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Important Student Rights info *not* distributed by Dean's office

Steven Nelson
News Editor

This summer members of the Student Assembly collaborated on a project aimed to better inform

students who were charged with a violation of college policy. The project compiled flow charts for student conduct proceedings as well as student rights information into an informational packet which was to be distributed by the Conduct Office to students charged with a violation.

Assembly and after negotiations agreed to distribute the packet. To avoid wasting paper he decided not to hand out copies to all students, but rather only those who appeared before his office.



Alec McKinley

FIRE in the hole: SA Senator Ben Brown ('11) (on left) spear-headed making student rights info available.

SA Senator Ben Brown ('11) developed the idea and met with Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct David Gilbert several times during the Spring 2008 semester to implement the project. "He was very receptive to the idea, and we agreed that most students charged with a violation are unaware of how the process functions," says Mr. Brown, who also worked with Student Conduct Council Chair Ashley Bevis ('09) on the project.

The student rights information featured in the packet is sourced primarily from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education's Guide to Due Process and Fair Procedure on Campus, and covers basic rights and preparation for hearings. The packet also references Student Legal Services' availability to assist in cases.

The Virginia Informer and Student Assembly representatives recently learned of a conduct case in which a student was summoned to the Student Conduct office and not given the informational packet advising him of his rights. The student received a severe punishment after opting for an on-the-spot informal resolution.

Contacted by worried members of the Student Assembly, Dean Gilbert assured them that the information contained in the packet was available on-line. He went on to note that

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Courtesy of the City of Williamsburg

Interview with Mayor Zeidler of Williamsburg reveals true status of three-person rule

see article on page 8

No mid-year tuition increase, endowment drop significant

Andrew Blasi
Editor in Chief

In a conversation with *The Virginia Informer* as well as at the College's first budget forum on October 29th, President Reveley asserted that the administration will not impose a mid-year tuition increase on students unless absolutely necessary. President Reveley stated, "students and their parents have already established their budgets for this year and it would not be fair to them if we undertook such action." He also discussed how the College has been in conversation with other public universities in the Commonwealth and that they have also determined not to impose a mid-year increase. This assurance comes on the heels of an additional \$3.43 million cut in state funding to the College announced by Governor Tim Kaine last month. Since October 2007, the state has cut roughly \$12 million in projected funding to William and Mary and is anticipated to make further cuts again for fiscal year 2010.

Since the announcement by Governor Kaine, the College has already managed to cut \$2.2 million

from its projected fiscal year 2009 budget, but a shortfall of roughly \$1.2 million still remains. In responding to questions posed by *The Informer*, the College's Vice President for Finance Sam Jones stated that he believes the College would be able to achieve the necessary savings in order to address the remaining shortfall. When asked about *The Informer's* recent investigation into the College's potential savings on utility expenses as a result of the recent fall in energy prices, Jones stated he hopes that is one source from which cost savings are to be achieved. The College anticipated spending \$4.2 million in utility charges during this fiscal year when the budget was being set in the spring and energy prices were significantly higher. A shortfall of \$2.5 million still remains for the College's projected budget in fiscal year 2010.

President Reveley also told *The Informer* that while it would be impossible to predict where the endowment will be at the end of December given present market conditions, he would not be surprised if it was presently down between 15 and 20 percent year to



Andrew Blasi

Keeping up with the Joneses: VP for Finance Sam Jones hopes that falling energy prices will off-set the budget crises.

date. He could not confirm these figures as official, yet when looking to the endowment's assets going

ENDOWMENT DECREASE
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Asset Allocation of W&M Investment Trust Fiscal Year 2007

- Domestic Stocks: 21.4%
- Foreign Stocks: 12.8%
- Emerging Market Stocks: 12.6%
- Fixed Income: 10.8%
- Special Situations: 9.7%
- Absolute Return: 19.6%
- Real Assets: 10.2%
- Private Equity: 2.3%
- Cash: 0.6%

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Decoding the BOV nomination and selection process

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NEWS

Residence Life to bring room deposits, housing contract online

Bryan Callaway
Contributor

As part of Residence Life's ongoing initiative to expand its online presence, plans are slowly in the works to bring the Room Reservation Deposit process online.

The introduction of an online deposit service is a logical follow-up to Residence Life's launch of its online room selection program in Spring 2007; its most significant foray into "e-commerce". If implemented, the initiative would provide students with a more convenient and financially flexible way of paying their on-campus housing deposit by removing the arcane requirements that the deposit be paid both in check and in-person at the Bursar's office.

Student Assembly Senator Ben Brown ('11) has been at the frontline in advocating for this service. Mr. Brown's interest in the initiative began earlier this year when he contacted the Bursar's office about installing such a program, and was surprised

RES LIFE MOVING ONLINE
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Lips magazine sticks it to Pub Council, receives SA funding

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor:
Student Assembly

In a recent meeting of the Student Assembly Senate, Annie Brown, Co-editor of the magazine *Lips: Expressions of Female Sexuality*, discussed the publications council's lack of openness in providing funding for her organization. She explained that "every magazine we put out has been received with great enthusiasm. We tried to apply for a position on the publications council... [but] I was harassed about the content of our magazine. We requested special funding, because it [the publications council] would not be a good place for us... we just got some very exciting submissions; they're juicy, I promise you."

The decision to fund the magazine sparked intense debate. SA President Valerie Hopkins, for instance, brought up the fact that *Lips*'s previous requests for funding had been denied by the Senate. "The reason we didn't fund it initially is because [Senator Beato ('09)] said it was not appropriate for the SA to fund this publication." Nonetheless, there was widespread sympathy for Brown's troubles with the Publications Council. Secretary of the Student Rights Department Braum Katz ('10) added, "If you are



Alec McKinley

The real face of student government: Despite the puzzled look, Senator Matt Beato ('09) and the SA were united in their vote to fund *Lips* magazine.

a new publication on campus, there literally is no way to get funding." He also mentioned that this may soon change, as the SA is currently working on a solution with Mark Constantine.

Later in the meeting, Vice President Kristin Slawter mentioned that the SA is currently trying to change some of the 800 outdoor lights on campus. Slawter attributed the well-known

phenomenon of lights turning off when a pedestrian is in the vicinity to a sodium imbalance.

The introduction of the *Virginia Gazette*, which was made possible by Sen. Walter McClean ('09), was also discussed briefly.

SA ELECTION RESULTS PARTY
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Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Assistant Opinion Editor

Kiplinger's ranks William and Mary fifth best value among US public universities

In December 2008 *Kiplinger's* will release its annual report on the 100 best values among public universities in the United States and has determined William and Mary to place fifth, down one position from last year. In making its determination, *Kiplinger's* uses such factors as admission rates, freshmen retention rates, student-faculty ratios, graduation rates, cost and financial aid. In response to the report, President Taylor Reveley stated "We're pleased once again to be recognized by *Kiplinger's* as one of the country's best values in higher education."

Alumni Participate in Symposium

On October 24, the Alumni Association hosted a symposium that offered alumni the opportunity to hear senior administrators speak on their goals for the College. Reveley used the occasion to outline a new plan for alumni relations, focusing on relationships, planning, finances and communication. In response to the financial crisis and state budget shortfall, Reveley exhorted alumni to give back to their alma mater. A session was also held to review historical and current College traditions.

VIMS Finds Fatal Bacterial Disease in Striped Bass

Marine biologists at VIMS have found that Chesapeake Bay striped bass are dying from myobacteriosis, a chronic bacterial disease. The findings were based on surveys conducted from 2003-2005, with assistance

from ongoing VIMS biological research teams. The 1,420 striped bass sampled were sorted by age, sex, and disease status. Based on the model assumptions, it was concluded that infection with myobacteriosis reduced the probability of another year's survival by 70 percent. The current extent of infection is estimated at more than 50 percent of the stock of striped bass in the bay. Researchers hope that these initial results will encourage closer scrutiny and the development of new models for disease transmission in aquatic ecosystems.

UCAB Given National Honor

UCAB received the Board of Excellence Award at the National Association for Campus Activities South Conference, beating 50 other schools. Organizations produced an outline of organizational goals, organizational information, planning and preparation, publicity and promotion, evaluation, and campus support. Six organizations (including UCAB) made presentations to the Board itself. Katy Lang ('09), UCAB's Director of the General Board, also was recognized as Student Leader of the Year.

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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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Publications Council discusses radical changes to bylaws

Steven Nelson
News Editor

Persistent criticism has plagued the Publications Council since its decision last semester to deny start-up funds to three new student publications, including feminist magazine Lips. On Friday, October 31 the Publications Council held its first meeting of the academic year. The Publications Council, commonly referred to as the Pub Council, is an organization on which all major student media outlets hold membership, with the exception of *The Virginia Informer*. The Council determines the leadership of its member organizations and allocates roughly \$150,000 in student fees amongst its members annually. Council members include the editors of *The Flat Hat*, *Jump! Magazine*, *The Pillory*, *Winged Nation*, *Dog Street Journal*, *The Monitor*, *Marshall-Wythe Press*, *William and Mary Review*, *Colonial Echo*, the director of WMTV, manager of radio station WCWM, and various college administrators.

College administrator Mark Constantine led the October 31 meeting in lieu of an elected chair.

Minutes of meetings, Mr. Constantine noted, have not been taken in the past as required by law, and asked for a volunteer to take them so that they would be available on request. Mr. Constantine opened the meeting sharing that revisions should be made to the council's by-laws to better reflect who should be allowed to vote on matters, recognizing that administrators in the past have voted. "We have not been following our by-laws for the past few years...we have been giving all members a vote," said Mr. Constantine, who continued, "seems like it's been working pretty well for everyone."

Each member organization presented its current

successes and a representative from each organization passed out information expressing future goals and objectives. Mr. Constantine said this process was to aid members by pooling knowledge. It also is meant to hold members accountable should their goals and objectives not be met. All reports filed by member publications will be made part of a public file available on request.

The Flat Hat report listed goals including "improve writing," "revamp business department," "continue making a profit," and "launch and maintain new website." According to Editor in Chief Austin Wright ('09), no student money was given to *The Flat Hat* last semester. However, according to budget numbers released by the Office of Student Activities, \$3,500 in student activity fees was distributed to the publication during the last academic year for conference attendance and software purchases. \$2,000 in student fees is to be used again by the publication for conference attendance this year. *Jump! Magazine's* presentation was notable for blending comedy with its goals. "Gangster shoelaces" were included among more serious objectives. The fairly transparent

joke was not well received by some, including Mr. Constantine, who demanded to know: "you need student money to buy your shoelaces? Do we need to be having *Jump!*, do we need to be giving them student money?"

Jump! Magazine shared that it prints roughly 50% of submissions while *The Monitor* representative said they accept around 10%. *The William and Mary Review* prints well under 1% of submissions, mostly from non-students. Three substantial changes to the Council's controversial by-laws were discussed, and will be decided upon at future meetings. They include allowing all members of the Council to vote, revising the process for electing

members' editors, and deciding how to appropriate seed funding for new publications.

A proposal by *The Flat Hat*, reflecting public suspicion of the current process of editor selection, proposed a change to the process. The current system permits all members of the Pub Council, including administrators, to have a say in the election of other publications' editors. The proposal by *The Flat Hat* would allow member publications to opt out of the current system. A publication would instead have to submit a new policy for internal selection of leadership to the Pub Council, on which two-thirds of the Council's members would have to affirm support. Permission from the Council to conduct internal selection would be effective for three years before coming up for review. According to *Flat Hat* Editor Austin Wright, the current process for editor selection "calls our legitimacy into question if we're allowing the other editors, administrators, and faculty to choose our editors." Mr. Constantine indicated that the change would likely be discussed at the next meeting.

The issue of granting seed money to new campus publications was also briefly discussed. Mr. Constantine acknowledged that in the past the Pub Council has been conflicted on the issue, saying that there has been discussion that "we are maybe not the right place to get seed money." He went on to state, "I think this is the right place," and that there should be a broad and fair process in the future which is content-neutral in decision making. Much public scrutiny has come from the decision last semester to deny Lips seed funding, in an apparently content-driven decision which has met with much controversy.

