College Delly’s future still undecided

Stapbucks has increased its offer to buy the College Delly, owner Dean Tsamouras said, but there is also another offer on the table. Tsamouras indicated that he would prefer that the building remain as the College Delly and that another group has expressed interest in purchasing the property to preserve it, but no final deals had been made. Sophomore Zach Pitchen who started the “Not Another Motherfucking Starbucks!” Facebook group commented, “Perhaps Starbucks didn’t receive the message that over 1,600 undergrads sent them in a single week of petitioning: We don’t want you here.”

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Nick Hoelker contributed to this report.

College gave city private student information that led to evictions

The College is handing over information about students to officials of the City of Williamsburg without student consent. The City, in turn, has used this information to track down violators of “three-person-to-a-house rule,” the Williamsburg law preventing more than three unrelated persons in the same residence. Now Student Assembly Senators Zach Pilchen (‘09) and Matt Beato (‘09) are alleging that the 38 students recently asked to leave their homes in violation of this law were found because their information was listed in the student directory.

Zoning Administrator Rodney Rhodes, who began work with the City in August of 2006, spoke with The Informer on the issue of the 38 “evicted” students. Rhodes disliked the word “evicted” for their cases, citing the City’s inability to actually evict a person from his or her home; he says that they were simply asked to leave in order to comply with city law, “or face legal action by the City for enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance.”

When asked initially about rumors that the College had EVICTIONS continued on page five

Honor Council opens up meetings after Informer cover story and investigation - Page 2

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Volume 2 Issue 5 March 2007

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

An independent publication of The College of William and Mary.

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The common sense paper of record on campus

Nick Fitzgerald
Features Editor

At a March 6 press conference announced only hours earlier, the William and Mary Committee on Religion in a Public University announced its decision concerning the placement of the Wren cross. The decision was announced officially by Professor Alan Meese, co-chair of the committee, seated alongside President Gene Nichol and co-chair Professor Jim Livingston. Meese read the following official decision from a prepared statement which was given to members of the press before the conference began:

THE WREN CHAPEL CROSS SHALL BE RETURNED FOR PERMANENT DISPLAY IN THE CHAPEL. IN A GLASS CASE. THE CASE SHALL BE LOCATED IN A PROMINENT, READILY VISIBLE PLACE, ACCOMPANYED BY A PLAQUE EXPLAINING THE COLLEGE’S ANGELICAN ROOTS AND ITS HISTORIC CONNECTION TO BRIXTON PARISH CHURCH. THE WREN SACRISTY SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO HOUSE SACRED OBJECTS OF ANY RELIGIOUS TRADITION FOR USE IN WORSHIP AND DEVOTION BY MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY.

This decision came somewhat unexpectedly, as Nichol gave the committee until April to decide on this issue. “I was heartened and somewhat surprised to receive a visit from Professor Meese and Livingston….”They indicated that while other deliberations continued, the committee had reached a decision on the Wren chapel issue.” The visit Nichol is referring to occurred Monday night, around 7:30 or 8 p.m., when Meese and Livingston came to Nichol’s house with the decision.

“We all became aware the Board of Visitors welcomed efforts by the committee to produce an expedited recommendation,” said Meese, further explaining the committee’s relatively quick decision. “At the beginning of our deliberations, we didn’t know if we could reach a consensus. We did reach a consensus, it was unanimous….”The cross will be in a prominent, visible place. This will be a place other than the altar itself.” Meese also emphasized that there will be consultation between the Wren’s staff and the committee to make sure that this cross is displayed properly within the guidelines set forth.

Co-chair Jim Livingston also commented on the committee’s results: “As co-chair, I’m very proud of the way we have handled our meetings….We have met with many groups on the campus and have been pleased with those interviews.”

Livingston also explained that while the committee has come to its decision on the Wren cross, it is still in full operation and will continue to meet to discuss other aspects of religion in a public university. “The committee’s charter was for looking at religion in the public university, with special attention of course to William and Mary, but our work is still on going. We’re planning on bringing a number of speakers, have some forums, have other forms of open meetings in the future, and that’s still the work of the committee. We will continue to meet and work on those.”

President Nichol and the Board of Visitors have officially accepted this recommendation by the committee, and NICHOL OVERRULED continued on page five

Back in the Chapel: Despite the committee’s recent decision, its work is not over.

