribe women defeated Delaware 2-1 in double overtime. Mr. Daly, head coach since 1987, has won all 300 (now 303) games with William and Mary. He is only the fourth women's head coach to achieve that milestone with one team. Earlier this season Mr. Daly coached his 450th match for the College, becoming the sixth coach to do so at one school. Mr. Daly is quickly approaching 100 career CAA victories. At the time of publication, the women were tied for first in the conference table with a CAA record of 6-1.

History professor offers perspective on financial crisis

Professor of History Scott Nelson recently wrote an article for the online *Chronicle of Higher Education* entitled "The Real Great Depression," in which he argues that the Great Depression is not the proper historical analogue to the current financial turmoil. Mr. Nelson argues that

the Panic of 1873 offers a superior comparison. The late 19th century economic crisis began when financial instruments in the railroad industry (similar to those used by modern-day subprime mortgage lenders) lost value. The resulting recession lasted four years and led to 25 percent unemployment in major cities. In the aftermath, the United States emerged as the world's center of capital. Mr. Nelson predicts that the present crisis may yield a similar shift toward East and South Asian economies.

Alumni Homecoming events

Over Homecoming weekend (October 23-26), alumni may attend several events. On Friday night, alums may gather at the Alumni House for live music and a light dinner with their families. On Saturday, alumni may bring their children to the Children's Carnival, and a postgame tailgate will be offered. Alumni celebrating reunions will be entertained Saturday night at the Williamsburg Lodge in private settings for each class. All alumni are then invited to a party in the Williamsburg Lodge's Virginia Room.

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Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasnchak

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

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W&M ranked #1 in lowest loan default rates

Steven Nelson
News Editor

Results of a study by Student Lending Analytics has ranked William and Mary at the top of its honor roll for rates of default on student loans. Student Lending Analytics specializes in matching up lenders and students, according to the business' Web site.

William and Mary had the lowest default rate on loans at four-year public colleges from which 500-1,999 borrowers were in repayment. The rate of default was .5 percent, averaging the years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The default rate was .3 percent in 2004, .2 percent in 2005 and .7 percent in 2006. The average may have been higher than it would seem due to a possible increase in loans taken out in 2006.

The report was issued on September 28, 2008. Closely following William and Mary was fellow Virginia school Mary Washington, which had a slightly higher average.

Top ranked private universities, large and small, had lower default rates than the College. Wake Forest University in North Carolina ranked second for small private colleges, with a default average of .18 percent. The University of Notre

Dame in Indiana was the highest ranked of larger private colleges, with a rate of .23 percent.

Public universities with more than 2,000 lenders in repayment had leading rates lower than William and Mary, with the University of Maryland, Baltimore leading with a rate of only .3 percent. Two year community colleges had markedly higher default rates, with the highest scores being 2 or 3 percent.

Loan statistics according to Student Lending Analytics

- Rate of default at the College is 0.5%
- The University of Notre Dame was ranked number one among private schools with a default rate of 0.23%
- The College is in the category that has 500-1,999 borrowers
- For public universities that have 2,000 or more borrowers in repayment, the University of Maryland is ranked number one with a rate of 0.3%
- Similarly, two year community colleges boast rates around 0.2% or 0.3%

UCAB will not pick SCAB

Kirk Vernegaard
Staff Writer

With the recent change of the University Center's name to the Sadler Center, the University Center Activities Board (UCAB) has from the beginning of this semester been left to scramble for a more appealing acronym than "SCAB." While UCAB prior to the name change had been searching for a new logo, such circumstances have allowed UCAB to re-brand their image all together.

"We're looking for a hip, fresh, and professional concept that will last for years to come," says the Director of Public Relations for UCAB Thomas Milteer ('09). Whereas the prior logo of UCAB had been a taxicab since 1993, the new logo and name of the student run programming board will be decided later this semester by consensus of the fourteen members of the organization's Executive Board. "A lot of universities have the cab theme," Mr. Milteer explained, "but since the name change was announced we set an agenda to seek feedback from the entire student body." Students were invited

to submit name suggestions via Facebook or e-mail by October 8 for consideration in the selection process.

UCAB has been, since then, internally brainstorming as well as narrowing down potential suggestions. They have also enlisted the services of a class within the business school and even intend to consult their vast network of UCAB alumni during Homecoming. While UCAB

does have professional advisors within the organization, Mr. Milteer stressed that they have been "happy to receive any kind of suggestion."

Once the name and logo are chosen, they will respectively then be implemented and designed in a professional manner. The Executive Board of UCAB intends to release a press release sometime next week regarding progress concerning the anticipated decision.

We're looking for a hip, fresh, and professional concept that will last for years to come



Courtesy Photo

SCAB falls off list of name possibilities: Due to the obvious unpleasant connotation of SCAB, it will not be chosen as UCAB's successor.

Paintball tourney, Students-Police Better Relations Act debated at recent SA meeting

Ian Kirkpatrick

Assistant News Editor: Student Assembly

The start of the senate meeting on Tuesday, October 7 was marked by debate between Senators Matt Beato ('09) and Sarah Rojas ('10) over the number of registered student voters in Williamsburg. The 3,000 students that *The Flat Hat* quoted last week was revised to a more likely 2,000, the discrepancy attributed to an overestimate of the number of students who registered last semester.

National Coming Out Day and the environmentalist-infused Wrenstock were denied reservation of space in the Sunken Garden, culminating in an investigation. This led to a discussion on student rights focusing on ensuring the openness of the Publications Council as well as reservation equity of the Sunken Garden.

In an effort to lower the College's waste, SEAC and APO are distributing recycling bins around campus. Despite the gravity of the budget cut and its implications, the meeting had its lighter moments: such as the postponement of the name change of "housekeeping" to "custodial Services." A flu vaccine subsidy was also touched on but ultimately the proposal was sent back to committee.

In commemoration of Veterans Day the SA has approved funding for a paintball tournament. The founding member, Lance Zaal ('09), of the Veteran's Society was present to discuss the funding appeal, and was joined by the owner of the paintballing company. Despite some questions as to the nature of the event, the Student Assembly gave an additional \$500 to the event on appeal, resulting in a total funding of \$3,000, the largest sum allocated for an event this semester.

In an effort to improve understanding and recognition of the William and Mary police officers the Senate unanimously passed the Student-Police Better Relations Act, sponsored by Senators Michael Douglass ('11) and Steven Nelson ('10). The bill charges sponsors with creating a website with photos, names, badge numbers and responses to a humanizing survey of each respective officer. The bill also mandated that a link to the said Web site be placed on the SA Web site and be distributed via e-mail by SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09). It also allocates money for fliers notifying students of the development.



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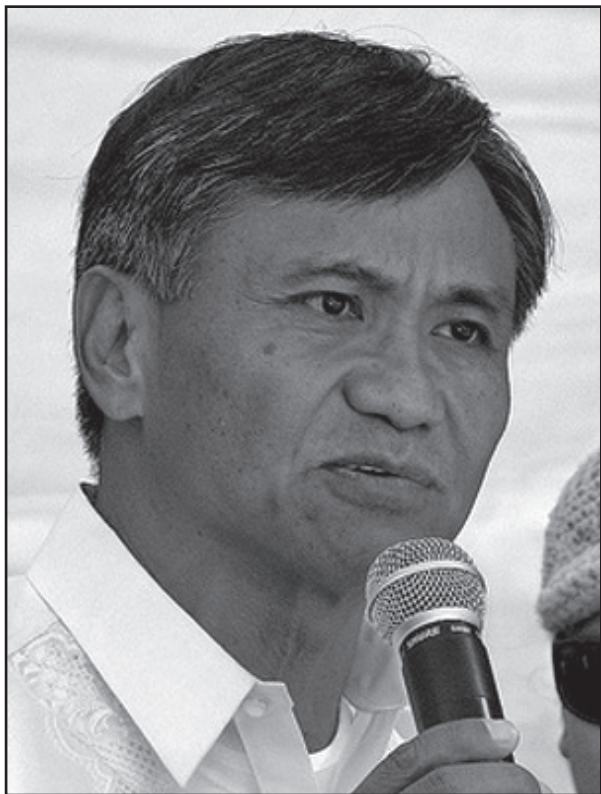
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Former US general speaks about Abu Ghraib, torture

Alexander Powell
Contributor

Retired Major General Antonio Taguba presented a lecture on Wednesday, October 16 entitled "Torture on Trial: General Taguba Speaks." It was presented with the help of the Filipino-America Student Association. General Taguba began the discussion with a lengthy yet humorous account of how he was convinced to come to William and Mary and give his presentation. After this he began the main topic of the discussion, his role as leader of the military investigation into the mistreatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib in Iraq and his opinions on the use of alleged torture by the United States in modern warfare.

General Taguba was assigned the position as head of the military report on the incidents at



Courtesy Photo

Army of one: Taguba condemned torture which he believed contributed to the insurgency in Iraq.

Abu Ghraib soon after the abuses became known. His commanding officer came to him and said, "I want you to drop everything. You have 30 days to complete the report." Instead, he discovered many "shameful and criminal acts, not just by troops but by...civilian contractors" – acts which included but were no means limited to marching naked prisoners down the halls of the prisons, sleep deprivation and acts of sodomy. General Taguba testified in front of Congress five times and was shocked by the amount of attention he received and the hostility he and many of the whistleblowers faced subsequently. He also questioned the fairness of the fact that of the 225 military personnel prosecuted only one was a general, few were senior officers and the vast majorities were enlisted troops. General Taguba believes that the lower soldiers that committed these acts did not do so independently, but were commanded by their trusted leaders, most of who have yet to face justice.

The main point of the discussion, however, was on the broader issue on the use of alleged torture by the United States in the ongoing War on Terror. General Taguba's condemnation of the use of torture could not have been clearer and said that its use is "totally deplorable and flies in the face of humanity." His belief is that "just because we fight a war, we do have laws" such as the Geneva Convention and the US Constitution. The use of torture by the US, he feels, has "helped the insurgency" and has caused the US's claim that they are liberators to become open to serious questioning. Furthermore, the legal reasoning behind these acts has actually hurt the US war effort in both the sort and is a perversion of what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they set up the Constitution. Also he claims that the 200 measures against the use of torture by military personnel enacted by Congress are empty gestures due to the fact that the CIA, FBI and civilian contractors are exempt from these laws when the president feels that harsh interrogation is in the interest of US national security.

During the closing statements General Taguba said that "integrity has its price." "I've been shot several times, but...so what?" He advised that the people responsible for these atrocities "find religion and say, 'I'm accountable.'"

Red Flag campaign seeks to raise awareness about unhealthy relationships

Michelle Ju
Features Editor

According to the American College Health Association, seven percent of students at the College of William and Mary have reported being in emotionally abusive relationships. Though that is not a staggering percentage, at least one



Alec McKinley

Ending abuse: Campaign helps identify warning signs of an abusive relationship and how to end it.

person suffers from abuse in one out of five relationships. This week, the Office of Sexual Assault Services launches the Red Flag Campaign as a concerted effort to raise awareness of unhealthy, abusive relationships on campus.

Ms. Trisha Hunsaker, the College's Sexual Assault Educator, discussed the signs of relationship abuse. "Abusive relationships incorporate many forms of violent behavior that are not physical. In fact, emotional abuse, psychological abuse and sexual abuse seem to be the most common forms of abuse in unhealthy relationships," Ms. Hunsaker said. Furthermore, a relationship is unhealthy when it becomes a mechanism for control by an intimate partner. Often, relationships start out as innocuous—both partners spend large amounts of time together. However, once a relationship becomes all-encompassing to the point where a partner is forced to compromise commitments to family, friends, school, work and other activities, this is a subtle but definitive red flag of an unhealthy relationship. There are multiple reasons why abused partners decide to stay in unhealthy relationships. A few examples include the fear of leaving, social pressure, hope that the relationship will improve, isolation

RED FLAG CAMPAIGN PROMOTION
continued on page ten

Islamic scholar accuses US government of Islamophobia

Alex Mayer
Executive Editor

On Wednesday, October 8, Dr. Imad-ad-Din Ahmad, the president of the libertarian, Muslim think-tank Minaret Freedom Institute, presented a lecture entitled "Grand Jury Abuse in Abuse in the Service of Islamophobia." Dr. Ahmad is a well-known Islamic scholar and professor at the University of Maryland, where he teaches courses on Islam and science. This lecture was co-sponsored by Student Assembly Department for Student Rights, the Department of Diversity Initiatives and the Muslim Student Association. About 100 students attended this lecture, filling the Morton lecture hall to capacity.

For the majority of his presentation, Dr. Ahmad read from a paper he presented at the 2007 Association of Muslim Social Scientists entitled "Perils of Empire: Islamophobia, Religious Extremism and the New Imperialism." Before beginning with that article, Dr. Ahmed attempted to tie alleged grand jury abuses to a larger problem of Islamophobia, saying, "American's founding principles are being jeopardized by the current wave of Islamophobia and the freedoms that our founding fathers fought so hard for are being eroded."

