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2008 Collegiate Network Paper of the Year

College's new strategic plan in development

Steven Nelson
News Editor

William and Mary has operated for the past 14 years without revisions to its strategic plan, a crucial blueprint for fundraising efforts and other future goals. Efforts are now underway to institute a new strategic plan, which will serve to guide the priorities of the College going forward. In September, President Reveley established a Planning Steering Committee to lead this effort.

Co-chaired by Provost Geoff Feiss and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Jim Golden, the committee has recently released fourteen draft challenges that the new plan will seek to address. These challenges range from establishing a new "financial model for the College" to insuring "the integrity of a liberal arts education." Mr. Reveley and Mr. Feiss collaborated in appointing members to the committee, which presently includes both faculty and non-voting student representatives from the undergraduate and graduate programs.

The committee's goals were shared with *The Informer* by President Reveley, who said, "The

committee's main function is to facilitate a wide ranging conversation with faculty, staff, students and alumni about a vision for William and Mary and the great challenges before us. This will lead, ultimately, to a plan I will take to the Board of Visitors in April for approval." Over the past few months, President Reveley has described many of these challenges as primarily financial, with the College needing to counter escalating state budget cuts and marginal endowment resources.

Provost Feiss emphasized the importance of the plan, commenting that "without a strategic plan with well-defined core values and a limited set of goals and objectives, setting of institutional priorities for the allocation and reallocation of resources can become ad hoc or insufficiently rigorous." The new plan under development seeks to be more fluid and will be subject to greater revision and review than previous plans have been.

Vice President Jim Golden said that the most recent plan from 1994 was "more comprehensive in scope," but that the new one will "include specific goals and measurable objectives for the next five years." Mr. Golden said that there will be six to eight "grand challenges" that will be focused on.

In mid-November two open forums were held to allow undergraduate students to share their visions for what William and Mary should focus on. President of the Student Assembly Valerie Hopkins ('09) attended one of the forums. She shared, "one student said that sustainability should be a priority to both save electricity and attract prospective students." Ms. Hopkins said students also expressed a desire for the school to improve alumni networking, to better define the College's role in the Williamsburg community, and to make

an effort to emphasize openness and tolerance on campus.

Ms. Hopkins serves as the student representative to the Board of Visitors in her position as SA President and said that "the Board is having the same conversations" as those had at the forum. The difficulty, she said, lies in "trying to prioritize with limited resources."

The steering committee has established sub-committees to reach out to different groups that have a stake in William and Mary's future, according to Mr. Golden. Groups targeted for outreach include alumni, parents, students, and other parties. In February of 2009, says Mr. Golden, "[the committee] will discuss progress in that process with the Board of Visitors. In April, the [committee] will provide a draft plan to the President for his review prior to discussion with the Board on Visitors later that month."

If the Board of Visitors approves the strategic plan in April, Mr. Golden said President Reveley will "assign responsibility for implementation of the Plan's goals and specific objectives." The plan will be reviewed each year following enactment. "The annual

review process will include an assessment of progress against the plan and appropriate reports to the President and the Board of Visitors," said Mr. Golden.

Mr. Feiss said that follow-up on specific goals "will surely be a responsibility that the president will take very seriously, likely with the assistance of his VPs and the provost." Mr. Feiss continued, "Some of the Planning Steering Committee's work in the spring will be directed at developing the best model for assuring annual review, implementation, monitoring, and assessment of the plan."

President Reveley believes that student involvement is important to the process. "The views of students have been and are being actively sought by the committee. Like other members of the William and Mary family, students have informed thoughts about what makes the College important to American higher education -- what is it that we do unusually well and should, even at great cost, keep doing unusually well for the foreseeable future?"

The budgeting process will take into consideration the objectives established in the strategic plan. Mr. Feiss said of the plan, "It could be reasonably seen as a road map for the College's immediate future. We will likely focus our resources and fund-raising on those goals and objectives identified in this process and in subsequent annual reviews."

Nubia Dickerson ('09) is the only undergraduate student to serve on the committee. She said, "I know that the student experience is quite difficult to define but simply offering my perspective has been welcomed." Ms. Dickerson noted that students are welcome to contribute to the process, "we want your help in making this institution the best in the world."



Courtesy Photo

Med school goes to W&M: J.D., a fictional W&M grad in the hit hospital dramedy *Scrubs*, is the creation of Bill Lawrence, an alum of the College, who will be visiting in January 2009.

Creator of *Scrubs* will visit College in late January

Sarah Nadler
Assistant Features Editor

Bill Lawrence ('90), the creator and executive producer of *Scrubs* and the creator of *Spin City*, will visit the College in late January. This was prompted by an interview with *The Informer* last fall, when Mr. Lawrence expressed an interest in visiting campus. *The Informer* is currently working with UCAB and a group of faculty members to make the visit a success. Details for the visit have not been finalized, but there will likely be a public event under the co-sponsorship of UCAB and *The Informer*.

UCAB is currently promoting a film competition in which students can submit short films that will be judged by Mr. Lawrence. Giuliana Morales ('10), UCAB film committee chair and organizer of the competition, was able to update *The Informer* on UCAB's plans for the competition. According to Ms. Morales, "The Bill Lawrence Filmmaking Competition is a short film competition that will showcase W&M talent in honor of Bill Lawrence's return. In order to be eligible, student teams have to incorporate a predetermined prop, line of dialogue, and creative device related to Bill Lawrence or the College."

The application deadline for the film competition is December 5, but student teams do not have to complete their films until the start of next semester. The top films are tentatively planned to be screened at Mr. Lawrence's public lecture. A monetary prize and an autographed copy of *Scrubs* will also be given to the winning team.

As of December 1, five applications were received by UCAB. However, Ms. Morales is optimistic about the event's success and is expecting a high turnout. She told *The Informer* that her "inbox is overflowing with questions about the competition from prospective film teams." For more information about the competition's rules and application, visit www.wm.edu/ucab/billlawrence.

Mr. Lawrence has not visited William and Mary often since his graduation in 1990. However his visit is expected to be well received. A simple Facebook search reveals that over 500 students at William and Mary consider *Scrubs* one of their favorite television shows. Ms. Morales jokes, "This will be a great opportunity for *Scrubs* fans to learn more about Bill Lawrence and ask what's next for J.D. and Turk." Be sure to check vainformer.com over winter break for updates on Lawrence's visit.



Courtesy Photo

LAWRENCE

Planning Committee Membership

Co-chairs: Provost Geoff Feiss and Vice President Jim Golden

Total Members: 29

Administrators: 14

Faculty: 12

Students: 2

Alumni Association: 1

External Alumni: 0

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SA votes \$500 for Hindi class, \$400 for police tailgate food

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

The November 18 Senate meeting opened with a bill from Sen. Brittney Fallon ('11) which requested \$500 to finalize funding for a new Hindi language course. South Asian Student Association (SASA) representative Sravya Yeleswarapu '10 spoke of her organization's extensive efforts to secure all but the last \$500 for the course from various administrators and departments.

The bill, entitled the 'Helping Haul Hindi Here Act' avoided a prohibition on the SA using student fees to provide academic credit by allocating the money from the off-campus account, which is privately fundraised by the organization. Most funding bills allocate money from the substantially larger consolidated reserve account, into which unused Student Activities fee money goes each year.

Ms. Yeleswarapu said that although the Hindi course offered this spring is a pilot program, it is an important first step towards the establishment of 101 and 102-level courses. Ms. Fallon added, "[Hindi] is one of the critical languages listed by the State Department." Sen. Steven Nelson ('10) suggested that the Senate give more, but Ms. Yeleswarapu insisted that only \$500 was needed. The only Senator to vote against the bill was Sen. Matt Pinsker ('09), who argued that not enough students would be assisted to warrant funding.

SA Vice President Kristin Slawter ('09) then delivered an update on all happenings



Alec McKinley

Deep thoughts by your SA: Senators Walter McClean ('09) and Michael Douglass ('11) were among the Senators that voted for \$500 to be allocated towards a pilot Hindi course.

within the Student Assembly. A text book program may be started at Swem to make it easier for students to get by without purchasing expensive textbooks. Facilities management will probably switch outside lamps to LED lights due to the huge cost benefit and the fact that they do not randomly turn off. Another blue light will probably be installed by the Ludwell Crosswalk.

The passed and pending legislation segment, in which Senators address the progress of their bills, revealed that the Reduced Parking Fee For Bumped Students Act, by Sen. Ryan Eickel ('10) has not met its objective since it was passed in Spring 2008.

on the first day of the effort. Subsequent flu shot days, during which students can receive a discount, are being advertised by Facebook events.

Senate Chairman Walter McClean ('09) said in reference to a pending bill that would ask financial services to detail the athletic fee on student bills that "last year [our athletic fee] was the third highest in the state and this year will probably be the highest." The fee currently charges over \$1250 to each student a year. The bill co-sponsored by Sen. McClean and Sen. Nelson has been in committee while attempts to contact Vice President for Finance Sam Jones have been made.