Seed funding would come from the \$100,000 Pub Council reserve fund. Pub Council funding comes from student activities fees, which are allocated through a three year contract with the Student Assembly. Mr. Constantine admitted that "we need to be a little more relaxed when it comes to seed money... it is an opportunity for student groups to show what they can do."

We have not been following our by-laws for the past few years... we have been giving all members a vote, seems like it's been working pretty well for everyone.

W&M Students for Life advocates the right to life through silent solidarity

Rachel Smith
Assistant Arts and Culture Editor

On Tuesday, October 21st many William and Mary students witnessed their peers walking around campus with red duct tape over their mouths, red ribbon tied around their arms, and a stack of handouts featuring the statement "Why I am Silent." These students were members of William and Mary Students for Life (SFL).

William and Mary Students for Life is a non-partisan, not for profit, non-secretarian organization that believes in the preservation of life from conception to natural death. SFL strives to educate the William and Mary community about the right-to-life through literature, speakers, and presentations. Tuesday, October 21st, a national Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity, is one of the SFL's main methods for informing the William and Mary Community about the right-to-life.

The Pro-Life Day of Solidarity pays tribute to the millions of women and children who have had their voices silenced through abortion. To represent voices that were cut short, people from across the nation go throughout their day in silence in honor of those who cannot speak for themselves. Not only did participants silence their voices, but they also chose to wear red arm bands and place red duct tape over their mouths to demonstrate their involvement in the day dedicated of solidarity.

Beth Zagrobelny ('09), president of William and Mary Students for Life, worked with other SFL officers to distribute red ribbon and duct tape to SFL members. Participants were encouraged to wear these symbols with

confidence. SFL also set up a poster display along the Crim Dell Meadow for the event. The series of posters, which were spread across the Meadows, read: "Today we stand silent in solidarity with the women and children silenced by abortion."

Stephanie Long ('09), Secretary of SFL, discussed her participation in The Day of Silent Solidarity with *The Informer*. For Long, the day presented her with an opportunity to stand up for what she believes in, and it was also the first time she has had the courage to advocate her feelings openly on a campus. "I know that our members will never be inspired to become more actively involved in the pro-life movement if our officers aren't willing to take that risk," Long said. "I decided that even though it would be difficult, this year I would remain silent in solidarity with the women and children who are silenced by abortion."

Long also cited experiences had by other SFL members. Freshman Liz Horne's professor was so enthusiastic about the cause that she sparked an in-class discussion about the 4,000 abortions that occur in the United States daily. In another incident, the SFL's Vice President, Sarah Evans ('10), was verbally assaulted by a young man while she put up posters in the Crim Dell Meadows. He swore at her, stating that she had no right to make women feel bad about what they chose to do with their bodies.

In light of both positive and negative reactions, the SFL will participate in next year's Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. No matter their stance on abortion, all students should appreciate the freedom to publically express one's beliefs in a respectful and positive manner.

Swem Library to receive endowment

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor:
Student Assembly

After recently ranking as the eighth best university library in the country, Swem as well as the business library, have received a new donation of \$2.5 million from H. Elizabeth McLeod ('83) and her husband J. Goodenow Tyler III. The donation is the largest ever to the College's libraries.

\$1.5 million will be distributed to Swem, where it will help fund the first named position, in honor of McLeod's parents, the Marian and Alan McLeod Director of the Special Collections Research Center. Beatriz Betancourt Hardy, the current center director, will hold this position. The remaining \$1 million will go towards the McLeod Business Library which will open next year, when the Mason School of Business has its content transferred into Alan B. Miller Hall.

The donation is expected to increase the quality of service that business students will receive at the



Courtesy Photo

Literary Interest: H. Elizabeth McLeod and J. Goodenow Tyler III are giving Earl Gregg Swem Library its biggest donation yet.

new facility. Both electronic and printed information will be more easily accessible, and other traditional services will be improved, including a digital catalogue, study lounges, and copying. The gift was made in appreciation for the influence that books had in McLeod's life, taking note of the fact that her childhood home was full of them.

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RES LIFE UPGRADING ONLINE: Students to be provided new options for contracts, deposits

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to learn that despite support for it by various departments on campus, no progress on it had been made. "I couldn't get a definitive answer from anyone [about when it was going to get done]," said Mr. Brown. Unsatisfied by the vagueness of the responses he was receiving about the project's status, Mr. Brown sponsored and unanimously passed a bill last Tuesday conveying the SA's interest in seeing the project being made a reality no later than by the end of the 2008-09 academic year.

However, impediments to the project's development have prevented an exact date being set for its launch. According to Ms. Katrina Pawvluk, the Associate Director of Residence Life, these delays have primarily been the result of integration issues, stemming from the pending release of Banner 8, which is due out later this year, and coordination among the relevant departments, such as Information Technology and the Bursar's office, each of which is set to play a significant role in the development process.

Not surprisingly, progress has been further aggravated since the involved departments are beginning to witness exposure to what Ms. Boykin characterized as "budget pressure points."

For the time being, what would otherwise be a thing of the past—that is the annual walk to the Bursar's office with check in-hand, will continue to be a thing of the present despite the overwhelming support for the online deposit system. "Everyone wants this to happen, it's just a matter of how we get there," said Ms. Pawvluk.

In light of the setbacks to the online deposit system, Residence Life is optimistic that its aims to better provide students with online services will continue to be fruitful. In addition to the room deposit project, Ms. Boykin and Ms. Pawvluk are currently working to bring both the room status report and freshman housing contracts online, both of which have been proven to be very successful programs on other college campuses.

SCOPE OF ENDOWMENT DAMAGE UNKNOWN:

Preliminary estimates range from 15-20 percent

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into this year, coupled with recent trends in the stock market, such a prediction is not untenable (see chart on WAMIT investments for fiscal year 2007). The William and Mary Foundation has yet to deliver an endowment performance report to the public since the financial crisis began.

The October 29th budget forum was closed by President Reveley and Vice President Jones assuring the audience that no layoffs would take place this year at the College. They also asked those in attendance to submit any and all ideas to the administration that could raise revenues or cut costs.

STUDENT RIGHTS PACKETS IGNORED: SA-Conduct Office agreement seemingly goes unfollowed

continued from page one

the information was not provided to students, but was available in his office upon request.

To determine the status of the packet's distribution, *The Informer* went to the Dean of Students Office and requested one. The copy given to *The Informer* by the office appeared to have been printed only once. The office secretary aiding the request commented, "I have never had someone ask for

this before." The cover of the one available packet also possessed a sticker stating, "Please do not remove from Dean of Students Office."

Mr. Brown, who pushed for the packet's distribution, says of the situation, "I sincerely hope that all future students involved in a Student Conduct case will be made aware of the packet, and that our efforts will not go to waste."

The cover of the one available packet also possessed a sticker stating, "Please do not remove from Dean of Students Office."

SA, UCAB HOST ELECTION RESULTS PARTY: SA revising "know your rights" cards for students

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In recognition of this year's presidential election, UCAB is hosting "DemROCKracy" celebration on the terrace on 4 November, with a results viewing party to follow in Lodge 1.

Senator Brown introduced a new "know your rights card", which has been updated and is now printed on plastic instead of paper. One graduate representative inquired, "Does that include what happens when you get pulled over for a DUI?" After the laughter subsided she added that there were "2 [DUI's] in the last 12 months." The bill, co-sponsored by Mr. Brown, Steven Nelson ('10) and Mr. McClean ('09), passed unanimously.

If you are a new publication on campus, there literally is no way to get funding.

On an internal note, senators discussed the SA checking account, which will be reopened after certain changes regarding financial policy, among which is a \$150 limit for any single expense. Senator Douglass '11 dissented, arguing that "an arbitrary limit will not get the job done. If you look at [former SA Vice President Zach Pilchen's] spending, it consisted of 18 purchases totaling less than 150 dollars." Douglass also suggested a regular audit every six months. Beato shot back, saying that "having an audit every 6 months is an awful, awful idea ... that's being reactive. We need to be proactive." Eventually, a higher limit of \$250 was suggested, but voted down in favor of the \$150 limit.

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Research associate at W&M IR institute found in violation of harassment policy at University of Georgia

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

Dr. Stephen M. Shellman, a research associate at the College and former professor at the University of Georgia (UGA), was found to be in violation of the UGA's anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy, stemming from two occasions involving alcohol and contact with students. Dr. Shellman was never criminally charged, but resigned from UGA following the investigation's conclusion in March. At the time the incidents and subsequent resignation took place, Dr. Shellman was a faculty associate at the College. William and Mary did not investigate the claims at that time and did not consider the allegations until Dr. Shellman was to become a research associate at the College's Institute for Theory and Practice in



Red and Black
SHELLMAN

International Relations.

Dr. Shellman was unable to be reached for comment.

Documents made available by the *Red and Black* at the University of Georgia, and available on *The Informer's* website, show that Dr. Shellman admitted to his indiscretions in a March 20 statement. They included an "awkward" incident with a student in at a hotel and an "alcohol blackout" after "drinking heavily" at a local bar with several students. In the statement Dr. Shellman also apologized for his actions and called them "a wake-up call and a life-changing experience."

The College's legal affairs coordinator, Kiersten Boyce said "if there were these sorts of allegations at [Shellman] while at William and Mary that is certainly something that policies would address."

However, *The Informer* has learned

from the UGA Office of Legal Services that their office was only contacted during the deliberations on whether to bring Dr. Shellman to the Institute.

Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity Tammy Currie, who is responsible for investigating sexual harassment charges at William and Mary, was not aware of the allegations Dr. Shellman faced while he retained his title of faculty associate concurrently with his associate professorship at UGA. She was also not consulted during the process of Dr. Shellman's re-affiliation with the College.

"If the charges are brought to our attention, then we would have to address those then. They would not be ignored," said Ms. Currie. She further added, "Incidents occurring

off campus or at another university unrelated to our students would be out of my authority. I believe bringing it to my attention—[Dean Strikwerda] could have mentioned it to me," she said.

Ms. Boyce explained "The College does have the ability to discipline any faculty employee." She further stated that "All individuals affiliated with the College - whether as a volunteer, an employee, a faculty member, a consultant, a visiting researcher - are expected to comply with applicable College policies."

Upon news of Dr. Shellman's violation at UGA, no investigation was conducted at William and Mary. From 2003-2005, Dr. Shellman taught

HIRING POLICY CLARIFICATIONS
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University Relations
STRIKWERDA

Teaching assistants a rarity in classes at the College

Kirk Vernegaard
Staff Writer

William and Mary's avoidance of teaching assistants as the primary means of instruction, especially for a state-funded institution, is a praiseworthy example of why we attend this prestigious university. Such a reality, however, does not change the fact that TAs do compose a definite, yet misunderstood niche of the educational experience at the College.

The College has vested interests in limiting the importance of Teaching Assistants, as various publications will use their presence as a factor in judging the academic quality of an institution. Back in 1996 a committee entitled "The Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Assistants" was formed. They released their findings with the admission that the College does have a "small but significant number of graduate students in the Arts and Sciences." The paper detailed, using survey analysis, the ways in which the College had perhaps formerly "[overlooked] its commitment to the training and supervision of graduate and undergraduate students." The report noted, for example, students who were concerned about various powers given to TAs, such as the ability to designate grades.

The committee responded with ways in which the College could teach teaching assistants. "Graders should attend", the report noted, "college-wide orientation and training sessions, organized by the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, to introduce them to appropriate college guidelines and regulations." While conventional wisdom might suggest that good educators are simply born, and not molded out of institutional bureaucracy, unruly TAs apparently had struck a nerve with the College.

Perhaps TAs deserve the stigma - they are, after all, college students of dubious reliance like the rest of us. The College's current website even attempts to make the claim that classes are never taught by teaching assistants. The educational value, however, of peer-to-peer instruction even at William and Mary should not be always downgraded.

I learned infinitely more Italian in my twice-a-week drills, for instance, from my twenty-year-old TA than I did from the supposed professional. There is a visceral and unimposing quality of learning from your fellow student that should, I believe, exist at the core of a liberal arts education.

