Campus order restored as BOV fields questions and protests dwindle

Board comes face to face with students, faculty and staff

Mr. Powell specifically was questioned on his use of the word “unanimous” to describe the nonrenewal decision, the board was questioned on its commitment to diversity and other such initiatives in general as well as the role the General Assembly played in influence the board’s decision on Mr. Nichol.

Mr. Powell and the other board members defended their positions and their overall handling of the situation, although Mr. Powell did offer an apology at all three meetings for any confusion or misinterpretation he felt that he had caused. He explained his use of the word “unanimous” to characterize the board’s decision in great detail.

In all the meetings, there were several common questions.

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Interim President Reveley outlines financial plan

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Staff Writer

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**Professorial Politics:**

The College’s professors donate primarily to Democratic candidates and causes

Bert Mueller
Staff Writer

Who are your professors donating to this presidential election? Most professors attempt to keep politics out of the classroom, but thanks to campaign finance reform, students can learn about which candidates their teachers support without asking any tough questions.

Although not many professors have contributed to presidential candidates this primary season, Professor Roland Rapoport and his wife, Patricia, were ranked as the 11th highest donors in the nation. Last year they donated the sum of $162,700 to Democratic causes, including a $2,300 donation, the federal maximum, to Senator Barack Obama. Professor Jayne Barnard also contributed $900 to Senator Obama’s campaign. American Studies Professor and Dean for Education Kimberly Phillips made a $250 contribution to Senator Hillary Clinton’s campaign. According to records, this was her first political donation. Professor Linda Morse also donated to Mrs. Clinton, giving $1,000.

On the Republican side, there were only two faculty members listed as having donated to Republican contenders. Professor John Dittrick gave $2,750 to Republican frontrunner John McCain and Professor Mitchell Reiss gave $2,275 to Mitt Romney’s campaign.

During the 2004 election cycle, Mr. Reiss gave $2,000 to President Bush.

Besides the presidential race many faculty members donated to Democratic Virginia Senator Jim Webb in 2006. History Professor George Grayson donated $1,000 to Mr. Webb. Professor Lawrence Wilkerson also gave $250 to Mr. Webb, but also donated $500 to Republican Chuck Hagel.

Included among those who donated to George Allen were Professors Alan Meese and Roy Pearson. Mr. Meese contributed $400 to Mr. Allen’s campaign and Mr. Pearson contributed $200.

In general, most of the College’s faculty donates to Democrats over Republicans. This is not altogether surprising, however. According to a survey done by Neil Gross of Harvard and Solon Simmons of George Mason University, 61% of all professors at liberal arts universities consider themselves to be liberal. The survey also found that in 2004, 78% of all professors voted for Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

College to offer summer classes in Washington, D.C.

According to a release from the Office of University Relations, the College of William and Mary announced that it will offer summer classes in its Washington Office beginning this summer as a means of providing year-round opportunities for students to take classes. The program is designed to help students who reside or who are working in the D.C. area during the summer by offering difficult-to-find GER courses as well as courses that are best suited to take advantage of the area’s “storied history and dynamic culture.” Much like the William and Mary in Washington Program, which takes place throughout the school year, courses will be taught by College faculty. The summer program, however, does not require students to be involved in any internship, and tuition is expected to be the same as the summer sessions in Williamsburg. While the program will only offer a handful of courses—English, Philosophy and an American Studies course—in its first year, the College is looking forward to the program’s growth as more courses become available. Information for the summer program begins March 10 for all William and Mary students.

Have any stories that you want covered in “Briefly.”? Please send press releases and other information to editor@VAInformer.com.

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**Campus Contributions**

**Democratic**

- $2,300 to Senator Barack Obama by Professor Roland Rapoport and his wife Patricia (out of $162,700 towards various Democratic causes)
- $900 to Senator Obama by Professor Jayne Barnard
- $1,000 to Senator Hillary Clinton by Professor Linda Morse
- $250 to Senator Clinton by Professor Kimberly Phillips
- $1,000 to Senator Jim Webb by Professor George Grayson

**Republican**

- $2,750 to Senator John McCain by Professor John Dittrick
- $2,275 to Governor Mitt Romney by Professor Mitchell Reiss
- $250 to President George W. Bush by Professor Reiss
- $500 to Senator Chuck Hagel by Professor Wilkerson
- $400 to Senator George Allen by Professor Alan Meese

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**Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor**

William & Mary scholar honored by literary society

The Baker Street Irregulars, a prestigious literary society that has included such members as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and noted author Isaac Asimov, granted membership recently to William and Mary Associate Director of Development Communications David Morrill. The group pays homage to the Sherlock Holmes series of stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and sought out Mr. Morrill, who also has a Master’s in English from the College, for his established reputation in groups or publications dedicated to the “greatest detective that wasn’t.” Membership in the society is not granted on the basis of application, but current members of the group select new members, like Mr. Morrill, before holding their annual meeting in January.

“Art of Surviving” display promotes sexual assault awareness

The Office of Sexual Assault Services, working in concert with the Muscarelle Museum of Art, brought to campus a traveling exhibit that features artwork and poetry by survivors of sexual violence, on display in the University Center. The exhibit has been touring the country since April, with the goal of raising public awareness about the prevalence and scope of sexual violence, its effects on the individual as well as the community and the process of moving from victim of sexual violence to survivor. The Office of Sexual Assault Services also hopes the exhibit will help victims of sexual violence at the College feel more comfortable talking to its staff, which will be running tables throughout the length of the exhibit. The display will continue until the end of February.

Pre-Law workshop coming up after spring break

The College’s Pre-Law Advisor Professor Chris Nemacheck will be holding a session on Wednesday, March 12 in Morton 220 from 500 – 6:30 pm.

This session is aimed at juniors who plan to apply for law school admission in the fall 2008 semester as well as any student considering law school in the future.

William and Mary faculty leads mission to South Korea

According to the Office of University Relations, Vice Provost for International Relations Mitchell Reiss led a delegation to the Republic of Korea in mid-February to report on current US-Korean relations as well as on a security partnership for the country’s new president, Lee Myung-bak. Mr. Reiss, who served as director of policy and planning in the State Department under former Secretary of State Colin Powell, worked with other American and Korean foreign policy experts to put together a report that suggests continued US-Korean security cooperation is in the best interests of both countries involved, as well as for the stability of the East Asian region.

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**THE VIRGINIA INFORMER**

**Established 2005**

**Founders**

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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**Mission Statement**

The Virginia Informer is an independent, non-partisan, student run publication devoted to reporting the news to the William and Mary community. We exist to provide an alternative to school sponsored news sources. We do not, and never will, receive any financial support from the College of William and Mary. We will not cover any stories from our campus that are not timely and of policy impact to those outside of the College. 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.
Students for Life hosts Life Issues Awareness Week
Adoption or abortion?: SFL events tackle the question

Dr. Alveda King talks about the connection between civil rights and being pro-life

Michelle Ju
Assistant Features Editor

During the week of February 11-15 Students for Life (SFL) held Life Issues Awareness Week. Starting with speaker Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the events are designed to tackle the abortion debate and highlight the pro-life alternative in what is one of the most controversial topics in our society today.

There were a number of goals SFL chose to accomplish in these four days. “We wanted to raise awareness to the fact that there is something people have to deal with on campus… there are local care centers in the area, and they provide pregnancy testing, baby supplies, counseling and adoption referrals,” said SFL Secretary Beth Zagrobelny (’09). The group also hoped to highlight some of the staggering statistics on abortions.

“There are about 3,500 abortions a day in America, but there are approximately 2 million couples waiting to adopt,” Ms. Zagrobelny said.

On February 12, from 6:30 to 8:30, 350 luminaries were displayed next to the Crim Dell. “There were a lot more than we had to use. One luminary represented 10 abortions that happen in the US that day,” said Ms. Zagrobelny. “As our palm cards said, we stand in solidarity with women who have been hurt and children who were killed. Abortion is a form of murder, and it also hurts women as a whole.”

“When abortion rights came about, [women believed], we can never be equal to men when we’re pregnant—because being pregnant puts us below men. It’s a career disadvantage. But being pregnant and being a mother is something that can raise women up. Securing abortion to equalize us isn’t a solution,” explained Ms. Zagrobelny.

Ms. Zagrobelny spoke about SFL’s approach to the groups’ perceived stigma against unplanned pregnancy in the nation. “We have a multi-pronged approach to the issue. On one hand, we need legislation against abortion for the institutional side. The only way some things can be changed is institutionally. Secondly is to provide support to women with children, de-stigmatize pregnancy and unwed motherhood, part of the reason why women choose to get abortions. We want to make the environment possible, emotionally and materially, to have a baby and either keep it with you at school or give it up for adoption,” added Ms. Zagrobelny.

Ms. King showed two clips, one dealing with the civil rights movement and the second with abortion, and led a discussion about why “one is considered civil rights and the other is not?”

Reminiscent of the civil rights movement, she talked about the time her father’s house was bombed in Birmingham and the time when she was found mysteriously dead in the swimming pool for being one of the leading leaders of civil rights. She portrayed the rights of African Americans as analogous to the rights of unborn babies and portrayed the right to life as the civil issue of the time. “Is [the womb] a sanctuary or a tomb?” she asked. “Womb is supposed to be a sanctuary. A charity is the center of sanctity.” Citing the US Constitution, that originally stated that African American slaves were only 3/5 of a person and the Dred Scott Supreme Court case, which declared that African Americans were considered property, she believed that the law, as was the case in the past, did not recognize the life of what it called “the other side.”