Dr. Ahmad asserted that "empire building" by the United States, aided by the erosion of civil liberties, actually factored into the 9/11 attacks: "You could say that the people who destroyed the Twin Towers killed thousands of innocent Americans, but you have to weigh that against the fact that we have also killed tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis and many thousands of innocent, brave Americans."

Dr. Ahmad also noted that "the primary function of a grand jury is to protect the rights of accused criminals and not as an investigative tool... However, the grand jury has not been limited to this function." He pointed to Congressional investigations on Communism during the 1950s as examples of overreaching witch hunts, in which victims faced similar "grand juries [that] are now used against Muslims suspected of sympathizing with Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad."

Several cases were presented by Dr. Ahmad in support of his thesis. The

first of these examples was the case of the so-called "Paintball 11," in which the federal government successfully brought the charge of conspiracy against 11 Muslim Americans accused of playing paintball in a conspiracy to violate the Neutrality Act, which prohibits using arms against a nation with which the United States is

American's founding principles are being jeopardized by the current wave of Islamophobia and the freedoms that our founding fathers fought so hard for are being eroded.

not at war. On these grounds, the 11 men were successfully charged with conspiracy to fight against Indian forces in Kashmir, although only one member of the group admitted that the training was for this purpose.

Another case mentioned by Dr. Ahmad as an example of "Islamophobia" was that of Sami Al-Arian, a Palestinian who came to the US in 1975 and established the World Islamic Studies Enterprise (WISE), becoming very involved in the support of Palestine. Dr. Ahmad asserted that a mishap with Al-Arian's son at a White House event with President Bush aroused such suspicion that "neoconservative outlets readily propagated accusations against

Al-Arian." In 2003, Al-Arian was indicted on several charges, including funding terrorism. Though he was ultimately acquitted of that charge in 2005, a jury hung on the remaining charges, which centered on Al-Arian's affiliation with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), now officially designated as a terrorist organization by the US State Department.

Al-Arian subsequently admitted to both providing support to PIJ members and to giving misleading information on his relationship with Ramadan Shallah, a terrorist and founder of PIJ. Dr. Ahmad, however, claimed that it was little more than "an admission of guilt by association."

Dr. Ahmad closed the lecture by fielding several questions from students in the audience. One question centered on the difficulties of getting the information on these cases out into the media. Dr. Ahmad encouraged students to inform themselves using non-mainstream sources: "Times have changed, we have the Internet now as an outlet for passing on information."

This lecture was the first in a speaker series entitled "Civil Rights and Minority Communities," sponsored by the SA Department for Student Rights under the leadership of Braum Katz ('10).

Trista Sikes dispels negative myths about the student health insurance plan

Sarah Nadler

Assistant Features Editor

Student Insurance Coordinator Trista R. W. Sikes took some time to talk to *The Virginia Informer* about William and Mary's student insurance plan provided by UnitedHealthcare. Ms. Sikes is the student resources representative on campus responsible for educating students about claims and coverage inquiries, handling general student insurance questions, researching and initiating claims disputes and assisting students with plan enrollment and the waiver process. She also works to maintain a high level of quality and satisfaction with regard to the UnitedHealthcare Student Resources (UHCSR) student health insurance plan, designed for the students at the College.

When asked what the biggest benefits of the student insurance plan were, Ms. Sikes highlighted that "prescription medications filled at the Student Health Center are at no cost to the student because they are paid at 100 percent and there is no co-payment required" under the student health insurance plan. An additional benefit, she noted, is that "the student health insurance plan pays



Alec McKinley

"Check yourself before you wreck yourself": Student insurance at the Health Center covers some expenses but suffers from administrative red-tape and limited hours.

100 percent of the covered medical expenses at the Student Health Center, after the College-required provider fee of \$5-\$15, as well as outside the SHC for in-network physicians visits and emergency room visits with a co-pay of \$20 and \$75, respectively." However, one common misconception is that such a plan pays for everything, and a student will not have to pay anything towards his or her medical expenses. This is not the case. According to Ms. Sikes, this policy,

for the most part, "is like any other standard accident and sickness insurance plan in that it has a co-insurance." For participants in the student health insurance plan, 80 percent of medical expenses are met by the plan, while the student is responsible for 20 percent of expenses, after a deductible of \$200 is paid by the student.

Though the health insurance plan may sound like an affordable and reliable deal, many students feel that while the student health insurance plan provided by UnitedHealthcare is excellent for everyday needs, such as minor illnesses, but inefficient in emergencies. As one student said, "Everything has to go through the Student Health Center, but they are not open 24 hours a day. If you have to go to the hospital in the middle of the night, there are a lot of issues with documentation and red tape." Ms. Sikes

responded, "Anytime anyone utilizes their respective insurance plans, the hospitals, physicians and other medical providers bill the insurance companies directly for payment, and then bill the unpaid balance to the patient; and since both the insurance companies and the medical providers are dealing with hundreds, if not thousands, of customers, occasionally errors do occur that require the insured to correct these errors. So, yes, occasionally there is additional documentation but nothing that is too difficult to provide." In other words, the student health insurance plan is not devoid of paperwork, and bureaucratic and documentation errors that burden followers of any other insurance plans.

When a documentation error occurs, or if medical providers ask for additional information before paying the claim, Ms. Sikes recommends students respond to these inquiries in a timely fashion to ensure that benefits will be paid according to the policy's schedule of benefits. This advice is useful for students following all health insurance plans.

UnitedHealthcare has, according to Ms. Sikes, taken steps to reduce the red tape and documentation for students under the student health insurance plan. For

HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES
continued on page ten

Old William & Mary yearbooks 'Echo' racist articles, images

Phillip Mariscal

Contributor

If you ever need a meandering escape into the recesses of William and Mary history, briefly walk to the back corner of the Swem reference area, amongst which you will find four shelves dedicated to the *Colonial Echo*.

Looking through earlier copies, one sees an eyebrow-raising slice of our history, infused with reminders of the clash between higher learning and historical perspectives that may have seemed innocuous during the 19th century. However, some reminders are not so inoffensive.

The year 1913 appears to be a decidedly ugly year for racial slurs at William and Mary. Segregation was still in full force across the country and racism was prevalent in everyday discourse. The *Colonial Echo* was no exception. The 1913 edition, like its predecessors, contained a section called "Jokes and Grinds." One "joke" that stands out is:

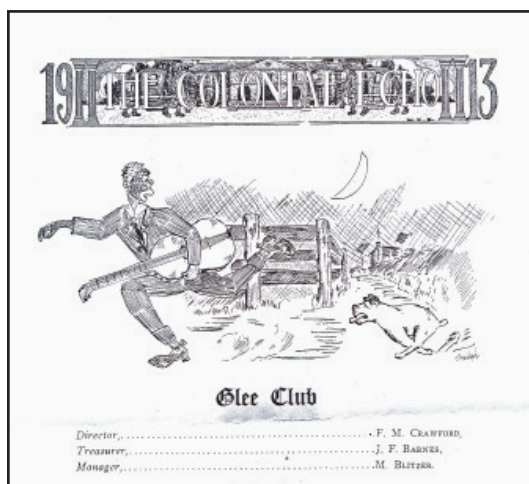
"Prex" Tyler (in class): "What do negroes of the Congo region live on?"

"Skip" Witchley: "Watermelons."

Prexie: "Not on your life"

Thomas: "Try sweet potatoes on him, Skip."

Clearly, this is material that would never be published in a college yearbook today. In addition to being seemingly devoid of any humor,



Michelle Ju

WM's past not immune to racism: The Glee Club was accompanied by the above racist photograph in the 1913 edition *Colonial Echo*.

the citation is unquestionably racist. Earlier editions of the *Echo* were no better.

In 1899, the year the first *Colonial Echo* was published, a book entitled *The Story of Little Black Sambo* was also published. The children's book depicted stereotypical blackface representations of African Americans. The *Echo* seemed to pick up on these representations and included them in several illustrations accompanying entertainment themes. The Glee Club listing is accompanied by a picture of a dark skinned man, with exaggerated stereotypical features, being chased by a dog with a guitar in hand.

On the concluding page of the 1913 *Echo*, a person who is supposed to be an African on a distant shore is about to be devoured by the king of the jungle. The lighthearted caption, "End," bleeds out the edges of the page, concluding the review of the 1913 school year.

Publisher of *American Spectator* to visit College Will give insight regarding the media and the 2008 presidential election

Alexander Powell

Contributor

The controversial titan of political publishing, Alfred S. Regnery, will be on campus on Tuesday, October 28. Mr. Regnery is the publisher of *The American Spectator*, one of America's most influential conservative magazines. He received his degree from Beloit College, and later his law degree from the University of Wisconsin. He went on to serve in the Department of Justice and worked as counsel to the Senate Judiciary committee during the Reagan Administration. During his service in the Justice Department, Mr. Regnery started the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It plays a vital role in recovering kidnapped children today and pressed for judges and prosecutors to be tougher on career criminals. Following his time in government, he practiced law privately in the Midwest and Washington, DC, for many years.



Courtesy Photo

The Right bite: Past published works have included authors ranging from Ann Coulter to poets T.S. Elliot and Ezra Pound.

The American Spectator, first published in 1967, has been host to the works of writers such as Tom Wolfe, Patrick Buchanan and George Will, to name but a few. Prior to this, Mr. Regnery served as President and Publisher of Regnery Inc., a company that was established by Henry Regnery in 1947. Regnery Inc., a subdivision of Eagle Publishing Company, is the nation's leading publisher of conservative books, although it has not been limited to such publications.

They also published works by TS Eliot and Ezra Pound. Regnery publishing is responsible for the inflammatory and highly controversial book, *Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak out against John Kerry* by Jerome Corsi and John O'Neill, which many feel played a pivotal role in the defeat of John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election. It has also published books by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, as well as William F. Buckley, Robert Spencer and Ann Coulter and the highly influential *The Conservative Mind*.

Despite generating significant controversy, Regnery Publishing is regarded as an important source of political thought and debate in the United States. During Mr. Regnery's term as president, Regnery Publishing has some 22 *New York Times* bestsellers. He currently sits on the board of Regnery Publishing as well as the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, a prominent think tank established in 1953. Alfred Regnery is not just a publisher of other people's books, he is an author himself, having authored the book *Upstream: the Ascendance of American Conservatism* in February of 2008. The book chronicles how American conservatism went from a disregarded minority during the 60s to the dominant political ideology for the better part of the last 30 years.

Campus Gardening 101: Botany Club offers students chance for a green thumb

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

Want to make the campus greener? Join the Botany Club! The club allows students “to get involved in hands-on projects with plants around campus,” explains president Kate Ainsworth (’11). A core group of about ten to 15 students meet weekly or biweekly, often in Millington, to work in the greenhouse. Ms. Ainsworth says that the group’s small size allows the Botany Club to “focus our projects around the interests of the members.” Past projects include marsh plantings around campus, plants sales, and Earth Day activities.

This year, they will focus on working in the greenhouse, especially alongside its manager, Patricia White-Jackson. Ms. Ainsworth also says they “plan on creating a butterfly garden next to the health center.” Other activities for the year will depend on member ideas.

Botany Club is open to any student, regardless of major or experience. Ms. Ainsworth recommends that anyone wanting more experience with plants should join, and adds that “it’s a great...way to get volunteer hours.” Ms. Ainsworth has gained practical gardening



A grassroots effort: Students with an interest in plant life or the great outdoors need not go further than Millington Hall.

skills through greenhouse experimentation and working with other knowledgeable members. She cites how “to take care of plants, propagate plants...and how to avoid Williamsburg bugs from destroying plants,” as a few examples of her newly acquired knowledge.

What is the easiest way to get involved in the club? Ms. Ainsworth says, “Join our listserv...and show up to one of the meetings.”

Rock out with your financial bailout

Brandon Bleakley
Contributor

In recent weeks, one news story has consistently flooded the papers and television: the United States Treasury bailing out the nation’s banks. More formally called the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, the bailout yielded \$700 billion of taxpayers’ money to buy out the assets of troubled financial institutions in order to hopefully avoid another Great Depression.

As the bailout occurs during a global recession and United States credit and mortgage crises, it is perfectly fair to question the causes and purpose of this plan. Why would our already debt-ridden government spend \$700 billion on a whim for the institutions that initiated this mess in the first place?

One of William and Mary’s professors in the Mason School of Business, Professor G. Thomas White, offered his opinions on the bailout. Before voicing his own opinions, he made it clear that there are thousands of opinions on this topic, and no one at this point knows a clear-cut correct explanation to the bailout’s cause and future ramifications.

Mr. White explained that there are many possible causes which may invoke such a large expenditure by the government to bail out banks. The base of the problem began with turmoil among banks and mortgages. Banks were attempting to support the large boom in the housing market by lending

money to homebuyers, including those without adequate credit. Institutions such as Lehman Brothers, AIG and Wachovia lost sight of their risk and exposure to bad debt. By the time the banks realized that they would receive nothing for their investments, it was too late.

