College lobbies city to deny student availability for proposed condos

Stephanie Long
News Editor

Reed Nestor, planning director for the City of Williamsburg, has complied with a request from Michael Fox, the assistant to President Gene Nichol, that the city make the condos being built on South Henry Street near the William and Mary law school owner-occupied, preventing law students and others who may desire to rent the condos from doing so.

Despite the College’s previous endeavors to make the city of Williamsburg more student-friendly by recent attempts to help the student body receive more voting rights and opposing the three-person-to-a house rule, their recent request prevents students from renting the condos, who, otherwise, might be interested. University Relations representative Brian Whitson, though, maintained that the condos would be “starting in the neighborhood of $800,000 to $1 million, so I’m not sure these would have been rentable or attractive to the typical student.” That is likely that this request will also be upheld, as public notice from the Williamsburg Planning Commission meeting on January 16 clarified the College’s concern. It does that not address, however, a student who would be able to rent the condos, and the purchasing price mentioned says nothing of what yearly rent for the condos would be.

Since reviewing the issue at their meeting on January 10, the city council has approved the condos as owner occupied, according to Mr. Whitson.

Now, the College is focusing on the need for the new condos to have the same appearance as William and Mary’s buildings. Mr. Whitson said, “What the College and law school want to make sure is that this development, given its proximity to the law school, which just finished an extensive renovation and expansion, is well maintained and landscaped and blends well with the harmony of that downtown district.”

Funding the Sex Workers’ Art Show

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

The Sex Workers’ Art Show (SWAS) has been a controversial topic on campus over the past three years. The debate has sparked discussions in a variety of media, including newspaper columns, Facebook groups and through conversations both behind closed doors and in the proverbial public square.

Amidst the conversation, however, people on both sides seem uninformed regarding the details of how SWAS actually comes to campus to perform. There are monetary, budgetary and political considerations involved in bringing such an event to William and Mary. To understand the student-administered budget process and its politics is to have a better understanding of how and why the show has been approved for a third consecutive year.

The Board of Visitors approves all university funding, which includes the student affairs budget. Within that budget is a breakdown of student activities fees, which are mandatory. The fee is set by the student government; it was $86 this year.

The purpose of this fee is to provide funding to nearly all the independent, student-run organizations which apply for it. There are some exceptions; no money can be approved for religious devotional or partisan political activities.

This fee is events-based, in that funds are usually not applied toward simple operating expenses. It must be used for events or projects that are one-time and specific to the message of the organization.

An organization can appeal for access to these funds through a process administered by the Student Assembly. The SA president—currently Zach Pitchen (’09)—appoints a committee which hears appeals from student organizations who have created a budget, and who then have to justify their budget request to the committee. The committee deliberates upon these requests, combines and condenses them and then delivers its complete student organization budget to the president. The president then makes final adjustments and sends it along to the Senate Finance Committee. The Finance Committee reviews the

SEX WORKERS’ ART SHOW:
continued on page twelve

Student charged with embezzlement

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

William and Mary student William McClain (’08) has been indicted on a charge of felony embezzlement for allegedly stealing $5,000 from Students Serve, a student volunteer organization that provides grants to college students interested in performing service work around the country. The group receives money from the College. Mr. McClain was arrested on January 18 but posted his $3,000 bond. A police investigation is currently underway, and, in addition to legal consequences which have yet to play out, Mr. McClain will also face potential honor and judicial violations from each respective council, both of which are run by students.

In addition to having held the post of associate director of finance for Students Serve, Mr. McClain is also the vice president of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. This may prove problematic for the Honor Council, as several Betas hold positions thereon. When if an Honor Council investigation occurs, several members may be forced to recuse themselves for fear of exhibiting partiality towards Mr. McClain. Angela Perkey (’09), the founder of Students Serve, could not be reached for comment before this issue went to print. According to reports in The Daily Press the alleged theft was reported on January 14.
Sadler to retire at end of semester

Kristin Coyner, Staff Writer

As of July 1, 2008, Vice President for Student Affairs William Sadler (’64, M. Ed. ’71) will retire from his position at the College. Mr. Sadler has held this position for the past 19 years and over the course of nearly four decades has worked in some capacity for the school administration.

In all, Mr. Sadler’s affiliation with the college has spanned five college presidents. It in is his role as vice president for student affairs, however, that he truly began to embody the college administration to students, especially with the advent of the Internet as a medium for his biweekly communications.

In an e-mail sent out to students on January 15, the day of the retirement announcement, President Gene Nichol remarked on the intimate and unique relationship Mr. Sadler has with the College. Mr. Nichol also encouraged students in the same e-mail to send him letters of appreciation on behalf of Mr. Sadler, which are to be compiled into a volume upon his retirement.

In the upcoming weeks, Mr. Sadler is to be absent from the campus, resulting from surgery on an undisclosed medical problem. On January 23, Mr. Nichol sent another e-mail to students informing them that Mr. Sadler’s surgery at Duke University had gone well. There is likely to be another five weeks or so before Mr. Sadler returns to campus to finish his term.

In the meantime, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Virginia Ambler has assumed all the duties held by Mr. Sadler in running the Division for Student Affairs. Students have been directed to regard any issues in Mr. Sadler’s absence.

There are a number of vice president positions in the College’s administration, six in total, all of which are subordinate to Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss. Feiss is the chief academic and financial officer at the school and reports directly to the president. The vice president of student affairs oversees all issues pertaining to the management of the Division of Student Affairs. According to the Web site for student affairs, responsibilities include “general student counseling, multicultural student services, services for disabled and commuting students, student rights and responsibilities, organizations and activities, student government, the judicial system, the College, although it is not known whether or not the BOC will make a final decision on what course of action to take regarding his contract. As of press time, no information had been received on other topics the Board of Visitors hopes to cover.

