Steven Nelson
Assistant News Editor

The Virginia Informer has obtained copies of faculty, administration and other staff salaries from the College via a Freedom of Information Act request. While salaries may not be common knowledge, they yield some interesting insight into where the College places its priorities.

Not surprisingly, William and Mary President Gene Nichol is the College's highest paid employee, earning nearly $340,000. Second to Mr. Nichol is Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and John S. Bryan Professor W.T. Revely, who earns around $320,000 a year.

Provoast P. Geoffrey Feis, who operates the College in co-operation with the Mr. Nichol, earns $288,000 annually. Mr. Feis has nine associate and vice provosts, and a special assistant, who earn a total of $1,218,900 per year.

According to Mr. Feis, "President Nichol is less interested in direct engagement in routine day to day operational matters, and has probably asked me to help him with more than his predecessor did." Also, he said the duties of the provost include "co[ver][ing] the cabinet, including all vice presidents and senior level administrators, who meet every week and conduct all of the operational functions on a day to day basis."

COLLEGE SALARIES
continued on page nine

Not always "Clean Gene"
Nichol implicated in campaign finances controversy in '96

Matthew Sutton
Managing Editor

President and Provost Gene Nichol is currently facing scrutiny for his knowledge of a revoked $12 million donation from alumnus James McGlothlin. An incident that evokes an earlier episode in Mr. Nichol's past. When he was running for a Senate seat in Colorado, he became embroiled in a scandal that involved taped phone calls, letters to federal regulators and political attack ads.

In 1996, Mr. Nichol, who had been serving as the dean of the law school at the University of Colorado, was running in the Colorado Democratic Senate primary against Tom Strickland. Running on a populist campaign, Mr. Nichol portrayed his political goals as a reaction against special interest groups and lobbyists and a wish to return to the populist democracy of America's past.

One incident soon tarnished his reputation as "Clean Gene." Judith Albino, the former president of the University of Colorado at Boulder, accused Mr. Nichol of "blackmail." She had taped a phone call in which Mr. Nichol asked her to donate to her campaign and illegally backdate a check, in an effort to circumvent federal elections campaign laws. Ms. Albino released the tape of their conversation and wrote a letter to the Federal Election Commission in July of 1996. This scandal quickly became an issue in the primary campaign. Mr. Nichol acknowledged that he asked her to backdate her contribution but claimed that he never threatened her.

Mr. Nichol told The Rocky Mountain News, "Gene Nichol has shown me more than once that he is capable of doing whatever is necessary to promote Gene Nichol."
Dr. Ali Ansari talks about realities of US and Iranian relations

Alex Mayer
Opinion Editor

Dr. Ali Ansari, professor of modern history and director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, was invited to give a lecture at William and Mary following his appearance at the World Forum on Democracy.

William and Mary students’ strong interest in Iranian affairs was clear from the attendance as Mr. Ansari spoke in Washington 201 in front of a packed crowd. Attendees included not only students at the College but also a considerable number of residents of the Williamsburg community.

Mr. Ansari was introduced as an expert on Iranian affairs and US-Iranian relations as well as a scholar who has done considerable research into the personality of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Mr. Ansari gave a brief lecture summarizing the history of the relationship between Iran and the United States, and comparing how people from each country view the other. Blaming both sides for the ill will that now exists between the two governments, Mr. Ansari told the audience that the Iranians feel betrayed by the other—the Iranians because of the CIA’s involvement in deposing former Iranian president Mohammad Mossadegh in 1953 and installing the Shah, and the Americans because of the 1979 hostage crisis at the US embassy in Tehran.

Fielding questions from the audience, Mr. Ansari explained that it is understandable that so many American observers have a behavior confusing, since the Iranian president has a habit of contradicting himself regularly in his public statements. This apparent inconsistency, however, does not bother Mr. Ahmadinejad, who views himself as “possessing special charisma,” and therefore does not need to explain himself to anyone. Mr. Ansari outlined four ways in which Mr. Ahmadinejad maintains power, including maintaining a perception of an international crisis and threat against the Iranian people, bribing the public with oil revenues, and basing his rule on a “higher power,” while playing to people’s emotions and faith rather than logic.

Explaining Mr. Ahmadinejad’s controversial statement about the apparent absence of homosexuals in Iran, Mr. Ansari told his audience that the Iranian president’s response was actually quite logical. According to Mr. Ansari, Mr. Ahmadinejad simply found himself responding to a question he did not want to answer— the question of whether any homosexuals exist in Iran—and therefore told the most outrageous lie possible, assuming that everyone would know it was a lie, and laugh with him about it and move on. The point, Mr. Ansari explained, was for the audience to laugh with him— which explains Mr. Ahmadinejad’s lack of unease when he realized the audience might actually be laughing at him.

Concerning Iran’s foreign policy, Mr. Ansari explained that Iran’s policy on Israel is influenced by anti-Semitism, but he asserted that these sentiments are not as widespread in Iran as some people believe. With regard to Iraq, Mr. Ansari believes that Iraq’s policy is to support a stable Shi’i government, but to prevent the global perception that the Americans have “succeeded” in any way. According to Mr. Ansari, a debate is raging within the government as to whether they should let the US “fix” Iraq and take the heat for its current problems, or act decisively (through direct support for insurgents) to force US troops to leave immediately. In the end, Mr. Ansari firmly told his audience that one certainty is that Iran will never allow another military threat to arise out of Iraq.

O n the topic of Iran’s quest to obtain nuclear technology, Mr. Ansari predicted that if Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, they would be used to obtain “prestige and power,” and to allow Iran to pursue a “more aggressive stance” in their foreign policy, but he did not believe they would rush to actually use such weapons or give them to terrorist groups androgynous Iranian president, Mr. Ansari said that, in Mr. Ahmadinejad’s mind, “domestic hegemony is the only goal.”

In Mr. Ansari’s opinion, the Iranian people would suffer the most from Mr. Ahmadinejad’s rule. According to Mr. Ansari, the most important factor in determining the future of Iran is the country’s increasingly troublesome economic situation. Even though Iran is making billions of dollars

garage as workers install utility lines for the new home of the Mason School of Business. While most of the construction work will be done during winter break, the road closing may interfere with those trying to get around campus during the exam period. According to the Department of University Relations, the road will re-open for traffic on January 11.

Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drum Corps celebrates 50th Anniversary

Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drum corps will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. More than 200 current and former members will march down Duke of Gloucester Street in a Fourth of July parade next summer. The group also announces a new college scholarship program, which will award $2,000 to two individual high school participants. The winners are expected to be announced in January.

Students, Faculty Victims of Solicitation Scam

According to the William and Mary Police Department, an organization calling itself the “Newport News Police Pipes and Drums” has been phoning members of the campus community, claiming to solicit donations on behalf of the Newport News Police. Campus police reports that the organization is, in fact, registered as a non-profit with the Internal Revenue Service, but that it was instructed to “leave a check with the William and Mary Police Office” are part of a scam. The calls are currently being investigated, students and faculty that are called should notify the WMPD at once.

Work to Continue on Business School During Break, Ukor Way Closed

Starting with the first week in December, and continuing until students return for the spring semester, Ukor Way (formerly Campus Drive) will be closed between Jamestown Road and the parking garage as workers install utility lines for the new home of the Mason School of Business. While most of the construction work will be done during winter break, the road closing may interfere with those trying to get around campus during the exam period. According to the Department of University Relations, the road will re-open for traffic on January 11.

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Republicans in General Assembly say they hope to minimize cuts to higher ed

Joe Lupipito-Exposito
Editor in Chief

Despite a reduction in the initially announced cut, the bill will now itself approximately $1 million short of meeting the 6.25% cut imposed by the state of Virginia when the next semester begins.

Vice President of Finance Sam Jones said that state budget cuts, originally set at 7.5%, were reduced to 6.25%, which translated into $3 million for the College. “Of the $3 million we have identified approximately two-thirds of the savings and expect to get the balance primarily through the hiring freeze,” Mr. Jones said.