Following Ms. Slawter's updates and the

Sen. Ben Brown ('11) shared that humormagazine *The Onion* is currently available at the Sadler Center as a result of his efforts. Sen. Caroline Mullis ('09) said that the flu vaccination provided by a bill she sponsored was a success and that 100 free shots were given and over 100 other students received a discounted shot

passed and pending legislation section, a bill providing funding for a student-police tailgate was debated. This second and final bill of the night provided for \$400 to be spent on food for a tailgate during the November 22 football game, so that William and Mary police officers and students could mingle and develop personal, friendly relationships. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Ross Gillingham ('10).

Debate over Sen. Gillingham's bill included concern about the semantics of the bill, and the potential for poor turnout to the event. One senator asked, "if students don't show up...could that make relations worse?" The consensus seemed to doubt that would be the case. Sen. Nelson motioned to have removed a whereas clause he claimed was overly complementary of the police, he said "both times that I ran [for senate] I said that the police need oversight." He shared optimism for the police improving communication and transparency, and the bill. The particular whereas was modified.

Sen. McClean voiced support for the police tailgate bill, "A police officer is less likely to arrest you if he knows you personally," he said. Law School Sen. Ryan Ruzic ('11) also voiced support, "[police] are really very different people depending on the circumstances in which you meet them." The bill passed with only Sen. Matt Beato ('09) voting no.

The entire Senate meeting was filmed by Sen. Brown as an experiment to evaluate the potential for making video of Senate meetings available online.

Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Assistant Opinion Editor

Ribbon-Cut to inaugurate Integrated Sciences Center

To commemorate the completion of the new Integrated Science Center building, a ceremonial ribbon was cut by Rector Powell, President Reveley, BOV member Sally Gore, and the Chairs of the Chemistry, Psychology, and Biology departments. The new construction is the first phase in a two-phase project which includes the ongoing renovation of Rogers Hall. The new ISC complex will be dedicated in 2009, when the Rogers Hall renovations are complete.

Model UN brings 1200 attendees

From November 14-16, the 22nd annual William and Mary High School Model United Nations Conference (WMHSMUN) was held on Old Campus.

The International Relations Club, which organizes and sponsors the event, invites high school students to represent the policies of foreign countries and politicians in simulations of the committees of the UN and various other international bodies. Conference organizers hope that the event will increase knowledge of international conflicts, international problems, and the importance of diplomacy among the attendees. In concert with the conference, the International Relations Club also raised nearly \$1200 for Doctors without Borders.

First round of green fee projects announced

The first series of projects funded by the \$15 per semester "green fee" was announced by the Committee on Sustainability. The projects include \$16,000 for recycling; \$3,000 for solar cell research; \$15,000 to install occupancy sensors in Swem Library to reduce energy use; \$16,000 for electrical metering equipment in the Randolph Complex;

and \$3,000 to Professor Randy Chambers, the head of Keck Lab, to study storm water runoff. In addition, a \$40,000 "green endowment" in mutual funds has been established to fund future projects in sustainability.

VIMS professor to set priorities for carbon-cycle research

Professor Deborah Bonk of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science has been tapped to serve on the Carbon Cycle Science Working Group, which coordinates climate science research among 13 federal agencies. Bonk was chosen because of her research on nitrogen cycling within marine ecosystems. Professor Bonk is particularly concerned with ocean acidification, a process which is suspected to be linked to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The Working Group hopes to develop a national research plan on carbon related phenomena by December 2009.

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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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Campus construction progresses as Career Center receives \$6 million donation

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

As classes wind down for the semester, construction work around campus maintains its momentum. Work on Rogers, Miller, and the School of Education are all well on their way to meeting their projected completion dates according to Anna Martin, Vice President of Administration.

The renovation of Rogers, the second phase of the Integrated Science building, is on time and still set for a March 2009 completion date. When it reopens it will house the Psychology department. Miller Hall, the soon-to-be home for the business school, is still making good progress and should be finished by Fall 2009. Miller Hall will house both the undergrad and graduate business programs. The new School of Education is expected to be finished by either Spring 2010 or early Summer 2010 at the latest. Construction on the new School of Education, on the old site of Sentara Hospital, began in September.

In a few weeks construction on the additions of the high bay and new lab for Small Hall will begin. According to Martin, these additions should be finished by Fall 2009. Once these are completed, renovation of the existing building will commence.

New projects, such as the Career Services Center, are on the horizon. Earlier this week, Manhattan real estate developer Sherman Cohen committed \$6 million to the new facility. Martin says that they are presently in the design phase for the project. The proposed location is between the Sadler Center and Zable Stadium.

Buildings set for completion

- Rogers Hall: Spring 2009
- Miller Hall: Fall 2009
- Small Hall Laboratory: Fall 2009
- School of Education: Spring/Summer 2010
- Career Services Center: Fall 2010
- Tucker Hall Renovation: Unknown

Amethyst Initiative: Former Middlebury president says drinking age should be states' decision

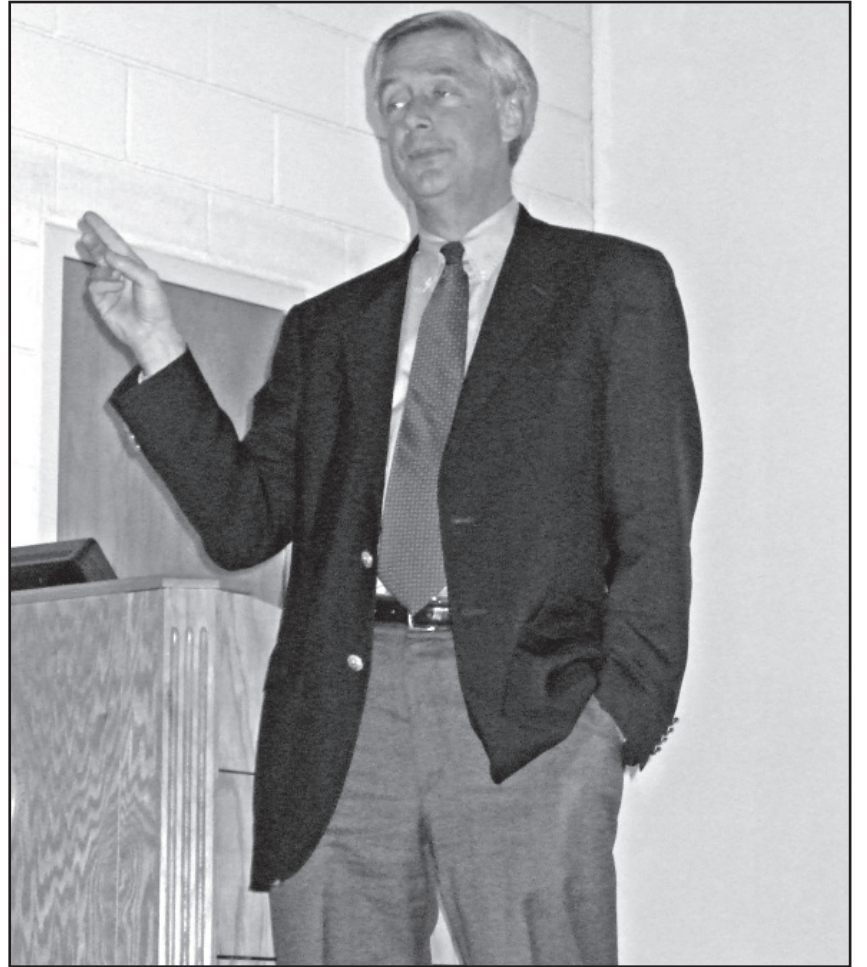
Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

On November 20th, John McCardell, the former President of Middlebury College, spoke about the absence of a national debate concerning the drinking age. His speech emphasized "the beauty of the federalist system," where states act as policy laboratories, testing different solutions before they advance to the federal government. Due to federal law, creativity concerning the drinking age has been stifled.

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984, the federal mandate that states have a drinking age of 21, stipulates that 10 percent of federal highway funds be withheld from states that do not increase their drinking age to 21. This has effectively quashed debate, and Dr. McCardell explained why he believed the requirement should be lifted.

Dr. McCardell drew heavily from the lessons of Prohibition in the United States during the 1920's. He described the social tendencies that were exhibited on a large scale during the "noble experiment" of prohibition, and noted that similar negative behaviors to have emerged in today's prohibition on 18-21 year old population. He emphasized that prohibition does not work today, as it did not in the 1920's, but simply pushes drinking out of the public eye. This has led to an increase in dangerous drinking behavior in the 18-21 year age group.

The largest achievement touted by proponents of the 21 year age limit since its enactment has been a reduction in alcohol related traffic fatalities. Dr. McCardell noted that every age group contributed to the decrease, which he said would imply a different determinant variable. Alternative contributors likely included safer cars, seat belt requirements, airbags in cars, zero tolerance laws and the idea of a "designated driver" said Dr. McCardell. He noted that the raised drinking age was a minor factor in



Alec McKinley

A round for the good doctor: Dr. McCardell, former president of Middlebury College, and other university presidents, believe that the debate over the drinking age should be reopened.

the decrease in fatalities.