She also talked at length about the two abortions she had experienced and how they were instrumental to her conversion to pro-life. The first, she said, was involuntary in 1973 when her doctor committed D&C, a surgery that destroyed her pregnancy without her knowledge or consent. Talking about her second abortion, she said that Planned Parenthood told her that they would help her “with the little blob of tissue.” Speaking about her second abortion, she said, “I’ve a shame and stigma, which I often feel,” and that was misinformed by Planned Parenthood about the life of the baby. Explaining how she became pro-life, Ms. King talked about how she realized her children had human lives when her soon-to-be husband talked to her out of getting another abortion. She soon “rededicated her life to Jesus,” and was born again in 1983.

Speaking about opponents to the pro-life cause, she said that “it’s a denial issue” and that people don’t want to recognize that life begins at conception.

“Life is a universal human issue,” she said when asked what her reply would be to people who would consider this only a religious issue. After talking at length about abortion, Ms. King said of the pro-choice movement, “God knows we are human, but we can’t keep doing what we want to do.”
Student Assembly Senate weighs in on Nichol contract decision

Kirk Vernegaard  Staff Writer

In the wake of former President Gene Nichol’s resignation from the College, the Student Assembly gathered to discuss the processes and ramifications of the BOV’s decision not to renew Mr. Nichol’s contract.

In the forum, Senators Devan Barber ’08 and Walter McLean ’09 were the cosponsors of a bill “formally denouncing” the methods of the BOV. The bill cites legal concerns with regards to the Freedom of Information Act over whether or not the closed-door meetings held by the BOV should be considered a part of public common knowledge. Senator Matt Beato ’09 stated that BOV Rector Michael Powell of the BOV were also raised. Mr. Beato added that most of the members of the Board of Visitors is constrained from describing the presidency of the College: “The Board of Visitors is a difficult decision not to renew Gene Nichol’s contract,” he said.

Questions over the ideological sway of the BOV were also raised. Mr. Beato stated that BOV Rector Michael Powell told him that none of the members of the BOV are politically left-leaning, thus downplaying any claims of underlying ideological tension between the board and Mr. Nichol.

Senator Ludwig Watson ’10, admitted not familiar with the members of the BOV personally, noted that while he believes the members of the BOV were genuine in their intent, “people aren’t entirely objective when it comes to making decisions…”

The measure reproaching the BOV passed, with only one dissenting vote from Senator Joe Lupita ’10.

The senate then addressed the Campus Garden Budget Bill, which would make “organically grown products available to students.” The bill, according to cosponsors Senator Brittany Fulton ’11 and Senator Sarah Rojas ’10, addresses the “matter of the environment and impact of dining services on campus.” The bill, which unanimously passed, provides $1,000 of funding for long, narrow plots of land which will be gated off by Busch Fields. The plan will additionally be used as an educational tool for classes on sustainable living.

Mr. McLean raised the concern of possible health-code issues, echoing Mr. Watson’s sentiment that the food might “not be that safe.” Ms. Rojas, a cosponsor of this bill, downplayed these concerns by replying that the food will indeed be protected. Members of SEAC will play a pivotal role in the project.

The following meeting was far less contentious but still passed several bills. Senator Ben Brown ’13 introduced The Disambiguate Facebook Policy Act and The Reasonable Expunging of Written Warnings from Judicial Records Act. The first asks that the administration put their policy in writing on the incrimination of students via social networking websites, such as Facebook and MySpace. The other proposed a new policy for when students can get written warnings expunged from their records.

Ms. Fallon introduced the Northern Illinois Condonence Act expressing the student body’s sorrow over the shoot at the university.

Ian Kirkpatrick  Staff Writer

The Student Assembly Executive met on Wednesday February 20, and covered a number of issues pertinent to students from the annual budget to parking costs.

A full budget for next year was produced last week and could get approved before spring break, a “huge accomplishment,” as described by Secretary of Finance Andrew Blasi ’10. The SA is also drafting two judicial bills that would guide administrative policy that deter tumbling offenders. Evidence on Facebook can be used against students. A Northern Illinois condonence was also being drafted to be sent to the university’s president.

The SA is trying to work with dining services to create a new 14 meal plan that would be costless and not constrict students to meal times. SA members also mentioned that over the summer the “eau de UC—tray return”—the pungent scent at the dish drop-off in the UC—may be no more; the conveyor belt will be disassembled and cleaned. Dining services were consulted about being more eco-friendly by consuming less disposable plastic but, “they literally didn’t understand what we [the SA] meant.”

Despite service trips using some of the College’s vans there will still be enough transportation for airport rides this spring break. Students can now sign up for this free service on the SA Web site.

Next year, the Residence Hall Association and the SA are starting a program that will take current students’ unwanted possessions during move out, to that next year the class of 2012 and other students can utilize things that would otherwise go to waste.

Parking services prices will be lowered for employees who make less than $20,000 a year and potentially raised for everyone else, to cover the costs of the new parking garage. But do not fear, students will not have to pay more than one third of the total fee raising. Also, photographs of all parking violations will be taken by parking services to more efficiently punish offenders.

Fidler’s Note: Andrew Blasi is The Virginia Informer’s Business Editor.

BUDGET MEMO:
Details emerge on upcoming state budget talks and how the College will be affected by cuts

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three plans all differ with regards to faculty salary increases. The governor proposed a 3 percent increase to take effect in July 2009, the house proposed a 2 percent raise in November 2008, and the senate a 2.5 percent increase in November 2009.

Though the college will receive $200,000 for research in the 2009 fiscal year as allotted in the 2006-2008 budget, further research funding has not been decided. Information on the particular elements of the various plans are hoped to be found in the “half sheets” which should be released next week.

Even though budget cuts are being proposed, all three proposals have not recommended any change in tuition price for in-state undergrad students. In fact, the House states that if the tuition does not increase, it will allow an extra $715,000 of funding for the 2009 fiscal year. All of these plans must go through the Senate and House for approval and then into conferences for compromises. Until recently, Messrs. Jones and Revely have been in Richmond, working on funding for the college. Mr. Revely concluded his e-mail saying he will keep campus updated as more details about the budget are released.
62 percent of College professors have considered leaving

Steven Nelson
Staff Writer

Even before the public outcry and threats to the campus economy by many professors, a survey says that nearly one in four professors may already have one foot out the door. The Virginia Informer conducted a year-long, comprehensive survey of the College's faculty is conducted. The recently released faculty survey was compiled by full-time faculty and presented to the Board of Visitors in their February meeting, sought faculty input on issues ranging from the balance between research and teaching to the satisfactions of living and working with employment at William and Mary. According to a February 11 press release by University Relations, this survey had a response rate higher than in previous years, with 73 percent of faculty members responding.

Of the faculty who responded, 62 percent had considered leaving William and Mary in the past two years. 80 percent would be motivated to leave if offered another position, 68 percent would leave if offered better facilities, 43 percent would leave if given the opportunity to work with a better institution as a whole, and 50 percent would be motivated to leave if offered better students.

Within the entire responding pool of faculty, 45 percent had received a salary adjustment in the last two years, other than regular annual merit increases. Those who had reported that their increase was not enough due to the pressures with the salaries of other Williams and Mary faculty, as well as efforts to prevent salary compression.

While 62 percent of faculty had considered leaving, 24 percent had actually applied to another institution in the past two years. This 24 percent is considered to be actively in the job market.

The 2003 faculty survey caused alarm in some who was presented to the BOV in 2004. With 69 percent of faculty considering leaving and 29 percent actually applying elsewhere, the Boone and York survey result was presented to the BOV, "The William and Mary faculty report on salaries is the most sobering news I have received in the 11 years that I have served as your president," according to a University Relations press release.

Although the 2006 faculty survey shows declines in the percentages of faculty who considered leaving, due to the higher response rate the raw numbers of professors who have considered leaving has increased. Also included in the report were responses which suggested that male faculty tend, as a whole, to spend more time on research over teaching than female faculty.

Furthermore, data suggesting deep departmental disparities in satisfaction in the balance between research and teaching is apparent. According to University Relations, 65 percent of faculty were satisfied with their balance between research and teaching.

Of the undergraduate Arts and Sciences faculty, 71 percent of humanities professors were dissatisfied with their balance, as were 55 percent of natural sciences faculty. The only undergraduate subset which was satisfied with their research-teaching balance was natural sciences, of which 74 percent were satisfied.

Congressman Rob Wittman vows strong stance for veteran benefits, against earmarks

Andrew Blasi
Business Editor

Now that Republican Congressman Rob Wittman has settled into office following the passing of Congressman Jo Ann Davis and a special election on December 11, 2007, his Washington, DC staff granted the The Virginia Informer an inside look into some of his legislative priorities for the current session. In our interview, his staff revealed that Mr. Wittman's top priorities would include strengthening the US military, enhancing veteran's benefits, and taking a strong stand against illegal immigration, as well as better utilizing America's natural resources. His staff also spoke of his recent trip to the Middle East from January 6-11, where the Congressman visited Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan to observe the current situation taking place firsthand.

In addition to these positions, The Informer was told that Mr. Wittman is currently taking a strong position against congressional earmarks and high government spending in support of President Bush's position on FISA.

In addition to these policy priorities, his staff stated that they were also gearing up for another potential race during the November elections, even though a Democratic opponent yet to emerge. The same was said with regard to the potential for a Republican primary challenge. When asked if Mr. Wittman has been well received by other members of Congress, in light of the abrupt transition, his staff had only the most positive things to say. We were also told that upon Mr. Wittman's election to office, they have received very warm memberships. Mr. Davis's staff was invited to remain a part of his staff if they so desired. Upon completion of the interview, his staff also wanted to thank William and Mary's College Republicans for being dedicated to Mr. Wittman's election campaign last December.