In Richmond, some Republican lawmakers are hoping for even lower cuts to higher education. “With the $170 million in unspent agency balances now known to lawmakers, the General Assembly will be looking very carefully at the disproportionate spending cuts that Governor Kaine has made in higher education with an eye toward being more responsible and mitigating their magnitude where possible,” said G. Paul Nardo, chief of staff to House Speaker William J. Howell.

“When he announced the $641 million budget shortfall and the $300 million in spending cuts, the governor said the only way to make up the difference was either ‘going to be using the state’s Rainy Day Fund ... or it’s going to be more cuts.’ The existence of the $170 million in unspent funds belies this false choice. Moreover, many lawmakers in both parties and in both chambers do not believe it would be prudent to reduce state support for our colleges and universities, while, at the same time, creating a new pre-K program as gubernatorial candidate Tim Kaine promised in 2005. This would be tantamount to rushing the middle-class Virginians in order to launch a new initiative,” said Mr. Nardo.

Even if those reductions do not come through, Mr. Jones does not anticipate students will be directly affected by any new fees or restructuring of the tuition.

Mr. Jones stated that the next step the College is looking towards is how to handle what may be long-term base reductions of the College’s budget from the state. “The next significant event is the December 17 release of the Governor’s budget recommendations for the 2008-10 biennium. State revenues continue to fall short of current projections so his budget may very well continue some or all of the budget reductions imposed across state government this year,” he said.

New logo to have undetectable change, according to member of committee

Plans on creating mascot for W&M athletics remain to be seen—out member is hopeful

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

“The committee was tasked with the determination, creative and implementation of the new William and Mary Tribe logo. Since then, the committee has remained conspicuously silent and has not publicly revealed any progress whatsoever on this search for a new logo.”

Leaving door unlocked results in disciplinary action

E-mails between president and former Sen. John Edwards sent in 2005

Jon San
Features Editor

President Nichol has once again found himself in the center of an NCAA controversy, now with national political implications. During his time as the dean of the law school at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Mr. Nichol received an e-mail from the political advisor of president and governor hopeful and former North Carolina Democratic Senator John Edwards that now has been protected by the Freedom of Information Act.

In 2005, the Associated Press asked for the disclosure of this e-mail as well as other e-mails between Messrs. Nichol and Edwards. UNC released the majority of the correspondences but refused to disclose the one involving the “ticket wishlist”—the names of people for whom Mr. Edwards was wanting tickets to UNC athletic events. Although faculty do receive a 10 percent discount on men’s football and basketball tickets, they do not receive them as any sort of compensation.

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The committee was apparently set to unveil a new logo at Homecoming 2007, but, as reported by The Virginia Gazette, the committee recognized that they had failed to trademark their new logo proposal. If the College had failed to do so, they would have forfeited their right to license merchandise on which the new logo could be affixed.

“Just anyone on the street could have printed it out had we released the logo without all the proper licensing in order,” said Ms. Matthews.

Consequently, the logo was not revealed at Homecoming and, presumably, no one but those who know the logo committee will know anything about what the proposed logo looks like.

Ms. Matthews also expressed her interest for continuing to work for the committee as they believe they will also undertake the task of naming a mascot. However, Ms. Matthews says she has not in governor and the College has not yet left his dorm room unlocked and had left the room unattended.

The student, caught off guard and unable to recall whether he had, in fact, left his room unlocked on the date in question, confessed to the allegation. As a result, a judicial warning will remain on his record until the time his senior year, during which time it will be seen by those viewing his transcript, including prospective employers and internship programs.

Mr. Gilbert, replying to an Informer inquiry into the matter, mentioned that roommate contracts which contain explicit mention of particular issues, such as locking the door, can be used in adjudicating such cases. “When the choice to leave a room unlocked affects the other roommate or other members of the community, the [judicial] code provides the other student a means to address the violation of rights,” said Mr. Gilbert. Even though the sanction may seem more severe than the crime, the charge is likely to stick as the student has not filed an appeal.

The student has, furthermore, been slapped with an ultimatum due to a subsequent instance of his door being unlocked, this time while he was awake inside the room. He is now being confronted with a forced choice between moving out of his room, two weeks prior to the semester’s end, and convincing his roommate to rescind the alleges.

Students who are in similar situations are advised to contact Student Legal Services, a free source of advice for lower and judicial affairs. A recent change in the judicial code enables students to seek law student and SLS representation in judicial proceedings.

Nichol in e-mail controversy again
SA allocates $15,000 for voter registration
Sarah Nadler  Staff Writer

The November 28 meeting led to the passage of three bill crucial to student participation and involvement both on and off campus.

W&M grad among candidates
Steven Nelson  Assistant News Editor

Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen (’10) prefaced his November 28 cabinet meeting by saying, “This is going to be really quick.” This brief meeting recapplied the success of the Thanksgiving airplane rides, worked out the logistical details of distributing final exam care packages and discussed the need for cabinet budgets to be turned in as soon as possible. As for commenting on the November 27 Senate meeting, “America’s first district will have a new Congressman. The will be ready to head into winter break, after completing his first semester as SA president.”

Jost at the Republican nominating

Wittman for Congress

The Williamsburg Civic Engagement Act, introduced by Senators Walter McClean (’09), Mart Beato (’09) and Dealin Barbor (’07), earmarked $15,000 of Student Assembly funds to support voter registration efforts on campus. This bill was designed to incentivize student voter registration by paying students $10 for each other student they register. It is important to note that no Student Assembly members can participate in this work, and information regarding how to sign up to register voters is not yet available. The Senate debated about this bill for quite some time, as the bill was never voted on in committee, and the financial committee never got a say in the large amount of money being allocated. It seemed as though this controversial bill was going to be sent back to committee until SA President Zach Pilchen proclaimed, “This is our top priority [...] the stars are aligned. Pass this tonight and we can move on.”

Mr. Pilchen claimed the “threat of May,” or threat of students controlling the May election, is already starting to affect Williamsburg’s legislative agenda. He feels that although $15,000 may seem like a lot of money, in the grand scheme, securing enough student votes in the election will “cement our place in the town,” and start combating the abusive landlords, three person rule and hard police that make town-grown residents so strained. After Mr. Pilchen’s heartfelt address to the Senate, most doubts concerning this bill were waived; the bill passed 11-3-1. Senator CarolineMULTIS (’09) proposed the Campus Composting Act II. This bill, which appropriated $550 for the purchase of a 180 gallon compost tumbler, was proposed in hope helping make the campus more environmentally sound. The compost tumbler was meant to replace the previously purchased compost tumbler which was stolen last year. This made some senators hesitant to repurchase the tumbler for fear of it being stolen or vandalized. Nevertheless, the bill passed 12-2-4. According to Ms. Multis, “Dining services and landscaping are really excited about it. Now that many more groups are involved the tumbler will be very accessible and useful.”

The Interest Rollover Act was also presented by Mr. McClean to request the interest gained on the student Consolidated Reserve Account, although currently the College receives 5% interest from the Consolidated Reserve Fund and puts it toward the general fund for the university. The bill passed unanimously and requests will be made at the upcoming Board of Visitors meeting to start enacting this bill.

Procrastinator’s dream: Proposal would make prospect of pulling an all-nighter more attractive.

All the news that’s fit to go online.

Get out the vote: SA President Zach Pilchen said the bill was a “top priority” for the Senate.
Busted advises about how to deal with police

Mike Crump
Staff Writer

For officers outraged by the William and Mary police department, Busted: the Citizen’s Guide to Surviving Police Encounters shows that there are ways to resist their influence, even if the administration will not take action against them.

SSDP (Students for a Sensible Drug Policy) offered a free presentation last Thursday night in Lodge 1. Students were shown Busted, a short informative film produced by the American Civil Liberties Union as part of their Flex Your Rights campaign. Through this film, the ACLU hoped to inform citizens of their rights and reassess the power balance between police forces and individuals.