Dr. McCardell's proposed that the federal constraint on highway funding be lifted when it comes up for renewal next year, so to allow for experimentation at the state level. He also shared a proposal by forth by his non-profit group Choose Responsibility, which recommends that states who chose to lower their ages institute a system of alcohol licensing for 18-21 year olds.

The process would work as driving license programs, and would include education, with the idea of meaningfully incorporating parents to encourage responsible behavior. A license would be granted after passing a course, and would be permanently revoked after a single instance of misuse. With this tentative step, Dr.

McCardell argued we could see the reversal of some of the negative trends of the last twenty years, including binge drinking. He also reiterated that if the current national law was lifted, there could be many approaches taken by the states.

Dr. McCardell described the organization he founded, Choose Responsibility, and the Amethyst Initiative, an open letter by many prominent college presidents. Choose Responsibility, he said, aims to lower the drinking age and should not be confused with the Amethyst Initiative. The latter advocates for a new debate on the policy. He concluded, "I will leave it to someone who occupies a higher moral ground to tell a returning soldier they lack the maturity to buy a beer."

Dean Gilbert open to increasing distribution of student rights packet

Bert Mueller
Assistant News Editor

Dean Gilbert has expressed a new willingness to increase awareness of an important student rights packet created by the Student Assembly.

As previously reported by *The Informer*, students and members of the Student Assembly were concerned that important student rights information was not being distributed by the Dean's office. This matter was brought to light when a student, who was not given the packet, received a harsh punishment when he decided to resolve his case informally.

Last spring, Senator Ben Brown ('11) contacted Dean Gilbert about creating an easy-to-use method for students to

understand the judicial process and the rights they have. The brunt of the work was completed over the summer and the final product was made available this fall. According to Dean Gilbert, this information is "available via the web", both in the "Student Conduct" section of the dean of students website and on the "Know Your Rights" tab of the myWM website. Dean Gilbert states this section was "created this summer to provide a prominent location for the Student handbook."

School policy is to make students aware of their rights in the Information Session of the conduct process. According to Mr. Brown, Dean Gilbert is also open to the idea of offering the packet "to students during informational conferences." Students have a choice of how to resolve their conduct cases. Referring to this information

before a meeting may be important.

Many students choose to have their cases resolved informally, on-the-spot, but this is not the only option. The packet has been made available to ensure that students know their rights and the flow process for student conduct proceedings.

Although there have been problems, it now appears that people are being made more aware of the existence of this student rights packet. Senator Brown says, "Dean Gilbert seems very open to increasing awareness of the packet's existence."

The packet is available online and in hard copy at the Dean of Student's office. "The most important thing is... [for] students to read the Handbook and the information on the website so that they understand the behavioral expectations of the college and can make wise decisions regarding their conduct", says Dean Gilbert. He confirmed to Sen. Brown that he would begin offering student rights packets to all students before meeting in his office.

Dean Gilbert seems very open to increasing awareness of the packet's existence.

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

SA-sponsored speaker claims professional licensing puts minorities under medieval-esque 'new guild' system

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

On November 18, students gathered in Blair 229 to hear attorney Valerie Bayham deliver a lecture entitled "From Hairbraiding Raids to the Flower Police: the Fight for Economic Liberty." This talk was the second in a lecture series entitled "Civil Liberties and Minority Communities" sponsored by the Student Assembly Department of Student Rights. This event was put on in co-sponsorship with the William and Mary NAACP Chapter.

Valerie Bayham is a staff lawyer with the Institute for Justice (IJ), a libertarian public interest law firm which litigates and advocates for economic liberty, property rights and free speech. Although this lecture was billed as pertaining specifically to minority rights, IJ argues cases involving individuals across racial and ethnic lines.

During her PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Bayham projected photos of the different individuals involved in IJ cases. "Tonight I am going to tell you the stories of the folks that we have represented over the years" said Ms. Bayham. (see note 1)

The first case discussed involved Talib-Din Uqdah and Pamela Farrel, a husband and wife team from Washington D.C. who were threatened with jail time for opening their hair braiding business. Ms. Farrel flunked her first attempt at gaining a cosmetology license and was told to retake the test on a white person instead of cutting the natural hair of an African American. "What they teach you in cosmetology school is that you have to straighten black hair



Alec McKinley

Smooth de-regulator: In a lecture regarding economic liberties, Attorney Valerie Bayham said that professional licensing regulation is not a cure-all and has its costs.

in order to actually cut it," said Ms. Bayham. Ms. Farrel decided to begin serving natural hair clientele without first passing the cosmetology exam, which caused trouble with the D.C. government.

"In most states to braid hair, you have to go to school for 1,500 hours and can cost anywhere between \$5,000 to \$15,000, all to simply braid hair which most of these ladies have been doing for years... It's one of the biggest underground industries there is," noted Ms. Bayham.

In addressing why states implement such regulations, Ms. Bayham asserted that "Far too often the government acts to protect the established business interests rather than the public. It's what we call cartels... This isn't just something that happens to

the hair braiders, though — this happens all over."

Transportation entrepreneurs, specifically taxi drivers, repair workers, casket salesmen, independent florists and interior designers were all mentioned for having cases involving excessive regulations in market entry. "In order to get in the business, it requires getting everyone else's permission to do so. This is like saying that Chick-fil-A has to get McDonalds in order to open up," said Ms. Bayham.

One of the more interesting cases Ms. Bayham highlighted involved Baptist minister Nathaniel Craigmile of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Rev. Craigmile decided to sell caskets after the burial of his mother, hoping to provide his parishioners with the opportunity to buy caskets without paying the funeral home mark up price. This caused Chattanooga funeral directors to try and shut down Rev. Craigmile's business. In

Tennessee and ten other states, it is illegal to sell caskets unless you are a licensed funeral director. This licensing process requires two years of school all to "sell a wooden box," as Ms. Bayham described it.

According to Forbes Magazine, over 20% of professions now require licensing, compared to 4% in the 1950's. "Just like the guilds of the middle ages, the new guild system is there to keep folks out of business" said Ms. Bayham. Price increases and job reductions were noted as the main effect of professional licensing.

"The sad fact is that the laws are so bad in this area that there is no way that we are going to get the courts to totally turn around because both the Republicans and the Democrats say 'Economic liberty? We don't want to touch this.' And this has a real cost to real people," said Ms. Bayham.

In concluding, Ms. Bayham tried to impress a parting message to attending students: "When you hear in the political discourse across the country about the horrible deregulation that is occurring in the financial industry and that anything and everything needs to be regulated, I want you to stop and be a little skeptical. I am not saying that there should be no regulations, what I am saying is that there are costs to these regulations and you need to pay attention to who's advocating for them... Are there being ways to achieve the end then through regulations?"

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7:30pm
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City Councilman Paul Freiling ('83) shares his thoughts on the College and students

Michael Watson
Assistant Opinion Editor

Williamsburg City Councilman and William and Mary graduate Paul Freiling recently sat down with *The Informer* to discuss student life, the three-person rule, public transportation, and a wide array of current city issues.

The Virginia Informer: How has the off-campus party atmosphere changed since you graduated?

Paul Freiling: Off campus parties didn't exist. Except for a few guys and I watching a new TV channel called "MTV"

at a house we had on Lafayette Street and people going to the Green Leaf, there really wasn't an off-campus party scene. People partied at the Units and Sorority Court, and there were also hall parties people went to at their dorms.

VAI: That was before the legal drinking age went up to 21?

Freiling: I came here from '79-'83, so it was 18 to drink beer and 21 to drink wine and liquor. The last couple of years I was here they started grandfathering in the 21-year age, but even in first few years after legal age 21 parties still took place on campus more often than not.

VAI: So, in your view, has the impact of off-campus parties on residents increased over the past 20 years?

Freiling: Yes, it has increased. It's also increased even more in the past 5 years.

VAI: At the November 13 Council Meeting, several comments were made by Councilman Clyde Haulman that many students perceived to be an unfair characterization. Do you feel that students are sometimes too disruptive and, if so, what can be done to change this so they may retain their full rights in Williamsburg?

Freiling: Look, any group of people as large as the student body of William and Mary is going to have a few people that will reflect unfavorably on the larger group, so yes, *some* students are too disruptive. I mean, it's sad to be driving around on a Saturday or Sunday morning



File Photo

FREILING

and see red SOLO cups on people's lawns because they didn't pick them up. As for changing this situation, that's a goal, but we need to have conversation to find out what we can do. Neither side is more at fault than the other; there are residents who will settle only for the status quo and students who will find any reforms short of "no limits" [on the three-person housing rule] insufficient.

VAI: This past September, you came to campus at an event sponsored by Students for a Better Williamsburg. There you addressed changes to the three-person housing rule and it appeared that you alluded to an amendment which would alter the ordinance to a four-person rule. Why should students accept this proposal, as many argue that restricting four renters will be as adverse as restricting three non-related renters in a house?