Another reason for such a quick dip into the US Treasury is the 2008 presidential election. At this point political pressure is heavier than ever. The current administration, having less than a quarter left to govern this country, must be more sensitive to issues that are high in the public domain. The government is in a good position to do something quickly as opposed to allowing the economy to heal itself over time. White further explained that the government intervention may have been necessary simply to reassure investors in the marketplace, and that the bailout was more of a “temporary band aid,” to act as a catalyst for something that would have been healed over time anyway. If the bailout is worked out correctly, the government will recover its bought assets from the banks when the market increases from its current depressed, lower level.

Three days after passing the bailout bill, the Dow Jones industrials dropped below 10,000 for the first time in four years. The recent drops in the all three major stock market indexes indicate that the bill has not yet begun to have its intended effect.

Caffeine-alcohol cocktail makes ‘passing out’ obsolete

Lately, I’ve been hearing a lot of buzz about a new drink that is, literally, all the rage here at the College. Joose, a Frankenstein’s monster combination of caffeine, taurine, ginseng and a nearly 10 percent ABV seems more like the recipe for a heart



Jon San
Managing Editor

attack than the ingredient for an endless party. The Web site (www.drinkjoose.com) is an in-your-face montage of seizure-quality lightning flashes, topless camo-wearing Nordic models and bouncy Joose-centered techno. The marketing scheme is downright militaristic. One song, “Joose Dancehall Anthem” by Tommi Infamous and Dave, seems more appropriate at a Heaven’s Gate meeting with its entrancing lyrics:

Gotta drink the Joose/Gotta drink the Joose (Joose!) x4

Drink Joose!/ And do what you do
Drink Joose!/ When you’re sober with your crew

Drink Joose!/ But bring your own cup, cuz the party doesn’t start ‘til the Joose shows up

I of course, was inclined to “Joose it up!” of my own accord. I picked

up a gargantuan (read: 23.5 oz) orange Joose can from Wawa and set upon my own Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test of sorts. The funny thing is that despite the orange design on the can, nowhere does it describe the flavor – unless caffeine, taurine and ginseng can be deemed as such. Other members of the Joose family include blue, purple and red – all lacking any sign of a distinct flavor.

I opened the can – almost expecting a genie to spring out – and took a sip. I can only describe the taste as complex – meaning that the combination of terrible flavors left my tongue dumbfounded. If I could recommend a flavor name, Agent Orange would be on the short-list: much like the chemical herbicide/ carcinogen dropped over the Vietnam jungles during the 1960s, Joose cleared its way through my throat, leaving a foul taste in its wake, and deposited itself in my stomach, not unlike a depth charge waiting to explode.

I mention this because Joose is a strange breed of stimulant and depressant; it is both an upper and a downer and I had no idea what could possibly result from such a volatile

combination. My rational side predicted I would get sick but my imagination predicted that my heart would explode. Neither occurred but I would wager five bucks that Joose is the culprit behind the unsolved mystery of spontaneous combustion, the Bruce Banner-Hulk transformation, and the true source of energy behind the Energizer bunny rabbit’s immortality (at this moment, Duracell engineers are working feverishly to partner with Sparks).

However, the weird mix of caffeine and alcohol is not at all novel. Irish coffee (black coffee plus a shot of whiskey) kept IRA militants “Joose’d” long before the current energy beer establishment.

Of course, my

tasting of Joose is not representative of the typical consumption situation, namely at a party. But I cannot even imagine what a Joose-powered party would look like to a sober observant. For some reason, the image of hopped-up pledges scurrying spider-like up walls would seem like a very possible scenario.

Is there a market for a beverage that simultaneously slows down and speeds up the central nervous system? Apparently so. But let’s not forget that PCP and speed also boast rather lucrative markets. Of course I’m exaggerating, but I guarantee that a couple cans of Joose will set you on the J-train with a one-way ticket to Oblivionville, population: yourself and a broken heart.



Jon San

Speed king: With a 9.9 % ABV and an unhealthy dose of caffeine, Joose plays tug of war with your heart rate.

With new name, Student Conduct Council seeks softer image on campus

Rachel Smith
Contributor

This summer, members of the Judicial Council, deans and faculty met to discuss changing the name of the Judicial Council to the Student Conduct Council (SCC). "This is a common trend these days," SCC Co-Chair Ashley Bevis ('09) stated. "Many schools have chosen to change their council's name." Primarily the name was changed in order to reflect what the SCC really stands for. While Judicial Council sounds intimidating and punitive, Student Conduct Council evokes the goal of the SCC: to educate and aid the William and Mary community in order to create a positive environment for both students and faculty.

Freshmen William and Mary students are introduced to the SCC during orientation. The SCC speaks with freshman on a variety of topics: Internet abuse such as illegal downloading, alcohol

and drug policy and expected campus student conduct. Ms. Bevis and Ayana Russell ('10), SCC co-chairs, discussed the SCC and its impact on the College community with *The Informer*.

The SCC's role on campus extends beyond the freshman orientation presentation. The SCC does not exist to police students, but rather seeks to educate them about their rights and establish College expectations. Two committees were set up to accomplish this goal, the Education and

Public Affairs committees. The Education Committee focuses on informing the community about ethical

behavior. For example, during the Spring semester of 2008 Ethics Week, BOV member and Judge John Thomas addressed students in the Wren building about living life with integrity. The second committee, the Public Affairs Committee, focuses on community service and sharing opportunities for students to give back to

those less fortunate. Each semester, this committee organizes a project in which all SCC members participate. In the near future, the SCC will also create an e-mail account that will allow them to get in touch with students by receiving feedback from the community.

The SCC also focuses on enforcing the Student Code of Conduct. It is important to distinguish the Student Conduct Council from the Honor Council. While the Honor Council handles violations of the Honor Code involving the three major infractions -- lying, cheating and stealing -- the Student Conduct Council hears all other cases that do not fall into these categories, such as sexual assault, vandalism, illegal alcohol and drug use, fire hazards and even such minor things as pizza boxes left in dorm hallways. Major cases, such as serious violations of alcohol policies or incidences involving sexual assault, go to a hearing, which comprises selected SCC members, faculty and Dean Gilbert, the Assistant Dean of Students for Judicial Affairs.

"Hearings are very serious," Ms. Russell said. "We put on our game faces." Dressed in business attire, SCC members read the

accused student his or her rights, and upon the conclusion of the hearing, determine the outcome of the situation. All cases are strictly confidential. "Whether it is a big issue on campus or a little issue, I feel everyone deserves the same respect," Ms. Russell affirmed.

Although the role of the SCC appears to be punitive, both Ms. Bevis and Ms. Russell strongly emphasize the SCC's goal to educate the community. "If someone has a problem with alcoholism," Ms. Bevis stated, "we don't want to ridicule him or her. We want to help him or her solve that problem." This focus on education was one of the main reasons a collective group of SCC members, deans and faculty chose to change the Judicial Council's name to the Student Conduct Council as it is not a criminal system. Both Ms. Bevis and Ms. Russell find their involvement in the Student Conduct Council to be very rewarding. They have aided in upholding the standards of the William and Mary community. "I love the Student Conduct Council," Ms. Russell stated. "Because it's not about what we do, it's about what we stand for."

**Because it's not about
what we do, it's about
what we stand for.**

Drink of the Week Canadian Depth Charge



Jeff Dailey

During my time as a legal drinker, this is one of the more unexpected joys to reach my anything-goes belly. It came about on a frigid morning in late September. A few friends and I were looking for a way to prematurely celebrate the Tribe football team's victory over Norfolk State. With only Natural Light on hand, we pondered how we could use successfully use its alcohol content while avoiding its less than stellar taste.

An idea suddenly came to me: Drop a shot of hot maple syrup (Betty Crocker Butter Flavor works nicely) into the cold beer and consume rapidly.

It was a success and none of us ended up going to the game anyway.

Ingredients

- 6-pack of beer
- Bottle of maple syrup
- Shot glasses
- Pint glasses

Directions

Empty beer (12 oz) into pint glass, slowly, making sure there is minimal head foam on top.

Heat up the syrup in the microwave until it is running thinly, like water. Float shot glass in beer and slowly add syrup until surface tension between the shot glass and the beer is about to break. Slam fists into table, upsetting the balance of the shot glass, sending it to the bottom of the pint glass -- then consume quickly and enjoy the sweet taste of success.

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

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BUDGET NUMBERS POINT TO IMMINENT MID-YEAR TUITION INCREASE:

Drastic spending cuts necessary to avoid hike

continued from page one

College's anticipation of state support by an additional \$1.63 million as indicated in the FY 2009 Executive Budget Summary. Originally anticipating \$54 million in general fund support, the College received \$52.37 million in general fund support by the legislature in May with \$48.87 million of these funds being allocated towards William and Mary's "Education and General Programs (E&G)" and \$3.47 million towards student financial aid. E&G programs include nearly all of the College's operations excluding auxiliary enterprises, sponsored research programs and student financial aid. This fiscal year, the College is to receive \$48.95 million in total state support.

According to the College's FY 2009 Executive Budget Summary released in May of this year, William and Mary was expecting the state to allocate \$54 million in general fund support, or 22 percent of the university's total budget revenue. This level of support represented 31 percent of the university's budget revenue ex-auxiliary enterprises, which are the College's self-sufficient operations that have a nearly equivalent revenue and cost, such as dining services and residence halls. Understanding that this general fund support level was unlikely to be achieved when the report was issued in the spring semester, the administration began to cut projected operating expenses, which, according to Mr. Jones, have presently totaled \$1.2 million. While significant, the College's preemptive

reductions thus far will not be enough to offset the further \$3.4 million in state funding that William and Mary will no longer receive.