William & Mary Receives $1.5 million for environmental policy programs

The Andrew Mellon Foundation, which gives grants to educational institutions based on “core areas” such as conservation, the performing arts and information technology research, awarded the College’s Environmental Science and Policy Program $1.5 million in order to establish a Center for Geo-Spatial Analysis (CGA) as well as to create a post-doctorate program in environmental science. The creation of the CGA is one of the first in the country for an institution of the College’s size, and access to this center will benefit research in all disciplines, according to Carl Strikwerda, dean of arts and sciences. The post-doctorate program will have similar benefits in giving scholars with new PhDs the chance to engage in research. The grant stipulates that the College must raise $1.6 million on its own to help pay for the new programs, which will come from private donors who “are eager to see their resources support the role the College can play in our collective understanding of environmental concerns,” according to University Relations.

News Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

Republican Rob Wittman wins for Congress

In a special election held in December 2007, Rob Wittman (R) defeated Phil Foss (D) to win the US Congress for the first district (R) defeated Phil Forgit (D) to win the US Congress for the first district. Wittman will face Democratic challenger Rob Wittman, who was defeated by Forgit in 2006. Wittman’s victory me will mark the 31st anniversary of the handing down of the Royal Charter which originally established the College of William and Mary. He is the first Republican since 1988 to win the seat, the only time a Republican has won the seat since 1988. Wittman’s victory will mark the 31st anniversary of the handing down of the Royal Charter which originally established the College of William and Mary. He is the first Republican since 1988 to win the seat, the only time a Republican has won the seat since 1988.

President for Student Affairs W. Samuel Sadler (’64, M. Ed.) will retire at the end of the spring semester, according to the College. Sadler will be absent from the campus until July 1, 2008, due to surgery for cancer. Sadler is to be absent from the campus until July 1, 2008, due to surgery for cancer. Sadler is the chief academic and financial officer at the school and reports directly to the president. The vice president of student affairs oversees all issues pertaining to the management of the Division of Student Affairs. According to the Web site for student affairs, responsibilities include “general student counseling, multicultural student services, services for disabled and commuting students, student rights and responsibilities, organizations and activities, student government, the judicial system, the College, although it is not known whether or not the BOC will make a final decision on what course of action to take regarding his contract. As of press time, no information had been received on other topics the Board of Visitors hopes to cover.

William & Mary Receives $1.5 million for environmental policy programs

The Andrew Mellon Foundation, which gives grants to educational institutions based on “core areas” such as conservation, the performing arts and information technology research, awarded the College’s Environmental Science and Policy Program $1.5 million in order to establish a Center for Geo-Spatial Analysis (CGA) as well as to create a post-doctorate program in environmental science. The creation of the CGA is one of the first in the country for an institution of the College’s size, and access to this center will benefit research in all disciplines, according to Carl Strikwerda, dean of arts and sciences. The post-doctorate program will have similar benefits in giving scholars with new PhDs the chance to engage in research. The grant stipulates that the College must raise $1.6 million on its own to help pay for the new programs, which will come from private donors who “are eager to see their resources support the role the College can play in our collective understanding of environmental concerns,” according to University Relations.

James Comey (’82) to speak at Charter Day ceremony

Former US Deputy Attorney General James Comey (’82) will be the speaker at the College’s Charter Day ceremony, which will mark the 315th anniversary of the handing down of the Royal Charter which originally established the College of William and Mary. He is the first Republican since 1988 to win the seat, the only time a Republican has won the seat since 1988. Wittman’s victory will mark the 315th anniversary of the handing down of the Royal Charter which originally established the College of William and Mary. He is the first Republican since 1988 to win the seat, the only time a Republican has won the seat since 1988.

President for Student Affairs W. Samuel Sadler (’64, M. Ed.) will retire at the end of the spring semester, according to the College. Sadler will be absent from the campus until July 1, 2008, due to surgery for cancer. Sadler is the chief academic and financial officer at the school and reports directly to the president. The vice president of student affairs oversees all issues pertaining to the management of the Division of Student Affairs. According to the Web site for student affairs, responsibilities include “general student counseling, multicultural student services, services for disabled and commuting students, student rights and responsibilities, organizations and activities, student government, the judicial system, the College, although it is not known whether or not the BOC will make a final decision on what course of action to take regarding his contract. As of press time, no information had been received on other topics the Board of Visitors hopes to cover.

William & Mary Receives $1.5 million for environmental policy programs

The Andrew Mellon Foundation, which gives grants to educational institutions based on “core areas” such as conservation, the performing arts and information technology research, awarded the College’s Environmental Science and Policy Program $1.5 million in order to establish a Center for Geo-Spatial Analysis (CGA) as well as to create a post-doctorate program in environmental science. The creation of the CGA is one of the first in the country for an institution of the College’s size, and access to this center will benefit research in all disciplines, according to Carl Strikwerda, dean of arts and sciences. The post-doctorate program will have similar benefits in giving scholars with new PhDs the chance to engage in research. The grant stipulates that the College must raise $1.6 million on its own to help pay for the new programs, which will come from private donors who “are eager to see their resources support the role the College can play in our collective understanding of environmental concerns,” according to University Relations.

James Comey (’82) to speak at Charter Day ceremony

Former US Deputy Attorney General James Comey (’82) will be the speaker at the College’s Charter Day ceremony, which will mark the 315th anniversary of the handing down of the Royal Charter which originally established the College of William and Mary. He is the first Republican since 1988 to win the seat, the only time a Republican has won the seat since 1988. Wittman’s victory will mark the 315th anniversary of the handing down of the Royal Charter which originally established the College of William and Mary. He is the first Republican since 1988 to win the seat, the only time a Republican has won the seat since 1988.
Logo Committee to choose new mascot

More information is released about why replacement for feathers was not chosen

Chris Davis
Layout Editor
Preparations begin on what has been called the “next great adventure” by Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler, the Logo Committee—which came under fire last semester for unveiling what many students considered to be a poorly devised, substandard and altogether uninspiring logo—will soon fulfill the other charge given it by President Nichol: to decide on a school mascot.

Headed by Athletics Director Terry Driscoll, the committee hopes to involve the entire student body in its decision to maximize the number of people satisfied with the final product.

“The people need to feel they have input, which is why we need to first implement a process to get the mascot chosen," Mr. Driscoll said. “We want the mascot to reflect what our students want.”