Freiling: That would vary based on the situation of individual properties. If a property is available and an additional student can be a resident, the renters under a four-person rule would have greater flexibility in deciding where to live, greater lease availability, and rent flexibility. This doesn't mean that the total rent for a house in which three people live will not go up at all, but there is a potential financial benefit to students from this proposal. It's not only students—other renters can benefit from these flexibilities that allow four unrelated people to live in the same house. Most

importantly, progress will not be made by reform of the three-person rule alone. I think the College and the City should look at privately operated student housing units in the areas near campus, like the site on Trayburn Drive by High St, for instance.

VAI: In what ways could the present college administration improve to bring about change on this issue?

Freiling: I'm not privy to those conversations; they are between Mayor Zeidler and President Reveley. In my personal opinion, I would like to see some way to resolve issues between the school, the city, and neighborhoods that are more open. For what it's worth, the previous College administration was dead-set

against privately-owned student housing, but I don't know the opinion of the present administration. You would have to ask them.

VAI: During your recent visit to campus, you also discussed the College's contract negotiation with the Williamsburg

Area Transportation (WAT). How could further reform in public transportation come about and what might be its effect in accessibility for students?

Freiling: In any organization such as WAT, there is always room for improvement, but things cost money. Financial resources are a limiting factor, and it's the College that sets the College's contribution to WAT. Some changes have already been made, like the adjustment of the Green/Gold line to serve Old Campus later in the evening and WAT Sunday service, and the plan for the

trolley to New Town from Merchants' Square is still going forward, as long as the money is there. Students will benefit from those changes.

VAI: How will the acquisition of Budweiser by InBev affect the economy of Williamsburg, which greatly benefits from Busch Gardens as well as the company's large brewing facility in close proximity to the College?

Freiling: The brewery itself is in James City County, and as far as I know, InBev plans to continue operating it, but I can't know the future. More concerning is the reputation of InBev for ruthless cost-cutting, and that may cost a few jobs from the brewery, which means that they will sell Busch Entertainment (who owns

Busch Gardens and Water Country USA). There isn't an entity out there that is as efficient at running those properties as Busch Entertainment. For students, if fewer people come to Williamsburg, your off-campus options will suffer, but as far as I have heard, you aren't satisfied with

them as they are.

VAI: On a lighter note, was there a Wawa equivalent when you attended WM?

Freiling: There was the Tiny Giant, but it wasn't a place people went to as a destination, like they sometimes do with Wawa. Everything was more internally focused: There was the Pub and the Wigwam at the Campus Center. The Wigwam was a dining hall, but the Pub, which is now Trinkle Hall, was a nightclub, and the major source of non-Greek social life.

Neither side is more at fault than the other; there are residents who will settle only for the status quo and students who will find any reforms short of "no limits" [on the three-person housing rule] insufficient.

Men's Division One golf team leads with competition and brotherly camaraderie

Bert Mueller and Kirk Vernegaard
Assistant News Editor and Staff Writer

From the fields of Scotland to the lush courses of Williamsburg, the sport of 15th century shepherds has found a home at William and Mary: William and Mary Varsity Golf.

There are eight members on the men's team. Although the William and Mary Men's Golf Team is very group oriented, each member recognizes that every team member must earn his own entry to tournaments. The relatively few number of players in golf tournaments ensures that, unlike in other sports, nearly everyone knows each other. "Everyone who gets recruited knows each other [from past tournaments]," stated Conor O'Brien '10. It may be a close-knit atmosphere, but the stakes at tournaments are high; many of these players compete for their professional futures. This season, team standouts and co-captains, Doug Hurson '09 and Brent Paladino '09, each won separate tournaments. Hurson won the Georgetown Intercollegiate and Paladino won the Raines Development Group Intercollegiate. They both plan to go pro at the end of this year.

The fact that 6 of 8 Men's Golf Team members are in fraternities demonstrates that these men are not only committed to their sport but also to one another. This spirit has carried over to the team. According to team member Conor O'Brien, "The camaraderie of the team [is what most impresses him]." However, as of this year, freshman members of the team may not join fraternities.

O'Brien added that there is a "great level of seriousness on the team, but, at the same time, everyone is relaxed." Having spent 6 weekends away from the college this year already, the team is on the road together frequently. Food choices on trips range from Arby's to \$25-a-person gourmet dining extravaganzas. Team character is built on these trips. This character and camaraderie have attracted contenders to the team.

But this Division I team isn't just eating food for thought; they also project 100% athleticism on the course. Dueling such golf behemoths as UNC, Ohio State and Georgia State, the team recognizes that although the team is a small one, they make up for size with "overall talent." They work out twice per week — minimum. Their past work ethic has earned the esteemed sponsorship of Izod, Echo Shoes and Titleist. The current head coach, Jay Albaugh, also known as "director of golf," pushes the team hard. According to his biography provided by Tribe Athletics, he seeks to lead the team "to heights unparalleled in the history of the program."

Every athlete is fearful of getting injured and golfers are no exception. In golf, the most onerous are wrist and back injuries. With the help of the team's coaches and trainers, the team hopes to improve on its "consistency" and continue to capitalize on this semester's successes. There are five tournaments this spring that the team must prepare for. But even if the results of these tournaments do not meet team expectations, the friendship and camaraderie of the team will continue on.



Tribe Athletics

Band of brothers: The Men's Golf Team not only boasts a competitive drive but also a fraternal bond that many sports teams do not share.

Master Craftsmen owner Holly Shields reveals secrets to successful business, good relationship with College

Jennifer Souers
Business Editor

Master Craftsmen has been a fixture in the Williamsburg area for over 20 years, specializing in fine silver and pewter jewelry. In a personal interview with *The Virginia Informer*, entrepreneur and owner Holly Shields discussed her business with us, as well as lessons she's learned.

Master Craftsmen was founded in 1981 in Williamsburg by Ms. Shields and her husband. After completing his training as an apprentice silver smith through the Colonial Williamsburg program, Ms. Shields' husband started his own shop, thus becoming a "Master Craftsmen." Ms. Shields explained that "technically he was a journeyman – they don't call you a 'master' until you leave and open your own shop." Originally intending the store to be a wholesale pewter shop, Ms. Shields and her husband struggled along for a while till they decided to go into business for themselves and redesigned the store and its purpose. In 1982, they opened a store where "the idea was to get products that different master craftsmen made in Colonial Williamsburg. They would make it on the side and we would put it in our shop; baskets from the basket maker, the blacksmith had fireplace tools, and the weaver had shawls and things like that. My husband made the silver bracelets, and we had a spinner who spun the pewter and that ended up doing so much better than the other products from the other craftsmen." Since then, Master Craftsmen has specialized in silver and pewter jewelry, and other silver and pewter products.

Master Craftsmen is known especially for its classic silver cuff bracelets. One of



Jennifer Souers

All that glitters: Ms. Shields, the current owner and operator of Master Craftsmen, stands in front of some of her finest pewter jewelry.

the most interesting parts of the Ms. Shields' business—and what makes these bracelets unique—is that they are based on classic Colonial-era designs. Ms. Shields describes the colonial tradition she bases her process on as "[Colonial Silversmiths] would take scraps of silver and just make them into the cuff bracelets and use thin silver wires, [used] to put trims on bowls and things. They would just take that and turn them into the bracelets. A lot of the designs are just old classic designs and then there are so many different kinds of wires you can get – beaded wires, or patterned wires, round wires, half-round wires – and then a lot of it's just twisting them up and

making different style bracelets." Perhaps most impressively, Ms. Shields orders wires and silver from all over the United States, but insists that her materials be from either local or U.S. artisans. "We're very pro-everything made in the United States, preferably Virginia," Ms. Shields commented.

Ms. Shields has had the store on her own since 1988. In addition to the traditional silver and pewter products she carries, she also has incorporated jewelry and other items from local artisans in the Virginia and North Carolina region.

A large part of Ms. Shields' business comes from the College. She is licensed by the College to engrave or apply the William and Mary seal on her products. A lot of her sales are from the many sororities who purchase their jewelry from her and different departments in the College that order engraved awards from her. Though she's not sure of how exactly the practice of ordering awards from her started, she describes her products as being very "award-friendly." Ms. Shields' recently moved her business physically closer to the College, upon which she said "I just knew I had to be near the College, since that's a large part of our business."

Ms. Shields' described her relations with the City of Williamsburg as being very positive. She described the City as being "supportive" and said that they work with her on keeping her business in the City. She was given a Business Appreciation award for 2008 by the City.

The state of the economy has touched Ms. Shields and her business as well, though she describes herself as "lucky." She says "I

feel like being in Williamsburg we're kind of lucky; we're feeling it, but it would be a whole lot worse if I were in Michigan or somewhere. But I can tell [business] has slowed down and I'm just hoping that, just being real careful ordering, that it will be all right. It'll be interesting to see how Christmas goes, but so far, I can't complain. I'm pretty much on par with last year... I've cut back on employee schedules and things like that."

Ms. Shields, who says she's learned a lot from her experiences, provided some good advice for anyone wanting to start their own business. She said "Just be positive and if it's something you really want to do, just keep at it. It's a lot of hard work; it's a lot of, just faith almost, just hoping it'll work out. But I feel like I've just been really lucky, because it's almost like I've found a niche. There's got to be a market for what you're selling, and that's where I really do feel like the College helps me a lot. The College is a big part of my customer base. You just got to look into all avenues too. I have a website, and that's been a real plus at this day and time. I do sell on my website, but I'm lucky because I have a product that's real easy to ship."