The 2003 faculty survey caused alarm in some who were worried about an "incipient effort to pick apart President Nichol's accomplishments." This was the case with the graffiti including Swem, Blow Hall, Tyler and around Blair hall, the Laycock and the Wren building. Some sections had multiple messages, totaling to ten incidents across campus. The graffiti, which appears to have been done with black spray paint and white paint, includes messages like "No More Board of Dictators!", "BOV Visit This" with an obscene gesture and "Visit This." These were found on various places like benches, stalls, columns, and electrical boxes and doors.

On Monday, Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler sent out an e-mail to students expressing her concern on the issue, writing, "I am disappointed -- shocked, really -- that anyone in our community would resort to such acts." She urged anyone with information on the matter to contact campus police as there is an investigation underway.

Facilities Management began work Monday to remove the graffiti and has been successful for just about all of the ten incidents. Because of the rain on Monday, they were only able to paint the two Wren doors under the porticos. Work on the other places began Tuesday. In some of the areas the paint has been more difficult to eradicate. For instance, they were careful when removing the paint from the Tyler column to not damage the stone. Similarly, they walked over the Wren building and Portland stone, and Colonial Williamsburg had to be consulted before attempting to remove the graffiti. Overall, it is estimated that the graffiti clean-up, calculated in man hours, will cost the College around $500.

BOV member Robert Blair resigns

Nick Fitzgerald
Managing Editor

In an e-mail to Student Assembly President Zach Pfluchen '99 and Vice President Valerie Hopkins '99 for distribution to the College community on February 19, Robert Blair (68) announced his resignation from the William and Mary Board of Visitors. This decision came in light of the board's decision not to renew former President Gene Nichol's contract. Mr. Blair stated that he was worried about an "incipient effort by some members of the Board of Visitors to pick apart President Nichol's accomplishments." Mr. Blair also added that he and other board members who supported Mr. Nichol's contract renewal "found ourselves in the minority."

VANDALS STRIKE CAMPUS:

Police are investigating school-wide taggings

continued from page one

BOV TAKES QUESTIONS:

Board hears public input on their review of Nichol's contract

continued from page one

detail, fully enumerating the process by which the board arrived at their controversial conclusion. He said that while there were in fact, three board members who spoke in favor of renewing Mr. Nichol's contract— now-former BOV Chairman Robert Blair (58) among them—the overwhelming majority of the board was not in favor of renewal. Mr. Powell explained that, for the sake of unity and presenting the board's unity, board members voted with one, strong voice, none of the 17 BOV members objected to Mr. Powell's use of the term "unanimous" to characterize the board's feelings on this issue.

The board heard from students and faculty throughout the day. Sociology Professor Kate Kelevin, for example, called for Mr. Powell's resignation. "Right now the board has the head of BOV on them—not for themselves for myself and with regret, but he has compromised his legitimacy—to the point where I believe that in order to heal that, the rector has no option but to resign immediately and for good.

The board justified their nonrenewal decision by citing Mr. Nichol’s poor performance as a fundraiser and executive. They did compliment him on his efforts to reach out to students and faculty, and his overwhelming popularity, but emphasized that the job of the College's president requires a much more complex, holistic approach than many students and faculty could initially see.
Matthew Sutton  
Managing Editor

Twenty-one is the magic number in Blackjack, the jersey number of such sports stars as LaDainian Tomlinson and Warren Spahn, and more metaphorically the milestone birthday for legal drinking age in the United States. This birthday is, for many college students, the most memorable and thrilling episode of their life, excepting the rare cases of family reunions, divorce proceedings and when the Dow drops more than 100 points. Over the last several months, I have witnessed a wide range of celebrations ranging from the epic to the merely mediocre. Based on my experience with this important day, I thought I would offer some observations and maybe even some suggestions in regards to the special day.

First, I think some historical perspective is in order. The push to raise the drinking age from 18 to 21 involved an unusual cast of characters, including the College’s own Chancellor Sandra Day O’Connor. Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 which was intended to pressure states to raise their drinking age. If a state failed to do so, Congress would cut that state’s cut of federal highway funds. The state of South Dakota challenged this law following the noting that the ironically numbered 21st Amendment (the same amendment that ended prohibition) gave states the authority to set their own drinking age. In South Dakota v. Doke, the Supreme Court ruled that the state did have the constitutional right under the 21st Amendment to set its drinking age at eighteen but the federal government could condition receiving federal highway funds to states that had raised the drinking age to twenty.

The Christian Science Monitor, in its editorial page, noted the irony that the nation’s highest court had struck down a law which seemed to support its position. “...This decision is cause for alarm to every strong-minded citizen who is concerned with the future of our democratic way of life.”

However, the Honor Council elections were subject to criticism.

Free and fair elections?  
Honors Council elections subject to criticism

Nick Hoelker  
Opinion Editor

On February 19, the Honor Council held their annual election. Several issues have been raised since the elections have been held, however, that have questioned the legitimacy of this year’s election.

A major fear by those questioning the council’s elections is the procedure of how the results would result in a non- 
representative council.

The first known e-mail sent by the council to a campus organization occurred on February 4. A representative of the Honor Council told the Student Assembly Senate at its February 19 meeting that the Honor Council sent an e-mail to Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler concerning an e-mail to the Student Assembly Senate. The e-mail was sent to inform them of the elections to be held within half an hour of the date that it was sent, thus violating the Student Assembly’s code of procedure in the regulations of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, ensuring its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.

Matthew Sutton  
Managing Editor

February 27, 2008

How best to toast to your 21st

Professor Profile:  
Government Professor Rani Mullen expresses personal politics on Nichol decision

Michael Douglass  
Staff Writer

Professor Rani D. Mullen's office is a tiny room squeezed into a hall of tiny rooms in the basement of Morton Hall. The corridor outside can't be more than two feet wide, resulting in a string of inanimate passes between students and faculty desperately trying to get out and attend meetings or maybe just run to the bathroom. Ms. Mullen doesn't seem to hold a grudge over her small office space, however, claiming her colleagues as "territorial," in direct contrast to many other political science departments. She seems pretty happy here, citing her colleagues as not "territorial." Ms. Mullen's politics are not the idea of an open and inclusive campus. But she reserved judgment on the Board of Visitors, waiting for their upcoming remarks on Mr. Nichol's resignation.

When asked about her personal hero, she cites both the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela, both of whom she thinks of as "existential" and "liberated" space with. Ms. Mullen met the Lama when she was a child and then later, right before a Nobel Peace Prize. While on an internship for a German parliamentary committee on the history of anti-Apartheid, she learned the same party as Nelson Mandela, although she never formally met him. And if she had a chance, she would meet Mohandas Gandhi in a heartbeat.

A major fear by those questioning the council’s elections is the procedure that would result in a non-representative council.

Therefore, if the election were held in accordance with the honor council bylaws, the nominating forms should have been due on February 20. However, as Mr. Dunn mentioned in his editorial, this was the day following the Honor Council election. The council, however, created an application due date of February 12, far short of the February 20 mandate. As stated in Mr. Dunn's editorial, "the Honor Council rejected forms that were turned in within half an hour of the deadline that it provided, in the interest of fairness." The Student Assembly Senate is currently considering a bill which proposes a vote of no confidence in the election results, due to the violation of the council's bylaws.

A major fear by those questioning the council's elections is that the violation of procedures would result in a non-representative council. Although the bill pending in the Senate was presented prior to the close of the election, the election results showed members of the Honor Council who ran for re-election won, except for one individual.

girl can’t handle, leading to shouting and general bitterness. Not good times, unless you get to finish their wildly expensive untouched drinks. The old rhyme of “beer before liquor, liquor before beer, you’re in the clear” is an old wive tale. Now I'm not so sure that’s a fact. While it is probably wiser to start with heavier drinks and switch to the lighter ones, with the old favorite, Bud Light, there is no harm in switching between beer and wine. One of the more epic celebrations I had the privilege to witness took place at the Green Leaf, where on their terrace they loaded up on ice cream and the with the favorite, Bud Light, there is no harm in switching between beer and wine. One of the more epic celebrations I had the privilege to witness took place at the Green Leaf, where on their terrace they loaded up on ice cream and the
Swimming off the deep end: Severance package or bribe? You decide

(For those of us who attended last Friday’s Q&A with the Board of Visitors, we now know exactly what was in the severance package that the board offered Gene Nichol as transitional compensation, which Mr. Nichol described as “substantial economic incentive.” When the e-mail first broke, many immediately jumped to the conclusion that the BOV was trying to bribe Mr. Nichol. Although objective reality and the general facts tell us that the package offered to Mr. Nichol was not a bribe, completely legal and well within the bounds of the BOV’s actions on the matter, we are going to choose to completely ignore that and act as if BOV Rector Michael Powell tried to bribe Mr. Nichol with “bush money”—it’s much sexier that way. With that in mind, this column officially begins below.)

On the heels of Gene Nichol’s resignation last week, many are asking about an alleged bribe that the Board of Visitors supposedly offered Mr. Nichol and his wife. Mr. Nichol had this to say about the situation in his e-mail to campus last Tuesday: “I add only that, on Sunday, the Board of Visitors offered both my wife and me substantial economic incentives if we would agree ‘not to characterize [the non-renewal decision] as based on ideological grounds’ or make any other statement about my departure without their approval.” Mr. Nichol said he denied the offer on principle.