According to alumni representative Nancy Matthews ’76, the committee said “yes and yes again” last semester for the College. These included full funding for constructing the new school of education, support for the planning and building of Phase III of the Integrated Science Center (ISC), outfitting the ISC with equipment and furnishings as well as general funding for maintenance and renovation projects.

This General Obligation Bond must first be passed by the Virginia General Assembly and then put to referendum by the voters. Other four-year institutions in Virginia would receive funding similar to that of William and Mary, with UVA proposed to receive $115.5 million and Virginia Tech $117.9 million.

Other key elements of the governor’s budget include an increase in financial aid and support for new school facilities to come on-line, specifically the new Integrated Science Building. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science would also adjust to a permanent budget reduction, totaling approximately $1 million. An approved General Obligation Bond would allocate $5.4 million for capital projects at VIMS.

A slight revamping: The new logo emphasizes the distinct ampersand.

TLSC targets intimidation in College workplace

Steven Nelson
Features Editor
The Tidewater Labor Support Committee (TLSC) hosted an event aimed at increasing awareness of intimidation in the workplace on Thursday, January 24.

The well attended program featured a showing of the film At the Mercy of Managers which documents the Memphis sanitation workers’ strike in 1968, during which Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.

Following the film, which highlighted the sanitation workers’ hard-won victory, a local union organizer lamented that she had no workers who were willing to come address the group, saying they were afraid to lose their jobs if they spoke out.

The organizer, herself a former employee at the College, listed various past incidents which have not and cannot be addressed without collective bargaining at the College. Grievances range from unjustified firings, to preferential treatment by managers, to reprehensible treatment of sick employees.

The TLSC has been petitioning President Gene Nichol to sign right to organize paperwork for the College’s employees for some time. In the state of Virginia the right to collectively bargain with employers is not recognized.

Also addressed at the event were concerns that the $200 or so “temp” workers employed by William and Mary are being paid below what is said to be the College’s self-imposed minimum wage of $9.00 an hour.
Senate begins 2008 session

I'm Just a Bill: Bills discussed by the SA Senate in their 2008 opening meeting include the “Protect the Freedom of Speech Act,” “Closing the Gun Show Loophole Act” and “The Student Input on Gene Nichol Referendum Act.”

Sweatha Sivaram
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, January 22, the Senate held its first meeting of the semester. Several bills were discussed at the meeting, including the “Protect the Freedom of Speech Act” which was up for a veto override vote. This bill would reprimand students who vandalized and picked up multiple copies of student newspapers after a number of vandalism incidents were reported by The Flat Hat and The Virginia Informer. The bill was intended as a reminder to students to not destroy or take many copies of campus publications, which may result in a disciplinary hearing and even a police report. Senators debated whether this reminder was necessary or was patronizing to the students. Senator Walter McClean ('09) commented that “I pretty much think it is a dead issue. It's been delayed so long that we can drop it.” Some pointed out that the newspapers did not have any new incidents of vandalism yet, while others cautioned that the school year is just beginning. The bill did not pass, although the vote was 10-7 in favor. In order for the Senate to override President Pilchen's veto, 75 percent of present senators would have needed to vote in favor.

“Steer Clear,” a student organization dedicated to reducing drunk driving, made a presentation to regain funding for the program, which has since been discontinued. The costs include salaries for the drivers, who will be paid $8 per hour. In all, the request is for $1,842 dollars.

The “Closing the Gun Show Loophole Act” was passed 15-0-1 by the Senate. This bill, proposed by Senators Devan Barber ('08), Michael Douglass ('11) and Brittany Fallon ('11) is intended to persuade the General Assembly to close the loophole that would allow the sale of firearms without background checks. Senators arguing for the bill cited the easy accessibility of background checks. The bill was voted down in the General Assembly the next day.

The last and the most controversial bill was the “The Student Input on Gene Nichol (S.I.G.N) Referendum Act,” a set of propositions that reflected opinion and student input on Gene Nichol, worded as neutrally as possible. It was hotly debated as to whether the bill was intended to persuade the General Assembly to close the loophole that would allow the sale of firearms without background checks. Senators arguing for the bill cited the easy accessibility of background checks. The bill was voted down in the General Assembly the next day.

The referendum vote passed 15-0, with one abstention.

SA Executive opens for spring semester

Goals include ‘spring service day’ and voter registration efforts

Sarah Nadler
Staff Writer

With Student Assembly President Zach Pillen ('08) at SCUBA class, Vice President Valerie Hopkins ('09) ran the January 22 executive meeting, the first of the new semester. The meeting was dominated by a report from Secretary of Student Life Liz Thomas ('99). Ms. Thomas has been active in planning a school-wide spring service day involving more than 75 local agencies. A full presentation on the service day was scheduled for the next meeting. Diversity Secretary Nimish Shukula ('08) shared plans for a forum on diversity and the annual Mosaic festival. The members of the cabinet were also enthusiastic about efforts in voter registration. Currently, 78 students are registering student voters and over 350 students have been registered to vote as a direct result of a $15,000 program encouraging student registration in which recruiters are paid $10 per voter.

Multiple secretaries complained of not being able to get in touch with their departments, that members have not been showing up to meetings and some meetings have failed to be scheduled. Chief of Staff David Husband ('09) confronted the situation and closed the meeting by saying, “It seems that some of you have well articulated missions, and others not. You need to look back to your comprehensive plan and see what you need to accomplish.”

Movies

Love in the Time of Cholera (R)
Wed., Jan. 30 - Fri., Feb.1
6:30 and 9 p.m.

We scutters: A Love Story (R)
Wed., Jan. 30 - Wed., Feb.6
7 and 8:45 p.m.

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
Sun., Feb. 3 - Fri., Feb.8
6:45 and 9 p.m.

Bella (PG-13)
7 and 8:45 p.m.

I'm Not There (R)
Sun., Feb. 10 - Thurs., Feb. 21
6:30 and 9 p.m.

Starting Out in the Evening (PG-13)
Mon., Feb. 18 - Sun., Feb. 24
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

War/Dance (PG-13)
Mon., Feb. 25 - Fri., Feb. 29
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Southland Tales (R)
Mon., Feb. 25 - Sat., Mar. 1
6:30 and 9 p.m.
# Ruckus offers free online music service for students

Mr. Adkins is also a music lover and self-taught musician. He plays the harmonica and the guitar, and has been married for nine years. He and his wife live in Williamsburg and have three boys, ages seven, five, and three months.