Ms. Shields described the satisfaction she receives from her business and seeing people enjoy her products. She recounted a time when she was entering an elevator in Washington, D.C. and a girl was wearing a bracelet made at Master Craftsmen. She remembered another time "down at Virginia Beach, I was walking down the beach and there's a man that always has his little bar set up on the beach. These people were talking and there was this girl, and she had on all these Master Craftsmen bracelets. You know it just makes you feel really good to make something that is all over like that, and [people] are like 'You made that?!' Yeah it's me, I'm the Master Craftsmen. I do like that."

Drink of the Week Hawaiian Crunk



Jeff Dailey

Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

Ingredients

- 4-6 oz Hawaiian Punch
- 4-6 oz Mach W Energy Drink
- 1.5 oz Malibu Pineapple Rum
- 1.5 oz Malibu Coconut Rum

Directions

Mix in a big glass with ice and satiate your aching head.

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

Yuletide brews spread holiday cheer

As the temperature drops, what better way to warm your body than some liquid Christmas spirit? While the Southern Comfort and eggnog combination is a holiday staple, beer drinkers may like a more bitter substitute. The following three beers are special winter collections, so make sure to taste them before the snow thaws.

Samuel Adams Chocolate Bock

Hot chocolate, chocolate chip cookies and chocolate candies are all mainstays of most holiday eating traditions. But chocolate beer? Is there even room for another addition? Boston beer magnate Sam Adams thinks so, but I remain indifferent. Costing 15 dollars for a single pint, this is a beer that caters to beer snobs with fat wallets and adventurous taste buds. The "centuries old brewing process," which ages the bock over a bed of dark cocoa nibs, and the bock's dark black appearance led me to believe that this would be a seriously heavy beer. However, after taking a sip, I was surprised by its relatively light, refreshing taste. Moreover, the chocolate flavor is imperceptible. In fact, if I didn't know it was a chocolate beer I would have pinned it as a diluted Guinness



Jon San
Managing Editor

knock-off. While light beer regulars may find Sam Adams Chocolate Bock to be a welcome Yuletide addition, Cocaophiles and those craving heavier beers should look elsewhere. **2.5/5**

Goose Island Christmas Ale

I sampled this Chi-town favorite with the perfect dinner complement – Chicago style deep dish pizza. Goose Island's Christmas Ale collection is definitely intended for Yuletide celebration with its cornucopia of spices and flavorings. In fact, the bottle declares that the "flavor will develop over five years." However, post-taste bud orgy, one is left with a slightly bitter, but tolerable, aftertaste. Highly drinkable and oozing with flavor,

Goose Island is bottled Christmas spirit that will have you bellowing carols and looking for the mistletoe in no time. **4/5**

Full Moon Winter Ale

"Chestnuts roasting over an open fire" is an oft-heard Christmas carol during this time of year. Appropriately, it's also a common flavoring for winter ales – and Full Moon is no exception. As the holiday extension of the popular Blue Moon brand, Full Moon is much darker



Jon San

Pre-game Santa the right way: The holiday season is the only time of the year when America casts off its penchant for light diluted beers in exchange for dark and heavy ales.

and heavier – and obligation for any winter brew. However, unlike the spicy Goose Island, Full Moon is fairly run-of-the-mill. It tastes good and has the ubiquitous bitter aftertaste if dark beers but fails to stand out from the crowd. **3/5**

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

From Iraq to Jordan to Colonial Williamsburg

College student reveals early life in war-torn Iraq

Phillip Mariscal
Staff Writer

For my Spanish Class, Sezan Al-Sultan '12 developed the segment of our presentation dealing with tropicalization, or imbuing ethnic groups with certain, often stereotypical, traits. The class deals heavily with cultural perceptions, often developed from what we hear and see in mass media. However, Ms. Al-Sultan's mind is a clean slate when it comes to American political and cultural perceptions, asking questions in class such as, "Is communism really bad?" While many in the class chuckle at her question, Ms. Al-Sultan's unique background gives her freedom to think critically and independently. At the age of eighteen, Sezan is a William and Mary freshman and an Iraqi refugee.



Sezan Al-Sultan
AL-SULTAN

On March 20, 2003, the United States-led coalition invaded Iraq. Being accustomed to the sights and sounds of falling bombs during Operations Desert Strike (1996) and Desert Fox (1998), Ms. Al-Sultan's family wasn't going to stick around for a third round of attacks that would permanently change the cultural and political landscape of the country she loves. After the United Nations Security Council embargo made air travel impossible, the Al-Sultans drove from Baghdad to Jordan and eventually moved to the U.S. where her brother attended George Washington University.

Contrary to mainstream stereotypes of Middle Eastern refugees, Ms. Al-Sultan speaks perfect English, sports the common College wardrobe of sweatpants and a hoodie, and recently performed in the Syndicate performance, the William and Mary hip-hop dance troupe. One experiences surrealism as she speaks of war and bombs, death and corruption, without physically or mentally expressing the anguish of her past burdens. Though she has adapted to the College and certain aspects of American culture, Sezan still finds herself put-off by American technological distractions. "There was no Internet [in Iraq]. My God, we obviously didn't have cell phones," Sezan said. The lack of electronic communication was due to the Security Council embargo, but also as Sezan sated, "[Saddam Hussein] didn't want us to see what we didn't have."

Sezan misses Iraq, where cultural tradition rules and her memories are happy

ones. Even her memories of the violence exhibit a fondness for her past. Nights when bombs fell, Sezan and her family huddled in her parent's room, windows taped against potential shattering. Sibling rivalry sometimes emerged during the worst parts with herself and her sister fighting over the safest spot to sleep. When a bomb shook the home, Sezan's sister would jump up and down, jealous that Sezan could feel the blast. Ms. Al-Sultan, ever the caring sister, assured her that another bomb would fall. "We definitely laughed a lot. Just because of the way we lived. We were so used to it at that point. At that age, you think you're going to be safe because

you are with your parents." Sezan echoes the sentiments of older William and Mary staff and community members – the cell-phone-less, "unplugged" generation. Ms. Al-Sultan said, "I was happy just because, honestly, when I came here, you never realize how technologically absorbed everyone is." She misses never being able to simply "appreciate the presence of just another person,"

lamenting that "everyone is on their phone. I do it now too, all the time. I can't live without my phone, but over there, there was nothing to keep you sidetracked from really being with someone or being with family."

In Iraq, Ms. Al-Sultan's father owned an oil engineering company. Difficulties running the company from the U.S. prompted him to return to Jordan where he currently resides. Her mother is a housewife who, like many Iraqi women, does not work. This is not due to sexism, but because "[Wives] didn't need to work. The dads were making enough money to provide for the entire family. I sound like I am bragging, but life there was really easy." Ms. Al-Sultan's driver in Iraq lived comfortably with thirty dollars a month. "Living here is so

much more expensive. [In Iraq] we had a farm and we had land on the [Euphrates] River." An Iraqi government official moved into what was once the Al-Sultan's dream home, which they still own. These troubles are a continuation of life under a dictatorship. It was a time when the government took citizens' land when it felt it could better serve the

community – a definition whose rules were easy to bend. "We lost a lot of land when Saddam came in," said Ms. Al-Sultan. Her grandfather had owned the area they lived in and Saddam



Sezan al-Sultan
A more peaceful time: Ms. Al-Sultan and some of her international friends at an Iraqi park before the 2003 invasion.

started taking parts of it.

However, she saddens when thinking of Iraq's current situation. She wants to return one day, but her father

tells her to forget it, wanting her to remember Iraq as it was. Yet, she does not seem sure where to direct her frustration, believing that Saddam could have sacrificed his power had he cared about the welfare of his people. "The mass of people that are passing away now...there's a lot more than it was before. I am not for Saddam at all and I hate dictatorship, but I am kind of pissed off because he could have just left if he really did care about his country...it would have saved us so much trouble."

"I want to go back, but I know I'm not going to like it. It's going to turn into something that its not. It is not going to feel cultural enough for me. Personally I don't feel like the U.S. has an identity. It is a mixture and that makes sense, but at the same time, I don't feel like people can relate. I am very traditional and cultural and religious. I can't wear in the Middle East what I wear here. If I wore a sweatshirt and sweatpants in the Middle East, people would think I was

homeless. People dress up there. I feel like being in America isolates you from the rest of the world."

Ms. Al-Sultan, a Sunni, debunks the image that Iraqis of differing denominations lived in religious animosity prior to the invasion, noting that Shiite and Sunni divisions were not evident. "I don't watch the news. I don't know what images you guys see. Obviously you are going to hear about extreme cases. That is what people want to hear and see. The people I grew up around were very accepting. I had a bunch of Shiite friends. I didn't even ask."

She also happily reminisces about the sense of community after Ramadan feasts, when more fortunate people would bring sugar and flour to poorer neighborhoods. "I still send clothes back to Iraq," she proudly added.