Today the use of TAs in class is left to the discretion of the individual departments and professors. A student seeking to become a TA will often inquire or be handpicked by their professors on their level of ability and interest in the class. TAs participate more fully as lecturers in language classes, rather than those that require deeper philosophical grounding. In some instances though, professors will use graduate TAs primarily as supplementary teachers of specific research material they have been focusing on.

Adam Park '09, a former Asian Cinema Theatre TA, said that his tasks consisted of writing half of the midterm, hosting office hours, and guiding students in their production of a well-focused thesis. Park was paid a stipend of \$400 through the Andrew Mellon Teaching Fellowship, but stressed that the experience was one of mutual learning. "It's difficult to assess someone else's work who is your own age," Park said, "but you're given the opportunity as a TA to relax and understand people on a human level."

In spite of the decade-old recommendations limiting the flexibility of TAs, Park said he was not aware of any measures such as required training. However, he did stress that he was held to the standards governing teachers. "You sign a contract", Park said, "saying that you won't have sexual relations with students in your class - which is basically like a cardinal sin of education."

TAs have a mixed reputation among William and Mary students. While one student told me that he "had never seen a TA," another business student stressed that his class performance in Astronomy was guided solely by the fact that his "TA was hot." With the economy failing, and seemingly never ending tuition increases on the horizon, entrusting more of our fellow students with our education might be a reasonable solution for the College.

CATO fellow talks about US healthcare, Obama, McCain plans

Alexander Powell
Staff Writer

On October 29, Michael Tanner, senior fellow at the CATO Institute and coauthor of *Healthy Competition: What's Holding Back Healthcare and How to Free It*, gave a presentation on Health Care at Washington Hall. The subject was the current state of healthcare in the U.S., and what each presidential candidate promises to change about healthcare if elected. The lecture was arranged by the Libertarian Students.

"America has the world's best health care system," said Mr. Tanner at the beginning of his speech. He then went on to compare survival rates for cancer, heart disease, AIDS and pneumonia, since the United States leads the world in all categories. He also pointed out that of the last 25 Nobel Prize winners in medicine, 18 are U.S. citizens or do their research in the United States. According to Mr. Tanner, The World Health Organization study, which places the United States in the thirties in ranking of quality, is very misleading because reasons for the United States' low ranking are things such as, "not having a sufficiently progressive income tax system" and not having an effective government-run anti-smoking program. For the reasons of innovation, quality, and choice, Mr. Tanner believes that we in the U.S. have the world's best healthcare.

Mr. Tanner also shed light on the claim that there are 47 million people in the U.S. without healthcare. Although technically true, it is misleading. 13 million of those people are eligible for government provided health care; another 13 million are not U.S. citizens, many of whom are here illegally and another 3 million or so make over \$75,000 a year, more than enough to buy health insurance. Also, since health care is tied to employment, this picture is a "snapshot in time," according to Tanner, due to the fact that over 40% of this number will be uninsured for less than 4 months. Only 15% or roughly 6 million people will be without healthcare for 2 years or more.

Next, Mr. Tanner reviewed presidential candidate Barack Obama's healthcare plan. "Mandates, regulation and subsidies are the three pillars of Obama's healthcare plan," he explained. Tanner pointed out that Senator Obama's plan did not have an individual mandate, forcing people

to have insurance, so it is not a universal healthcare system. It is a system that ties a person even more to their jobs, since the plan does have an employer mandate. "An employer mandate flunks economics 101," said Mr. Tanner, which will raise the cost of employee compensation so worker wages and benefits will have to be cut

to pay for the new healthcare mandate. He also noted that Senator Obama's plan for the idea of community rating for price punishes those who have healthcare while rewarding those who wait until they need it, since healthy people will have to pay the same as sick people, and sick people cannot be denied. Mr. Obama claims that this program will cost \$65 billion in new spending, while others say it will be as high as \$600 billion. Mr. Tanner is skeptical that we can predict any figure as in 1964, when Medicare was passed and Congress estimated that it would cost \$9 billion by 2000 when in reality it cost \$400 billion.

Mr. Tanner did not speak heavily on John McCain's plan because he assumes that his candidacy is a long shot at this point. Mr. Tanner did cite positives of allowing cross state purchase and the tax credit and subsequent tax, which would provide 90% of people with more money to buy health insurance. The faults were McCain's calls for quality control, which Mr. Tanner believed to be good in theory, but he would have no idea how they would work in reality.

Ultimately, Mr. Tanner said the question comes down to, "Who decides?.. Do you and your doctor get to decide or does some other person or entity get to make that decision?" He closed by adding, "When you take your dog to the vet, he doesn't get much say because he's not paying. I say give the money back to you and give you choice, so going to the doctor doesn't feel like going to the vet."



Courtesy Photo
TANNER

Trader Joe's brew beer-ly tolerable

Alex Kyrios
Contributor

Trader Joe's offers some exciting and exotic food products (try their buffalo jerky!), so I eagerly paid a visit to their new Williamsburg store near New Town a little while ago. Imagine my delight when I discovered their impressive line of craft beers. The thought of beers from a mostly natural-foods grocer demanded the attention of a beer snob like me.

I decided to treat myself to a little central European tour, sampling four Trader Joe's brews styled after German, Austrian, and Czech beers.

"JosephsBrau" Hopfest (German-style pilsner)

Instead of a true pilsner (see the Czech Pilsner Urquell or the German Wernesgrüner), the Hopfest more closely resembles standard American beers of Budweiser, Miller, and Coors, labeled a pilsner but without the distinctive hopped taste characteristic of the style. It has the right light, golden color, but Hopfest doesn't live up to its name. Connoisseurs of especially hoppy beers should stick with IPAs and avoid this misleading brew, which I must unfortunately rate **2/5 steins**.

Trader Joe's Bavarian Style Hefeweizen

This is quite possibly the worst beer I have ever tasted, and it shames the land of my forefathers (Germany) in pretending to have anything in common with it. Its label rants about its use of some German hop that has tastes of, among other things, bubble gum and banana. No beer is supposed to taste like bubble gum or banana, especially one pretending to adhere to the storied German beer purity law.

Unfortunately, it *does* taste (and smell) like banana. It's also incredibly yeasty, compared to the

bizarre Magic Hat Participation Lager, part of their election-themed variety pack. If you like your beer yeasty, you may want to give this monstrosity a try, but as for me, I think I'd prefer Natty. I can't believe I just wrote that. If at all possible, this beer gets **0/5 steins**.

Trader Joe's Vienna Style Lager (Smooth Amber Lager)

The Vienna is like that one acquaintance of yours—you know the one—that you see all the time around campus and may even call your friend from time to time, but in fact you just have no interest in getting to know any better. My tasting partner summed up the Vienna well when she sagely noted that it "just tastes like beer." The amber taste is faint to nonexistent. If you want that taste, go for a Killian's or a Michelob Amber Bock. I can at least see fit to grant the Vienna **2.5/5 steins**.

Trader Joe's Bohemian Lager (Crisp Refreshing Lager)

What irony that the beer that promises the least delivers the most. Compared to these other varieties, the Bohemian is a veritable rhapsody. Somewhat comparably to Heineken, it sports an unpleasant smell, but it tastes much better than Heineken anyway. I appreciate Trader Joe's efforts not to corrupt this brew with banana or hops; its simple design and basic taste vindicate the wisdom of the aforementioned purity law (or *Reinheitsgebot*, for you fellow Germany-philes). The Bohemian earns **3.5/5 steins**, which may be a bit of a Trader Joe's curve.

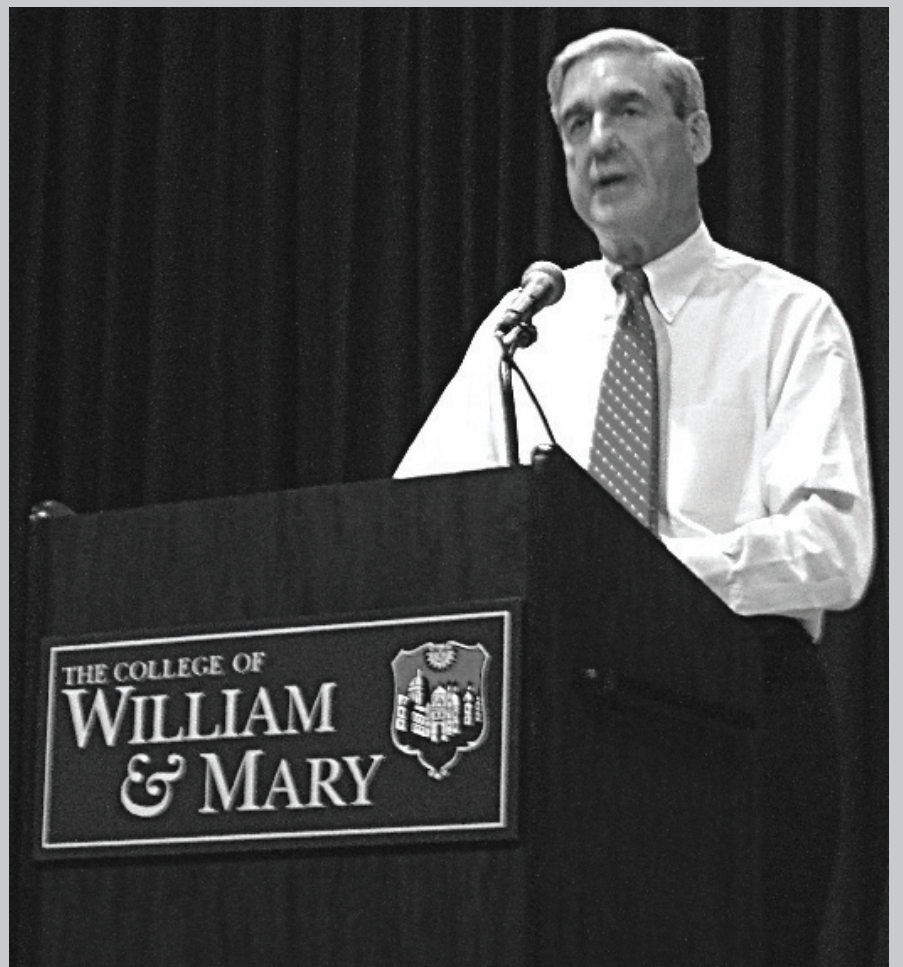
While Trader Joe's beers disappoint pretty heavily, they're a bargain at \$5.99 for a six-pack. But here's recommending you make like an artist and stick with the Bohemian. Prost!



Alex Kyrios

Not even fit for Joe Six-Pack: White certainly a bargain choice at \$5.99, for a couple more dollars you can guarantee a much better tasting beer.

FBI Director visits College



Alec McKinley

On October 31, FBI Director Robert Mueller came to William and Mary and spoke in Ewell's recital hall about present counterterrorism efforts as well as the Bureau's current priorities. The specific content of Director Mueller's remarks was placed off the record.

College Company enlightens campus on its ghosts

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

The William and Mary Revolutionary War Reenactment College Company led ghost tours as a fundraiser for their club on the evenings of October 29th-November 1st. These tours have become an annual tradition for the club in order to raise funds for provisions like costumes, gun powder, and muskets for reenactments. The ghost tours, which typically bring in between \$200 and \$300, serve as the main fundraiser for the company of about eight to fifteen members. These tours differentiate themselves from others in the area, as they focus solely on the ghosts that haunt William and Mary's campus.

The tours begin in the Wren Courtyard where participants are greeted by company members dressed in colonial garb. Members Chris Oxenford (11) and Pete Giannino (10) began our ghost tour with a brief history of the Wren building. They told a curious tale in which an English professor was teaching a night class in the classroom underneath the Great Hall. During the class, footsteps were heard above them and the professor exclaimed, "Oh, it's Sir Christopher Wren!" At that very moment, they heard a crash. The class rushed upstairs, only to find an empty Great Hall. They were the only ones in the Wren building that night.

Our next stop was Tucker, the site of several suicides. Giannino and Oxenford recounted several suicide tales, including one involving a ghost who visits students studying late in Tucker. If she asks how your studies are going, never say well, or she will "haunt you good." A more recent eerie incident occurred in 2005, when a group was working on

a film studies project downstairs. The room briefly lost power, though the rest of Tucker retained it. Eventually, the computer turned back on, and they were able to burn DVDs of their project. While showing the project to their professor the next day, the group was surprised to find that images of the lecture room, a black and white 18th century Spanish dancer, and faces of their fellow classmates had been inserted into their presentation. No one knows where these images came from.