BOV Rector Michael Powell vehemently denied this claim, explaining on the BOV Q&A Web site that the board “absolutely [did] not” bribe the president: “The Board proposed an initial offer on how to deal with…[transitional] issues. The President did not object to the proposal and did he choose to offer a different view of its terms. The first response we received was to announce he was resigning immediately.”

As always, the crack independent news team here at The Informer has the inside scoop on what exactly these “substantial economic incentives” were. What we found out was shocking.

Here, below, are three severance packages from which Mr. Nichol could have chosen. Perhaps surprisingly, he rejected all three.

The Beyoncé Package
- Ralph Lauren purple label shirts and ties
- Audemars Piguet watch
- Dimples in ya necktie
- Hermes briefcase
- Carrier tie clips
- Silk lined blazers
- Diamond cream facials
- VVS cuff links
- 6-star pent suits

The Food Package
- Lifetime membership to the Krispy Kreme “Donut of the Month” club
- 100 pounds of the finest Belgian truffles
- 300 bags of Jet-Puffed marshmallows
- 15 gallons of Mrs. Butterworth’s Country Style syrup
- 8 barrels of Chanello’s ranch dressing
- $50,000 Wawa gift card
- 200 boxes of Godiva “Midnight Swirl” ganache chocolates
- 30 buckets of CoolWhip whipped topping
- $100,000 of frozen pork belly futures from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange

We leave it up to the reader to decide whether these were appropriate severance packages, or something more sinister. While it is somewhat surprising that Mr. Powell would incorporate aspects of Beyoncé’s hit single “Upgrade U” in the severance package—diamond cream facials, 1.7 ounces of which contain actual ground diamonds and costs $235, or a Audemars Piguet watch whose retail price runs in excess of $700,000—we cannot claim he is guilty of bribery. He is guilty, though, of having impeccable taste.
Nichol controversy spills over into cyberspace

Nick Hoekel
Online Editor

As of the writing of this article, the William and Mary student списка has received ten e-mails in a nine-day time span relating to the administration changes at the College. This compares with an average of ten e-mails a month sent to the listserv between August and January.

The e-mails sent since former President Gene Nichol's resignation included a statement from Mr. Nichol, a statement from Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell, a welcome letter from interim President Taylor Reveley, an e-mail from Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler regarding the recent vandalism on campus, a range of e-mails announcing the BOV's visit to the open forum on February 22 and an e-mail from Student Assembly President Zach Pitchen (’09) informing the student body of his and Vice President Valerie Hopkins (’09) personal opinions of Mr. Nichol's resignation.

According to Mr. Ambler, only administrators, select staff members in certain departments—including IT—and Mr. Pitchen have the ability to e-mail the student listserv. Mr. Ambler added that the purpose of the listserv is to “disseminate important campus information.”

Despite this guideline, some of the e-mails may have overstepped this boundary. Mr. Nichol and, to a lesser extent, Mr. Powell, used the listserv to espouse their political differences with one another. Additionally, Mr. Pitchen ignored this rule to express the individual displeasure that he and Ms. Hopkins felt regarding the resignation and the role of the BOV.

Chancellor Professor of Government Clay Clemens

As one of the faculty on the Presidential search committee that helped bring Gene Nichol to William and Mary three years ago, my own feelings about events over the last day are probably not too hard to guess. At the same time, for me at least, the value of canceling class in such circumstances seems limited.

Assistant Professor of Classics Georgia Ibray-Massie

Just a quick note regarding the student-faculty strike called for today and tomorrow. I know that convictions run deep, and that many of you support President Nichol with all sincerity, heart, soul, and mind… I am holding class as usual. Please be assured that my decision was neither in support of nor in condemnation of the BOV's decision. I hope to see you this afternoon.

Class of 1938 Professor George Grayson

Perhaps you didn’t get the e-mail indicating that the BOV's decision to not renew Mr. Nichol was not an easy decision for me, esp. given that we are behind in our lectures. But while one might have disagreements over the way in which President Nichol went about implementing some of his controversial decisions, I feel strongly about the issues he stood up for.

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BOV skews largely Democratic

Chris Davis
Layout Editor

Though former President Gene Nichol claimed in his resignation e-mail that the reasons for the non-renewal of his contract were ideologically based, the makeup of the Board of Visitors does not support his assertion.

All of the current members of the panel were either appointed or reappointed by Virginia’s last two governors, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both of whom are Democrats. In fact, Suzann Mathews, who spoke extensively at the forum held with students Friday, has donated substantial amounts of money to the two governor’s campaigns, as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars to EMILY’s List, a political action committee which lobbies to get pro-choice women elected.

Of the 17 members of the BOV, nine have histories of giving money to Democrats. Only five others have largely donated to the Republican Party.

Sign of the times: Students hang pro-Nichol banners and posters at the UC sit-in on Wednesday, February 13. Some rain earlier that morning chased some 200 protestors inside.

Managing PROFESSORIAL DISSENT

PROFESSORIAL DISSENT

The BOV's decision to not renew Nichol continued from page one

word to expound on his own feelings regarding the resignation, calling Mr. Nichol, “a passionate advocate for the values of liberal arts education, diversity, and free inquiry… I will miss him greatly.”

Outraged from faculty of a strike, Mr. Strikwerda displayed no objections to an academic disruption, and rather asserted that, “All of us have to deal with our emotions and our need to share our opinions in the way that we judge best… I trust that each of you will make the appropriate decision for yourself about whether or not to hold regular classes.”

Strikwerda acknowledged his own intention to participate in the strike, noting that he would only use his classroom for the purpose of discussion. He further noted that he learned that the validity of administrative approval of such large scale action has been questioned by some state officials.

Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss, the College's chief academic officer said that Mr. Nichol's resignation had to be dealt with “appropriately” by the College community and that it was “just like a death in the family.”

While many students vented at multiple rallies and sit-ins throughout the week, a number of Arts and Sciences faculty chose to hold a discussion on how to proceed. Two days after Mr. Nichol's resignation, nearly 300 faculty from various departments gathered together for an emergency meeting of Arts and Sciences faculty, filling Millington 150.

Mr. Strikwerda and Margaret Saha, professor of Biology, acted as the facilitators. Ms. Saha opened the meeting by reading a letter sent to the Board of Visitors on behalf of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) prior to Mr. Nichol’s resignation, which indicated faculty support of renewal. Some faculty were upset this letter was sent without a formal vote of approval. Philosophy Professors George Harris and Paul Davies recently reacted to the letter, saying it “deprives the minority of an opportunity to engage in discussion that might change some minds. The politics of protecting the president justifies ignoring dissent.”

Suggestion was cast over the use of an outside consulting firm in assessing Mr. Nichol's performance. With three faculty members acknowledging their participation—including Law Professor Alan Meese, Sociology Professor Kathleen Kevlin and Mr. Strikwerda--many other faculty seemed perplexed by this use of a corporate management model.

Chemistry Professor Gary Defotis expressed his approval for the BOV’s decision given that many Board initiatives were concurrently endorse. Economics Professor Robert Archibald argued that, “This is the most politically left wing BOV ever. What decision was [postrenewal] leadership style.”

However, the majority of faculty sentiment was not supportive of the decision. The issue of the severance package was raised at the outset having been described as “hush money from a slash fund.”

The BOV faculty took advantage of the open forum simply as an opportunity to vent. Psychology was described by John Nezlek invoked

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Of the 17 members of the BOV, nine have histories of giving money to Democrats. Only five others have largely donated to the Republican Party.
Upon the abrupt resignation of Gene Nichol after the Board of Visitors decided to not renew his contract, a large portion of the student body erupted in anger,失望, and, as is often customary with college-age students, protest. The groups originally began as a unified force but have since splintered and appear to be pursuing different agendas.

Student action groups were formed on the social networking site, Facebook. Groups titled “We Miss You Gene Nichol,” “I Want A New BOV,” “Not A New President” and “Get Gene Nichol On A Daily Show” (referring to the popular comedic news program on Comedy Central) surfaced, drawing hundreds of students. Subsequently, students and faculty protested the situation by refusing to attend classes.

Other groups formed online. One of these groups is “Tribe United,” whose mission is to “promote community involvement in College governance by providing a forum for concerned individuals.” This group takes a different approach to the more extreme forms of action taken by individuals associated with the College; they encourage discussion and unity as a more productive way of getting their point across, rather than the actions of the unknown individuals who vandalized campus buildings with obscene graffiti. This group condemned the graffiti.

The focus of the group has changed in recent days, as the original mission statement hinted at making the College private. Meetings are still being held as the group tries to focus on issues, such as an umbrella group, it is having issues determining where to go next.

Another website called “Wrengate,” meticulously documents the events relating to the Board of Visitors and Gene Nichol, documenting quotes, videos, pictures of various protests, demonstrations, and forums that have occurred since the Board of Visitors’ decision.

The BOV’s decision to hire former Dean of the Mason School of Law W. Taylor Reveley III as an interim president does require action, and so could have been brought into question by this law. In a statement to The Flare, Mr. Reveley stated that “[Mr. Reveley] is president designate and the board will formally appoint him.” Mr. Reveley was officially appointed on February 22. William and Mary’s legal counsel also approved of this approach. Mr. Reveley was not officially president until he was formally appointed and did not officially hold that office until then. During the ten days prior to that, he was labeled “president designate.”

The BOV would not have had to appoint an interim president had Mr. Nichol not resigned immediately, which, technically, is a legal breach of his contract. The BOV never expected their closed-door meeting to require any additional action to be taken, nor for it to push the limits of FOIA.