The video focused primarily on asserting 4th, 5th and 4th Amendment rights, which forbid unreasonable search and seizure, preventing self-incrimination and the right to counsel.

Through several scenes replayed with characters first forgetting their rights and then asserting them, Busted informed viewers about the best tactics for dealing with police and how to avoid unnecessary infractions and legal retribution, all while staying within the boundaries of the law.

One thing Busted elaborated on was the tendency of police to trick or bully private citizens into waiving their rights. One such tactic was by using the phrase, “If you have nothing to hide, you’ll be fine if I take a look inside [a car, house, dorm room, etc].” In situations such as this, if consent is given, police have full authority to search and seize. In response to this, the police must communicate that they are searching for specific items, and not just general contraband, implying serious destruction to property; it remains the citizen’s right to refuse a search without a warrant.

Another major point within the presentation was the police tactic of bargaining. A relatively unknown fact is that police are allowed to lie if they suspect illegal activity is taking place. Officers then, according to Busted, will often try to get citizens to give up more information than necessary, under the false promise of “getting off easily.”

Between segments, SSDP members held trivia quizzes for students to compete for candy prizes. Along with testing retention of valuable information from the movie, they used these opportunities to offer helpful insight and details not included in the presentation, such as the fact that drug checkpoints were deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and so modern signs saying “Drug Check Point Ahead” are only used as a trap to gauge driver reactions. At the end of the evening, a raffle was held for free SSDP t-shirts.

“It was informative,” said Sampson Coe (11), “I learned that I could have avoided my alcohol charge from homecoming weekend and saved fifty bucks on a pointless alcoholEDU class.”

“Inside North Korea” provides revealing look at reclusive country

Nick Hoelker
Online Editor

On November 28, Americans for Informed Democracy (AID) presented “Inside North Korea,” a National Geographic documentary about the reclusive country.

Before the movie, AID member Joella Adams (’08), who visited the country while working in South Korea, shared pictures and stories of her trip across the border at the Demilitarized Zone.

The movie was made by Lisa Ling, an American journalist who received permission to enter the country by documenting Dr. Nuit, a Nepalese eye doctor. North Korea allowed Dr. Nuit to enter the country in order to give 1,000 eye surgeries to blind North Koreans.

From the time they left Nepal, the film crew was followed by six “minders” who told Ms. Ling what was and was not allowed to be filmed. At one point, a minder threatened to expel Ms. Ling from the country for filming a statue of Kim Jong-II.

One powerful scene in the movie occurred when they visited the apartment of a woman who was set to receive eye surgery from Dr. Nuit. The apartment was decorated with photos of Kim Jong-II and his father, who was escaping with him, was killed by an electric fence. When Ms. Ling, implicating him what happened to his family, the student said, “I don’t want to talk about it.” The film implied that the family was sent to a work camp, a number of which exist throughout North Korea, the largest of which is estimated to be able to hold 50,000 people.

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Law professor talks about enforcing environmental law

Co-author of Defending the Environment discusses causes of and ways to stop global warming

Kristen Coyner
Staff Writer

Every year, the William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law hosts a lecture designed to recognize the achievements of senior law school faculty. The George Tucker Lecture Series was established in 1996 and since then has served to give notice to the College community of the work done by distinguished law professors. On November 29, the 2007 recipient, Linda A. Malone, presented a lecture entitled “Enforcing International Environmental Law through Domestic Mechanisms in the United States: Civil Society Initiatives against Global Warming.”

Ms. Malone joined the faculty of the William and Mary law school in 1988 and presently serves as the Marshall-Wythe foundation professor of law and director of the human rights and national security law program. She holds membership with a variety of environmental groups, including the Environmental Commission of the World Conservation Union and the Review Board of the Land Use and Environmental Law Review. Additionally, Ms. Malone has either authored or co-authored 12 books on the issues of environmental law, international law and human rights. Ms. Malone also served as a delegate to the seminal 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro.

This lecture series was largely attended by William and Mary law school students and faculty. Ms. Malone noted at the outset of her lecture how she had just arrived from the National Environmental Trust forum on projected impact of climate change in Virginia, which was also held at the College on the same day. She described coming from the forum as “depressing,” a word she used periodically throughout her speech with respect to her perceptions on the position of the environment.

The first part of Ms. Malone’s speech touched on the development of her environmental work through the 1995 publication of the book Defending the Environment: Civil Society Strategies to Enforce International Environmental Law. She, along with co-author Scott Paretnarch, sought to use this book as a model for outlining the myriad strategies of nongovernmental environmental action.

In her speech, Ms. Malone sought to place the rubric of the book in the more specific context of the global war on terrorism. Mr. Hussain described the history of society, civil society, the part society separate from the federal government or business, has used different mechanisms in the alleged hope of stopping global warming. Many of the mechanisms discussed were legal in nature, including domestic, Supreme Court, and finance litigation, both in the past and ongoing. Ms. Malone pointed to an overall current trend in the litigation, saying that “states are defendants here suing private industry where government is not going after the polluters.” She further suggested that the next frontier might include tort litigation between private parties on this issue.

Ms. Malone then went on to cover some non-litigation methods presently used in the attempt to curb what some perceive as human-damaging, global warming. On this, she discussed both national and international efforts. Internationally, the work of non-governmental organizations and UNESCO was mentioned, such as the drive to preserve World Heritage sites thought to be at risk from climate change. She also pointed out several regional, multi-state and local efforts being made with the similar goal of reducing man-made global warming. Legislative action was the efforts of certain states within the US, particularly that of California, which has recently set the goal of reducing carbon emissions 25% by the year 2020.

Ms. Malone’s speech was particularly informative and engaging. During her speech, she jokingly showed a photograph of herself next to a large Jeep Commando which she was given to drive at a conference and did so for three days under the auspices of understanding. “Why would anyone drive a thing like this?”

In the final minutes of her presentation, the floor was opened to questions which students posed in response to many of the issues raised throughout the lecture. Ultimately, Ms. Malone sought to give a picture of “civil society to the rescue” on the issues pertaining to climate change.

Former Pakistani Ambassador discusses the crisis in Pakistan, politics and terrorism

Michelle Ju
Staff Writer

On Friday, November 30, the International Relations Club and SASA invited former Pakistani Ambassador Tosaqir Hussain to the College to discuss the rising political tensions in Pakistan, US-Pakistan relations and the current War on Terror.

Mr. Hussain, a former senior Pakistani diplomat, currently serves as ambassador to Spain, Brazil and Japan. Mr. Hussain returned to the United States in 2005, joining the faculty of George Washington University as a research fellow, and is currently teaching at Georgetown University and the University of Virginia.

Mr. Hussain addressed the instability of Pakistan, the Taliban insurgency, Al-Qaeda influence and the politics within Pakistan. Through Pakistan, provides itself on its remarkable history of peaceful transition and ongoing cooperation with the United States during crises such as 9/11, the recently growing threat of Taliban insurgency has threatened the relations with the United States. Plagued by independence of its army, the Islamist's who threaten Pakistan, growing support for the Taliban and unsteady ties with the United States, Pakistan remains unstable.

In defense of Pakistan, the Allies and a potential target of the problem, Mr. Hussain claimed that radicals in Pakistan have also been attacked in the United States and Pakistan governments and were determined to de-stabilize joint efforts to prevent the Taliban from taking power. He argued that it was unwise for the US to label its fight against terrorism as a “war,” which ultimately causes the entanglement of other issues and could potentially lead to the endangerment of Islamic culture as a whole.

“The Iraq war did more to arouse suspicions than anything else.” Mr. Hussain asserted, “The US found one reason after another [to raise suspicions]. Once the administration loses credibility, it’s a free-for-all—people start to develop conspiracy theories.” The growing threat helped strengthen the extremists’ cause. “People are not prepared to look at things rationally or objectively. If the situation degrades, it’s easier for people to defend, whether they are right or wrong,” he explained. In addition to his analysis of terrorism, opposition, Mr. Hussain blamed the US’ self-centered policy, one that focused on its own interests.