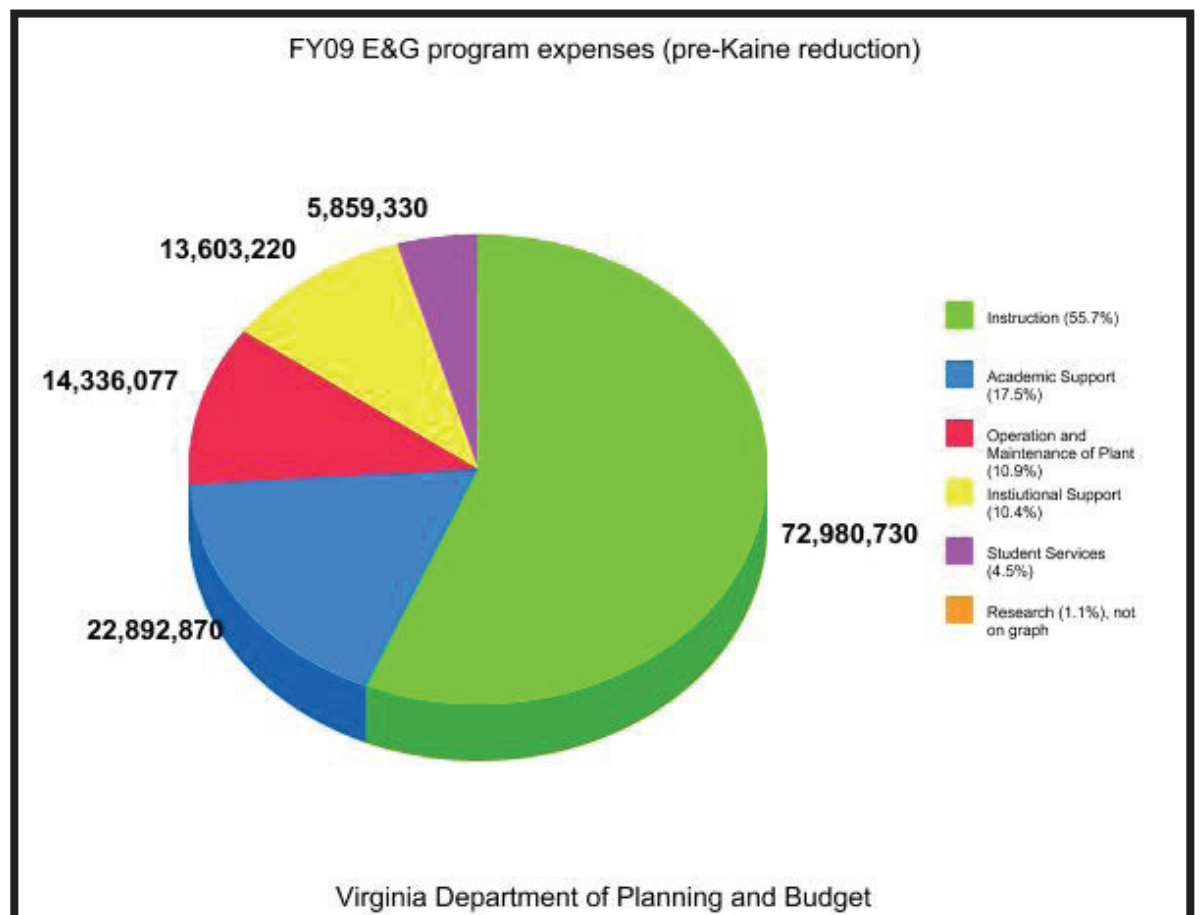
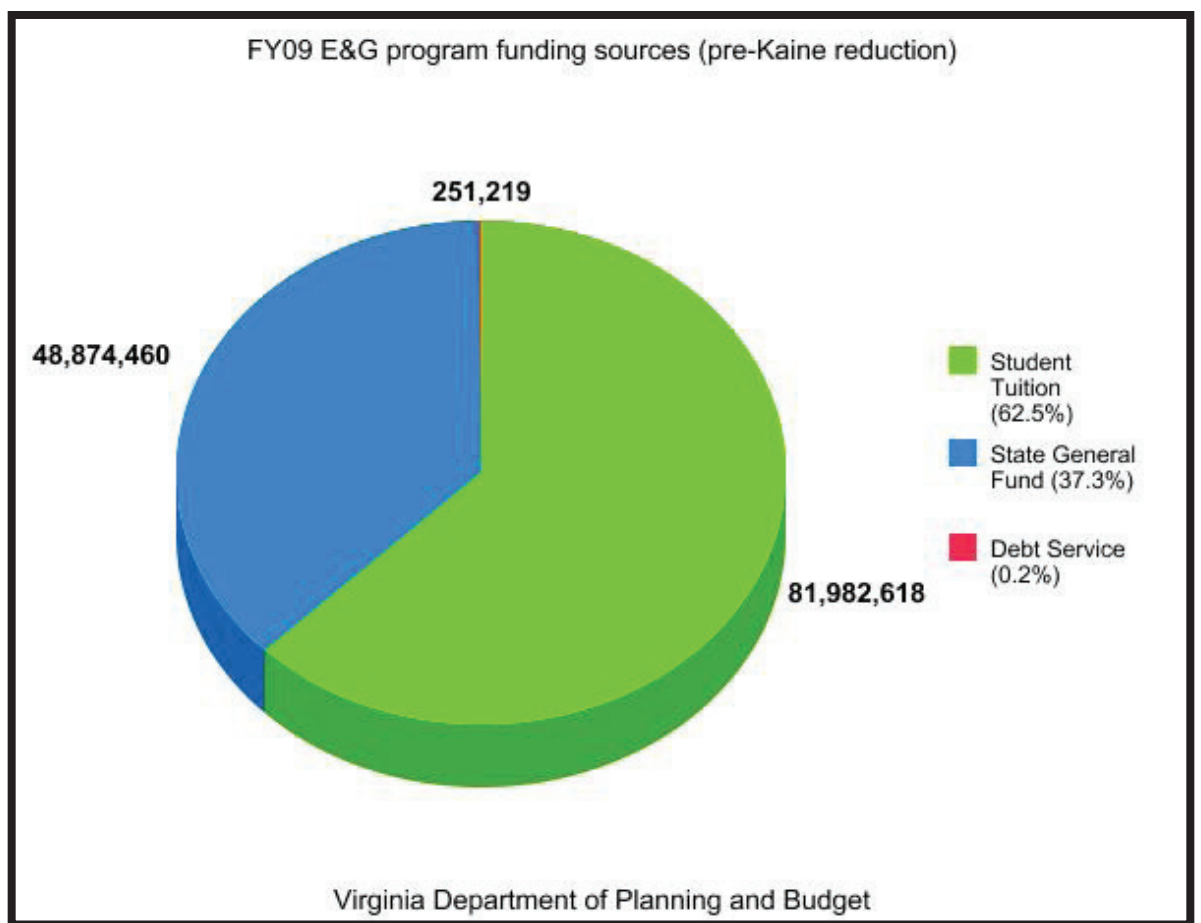
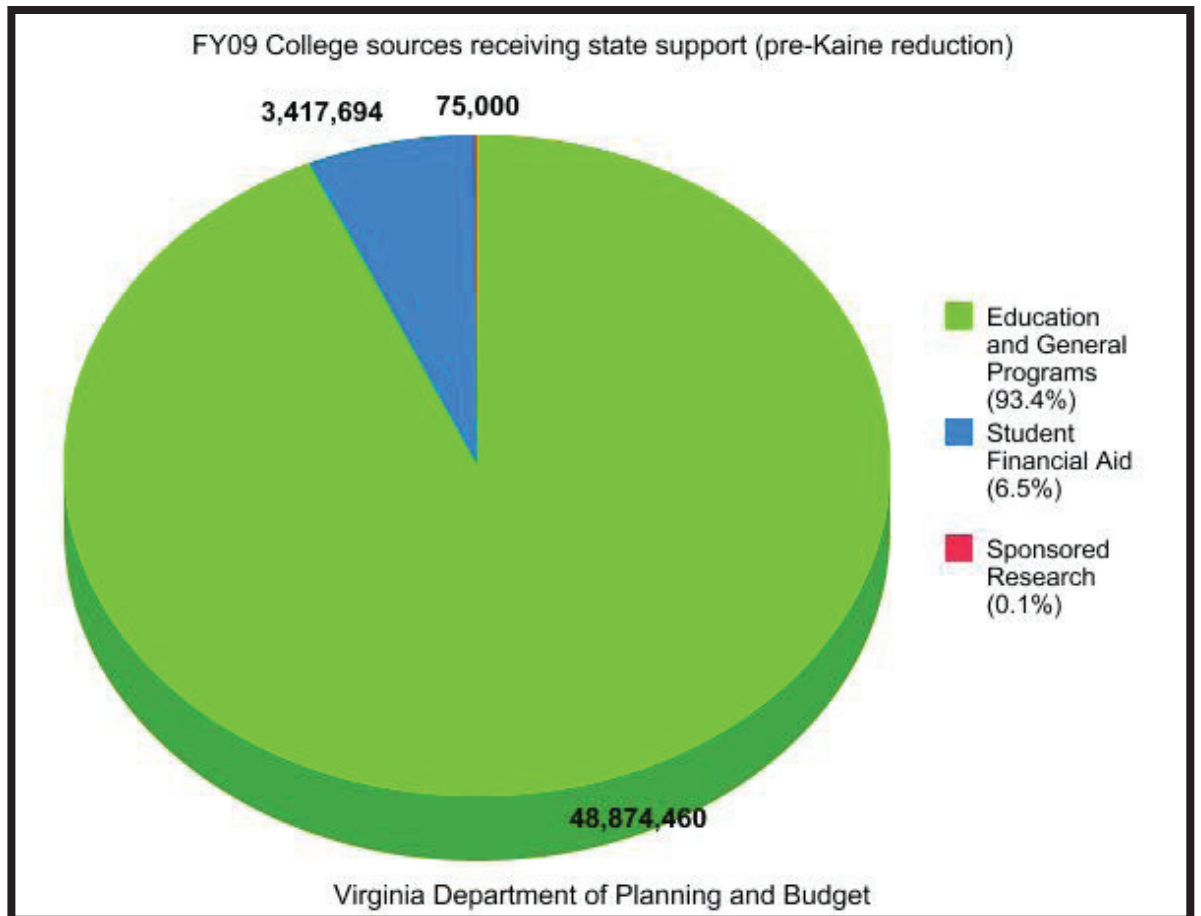
In response, President Reveley announced a full hiring freeze at the university earlier this month and that the state will be suspending all employee salary

Few alternatives presently exist to off-set the shortfall other than an additional tuition increase, further cuts in operating expenses, or the use of private/unrestricted gifts

increases until July 2009. Furthermore, President Reveley assured the William and Mary community that student financial aid will not be cut, leaving the entirety of the \$3.4 million reduction in state support to be born by E&G programs. This request for no cut to student financial aid was asked of the College by Mr. Kaine upon the budget's passage along with the additional request that no mid-year tuition increase be imposed, but the latter could not be guaranteed by Mr. Reveley. In an e-mail to the college community on October 9, President Reveley asserted, "We will do our best to avoid a mid-year tuition increase" and in an interview with *The Flat Hat* earlier this month he further stated, "My hope and expectation is that we'll be able to get through this fiscal year with no mid-year tuition increase and minimal impact on our academic program."

However, since the College will not redirect state funding away from student financial aid and the remainder of the Commonwealth's support is allocated towards E&G programs, few alternatives presently exist to offset the shortfall other than an additional tuition increase, further cuts in operating expenses, or the use of private/unrestricted gifts (which the College has been hesitant to use in response to budget shortfalls in the past). According to the FY 2009 Executive Budget Summary, 36.3 percent of the College's E&G revenue was projected to be distributed by the Commonwealth, while the remaining 63.7 percent is funded almost entirely by student tuition. These dynamics are understandably a cause concern for students, faculty and staff alike as a cost tradeoff, in light of such a significant state funding reduction, appears continually more likely. E&G programs at William and Mary include instructional faculty, department operating costs, targeted and state supported research, library materials and access, information technology, the registrar, admissions office, financial aid office, career center, administrative expenses, human resources, the police department, buildings/grounds maintenance, plant personnel and utility costs among others.

Mr. Reveley has further assured students that there will be campus forums in the weeks ahead to obtain the college community's thoughts on funding priorities before final cost-saving measures, or a possible tuition increase, are put into place.



Reveley talks to *Informer* regarding College finances, priorities and efforts to go green New president identifies College's weaknesses, praises students' 'celestial magnificence'

Alex Mayer and Jon San
Executive Editor and Managing Editor

President Reveley recently sat down with the *Informer* and spent some time going over a number of pressing issues that are currently facing the College. Reveley discussed the College's finances, the numerous vacancies in administrative positions, and the current Virginia law that requires 65 percent of enrolled students at public universities to be in-state. For the complete interview, in which Reveley addresses Luke Russert's on-air gaffe while visiting Williamsburg with the *Today Show*, discusses his favorite seasonal drinks and muses about the possibility of a Lion Tribe mascot, please visit www.VaInformer.com.



File Photo
REVELEY

The Virginia Informer: There are a number of interim replacement searches going on for a number of important William and Mary leadership positions (Dean of the Law School, Provost, and Vice President of Student Affairs). How are those searches going? Are you actively involved in the law school search more than the others?

President Reveley: My involvement thus far has simply been to get the [search] committees created. Then I will be involved as the process goes on, as candidates start coming in. If the search goes well, each committee will send me three people that can do the job. Then, in the final analysis, I'll recommend somebody to the board. I'd say that my time will be balanced pretty evenly between them.

VAI: What are the top qualifications that you and the rest of the search committee are looking for? Should alumni status matter?

Reveley: I don't think that it would matter much for dean of the law school or provost, but it might be a consideration for vice president of student affairs, because that's a job that is so intensely involved with campus life and the students that I think if you have actually gone to William and Mary yourself it would be a plus.

VAI: Will the current instability in the financial markets have an impact on the way we're planning for the College's financial future or our financial strategy?

Reveley: It has not affected either the planning or the strategy so far, and probably will not. What it will inevitably affect is the capacity to give and the willingness to give on the part of lots of people. If you've lost a lot of money in the stock market, or are uncertain about

whether you're going to have a job, or feeling generally anxious about the economy, you're going to be a lot less likely to give. I think it's going to be a pretty difficult two or three years for the economy, but I think it will get better.

VAI: William and Mary was recently rated a "C" by the Sustainable Endowments Institute. Given your law background in dealing with energy matters, how do you think William and Mary can improve?

Reveley: I am actually very hopeful that the combination of the new Energy Sustainability Committee that we've created and the Green Fee are going to enable us to do a lot of small things. I think we can change a lot of things for the better, especially on the behavioral front. We could maybe even be a model for a lot of small universities who don't have a lot of resources to really make a dent in energy use, which we badly need to do. I think we could take a giant leap forward if we had the capital to invest in making that happen. I'm convinced that a lot of the buildings on campus just blow energy out the window, literally. We could do a lot on the energy efficiency front, and we'll get to it just as quickly as we can.

VAI: In terms of how you became president, how did it happen? Did they approach you or did you approach them about making your status permanent? Initially you had said that you weren't interested in seeking to remain in the presidency, did something change your mind?

Reveley: I think it was kind of mutual. You know, for the first two months after I was appointed, you couldn't have paid me enough to stay in this job. I mean, it was 9:30 in the morning, I was sitting in the dean's office anticipating another average day, and all of a sudden I'm saddling up my horse and riding over to campus, which was awash in confusion, anger and what appeared to be genuine grief on the part of a lot of people. It was pretty

disturbing, and it was my job to glue it all back together again, if I could. And you're at it 15 - 17 hours a day, seven days a week trying to get everything back together, and you're dealing with a lot of unhappy people, but that turned around. The Board [of Visitors] from the beginning had asked me not to just be a caretaker, but to go in and see what I could do. So as I got beyond the process of dealing with the frayed ties

PRESIDENT REVELEY

Education: Graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University with an AB and a JD from the University of Virginia.

Family: Wife and four children.

Sports: Rowed on the lightweight crew team while at Princeton.

Favorite Drink: Gin in the summer and bourbon in the winter

Presidential precedent: His father, W. Taylor Reveley II, served as the president of Hampden-Sydney College for 14 years.

Memorable quotes: "Who knows what the hell "Hark Upon The Gale" even means?"

of trust and affection, everything began to come together. I got to dealing with the things that we needed to do, and that over time became pretty engaging and I actually began to enjoy the job. Over time the board came to me and said, "Things seem to be going pretty well, let's just keep it going."