Still, critics of the BOV’s approach remain. Mr. Beato said, “I think the BOV needed to be more public. If the BOV had been more open about its reasoning, we might not have been having this debate on campus. Members of the BOV have said that students only know 10% of the facts of their own as well as Nichol. We are customers of this university, and we deserve to know 100% of the facts of what is going on on campus, as well as Nichol. We are customers of this university, and we deserve to know 100% of the facts of what is going on on campus, as well as the news.”

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Top upcoming events
Megan Locke
Assist. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Comedian Dan Cummins March 15, 9 pm, Lodge 1
Comedian Dan Cummins will be coming to the College on March 15 at 9 pm in Lodge 1. Mr. Cummins is known for combining dark, edge humor with hilarious stories of growing up in rural Idaho. He has appeared on The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson and in Comedys Central’s Live at grammy, and is a popular college act with over 90 shows on campuses during 2007. Only a few weeks ago he had a half-hour special on Comedy Central. After Mr. Cummins’s show there will be a def comedy jam with a student stand-up competition. Admission is free for students.

Early Music Ensemble March 15, 8 pm, Bruton Parish Church
The William and Mary Early Music Ensemble will be holding a concert on March 15 at 8 pm in Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg. The performance will include two trio sonatas by Handel and Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. All performed on period instruments (baroque violin, baroque flute and harpsichord). This event is part of Bruton Parish Church’s Candlelight Concert series, and admission is free.

Briefly...
Matt Pinsker
Food Critic

The 415 Grill, located in the Hospitality House hotel across from Zable Stadium, is a restaurant many students are familiar with in passing. Many have frequented its bar, but very few have ever had a meal there. This is a shame, because the food at the 415 Grill is some of the best I have ever had in my life. I visited the 415 Grill during restaurant week and had a meal that I will remember for years to come.

I entered the restaurant and was greeted by a pretty hostess who took me to my table by a window, which gave me a great view of the entrance to Zable. My table was already set and covered with clean white linen that had been covered by white paper. There was a candle-lit lantern glowing at every table, fans placed throughout the restaurant and windows along the front of the restaurant looked out over the Great of Richmond Road. There was a long and classy bar in the center of the restaurant that offered a large selection of drinks and a large plasma television for thirsty sports fans. Decorations included a combination of mirrors and artwork that gave the restaurant an elegant look to it, and there was contemporary music playing softly in the background.

My server was very friendly and converted with her dinners, but never lost her sense of professionalism. She had excellent knowledge of the menu and items being served. She also brought out each item in a timely manner, and everything was served at the perfect temperature. Bread was brought to the table, as well as a tray containing butter, olive oil and a vegetable mix to be placed on the bread. The dip—consisting of olives, artichoke, mushrooms and bell peppers—initially struck me as having a very foreign appearance, but it was intentionally served cold, but it was absolutely delicious and had a very unique flavor.

For an appetizer, I ordered scallop au poivre. I received three scallops in a buttery tasting broth. They were very juicy and succulent, with just the slightest kick to them. The chicken that I had for the entrée was divine. A whole, boneless chicken breast had been cooked to perfection and topped with fresh mozzarella and a fruit-based glaze. Every bite was an explosion of flavor and I savored every bite. Creamy mashed potatoes and thinly sliced, buttery vegetable sticks came with the chicken, and both were very enjoyable. For dessert I was served a chocolate-basil tart. It was thin, colorful and tasty and came with a soft blend of syrups poured over the bottom of a plate, with whipped crème and a strawberry on the side. It was a very pleasant finish to an exquisite meal.

Including tips, this three-course meal came to just $26.50, as I had taken advantage of the Restaurant Week special. Regular entrées, such as Settlers Stew or Baked Parmesan Settlement Stew or Baked Parmesan, are normally $14.95. For appetizers, 415’s menu offers $5 cheese fries and $8 crab fritters. There was an extensive wine menu, starting at $4 per glass. Although this may be more than most students are willing to spend on a casual night out, if you are looking to relax over an absolutely delicious meal, I highly recommend the 415 Grill.

The Finer Side:
Top six tips for surviving an important dinner
Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

1. Don’t slurp. Ever. It doesn’t matter what you are eating, but if it is liquid in nature, don’t slurp. There is nothing more unprofessional, more insulting to your company, or just plain rude and disgusting than listening to someone’s slurping noises. This goes for everything from your beverage to your soup. (This tip should be used for anytime when you’re eating, really—from your dorm room to holiday dinners.)

2. Don’t order any food with heavy garlic, Caesar dressing or pasta. Especially if you’re on a romantic date or a business dinner, the last thing you want is to have offensive breath. If you can’t help eating something with a strong taste, make sure you take gum or mints afterwards! With regards to pasta—if you don’t know how to spin spaghetti on your fork, then don’t order it. You do not want to be eating spaghetti and have noodles hanging from your mouth: this is not the most refined image!

3. Sit up straight! In the recent movie The Princess Diaries Queen Clarice ties Anne Hathaway’s character to a chair with a silk scarf in order to that gave a great view of of leaning forward. Pretend you are tied to your chair. Sit up straight, do not ever leave your elbows on the table, and bring your fork or spoon to your mouth instead of leaning forward.

4. Fork goes in the right hand. Most people reading this are probably American. In America (as opposed to Europe) you cut your food with your fork in the left hand, knife in the right. Then transfer the fork to your right and lift to your mouth.

5. “Start at the outside and work your way in.” In the words of actress Kathy Bates in the movie Titanic, when you are faced with a never ending supply of silverware, start on the outside and work your way in. The salad fork and soup spoon (the most common extra pieces of silverware) are on the outside of the other main pieces.

6. Bring up conversation topics of general interest. When you’re at an important dinner—whether it’s with someone you know well or several people you are just getting to know—it’s crucial to have conversation topics that will spark a discussion that can go on for a long time. Brush up on your current events, news and anything the people you’re eating with are interested and use those as topics to fall back on if the conversation falls still. And remember—avoid politics and religion!

Dinner is a show—your manners are on display, and it may just be the performance of a lifetime. You have only one shot for opening night, so make it a good one! People will remember you best when you present them with good manners and warm hospitality. And remember—having excellent manners is not just a reflection on you, it also tells your guests to respect them enough to be on your best behavior when out with them.

If you have any questions or comments for Jennifer, email her at editor@VAInformer.com!
Metal Club brings together fans of the genre

Megan Locke
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Students who live for headbanging to loud music or those who just want to try listening to some new tunes will feel at home with the William and Mary Metal Club. The club is for everyone who is into good, hard music and those who want to learn about it as well.

The Metal Club was founded in 2001 by several residents of the German House. They went to see the bands Greo and Log together, and decided to form a club to “bring metal to the people and as a support group for metal heads,” according to alumnum Eric Ytri. (’04 Club membership today has been diversified and expanded, with over one hundred people subscribed to the club’s listserve.

The main activities of the Metal Club take place during its weekly meetings, which are held on Mondays at 8 pm in Millington 119. Each week there is a “metalogy” or theme. Members pick songs, usually with accompanying music videos, which fit this theme and play them at the meeting for other members to enjoy. Past metalogies have included “love songs,” “festival songs,” “foreign bands,” “female vocalists” and “favourite lyrics.” Upcoming metalogies for the rest of this semester include iPod appreciation and “guilty pleasures.”

At a recent meeting this semester, the metalogy for the night was “awful songs that you love.” A sampling of the music played at the meeting included Aavaged Sevenfold’s “A Little Piece of Heaven,” Dragon Force’s “Operation Ground and Pound,” Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing” and Billy Idol’s “White Wedding.”

Other activities that are an important part of Metal Club are the various concerts that the club hosts at the College. There are usually two Metal Club concerts a year, one during the fall semester and one during the spring semester. The next upcoming concert will be April 19 at 9 pm in Lodge 1. All Metal Club concerts are free for students at the College, and non-students pay $5 at the door.

“So far two bands are planning to play at the concert. The opener is Witherose, a doom metal band that Metal Event Coordinator Matt Fuller (’09) describes as having “harsh vocals with soprano female voices” and “epic songs.” The other band is Immortal Avenger, a power metal and power rock band with a concept album about World War II British fighter pilots. One more band has yet to be announced, but it will likely be the headliner of the concert.

The upcoming concert is definitely in good bands, since this is Mr. Fuller’s fifth semester organizing a concert. Many of the bands hail from Virginia, but Mr. Fuller has also brought in bands from as far away as West Virginia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. He says that the hardest part of organizing concerts is securing the band that will be the headliner. Initially it was difficult for the club to persuade different bands to come to the College, because the founding club officers had only invited a small number of Virginia bands like Epoxy and Red Metric, and focused on music that was power metal and new metal.

Now Mr. Fuller is dedicated to bringing a different variety of bands and genres of music to the college. “Our club is open to everything,” says Mr. Fuller. “We want to create a welcoming atmosphere and explore different kinds of bands and genres of music to the college.”

“We have to come to the College, because the foundation club officers had only invited a small number of Virginia bands like Epoxy and Red Metric, and focused on music that was power metal and new metal.”

Another club member, Joy Benefield says Mr. Fuller is dedicated to bringing various different kinds of bands and genres of music to the college. “Our club is open to everything,” says Mr. Fuller. “We want to create a welcoming atmosphere and explore different kinds of bands and genres of music to the college.”

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In light of this interest, the Meta Club plans to start advertising for their upcoming concert in April.

Byzantine has been the Metal Club’s biggest band to perform so far.