Coincidentally, the demise of democracy remains an ominous threat today. “Democracy is not just synonymous to elections and free press. You can have these and still not be democratic.” Mr. Hussain continued, “Democracy has been hijacked by those who are militarily powerful. If democracy gives power to people who already privileged, dominant, it’s not democracy.” He asserted that democracy should be the “empowerment of people,” and criticized the corrupt inefficiency of politicians who wielded talk of democracy for support, which “ends the day they’re in power.”

“Pakistan has developed resilience and strength for survival,” Mr. Hussain said. “Terrorism will remain for many years to come. The US needs to revise its strategy of a strong, standing power (which involve[s] support of the people).” Mr. Hussain also talked about the need for the United States to reinvigorate its alliances and international policy and, generally, is in need of an image overhaul. With the right policies, “the US can change its image overnight,” he said.

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Please make checks payable to The Virginia Informer. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us at editor@VIRInformer.com
Now that even the oracle which gives The Flat Hat its news stories has turned its back on our beleaguered president, it's time to start tossing around ideas for possible replacements to William and Mary's executive.

Of course, because we here at The Virginia Informer pride ourselves on our ability to assess based on objective merits and other generally accepted business jargon, we will be using the so-called “SWOT” (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis so familiar to students and faculty of the Mason School of Business—what did you expect, for us to toke up, put on our Best of Phish album and talk about how we wish it would all just go away? If that's what you are looking for in a presidential search committee, look up Sam Sadler at his new office over at the Meridian coffee house.

So after five minutes of last-minute Googling before going to print, we have determined our Final Four for William and Mary's next president.

**His Royal Highness Prince Henry “Harry” of Wales**  
**Strengths**  
- Recreates William and Mary with its British roots.  
- His grandmother thought it was a “jolly good” idea.  
- One of the most accessible presidents in recent William and Mary history, including holding open office hours at the Green Leaf.  

**Weaknesses**  
- Has a penchant for dressing up as a Nazi on special occasions, which may ruffle feathers at Filled and AEPI.  
- Harry's appointment to the office could outrage the large, vocal minority of Irish students on campus.

**Opportunities**  
- Can return William and Mary to more pointless British royal trumpery and trumpery.  
- Could attract large number of British students to William and Mary, providing further justification for a mandatory, comprehensive dental insurance package.

**Threats**  
- Prince Charles, or any other horse-faced British royal.  
- His age and lack of experience rivals only that of Barack “Barry” Obama.

**New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick**  
**Strengths**  
- He is a workaholic, and demands perfection from all around him.  
- Will cut all underperforming “fluffy” departments—you know who you are.  

**Weaknesses**  
- Constantly scowling.  
- Reports to Board of Visitors meetings dressed in a Patriots hooded sweatshirt and sweatpants.  

**Opportunities**  
- Will bring Tribe football to its first 12-0 season.  
- Will diversify hoodie selection at the bookstore and campus shop.

**Threats**  
- In-state students (who, it can only be assumed, are Redskins fans) stage revolt every morning.  
- Constantly scowling.

**Former US President Bill “Slick Willy” Clinton**  
**Strengths**  
- Can “feel our pain.”  
- Has no problem working closely with female administrators.  

**Weaknesses**  
- The McDonald’s / Dunkin Donuts drive-thru window is suddenly backed up every morning.  
- Has no problem working closely with female administrators.

**Opportunities**  
- Required, president-approved sorority wet t-shirt contests every Friday.  
- Restructuring of Honor Code, requiring more precise definitions of “is” and “sexual relations.”

**Threats**  
- Hillary Clinton.  
- Chelsea Clinton.

- Socks the cat.

**Celebrities and Pop Culture Icon Justin Timberlake**  
**Strengths**  
- Our Homecoming concert will be off the hizzy.  

**Weaknesses**  
- After the stink of last year’s Sex Workers’ Art Show, what would campus conservatives think of his FutureSex / LoveSounds?  
- He’s not hot.

**Opportunities**  
- Appointment of Vice President for Student-Thug Affairs Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson.  

**Threats**  
- Britney Spears wandering around Old Campus shouting Justin’s name at 3 am, pounding on the Brafferton doors.  
- What goes around comes around.

**Obfuscation classes stand out in spring of 2008**

Boris Kiselev & Ilsa Tinkelman  
Staff Writers

Do you feel like your classes next semester are unappealing? Do you have a passion for sex, prostitution or JRR Tolkien? Well, you’re in luck, because a number of professors here at William and Mary had your specific interests in mind when they formulated some of the course offerings for next semester. Though a majority of the classes at the College are those that are fairly standard across all schools, it is the specific, in-depth courses that highlight the strengths of our university’s professors and faculty. Consider “Thoroughly Modern Manhood,” studying “Hypermachulism and the Fin-de-Siecle Consciousness” (AMST 350)? Some classes seem strange simply because they combine two superficially different subjects, such as “Sound Think: Music, Beauty, and Philosophy” (PHIL 306). In fact, this Tuesday / Thursday seminar looks at a question we all have had at one time or another, namely, why are people so innately attracted to music, and where does our ability to create and appreciate music come from? Also consider “Narcissism in Literature,” a combination of Psychology and English. Taught by Professor Mary Melfi, this introductory English course considers the Narcissistic Personality Type—self absorbed, lacking in empathy and egotistical—and its source and significance in famous literary works. Finally, where else can you take a class named after a song by Madonna? “Material Girls: Women, Money, Sex, and Management” (ENGL 150W), “analyzes the economics of female sexuality in literary and popular culture” by studying prostitution and the exchange of sex for worldly wealth.

There are actually a number of classes worthy of William and Mary's Open option: prostitution. Besides “Material Girls” there is “Love and Prostitution in Medieval Spain” and “Love, Adultery, and Prostitution in 19th Century Russian Literature.” Ever read German detective fiction from the 19th century? Well, you can spend an entire semester getting to know that genre better (GRMN 417). You can even take a seminar devoted wholly to Lord of the Rings author JRR Tolkien (ENGL 150W).

**Career Center helps students find internships**

Aimee Forsythe  
Staff Writer

Looking for a summer internship and not sure where to begin? The Career Center offers a variety of internships and databases of internship possibilities and alumni contacts that you might find useful.

Tress Watson, assistant director and internship coordinator at the Career Center, first suggests that students subscribe to the Career Center’s primary listserv (link on their website). These weekly emails list jobs, internships, and scholarships that the Career Center receives from employers and alumni. What makes this listserv unique is that employers who specifically ask for William and Mary students will only have their internships listed through the Career Center and not on other internship databases shared with other schools.

Watson also recommends that students sign up for the University Career Action Network (UCAN) (link on their website), an internship database that is shared between William and Mary and 18 other reputable schools like Harvard, Princeton, and University of San Francisco. What is useful about this database is that students can see internship postings in other parts of the country that otherwise may not have been sent to William and Mary. Other resources include eRecruiting, which lists job and internship opportunities. While this database usually carries more business type listings, it also includes an alumni mentor database. Alumni volunteer to be apart of the database in which they supply information on ways they can help students. Also listed on eRecruiting are the local businesses who participate in the Local Internship Program, a semester long program sponsored by the Career Center. This program allows students to apply for and have local, unpaid internships during a semester with the expectation of working about 7-10 hours a week and time off during the college breaks.

The Career Center website also features an externship database of William and Mary alumni who have offered externships to WM&Ms. On the database students can look up, by state or field, externships for breaks.

Ms. Watson recommends beginning your summer internship search now seeing as many positions have deadlines in late December. Potential internships must also have a presentable resume and an understanding of how to write a cover letter. The Career Center can assist you when writing these documents.
President Bush gives World AIDS Day address

Informer reporter in White House press corps for event

Steven Nelson
Assistant News Editor

On Friday, November 30, President George W. Bush visited Calvary United Methodist Church in Maryland to re-state his intention of increasing American funding for the global fight against AIDS.