VAI: Do you have a number one priority for your presidency?

Reveley: There are several. First, relationships really matter with all sorts of people, ranging from the governor of Virginia to the applicants to the undergraduate program who you have to turn down, and a zillion categories in between. But some of those relationships got really frayed, starting with the cross controversy and running through to the end of the Nichol presidency. One thing we have to keep working on is restoring all of those relationships, because if you don't have that, it's very hard for the College to start moving forward. Second, it's been almost 15 years since the College released its last strategic plan, and we very much need a new one. We need to ask ourselves who we are, where we would like to go in the next few years, and how to get there.

We need to answer those questions by being pretty realistic about financial resources, and about the nature of our competition. Next, the old financial model for William and Mary doesn't work anymore, and I don't think it's worked for quite some time. The old

model assumed that there would be enough state support of our operating budget to give us a real fighting chance to do what we need to do as a superb school. That's just not working. We're always going to get some money from the state but we're never going to get enough to be genuinely state supported. Rather, we're going to be state assisted and privately supported. We need to figure out what the new financial model for the College is going to be. The fourth is that we need to do a much better job of communicating with all sorts of people - alumni in particular. Part of that process will be figuring out how to capture the essence of William and Mary. If you had two minutes to describe William and Mary what would you say? And would it be a really engaging song that you sang that other people would want to listen to and find appealing and compelling?

VAI: Virginia law requires 65 percent of the student body to be in-state. In your view, is that requirement beneficial or detrimental?

Reveley: Ah yes, the 65-35 rule. Well, I certainly think that our financial situation would be eased if we had five percent more out-of-state students, and it certainly would not lessen the quality of the students. But that's an intensely political issue...it would not be at all well-received politically in Richmond.

VAI: What do you see as William and Mary's greatest strength, and where do we need the most improvement?

Reveley: We have a powerful history, powerful traditions, a superb academic program, great natural and architectural beauty and I think a lot of momentum - the sort of momentum that comes from being around for over 300 years and moving forward vigorously. Our biggest challenge, in my judgment, is that we are enormous overachievers. We are achieving remarkable things compared to the competition, with extraordinarily little money. But that is hard to sustain forever. Our biggest challenge is definitely in figuring out how to create a new financial model for William and Mary that's going to work in moving forward. I once had a teacher in tort law, and he said to me, "Money isn't everything, but it's everything else." And that's true. The caliber of your people is so much more important than money, but it's really hard to keep recruiting highly qualified students and superb faculty and providing them with the facilities and the support they need to realize their potential if you don't have enough funds.

WANTED:

Students who want to make an IMPACT on campus

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RED-TAPE REDUCED:

Documentation excess and errors still a concern for health insurance plans

continued from page one

from others and even love and commitment. Ms. Hunsaker adds, "Dating experiences in college set the tone for future relationships." Abuse escalates over time, often become "a normalized part of the relationship, and the abused partner is conditioned to accept it as 'normal.'"

The Red Flag Campaign encourages students to "Say Something" when they notice any red flags of an unhealthy relationship. During lunchtime on October 20 and 21 in the Sadler Center, students will be able to

send Red Flag Campaign postcards to their friends' CSUs, as well as "Say Something" red awareness bracelets. The organization also offers presentations that can be requested and support materials on both healthy and unhealthy relationships.

The Office of Sexual Assault Services (OSAS) seeks to provide information and support to those who find themselves or others caught in an unhealthy relationship. For those seeking therapy, the Counseling Center at the College provides the assistance of well-informed and helpful counselors.

PROMOTING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS:

Social pressure among reasons why abusive couples continue

continued from page one

instance, the student health insurance plan no longer requires claim forms for medical expenses. This makes it easier for students to use the policy. Additionally, when students use an urgent care center or the emergency room, they will not have to pay at the time of the visit. Instead of bogging students down with paperwork, the claim is sent directly to UHCSR, who then bill the student any outstanding balances. Ms. Sikes also added, "Another step that was taken recently [beginning with the 2007-2008 policy] was the addition of a prescription drug plan, rather than just a prescription drug benefit." Now students only pay the required copayment when he or she gets the prescriptions filled

at a participating retail pharmacy, instead of paying for the entire prescription out-of-pocket and getting reimbursed later. This is an addition to the student health insurance plan that benefits college students, many of whom do not have a lot of cash on hand for prescription drugs. Ms. Sikes said, "When you're sick or injured, the last thing you want to be worried about is how you are going to pay for the medical care and prescription drugs that you require."

Ms. Sikes's role as student health insurance coordinator is to connect UnitedHealthcare to the William and Mary community. She did, however, mention an open door policy: "We are always open to, and willing to consider suggestions that the student body has for improving the benefits offered. We invite students to contact the Student Health Center or Student Affairs with suggestions for improving the health plan that is in place."

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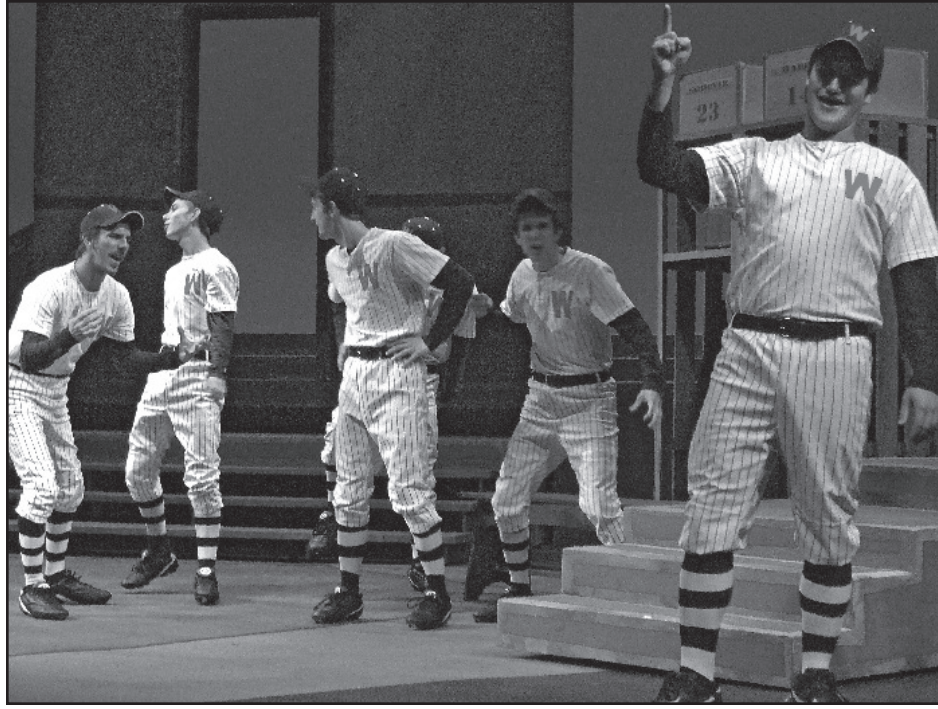
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Faust meets theater, baseball in *Damn Yankees* musical

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

What do you get when you combine an American classic with German literature and throw it all on the stage? According to playwrights George Abbott and Douglas Wallop, you get *Damn Yankees*, a musical about a middle-age baseball fan who is given the opportunity to play for the Washington Senators after selling his soul to the Devil. Directed by Laurie Wolf and with musical direction by Gary Green, *Damn Yankees* combines serious drama with lighthearted humor. William and Mary Theatre's production of the musical ran from October 9-11 and 16-19 in Phi Beta Kappa Hall.

The opening number features the Washington Senators losing a game to the New York Yankees, with a troupe of men cheering, jeering and complaining about the game. Meanwhile, their wives express their dismay at having to share their husbands for six months out of the year with baseball. This competition between wife and game forms the basis of the entire plot. Our hero Joe Boyd (Brian Paljug, '09) sells his soul to the Devil, known as Applegate (Sean



Alec McKinley

Playing for souls: The cast of *Damn Yankees* depict the classic struggle between good and evil as combined with baseball games in this all-American musical.

Close, '10)), to play for the Washington Senators and lead them to victory in the pennant. The rest of the play moves between Joe discovering how much more

love he has for his wife than for the game, and Applegate seeking to confound Joe's marital commitments.

Damn Yankees remained serious enough

to make a point and humorous enough to keep the audience laughing. In one particular musical number, the players of the Washington Senators sing about how their potential sexual forays are interrupted by their commitment to baseball and having to remain focused enough to be competitive. Everyone's favorite character by far is the Devil's temptress Lola, played by Hatty Preston ('09). During her short introduction designed to assuage the antagonist's frustrations, she attempts to seduce Joe with a striptease rendition of "Whatever Lola Wants." The character transforms from everyone's favorite bad girl to Joe's number one fan and supporter. Whatever her designs, it's difficult not to cheer for her.

Unlike Europe, and Germany in particular, this play comes with the All-Star American happy ending. The hero has gained it all; the Devil has lost his battle, and everyone walks away a little wiser and a lot happier. In fact, the only character whose future remains uncertain is Lola, but somehow you get the impression that she'll find her way. After all, "whatever Lola wants, Lola gets." All told, William and Mary's theatre department managed a home run with *Damn Yankees*.

Celebrate Homecoming with The Ting Tings & The Cool Kids

Megan Locke
Arts & Culture Editor

UCAB's Homecoming concert is always a much anticipated wrap-up to a week of activities that celebrate William and Mary spirit, and this year's concert on October 25 at 7 pm at Lake Mataoka will feature The Ting Tings and The Cool Kids.

The Ting Tings, a pop band hailing from Manchester, UK, will be the headliner for the evening. Members Jules De Martino and Katie White created their duo act in early 2007. Ms. White sings the leading vocals and plays the guitar, while Mr. De Martino plays the drums and guitar and does backing vocals. According to Ms. White, a friend told her that "The Ting Tings" sounds like the Mandarin pronunciation of "an old bandstand." The duo have become popular in the UK through their live performances and constant radio play, and are poised to become a sensation in the States as well.

Their debut album, *We Started Nothing*, was released last June in the US and features three of their best-known singles, "Great DJ," "That's Not My Name" and "Shut Up and Let Me Go." Billed as "pure garage-pop," The Ting Tings' album reached #1 on the UK charts this summer. "Shut Up and Let Me Go" won the award for "Best UK Video" in the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards. The band's songs have also been featured in TV shows like the new *90210*, *Gossip Girl* and *One Tree Hill*.

Rogue Wave was originally scheduled to perform alongside The Ting Tings during the Homecoming concert but due to the lead singer's recent injuries, they were forced to cancel. Luckily, UCAB was able to quickly book The Cool Kids as special guests for October 25 instead.

The Cool Kids are another duo act, but of the hip hop variety.



Megan Locke

Cool new sounds: Two up and coming bands will be performing a concert for William and Mary's Homecoming on October 22nd.

Evan "Chuck English" Ingersoll and Antoine "Mikey Rocks" Reed started releasing music on their MySpace page in 2005. Eventually, they released their first official EP *The Bake Sale* on the independent label Chocolate Industries in June 2008.

Drawing inspirations from the golden age of hip hop, the Chicago act has been named one of Rolling Stones "Ten Artists to Watch in 2008." The Cool Kids have toured as the opening act for MIA, their song "88" has been featured in the videogames *NBA Live '08* and *MLB 2K8*, and "Delivery Man" has appeared in Mountain Dew commercials.

The Homecoming concert is free to students (bring your student ID) and \$10 for the general public. For more information about both bands, check out their Web sites at <http://www.thetingtings.com> and <http://www.coolkids.com/>.

John G. West's *Darwin Day in America* thought-provoking, but not perfect

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

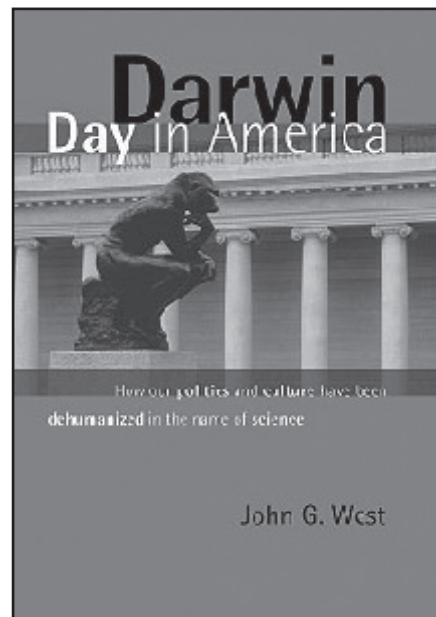
Modern philosophy began with the musings of Descartes, which grew and splintered in every which way. From among the offshoots appeared an old idea in a new form known as scientific materialism. To many in the modern world, Charles Darwin represents both the foundation and the fountainhead from which scientific materialism can be built. As pop biologist Richard Dawkins pronounced, "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist." The effects of scientific materialism on American culture form the basis of John G. West's *Darwin Day in America: How Our Politics and Culture Have Been Dehumanized in the Name of Science*.