He has also dabbled in zen flute and accordion. According to Chris Utah, director of Student Relations, the Student Assembly began receiving letters threatening lawsuits from the recording industry. After determining that Ruckus would be a valuable service for students, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading.

In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs. More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends’ favorite tracks as well.

Mr. McClean remains committed to promoting Ruckus at the College. “If we can push a service that means unlimited free music, and reduces the likelihood of students downloading pirated music, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading,” he said. In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs. More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends’ favorite tracks as well.

Mr. McClean remains committed to promoting Ruckus at the College. “If we can push a service that means unlimited free music, and reduces the likelihood of students downloading pirated music, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading,” he said.

In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs. More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends’ favorite tracks as well.

Mr. McClean remains committed to promoting Ruckus at the College. “If we can push a service that means unlimited free music, and reduces the likelihood of students downloading pirated music, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading,” he said.

In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs. More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends’ favorite tracks as well.

Mr. McClean remains committed to promoting Ruckus at the College. “If we can push a service that means unlimited free music, and reduces the likelihood of students downloading pirated music, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading,” he said.

In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs. More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends’ favorite tracks as well.

Mr. McClean remains committed to promoting Ruckus at the College. “If we can push a service that means unlimited free music, and reduces the likelihood of students downloading pirated music, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading,” he said.

In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs. More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends’ favorite tracks as well.

Mr. McClean remains committed to promoting Ruckus at the College. “If we can push a service that means unlimited free music, and reduces the likelihood of students downloading pirated music, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading,” he said.

In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs. More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends’ favorite tracks as well.
Chaos in the streets of Manchester

Protesters would soon learn that a restaurant, on the very intersection of the protest, was hosting Fox News pollster Frank Luntz’s focus group, which was responding live to the debate which excluded Mr. Paul.

Within sight of Mr. Luntz and the camera crew, the increasingly excited protesters repeatedly chanted into one window: “In what to think Frank?” and “Ron Paul Revolution—legitimate the Constitution.”

Not long after the focus group’s location was identified, too was Fox anchor Sean Hannity, who had stopped by to thank the group’s participants. As he left the restaurant, protesters reacted with cries of “there he is!” and “get him!”

The chaos which ensued would be captured on film and replayed on various cable news outlets.

Mr. Hannity, attempting a hasty return to his hotel, was pursued by an angry mob of 50 to 100 Paul supporters. Mob participants demanded that he attend mass, grant interviews and demanded that he attend mass, grant interviews and some even picked up snow from the ground and threw it in his direction.

I ran into Mr. Luntz the next evening as he was having a drink at the bar of the Radisson hotel with other journalists to the spin room where representatives from each campaign stood around and let reporters berate them with questions. It was quite a circus as the journalists were screaming over each other to try to get themselves heard. Amidst the craziness, I still managed to ask a few questions of: Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO), representing Mr. Romney; Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), for Mr. McCain; former Rep. David Bonior (D-MI) and Democratic political operative Joe Trippi, both for former Senator John Edwards (D-NC); Ray Buchanan, brother of Pat Buchanan, for Mr. Romney; as well as presidential candidate Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), who was the only candidate to enter the spin room, Governor Deval Patrick (D-MA), supporting Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), and Elizabeth Edwards, wife of Mr. Edwards, who were escorted out of the room right before I had a chance to talk to them.

I asked Mr. Paul a question about whether or not he thought it was appropriate for the Wren cross to be displayed publicly. He answered that it shouldn’t be a decision of the federal government, and added that he did think the cross’ original display to be a violation of the First Amendment.

Additionally, I asked Mr. Trippi—an advisor to Mr. Edwards, who also managed Howard Dean’s presidential campaign in 2004—why the enthusiasm and youth vote that supported Mr. Dean in 2004 was going towards Mr. Obama this election. Mr. Trippi did not seem to believe this and proceeded to yell at me, citing obscure straw polls which depicted Mr. Edwards as doing well among younger voters.

I asked Mr. Graham (a former prisoner of war) about his stance on torture. Mr. Graham told me that opposes the government using “Inquisition methods” and that the United States should not stoop to the levels of our enemies. I also asked Mr. Tancredo—as as Ms. Buchanan—about his decision to endorse Mr. Romney. Mr. Tancredo explained that when he decided to drop out of the presidential race, he and Mr. Romney had an hour-long meeting discussing immigration. Apparently Mr. Romney’s responses satisfied Mr. Tancredo, who then decided to endorse Mr. Romney for president.

Another fun part of the spin room was having other journalists come up to me to ask of which state Patrick was governor and who Lindsey Graham. Overall, attending the debate was a great experience and it was very exciting to be surrounded by so many important media figures and politicians.
Giuliani pushes big proposals in the Sunshine State

Matthew Beato
Guest Contributor

I don't really fit in to any defined political category, so it was quite an experience stepping into the front lines of the so-called “Ron Paul Revolution” when I went up to New Hampshire for this month’s primaries.

Most of the mainstream media dismisses Mr. Paul as a fringe candidate; not so with our volunteer group. For starters, the housing was arranged by Operation Live Free or Die; this was a PAC set up by Vijay Boyapati, an engineer who quit his cushy job at Google to move to New Hampshire and volunteer full time for Mr. Paul. Mr. Boyapati was more than happy to provide us housing. It’s worth noting that no other campaign which I looked into provided us free housing.

Mr. Paul’s supporters are an eclectic, die-hard group. In our housing, Nick Hoelker and I met parents who homeschool their children, to a 42-year-old married couple who homeshool their children, to a 42-year-old man who had run for Congress, to a 25-year-old real estate agent, to a preacher who gave a long evangelistic lecture to Nick about the meaning of Christianity. The group ranged from atheist to born-again Christian, from long haired hippie to three-piece suit businessman and from pre-teenager to senior citizen.