Ms. Al-Sultan tries to maintain ties with her old way of life and traditional culture while living in a very different part of the world. She still tries to pray five times a day, gets confused about which way to turn her prayer rug, and dreams of performing the *hajj*, or pilgrimage to Mecca one day.

On the plight of Iraqi refugees, Ms. Al-Sultan laments the exodus of so many Iraqis from the country they love. "Syria and Jordan are flooded with Iraqis right now." Pondering "the why" of Iraq, she has the same internal debate that many Americans do. However, Ms. Al-Sultan's feelings are curiously devoid of politics, but instead are simply human: she misses her homeland, and struggles – as do so many other refugees – with the challenge of reconciling traditional culture with life in modern America.

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ARTS & CULTURE

William and Mary Theater's production of *The Seagull* is restrained and exquisite

R. C. Rasmus
Copy Editor

William and Mary's Main Stage production of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* on November 20-23 represents a true theatrical success. The work itself, a spare realist tragedy set in late nineteenth-century Russia, was a dangerous choice for the company, but the excellent direction of Professor Richard Palmer and the tasteful performances of the play's thirteen cast members kept the audience positively riveted throughout.

The plot concerns a group of Muscovite intellectuals who travel out to a country estate in order to enjoy a bit of time away from the city. While there, the company mixes with the local population, sparking romance, jealousy, and disaster. Love triangles blossom one after another, mother turns against son, father against daughter, and the play concludes with a heartbreaking twist that leaves one shocked and aching.

Dark though Chekhov's story may be, however, the men and women who play it out onstage are nothing short of brilliant. Tommy Gillespie ('09) shines as the kindly, middle-aged doctor, Yevgeny Dorn. The actor is comfortable and enormously physical onstage, always reaching to clutch a shoulder or brush away a tear from a fellow actor's eye, and the aged rasp that he throws into his voice makes one forget that under his makeup stands a man of just twenty-one years. The same can be said of Gillespie's compatriot, Keegan Cassidy ('10), who plays the role of the elderly Peter Sorin. While Cassidy's acting is somewhat more stilted and not nearly so fluid as Gillespie's, he too performs admirably as a crotchety old-timer who attempts to keep up his spirits as he draws



Courtesy of Richard Palmer

This "Seagull" soars: *The Seagull* is a play that involves love triangles, familial conflict and excellent acting from the student cast.

nearer and nearer to death. The primary set of star-crossed lovers, Sean Close ('10), Beth

characters trade barbs during the Second Act stands out as one of the most touching and powerful moments in all of the production.

Yet another stand-out performance is given by Hatty Preston ('10), the actress cast as Masha. Preston takes a character that could very easily have made into a burlesque and imbues her with a degree of dignity that makes her at once comical and believable. Never once does the actress oversell her sarcastic lines or make a mockery of her character's sorrow; whether taking snuff or drowning herself in drink, Preston makes Masha a woman to be genuinely felt for and pitied.

The actors who portray *The Seagull's* set of star-crossed lovers, Sean Close ('10), Beth

Fagan ('11), and Chad Murla ('10), should all be proud of their work as well. Each is able to save his or her role from tipping over into the realms of melodrama (no easy task in a play that has characters running about the stage shouting things like "I am the seagull!"), and each delivers a series of difficult monologues with a degree of depth and feeling that serves to freshen the sentiment behind Chekhov's words and make them relevant to a contemporary audience. Perhaps even more admirable, however, are the scenes that these three play out in silence. Close's final, pantomimed fit of rage in the play's penultimate scene, for instance, is an out-and-out triumph.

While *The Seagull* may not be the most cheerful or rollicking production to grace the College's Main Stage this year, it is certainly the most finely acted and directed. Those who attended were able to witness firsthand an example of truly classy and professional showmanship on campus.

Syndicate's lesson doesn't quite make the grade

Rachel Smith
Assistant Arts and Culture Editor

On Friday, November 21st students lined up outside of the Sadler Center Commonwealth Auditorium to get good

seats for this semester's Syndicate show, The Synner Academy Presents: Swag 101. Created in 2004, William and Mary's Syndicate is a highly selective dance group that fuses genres such as hip-hop, jazz, and funk to create unique dance medleys. The dance group is

also focused on helping the community. The profits from this year's show will go toward a scholarship for Dance Place, a dance studio in Washington, D.C. The scholarship will fulfill an underprivileged child's dream by allowing him or her to attend dance classes.

At 6:30 P.M., as students filed into the Commonwealth Auditorium, hosts gave them their 'Course Catalog' for the evening, featuring 'classes' such as MUSC 101: Intro to Band, FUNK 404: The Funk Phenomenon, and SHKE 304: Shake-anomics. The Synner Academy Presents: Swag 101 was designed to be an educational performance about swag. Swag is the unique way someone carries himself that is defined by his confidence and style.

The most swag-worthy performance, URBN 202: Urban Legends, featured William and Mary's Bboy break dancing club. Members of Bboy did air chairs, a move that requires them to elevate their entire body using only their arm, among other moves, eliciting applause and shouts from the audience. The loudest applause of the night erupted when the tallest Bboy did a hand stand and used his arms to skid across stage on his head. After traveling a few feet, he let

his legs drop and ended his performance on his back. It was the most impressive move of the night.

Overall, despite pre-show hype, the Syndicate failed to provide a lesson in swag worthy of an A-plus. Individual performers such as Ben Yoo ('11) and Carolyn Kovacs ('09) held the spot light and outshined other performers with their energy and confidence. However, their stellar performances did not make up for the lack of enthusiasm among other members, who failed to get the crowd going. The majority of performers were out of step and went through their routines mechanically. Perhaps the stress of end of semester exams and papers had dampened their moods.

Compared to other dance performances at the College, such as last year's Born 2 Bhangra and this semester's Expressions show, the Syndicate is simply no match. Other College dance groups always meet the crowds' expectations with their lively music and festive dances that excite and entertain. Hopefully, the Syndicates next show will be much more polished and vibrant, so as to live up to the hype. They are scheduled to hit the stage again next semester on April 3rd.



Carolyn Kovacs

Step Up 3 - Colonial Edition: The Syndicate, the WM hip-hop and break-dance group, gave a lesson in "swag" on November 21st, featuring an array of different dance styles.

The Drillmaster of Valley Forge makes history compelling

Alex Powell
Staff Writer

The Drillmaster of Valley Forge: The Baron De Steuben and the Making of the American Army by Paul Lockhart is about an interesting and often overlooked revolutionary figure. Surprisingly, this is apparently the first "real" biography on the Baron, whose full name was Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben. However, Paul Lockhart does justice to the man who helped craft the Continental Army into a force that beat the greatest Empire in the world at that time, Great Britain.

The book itself is very accessible; the reader doesn't need an intricate knowledge of revolutionary history for the reading experience to be intellectually stimulating. If you have a good grasp of the history the book will still give the reader better insight into the American Revolution.

Lockhart's writing is quite engaging, and I must confess that many a night I told myself, "Just a few more pages," until I looked at the clock and realized it was 3:00 am. *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge* is a real page turner, delivering not just a good historical account of an important figure, but a darn compelling story too. Lockhart can count his name in the list of enjoyable historical writers like David McCullough, Joseph Ellis, and Jay Winik.

An especially admirable quality of the book is that it is not overly long, nor does it deal with the less compelling material of the Baron's life. Only the first chapter goes into von Steuben's youth, with the vast majority of the book covering the period of September 1777 to December 1783, during the Revolutionary War. Lockhart uses most of the book to go into great detail about the Revolution, and provides even the most informed readers with information that they in all likelihood did not know

beforehand. *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge* is not an opus magnum like Ron Chernow's leviathan on Alexander Hamilton. Although that might disappoint some rabid founding fathers' fans, I suspect most readers will applaud the book's brevity.

I wholeheartedly recommend *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge* to anyone who is at all interested in the American Revolution or military history in general. I even recommend the book to people who are not history buffs, since most people will probably find the book an enjoyable and short read at only 302 pages.

Here at William and Mary, the Revolution is right outside of our window, re-enacted twice a day, so a better understand of this period and our shared American history is always a good thing, especially with our historical atmosphere.

The Finer Side:

Letter-writing 101: the perfect thank-you note

The presents are opened, the food is eaten, the eggnog is finished, and the relatives are finally leaving. It's that time of year—after Christmas. You have a pile of presents from all the relatives, and still a few weeks left before the dreaded first day of the Spring Semester. So what's next? Thank you notes!



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

Thank you notes are quickly becoming a dying art. And that only makes them more important. As long as I can remember, my mother would sit me down and make me write my thank you notes after every Christmas and birthday. But why, in this era of instant emails, is a hand-written note sent by regular mail a practice we should still embrace? It is exactly because we live in a time where instant communication is so common that we should take the time to indulge in the ancient art of letter writing. Sitting down and taking the time to put pen to paper shows the person who gave you the gift that you care. It shows you not only appreciate the gift that they gave you, but that you value the time it took to get it for you, and that you care about the person himself. Writing a thank you note is much more than a simple "thanks for the gift!" It is a letter to the gift-giver, thanking them for their time and their thought. You are thanking them for being them. You are returning their care and love.