Stories of unexplained footsteps and door slamming were told at the president's house. Across the way at the Brafferton, our guides recounted the tale of one Native American boy, who mysteriously died while attending school there. He can still be seen running above the Sunken Gardens on cold, misty nights.

The last stories were told in front of PBK, a location which "Lucinda" is known to haunt in her white dress. Lucinda was a student at the college back in the 1950s and was chosen to play the lead role in a play. She died a few days before the show, and her understudy took over the role. While rehearsing, the understudy saw a dark shadow moving across the back of the theater. They investigated, and found Lucinda's white dress draped on a back chair. Lucinda and her white dress still haunt PBK, as students and even the police claim to have had encounters with the white dress.

After hearing about the ghosts of William and Mary, it was hard not to be spooked. So the next time you witness moving shadows during late night studying, take the time to look beyond the obvious caffeine-induced coma for explanations.

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All the news that's fit to go online.

Honor code reforms await student referendum

Chris Ours
Staff Writer

All freshman and transfer students coming to the College of William and Mary take the following pledge: "As a member of the William and Mary community, I pledge on my honor not to lie, cheat, or steal, either in my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust, of which we are all stewards." The Honor Code is a historic document that helps maintain and enforce this pledge. The commitment to honor is at the heart of William and Mary

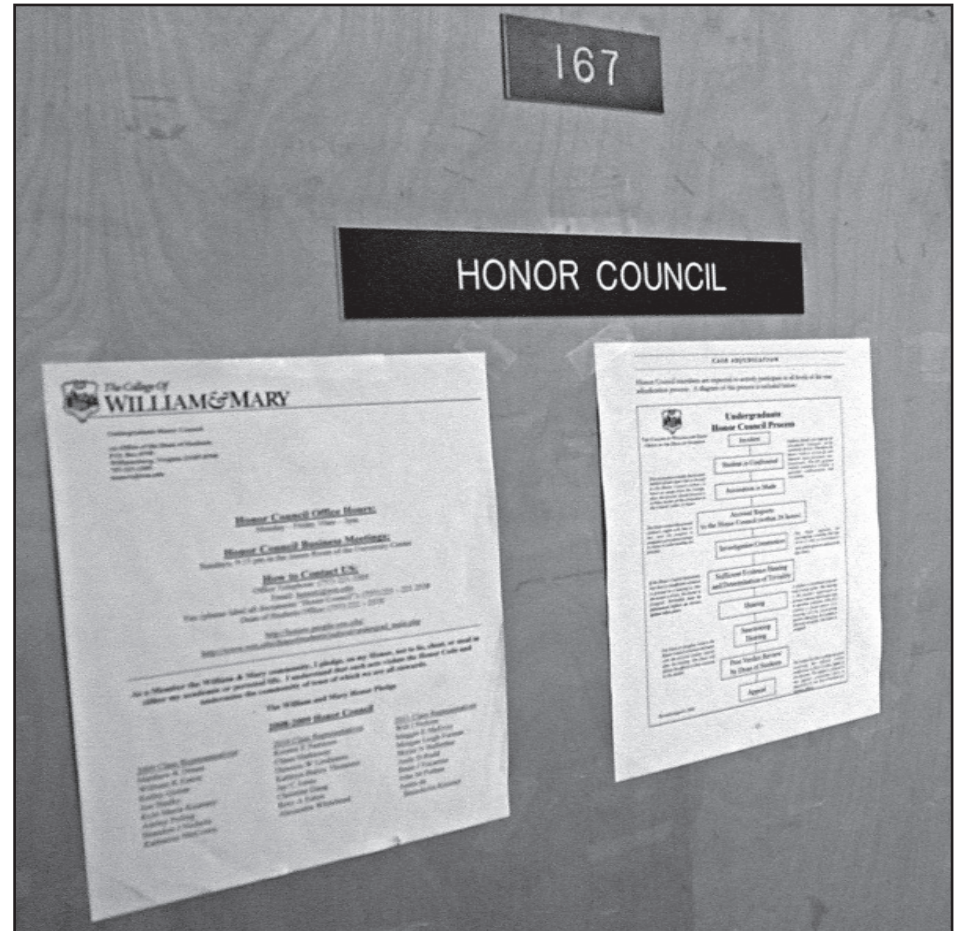
tradition and Ginger Ambler, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, has stated that the Honor Code is one of our "most cherished traditions. The code's origins stretch back to William and Mary alumnus, Thomas Jefferson. While he was Governor of Virginia in 1779, the first student honor system was drafted. The basic attitude has changed little from the original, in that William and Mary students continue to vow not to lie, cheat, or steal. But how we understand these terms and the mechanisms by which they are upheld have evolved with the ever-changing dynamic campus.

The Honor Code was last revised in 1997, and for well over a year, a new revision has been on the minds of many students. On Wednesday, November 5, the student body of William and Mary will vote by a referendum on proposed changes to the William and Mary Honor Code.

The proposal is set forth by a collection of representatives who form the Council of Chairs. The Council has proposed changes to the Honor Code to make it easier to navigate and understand, clarify the definitions of offenses, make more transparent the Honor System Procedures, and update the amendment process.

The new organization scheme of the Honor Code divides the document into sections and subsections for easier navigation. The definitions of lying, cheating, and stealing have each been streamlined. For example, the existing description of stealing is "the intentional taking or appropriating of the property of another without consent or permission and with the intent to keep or use the property without the owner's or the rightful possessor's permission." While the proposed definition states that "stealing is a deliberate taking or use of another's property without the owner's consent or permission."

The Honor System Procedures have



Alec McKinley

Code of Honor: Thought to be the nation's first and created by Thomas Jefferson, it has served students at William and Mary for 229 years.

been better defined to inform the student body of the workings of the Honor Council, how violations of the code are reported, and how they are followed up on. Lastly, the proposed changes alter the amendment process for alterations to the Honor Code with regards to procedure. Formerly, these changes had to be approved by referendum of the student body, but the proposed change does not require such vast approval, allowing the amendment process to be more efficient when necessary. General changes to the Honor Code must still be made by referendum.

Most important is the student body's

approval of the revised Honor Code. Students are strongly encouraged to review the proposed changes on Wednesday, November 5 through the Student Information Network (SIN) where voting takes place online.

If passed by the student body, the proposed changes must be approved by the Attorney General of Virginia's Office. Finally, it will be signed into action by the President of the College.

For the complete draft of the proposed changes to the Honor Code go to: <http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentconduct/honorrevision/index.php>

Proposed Changes to the Honor Code

1. Clarifying the language of the Code itself
2. Clarifying the definitions of each of the three main offenses: lying, cheating, and stealing
3. Increase the Code's accessibility by dividing it into organized sections
4. Revision of the procedure for revising the Code in order to allow for more expedient adaptation to new conditions at the College
5. No actual changes to students' rights or the fundamental content of the Code itself

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Mayor of Williamsburg Jeanne Zeidler reviews three-person housing rule, transportation

Sarah Nadler
Assistant Features Editor

In an exclusive interview, Mayor Jeanne Zeidler sat down with *The Virginia Informer* to discuss such critical matters as the impact of the financial crisis on Williamsburg, the present status of the three-person rule, as well as the present relationship between the College and the City. Jeanne Zeidler has been Mayor of Williamsburg since 1998, and her present term as Mayor will continue until 2010.

The Virginia Informer (VAI): As mayor of Williamsburg, what do you believe is the greatest concern to tackle among the problems in Williamsburg?

Mayor Zeidler: It is definitely the economy. We are not immune from what is going on nationally and internationally. And we are a small city, a city very dependent on tourism and those taxes [from tourism] have been flat or declining. When people don't travel, we don't make our budget. And beyond that, we are a small city with two world class institutions. Both are off course impacted by a downturn in the economy. We think that is the biggest concern.

BUDGET CRUNCH

VAI: What will potential budgets cuts mean for the city?

Mayor Zeidler: We don't know yet. We don't know how good or bad it might be. We will probably get through this year fine because the city has been very conservative financially. We have a lean budget and we are conservative on projected revenues because we are so dependent on tourism taxes. We also have a conservative rainy day fund. And if it's rainy you dip into your rainy day fund. But next year, that will be the crunch. We see James City Council project a three million dollar deficit for this year's budget, and potentially a nine million dollar deficit for next year. This affects Williamsburg because we do a lot things together with James City County, so who knows? At this point, we aren't looking at service cuts but we don't know if that's going to happen or not.

LOCAL CRIME

VAI: There has been some talk about recent gang activity. Is this a threat that the city should be worried about more in future?

Mayor Zeidler: I think our public safety people have a really good understanding of what is going on in this community. They know the signs of gang activity. But most importantly they do a lot of prevention work. I don't think we have a problem in the historic triangle, especially not in Williamsburg. Our own police depart and human services work with youth to prevent that kind of activity and to help people who are struggling and coming from underprivileged homes to be successful. One program is done by a police officer who is an expert in Tae Qwan Doe. He runs a program with area children to give them great self-confidence and work on team building. I don't think there is gang activity because we have such great resources in place.

VAI: What will potential budget cuts mean for the police force?

Mayor Zeidler: Public safety is one of the primary responsibilities of local government. That's what it is for, to keep the people safe and healthy. I can't tell you if there will be cuts or where they will come from but we are not going to jeopardize public safety. One of the wonderful things about Williamsburg is its size, the fact that we are so small. Sometimes people think bigger is better. We do operate a joint school system with James City County to provide more opportunities, but in terms of services, our policemen, fireman and social workers know our city. They know people with special needs. They know elderly people living alone. And small is good for these types of services. Small is good. We know what's going on.

I can't tell you [about the three-person rule] because there has been no public discussion yet. It hasn't been presented to city council yet.

I think that [contract negotiation with WAT] is the College's decision and not mine. The College is a partner with the authority, but they are the one who decides what services they want.

THREE-PERSON RULE AND HOUSING

VAI: In September, Councilman Paul Frieling come to campus and addressed students on issues relating to the College and the City. In that discussion, he touched on the three-person housing rule saying "We need to find a solution that satisfies both the people that rent property and those who occupy the residences around them... steps like a special use permit process could begin to make a change." What are your thoughts on the council implementing a permit system where landlords applied for the ability to rent out a unit to more than three people?

Mayor Zeidler: I think we need to look for ways in which we can make the three-person rule more flexible, but we have to do it in a way that is fair to landlords, renters, and people who lived around rental properties to protect our neighborhoods from any type of decline. We have been talking with members of the city staff and the Student Assembly about ideas we could put forth for public discussion to see ways we can provide flexibility. One possibility is that certain homes can be

permitted to rent to four rather than three people and of course one part of that flexibility would be an ability to enforce. So there can be four students, not five, six seven, or eight.

VAI: Why the number four?

Mayor Zeidler: Well, there were good reasons for three in the first place. We are talking about single-family residential neighborhoods. We don't want unlimited people in these single family homes in part because of wear and tear on buildings, but also the number of vehicles--there isn't parking. So, if we are going to relax the rules and be flexible it needs to be incremental.

VAI: And what is the present status of the idea?

Mayor Zeidler: I can't tell you because there has been no public discussion yet. It hasn't been presented to city council yet. This idea is developed with a small committee and somehow the idea was given to *The Flat Hat*.

VAI: So it is still in the developmental stage?

Mayor Zeidler: There is a process to go through. First, it must be presented to the city council. If they determine to explore further, it then goes to the Planning Commission. They look at it and try to understand what will be good and the bad about it. Then, there is a public hearing to listen to citizens. Right now, discussions have been with eight people, some from city and some from the Student Assembly. We cannot make decisions based on that small of a group. We need to let everyone voice their opinion. The public hearing would provide information for the Planning Commission and let everyone share their thoughts and allow them to support, disagree or suggest changes. And that information is all considered by Planning Commission who would then make a recommendation to the City Council. We would weigh it and decide after that. It is a few months at the minimum in the making.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

VAI: What is being done to improve students' accessibility to Williamsburg's businesses? What role can the Williamsburg Area Transportation Authority (WAT) continue to play in that regard?