While Mr. Paul’s supporters were diverse in many aspects, there were a few similarities. The group was overwhelmingly male, educated and white, something which is a well-documented phenomena among Paul supporters. Second, the group was united in its belief in libertarian ideology. The group (although not necessarily Nick and I) was united in their beliefs against the Iraq War, against the Federal Reserve, against the IRS, UN, Department of Education and most other elements of the federal bureaucracy. There were some areas of disagreement—abortion and immigration, for example—but few seemed to prefer those from unifying on behalf of Mr. Paul.

While Mr. Paul’s supporters were diverse in many aspects, there were a few similarities. The group was overwhelmingly male, educated and white, something which is a well-documented phenomena among Paul supporters. Second, the group was united in its belief in libertarian ideology. The group (although not necessarily Nick and I) was united in their beliefs against the Iraq War, against the Federal Reserve, against the IRS, UN, Department of Education and most other elements of the federal bureaucracy. There were some areas of disagreement—abortion and immigration, for example—but few seemed to prefer those from unifying on behalf of Mr. Paul.

Andrew B. Blasi
Business Editor

On January 11, The Virginia Informer was granted an inside look into one of former Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s campaign stops in Florida. Visiting a municipal charter school in Coral Springs, Fl., Mr. Giuliani unveiled several large initiatives, hoping to capture support for the state’s primary which took place on January 29. These proposals included a new voucher system for America’s schools, a major reform of the federal tax code and a stronger foreign policy stance towards nations who harbor terrorism, including Pakistan.

Mr. Giuliani’s proposed voucher system is a reflection of his strong belief in school choice, and, taking advantage of his presence within a charter school, was the largest theme of his discussion. Mr. Giuliani stated, “This charter school is a model example of how school choice can produce great results for so many students who would otherwise receive a poorer quality of education.” Upon completing his discussion of education reform, the mayor revealed a new tax proposal that he dubbed “the largest tax cut in American history that would put trillions of dollars back in the pockets of Americans.” Along with this plan, Mr. Giuliani unveiled a 1040 “Fast Form” which would allow Americans to file all of their federal taxes on one page.

Mr. Giuliani finished his discussion by talking about the dangers that Islamic fundamentalism poses to the United States, as well as the great responsibility of the federal government to protect the American people. Following this discussion, the mayor fielded several questions from members of the audience concerning such topics as immigration, US foreign policy and the proposed National Catastrophic Fund, all of which are very important subjects to Floridians.

In what was perhaps the most poignant event during the campaign stop, Mr. Giuliani decided to field his final question from a handicapped charter school student who wanted to know where he stood on the subject of stem cell research. Responding to the girl’s question, Mr. Giuliani stated that he believed it was an important area that the federal government should support so long as it does not involve the destruction of embryonic cells, and that this is what the Bush administration did. Breaking down into tears, the girl responded, “This is such an important issue that affects real people, not just politics. Real people.” Without hesitation, Mr. Giuliani and his wife moved offstage to hug the student and assure her that they were going to do whatever they could to help her and fund the research of medical cures.

Swarmed with photographers and cameras, this interaction was the final component before Mr. Giuliani exited the school.
Delicious Indian Food... for the first time in my life!

Matt Pinkster
Food Critic

I had often heard a lot of positive buzz about an Indian restaurant called Nawab next to Big Lots on Monticello Road. Friends of mine had been raving about their lunch buffet, so I decided to see if it was any good.

Upon entering, I was surprised to see how elegantly the place had been decorated. The walls were adorned with clean white linens, a beautiful mural of the Taj Mahal graced the rear wall, and the restaurant was softly lit by hanging chandeliers. Classical Indian music (not that new Bollywood junk) was playing softly in the background.

A polite and well dressed waiter took me to my table, from whence I proceeded to go to check out their buffet. With two double sized units (one hot and one cold), their buffet is much smaller than the K-Mart restaurant, but a genuine Chinese buffet next to K-Mart, but the food still looked very appetizing. I returned to the table after filling up a good sized plate, and proceeded to try some of everything. The chicken and beef dishes were all very delicious, and were served at just the right temperature. No. I did the food have their tricks and really good feeling Chinese food often has. Whole chunks of meat were used, rather than the skimpiness that one finds elsewhere. Also, none of the food was over salted, as happens when our cafeterias on campus try to serve every dish. All of the dishes mixed very well with rice on my plate, and although many of the dishes looked similar in appearance, they each had their own distinct and very delicious flavor.

There were plenty of dishes with meat, but there were just as many, if not more, vegetarian dishes available, making this a great site for vegetarians and vegetarians.

What I may have enjoyed the most was the Indian flat bread, which complimented all of the hot dishes. Many of my friends who have lived in Asia have complained that you cannot get decent flatbread in Williamsburg. I highly recommend that they try Nawab's to see whether it holds up to the kind they are used to.

The cold buffet unit included two types of house salads, mixed freshly sliced fruits and a couple of homemade sauces, as well as the desserts. My only complaint was the lack of dessert options available. The wait staff did a good job of clearing my dishes promptly and keeping my water glass filled. If you're not a buffet person, Nawab also has an a la carte menu, but unless you're interested in their mixed drinks I can't imagine why you'd even bother entering it.

I have never cared for Indian food before, but I enjoyed my meal immensely and highly recommend Nawab for almost any occasion. The buffet price of $9.95 did seem a little high for lunch, but the quality made it worth it. I felt feeling very good about my health, something one can rarely claim when walking out of an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Students cultivate their need for speed reading

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

The course teaches six different ways to read, from which students can then choose to use to facilitate their own reading. To participate in the club, there is a $25 flat fee that covers overhead costs and pays the TAs. Mr. Byler, however, teaches the class completely for free. He also has integrated a commitment fee system into the club. After the first few classes, if one decides to commit to the class, they can pay $40 dollars, five of which he will get back for every class he attends. After attending eight classes, one would receive the full $40 back. However, if one misses a class, $5 goes directly to the Rita Walsh Literacy Fund.

Field trip:

While there was a waiting list for the last semester, there is still room available in this semester's class. Mr. Byler notes that this may be the last semester that the class is taught. The club is open to all William and Mary students. If interested, contact Daniel Byler.