The Virginia Informer was able to place this reporter in the White House press pool, which comprised approximately 20 other journalists.

The White House chose Calvary as the locale for Mr. Bush’s World AIDS Day address to highlight the church’s volunteer work with the Children of Zion Village in Namibia’s Caprivi region, a home for children left behind by AIDS.

Prior to addressing the press, Mr. Bush met for an hour with a small group that has been active in the AIDS crisis in Africa.

The forum included US AIDS ambassador Mark Dybul, members of World Relief and Catholic Charities, African activists, four volunteers associated with Children of Zion and Children of Zion founder Rebecca Minik, who was unexpectedly in the country. The forum’s focus was almost exclusively on shared her experiences caring for 55 children. Mr. Bush was also made aware that there remain four to five thousand uncounted orphans in the region. At one point in the discussion, Mr. Bush appeared so moved as to wipe a tear from his eye.

He asked Rev. Yocum to close the group in prayer. He then addressed the press, with panel members and an assortment of African flags assembled behind the presidential podium.

Religious overtones were unmistakably present in the president’s statement. Mr. Bush extolled the work of faith-based groups in which Americans have been active, and asked for God’s blessings on the loved ones that AIDS victims have left behind.

The president expressed his desire for the United States to increase funding for AIDS relief overseas from $15 billion to $30 billion, over six years. He also commented that the “ABC’s: Abstinence, Be faithful, use Condoms” need to be promoted thoroughly.

Mr. Bush plans to tour Southern Africa early next year, to emphasize the United States’ commitment to assisting in the AIDS epidemic.

Beers fit for a badger

Matthew Sutton
Managing Editor

In honor of the resurgence of Brett Favre and the Packers, it’s time to explore the wide range of tasty beers from the Midwest, specifically from the great state of Wisconsin. Now I know that knowledge of America’s heartland is extremely limited on this campus, as the flow of information at William and Mary is dominated by arrogant “coasties,” but it’s time for the snobby parochialism to end.

Let’s examine a couple of relevant facts. Whether you drink Budweiser (from St. Louis) or Miller (from Milwaukee), you’re sipping a little bit of greatness from the Midwest. Pabst Blue Ribbon (also a Milwaukee original) is another tried and true favorite with origins in the heartland of America.

Without the Midwest there wouldn’t be great Americans like Hugh Hefner (Illinois), Neil Armstrong (Ohio), Henry Ford (Michigan), Larry Bird (Indiana) and John Wayne (Iowa). For a quick introduction to the distinctive slang and John Wayne (Iowa), for a quick introduction to the distinctive slang and the Midwest, look no further than your next episode of “The Simpsons.”

...and, as Kenney West would say, “you know what the Midwest is? Young and restless.”

As a native Chicagoan, I’m partial to a Chicago-area microbrewery Goose Island and its aptly named 312 (Chicago’s area code, for all you coasties), which is a microbrewery Goose Island and its aptly named 312 refreshing urban wheat beer. As a Cubs fan, how could I not be partial to a Chicago-area brew? As a Cubs fan, how could I not be partial to a Chicago-area brew?

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The High Octane 190

Kick: 5/5
Taste: 5/5

Where to buy: Everclear - Outside of Virginia
Slubees: 7-11, Wawa

I’ve been held to some pretty high standards for the Drink of the Week the past few issues, and have many have bashed my “lame” drinks. Well, the High Octane 190 should really quiet my critics. All jokes aside, this is the grand-daddy of all previous drinks; the true Baron of Blackout Beverages. As The Informer's drink correspondent, I spent Thanksgiving break in Las Vegas sampling the myriad of fine drinks Sin City has to offer. For those of you who have a chance to visit the great alcohol oasis out west, the Ghostbar and the night club Rain have fantastic bars that offer a multitude of near-lethal drinks. However, the High Octane 190 was by far the most effective, and most delicious, of the offerings. Imagine a shuffle of your flavor choice—now imagine dropping four shots of Everclear into said beverage. With no loss in taste, that is the definition of a High Octane 190. Enjoy, dear readers, and please—apologize to your liver in advance.

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

Drinks that fit the bill

Matthew Sutton
Managing Editor

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The Virginia Informer:
Where you not only learn what FOIA means, but it becomes your best friend.

Join us next semester and you will find that sunshine is the best disinfectant.
Tuition increase hits home at William and Mary

With an expected cut in Virginia education funding next year as a result of state budget shortfalls, many have wondered how these missing funds will be made up; perhaps the most obvious way is through tuition increases. The Inquirer felt it necessary to explore the current trends of Virginia’s public universities, for the 2007-2008 academic year at $9,164, the most expensive for in-state residents for fees. Among the smaller universities university tuition and room and board charges this year amounted to an average of $7,385. Furthermore, the average tuition increase among the state’s four-year institutions between 06-07 and 07-08 amounted to 6.4%. This is slightly less than the 7.1% tuition increase William and Mary students incurred this year but significantly less than the 8.6% tuition increase UVA students incurred this year (the highest in the state). Norfolk State University students incurred the lowest tuition increase in Virginia at 4.7%. It is worth noting that all of these percentages are significantly higher than both state and national inflation. The information compiled in this article was obtained directly from university Web sites.

Mr. Feiss is also the final decision maker when it comes to tenure and promotion of faculty, serves as chair of the budget committee, oversees all academic deans, professional schools, admissions, financial aid, the libraries, Information Technology and all research on campus.

As President for Student Affairs W. Samuel Sadler earns $205,000 annually. Associate Vice President Munford earns $141,000 and Associate Vice President Dillman earns $145,000.

Mr. Sadler’s three most visible deputies—Dean and Director of Judicial Affairs Gilbert, Residence Life Director Deb Boykin and Mark Constantine—earn a combined $222,700.

The president also has a substantial staff of direct subordinates. Two assistants, Michael J. Fox and Jackson Sassier, earn $135,200 and $88,400, respectively. Executive Assistant to the President Cynthia Brauer earns $59,800, and additional assistant Fanchon Glover earns $83,800. Salary information for three other assistants was not provided.

Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus, who heads a team charged with attracting applicants and selecting who will be accepted from over 10,000 applications, makes $81,000; three assistants earn $123,000.

Football coach Jim Lacey earns nearly as much as four undergrad admissions personnel combined, raking in $176,000 per year. Dean of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda, who oversees the College’s various academic departments, earns $192,000. Dean of Students Volp earns around $100,000.

Few professors earn into the triple digits. Many assistant and associate professors earn less than $50,000. Several professors obtain additional funds through family contributions and through titles which acknowledge their commitment to the College. The highest paid undergraduate professors include Professor Richard S. Price of the Anthropology Department, who earns $187,000. Following Mr. Price are: Charles R. Johnson of Math, $178,000; Melvin P. Ely of History, $175,000; Don E. Campbell of Economics, $161,500; David Lutzer of Math, $157,000; and James L. Axtell of History, $155,200.

Please go to VAInformer.com to get the complete list of faculty and administrator salaries.

With an expected cut in Virginia education funding next year as a result of state budget shortfalls, many have wondered how these missing funds will be made up; perhaps the most obvious would be another increase in tuition rates. Given the likelihood of this outcome, The Inquirer felt it necessary to explore the current trends of Virginia’s public universities, for the 2007-2008 academic year at $9,164, the most expensive for in-state residents for fees. Among the smaller universities university tuition and room and board charges this year amounted to an average of $7,385. Furthermore, the average tuition increase among the state’s four-year institutions between 06-07 and 07-08 amounted to 6.4%. This is slightly less than the 7.1% tuition increase William and Mary students incurred this year but significantly less than the 8.6% tuition increase UVA students incurred this year (the highest in the state). Norfolk State University students incurred the lowest tuition increase in Virginia at 4.7%. It is worth noting that all of these percentages are significantly higher than both state and national inflation. The information compiled in this article was obtained directly from university Web sites.