Mr. West traces the origins of materialism back to ancient Greece, and finds similarities between the arguments and discussions being made today with those being made thousands of years ago. He then provides an analysis of the notions of crime and punishment, wealth and poverty, schools and scholars and life and death in the four primary sections of his book, emphasizing the negative impact

of materialism on each. Mr. West clearly does not hold to the standard evolutionary theory, which is the belief that all life on Earth can be explained through random mutations worked upon by natural selection, with all life moving back to a common ancestor. Backing Mr. West is the Discovery Institute, a conservative think-tank that seeks to promote greater debate between neo-Darwinian evolutionary theory and intelligent design.

Mr. West's history proves better than the average scholar, showing the clear connection between Darwin's own beliefs and the science of eugenics. He goes on to show how scientific materialism writ large has negatively impacted our views on poverty, crime and personal responsibility. However, Mr. West overreaches more than once. Scientific materialism is not wholly reducible to Darwinian evolution, and one does not necessarily imply the other. Even though Darwin supported eugenics, as is obvious upon reading his *Descent of Man*, it does not follow that all random evolutionary theory has become tainted with this work. Mr. West also correctly shows that Darwinism was used to both support and decry laissez-faire capitalism; an interesting turn of events whereby those who would usually have supported any conclusion of Darwinian evolution suddenly began to denounce capitalism as "vicious," "dog-eat-dog" and "winner-take-all." However, Mr. West's characterizations of pro-capitalist Darwinian economists are not as accurate.

Darwin Day in America offers a compelling argument for the negative effects of scientific materialism on American culture and society. Though he does not hold to the standard evolutionary picture, Mr. West does not offer a biological refutation either. Instead, his project analyzes the effects of opening up to the potentially dangerous conclusion of scientific materialism that finds its basis in Darwinian evolution. Regardless of one's stance on the topic of evolutionary theory, Mr. West's analysis demands further investigation and consideration of what conclusions can and ought to be drawn from modern theories, or even ancient ones.



New controversies: John West believes that the current theories of evolution should be reexamined.

Movie Review: *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*

The playlist isn't infinite, but it's sufficient

Patrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

Admittedly, this is not the film I wished to review, but *An American Carol* wasn't playing at New Town, so I settled with *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*. This film received lots of hype, mostly from my friends, but my expectations weren't very high. I must say, however, that I was oddly impressed by what the film had to offer.

The film follows Nick, who has recently broken up with his girlfriend, and Norah, a friend of said girlfriend, who meet by coincidence. Both of them are searching the city for the secret venue of their favorite band. For the most part, the humor in this film depends on teen-grade sexual innuendos and toilet humor. It was lighthearted and easy to follow. It felt nice to watch a film like that on the dawn of Oscar season, before all of the message-laden films hit us.

There weren't any important issues raised in this film. For the most part, it was a cute situational teen romance. It shows us what a good relationship is and what a bad relationship is, but it gives us such obvious distinctions between the two that there leaves no room for real life dilemmas. However, I don't think this movie was meant to be thought-provoking. The characters, on the whole, were presented in a lighthearted manner, so the viewer has no real sense of attachment to any one of them. I doubt that any of these characters will be remembered very well, nor do I think this film will be one that I constantly quote.

The cast was led by Michael Cera and Kat Dennings. I was impressed with Dennings, who also had a great performance in *Charlie Bartlett*. There is subtlety in her acting, even down to the nuances in her facial expressions, that really radiate a genuine character that we can all relate to. I think that we're going to be seeing some great things from her. If only she would pick a more serious script! I was far less impressed with Michael Cera's performance. This film solidified my opinion that Michael Cera is only capable of playing one kind of character.

If this is not the case, then he doesn't have the heart to step up to a challenge and leave his comfort zone of the adorable awkward teenager role. He better figure that out soon, because he isn't getting any younger.

On the whole, this film left me feeling good. It wasn't a thinker. This can be either good or bad on my rating scale. However, since I had an overall positive opinion of this film, and would recommend it in six months or so for someone looking in the discount DVD bin, I will be generous. I give it a B.



Promotional Photo

Not Superbad, but not supergood: *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* offers light entertainments, but little in the way of substance.

The Finer Side:

Getting the job: your go-to guide for a successful interview

It's beginning to be that time of year... no, not the holiday season, but the interview season. And with the current economic situation being what it is, it's important now, more than ever, to know how to interview well.



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

Whether you're interviewing for a job in business, research, teaching, admission to grad school, etc., there are always things you can do—before, during and after the interview—that will make you stand out from the crowd.

Before the Interview

Do your homework. Find out as much as you can about the company or organization to show that you are genuinely interested. Do a simple Internet search, read magazines or journals related to the company or talk to friends who might work there.

Go one step further and learn about the industry the company is in and what challenges or opportunities the company might be facing. Use that to give context to your answers during the interview; show how your education, skill and experience will help you solve any problems the company may have and add value to the company as a whole.

During the Interview

Show up on time. Nothing says "I could care less" more than being late to an interview. Leave early to avoid getting stuck in traffic, and if something unforeseeable occurs, call ahead to let your interviewer know.

Dress appropriately. It is always better to over-dress than under-dress. Matched suits do not look over the top, but rather show that you value the job and the time of the interviewers enough to put effort into your appearance. Make sure that your shoes are polished, hair is neat and clean, makeup is subtle and that your outfit is not too revealing. If you have any questions about appropriate attire, call the office to ask.

Employers want to know that: you have the skills to help them do their work; and that they can depend on you. Tailor your answers so that they let the interviewer know that you have the education and experience to do the job, and that you are willing to take the initiative and learn the things you don't know. Show that you know how to think your way out of a paper bag. Demonstrate that you are responsible and dependable.

When asked if you have any questions, have at least one prepared. A good one is always, "What other ways can I get involved

to help serve the company?" Ask if there are any organizations or committees you can serve on. Do not ask when you can first get a pay raise or any other salary related questions. Since this is usually the last question of the interview, don't leave them thinking that all you care about is the money. Instead, leave them thinking that you will be an invaluable to their team.

After the Interview

Write a thank you note to the interviewer(s). A simple handwritten thank you note goes a long way, and so few people do this that you will stand out from the crowd.

Remember that you are not right for every job and not every job or employer is right for you. Just as much as they are interviewing you, you are also interviewing them to see if they are the right fit for you. Don't sell yourself and your work to a company that you really don't want to be a part of. Don't seek a job for the money but rather look for something that will be fulfilling and successful for you. Look for something that will make you happy and that will lead to opportunities in the future.

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

TV on the Radio stuns with *Dear Science*

Jack Evans
Contributor

Some people say TV on the Radio hasn't really delivered since their debut EP, *Young Liars*. I'm not one of those people, but I can see where they are coming from. That EP was so fresh and original it left even the most jaded listeners completely dumbfounded. Since then, the band has released two full length albums and spawned a couple of imitators (*Celebration*, *Yeasayer*) as well. I don't mean that TVOTR's synth-driven, afrobeat-inflected barbershop music (trying to capture their sound in words is impossible) has been mainstreamed, but I do feel like it's no longer as arresting as it once was.

Honestly, the first few times I listened to *Dear Science*, I was underwhelmed. Expecting to be knocked on my ass, I was instead only satisfied. But then after about a week or two of complete immersion in this album, it grew on me in a really big way. It's probably better than anything TVOTR has ever done.

Three songs caught my attention right from the start. The opener "Halfway Home" seems to hit its stride in the last minute and a half, when the band morphs into an intergalactic Ramones cover band. And, yes, that is exactly as cool as it sounds like it would be. For "Family Tree," lead singer Tunde Adebimpe is in full-on Peter Gabriel mode, with his heart on his sleeve and his boom-box pointed straight at your bedroom window. "DLZ" finds Adebimpe cooing over a skeletal drumbeat and then spazzing out at everything in earshot as the synths roar in.

Notice I haven't mentioned TVOTR's other lead singer, Kyp Malone. I was a bit less enthusiastic about his songs initially. "Golden Age" is nice and danceable, but I could see it ending up on a *Grey's Anatomy* soundtrack. Maybe that's a good thing. If anybody deserves to make a lot of money off royalties, it's these guys. As cool as it is for them to be an ultra-hip band that not many people know about, they can only keep that up for so long. "Golden Age" is a great song and, in a perfect world, it will be blaring from everyone's speakers if Barack wins next month. That's really the best way I can describe it. Two other Kyp Malone standouts are "Stork & Owl" and "Lover's Day." The former has a seductive shuffle and for the first time I feel like the Prince comparisons TVOTR keep getting are apt. The latter is a straight-up sex jam wherein Malone wants to "love you all the way off," promises he'll get you "so hot it'll melt our faces off," and finally just demands that we "Get off! Get off!" This band can be really funny sometimes. I don't think enough people realize that.

Basically, you need to buy *Dear Science*. It's top-notch progressive punk rock, and I think you deserve better than whatever you're listening to right now.

The top pizzeria picks in Williamsburg

Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

It's no secret that college students eat a lot of pizza. However, you may be tired of ordering Domino's with flex points, or have figured out just how similar the tastes of Chanello's and cardboard are. To add some variety in my pizza diet, I decided to try the three "Italian" restaurants in the area because, supposedly, Italians know their pizza. Here they are ranked in order. Just as a note, I usually do not give letter grades for restaurants, but am doing so this time so you can compare the three.

1. Doraldo's (\$1.75 per slice -- A- / B+)

I had the lowest expectations of Doraldo's, and much to my surprise, their pizza was the best and the least expensive. It was definitely very thin, but had the good surface area of a New York pizza. It was not too greasy, the cheese stayed on, and it also had a good texture and consistency. The taste was just superb, and there was some unidentifiable but special flavor that really made this pizza stand out. Doraldo's is off Scotland Street and Armistead, just a couple blocks past the delis. At the restaurant, you go up to the counter and place an order, rather than be waited on. Besides having the tastiest pizza in town, they also had the cheapest, clearly making this the best value. Doraldo's is



Alec McKinley

Grab a slice: For students in the mood for pizza, Matt Pinsker recommends Doraldo's as the best pizzeria in terms of both taste and price.

very much overlooked, and I highly recommend trying it out.

2. Buon Amici (\$2.25 per slice -- B)

Buon Amici is the most upscale of the three restaurants and it can feel very formal, especially in the evenings. They have already been reviewed in this paper, and their food is very good, but this time I was focusing solely on their pizza. The slice was fair sized and came out hot with the grease running off of it. The server offered to put on garlic, oregano or parmesan cheese. This thin crust pizza looked and tasted good. It was enjoyable, but not spectacular like some of their other entrées. Buon Amici was still cheap enough to be cost effective

for students who happen to be in New Town.

3. Sal's by Victor (\$1.79 per slice -- B- / C+)

Sal's by Victor is also known for great Italian food but, as with Buon Amici, I just focused on their pizza this time. They are located in Williamsburg Shopping Center on Richmond Road. The pizza was not bad, but just okay. It was a short and wide slice, with enough cheese and tomato sauce, and it tasted like an ordinary Italian pizza. The crust was very well toasted and thicker than at the other two places, but still thinner than an American pizza crust. Considering the reputation of their food, I expected the pizza to be better.

Heavy music at W&M Metalfest

Megan Locke
Arts & Culture Editor

The William and Mary music scene features something for every kind of music fan, and metal-heads are no exception. Once a semester, the College's Metal Club hosts a concert featuring acts that are a great alternative to the more mainstream bands that perform on campus. Their 2008 Fall MetalFest will be on Friday, October 24 in Lodge 1 at 9 pm, sponsored by UCAB Late Nite.

The first band up for the evening will be Iris Divine. They are based in Alexandria, VA, and combine metal, progressive rock and pop into their own unique sound. According to Metal Club Events Coordinator Matt Fuller ('09), "With unusual -- yet surprisingly catchy -- vocal melodies dripping over top of progressive instrumentation and enough heavy charging breakdowns to keep any metal-head happy, this band is the perfect opener." He recommends checking out their songs "Intention Experiment" and "Unspoken Tragedy" on their Web site at <http://www.myspace.com/irisdivine>.

Recently formed band Within the Lich Gate will be the second act during the concert. The instrumental component of their music is a marriage of death metal and thrash. Mr. Fuller says they are a great band "for [music fans] into the heavier genres of metal, or for people who just really love high energy shows." Students can watch their video "I Summon Metal" at <http://www.myspace.com/withinthelichgate>.

Finally, Mr. Fuller promises "the perfect cap to what will be an awesome concert" with the last act Envy Insane. The band is from Fredericksburg and meshes newer metal styles with vocals that hark back to early 90s singers like Layne Staley. Visit them at their Web site at <http://www.envyinsane.com/index.cfm>.

MetalFest is free to students and \$5 for other guests. Take heed of Mr. Fuller's advice on October 24, and "prepare to hear a deafening metal roar coming from deep within the bowels of the Sadler Center."



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Movies

My Winnipeg

Sun., Oct. 19-Sun., Oct. 26

7 and 8:45 p.m.