Do all the post-holiday sales really worth it?

If December is the month of holiday shopping, this is definitely the month of holiday sales. This time of year, it seems that every store is having their holiday clearance, New Year blowout, or semi-annual sale. Are these sales really good opportunities, or are they simply ways for stores to clear out seasonal merchandise no one wanted in time to increase their profits? In truth, it's a little of both.

There is no denying the fact that retail sales were down in December 2007, due to a combination of economic factors. Retailers have reported sales slumping anywhere from 5 to 10% from previous years during the holiday season. For this reason, post-holiday sales become very important as companies try to make up for their losses with attractive discounts and clearances. So what does this mean for the consumer? More merchandise, better selections and bigger discounts.

Post-season sales are an excellent time to redeem those gift cards you might have gotten over the holidays. With clothing and other big items marked down, that certificate will go a lot farther than they will later on in the year, and unlike holiday sales (which usually look picked over) 2008's post-holiday sales have more products from which to choose, so those gift cards in size or color should not be as difficult.

This is also a great time to do necessary mid-year shopping. If you can wait through the holiday season without sweating to stay warm, or those binders to stay organized, you can end up saving yourself a lot of money on items you would have purchased otherwise.

Sales are also a great time to stock up on gifts or decorations for next holiday season. If you need new Christmas lights, holiday cards or gift wrap, and have the space to store them, you won't find better deals than you will over the next few weeks. A word of caution when buying gifts for people, though: be careful with any cosmetic-related or clothing purchases. Cosmetics have expiration dates and may go bad by next December, and clothing styles will change quite a bit in the coming year.

Also, be careful when making returns during these sales. Know your state and store return policies; many have time limits, receipt or condition of sale requirements, while others may have 100% guarantees. If you do not have the receipt for an item now on sale, be prepared to only be refunded the sale price.

Post-holiday sales are a great resource, but they have to be shopped wisely. Understand that you may be limited in selection, so try to get to sales early to avoid being disappointed. But don't worry if you end up missing out—there will be more sales in summer!
Nooks and Crannies of William & Mary

Throwing down the gauntlet

R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

H ave you ever been called a liar? A bastard? A whore? How did that insult make you feel? Maybe you were able to laugh it off, but it’s more likely that you got angry or upset. For a few seconds, you might even have wanted to kill the person who insulted you, to vindicate yourself and watch your detractor die in a pool of blood at your feet. This sounds like just a sick fantasy to most of us today, but two hundred years ago the practice of dueling led to similar actions by young men at this very college. Losing their lives in defense of their honor, William and Mary administrators attempted to crack down on this dangerous practice throughout the early 19th century, but popular sentiment was against them and their efforts to punish those who involved themselves in duels was met with outrage from the student body at large.

I n the South of the early 19th century, duels were often highly publicized affairs. The idea of meeting at dawn on the field of honor to defend one’s reputation held a good deal of dramatic potential, as evidenced in the notebook of Mary E. Southall, which depicts a duel that was fought at the College of William and Mary between two students named Madison and Kennedy. The article states, “The affair began when William and Mary expelled a pair of students for fighting a duel over a disagreement, something that was, and had always been, a “gross violation of the rules of the College.” According to an article that appeared in The New York Evening Post, upon hearing of their classmate’s death a large group of matriculates “assembled, went to the [College chapel], broke and destroyed all the windows, tore down the pulpit, tore out all the leaves of the bible, and gave them to the wind—from thence, they proceeded to the house of Judge [St. George] Tucker—professor of law in the university, broke all his windows, pched his house,” and “abused him.”

The College of William and Mary, at Williamsburg [was] completely broken up, and the system of education there… entirely discontinued.

How ever, the behavior of the rioting students did not intimate President Madison. He stated in a letter that “the issue of dueling and stated, just a few months after the outbreak of 1802 that “no one [would] be permitted to participate in duels on campus.” But, for a few years, the Tradition continued. With no provocation, one another, although duels did continue to take place on campus well into the mid-1800s.

However, the behavior of the rioting students did not intimat...
**Looking towards the post-Sadler era**

W.

Samuel Sadler, the long-time College bureaucrat, has decided to retire after 41 years of service to the College. We commend Mr. Sadler on his long record of service at the school, although we might raise an eyebrow at some of the more syncopated coverage surrounding his retirement. We have had our differences with Mr. Sadler over the last three years, but we wish him well in retirement.

Clay Clemens, a Government professor and alumnus of the College, has been named to head a committee charged with finding Mr. Sadler’s replacement. The early money in the race to succeed Mr. Sadler is on Virginia “Ginger” Ambler. She has served as Mr. Sadler’s deputy and has temporarily filled his position during his recent surgery. Ms. Ambler is also an alumna of William and Mary. Some other dark horse candidates for the job include Mark Constantine, currently the assistant vice president for student affairs, and Dean of Students Patricia Volp.

The new vice president for student affairs will have big shoes to fill. Mr. Sadler has become an institution unto himself, so defining the role of his position in the future may be very difficult. He is the only person who has ever held this position, so defining his role will be tricky. We also call on the committee to cast a wide net in searching for Mr. Sadler’s replacement.

The best candidate may come from an unexpected corner of our campus community, or even from without. Fresh blood and new ideas are always preferable to the entrenched, static mentality of some of our current administrators.

There are significant challenges ahead for the College, and the recent transition of responsibility for day-to-day operations from the president to the provost will demand that Mr. Sadler’s successor maintain a close relationship with the student body. We welcome the idea that the vice president will be actively involved in making all of these necessary requirements for a good vice president into practical realities.

**Covering nationwide issues for local impact**

Although The Informer typically refrains from covering national news pieces, we decided to seize on a unique opportunity this issue. We sent correspondents to New Hampshire as fully accredited members of the press corps for the presidential debates held there on January 5. Another one of our staff went to Florida, another important primary state, to cover a Rudy Giuliani speech.