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Put a little swing in your step at an upcoming dance
Swing Club offers chance to relieve stress with relatively free dance style

Ilsa Tinkelman
Staff Writer

With the fall 2007 semester coming quickly to a close, students all across campus are feeling the stress of rapidly approaching due dates and final exams. Many students could consider looking to find a release in a classic stress-relieving activity with a twist…literally.

The William and Mary Swing Club offers such an opportunity. The organization holds beginner lessons from 7 pm to 8 pm each Tuesday night with swing dance instructors Chris Woolley and Juliana Glassco. The lesson is followed by a half hour of social dancing, during which, time, where members at any level can practice their skills, learn new tricks and meet new people. What is so alluring about this particular pastime? Swing Club President Brian Paljug says that swing dancing is “very accessible, easy to teach” and “quickly learned,” as well as “different and fun.”

Unlike more formal styles, such as ballroom dancing, swing dancing allows participants to move freely with very few rules and lots of rhythm. The club also offers intermediate classes for dancers with more experience, held after this social affair and taught by Mr. Paljug and Audrey Anderson.

In addition to holding weekly lessons, the club also hosts here at the College, travels to the Swing Club during the course of the year and open to everyone, free for members, low cost (sometimes even free for members)

A Thousand Splendid Suns offers further testament to Hosseini’s excellent storytelling

Sweatha Srivaram
Staff Writer

Khalid Hosseini’s New York Times best-selling book, A Thousand Splendid Suns, centers on the Afghan civil war, but mostly it is about the lives of ordinary women, their dreams, and the crushing realities of life in war-torn Afghanistan. It is about how they labor under the twin weight of customs and the repressive policies of the Taliban and Rashied’s terrifying violence.

Unlike the author’s previous work, The Kite Runner, Mr. Hosseini’s new book uses a larger Farsi vocabulary, lending his story a more authentic atmosphere. Also, while The Kite Runner is a rather basic romantic story, A Thousand Splendid Suns is a political story that masquerades as a story about love. The plot and pacing are precise, and although the middle section, which is told from Shahar’s perspective, at first appears incongruous, later sections steadily become deeper and longer,

that Afghanistan inherits; one, a dream and restrictive past. Laila soon becomes Maryam’s steadfast companion and, through her children, Maryam herself finds the courage to face both the repressive policies of the Taliban and Rashied’s terrifying violence.

As always, Mr. Hosseini’s storytelling is par excellence, and his story itself is heart-stopping. The characters, despite the fact some of them have stereotypical characteristics seemingly plucked right out of a Bollywood movie (the ever-suffering Maryam, the malicious Rashied, the soft-spoken and more moral Laila) that阿富汗 inherits; one, a dream and restrictive past. Laila soon becomes Maryam’s steadfast companion and, through her children, Maryam herself finds the courage to face both the repressive policies of the Taliban and Rashied’s terrifying violence.

A percentage of the book’s proceeds will be donated to Virginia Tech in honor of the students who died there during last April’s massacre. In fact, the book will first be published on the Internet as a free, downloadable PDF file, with a suggestion that those who enjoyed it contribute directly to Virginia Tech through a donation button.

With the credit for this idea goes entirely to Hal Gieseking,” the creator and sole member of The Business Scribe, said Ms. Judd. “I just submitted some of my poetry as a writing sample, and he suggested we create a book of my poetry. Later we decided to make a book of poetry by other students instead. I was a bit relieved, because I don’t write that much poetry outside of class,” she laughed.

Ms. Judd will serve as editor for the collection and choose the 100 poems to be published along with fellow college students, while the top ten poems will be chosen by a panel of judges. Young Poets, to be released in March of 2008, will also include a photo essay on England’s Lake District, which inspired poets including Wordsworth and Ruskin, and famous poems by poets who wrote when they were young.

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Those interested in entering the poetry contest should send works of 400 words or less to poetryoflife@gmail.com, and visit the Web site for more rules at www.virginiastateuniversity.com/poetrycontest. Alternatively, students can join the Facebook group title “Poetry of Life- Help the Hokies.” The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2008.

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Strong personalities: The characters, ranging from the malicious Rashied to the beautiful Laila, make for a beautiful story.

Author: Khalid Hosseini
Pages: 384
Publisher: Riverhead
ISBN: 159489505
List Price: $25.95

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Suns

The allure: Swing dancers love the form of dance because they can move freely.

A Thousand Splendid Suns
Nooks and Crannies of William & Mary

A Dead Tradition: Duc Week

R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Since high school, most students at the College have been taught to be wary of hazing. Nowadays, even the most innocent of initiations is suspect and carried out in secret, lest the school administration catch wind and set the judicial counsel on the trail. However, just a few short decades ago William and Mary's administration was in full support of a tradition whose sole purpose was the mortification of as many first-year students as possible. Those freshmen who had broken one or more “Duc Rules” were marched before an informal tribunal and sentenced. The tribunal's annual tribunal and attend the court session that judged first-years (officially called “Gross Ducs”) to the Upperclassmen were encouraged to report offending subjects to what was variously called the “Matriculation of the Upperclassmen” or, as the Duc Rules called it, the “Duc Rally.” Between 1930 and 1960 there were a few instances where a group of Ducs staged a revolt just before their Freshman year to protest the enforcement of the rules. Those freshmen found guilty of offenses were subjected to various amusing punishments, which included mock-execution, temporary imprisonment, fines, cross-dressing, “cooling” (whereby a student was forced to ride around at night in the back of a pickup truck) and campaigning. According to The Flat Hat, one Yankee freshman who insulted the Confederate Flag in 1925 was made to sing “Dixie” before being “consigned to jail to die.”

At a time when gone, the Duc Rules were challenged by unhappy first-year students. In 1927 they were officially removed from the student handbook after a group of Ducs staged a revolt just before their Duc Rally. Between 1930 and 1960 there were a few attempts to strengthen enforcement of the rules, with even the 13 Society promising at one point to aid in the reporting of Gross Ducs, but the efforts were largely for naught.

The length of the rules’ enforcement began to shrink, first to the end of the fall semester, then to the month of September and finally to a single week towards the start of the year: Duc Weeks, which culminated with the Freshman Tribunal. The year 1962 saw the last mention of this tradition in The Flat Hat, and today memories of Ducs and Ducesses has almost entirely faded from campus memory. At a College with a long, proud history of clinging to its traditions, this particular ritual has been allowed to die quietly here at William and Mary.

Faculty-led hazing: Only a few decades ago, the College administration was in favor of making freshmen conform to a list of “Duc Rules.”

with upperclassmen often standing in line for hours to get good seats. Held first in the Wren Chapel and later in PBK Hall, the session was conducted rather formally, with seniors acting as presiding judges, bailiffs, prosecutors and defense attorneys (though the defense often switched sides in the middle of the event and began prosecuting their “clients”). Those freshmen found guilty of offenses were subjected to various amusing punishments, which included mock-execution, temporary imprisonment, fines, cross-dressing, “cooling” (whereby a student was forced to ride around at night in the back of a pickup truck) and campaigning. According to The Flat Hat, one Yankee freshman who insulted the Confederate Flag in 1925 was made to sing “Dixie” before being "consigned to jail to die.”

As time went on, the Duc Rules were challenged by unhappy first-year students. In 1927 they were officially removed from the student handbook after a group of Ducs staged a revolt just before their Duc Rally. Between 1930 and 1960 there were a few attempts to strengthen enforcement of the rules, with even the 13 Society promising at one point to aid in the reporting of Gross Ducs, but the efforts were largely for naught.

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Make an impact on campus...

In the Informer

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

Forget the outlets

Imbue your clothes with their own personality. Tear them if you want, bleach them, slash them, add sleeves, cut sleeves off, dye them, write on them, stud them, stitch things onto them.