Mayor Zeidler: I hope it gets better and better. With shorter head times and routes that make sense. It [WAT] is an authority that was very recently created. It merged James City County transit, a tourism shuttle, the William and Mary bus system and the Colonial Williamsburg system. This brought together four entities to create one of the largest public transportation systems in the state, and what that

does is increase ridership to free up more federal transport money to improve the service that we provide. So, a key step with creating this authority, which took a long time to do.

VAI: Would you suggest that WAT negotiate changes in its contract with the College?

Mayor Zeidler: I think that is the College's decision

We would weigh it [the three-person rule] and decide after that. It is a few months at the minimum in the making.

Mayor Jeanne Zeidler

City Council Service: Williamsburg City Council, 1994-present; Vice Mayor, 1996-98; Mayor 1998-present

Years living in Williamsburg: 37

Date of Birth: October 30, 1947

Education: BA from University of Wisconsin, Masters in Education from William and Mary

Family:

- Married to Professor Emeritus Edward Crapol of the history department.
- Son, daughter, and grandchildren have attended William and Mary.
- Father, Frank Zeidler served as the mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1948-1960 and was the last socialist elected to run a major American city.

Served as Director of the Hampton University Museum

Served as Executive Director of Jamestown 2007 and Chair of the Historic Triangle Jamestown 2007 host committee.

and not mine. The College is a partner with the authority, but they are the one who decides what services they want for the authority. For them, the dilemma is that it costs a lot of money to run those buses, and if students do not use it is it worth it? There is sort of a chicken and egg thing. Some students really understand and need public transportation, but certainly not all do. And the current problems make it not the most convenient, but in order to improve you need more riders. So how do we do this? We are inching along to a better future, but there is a real commitment and determination to evolve into a better transportation system. And, I mean, we need it. It is part of the effort. We need to be aware of the environment, these buses save energy.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

VAI: With regard to affordable housing in Williamsburg, given the possibility of a downturn in the tourism industry, what will be the city's role on this front in the future?

Mayor Zeidler: We need to look for opportunities. They are sometimes hard to come by, Williamsburg is nine square miles. We don't have a lot of land. We did several years ago work with the Housing Authority to create the Strawberry Plains neighborhood, which was built as affordable housing. But the Housing Authority with support of the city built other houses, like Braxton Court, which was not in very good condition, and really works to renovate houses so they are not lost as affordable homes. We can continue to look for those types of opportunities. So, although there is little land left for development we can work with developers who come in to get percentages of what they build to be affordable or other options. But Williamsburg itself can't solve the problem. It really is a regional problem. James City County has more land.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

VAI: In what ways can students at the College continue to give back to the community?

Mayor Zeidler: The College is a great part of our community. People who live here, by and large, are here because of the College. They love William and Mary. The College, in terms of faculty and staff, are huge participants, [even] members of city council. They participate actively, but students do as well. I was on a panel the other night with Valerie Hopkins, talking about civil engagements. Thousands of students do volunteer work with over ninty agencies [in the city]. That is work that would not be done otherwise. They make this community a better place. Can more be done? Sure. It isn't all about service, but participating in organizations that interest them. There is the

MAYOR ZEIDLER INTERVIEW
continued on page ten



Alec McKinley

Dedicated tree mysteriously cut down

For quite some time, a tree planted in honor of a former William and Mary student from the Class of 2007 has been left cut down near the Randolph Complex and across the street from DuPont Hall. The tree's stub still remains as does the plaque honoring the student. The plaque reads as follows:

“In Memory
Steven Thomas Wallace
William and Mary
Class of 2007
Virtuous Friend
Gentle Heart
Always Remembered”

The Virginia Informer has submitted a request to the administration that the tree stub is removed and a new tree be planted in its place.

Make an impact on campus...

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

COME TO A MEETING:

**Mondays
7:30pm
Blair 223**

Behind the BOV

The making of its members

Brittany Lane
Contributor

As the foremost governing body of the College, the Board of Visitors presides over the wide scope of affairs on campus and plays an integral role in the inner workings of the College. Selected by the Governor of Virginia, the Board consists of seventeen members who each serve a term of four years. Furthermore, the Board is divided into twelve committees, which focus on reaching out to the community.

According to the Bylaws posted on the William and Mary website, the members of the BOV elect a Rector of the College, a Vice Rector, and a Secretary of the Board. They also select the President of the College, academic officers, faculty members and other employees necessary for the efficient management of the College. President Reveley and Provost Feiss, along with six vice presidents of various areas of administration, must report directly to the BOV in order to make academic and administrative policy.

Consequently, if a Board member fails to adequately conduct their duties for one year without validation, the Rector has the right to notify the Governor.

Additionally, more selection occurs within the BOV every year. The Rector appoints the President of the Student Assembly to the non-voting position of an advisory representative on the Board. The Rector also appoints a full-time faculty member to a similar position. He or she must have been a past president of the Faculty Assembly.

Every other year, the Rector chooses three members of the Board to nominate candidates for the offices of Rector, Vice

Rector, and Secretary. However, nominations are also accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Elections soon follow, and new officers serve two-year terms and have the option of being re-elected for an additional term afterwards.

Following officer elections, the Rector appoints one Board member to chair each of the standing committees and other special committees seen as obligatory by the Board. In the order as listed in the Bylaws, the committees are the Richard Bland College Committee, the Committee on Financial Affairs, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, the Committee on Administration, the Committee on Academic Affairs, the Committee on Development and Alumni Affairs, the Committee on Public Affairs, the Committee on Student Affairs, the Committee on Athletics, and the Committee on Audit. The Rector has the power to replace chairs, remove and/or add members at his or her discretion.

With the guidance and reference of the President of the College, the Board of Visitors appoints the six vice presidents. The Vice President for Finance focuses on business interactions, the VP for Administration focuses on providing administrative assistance to the College, and the VP for Public Affairs creates programs for economic development, community outreach and other public relations. Meanwhile, the VP for Development coordinates development programs incorporating the College's financial support from voluntary, private donors, specifically gifts and grants from alumni, and the VP for Student Affairs works with the programs related to student life on campus.

Drink of the Week

Blueberry Jammer

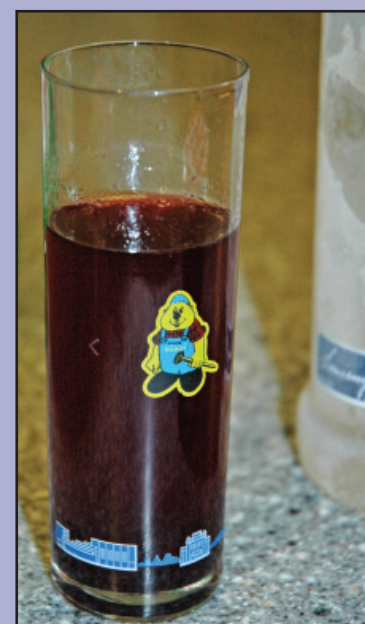
Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

- 1 T good blueberry preserves
- 6 oz Ginger Ale
- 2 oz 100 proof Vodka

Directions

Dollop the blueberries into a glass. Pour in the vodka and stir vigorously. Add the ginger ale to the swirling concoction. Enjoy, but be attentive to this powerful mistress. She's 100 proof and therefore demands your respect.

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



Jeff Dailey

SHELLMAN CASE PROMPTS QUESTIONS: Confusion over College employment policies at turning point

continued from page five

classes and conducted research grants through the College as a faculty associate, an instructional member on a non-tenure track. Upon leaving the College for UGA, Dr. Shellman retained his status with the College, running terrorism seminars as well as a grant. Arts and Sciences Dean Carl Strikwerda explained, "He had been allowed to run his summer workshop teaching about terrorism here after he left William and Mary...that was the initial impetus to keep him on as an associate with the government department—it made it easier to run that SWOTT [Summer Workshop on Teaching about Terrorism] grant through here."

In spring 2008, Dr. Shellman approached the College seeking to re-establish affiliation in order to run his \$153,000 National Science Foundation grant on terrorism through the Institute. Dean Strikwerda said "I think having him on our roster gives us a little more clout and more of a reputation in international studies."

According to Dean Strikwerda, after "consult[ing] with people at UGA, Dr. Shellman, people that knew him, and legal counsel," Dr. Shellman became a research associate for the 2008-2009 academic year, beginning work at the Institute in July. A research associate is an individual affiliated with a non-curricular unit and is not tenure eligible.

Administrators and some of his research assistants have personally vouched for Dr. Shellman. "I would be comfortable with my children working with Dr. Shellman in a research capacity" said Dean Strikwerda.

Doug Wilson ('08) worked with Dr. Shellman this summer. Mr. Wilson told *The Informer* that Dr. Shellman fully explained the situation to him and the other assistants and was very forthcoming. "My experiences working with him were great," he said.

Ms. Currie said, "I think that each person has their own level of tolerance. I would advise my children here to interact with Shellman only in the workplace setting and discourage outside interactions. Otherwise, you may give way to loose boundaries."

The administration insists that if Dr. Shellman were accused of similar behavior at William and Mary it not go without investigation, "as a research associate he really doesn't have the rights of the faculty handbook. He could be dismissed at will...If the allegations were serious enough we would obviously suspend him immediately, but...depending on the nature of the allegation we would at least investigate," said Dean Strikwerda.

Similarly, Ms. Currie has assured that "The sexual harassment policy applies to anyone, not just faculty."

The confusion over jurisdiction for investigations of violations of harassment at the College remains unclear. But Ms. Currie said that the College is at a "turning point" with its policies regarding harassment.

"We have to establish more rules and guidelines" she said. "As we grow, and we are growing in diversity, research and civic engagement, you have to incorporate guidelines and policies that are conducive to this larger group. So as we add Shellman to the equation we have to be conscious of how this could reoccur at the university, what impact that could have, and we have to set policy."

Ms. Currie also hypothesized on a solution to the present problem, highlighting the dilemma the College faced this year. "Maybe we'll want to decide to a policy which stated. 'If you have just been investigated by your previous university, then you aren't allowed a job at the College.' I am just using this as an example."

MAYOR ZEIDLER PROVIDES INSIGHTS: Believes College students make city a better place through service

continued from page eight

Williamsburg-area Bike Club, Active Alliance, the Land Conservancy, and other organizations and non-profits that people with different interests can engage in. Beyond that, it would be great to see students volunteer to serve on boards and commissions. In my experience, only one student ever applied to serve on a board. And he was appointed to the Planning Commission, a very important commission in city government. He was appointed because he was the best applicant and he was a very strong member.

PRESIDENT REVELEY

VAI: How would you describe your relationship with President Taylor Reveley? Did you interact with him much when he was dean of the law school?

Mayor Zeidler: I met him when he was dean, but I really didn't know him. Since he has become president we have had a number of opportunities to get together. We have monthly meetings to discuss issues on campus and in the city. And I am tremendously encouraged about the work he is doing and his understanding about what it means to be a college in the city and a city in the college. I am very pleased with the relationship.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE...

VAI: Do you ever go to the Delis on signature nights?

Mayor Zeidler: Sometimes. You can often find me on the Green Leafe on a Friday night.

I like Paul's and I like the Green Leafe. You can find me in either of those places.

VAI: When you were a student, did you go out to them much?

Mayor Zeidler: I didn't have a whole lot of money, and I was a grad student, but yes. I hung out at the earlier versions of both Paul's, which was in the triangle block, and the Green Leafe, which was called The Colonial at the time. Those were always places we hung out. The owner won't like this, but Paul's used to be called "the dirty delly," but when it moved to the place where it is now it was called "the immaculate delly."

VAI: Do you attend William and Mary sporting events? Do you and the council members tailgate together?

Mayor Zeidler: No, (laughs) although we are invited and do attend tailgates. Certainly. I used to always go to Tribe soccer games because my son was a soccer player.

VAI: What are some hidden secrets of Williamsburg? Anything off the radar that you recommend looking into?

Mayor Zeidler: Well, there is a lot of really fun stuff to do. One of the things last year we published was a great book on great city walks. And there is one that really surprised me: the Basset Hall Trail. There is a great wooden path behind Basset Hall. It goes through the woods and is absolutely gorgeous. Some William and Mary students run it, but most students don't know about it. It is actually on our website.