This is not the first time our reporters have covered national events; just last issue, Informer reporter Steven Nelson became a full member of the White House Press Corp and covered a speech made by President Bush in Maryland. Rest assured, though, this foray into politics and local news and affairs, which has been a hallmark of our hard-hitting coverage since our inception in 2005. Also, the 2008 presidential race is now starting to heat up. On a campus where the concepts of service and civic engagement are the hot-button issues, we call on our fellow students to be active in our nation’s political process. This involves, first, informing themselves through a variety of media about the different presidential candidates and their stances on issues; how quickly we forget that the citizen has a civil and moral obligation to educate himself, properly, before making a decision at the voting booth. Political activism is also a strong weapon, which, when correctly wielded, can lead to very positive results at the polls. Activism on the part of students is particularly heartening, as it displays a desire to become educated, involved and impactful in a process totally dismissed by so many in our age demographic.

We also encourage students to become involved in local politics as well. In May, three seats on the Williamsburg City Council will be up for grabs, and now that students can be legally registered to vote—after the gross abuse of power displayed by former Williamsburg Registrar Dave Andrews finally came to an end—they will be able to have a strong impact on city politics. We urge students to exercise their Constitutional right and register to vote in the local Williamsburg election this May.

As this very political year begins to intensify, we encourage all students at the College to engage one another in a civilized, educated dialogue about the candidates running for president and the future of our nation. For the politicos on campus, this year represents an exciting time that comes around perhaps far too rarely; and for those students who do not care for politics, or have not engaged themselves in the issue thus far, they should take this opportunity to become knowledgeable about the candidates and their positions.

Remember: if you don’t vote, you can’t complain.

**Facing budget cuts, Governor Kaine must dig for gold**

Why we covered the presidential race in this issue

The Virginia Informer is produced by students at the College of William and Mary. The Virginia Informer is produced for the benefit of students at the College and is available at no cost for members of the greater Williamsburg community. However, copies should be taken only if they are meant to be read and enjoyed. In the event an individual or group prevents these copies from being enjoyed by all, the cost that individual or group will be $15 per copy.
Aspects of Sadler’s run at College remain dubious

A s reported in this issue of The Informer, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler has announced that he intends to resign at the conclusion of this school year. Mr. Sadler has spent 41 years at the College as a student and administrator. His dedication and loyalty to the College is admirable and is to be commended, and his folly e-mails will be missed by everyone. The Informer would also like to wish Mr. Sadler the best of health in wake of his recent operation.

With Sadler being said, Mr. Nichol’s retirement creates a vacancy for the vice president of student affairs, and, with it, an important opportunity to shape the position. Despite being extremely popular among students, Mr. Sadler has failed to support student-friendly causes in spite of his student-friendly job title.

In President Nichol’s e-mail announcing Sadler’s retirement, Nichol referenced that Mr. Sadler “literally wrote the Student Handbook.” Yet this handbook includes many ambiguities by using phrases such as “including, but not limited to,” which gives the administration broad power to interpret the Student Code of Conduct. For example, the dean of students’ office had interpreted the “failure to comply” rule in the handbook as requiring students to attend all of their classes. The position also has the power to see any computer data, include personal e-mails sent through the William and Mary server. Mr. Sadler was a member of the highly unpopular Alcohol Task Force, which makes it much harder to have a party where alcohol is served. As a result, fraternities and other groups have been forced to hold their parties underground, unregistered parties. Furthermore, the law requires them to hire security personnel, which adds even more costs. The position also has the power to keep the names of students who write rude e-mail that he would not agree to meet with the representative of our paper.

Lastly, in 2005–2004, after the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity—Mr. Sadler’s fraternity while he was a student—got in trouble for returning housing forms late, Mr. Sadler—according to a Pi Lambda Phi alumnu—promised that he would not let the fraternity lose their house. Nevertheless, he made the ultimate decision for the fraternity to lose their house and sent a letter to Pi Lambda Phi alumni chiding the current fraternity brothers.

Mr. Sadler has failed to support student-friendly causes in spite of his student-friendly job title. He also chaired the Logo Committee, which, as reported in this issue of The Informer, has experienced a great backlash from the student body due to its seemingly uncreative and unoriginal new logo. Additionally, Mr. Sadler only selected two current students to serve on the committee.

When this paper, which is entirely run by students, attempted to contact Mr. Sadler for an interview earlier in the year regarding the bias reporting system, Mr. Sadler and his two secretaries resorted to childish stall tactics for almost a month, before finally declining in a somewhat rude e-mail that he would not agree to meet with the representative of our paper.

Got capital? Both the College and our president could use some

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

Last week, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine came to visit William and Mary to discuss the benefits of participation in “civic engagement”—it, service and mission trips, and participation in service organizations—shaping among other things, personal anecdotes and a few of his own experiences with President Gene Nichol and a crowd of about 150 people. Aside from the fact that Mr. Kaine belittled William and Mary’s president for his weight—the “father of the family... was about as big as Gene Nichol, he had not missed a lot of meals”—another aspect of Mr. Kaine’s trip to Williamsburg I found to be particularly amusing was that it was literally over the news of the now-official 6.25% budget cut the College will receive this year from Richmond.

In past issues, The Informer has called on the William and Mary administration to eat its wasteful spending on so many of our needless programs and initiatives: $7,000, for example, on a new logo that neither “evoke[] positive feelings,” as it was called to do on March 28, 2007, when the committee first formed, over $200,000 annually for a man who writes e-mails and pushes paper for a living, not to mention the annual salaries of his two very necessary secretaries; and, of course, the untold cost of Mr. Nichol’s feel-good, although ultimately impractical, Gateway program, one of the main focuses in his quest to make William and Mary “both great and public.”

Although I was not yet a matriculate at the College during President Emeritus Timothy Sullivan’s tenure here, it can be said—factually speaking, and in comparison with Mr. Nichol—that Mr. Sullivan’s administration began taking steps to make the College more financially independent from Richmond.

Conversely, over the past 30 months, Mr. Nichol has done more to alienate alumni—valuable not only for their private, available money, but also their academic and cultural contributions that have left their own mark on our storied institution—than any other president in recent history.

This, paired with the reality that Mr. Nichol’s political capital is completely spent due to poor handling of several controversial issues over the past two years, means he no longer has the ability to bargain effectively for the College in the halls of the General Assembly.