There is, of course, a right way to write a thank you note. DO make it long – take the time to express your gratitude. Make sure to include things like why you liked the gift and how you will use it. For money and gift cards, include what you will spend the money on. Telling the person how you used their gift makes them feel like the gift they gave was appreciated. DON'T say you returned it (even if you did). If it's something you do end up returning (either because you already had it or absolutely hated it) then talk about how much you appreciated the thought and time they put into getting the gift for you. DO hand-write your notes on nice stationery. DON'T dash off a simple email. Everyone sends off quick emails. Sitting down to hand-write a note shows that you took some of your own time to think of them and thank them for their time.

You don't have to send a thank you note for a Christmas card, but for any other gift, make sure you send one off! If you still are unsure about whether or not you want to send thank you notes, here's a selfish motivation: people are more likely to send more gifts to people they know appreciate their time and efforts!

Questions or comments for Jennifer? Email her at business@rainformer.com!

Little Joy surprises listeners with its creativity and atmosphere

Jack Evans
Music Critic

I remember a lot of kids at my high school who loved the Strokes. I was not one of them. Three other greasy-haired mopesters and I used to rant endlessly about those five prep-school kids who sounded exactly like our favorite 70s proto-punk bands except cleaned up and repackaged for popular consumption. But I've mellowed out a bit since then. The Stooges' *Raw Power* album is no longer the center of my universe, and I have realized since then that the first Strokes album is actually kind of good. So this year, when the Strokes' drummer Fabrizio Moretti released *Little Joy*, the self-titled debut of his new side project, I was more than willing to give it a casual listen.

I'm really glad I did because *Little Joy* surprised the hell out of me. Sure, it's the indie rock meets global rhythms thing that is so "in" right now, but above all else, it's a low-key and unassuming set of eleven consistently good songs that is well worth the time it takes to download. In this day and age, that is a rare thing.

Lead vocal duties are shared Rodrigo Amarante and Binki Shapiro. Amarante comes off like a more magnanimous (or at least more drunk) Julian Casablancas. Listen to the way he croons, "It's how it's always been," over a rigid backbeat on the opener "The Next Time Around," and you will see what

I mean. Shapiro, Moretti's girlfriend, is the female foil. Channeling the Velvet Underground's Moe Tucker (think "After Hours"), she pouts all over her two tracks, "Unattainable" and "Don't Watch Me Dancing." But while Tucker fully embodied that whole lonely-girl-who-can't-find-a-date-to-prom persona, Shapiro is more like an ultra-chic, model-thin approximation of it. Not necessarily a bad thing, but I know it would have enraged my high school self. However, beneath that rage would have been a twinge of jealousy. You see, Amarante, Shapiro, and Moretti are just three beautiful people without a care in the world who recorded some songs in Devendra Banhart's studio in between hangovers. It's so effortless for them.

Still, I don't want to undermine all the creativity and craftsmanship that obviously went into *Little Joy*. This album has atmosphere to spare. "Play the Part" features backing vocals from what sounds like the Peanuts Gang. "With Strangers" is a minor key ballad that wouldn't sound out of place on a Tom Waits album. "How to Hang a Warhol" is Amarante singing some cheeky lyrics over a strutting Nancy Sinatra drum beat. Finally, in a parallel universe, "Evaporate" sounds like part of a sound track for a soft-core porno directed by Wes Anderson.

Basically, I could go on for a while about all the cool little things happening in *Little Joy*. I highly recommend it.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Movies

A Girl Cut in Two

Tues., Dec. 2—Mon., Dec. 8

Shows at 6:45 and 9 p.m.

Dec. 2, 4-8 screening room (35 seats)

I Served the King of England (R)

Tues., Dec. 9—Wed., Dec. 17

Shows at 7 and 9:15 p.m.

Dec. 9-13, 15-16 screening room (35 seats)

Towelhead (R)

Tues., Dec. 16—Tues., Dec. 23

Shows at 6:45 and 9 p.m.

Dec. 17-23 screening room (35 seats)

Moving Midway (Not rated)

Thurs., Dec. 25—Tues., Dec. 30

Shows at 6:45 and 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 25-28, 30 screening room (35 seats)

December Schedule

Live Performances

Virginia Premier 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 3 p.m.; Dec. 10, 17 at 5 p.m.

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

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

The Williamsburg Symphonia Presents: Williamsburg Symphonia Holiday Pops Concert

Sat., Dec. 6 at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets \$20

Sun., Dec. 7 at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets \$25

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Presents: An Evening of Storytelling with Bil Lepp

Sat., Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Adults \$15, Children 12 and under \$7.50

Brandon Wilson in Concert

Mon., Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.

All seats \$15

The Institute for Dance and the Williamsburg Ballet Theatre Presents: Christmas in Williamsburg: A Magical Night on Duke of Gloucester Street

Sat., Dec. 13 at 2 and 5:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

Adults \$20, Seniors and Children \$17

Celebrate the Season: Don Irwin in Concert

Sat., Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

All seats \$25

The Odd Couple By Neil Simon

Preview performance: Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.; all seats \$16

Dec. 21, 26, 28, 30 at 8 p.m.; all seats \$20



Sarah Deans

Staff Editorial:

Facility fee break down the beginning in transparency

When students and their parents access William and Mary's Financial Operations website, fees which are paid to the College as part of enrollment are now more clearly broken down. Prior to this important change made in late November, only the allocation of general fee was specified. Now, for the first time, the allocation of undergraduate students' facility fees has been fully clarified.

This recent action by the administration and Vice President Sam Jones is to be commended. We wish to applaud the greater move toward transparency in College finances, however the fact that this action was not taken earlier is still troublesome. Going forward, we believe it wise for administrators to treat student's funds as they would their own budgets: with frugality and the ability to determine

where money is going. Such accountability ensures a reduction in wasteful spending as well as instills a basic trust with the community that the College is behaving responsibly.

However, recent improvements in fiscal transparency with the facility fee on the Financial Operations website should not be an end. Students are still owed an explicit breakdown of fees on their e-bills, which has yet to occur.

In the future, it would also be wise for the administration to enhance transparency on other fronts, particularly on the status of William and Mary's endowment given the recent financial crisis. We believe that this is just a necessary first step for the College, as there are many other areas of the school's operations which could benefit from enhanced openness.

Staff Editorial:

Alumni voice, accountability critical for College's strategic plan

One of the first initiatives that Taylor Reveley announced upon assuming the presidency of the College in September was the creation of a strategic plan. This act was commendable, given that the College has been lacking in an overall direction for nearly 15 years. The need to create a definable plan for the College's future is absolutely necessary.

In an email sent out to the campus community on October 2nd, the formation of a Planning Steering Committee was announced to formulate a new comprehensive strategic plan. This committee, in combination with the BOV and College community, is to have a plan presentable to the Board by next April.

In observing the initial actions regarding the strategic plan thus far, it is positive to see so many different elements of the College integrated into the discussion. Not only have students and faculty been kept in the loop, but input has also been sought from family members and alumni. Input from the latter group is vitally important, and as the College prepares the final formation of a strategic plan, it must seriously consider the concerns and advice of alumni. As caring outsiders, often tested in the marketplace, alumni are prepared to offer advice on a plan to make the College more successful, and to change course on certain issues.

While we understand that the new strategic plan is early in its development, mere discussion of topics that must be addressed for the College's future is not

sufficient. Ambiguity at this early stage is to be expected, but at the end of the day the College must directly take on the issues which we are currently lacking or otherwise failing to address.

One goal that must be identified in the plan includes addressing the poor state of William and Mary's endowment. Prior to the recent financial turmoil, the College possessed an endowment value of roughly \$76,840 per enrolled student; the University of Virginia's stood at \$207,542 per enrolled student. Furthermore, tenable goals on enhanced fundraising must be outlined. It is one thing to ask alumni to give money to the College, but it is entirely another thing for the College to act and reach out to alumni in way that they want to give back. As such, we believe enhanced alumni relations should be a primary goal.

Ultimately, accountability will be essential in determining whether this plan just looks good on paper or its contents are actually being implemented. The inclusion of a five-year assessment of strategic goals, as has been proposed, is a step in the right direction. Prior to actual implementation, while still in the drafting phase, all elements of the college community, both on and off campus, should continue to be included in the discussion, even solicited for their opinions if necessary. We await the decision to actually include these differing of voices in the final proposal, with particular emphasis on the positive role that alumni can have on a successful future for the College.

SEAC's Eco-house not the right idea for lean times

These days there's no "change" quite like trying something tried before, and SEAC is following that trend with a petition for an "eco-house." It's not like the bold (persistent?) experiment has not failed before: an attempt to officially enshrine so-called sustainable living in Residence Life's panoply of interest houses was made several years ago. Putting aside the fact that the first "eco-house" was abandoned after less than three academic years, what, and at what cost, does the greater College stand to gain from this sort of living arrangement?