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Orchesis meshes comedy, improvisation, ethnic music in Dancevent

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

From October 30th through November 1st, William and Mary's modern dance company Orchesis put on their fall show titled Dancevent. The show had a diverse set of pieces including an improvisation dance, traditional Native American dancing, and a theatrical dance. It was choreographed by the William and Mary dance faculty and performed by the dance faculty, Orchesis members, and some guest dancers.

The first dance was the traditional Faculty/Senior Improvisation. It was a collaborative dance between the seniors and faculty in which nothing was choreographed; each time producing a different result. They danced to various funny sound clips, such as the YouTube video "Charlie bit my finger," the "Head On" commercial, and Miss Teen South Carolina's response during the Miss Teen USA pageant. These clips had the dancers producing fun, quirky moves and creating a piece that had the audience chuckling.

The next two pieces were choreographed and danced by the dance faculty. The first, Fiddle Dances, was performed by faculty Joan Gavaler and Lauren Morris and incorporated a lot of lifts. The second, danced by faculty Leah Glenn and Denise Damon Wade, was a cute and funny piece titled He Loves Me,

He Loves Me Not, in which the dancers cleverly supported their movements with chairs. String of Pearls was a clean and well synchronized piece danced by Orchesis members. Transcending Rhythms closed the first half of the show with Native American and African American drummers and Native American dancers. Six Orchesis dancers and Leah Glenn joined them to perform an exciting and unique piece.

After intermission, the show resumed with Rapid Eye Movements, choreographed by Joan Gavaler and the Spring 2008 Physical Theatre class. They produced a comical dance which explored various types of lifts and multi-person movements. The next piece was distinctive in that it was not choreographed for the show, but rather was originally done by the Limón Dance Company. Leah Glenn was able to reproduce the dance using the piece's labanotation, which are symbols that represent dance movements.

The next dance, Symbol, choreographed and danced by Joan Gavaler, incorporated Gregorian Chants with live Native American music and dancing. FILLING STATION,



Geoffrey Wade

Re-Membering: Orchesis offers an extremely diverse and unique selection of dance and musical themes, drawing inspiration from a host of historical, ethnic, and cultural sources.

Route 66, the final piece, was a theatrical dance choreographed by Denise Damon Wade with music performed by a small pit orchestra. The dance was based on Virgil Thomson's ballet Filling Station. The stage was set up as a 1930's style gas pump, with members of Orchesis casted in various roles like the filling station attendant, truckers, and bootleggers. All of the members did an excellent job acting and dancing out a short

story sequence.

Dancevent's wide variety of dances allowed every audience member to leave with a different favorite piece. The incorporation of live music and guest performers really added to the show. While it was Orchesis's fall dance performance, the emphasis seemed to be more on the faculty and their projects rather than on the student dancers. However, it was still a memorable show.

SASA wows campus with annual Expressions performance

Bryan Callaway
Contributor

Let me begin by saying that I am by no means a professional dancer, professional dance critic, or anything in between. Dance and I have never exactly been best friends, and at six feet seven inches tall and with the

agility of an elephant, I think you can figure out why. However, I do know a spectacle when I see one, and that is exactly what I saw at the South Asian Students Association's (SASA) annual Expressions performance at the Sadler Center on October 31.

The only thing that came close to rivaling this phenomenal display of talent and skill was the thunderous applause it garnered from the packed crowd. The show, which combined elements of primarily Bollywood, Afghani, and Bhangra dance, was intertwined with rather comical and satirical intermissions. These intermissions revolved around the production of a fictional film titled "Not another Desi Movie." Featuring the rather hilarious and entertaining emcees Mohammad Torabinejad ('10) and Preethi Sundaraman ('11), these skits were designed to "help provide a continuity between the dances," says cast member Sam Schreck ('11), who himself provided the act with several priceless moments of humor as its "dancing stud." Despite the power of these scenes, they did not compete with the dance performances, but rather complemented them in an admittedly unusual but highly effective way. The end result was a series of comedic intermissions perfectly offset by the splendor and awe of the dance routines.

Splendor and awe only begin to describe the dance performances, which were something in and of themselves. This was partly due to

the wide array of pieces that the show offered. SASA sought to touch upon cultural and stylistic differences within the South Asian region, according to performer and SASA Vice President Sravya Yeleswarapu ('10). One style that featured prominently in the show was the Bollywood genre. This style, which is generally comprised of romantic undertones, originated in Bombay. However, due to its use of the Indian national language of Hindi, the style is commonly associated with all of India. The routines in these genuinely magnetic pieces were choreographed using music from well-known Bollywood films such as "Jab We Met" and "Om Shanti Om". As enthralling as the techniques of these performances were, they were equally captivating as a result of the host of emotions that they conveyed. "The entertainment factor in the dances comes from the emotions," says performer and SASA PR Co-Chair Nakul Kadaba ('11). In addition to Bollywood elements, the show featured pieces from both the Afghani and Bengali genres. The two-hour performance was capped off by a final routine from William and Mary's Varsity Bhangra team. The Bhangra dance, a more acrobatic style than its Bollywood counterpart, provided a striking finale to an already impressive show.

At two hours the performance was admittedly on the longer side. However, the seamlessness and excellence in its execution more than made up for it. This perfection was the culmination of more than six weeks of rehearsals and preparations for what is SASA's most major annual fundraiser. Six-weeks of four hour rehearsals? Perhaps a bit much, but as they say, practice makes perfect.



Nakul Kadaba

Bollywood Comes to William and Mary: Expressions offers a diverse selection of dance, comedy, and music, drawing inspiration from historical and cultural sources.

Free your inner munchie fanatic at the dellys

Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

When out with your friends, you don't order filet mignon, but get cheap and greasy bar food that you can all share instead. The two most popular delis, Paul's and the Green Leafe, both offer a wide variety of bar food and appetizers that should be of interest to college students. In an effort to determine which place serves better bar food, I decided to compare the two American classics that both institutions have to offer: chicken tenders and nachos.

The nachos at the Leafe (\$9) came out stacked high on a small plate. All of the toppings had been placed on in layers, preventing them from mixing and spreading the flavor around, not to mention also keeping the toppings from adequately getting onto the chips. It actually looked as if the toppings had been haphazardly globbed on. With the toppings stacked and the chips on the bottom, most of the chips did not even have a single topping, let alone a mixture of them. The lack of mixing prevents one from truly getting the 'nacho experience' of the dish. Also, although

the dish contained plenty of beans and beef, there was an inadequate amount of cheese. The nachos at the Leafe were very disappointing and at best earned a D.

The nacho's (\$7.25) at Paul's were much better. They weren't stacked, but spread wide on a plate allowing for the ingredients to mix. The mixture of toppings had a good balance of ingredients which got onto all of the chips, creating a very tasty mixture. With such excellent toppings, the nachos would have been near perfect, except that there were very few chips compared to the large

portion of toppings. In the short time it took for all of the chips to be eaten, more than half of the toppings were still left and had to be finished with a fork. With large portions, great taste, but not enough chips; somehow these nachos still earn a B.

The chicken tenders (\$7.50) at the Green Leafe were alright. The portion was of normal quantity and the chicken tenders themselves were fair sized. They tasted okay and were hot and crisp, but lacked any special spices to add to the flavoring, leaving them a little bland and boring. They rate a C+.

The chicken tenders at Paul's

(\$6.80) were more enjoyable and came in a larger quantity. The tenders themselves were wider and thicker than the one's served at the Green Leafe. They also had a lot more flavor and were much juicier. Nothing about them stood out, but they were a solid and enjoyable appetizer. B.

The Green Leafe and Paul's Deli, both located on Scotland Street, are great institutions and great food can be found at either place. Paul's has much better bar food that is rmallya couple dollars cheaper, but after 9pm the appetizers at the Green Leafe are only \$5.

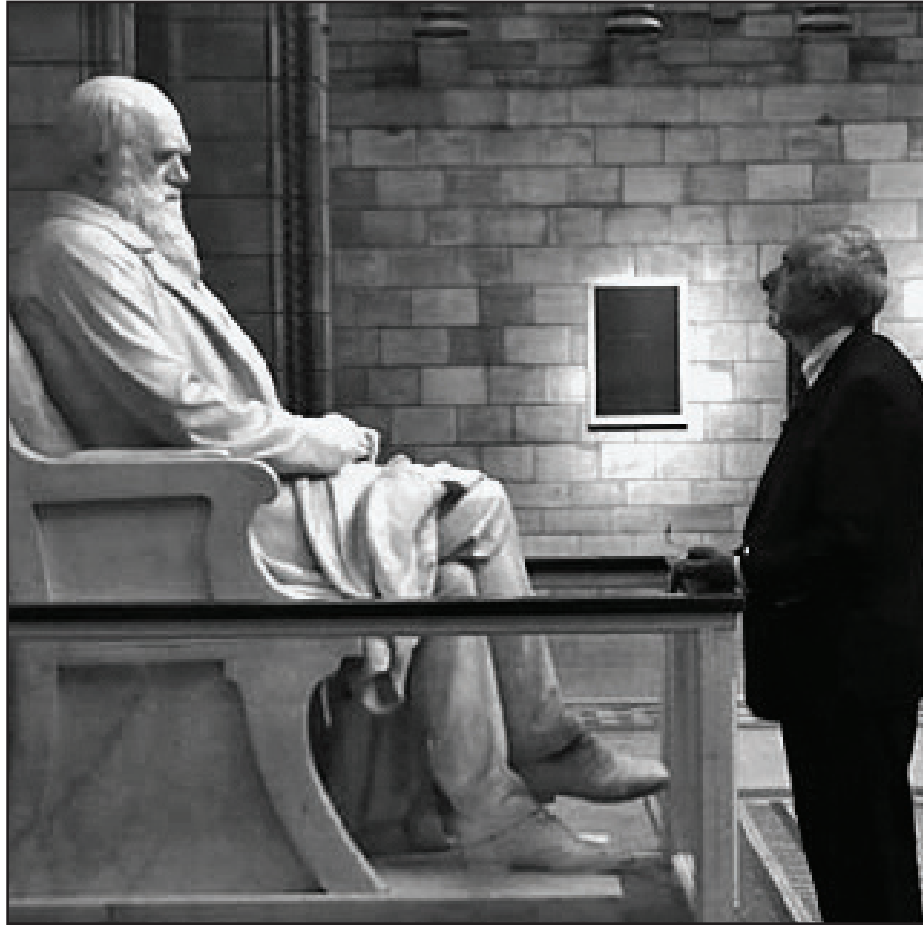
Post-game show, Ben Stein still wins

Patrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

I decided that it was time to see a documentary for my next review, so I took a trip to the Redbox and rented Ben Stein's new work *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. The film is narrated and documented completely by Stein himself. He explores the foundations of intelligent design, misconceptions in Darwinist Theory that are taught in schools, and the overall hostility the academic world has towards even the slightest exploration of this idea.

Stein is an obvious proponent of intelligent design, and throughout the course of the film he tries to have staunch opponents of intelligent design, such as Richard Dawkins, prove that it must be wrong. Obviously, none of these self-proclaimed atheists can prove that the theory is incorrect. Stein also interviews several academics who claim to have been fired or not been given tenure due to their belief of intelligent design, or for even begging the question. Stein wants to know why the idea is just completely thrown away in most aspects of the academic world without even a little exploration.

I believe Mr. Stein achieved many of his goals in the film. First, the documentary portrays intelligent design as separate from literal biblical analysis, which it is often misconstrued to be. Second, he shows that there is a definite absence of freedom of thought in the academic world, that is potentially poisoning to learning environments. Third, he shows how unreasonable some of the staunch academic atheists like Mr. Dawkins can be on this issue, and that they really have no reason to completely dismiss these ideas as irretrievably wrong.



Promotional Photo

Ben Stein vs. Richard Dawkins: After his game show and a notable bit in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, Ben Stein is now tackling the more serious theory of Intelligent Design.