As a result, Mr. Nichol has forced the College into a financial corner in which it does not belong.

Mr. Nichol has forced the College into a financial corner which it does not belong

Mr. Nichol forced the College into a financial corner which it does not belong

The handbook clearly states that this is not actually the case, as it violates the United States Constitution. It took Mr. Sadler two years to rectify this.

The handbook also mandates that students accused of breaking the Code of Conduct can only see copies of evidence that the administration has against them, and cannot receive a hard copy.

Mr. Sadler has also overruled the guidelines of his own handbook by tracking the Sadler Council with his own selections rather than those of the Student Assembly.

The office of vice president for student affairs also possesses a tremendous amount of power over students as it can sign, or designate someone else to sign, a document and thus, to give a warrant to allow searches of student rooms. The position also has the power to see any computer data, include personal e-mails sent through the William and Mary server.

Also, Mr. Sadler was a member of the highly unpopular Alcohol Task Force, which makes it much harder to have a party where alcohol is served. As a result, fraternities and other groups have been forced to hold their parties underground, unregistered parties. Furthermore, the law requires them to hire security personnel, which adds even more costs. The position also has the power to keep the names of students who write rude e-mail that he would not agree to meet with the representative of our paper.

Lastly, in 2005–2004, after the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity—Mr. Sadler’s fraternity while he was a student—got in trouble for returning housing forms late, Mr. Sadler—according to a Pi Lambda Phi alumnu—promised that he would not let the fraternity lose their house. Nevertheless, he made the ultimate decision for the fraternity to lose their house and sent a letter to Pi Lambda Phi alumni chiding the current fraternity brothers.

We should focus, presently, on taking care of the students currently attending the College, our faculty—who should be rewarded for their intelligence and hard work with competitive salaries—and on measures for green sustainability, which will save the College millions in the long run.

Let it be known: I am requesting that Mr. Nichol trade in his Cherokee for a Prius. After all, it is cheap to fuel.

In business, it’s all about the bottom line or the financial reality. The College’s bottom line is this: in a time of monetary strain, and with a politically ineffective president, we need focused, common sense spending that will keep our institution afloat—that is, until we find a new captain who can better help to steer us into less turbulent fiscal waters.
The Student Assembly’s finance code states that “the Student Assembly shall appropriate monies to fund activities that comply with guidelines set forth in this section, irrespective of the viewpoint of the organization, and in accordance with the statement of Rights and Responsibilities found in the most current addition of the College of William and Mary’s Student Handbook.”

Additionally, SWAS has proved to be an issue which threatens the tenure of Gene Nichol, the College’s embattled president. Last year, coming off of the Wren cross controversy, Mr. Nichol said this about SWAS: “I don’t like this kind of show and I don’t like having it here. . . but it’s not the practice and province of universities to censor or cancel performances because they are controversial.” For many, this begs the comparison to the Wren cross, which Mr. Nichol removed from the chapel in 2006 because he considered it offensive to non-Christians on campus.

Furthermore, last summer, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler asked the Student Assembly to essentially rewrite Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Constantine from the mid-year budgeting process. Up until that point, the SA finance secretary and Mr. Constantine would make mid-year funding decisions together. This has raised questions as to the motivation for the change in budget policy. Mr. Nichol’s contract expires this year. Given the amount of criticism Mr. Nichol received from a large group of donors and alumni over allowing SWAS to perform, this policy change has been seen as an attempt by the administration to minimize political fallout, particularly in light of the Wren cross controversy of 2006, especially in a year when his job is very much on the line.

The Virginia Informer

Managing Editor

Drinking at William and Mary has a rich and historic tradition, from Thomas Jefferson quaffing pints of ale in the Raleigh Tavern to the typical freshman shotgunning beers in the Dupont suite bathrooms. Now, some naysayers might claim that a lot has changed since our most famous student—the most important of which being the raising of the drinking age from approximately seven to 21—but never let us forget that Mr. Jefferson was a revolutionary, which should be a comforting thought for the underage drinkers at our beloved College.

Over the last semester, I’ve sampled a wide variety of beers, but have purposely negotiated the fine drinking establishments of Williamsburg. Well, no more. I find that the delis are a peculiar animal, especially for us with friends at large state schools. At those schools, the bar scene is a prominent part of campus life, producing events like pub crawls and other kinds of generalized debauchery.

The Green Leafe, Paul’s, the College Delly, and Mamma Mia’s are the four standards of the deli scene—which I don’t know anything about Mamma Mia’s, and I’m afraid to ask anyone about it.

The Green Leafe, owned and operated by Glenn Gormley, is the most popular deli in Williamsburg. It attracts a mixed crowd of professors, townies and the vast majority of the student body. Boasting an unparalleled number and variety of beers on draft, the Leafe offers a great drinking atmosphere, but only if you brave the crowds and are able to snag a good table on Friday and Saturday nights. Paul’s is a happy medium between the upscale Leafe and the gritty College Delly. The food at Paul’s is also cheaper than that at the Leafe. Plus, you can always openly play quarters, which cannot be said about the Leafe. The College Delly is the quintessentially blue-collar bar of Williamsburg. Not to take any shots at the beloved Green Leafe or Paul’s, College seems to attract a more down-to-earth crowd. Now, if you had been reading The Flat Hat over the last year, you might have gotten the impression that College had been sold and turned into a Starbucks. Then again, if you’re reading The Flat Hat you might have more problems than simple misinformation—but all that aside, College is emphatically not closed and not a Starbucks, much to the dismay of all of those wannabe baristas. The recently announced Mug Night at the College Delly, beginning Thursdays at 9 pm, will definitely provide some welcome competition and an invitation for those students who have largely stuck to Paul’s and the Leafe.

For my next review, I’ve decided to sample and review the highly acclaimed Fat Bastard ale in honor of our beloved President Nichol. Until then, enjoy those delis.

In accordance with the regulations set forth by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Cheers, Sahel, L’Chain and Slainte to you (legal) imbibers at William and Mary.

Editor’s Note: The Virginia Informer encourages students to please drink responsibly and in accordance with all university, state and federal laws.