How, however, does this just come from wear, tear and time? You can also find things just lying around that are positively bursting with personality. When you travel, keep your eyes peeled for things you’d never be able to find at home: hemp pullovers, hand-woven belts or maybe just something like a touristy t-shirt (“I Visited Area 51”). If you don’t happen to be a globe-trekker, pop down to the thrift store or into your attic and see what’s lying around. After a couple of minimal alterations, you might end up with something that will have everyone around you asking to hear the story. Kids’ clothes are especially fun. Remember that Jurassic Park or Power Rangers t-shirt you had when you were four? Go see if it’s still around. Cut off the design and hand-stitch it to the front of a $5 long sleeve shirt from Wal-Mart. Voila. See? It’s not hard.

Even the high-class world of fashion recognizes and tries to satisfy the public desire for clothes that tell a story. Witness the hideous overuse in the past years of what the designers call the “distressed” look—leather bags that come pre-scraped, jeans that come pre-ripped or pre-stained and tops with hems that are left purposely unfinished. Take my advice, people: don’t fall for this crap. Imbue your clothes with their own personality. Tear them if you want to, bleach them, slash them, add sleeves, cut sleeves off, dye them, write on them, stud them, stitch things onto them. Or, even better, just wear them and let them accrue their own stories. In a culture that encourages us to throw things away as soon as they start to show their age, create the worn and stained. It’s always more fun to wear something that will make the little old lady behind you in Ukrops say, “Excuse me, young person, but I just have to know...”
Food Review:

Emerald Thai Cuisine offers superb food and service

Matt Pinkser
Food Critic

Food and drink: The restaurant features an extensive bar, which makes it a great stop to make with friends.

A few miles down Route 60 while approaching Busch Gardens, one will find the delightful restaurant Emerald Thai Cuisine. It certainly lives up to its name in that, upon entering, one cannot help but notice the interior decked out in shades of green. The inside was very clean and well kept, and the staff always immediately took care of dirty tables when diners exited. The staff and service were very polite and well-mannered. They were exceptionally attentive to my needs as a diner, and my water glass was never less than half-filled, a task most impressive considering the spiciness of the food.

Everything I ordered had a slight spicy kick to it, but not so much that it prevented me from enjoying the food. The menu offered the typical Thai dishes one will find on the East coast of America (for the unfamiliar, Thai food on the East coast uses much less coconut in its cooking than west coast Thai). For an appetizer I ordered the spring roll ($4.95). With very little waiting, three nicely-wrapped rolls full of the usual ingredients came out, as well as homemade sweet and sour sauce with some hot peppers mixed in. The spring rolls were some of the best I’ve ever had, and lacked that greasy feel you often get. They made an excellent appetizer to share with others.

For the entre I ordered the chicken cashew ($7.95 lunch, $9.95 dinner), which came with hot and sour soup. The chicken cashew was very well-presented. On a rectangular dish there was a mound of white rice on the right, and to the left was a mound of chicken, cashew nuts, scallions, peppers and grilled pineapple, all covered by a thin pool of a delicious sauce. Everything in the dish blended together perfectly but never lost its distinctiveness. This dish was exceptionally tasty, and I highly recommend it. Although the chicken cashew was not listed as spicy, it had a subtle undertone of homeyness which only enhanced the flavor. It was served at the perfect temperature, and remained hot for the duration of the meal. The portions sizes did not allow for leftovers, but were sufficient.

Emerald Thai makes an excellent location for a date or outing with friends. The restaurant also has a very large bar with an extensive drink menu you may want to consider. If you are pressed for time, they also do a carry-out business, so be sure to take advantage of their 15% discount on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Indie Films: Why less is more

Michelle Ju
Staff Writer

Indie films are called films, not movies, for a reason. In an age where films recycle car commercials, dull plots and an endless supply of “go-to” A-list actors, many movie-goes are tired of the hackneyed “Hollywood”-ization we know as the exploitation of big picture films. It is no surprise that in the past decade a selective crop of independent films, best known as “indie” films, have caused a stir in both the film industry and movie seats. Call them elitist, campy or blue – all indie films have something in common, aside, of course, from being produced by low-budget studios. To make up for the lack of “production” value that big picture films have, indie films center around the smaller things, including clever, substantial scripts, unique and provocative plots and distinctive aesthetics that encompass different film genres and cinematic techniques. Although many indie films pack the cynicism and antiheroes of film noir, a handful of them still maintain lighthearted humor and absurdity.

Tired of the tried and true Hollywood versions on love, gore and humor? Curious about films that flirt around with silences. Indie flicks attract a wide range of audiences, including hard critics, who all share a love for up-and-coming directors and an appetite for cinematic experiences that leave a greater impression than just a hole burned in their wallets.
William and Mary Theatre questions authority in Antigone

Stephanie Long
News Editor

This season, William and Mary Theatre chose to stage Jean Anouilh's version of the classical tragedy Antigone, originally performed in 1944 in Paris under German occupation. Interestingly, though, the theater department chose to put the audience in the place of this 1944 Parisian audience, making it unclear at what point the play had actually ended. This caused me to wonder if the production's aim was to imply that our community is in a similar situation to that of the Parisians under Nazi control.

Before the play even began, the stage was set. Students playing Nazi guards were posted at the entrance of the theater, checking those who came to see the play for guns. Those who then read the "Note from the Director" in the playbill saw that they had apparently walked back in time to the opening night of Ms. Anouilh's Antigone. I personally noticed that the College President Gene Nichol showed up to see the message that the theater department was trying to get across in their presentation.

Ms. Anouilh's play highlights several aspects of the classic tale, presumably in order to make up her mind for her, as well as the true sense of self and refusal to let others encourage the Parisians to rebel against the Nazi control.

In the "Note from the Director," addressed to the 1944 Parisian audience, Antigone is described as "very noble: a classic tale by Sophocles that has been updated for our modern times." With Gene Nichol in the audience, I couldn't help but wonder how he would react to the notion within the play that divine law is higher than natural law or that Creon is trapped by his own poor law or that Creon is trapped by his own poor decisions and refuses to reverse them and admit that he had acted wrongly, in order to prevent further wrongs from occurring.

From the emphasis on questioning authority, especially in the play's staging, I think the William and Mary theatre department deemed Antigone just as worthy for modern times as it was for the Parisians in 1944.

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Staff Editorials:

**Salaries provide disappointing, revealing look at College’s priorities**

For another example of overpaid administration, contract the $83,800 salary of Dr. Funchon Glover, the head of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, with the amount made by distinguished and well-liked Government Professor Michael Tierney, who makes $69,500 by comparison.

As Associate Professor of Economics David Jaeger wrote in his letter to the editor of The Flat Hat, “To my knowledge, Nichol and other members of the administration have made no public statements regarding how we are to achieve the stated goal of 60% percentile of our peer group with regards to salaries in the current budget environment.” Touching on the problems of low faculty salaries and high teaching loads, Mr. Jaeger offered an ominous prediction: “It is certain that the best and most productive scholar-teachers will leave the College in search of greener and more stimulating pastures if nothing is done to address these issues.”

If William and Mary wishes to maintain its reputation for stellar academics and scholarship, we must take a hard look at how we are allocating funds for the salaries of our professors and administrators. Instead of wasting precious funds on a bloated bureaucracy, it is crucial that the College act quickly in order to ensure that we retain the best and brightest minds in the public system today.

**BOV must act, now**

It is time for the Board of Visitors to make their decision on President Gene Nicholl’s future at the College. While we applauded their decision to thoroughly review his tenure here, using proven metrics of success, it is clear that the fallout from the e-mail controversy requires a swift decision regarding Mr. Nicholl.

We are the Informer feel that his actions in this incident illustrate a casual and shocking disregard for the truth, and that his conduct in this situation alone—not including the rest of his disappointing tenure—are reason enough to let his contract expire.

When placed in the larger context of his repeated failures, including but not limited to the Wren cross debacle, the failure to fight the NCAC’s decision about the feathers, the bad publicity surrounding the Sex Workers Art Show, and the College’s drop in national rankings during his presidency, the evidence against Mr. Nicholl is overwhelming. With President Nicholl’s support dwindling rapidly in the wake of the recent revelation of the e-mail scandal, even Mr. Nicholl’s few remaining supporters would be hard-pressed to find legitimate reasons for him to continue to lead the College based on his record thus far.