The eco-house's advocates claim that the example of students living in an environmentally aware fashion will convince other students to live similarly. But why would the house be a necessity for this to occur? Would not eco-conscious students living in a sustainable fashion as individuals be a sufficient example? Would not the alleged financial, health, and spiritual benefits seen in one's friends' lives convince one to mend one's capitalist mind and return to the green and vegan path? That these questions are answered in the negative suggests that claims of educational value are lacking. What effect will twenty people, almost all of whom I do not know, hosting a vegetarian potluck sponsored by a local co-op have on my habits? I suspect it would have the same non-effect as twenty bitter individuals grilling bratwurst before a football game would have on the vegetarians.

But more seriously, in these times of financial collapse, now is not the time to get nothing for something. As the College slashes its budget, freezes hiring new and better professors, and mulls raising tuition on its students, is yet another special interest expenditure really what is needed? The eco-house looks sure to take funds from the Green Fee and tuition, which would occur through the Environmental Science department. If our money is to be spent on special interest projects, there must be sufficient benefit to the entire campus. Necessary expenditures should be weighed to not only to cover the project's simple cost, but also its economic cost in terms of projects foregone. Conveniently, SEAC is coy about how much the project in its final form will cost, but even a few thousand

dollars could be better spent as merit pay for professors, bonuses for staff, or increases in library operating hours, all of which would do more to serve students than SEAC-approved lodgings. Although SEAC's claim that these days "environmental awareness" may draw the top-caliber student is not without merit, surely more top-caliber students would rather come to a school at which the library hours were not cut short by police shortages? Other more pressing needs may easily be found around the College. The eco-house plan has some merit in times of plenty, but with every dollar precious these days, single interest expenses cannot be afforded.



Mike Watson
Assistant Opinion Editor

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

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Don't get your tips from *Lips*

The Informer has long-documented the unfair treatment of *Lips*' staffers by the Publications Council. Last semester, when *Lips*' founder Annie Brown ('10) attempted to receive money from the Pub Council, she was denied under the auspices of the publication not having a "glossy" cover, as one administrator so aptly phrased his justification. It didn't take much to connect the fact that Mr. Mark Constantine, Assistant VP for Student Affairs, was leery of subsidizing *Lips*' content with College funds -- especially given the College's poor media representation over the past couple of years which resulted in decreased alumni support. That being said, I believe that support for fairness can be distinguished from content endorsement.

Several times, I have perused editions of "W&M's only zine FOR women BY women." Last spring, I was struck by the bold claim on the opening page: "brought to you by the women of William and Mary" since the majority of females on campus were not consulted for approval. Clearly, it is not possible to include everyone's voice in a discussion, but this claim was still rather bold.

The goal of the publication is to spark conversations about sex. The legitimacy of sexual advice from college students is questionable, however. A recent Newsweek article cited a study by the American College Health Association which asked undergraduates to estimate the number of sexual partners their peers had during the school-year. The students' average guess was three times higher than the number of actual encounters. This study also revealed that male student's sexual partners have actually dropped, from 2.1 in 2000 to 1.6 in 2006. And a 2001 study found that 39 percent of freshman college women were virgins, and 31 percent of those women still hadn't had sex by their senior year. Some might respond to these figures by saying, "All the more reason to have sexual discussions on campus!" But what valid or profitable knowledge do collegians actually have to impart?

The buzz around *Lips* is the promotion of a "sex positive" campus. In reality, what does this translate to mean? Clearly, not everyone with a story to tell is ignorant on the topics *Lips* tries to address. But it does seem like college students go out of their way to weigh in on things which they are not necessarily prepared to comment on. Interestingly, erotica magazines have been popping up at universities all over the country. However, I do not foresee the presence of a sex magazine at William and Mary fundamentally changing the current state of campus discourse, although this is a stated purpose of the publication. Some will recoil at the "zine's" content, while others will enthusiastically read it from cover to cover. Ultimately, though, it is better for students to be careful in selecting the narratives they choose to influence the way that they view these topics.



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

Want to change Williamsburg? Opportunities abound

When I spoke with Mayor Zeidler for the last issue of *The Informer*, I asked her how students could better give back to Williamsburg. One of her answers caught me off-guard: She suggested William and Mary students apply for positions on the city boards and commissions. Students? Really, Mayor Zeidler... we are sleep-deprived enough!

Flash forward to two weeks later.

Of all the issues the mayor spoke of, I could not stop thinking about her suggestion. Isn't the city supposed to work for us? Where would Williamsburg be without the students spending their (and their parents) hard-earned cash? So, shouldn't the mayor and the commissions cater to our Williamsburg interests?

It was only then that I began to see the error in my thinking. Having students serve on boards and commissions is an excellent idea. It would integrate the various factions of the city, educate and aid students and give the William and Mary constituency a true role in local government beyond the Student Assembly's assumed advocacy position.

First, definitions are important—and my definition of "our" Williamsburg could not have been more incorrect. There are not two cities of Williamsburg, one of students and one of permanent residents. There is only one Williamsburg. And this united Williamsburg, despite the conflict that may occur, is the place students choose to call home for four years. But it is comprised of more than just college kids. Our city government must appease all Williamsburg residents – a near impossible task. What does this mean for students? It means that some of the decisions the city makes may not be what we hoped for. Students should not take this as poor town and gown relations, but recognize that local government must cater to diverse interests. Business owners and permanent Williamsburg residents already serve on the boards and commissions; only with student representation can we make Williamsburg truly ours.

However, the principal reason students should

apply to join these commissions is that they are a tremendous opportunity. I am sure many of you can relate to mindless summer internships comprised of filing, answering phones and typing up briefs. Sure, we were getting "real world" experience. But was it real experience? I think not. Serving on a commission would not only look great on paper, but there are many other good reasons students should apply. For one, this is a chance for students to actually do something - to actually have your voice heard, and to actually make change that affects Williamsburg. This is an internship on steroids and a real opportunity to work for something you care about.

Additionally, I cannot think of a better way for students to learn and grow both academically and personally. Students on commissions would be local ambassadors encouraging pro-student policies, linking the College and City and forging beneficial relationships. Serving on a commission will also be rewarding in other ways. Although local government may not seem glamorous, being able to point to the specific changes you helped make would be rewarding. On the other



Sarah Nadler
Assistant Features Editor

hand, the changes you make will also serve as real life examples for future application processes. The beauty is that these positions are not an incredible commitment. The monthly meetings are less time-consuming compared to most campus leadership roles. The only difference is that serving on a commission is not like being president of mock trial or model UN... it's a real position with real power.

William and Mary students often complain about their feeling of powerlessness when it comes to life on and off campus. Change this. Apply. This is the students' time to shine. Let's not waste this golden opportunity to stand up for our rights and make changes. That is the beauty of Williamsburg. As the mayor said, "small is good." I can't think of any other college town of William and Mary's caliber that encourages students to hold government positions. We can do this. Students can possess the power to change policy and make history. All it requires is an application.

Westboro Baptist Church unwelcome in Hampton Roads

The most hated family in America has now made its way to the Hampton Roads area to protest the military. The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is a radical group from Topeka, Kansas, and is not associated with any mainstream Baptist Church. Its founder, Fred Phelps, and its members preach a hate theology aimed at gays, Catholics, Swedes, Americans, Muslims, Jews – essentially everyone except themselves. The WBC has roughly seventy members and most of them are related to Phelps by blood, marriage, or both. They are notorious for picketing the funerals of fallen soldiers and AIDS victims. It has been a long time coming, but now these sick individuals are bringing their cloud of filth and songs of 'God Hates the World' to close to home in Virginia.

No matter where one falls on the political spectrum, this group should undoubtedly be despised by every American. They claim that because you are an American, you are going to Hell, for a variety of theologically-twisted reasons. I had the opportunity to listen in, via speakerphone, to a conversation my friend had with Shirley Phelps-Roper, Fred Phelps' daughter and main spokesperson for the Church, during their picketing of a soldiers' funeral in Pittsburgh on Nov. 25. It is really disgusting what they preach. When Shirley was questioned about her beliefs, she answered,

"If your parents did not teach you about the hate your Lord our God has then it is not my problem." When questioned further about the hateful nature of her beliefs, she answered very loudly, "Are you accusing me of spreading hate to my children," to which my friend answered "Yes." After that, Shirley absentmindedly broke into a chorus of "God Hates the World".

At the Pittsburgh picketing, those present were Shirley, her older daughter Megan Phelps-Roper, and an unidentified young boy. Shirley confirmed that she would be going to all of the picketing stops in Virginia, including Yorktown on December 3. Ideally, I would have loved to see a large flock of students go there and show them how much they were not welcome.

While in Pittsburgh on Nov. 25, not only were they protesting the funeral of a fallen soldier, but they were also protesting the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, which they claim are spreading the wrath of God. It enrages me that they even had the audacity to come to the area surrounding the College, so I ask the community to stand together. Whether gay or straight, religious or atheist, American or otherwise, these people are enemies to society and they need to be shown just what we think of them. If you need more convincing just visit www.godhatestheworld.com to see outright indulgence in hate ideology.



Patrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

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