On the other hand, I think this film may have been a little too ambitious. I would've liked to have heard more about one of the points Stein made about the connection between Darwinism and Nazism. His argument on this topic was much weaker than some of the others, and I don't think that it had to be. He seemed to be on to something, and I think it would've been a potentially scandalous connection – and I love drama.

It is a shame that because this movie

has a conservative flavor, it will likely be rejected outright by the Hollywood elite, and, as such, not up for any kind of award. This film did not appear on the short list the Academy recently released for potential nominees for Best Documentary Feature. That's a shocker!

Despite not being the most organized documentary I've seen, it was certainly interesting, and Ben Stein's dry monotonous humor never ceases to amaze me. As such, I give it a B+.

Vivian girls deliver a short and sweet lo-fi garage rock album

Jack Evans
Contributor

I am a complete sucker for bands like Vivian Girls. If you take three semi-attractive young ladies with bangs, lock them in a room with guitars, a drum set, and some microphones, then force them to record an album's worth of songs, chances are I'm going to be a fan. Actually, that's an exaggeration. But I do kind of like their self-titled debut album.

There is something very familiar about it as Vivian Girls evoke all kinds of classic indie rock acts from the Jesus and Mary Chain to the Breeders. So, if you wanted, you could probably deduct points for derivativeness. I don't think I would though, because there are some really catchy songs on this debut. "Wild Eyes", in particular, has been stuck in my head for quite some time. The song has these close together vocal harmonies that are just the right kind of off-key. Listen to it a few times. It will sneak up on you.

"Where Do You Run To" is another highlight. It has a thunderous backbeat that sounds like it was lifted straight out of an early Beatles song. "Tell the World," a pop song distorted beyond recognition, might make you think there is something wrong with your speakers. But there isn't; it's supposed to sound like that. "No" is the word "no" sung over and over again with a four-measure guitar solo stuck in the middle. It's a little annoying, but mostly just silly.

The thing is, Vivian Girls are a difficult band to criticize because they are so unpretentious. For the most part, the album is consistently good lo-fi garage rock. If that's your thing, then you will like it. If it's not, then you won't. But either way, Vivian Girls certainly don't waste your time. Half the songs are under two minutes and the whole album is a hair over twenty. So either they are really concise or they don't have all that much to say. I'm honestly not sure. For all I know, this band could be old news in a couple of months. But until then, I'm going to keep enjoying this album.

The Finer Side:

It's beginning to look a lot like... an expensive holiday season

In just a few short weeks, we'll be in the midst of another holiday season. With the economy being in a Scrooge-like mood, the time that traditionally puts a strain on people's wallets will become exceptionally hard this year. But, that doesn't mean that the holidays will be any less magical. This season, it's time to shop smart and not let the Ghost of Christmas Future ruin the Ghost of Christmas Present.



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

One of the best ways to cut down on sky-rocketing Christmas costs is to start shopping now and shop during sales. Department stores, especially now, want to entice shoppers through their doors and will offer incredible pre-holiday sales. If Black Friday is your thing (if you can recover from the Turkey-coma), you can end up saving hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars on Christmas shopping, especially on those big-ticket items like electronics. Also, by shopping early, you can do your research and do price comparisons to save even more money.

Online shopping is a great way to go, and it's environmentally friendly! No more driving around, fighting for parking spots, and waiting in long

lines behind the loud lady on the cell phone. Companies are just starting to unveil their Christmas products and will lower shipping rates to attract business. Stores and outlets online will also offer a wider selection of products that can only be purchased online. Avoid the rush of the malls and do your shopping from the convenience of your own desk. Be careful though; when purchasing clothing, make sure to get your sizes right! Many a wonderful holiday can be ruined when you give someone something a size too large!

Go with stores that offer rewards programs. If you're going to be buying the items anyway, why not get the perks that go along with it? Lots of stores offer wonderful rewards programs these days as incentives to get customers to return. If it's a store that you frequent, you might already know about whatever rewards or bonus program the store has. Many times stores will offer bonus points during the holidays. If you rack up enough points on these cards, you'll end up having a little post-season shopping spree for yourself! Be careful of companies that make you pay to join the rewards program though, and don't join any rewards

programs (free or not) if you don't shop at that store often.

Be careful when giving gift cards! Gift cards are a wonderful present, and work especially well for the person who has everything, or your little sister who loves to go shopping. But be cautious what stores you purchase gift cards from. Last year, Sharper Image stopped honoring gift cards when they declared bankruptcy, causing thousands of gift cards to become worthless. I'm not suggesting not giving gift cards at all; I'm merely advising that you stay away from fun or luxury stores that may be hurting right now, and stick to secure stores like Barnes & Noble, Nordstrom, Best Buy, etc.

Remember that it's quality, not quantity that matters. You don't need to give a plethora of gifts to show that you love someone. Like when Beaker the Muppet gives his red scarf to Scrooge in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, give someone a gift that is truly from the heart. Give one or a few meaningful gifts that show you took the time to think about what they would really like, not just that you know how to swipe your credit card. And in keeping the Ghost of Christmas Present alive, keep the holiday spirit of love and family close to your heart and your gift giving.

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Asian American *Cyrano* focuses on racial identity, love

Brendan Linard
Contributor

Based on Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, the International Performance Arts Exchange's play of *Cowboy vs. Samurai* tells the story of Travis Park, an Asian American English teacher in Wyoming and his best friend Del, a white man who, according to the director, represents the "All-American white cowboy". Both men fall in love with a new Science teacher at the school, Veronica, who is also Asian American. Veronica, however, tells Travis that she prefers dating white men so he decides to help Del by writing letters to Veronica for him. The comic relief is provided by Charlie, an Asian by birth, who is adopted by white parents, and constructs his racial identity from Bruce Lee movies and Asian stereotypes.

With just a four-character show, director Eddy Hong ('09), a senior, felt it was necessary for the actors to feel a personal connection to the play. When he was advertising the auditions, Hong even sent a copy of the script to people who demonstrated interest, so that "the people who did show up... were attracted to the script." At auditions, Hong received such a strong group of actors that he decided to double cast the lead roles of Travis and Veronica, with upperclassmen in the first two performances and freshman leads in the final performance. Said Hong, "Both casts have different personalities, but both fit." Jasper Lu ('11) and Derik Kim ('12) will play the role of Travis, while Melissa Savanh and Nara Yoon will portray Veronica. Adam Wong ('09) and Pierre Dumant ('09) will play, respectively, the roles of Chester and Del for all three performances.

The show focuses on racial identity and "specifically what it means to be an Asian American," said Hong, who stressed this to his cast. Early in the rehearsals for *Cowboy vs. Samurai*, Hong would hold meetings for cast members where they would discuss what it meant to be Asian American, as well as the history of the term, which only came about in the 1960s. The actors felt this helped them connect to their roles, including Melissa Savanh, who said she realized, "people actually had these experiences of identity and race,"

during the meetings. Hong said, "Ultimately... the play looks at when it comes to love... race is just another aspect."

In addition to directing *Cowboy vs. Samurai*, Eddy Hong is the producing director of the International Performance Arts Exchange (IPAX), a club founded last year by faculty member Francis Tanglao-Aguas. This multicultural organization put on three plays last year and is advertising *Cowboy vs. Samurai* as William & Mary's first contemporary Asian American play.

Later in the year, they hope to put on William & Mary's first contemporary Arab American play.

The International Performance Arts Exchange will be performing the play *Cowboy vs. Samurai* in the Commonwealth Auditorium of the Sadler Center on November 6 at 8 PM and November 8 and 9 at 2 PM. Tickets cost \$5 and will be on sale at the tables in the Sadler Center between November 1 and 7 from 11 AM to 7 PM.



Annie Lewis

A Tale of Two Races: *Cowboy versus Samurai* aims to define what it means to be caught between two racial identities.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Movies

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—Fri., Nov. 14

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

All shows in screening room (35 seats)

The College of William and Mary Film Studies Program Presents: *Quick Feet, Soft Hands* (2008) and *Gina, an Actress, Age 29* (2001)

Tues., Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

This event is free, but tickets are required

James River Association Presents: Wild and Scenic Film Festival to Benefit James River

Wed., Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.

Adults \$10, Students \$5 (Tickets also available through the James River Association)

The Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival on Merchants Square

Sat., Nov. 15—A Secret (Not Rated) at 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 16—Noodle (Not Rated) at 3 p.m.

Opening night (includes dessert reception) \$20

Sun., Nov. 16—Adults \$7, Seniors/Students \$6

Bottle Shock (PG-13)

Sat., Nov. 15—Thurs., Nov. 20, 7 and 9 p.m.

Nov. 15, 17—20 screening room (35 seats)

November Schedule

Live Performances

Dean Shostak's Crystal Carols Concert

Nov. 24—Jan. 3, M,W,F at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

All seats \$10

Virginia Premiere Theatre Presents "The Gift of the Magi"

Preview Performances: Nov. 21-23 at 7:30 p.m.

All seats \$18

Dec. 2, 5, 12, 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9, 16 at 3p.m.; Dec. 10, 17 at 5 p.m.

Adults \$25, Seniors/Students \$20, Children under 12 \$10

The Williamsburg Charity Concert Series Presents: "Schnickelfritz and the Oompahs German Band"

Fri., Nov. 7 at 8 p.m.

All seats \$15

Laughing Redhead Studio Presents: Clean Comedy Night Featuring Thor Ramsey with Special Guest Jenn Douchette

Sat., Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

All seats \$15

Avalon Benefit Performance Leap of Faith

Sun., Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m.

General Admission \$25, Students \$15

The W&M Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo in Concert

Sun., Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

General Admission \$8, Seniors/Students \$5

Student Groups from The College of William and Mary Present: International Music and Dance Showcase

Fri., Nov. 14 at 8 p.m.

General Admission \$5, W&M ID \$3, Children under 10 free

The Williamsburg Symphonia Presents: Masterworks Subscription Concert #2

Tues., Nov. 18 and Wed., Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$42, \$30



Staff Editorial:

Sorry, three-person housing rule is not changing soon

While *The Informer* has been and continues to be a firm supporter of amending Williamsburg's three-person housing rule, recent events have placed this long-awaited reform in jeopardy. The Student Assembly's private negotiations with city officials were greatly soured when a representative opted to anonymously leak confidential information to the press before any proposals had been agreed upon. This immature decision will have ramifications for all of us hoping for reform. We call on the Student Assembly to issue an apology to the city for this breach in confidence. Moreover, the student representative who opted to leak this information should step forward as well. This individual should remove himself or herself from the now-tainted negotiating process. Student leaders must recognize that

although we desire to follow their work -- especially on this issue -- if that work is held in confidence, such confidence must be respected. If it is not, the penalty could be a loss of any possible resolution, as the breach of trust becomes a betrayal. However, we do support transparency, and applaud the city for outlining a plan which would have released information about the proposal soon. We are dismayed that the anonymous leaker did not find these arrangements sufficient and took matters outside of the negotiation process.

The potential damage resulting from such immaturity has been compounded by recent reporting that specific reform to the three-person rule could "soon" be upon us. *The Informer's* recent interview with Mayor Jeanne Zeilder of Williamsburg

reveals the opposite--much work is still to be done. Mayor Zeidler has said that any proposed change "has to go through months of the process." To the college student in the age of instant messenger, Facebook Chat, and campus-wide WiFi, "months of process" cannot be considered "soon." Not only is "months" not "soon," but "process" requires that any draft proposal will undergo changes to make it amenable to as many people as possible. This issue will not be resolved in the near future, as other campus media outlets have implied. As news media, we are committed to proper reporting: gathering the facts and accurately reflecting their implications. News organizations that report wishful thinking as truth risk losing their most precious commodity: the public trust.

Staff Editorial:

William and Mary Foundation must update College community on status of endowment investments

The decision made by President Reveley to not impose a mid-year tuition increase on students in light of recent state budget cuts is cause for great commendation. The move to slash spending instead is precisely what families must do at the present time and we are glad to see the same course of action taken by the College. It is our hope that the administration will continue to cut unnecessary costs as well as raise greater alternative revenues before the Board of Visitors meets in the spring to determine whether tuition will be increased for the 2009-10 academic year.