Therefore, we call on the Board of Visitors to spare the College the long and drawn-out spectacle of debating the future of Mr. Nicholl’s tenure until May. It is clear that Nicholl needs to go—and sooner rather than later.
I may be that, of all people here at William and Mary, it is abundantly clear where I stand on the issue of President Gene Nichol’s renewal. Perhaps the only one who has opted to send a note to the Board of Visitors, as I feel it is important to make the reasons for my opposition to Mr. Nichol’s failed presidency abundantly clear to those who have been charged to lead the university.

At the onset, I, like many others, had real hope that Mr. Nichol would usher in change for the better. The bizarre observer—students had with the presidency—Tim Sullivan seemed strange to me, and it was clear that some of his actions—including his impeding the free speech of those who opposed affirmative action—were clearly wrong, but, for some reason, being glossed over. I thought that perhaps Mr. Sullivan was just too entrenched, and having a new, outside face in his seat would serve the College well. As a member of the Student Assembly, I was encouraged that perhaps Mr. Nichol would pursue student voting rights. As a conservative, I knew I had to grin and bear his very leftist ideology, as it is what I have come to expect in public academia. My only hope was that Mr. Nichol’s ideology would not translate into an agenda.

Though I hate to admit it, I was wrong on all accounts. First, I have learned that William and Mary, as an institution, breeds an attitude of deference to authority; that is something I can blame on Mr. Nichol, but it is a fact this Board of Visitors must understand when considering who should lead the College in the future. It did not matter that Mr. Nichol had been president for 13 years—it only mattered that he was the one in charge. The concept of “teaching students to question everything, as a liberal arts education should, has been lost when it comes to college administration. Do I mean that we must all be as confrontational and controversial as I am? Of course not, but the defensiveness of our leadership—from Vice President Sam Sadler to Chancellor Sandra Day O’Connor—is at worst, frighteningly weak.

Secondly, what Mr. Nichol could have done to help students gain the right to vote, what he stated was to be one of the next great civil rights battles, is an issue he can no longer realistically fight for. Thanks to his alienation of everyone but students on campus, there are few issues which he can now seriously and effectively champion as a catalyst for change because of the fact he has been so unapproachable and unapproachable.

The issue of student voting has been so important to the president’s conception of what the direction of the College ought to be. His re-branding of the College as “great and public,” rather than the traditional “public ivy,” is a serious problem, and it is something I have been harping on since he first announced his plan to cut his “five pillars,” first mentioned in his State of the College address last year: retain a small size; academic excellence; a healthy budget; the students and the community; and living in a gray world. It is my sincere hope that other conservatives will call them, bonds—expanded and loosed in to this once-beloved place, I in to this once-beloved place, I have received little back, largely because of what Mr. Nichol has done and has failed to do.

As a conservative student at William and Mary—a place which, as I have discovered in these past two and a half years, is distinctly liberal—I have had the sincere pleasure of meeting a believably diverse group of individuals with whom I share absolutely no philosophical, ideological or political ground. Many of these people have kept me busy for years as I attempted to understand, reason, and in particular, I have actively engaged, and the people whom I met represent—to a degree—those who paint with this breadth of art are, ironically, lacking a level of nuance or experience.

For those who don’t already know, I am a person who likes things neat, orderly, properly labeled, predictable and generally as not spontaneous as humanly possible. While some may call that boring, I simply say that I am interested in enacting and execute these “more rigorous” standards in our own life on a regular basis and would consider myself, generally, a person who is more than a bit predictable and perceptions all fit together in a fairly uninteresting way. I have been of the mind that I can have one idea, and then to claim that he was not in the office when we had photographic evidence that he was. Mr. Nichol clearly erred in not responding to the base cuts for the next fiscal year. Putting forward Mr. Nichol to fight for the College is clearly not in my best foot forward.

The recent episode regarding the president’s handling of the revocation of a $12 million pledge to the College is a disgusting display. Even if you were to believe the president’s tall tale that he was unaware as to the nature of the $12 million gift from James McGlothren referred to in the e-mail from Mr. Sullivan, there is still no reasonable explanation as to why the concerns of Mr. McGlothren were never even addressed by this president.

On a professional level in my capacity as editor in chief of The Virginia Informer, Mr. Nichol has been nothing but a distraction. He has consistently refused to conduct an interview with us, while he went on and on with every other publication on campus and in the community. He also consistently evaded answering our invitation for an interview on the Wren cross last year, to the point where he had his staffers lying to our editors that he was not in the office when we had photographic evidence that he was. Mr. Nichol’s own people were noting that a debate invitation alternate debater was named in the local media, and then to claim that he was sorry he waited too long to respond. To me, this is simply a matter of pettiness and intellectual cowardice.

And even if one is able to look beyond what has occurred in the past, there is not a very promising future to store. I particularly question the president’s conception for what the direction of the College ought to be. His re-branding of the College as “great and public,” rather than the traditional “public ivy,” is a serious problem, and a freshman who is not even aware of this, I think that after seven semesters, for all that I have put into this once-beloved place, I have received little back, largely because of what Mr. Nichol has done and has failed to do.

I have dedicated much of my life to this College in the last three and a half years. I am serving out my fourth term as a Student Assembly senator; I spent two years as a resident assistant, stopped from a third not by my own choice; and I started The Virginia Informer in order to help students better hear what was going on, I feel that after seven semesters, for all that I have put in to this once-beloved place, I have received little back, largely because of what Mr. Nichol has done and has failed to do.

I am a person who likes things neat, orderly, properly labeled, predictable and generally as not spontaneous as humanly possible. While some may call that boring, I simply say that I am interested in research, and that the College be open and welcoming to all. Though they seem like admirable goals, they are better achieved through accounts and bonds—expanded and loosed in to this once-beloved place, I have received little back, largely because of what Mr. Nichol has done and has failed to do.

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Mr. Nichol’s twisting of “great and public” and his thought process on the cross removal proves to me that he is not here to be a college president, but to be an ideological pushing his own brand of Agenda. This was my biggest fear, and it has been realized. For all of these reasons, Mr. Nichol must not be renewed as president if this College is to avoid sinking into mediocrity, a bureaucratic lightening of inefficient governance, which is the case now. In fact, the president must be, as with any contract, “terminated with cause” based on all of his consistent failures throughout his term.

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As someone who has a comfort zone about as small and unworkable as next year’s William and Mary operating budget, I find myself plainly recently having those bounds—or, as some might call them, bonds—expanded and loosed in ways I previously never thought would be possible. It is something that those of us who are friends and intellectual peers at William and Mary who have assisted me with this realization—an idea that has taken 30 months to compound into a realization.

And whether these friends and peers are aware of it or not, I think they are. The recent episode regarding the issue of the cross would have been a very different place, I in to this once-beloved place, I have received little back, largely because of what Mr. Nichol has done and has failed to do.

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BOV set to meet this week

Will President Nichol’s fate be decided sooner than expected?

Jon San
Features Editor

The Board of Visitors will meet this Wednesday to discuss several topics, the most important of which may concern the future of President Gene Nichol. Originally, this decision was to be made in the spring of next year. But now, some have called for a decision to come sooner.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch has said that “the dismayng situation calls for decisive action by the Board of Visitors.” College Rector Michael K. Powell said in response to the Sullivan email, “the Board…will consider whether anything in this episode bears on the performance of College leadership.” This will be the last BOV meeting until they reconvene in the spring of 2008.

Speculation has come about with the release of the e-mail correspondence between Mr. Nichol and President Emeritus Timothy Sullivan. The e-mail revealed that Mr. Nichol may have had previous knowledge of the rescinded $12 million donation from donor James McGlothlin. College alumnus Jim McGlothlin.

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Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah and
Happy New Year!

See you next semester!