The Metal Club concerts have grown significantly more successful over the past couple of years in terms of attendance, with even high schoolers showing up to listen.

Natalie Bersche and Mr. Fuller praised the club as “a fun way to chill with people with similar interests.”

To learn more about the William and Mary Metal Club, visit their Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/WilliamandMaryMetalClub and look out for advertising for their upcoming concert in April.

The routine: Meetings consist of watching music videos or planning metal concerts.

Wind Symphony delights crowds by synchronizing music with Disney movies

Andrew Blasi
Business Editor

The William and Mary Wind Symphony, under the direction of Dr. Evan Feldman, held their annual Pops Concert on February 18 and 20, where they played a selection of Disney music and video game themes.

Not only did the Wind Symphony delight the crowds with their music selection, but the band’s own Andy DeSoto compiled video clips to match the music on screen. Mixing up the entertaining Disney movies were the Video Game Championships, where players from the Video Game Tournament held earlier in the month competed live, with the Wind Symphony playing accompanying music.

The concert concluded on a high note, with Professor Christine Niehaus playing Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, which was synchronized to Disney’s Fantasia 2000 cartoon produced for the music. The Wind Symphony’s next concert will be held in April, when they return from their spring tour to Boston.

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Book review:

Curtler makes case that education is about freedom

Hugh Curtler

Hugh Curtler is a professor of philosophy who authored the book Recalling Education. Mr. Curtler attempts to explicate the purpose of higher education, and to detail the current crisis that has so derailed the institution of the university from its proper goal. His philosophic training serves him well, as he moves eloquently through the book with great analytic style and generally well-presented arguments. Curtler observes throughout the book that the primary purpose of a liberal arts education is the cultivation of positive freedom. To those outside philosophy, the term may seem rather vague and requires further explanation. Negative freedom comes from the idea that a person is free when he is presented with a vast array of choices, and may choose among them without fear of judgment. This is not to be confused with positive liberty, the idea that a person has the right to be coerced in his context of choice, often forbearing the condition that he coerces someone else. Positive freedom, by contrast, is the freedom that comes from being able to make the right choices, dealing in terms with what choices

by Jacob Hill

Recalling

Educations

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www.VAINFORMER.com

All the news that’s fit to go online.
Finger food

Can’t go wrong: Chef’s choice is the most adventurous and best choice from the menu.

Ian K. Whitehead

L ast issue, I tried to give you all a few pointers to help you navigate the somewhat exclusive and often intimidating world of sushi. I know what you’re thinking. “Scary? What’s scary? I buy it in the Sex Change and go, right?” No, kids. I’m talking about real sushi, the kind that doesn’t come from a plastic box. If you’ve ever found yourself sitting behind one of those tiny glass counters in San Francisco, or one of those giant-sized granite sushi bars in Las Vegas, you know the kind I’m talking about. With all of those knives swinging, men shouting, and strange looking sea creatures being diced up before your eyes, the whole experience can get pretty intimidating pretty quickly. After years of experience patronizing such establishments—and after a bit of training from Trevor Corson’s culinary masterpiece, The Zen of Fish—I’ve learned that there is definitely a right and wrong way to enjoy the raw oceanic delights offered at your local sushi hideaway. However, once you’ve swallowed a couple of basic ground rules, you’ll find that the world of sushi is a lot simpler than you might have guessed.

Let’s begin with where to sit and how to order. If you find yourself in a restaurant with an actual sushi bar, always request a seat at the counter if there’s room available. This reduces your wait time for food, allows you to interact with the often very personable chefs behind the counter and overall makes for a more fun and interesting dining experience. Once you are seated, there are three basic ways to order your sushi: a la carte, house plate, and chef’s choice. A la carte is the least adventurous option. You’ll be handed a paper card with the restaurant’s offerings printed on it. You simply check off the items that you want with the pencil provided for you and hand it to your waiter or over the bar to your chef. House plates are a tad more interesting. Most restaurants feature two or three of these fixed assortments of popular sushi items, whose contents are listed on the menu next to their names. In ordering a house plate, you give up a little bit of control over your meal, but you’ve still got a pretty good idea of what’s coming. Chef’s choice is the most adventurous, and, in my opinion, the best choice when you go out for sushi. This option gives the chef total control over what your meal is. This means he’ll pick out the best and freshest items for you. You’re an expert in the world of cigar smoking, sushi virgin, surrendering to the chef’s choice ensures that you receive a meal made up of the best and most interesting that the restaurant has to offer.

While ordering, you’ll probably come across the three most basic types of sushi: maki, nigiri, and sashimi. Maki, or sushi rolls, are usually comprised of a strip of thin, dark green seaweed called nori, a layer of sushi rice, and some sort of filling in the middle. In addition to this more traditional manifestation, many maki come made in the “inside out” style, with the sushi rice on the outside of the roll. Popular sushi rolls include katamari-maki, or cucumber rolls, and tekka-maki, lean tuna rolls. The second major sushi category is nigiri, which are small, squeezed squares of sushi rice topped with finger-sized pieces of raw fish. Nigiri are a bit more expensive than maki, and are often topped with more exotic cuts of seafood. The final category is sashimi, which are simply playing card sized slabs of fish, with rice sometimes served on the side.

on being confronted with any of these three types of sushi, the average American diner’s instinct is to reach for his chopsticks, soy sauce and wasabi and start chowing down. We, however, are about to see the way to attack our maki, nigiri and sashimi the proper way. First, put down the chopsticks. With the exception of sashimi, which is too large and unpretentious to be eaten with your hands, all sushi is finger food. Trying to use chopsticks on it, even if you have a bit of experience, will only make well-made sushi fall apart. Instead, simply pick up maki, or place your thumb and middle finger on either side of your nigiri (with your index finger resting on the top), and pop them into your mouth. When you do break out the chopsticks for your sashimi, make sure that you don’t rub them together to remove splinters after snapping them apart. Such behavior is insulting to the restaurant, implying that their chopsticks are inferior.

“Doesn’t eating with your fingers get messy?” you might ask, “with all that wasabi and soy sauce and pickled ginger all over everything?” Nope. Not if you use these condiments properly. Soy sauce should be poured from the bottle into your own personal dish, not cascaded across your sushi. When the time comes, just dip your sushi or nigiri into the dish (nigiri is always dipped rice side up) and move it quickly to your mouth. When it comes to wasabi, you usually don’t need to add any at all. Most good chefs will simply crumble a bit into their maki or place a dab between your nigiri cuts and their sushi rice. Whatever you do, don’t mix your wasabi and soy sauce into that brown-green paste that so many Americans revel in; it utterly destroys the delicate tastes of the sauce, the condiment, and the fish. If you’re enjoying a sushi dish like an eel roll or dragon roll that comes with its own special sauce, neither soy sauce nor wasabi should be used. The pickled ginger that comes with your meal should never be placed on top of your sushi. It is a palate cleanser, not a condiment. When moving from one kind of sushi to another, connoisseurs chew a thin slice of this ginger to remove the taste of the last type of fish that they are before moving on to the next.

To end with, let’s talk about how good sushi should taste once it’s in your mouth. Well-made maki should give a little snap when you chew them. This indicates that the nori wrapping is fresh, and not soggy from sitting too long. Nigiri should simply crumble in your mouth, the flavors of the loosely-packed rice and the cut of fish mixing nicely before you swallow. Sashimi is usually served slightly chilled. The flesh of the fish cut should be firm but not tough, unless of course you’ve chosen to enjoy a cut of octopus. If your meal was well-made, be sure to tip the sushi chef behind the counter as well as your waiter. Simply slide your gratuity over the bar before you leave.

All this having been said, I do have to make one thing clear before I wrap up: for most people, sushi is an acquired taste. The only way for you to really start enjoying this unique style of cuisine is to jump in feet first and never look back. Some things might seem strange at first, but it’s only through a bit of experimentation that you’ll finally find a selection of sushi that fits your distinct tastes. With these dining tips in your repertoire, you’ll be well on your way to becoming a truly savvy sushi gourmet.

If you’re interested by the topics mentioned in this column, The Virginia Informer recommends Trevor Corson’s nonfiction work, The Zen of Fish: The Story of Sushi from Samurai to Supermarket, published by HarperCollins, 2007.
Staff Editorials:

Pragmatism over ideology in selection of new president

W

hen the Board of Visitors decides to begin the complex task of selecting our new executive, certain qualifications should be stressed over others in the presidential search. There are certain abilities better lend themselves to executive leadership than others. First and foremost, the importance of fundraising cannot be overstated. This is true of any institution of higher learning, but particularly so for William and Mary. The reality is that our under $600 million endowment is certainly nothing to be excited about when compared to other institutions’ endowments of our same academic caliber. This being said, we want someone who not only has demonstrated strong fundraising abilities in the past, but also is able to successfully sell the idea of William and Mary to potential donors. Someone who knows the College and its values, but also has positive ideas for keeping it moving forward in our ever changing world. Quantitatively, we urgently need to launch a new campaign that aims to double our current endowment to at least $1 billion, as well as a general $1 billion capital campaign to dwarf the recently and barely-completed Campaign for William and Mary. If we do not accomplish this goal in the next few years, we will no longer be able to compete with any of our peer institutions—public or private.