Oct. 19-25 screening room (35 seats)

Transsiberian (R)

Sun., Oct. 26—Fri., Oct. 31

6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Oct. 26—30 screening room (35 seats)

Frozen River (R)

Nov. 1-3, 6-7

6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Adults \$7, Seniors/ Students/ Children \$6

Baghead (R)

Sat., Nov. 8--Wed., Nov. 12

6:30, 8:00, 9:30 p.m.

All shows in screening room (35 seats)

October Schedule

Live Performances

Dean's Shostak's Crystal Concert

Oct. 22 – Nov. 5, M,W,F 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

All Seats \$7

Virginia Premiere Theatre Presents the Regional Premiere of 'Nixon's Nixon'

Oct. 22, 24-25 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$25, Seniors/Students \$20

The Williamsburg Symphonia Presents "Masterworks: Subscription Concert #1"

Rossini: Il Signor Bruschino Overture

Mozart: Symphony No. 25 in G Minor

Beethoven: Violin Concerto; Jennifer Frautschi, violin

Tues., Oct. 28 and Wed., Oct. 29, at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$42, \$30

Costume Society of America – Southeastern Region Annual Symposium

Sat., Nov. 1 at 4:00 p.m.

All Seats \$10

Mount Rushmore Speaks

Nov., 1-2 at 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$12, Seniors/Students \$10

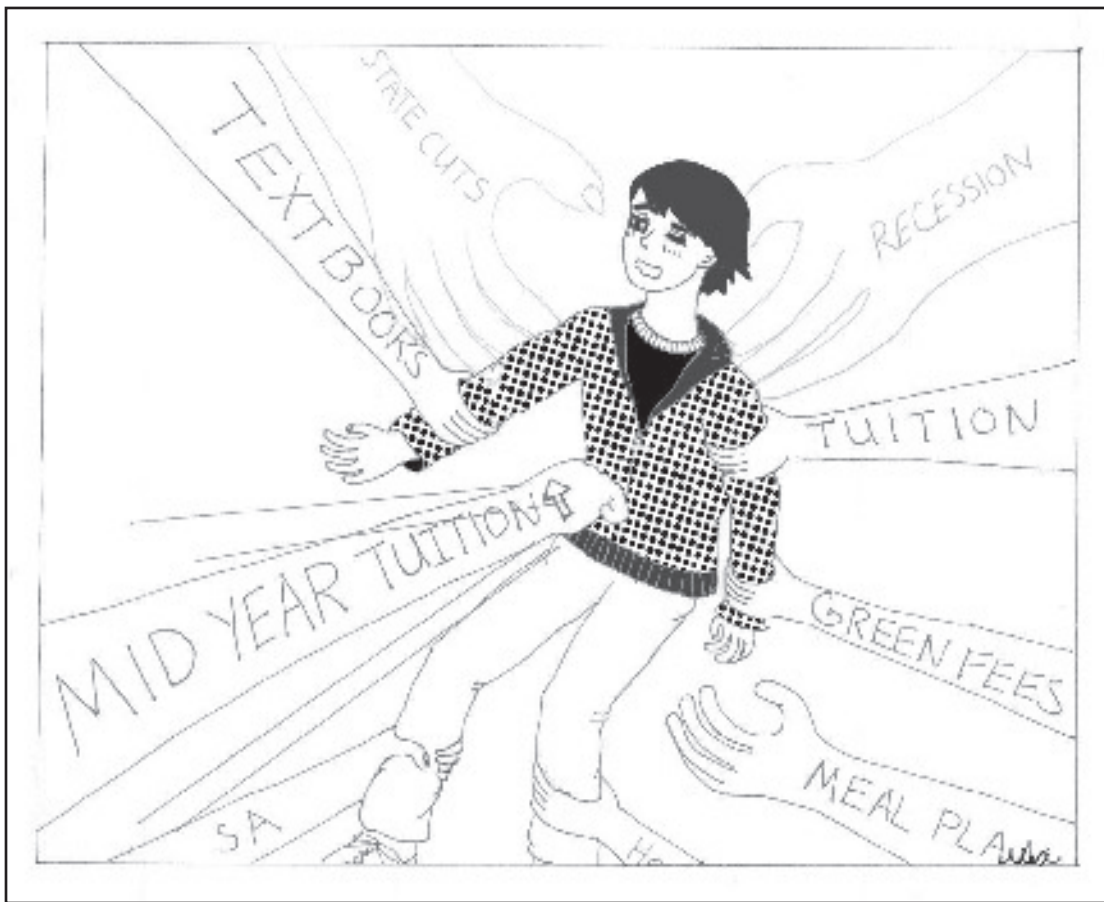
Our First – First Lady Remembers

Sun., Nov 2 at 11:30 a.m.

General Admission \$5, Seniors/Students \$4

Conversations with a Founding Father

Tues., Nov. 4 at 12:00 p.m.



Staff Editorial:

No mid-year tuition increase

As the economy continues its inexorable march toward recession, the College finds itself again short of funds as state revenues fall. We are concerned that the administration may feel compelled to increase tuition at the end of this semester as a result of this shortfall. In his e-mail to students, President Reveley made clear that although financial aid would not be cut, he could not guarantee that a mid-year tuition rise was off the table. We urge Mr. Reveley not to take this course of action. For the students and families paying for an education at the College, times are already hard, and a tuition rise would only make it more difficult for those members of the community to make ends meet.

Instead, we recommend that Mr. Reveley look toward cutting spending from components of the Education and General (E&G) programs to balance the budget as outlined in *The Informer's* report on the College's financial future. We believe that there are areas within E&G where spending cuts could eliminate the need for such a dramatic measure as a mid-year tuition rise. The College will most assuredly achieve savings in plant operations and utility costs, which were projected in May to cost between \$14.3 and \$15.2 million in fiscal year 2009, due to the recent and significant decline in energy prices. Discretionary expenses in academic departments must continue to be curtailed, a

measure the College has already started to undertake. *The Informer's* own investigations of the William and Mary Police Department's financials in recent years illustrates that there is waste which should be eliminated before any suggestion of an increase in the tuition burden can be made. Other options include reducing the operating hours of Swem library. Although all students, including ourselves, hope that this does not occur, if such action is necessary to avoid a mid-year tuition increase then that is what must be done. Students and their families were already asked to foot another 8-10 percent increase in their tuition at the beginning of the academic year and will likely be asked to do the same at the start of the next.

In order to avoid a tuition rise at this particular time when many are making their own sacrifices and struggling to pay bills, the College administration must make sacrifices as well. However, we believe that by making these particular cuts in spending, little harm will be brought upon students' and families' personal finances as well as the College's prestige. Whatever exact policies are adopted in the immediate future, the present financial course is untenable. We strongly believe that until the College's financial situation as well as the overall economy improves, unnecessary spending must be eliminated in order to prevent backbreaking mid-year tuition increases.

Amethyst Initiative a major opportunity for national retrospection on drinking age

Steven Nelson and Dave Johnson
News Editor and Supporting Contributor

Interfering with Social Security is considered a "third rail" in American politics. Touch it and you are dead politically. So also has become the case of "underage" drinking. The United States currently has a higher national drinking age than nearly every other country in the world -- and like so many political discussions in America, the debate over the right of 18 to 21 year olds to drink alcohol is wrought with emotion, with its opponents using passionate appeals which often go unchallenged.

A few months ago, the long silence of public figures on the issue of the national drinking age was broken. Over 100 college presidents signed their names to a public petition calling for an "informed and dispassionate debate" about the effects of the 1984 mandated drinking age.

The petition represents a chief component of the Amethyst Initiative, an effort to re-open the debate. Led by former Middlebury College President John McCardell, the initiative was joined by leaders of prominent institutions across the nation. Academic leaders took a major step in opening a debate long avoided by politicians.

At William and Mary, the College administration has taken measures to recognize and react to problems generated by a drinking age which criminalizes alcohol consumption for a majority of students. Privately, a number of administrators have shared that they feel the national drinking age should be lowered. The compulsory punishment of nearly 10 percent of the student body for alcohol policy violations serves neither the interests of the College nor affected students.

Since the inception of the Amethyst Initiative, we, along with other students, have taken measures to cultivate support on the campus for the effort. The Student Assembly Senate, comprising 16 elected undergraduate representatives and representatives of the graduate schools, unanimously passed a bill endorsing the initiative's efforts. The bill also encouraged President Reveley to join with other college presidents and a large segment of the student body in supporting this initiative. We would like to express full

support for President Reveley, should he choose to sign the petition.

Amethyst's opponents are quick to denounce the initiative as reckless, and claim that a reduction in the drinking age will dramatically increase the number of alcohol-related driving fatalities. It is true that there has been a decrease in the number of fatal automobile accidents since the drinking age was raised, but this ignores a number of safety features introduced and made standard since that change. Air bags, improved seat belt enforcement, and safer car designs are all factors that should be taken into account before assuming that alcohol is the main contributing factor.

The federal government's actions in terms of the original legislation was also legally questionable, as threatening to withhold funds from states unless they changed their age requirements would seem to be a dangerous precedent for our federal system. The College's Chancellor, Sandra Day O'Connor, was among the dissenting justices when the constitutionality of the national

drinking age was challenged by South Dakota. After more than 20 years of misinformed policy, we must support the initiative and think with our minds rather than just emotions.

The denial of adult citizens, who are afforded full legal rights, to consume alcohol has eroded respect for the law and encouraged unsafe drinking. This is an important civil rights issue of our time.

If you would like more information on the Amethyst Initiative, John McCardell, the former college president who launched this effort, will speak in Tidewater A in the Sadler Center on Wednesday, October 22 at 7:30 pm.

The compulsory punishment of nearly 10 percent of the student body for alcohol policy violations serves neither the interests of the College nor affected students

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

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

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

Mr. Richard Beard - Mr. Robert Beck - Mr. Alberto Chalmeta -
Mr. John Gleie - Mr. Lance Kyle
Mr. Sanford Whitwell

**The Collegiate Network
The Patrick Henry Center
The Leadership Institute**

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

America-bashing trendy, but unfounded

I find it a relatively easy task to come to a college campus and deliver a lecture which vilifies one's country. Easy, because there is an eager audience which uncritically laps up everything that you say – and appealing because in today's world, a college campus is one of the few places where arguments which disparage America are parroted around as "brave and insightful."



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

On October 8, the Student Assembly brought in Dr. Imad-ad-Din Ahmad, a college professor and the president of the Minaret of Freedom Institute, to deliver a speech entitled "Grand Jury Abuse in the Service of Islamophobia."

Dr. Ahmad's logic was faulty on the supposed erosion of civil liberties as it correlates to what is occurring in the Middle East. If students attending his lecture were to be asked if they had personally experienced an infringement of their civil liberties, not a single hand would be legitimately raised – and a TSA screener giving you a strange look does not count as a violation of your rights. The idea that we have resorted to fighting this war on terrorism for the purpose of shoring up domestic political support is absurd on its face.

Dr. Ahmad went on to claim that "you could say that the people who destroyed the World Trade Center...killed thousands of innocent Americans, but you have to weigh that against the fact that we have killed tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, of innocent Afghans and Iraqis and many thousands of innocent brave Americans who were willing to fight for their country and, instead, were sent abroad to fight for what?" Dr. Ahmad then sank into further absurdity, attempting to cast doubt on the identity of the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks – "Who benefited from the World

Trade Center attack? Certainly not Muslims," he said.

The above argument is astonishingly similar to the line of reasoning used by those who refuse to acknowledge that al-Qaeda was responsible for 9/11, and subscribe to wild conspiracy theories involving the CIA and the Mossad. Rather than spell out what he was insinuating, however, Dr. Ahmad displayed sheer intellectual cowardice by not following through with his own train of thought.

In total, Dr. Ahmad cited three alleged civil liberties abuses against Muslims, two of which were against non-citizens – and yes, that matters. One of these concerned Abdul Haleem Aschar. Notably, Dr. Ahmad's rationalizations for Mr. Aschar's refusal to cooperate with a grand jury were laughable – apparently, "[Aschar's] answers could be used by Israeli court," which somehow legitimizes his refusal to comply with the American justice system.

Cute little jabs like, "Muslims in Florida voted for Bush...may God forgive them," completely eliminate any paper-thin façade of neutrality and objectivity in Dr. Ahmad's lecture – this would not be a particularly valid point if the lecture's stated purpose wasn't to be non-partisan.

Undeniably, speakers like Dr. Ahmad are qualified to sound off on a broader discussion of US foreign policy, but we must not forget that their arguments and opinions are not representative of the entire picture. College departments would be hesitant to co-sponsor distinguished individuals presenting contrary – pro-America – perspectives. We must remember that there is always another side which can be argued to counter the assertions of people like Dr. Ahmad – just don't expect to hear them in your classrooms.

Veterans and Cadets continue to take a back seat at William and Mary

This is the first semester in which policy changes approved over a year ago are finally taking effect so that ROTC cadets receive more academic credit for Military Science Courses. Yet in spite of these changes, Military Science is still the only department on campus where the entire core curriculum is



Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

not counted toward graduation. Cadets, who spend over 8 hours per week in ROTC instructionals used to receive just 6 credits to the 120 needed to graduation, even though they earned 14 credits to GPA calculations. Less than 2 years ago cadets asked for 24 credits and that all count to graduation, and got a miniscule increase of 6 to 8 credits to graduation, and 14 to 15 credits to GPA calculating. The request for a minor in Military Science was completely ignored.