It is also our hope during these troubling times that the William and Mary Foundation, the governing authority over the College's endowment, will soon issue an update on how present market

conditions have impacted our small, yet precious, investments. At a time when Wall Street is grappling with issues of financial transparency, such an issue cannot be overlooked with William and Mary's Investment Trust. The University of Virginia's Investment Management Company, which governs their endowment, released a quarterly status update in September as have a number of both public and private universities across the nation since the financial turmoil struck. The Foundation must do the same for the College community before the end of the year. Simply hoping market conditions will improve by then is no reason to hide the true damage that has occurred so far, nor is such a decision prudent in the event market conditions deteriorate further.

In Budget Crisis, Athletics Fee even more unnecessary

With William and Mary facing a budget shortfall, the reality that the school will have to make sacrifices is upon us. Hiring freezes and the threat of reduced Swem hours are already felt on campus, and could soon erode the quality of a W&M education. However, one part of the school has remained unaffected by the budget shortfall, and in fact, is increasing its scope. As reported in this issue of *The Virginia Informer*, William and Mary's athletics fee increased by \$100 per year per student to \$1,253.



Nick Hoelker Staff Writer

This fee is astronomical when compared to the University of Virginia's \$607 fee or Virginia Tech's \$232 fee per year. While both of these schools have bigger student populations than William and Mary, they have been able to translate the fees into great successes. Virginia Tech is a perennial top 10 ranked school in football and UVA won the ACC basketball championship in 2007. William and Mary has dominated in areas such as women's soccer and gymnastics, but these sports do not generate the interest or excitement on the part of the student body and alumni that football or basketball do.

One way that William and Mary could decrease the athletics fee would be to switch from Division I to Division III. Division III athletics are more in line with William and Mary's values. It places the "highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience." Switching

to Division III would lower the athletic fee as it would prevent the school from handing out athletic scholarships. This would boost the academic standing of the school, as it would increase the number of spots available for students who attend William and Mary for reasons other than sport. These students would also help to alleviate William and Mary's budget woes, as they would actually be paying tuition. Moreover, there would still be competitive basketball and football games for students to enjoy.

One argument made in favor of athletic fees is with the help provided by alumni donations. However, these donations are generally directed towards the athletics department and not the school or student body as a whole. For example, the new Jimmie Laycock Football Center was funded by \$11,000,000 in private donations. This money could have been used to cover the budget cuts from Richmond for two years or even to fully fund the Gateway Program's \$10,000,000 cost.

With the school being forced to make huge sacrifices with respect to increased tuition and decreased services, it is a shame that a typical student will spend nearly \$5,000 over the course of their William and Mary career to subsidize an area of the school that is largely ignored and has proven to be capable in self-fund raising.

And there they went again

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I must say that the SA is up to their old shenanigans yet again. The newest chapter in the book entitled "The SA Babies Us All: An Oversized Bureaucracy Story" is the "Election Day Act" sponsored by Senators Ross Gillingham ('10), Sarah Rojas ('10), Ben Brown ('11), and Brittany Fallon ('11). This bill "strongly encourages all professors to cancel classes on Election Day this semester" and also "strongly encourages the Dean of Students Office to cancel classes on the dates of all future Presidential, and Williamsburg City Council elections." Now I know everybody likes a day off, but this is just silly. And although Election Day will have occurred by the time this article comes out, I really hope that professors will not have followed this poor advice.



Alexander Powell Staff Writer

The first reason for this bill was that "students often find themselves too busy to vote on Election Day due to class schedules."

This reasoning is patently absurd. Surely we students are not Dickensian characters, working ceaselessly, hour after hour, not having so much free time as to patch our tattered clothing because our stern

overlords will beat us for leaving our desks. I know for a fact that most students find time to take a reasonable lunch break and involve themselves with many extracurricular and social activities each day. Shouldn't the bill instead have been directed towards students to miss an extracurricular event rather than to cancel the very thing we are all here for? The polls were open some 12 plus hours on Election Day; I'm sure that each of us that wanted to took time to make that long haul five blocks or so to the Stryker building to cast our votes. People in the mythical "real world" that I keep hearing about don't get the

day off, and neither should we. The next "reason" for this bill was more infuriating than the first. "Voter turnout among 18-24-year-olds is historically low." I don't see how this excuse justified the bill. Students who care and are informed will vote; students who don't care and are not informed (hopefully) will not. We shouldn't have to mollycoddle those who don't care into voting. We students are adults now, and the SA had no right to treat us like poor, underrepresented children needing to be herded into the booth.

Further causes for this bill were things like providing students with enough time to walk down to the Stryker building, and trying to stop students from having to wait in line once they get there and missing a class. These reasons, however, do not seem like real pressing issues that cry out for the suspension of the academic process for a day.

I have an idea for those still on the fence about whether this bill was necessary: The delicious and very cheap Doraldo's Pizza is not more than a block away from the Stryker building and can serve as a great test for the necessity of this bill

(as its passage ensures that its sponsors will try to make Election Day an annual holiday at the College). Next election, gather a group of friends together at lunch time, get a slice to go, then walk over to the polling place and vote. This way, you can vote, socialize and eat lunch all at once and still have time to get back to class.

When the mind considers that people have fought and died to get this right, the least we can do is walk a few blocks, get a slice of pizza and vote, right? Really, this bill is insulting to the student body and to those that have fought to give us that privilege.

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Don't trust the Administration to protect your rights

For some time, this public institution has jeopardized students' constitutional rights through a number of infamous dealings. The latest example of carelessness by the administration with regard to student rights involves Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct David Gilbert. Over the summer, Dean Gilbert agreed to pass out packets compiled by Student Assembly members that provides information to students on their rights when charged with violations of College policy. *The Informer* learned that when a student was recently summoned to the Student Conduct office that not only was this packet not given out but that it had never been copied for dispersal; rather, a single copy was retained with a sticker placed on front that reads "Please do not remove from the Dean of Students Office."

This student's adjudication process, which eventually resulted in opting for an on-the-spot "informal resolution" and severe punishment, could have been informed by the packet's distribution. The proper

distribution packet may have changed the student's mind on whether to accept an informal resolution which resulted in a severe punishment. In response to the fact that this student was not provided with a packet, Dean Gilbert claims that placing the packet online and retaining a single copy in the Dean of Student's office is somehow sufficient -- ignoring the fact that few students would "request" to look at an informational packet that most didn't even know existed.

This example is just one in a long line of administrative carelessness. Just last fall, the College launched, and quickly revised under scrutiny, the Bias Incident Reporting System, which allowed students to anonymously report anything to the administration deemed to be a bias incident. In reality, this translated to mean approval of the anonymous reporting on any sort of behavior deemed to be "non-inclusive" by the administration. This was



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hard for many to swallow, given the system's problems with free speech and due process. As it was comprised last year, this system essentially placed a speech code on a wide range of expression that could be deemed as bias, or hostile behavior. Some hostile expression is actually protected under the first amendment, and this attempt, in its original form, would have had the effect of creating a thought police on students.

Fortunately, our campus is one in which the majority of students abide by a legal and ethical code of conduct. However, the high caliber of students should not be an excuse for excessive disciplinary actions seeking to create extra-constitutional standards and which skirt procedural fairness. Given the College's inconsistent approach toward the protection of students' rights, inaction by Dean Gilbert on informing students of their rights is not particularly surprising, but it

is certainly revealing. Failing to distribute the student rights packet is obviously not criminal, but going back on your word shows you to be either incompetent or disingenuous. On top of that, one wonders why this information is intentionally guarded from distribution to students alleged of policy violations. Clearly, this action shows a careless disregard on behalf of the Dean given his previous agreement with SA members to distribute these packets to students charged with violations.

The College has promised students that their Constitutional rights be maintained, as is their obligation as a state institution. I do not believe that students should need to be spoon-fed all their information in order to make informed decisions; however, at the same time, the esoteric and secretive processes that many judicial infractions entail require an individual to be sufficiently informed. The majority of students have and do not have any idea how to proceed when alleged of violating College

policy. Distributing "Know Your Rights" cards to students, as done by the SA recently, will only go so far; at the heart, these issues are indicative of the need for a change in the administration's culture where respect for students' legal rights and fundamental fairness is not only talked about, but actually implemented.

Administrators often have a conflict of interest, with their primary loyalty being to the school rather than our rights. A good way to get around this is to proactively inform yourself on your own, knowing that administration often monopolizes information pertaining to campus judicial systems. A good start is go on to the Foundation of Individual Rights in Education's website, where you can freely access FIRE's "Know Your Rights" Guides. The *Guide to Due Process and Fair Procedure on Campus* is particularly germane here. I, for one do not take administrators' claims to respect students' rights seriously when such a simple action, passing out a packet of paper, but so important to ensuring fairness, is not taken.

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The day after: How to react on November 5th

By the time you read these words, barring some sort of post-election vote-counting controversy, Americans will have chosen the 44th President of the United States.

The day after a presidential election is, understandably, a very emotional one. It will be easy to identify the winning candidate's supporters: those students walking around with a spring in their step, riding high on a wave of elation and euphoria. Supporters of the losing candidate are no less obvious -- the ones with dark expressions who shuffle around, sullen and dejected.

These reactions are natural and, for the most part, unavoidable. There are, however, ways in which each of these two groups can overdo it. With that in mind, I offer a few helpful suggestions for how to act -- and not act -- on the Day After November 4th:

In the event of a victory for Barack Obama:

Obama supporters should refrain from gloating. That does not mean you shouldn't enjoy your moment, of course. Especially for those of you who volunteered for the Obama campaign, this day should be one for celebrating the hard-earned fruits of your labor. But please try to resist the temptation to rub it in, and perhaps recall how you felt the day after George W. Bush was re-elected in 2004. That's how a lot of McCain supporters are feeling today, and the Golden Rule should apply. Graciousness in victory is a commendable virtue, and you'll win the respect of a lot of people on the other side if you offer a few (sincere) words of sympathy or



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acknowledgement of a hard-fought campaign.

It is easy to get caught up in the thrill of victory, but you should remember that, as your candidate once said (and I paraphrase), "We are not Republicans, or Democrats, but Americans." The election is over, and Americans -- all of us -- will need to work together to tackle the extremely daunting challenges facing our nation in the months and years ahead. Throughout the course of this campaign, Senator Obama has promised repeatedly to end the era of destructive, debilitating partisanship in this country -- now would be an excellent time to turn those words into actions.

McCain supporters should not despair over the impending doom of America as we know it, the Republican Party, or conservatism. None of the aforementioned things are even close to being in danger of extinction. It's easy to get melodramatic on November 5th and issue dark, apocalyptic forecasts about the future. Every election is framed as "the most important election" since, well, at least the last one. But you need to remember that at the end of the day, it's just an election. The sun will rise tomorrow. No matter how serious your fears about how Barack Obama's presidency will adversely affect this nation, America will not perish.

These are fairly dark days for the Republican Party, but the GOP will recover. The deck was stacked against Republicans from the start of this election cycle, and you should take heart that McCain kept the race as close as he did. After the 2002 and 2004 elections, several Republican strategists fantasized about the Democratic Party

being relegated to a "permanent minority." In just four years, history has proven that notion laughably absurd -- and it will be just so with the counter-claims being trumpeted by Democratic activists today. America is not in danger of becoming a one-party state.

Nor in any way is conservatism "dead." John McCain's candidacy was by no stretch of the imagination representative of the conservative movement. And, as even *Newsweek* pointed out in a recent cover story, America is still a center-right country. Regardless of how Americans voted this election, the recent bipartisan Battleground Poll found that an astounding 60 percent of Americans consider themselves "conservative," yet only 36 percent define themselves as "liberal." Those numbers have been virtually unchanged for the past eight years. The truth of these numbers can be clearly seen in the 2008 race -- it is telling that Barack Obama found electoral success by attempting to distance himself as much as possible from his liberal roots, while McCain repeatedly sought to emphasize his conservative credentials.

Finally, do not be bitter -- graciousness in defeat is just as laudable as it is in victory -- and your Obama-supporting friends will be pleasantly surprised if you offer them a handshake and a few words of congratulations.

In the (unlikely) event of a surprise McCain victory:

McCain supporters should probably keep a low profile for a few days.

Obama supporters should wait at least until summer to consider moving to Canada. It's cold up there this time of year.

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