We also need a leader who can successfully address the state government on behalf of the College, BOV Rector Michael Powell reiterated at the open forum last Friday that the state is not a reliable source of funds. The state provides a measly 17 percent of our operating budget, the rest coming from urgently needed private money, the real lifeline of our institution. Therefore, we need a president who can build a positive working relationship with the state government. We are a public school and should have constructive relationships with the bodies which provide both oversight and dollars for our institution, regardless of our president’s personal politics. This is not negotiable. Finally—and while this concept may be objectionable to uninformed students and faculty alike, a simple fact is that the College operates very much like a corporate entity. It is a complex organization that runs on hope or idealism but on dollars that are used to pay for buildings, utilities, electricity, wireless connections, roads, staff salaries, grounds keeping and an endless array of other details which make an institution function daily. The College demands an individual who understands this and who has, in the past, displayed superb administrative experience at the highest level. As one example, the University of Colorado is currently in the process of hiring a new chancellor. While he does not have a PhD, he was a very successful oil executive. This sort of out-of-the-box thinking by looking outside of academia is exactly what we need from the BOV and the search committee.

As an alumna or alumnus, we feel that president would also need a liberal file. The College’s values cannot be adequately represented if the president does not have any sort of emotional connection with the school and its students. And lastly, we would be remiss if we did not mention that cultivating a positive relationship with students and faculty is another important aspect of the president’s job. It is not, however, his or her most important role. If a lack of connection to students is our president’s biggest flaw, we think he or she would be doing pretty well.

The simple fact is that the College operates very much like a corporate entity. It is a complex organization that runs on hope or idealism but on dollars that are used to pay for buildings, utilities, electricity, wireless connections, roads, staff salaries, grounds keeping and an endless array of other details which make an institution function daily. The College demands an individual who understands this and who has, in the past, displayed superb administrative experience at the highest level. As one example, the University of Colorado is currently in the process of hiring a new chancellor. While he does not have a PhD, he was a very successful oil executive. This sort of out-of-the-box thinking by looking outside of academia is exactly what we need from the BOV and the search committee.

The sad reality is that these faculty members are doing nothing but having the collegiate equivalent of a temper tantrum. Stomping their feet and yelling will not allow them their own way. The great irony is that if we are to be truly “great and public”—in the words of the man whose ouster they are protesting—these faculty ought to demonstrate that they can effectively do their jobs even amidst emotional and professional turmoil. As tuition-paying students, we are utterly appalled by these professors’ total lack of commitment to their jobs. Students pay tens of thousands of dollars to the College so that they can be taught by our esteemed faculty. When these faculty unabashedly shirk their duties by canceling class because of their political views, they are doing a great disservice to the College’s students. They are communicating that a liberal arts education is not as important as differences in personal politics. The professors are contractually obligated to teach and, furthermore, it is illegal to engage in a strike in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

These faculty should know that by striking they are putting their jobs on the line. Some of the equally loud but more squarish faculty, when realizing the illegality of their actions, lobbied for and succeeded in changing the term of their protest from “faculty strike” to display of “solidarity.” This, in their eyes, legitimizes the fact that they are still refusing to work. If faculty members want to attend any of the protests or rallies, they are certainly free to do so on their own time, not while they are on the clock.

The Virginia Informer calls on these professors to reschedule any class time missed. If they fail to do so, we believe that these professors’ pay should be docked for the hours they refused to fulfill their contractual obligation to the school. Moreover, for all non-tenured professors, we recommend that their participation in the strike be noted in their file.

Teach or go home

Faculty strike unacceptable

O

n the day Gene Nichol voluntarily resigned, several faculty members informed their students at various times that they would be canceling class. These faculty members were refusing to teach class and encouraging their students to be truant, in order to protest the Board of Visitors’ decision not to renew Mr. Nichol’s contract. They would accomplish this protest by participating in the various rallies, protests, sit-ins and teach-ins offered throughout the course of the last two weeks. Some faculty also encouraged their colleagues to cancel their own academic schedules to engage in a “faculty strike.”

The sad reality is that these faculty members are doing nothing but having the collegiate equivalent of a temper tantrum. Stomping their feet and yelling will not allow them their own way. The great irony is that if we are to be truly “great and public”—in the words of the man whose ouster they are protesting—these faculty ought to demonstrate that they can effectively do their jobs even amidst emotional and professional turmoil. As tuition-paying students, we are utterly appalled by these professors’ total lack of commitment to their jobs. Students pay tens of thousands of dollars to the College so that they can be taught by our esteemed faculty. When these faculty unabashedly shirk their duties by canceling class because of their political views, they are doing a great disservice to the College’s students. They are communicating that a liberal arts education is not as important as differences in personal politics. The professors are contractually obligated to teach and, furthermore, it is illegal to engage in a strike in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Thank you from all of us at The Virginia Informer

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A thank you to the silly, a warning to the dangerous

Opinion

Joe Luppino-Esposito
Editor in Chief

This editorial serves primarily as a thank you note, not to the Board of Visitors or to Should Nichol Be Renewed? or to my fellow Informer staffers (though all would be worthy of one). Instead, it is a thank you note to all of the so-called “campus leaders” and their simple-minded following for provoking Comic Relief over the last two weeks, a time during which I probably should have been scared for my life.

Of all the words that came to mind about your actions (pathetic, unhelpful, hysterical), the most appropriate one was “silly.” Usually reserved for pre-schoolers, the term came to redefine the way I view a large portion of the William and Mary community.

The yellow t-shirts you proudly adorned telling us that you are no longer welcome here made me want to hand out copies of the proper transfer forms. Making such an empty statement is silly, to say the least.

The student and professor strike, on the whole, was an extremely silly endeavor. On the first day, the liberal egalitarianism warmed my heart as I watched a number of random characters grab the megaphone in the Sunken Garden and spew whatever random, angry thoughts came to mind. Evidently, the more you swear, the more to live in 1968 unless they are called “demands.” I will put (pathetic, unhinged, hysterical), the most appropriate one of all. “Gene Nichol’s Not Gone… If I’m Still Here!” serves primarily as a thank you to the people who are paid to drown them out.

On Wednesday, the sit-in at the UC got increasingly silly. People shouted for “demands,” which were actually “fellow-travelers.” The events were now set to be a “teach-in” at the Sunken Garden. One flyer, filled with drawings of hearts, read, “Show some Valentine’s Day love for your professors + reclaim power over THE PEOPLE’S COLLEGE and your education!” The other one, which said “MAKE DEMANDS” was the silliest of all. I wonder how wide-ranging those demands could be. “We want free soda in the vending machines!” and “We demand longer recess!” seems apropos.

And not to criticize the students disproportionately—the Arts and Sciences “emergency” faculty meeting was one of the silliest displays of them all. Assuming that most people do not know Robert’s Rules of Order, the simple principle of only speaking when you are called on still seemed beyond the comprehension of several professors. Snickering at someone you disagree with while they talk in order to drown them out is one of the most childish tactics, but it was not beyond some of the people who are paid to educate us. Tuesday night’s candlelight vigil and farewell to Gene Nichol, although fitting, was a little silly. The man didn’t die, he cowardly quit his job. I really don’t think letters, condom-grams and flowers are really appropriate for a quarter. Furthermore, the new Facebook photo reading, “Gene Nichol’s Not Gone… If I’m Still Here!” serves as another opportunity to remind people that Mr. Nichol does not “live in all of us” like the Holy Spirit.

The regalia of protesters was also a silly sight to see. The red armbands, usually associated with Nazis, became the first symbol of “solidarity” at the sit-in. More moderately, the red armbands could just be construed as communist. This would be appropriate, as faculty strike organizers Lu Ann Homza, Karin Wulf and Leisa Meyer signed their e-mail to the Arts and Sciences faculty as “fellow-travelers.”

Luckily, most people on this campus have been far too distraught about the resignation of their dear leader to get out of hand. Of course, my criticisms are in jest, people were emotional, and sometimes things do not come out as planned. On the whole, most of the pro-Nichol / anti-BOV movement has been benign in its intent and limited in its effectiveness. In the meantime, The Informer will likely not spend too much time on this small cabal of malcontents, as most students will come back from spring break asking, “Gene who?”

T he people whom I do legitimately fear are those I intend to put under the microscope in my final months at the College. The professors that tried to shout down The Informer while distributing at the UC were some of the most despicable people I encountered as of late. Most were respectful, some professors, like Bruce Campbell of Modern Languages, told us that we were “wrong” for daring to hand out copies and that it was “disrespectful.”

One of the most offensive was Professor Lu Ann Homza’s comment that “they will come after my courses next.” Too bad Ms. Homza did not see the irony in the fact that she was saying this while on strike from teaching those courses she pretends to hold so dear. It is a travesty that professors hold their own political agenda above that of their jobs. I guess most can feel safe to do that with the protection of tenure.

I say these people are dangerous because their first inclination was to move the College to division and disruption, rather than to collectively help and try to prevent us from falling into further controversy and turmoil. If these are the people the College looks to for guidance, we will certainly fail.

Reactions to Nichol’s resignation

Excerpts from local and national media

Nichol’s Farewell
Daily Press Editorial Published February 13, 2008

But there’s more to running a state-supported college than being a charismatic champion of liberal arts. It’s a bulldog for progressive politics. The position takes executive leadership in planning, administration, fundraising, cultivating influence on behalf of the institution. There are many puzzle pieces — students, faculty, parents, alumni, legislators, governors — and it takes considerable skill to knit them together and keep the peace. “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead” can be monumentally problematic when steering the course of a complex college community.

William and Mary: What not to learn from a college president’s departure

Washington Post Editorial Published February 18, 2008

The uproar surrounding Gene Nichol’s possible departure will likely not affect the president of the College of William and Mary is not unexpected, given the controversies that dogged his tenure. But what’s notable is how the college has been diverted from its core mission since Mr. Nichol arbitrarily decided 16 months ago to banish a historic cross from the campus chapel.