Under this system which singles out ROTC, cadets are forced to take an academic overload of 127 credits just graduate on time. Students receive more credits for Adventure Games and Weightlifting than for Military Science which is far more mentally strenuous than

most anything else on campus and preparing students for one of our nation's highest callings. Something is wrong with this picture. Why are students and faculty hesitant to be seen supporting the military and unfairly singled out students who are making the sacrifice of joining the military, yet openly embrace

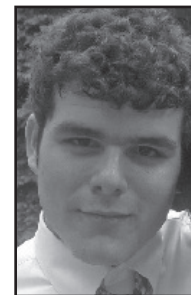
smut such as the Sex Worker's Art Show? Many students who eagerly funded and attended the SWAS have expressed doubts on the appropriateness of upcoming

I am astounded that anyone has placed more value in a sex worker lighting sparklers in their rectum than in celebrating those who have risked and given their lives for the freedoms of this nation

Veterans Day Celebrations. I am astounded that anyone has placed more value in a sex worker lighting sparklers in their rectum than in celebrating those who have risked and given their lives for the freedoms of this nation. Have we really gotten to the point where it is more appropriate to celebrate strippers and prostitutes than veterans? I really hope that William and Mary students have their priorities straight and more people will be attending the Sunken Gardens on Sunday, November 9 for Veterans Day, than attended SWAS.

Change to traylessness flawed

In an effort to raise the environmentally-friendly rating of the College, the Sadler Center Cafeteria will soon go trayless, following the removal of trays in the Commons Dining Hall last spring. The green fees that we voted for were bad enough. With a \$200,000 endowment to help us become greener, we're now theoretically cutting spending in our cafeterias by going trayless. This is a flawed argument in many ways.



Patrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

Next time you are at the Caf, notice that when you bring your used dishes to the conveyer belt to be washed that water constantly runs, and it doesn't slow down if there are fewer things to clean. If we are using the water, why not use it to clean trays? A driving theory behind the trayless program is that we will save on energy by washing fewer things. However, because the water is continuously running, we are still using the same amount of water anyway. Unless we start turning the dishwashers off, there is no conceivable way that we are using a significantly smaller amount of water.

Another argument is that the trayless program reduces the amount of wasted food. Although a study showed that per pound, less food has been wasted, it has not been enough to counter student frustration, since their parents are still paying for that original amount of food. I have overheard many students' frustrations with the switch, and I agree. I now have to make multiple trips to get what I want. In a broad sense, I have

to spend more time getting food and less time eating. It is a total waste of my time, and this is just the tip of the iceberg.

One thing that has served as a real source of irritation is the amount of mess left on the tables and floors in the Caf due to the trayless initiative. Now that we do not have trays on which to make a mess, we use the tables. And let's be honest – no one really cleans up after themselves. I have yet to see a single student carry around a damp rag in order to clean their mess off the tables at the Caf. Many tables are left unoccupied for longer periods, laden with old food and other messes. This presents the potential for health risks. With the recent school budget cut, we cannot afford to hire extra workers to make sure the tables are clean, and the Caf workers are too busy to abandon their work to clean the tables. In short, becoming green runs the risk of becoming green around the gills. I'd choose my health over the environmental rating.

The effects of the trayless initiative are inconclusive. The goal of reducing water use and food waste has not been met. But, we now have water being used to clean nothing, a messy cafeteria, and students whose little time is being wasted. Unfortunately, all of this is about to spread to the Sadler Center Cafeteria. What can we expect? More water wasted, longer lines, messier cafeterias, a higher risk of catching other peoples' germs and the irritation of knowing that you are paying more in tuition for this swarming inconvenience.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of *The Virginia Informer*, the column by Ms. Kristin Coyner struck me as rather silly. The column lambasts the efforts of the Student Assembly to register students to vote, claiming that "in the 'real world' you'd have to take the initiative to register yourself to vote." Unfortunately, in the "real world" that I'm familiar with, a majority of 18-24-year-olds do not vote. Is it wrong to actively attempt to involve a population of almost 25 million Americans in the democratic process on which our country was founded? I don't think so.

Furthermore, the author contends that last spring's initiative to register students to vote before the City Council election was paid for "...through fees you pay for anyway." This is completely false, as students turning in registration forms are to be paid via the off-campus account: an account funded entirely by the SA's own fundraising efforts.

Another inconsistency in the column regards recent legislation such as "The VA Gazette Act." The author claims that by providing students with free newspapers,

we are somehow "...failing to be 'green'" and are "...fundamentally wasteful". The fact of the matter is that many students prefer to have print issues to take with them on the go. Moreover, with the advent of a new outdoor recycling program rolling out in the near future students will have the opportunity to recycle papers.

My final criticism lies with the idea that the SA should "redistribute" the Consolidated Reserve fund among all students. This idea sounds wonderful when pandered around ignorantly, but downright ridiculous when the actual math is considered. Distributing \$200,000 among 6,700 undergraduates/graduates comes out to about \$30 per student. So next year, when we have about \$30,000 rolled over from Special Events and Activities Funding, we can give a total of \$4.50 to each student. The SA would then be subsequently incapable of providing additional funds to clubs and organizations, and couldn't initiate new projects benefiting the campus as a whole.

Ben Brown
SA Senator, Class of 2011

Point-Counterpoint | Election 2008

SECURITY

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

The next U.S. president will face a variety of security threats in an increasingly dangerous world. Our military is still engaged in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the U.S. must also deal with the rise of a new al-Qaeda safe haven in the lawless northwestern provinces of Pakistan, as well as nuclear programs in North Korea and Iran. What strategies will your candidate pursue to deal with these conflicts and address these growing threats to U.S. security?



Alex Kyrios
Class of '09

Barack Obama's foreign policy synthesizes some of the best ideas from both the left and right. Under his leadership, the country will aggressively hunt down terrorists across the globe without the shameful displays of abusive power or the vicious assaults on Americans' civil liberties that have marked the Bush administration's approach to national defense. All too often, Senator McCain has stood with President Bush and cheered him on, supporting the president's wars based more on pleasant fantasy than the tough realities on the ground. Furthermore, Senator Obama brings an even-minded temperament which will serve him well as our nation's commander-in-chief. If you watched any of the presidential debates this year, you can see that John McCain is hot-headed and eager on the topic of foreign policy. His eyes followed those of Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld to Baghdad long before responsibly stabilizing Afghanistan. Senator Obama knew better. And with Senator McCain making cavalier jokes about bombing Iran on the campaign trail, I fear that continuing to allow the Republican Party to control foreign policy and national defense will only keep us on track from eight years of disastrous Bush policies.



Alexander Powell
Class of '10

In May, CIA Director Michael Hayden noted the United States' success in the War on Terror, saying that we have achieved "near strategic defeat of al-Qaeda in Iraq" and "significant setbacks for al-Qaeda globally." John McCain's plan of the troop surge may well have won the war that many Democratic leaders long ago called "lost." We have our enemies in Iraq on the ropes, and John McCain understands that we need to keep the fight up to ensure victory and bring our troops home victorious.

In Afghanistan, Taliban and al-Qaeda forces have been able to regroup in the mountains of Pakistan and now are waging a counter-offensive. Only John McCain has the experience and vision to deal with this crisis effectively. Barack Obama's plan for Iraq, on the other hand, offers self-inflicted defeat and advocates a withdrawal plan that Gen. Petraeus thinks is a mistake. Mr. Obama still can't even admit that the troop surge was a success – he is still living in the past, rehashing the tired and pointless debate about whether or not we should have invaded Iraq. John McCain, on the other hand, looks to the future and knows we can achieve victory in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Powell

My opponent seems to talk a lot about the past and whether or not we should have gone into Iraq. That isn't the issue anymore – rather, it's how we will obtain victory. Barack Obama has never advocated victory in Iraq – he has been resigned to defeat from the start. And what of Mr. Obama's threat to invade Pakistan? Just a few weeks ago, a U.S. air strike in Pakistan killed 20 people, including civilians, and it turned out to be a PR jackpot for al-Qaeda and Taliban forces. I can think of no better way to turn Pakistanis even further against the U.S. than to essentially threaten to invade their country. We need Pakistan and its people on our side to win in this struggle. Mr. Obama seems to not understand this important point.

Finally, the idea that John McCain has swallowed the party line is laughable. He consistently opposed the strategy pursued by the Bush administration and called constantly for more troops, revised strategies, and new leadership, and was proven to be correct. Mr. McCain called former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld "One of the worst Secretaries of Defense in history," and said the war was "woefully mismanaged." Those are hardly the words of a Bush clone.

Kyrios

The assertion that Senator Obama is planning an invasion of Pakistan is certainly news to me. What I expect my opponent was actually referring to was Senator Obama's promise to act on reliable intelligence and send in troops from Afghanistan to capture Osama bin Laden if the Pakistanis refuse to act on such intelligence.

As for the substance of Senator Obama's pledge to take such an aggressive line in pursuing bin Laden, reasonable and intelligent minds may disagree. I, for one, applaud this dissent from his party line, and see this as an excellent example of the sort of situations that call for the use of our full military might. Capturing Osama bin Laden has been one of our country's main strategic objectives for over seven years now, and I don't think the President should be afraid to chase him down in such circumstances. John McCain says he would chase bin Laden to "the gates of Hell." I guess the Pakistani border is past them.

Powell

An invasion is defined as "an intrusion or encroachment into a sovereign nation's territory." If you send in troops into Pakistan to capture or kill bin Laden, or planes to bomb al-Qaeda, you are, by definition, invading Pakistan. Nations can give you permission to do this, but otherwise it will be seen as an act of war against Pakistan. The biggest problem I have with Mr. Obama saying he will do this is the sheer stupidity of openly broadcasting this intention to Pakistan and al-Qaeda. Apparently Mr. Obama didn't get the memo that covert action of the sort he is describing should actually be kept secret. His statements show that he is green behind the ears when it comes to foreign policy.

John McCain, the cagey veteran, is playing his cards close to the chest. This nation needs a leader with experience that truly understands international relations, not a naive idealist. I want a president who lives in the real world, who wants victory for our heroic armed forces, and who will fight to keep this grand Republic and its people safe. Only John McCain fits this description, and that's why I say John McCain in '08. Country First!

Kyrios

My opponent focuses on John McCain's support of President Bush's surge in Iraq. It's naturally the first point he'd make, because it's the only wise decision Senator McCain has made on foreign policy in recent memory. He trivializes Senator Obama's initial opposition to the war as though it's just useless opining on the past, but such decisions are crucial to presidential leadership. You speak grandly of "the war in Iraq against al Qaeda." But when did the war in Iraq become one against al Qaeda? Only after we destabilized the country, replacing a dictator with chaos, and opened up the floodgates to turn Iraq into a hot spot for global terror. If a child spills his milk and goes to clean it up properly, he deserves praise—but wouldn't it be better if the child hadn't spilled it to begin with?

During the primaries, Mr. Obama rejected the overly dovish plans of some of those in his party, such as Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, who called for immediate withdrawal from Iraq. Nothing in Senator Obama's rhetoric, record, or platform supports your irresponsible coloring of his plan as one of "unconditional withdrawal."

Powell

If Mr. Obama's plan is to remove all U.S. combat troops from Iraq in sixteen months, as he claims, then it is most certainly unconditional prima facie. Wars are not fought on neat, tidy schedule. Even the New Yorker said in a July report that Mr. Obama's plan easily "could revive the badly wounded al-Qaeda in Iraq, re-energize the Sunni insurgency...and return the central government to a state of collapse," which could force us to intervene again. However, this analysis might be outdated considering that Mr. Obama's policies and stances on the issues have been constantly shifted and "refined," and it's hard to keep up with where he stands week to week.

Mr. Obama has very little foreign policy experience, and when I think of a potential meeting between Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin I can't help but be reminded of the Cuban Missile Crisis when an idealistic, inexperienced, "cool" American president had the stuffing kicked out of him by Nikita Khrushchev and brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. We can't afford to risk that happening again.

Kyrios

As many discontented hippies could tell you, there's nothing unconditional about Senator Obama's plan to withdraw from Iraq. He has repeatedly and consistently stated that his sixteen-month time frame is subject to change from the conditions on the ground and the advice of his generals. Again, many on the Democratic left see this as an excuse to prolong the war; it's really a shining example of Senator Obama placing pragmatics above ideology. I have no doubt he would love to see every one of our brave men and women serving there home safe tomorrow, but neither do I doubt that he will withdraw them without any regard for the Iraqis they are protecting. Don't just ask me: ask Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq, who said he agreed with Senator Obama's plan.

You may fear the thought of a President Obama meeting with foreign leaders, but for all these reasons I have outlined, I can't say I share that fear. The world resents the cowboy diplomacy that has driven us these past eight years. We need... hmm, what's the word? Ah yes. Change.