The Cross and President

Dinesh D’Souza

But many at William and Mary are saying that my high-profile debate was the single event that turned the tide against Nichol. He exposed the shallowness of his argument, and it galvanized the opposition. Ultimately it was the trustees of the college who decided that Nichol had become a liability, and they informed him this month that his contract was not going to be renewed... I take no pleasure in Nichol’s resignation, but I am glad to see the cross restored to Wren Chapel. In an era where political correctness often triumphs over common sense, that’s no small victory.

Joe Luppino-Esposito
Editor in Chief

The Virginia Informer
On the crucifixion of Gene Nichol

Stephanie Long
News Editor

Y es, Gene Nichol has been crucified, but not by the Board of Visitors—who simply chose not to renew his contract, which had been a possibility since his instatement. Rather he has been crucified by himself and his supporters, who believe the missteps of his Bedos e-mail and have therefore come to view him as a martyr.

I, for one, am upset that the BOV felt the need to make this decision behind closed doors, because plenty of legitimate and legal ground upon which to justify nonrenewal. The role of a college president is not simply limited to setting miniscule precedents in order to further one’s political agenda. But the president is supposed to be the public figurehead of the college and is responsible for making the college presentable by upholding its quality. This must be accomplished on two fronts: in the college’s public image as well as its academic standards. And as disheartening as it seems to be for many of my fellow students, money is what keeps this institution on its feet. If the money is necessary to have top notch facilities and professors.

This should be an even more pertinent goal at the College of William and Mary where the State of Virginia is increasingly cutting our funding each year and we depend on private investors to finance the faculty salaries and the facilities on campus. Mr. Nichol knew what his job was and chose not to fulfill it, despite the fact that his contract was up for renewal. He continued to choose to fight small battles which had a high cost for the College in the public eye. He damaged the previously prestigious reputation of the College of William and Mary and constantly put his political agenda before his duty to maintain the quality of the school.

Because the BOV was able to keep meetings about the controversial president’s career at the College private—something Mr. Nichol was never able to do, even regarding this incident—most students found this privacy unusual and have taken his public statement at face value. They have acted out just as irrationally. It is irrational to believe everything a man who has just lost his job says about why he lost his job. Mr. Nichol’s public statement, while passionate and successful in moving compassion within the hearts of many, simply cannot be considered objective. In fact, it contains numerous misleading passages which have been at the root of the student body’s fury towards the BOV. First Mr. Nichol has been made four decisions, or sets of decisions, during my tenure that have stirred ample controversy; implying that those four decisions correlate with the BOV’s choice not to renew his contract, though in an interview with The Washington Post and at the BOV’s public meeting last Friday, Rector Michael Powell cited different reasons from anything stipulated in Mr. Nichol’s statement for the BOV’s decision. Second, Mr. Nichol also insinuated that the BOV tried to bribe him to prevent him from giving this information; blinding many business illiterate students (myself included) from realizing that, as Mr. Powell admitted, severance packages are customary when one loses his job—in both the corporate and academic world. Mr. Nichol, though, wrote, “the majority of people I have intended this as a gesture of generosity to ease my transition. But the stipulation of censorship made it seem like something else entirely. We, of course, rejected the offer. It would have required that I make statements I believe to be untrue and that I believe most would find non-credible.” His language here paints himself as a martyr for free speech, which is perhaps why most people who buy into everything he says would be dismayed to learn that Mr. Nichol is dealing in propaganda and not fact.

It is even more irrational to act as if the words in that e-mail came from God himself. And some people have made that comparison. A professor of mine compared Mr. Nichol to the Good Shepherd, that is, Jesus Christ, and all those who opposed him to ravenous wolves trying to kill his sheep, the students. Another professor acknowledged that the student body had been impacted by Nichol’s decision but that the professors were not impacted by September 11. Following that analogy, then, if Mr. Nichol’s removal is like the death of over 3,000 innocent people, then those who wanted Mr. Nichol to be removed from the presidency of William and Mary are like the terrorists who enabled the crashing of planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Student Assembly President Zach Plichter’s (‘09) e-mail doesn’t help, but rather illuminates the ignorance of the William and Mary student body on the matter. “Michael Powell’s statement on the BOV’s decision rings empty. He lauds President Nichol and claims that the decision was, ‘not in any way political.’ If that was true, why would the BOV feel the necessity to bribe President Nichol and his wife into silence?” Attempted bribery is about as un-William and Mary as you can get. President Nichol took the principled decision in rejecting their offer. We have come to expect nothing less from him.” To me it seems “un-William and Mary” for students to sacrifice their education to blindly follow a capricious old man, mimicking his example by wearing neon yellow t-shirts printed with empty threats. To me it is “un-William and Mary” to desecrate some of the school’s oldest and most important buildings in an attempt to undermine those trying to lead our College out of its current state of chaos.

It was almost a year and a half ago that Mr. Nichol removed a cross from the altar of a chapel. And now, he has made every attempt to place himself back on one. As an English major, I would be more appreciative of the poetry of the event if I were not so offended as a Christian and as a student of the College of William and Mary. Over the past few weeks, I have observed the student body and the faculty substituting the image of the true, melting the gold cross into the golden calf of Mr. Nichol’s greatness. If Mr. Nichol is the messiah of the College, I fear that during his tenure the quality of our school has suffered greater damage than I realized.

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Introducing the new president...
Former Dean of Law School seeks to continue progress of College

W. Taylor Reveley III is the new president of the College of William and Mary. Although Mr. Reveley is only scheduled to act in this position for the next 12 to 18 months, in an e-mail to campus on February 12, he promised to “serve this marvelous College as best I can. Listening and learning will be crucial for me in the weeks to come. I have begun meeting with our extraordinary faculty and students, deeply committed staff, and stalwart alumni. I look forward to many more conversations in the days and weeks to come.”

Part of his service, Mr. Reveley said, is to continue “progress of the College...[in] our commitment to William and Mary as a place for students, faculty and staff of great diversity. Important also are the College’s welcome and support for students regardless of means...And William and Mary’s historic commitment to the civic involvement of its people is central to our identity. These are College values of great importance. They are also my values,” he said.

This statement comes in the face of many student and faculty concerns that the new president will not have any interest in continuing the progressive posturing of former President Gene Nichol, particularly such programs as Gateway William and Mary.

Before being appointed president, Mr. Reveley had served as dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law since 1998. Before that, he worked for 28 years in the Richmond law firm Hunton & Williams, and was a partner in that firm for nine of those years. Mr. Reveley also directed Hunton & Williams’ energy and telecommunications team.

Mr. Reveley has asserted he has no interest in making his new position permanent. “I am interim, acting, temporary,” he said in a statement. “And I think that’s important for me to be the most effective in this role. I am here to help the College during this time of transition but I will be happy to return to my job at the nation’s oldest law school.”

No intentions to stay: Reveley has voiced his position that he views his term as nothing but temporary.

Reveley addresses College

“The College’s immediate needs are continuity, healing, and renewed progress. Continuity -- we need to finish this academic year in good order. Healing -- we need to come together again in restored community, all of us, Board, faculty, student, staff, alumni, friends.

And we need show new and vibrant signs of moving powerfully into the 21st century, along with you and the rest of the W&M community, I’m working hard, indeed doggedly hard, to move us in these directions. Together, I have staunch confidence we’ll get there.”

Montpellier program forced to close due to low interest

Each summer, William and Mary faculty lead summer study abroad programs for which students apply by February 1. For the past eight years that Guru Ghosh has been the director of Global Education, he has never seen a program canceled because of low numbers.

This year, however, two programs—one in Montpellier, France, and another in Morelia, Mexico—had low applicant turnout, which caused their deadlines to be extended until February 15. Even with the deadline extension, the Montpellier program was not able to get the number of applicants needed to take place this summer and was ultimately canceled.

In order to cover costs, each program needs at least ten to twelve students to go. Originally, eight applied for the Morelia program and only three for the Montpellier program. With the extension period, three more applied for the Morelia program, leaving it to be held this summer. The Montpellier program, which has been running for close to 30 years, was not able to get enough applicants and had to be canceled for this summer. Mr. Ghosh says that they plan to offer the Montpellier program again next summer. The deadlines cannot be pushed back farther as the Reeves Center has partnerships with various universities and must make arrangements with them in order for the programs to occur.

Several possibilities might explain the low numbers. One is that financially, it may not be a possibility that students as the dollar is weak compared with the Euro, and the local economy is not as strong. Mr. Ghosh points out that last year there were around 80 to 85 applicants for scholarship money, whereas the number has jumped to 120 this year. Each year, the Global Studies department has about $120,000 to give in scholarships, $80,000-120,000 of which usually goes to students in summer programs.

Other possibilities could be that with the growing number of programs offered, like the new South African and Morocco programs, people who may have possibly considered Montpellier or Morelia chose different programs. While numbers for some trips are low this year, overall, the center has grown with close to 280 applicants for this summer compared with 150 applicants eight years ago.

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

Drink of the Week

B-52

1/4 oz Kahlua, 1/4 oz Amaretto, 1/4 oz Irish Cream, 1/4 oz Cointreau

Directions: Pour ingredients into a shot glass and serve. If you want to be fancy for that special someone, layer the liqueurs in the order listed by slowly pouring each over the back of a spoon.

Taste: Like an orange truffle. Goes down smooth.

Substitutions: The Cointreau can be replaced with triple sec, but layering may be more difficult. Do not use orange vodka as its flavor is too weak.

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