So why did they sink the gardens after all? Page 12

Want to get every issue of The Informer in the mail?
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Honor Council restores legitimacy, opens up meetings

Informer investigation leads to changes that make proceedings legal

Jon San
Staff Writer

Roughly five months ago, The Virginia Informer ran a story that revealed the Honor Council to be operating in violation of several regulations as set forth by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). By neglecting to post meeting times in a prominent public area and adjourning meetings without the required roll-call vote that insures that the topics discussed were only those that were on the agenda, the Honor Council was essentially illegitimate. The Informer was interested in finding out if this has changed since the appointment of junior Judd Kennedy as chair of 23 newly elected members.

Along with revising and changing several committees within the Honor Council, Kennedy, former chair Nora Wolf, and others have changed aforementioned issues that had previously put in question the body’s legality.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Kennedy regarding these changes.

Previously, Honor Council meeting times were only posted in the James Room. The average student here at the College, though, does not pass by this remote conference room tucked away in a quiet corner of the UC. In fact, many students here at the College have even never heard of the James Room. Kennedy realized that this policy, while unintentional, may discourage or prevent students from attending the meetings. In an attempt to fix this problem, Kennedy said, “To correct this,” said Kennedy, “We will be posting the Honor Council meeting hours on the Student Happenings website and on our office door.”

Kennedy continued, saying that members’ office hours would be posted online as well. Office hours provide additional flexibility for students that may be curious about the Honor Council but are unable to make the weekly meetings.

Student Happenings emails effectively reaching the entire student body twice a week, it would seem that the Honor Council is now in concurrence with the Student Body. In addition, Kennedy assured me that the obligatory roll-call vote which precedes a motion to adjourn the meeting will be formally removed. The roll-call vote ensures that the body has discussed, in the confidential portion of the meeting, only what was scheduled to be discussed.

“We are merely formalizing what was already done informally in the past,” said Kennedy. “We had always realized that we were bound to discuss only the required roll-call cases on the agenda; it’s only now that we are using Robert’s Rules of Order and the roll-call vote to formally affirm that only the students discussed in closed session were what we said would be discussed.”

The council meeting is the part of the meeting where members discuss any currently open cases. During this portion, any non-Honor Council members are asked to leave for the sake of confidentiality. This has been deemed legal by FOIA Advisory Council Staff Attorney, Alan Gernhardt, since individual student cases are discussed. It should be noted, though, that no decisions are made during these closed sessions.

Kennedy explained that, “There is no provision in the regulations for closed sessions; we merely discuss the case. Considering that we know the name of the individual, deciding his or her punishment would be biased. Decisions are made outside of the Sunday meetings and involve many parties outside of the Honor Council.”

Any student or faculty member, however, is welcome to attend the business section of Honor Council meetings.

On Sunday, March 4, the Honor Council met for the first time since the appointment of Kennedy. During the business section, Vice-Chair Roshan Patel discussed the various committees so that the newly elected members could be chosen which they wanted to be a part of based on their interests. The committees range on subject matter and responsibilities. The Academic, Honor, Rules, Faculty Liaison, Historical, Social and Webmaster. One of the main changes is that Orientation responsibilities (which includes Freshman Hall Programming and Extended Orientation) are now under the watch of the Social Committee rather than the Education Committee. An average business meeting will also include discussion on the various bylaws that structure how Honor Council meetings are conducted. “[Bylaws] dictate how everything from we run internal affairs to how officers are elected,” said Kennedy.

Stone has posted many stories that reveal the Honor Council to be operating in violation of the FOIA. In addition, Kennedy said that the Council can be easily obtained if a student so desires.

“All a student needs to do is ask,” said Kennedy.

The Honor Council meets weekly on Sundays from 15:10 P.M. in the James Room in the UC. Information regarding meeting times, council members, the Honor code, and the Councils’ bylaws can be found at http://honor.people.wm.edu/members.php.

Facebook profile leads to assault on UMW College Republicans

Stephanie Long
News Editor

The social networking website Facebook gave one University of Mary Washington graduate the information necessary to target and find members of the school’s College Republicans, whom he proceeded to harass and assault.

Impersonating a military recruiter, Andrew Stone compiled a list of the addresses of College Republicans at the university, including Facebook, aimed at those he is in disagreement with. Since the attack, Stone has posted many anti-Republican and other violent remarks on Facebook, aimed at those he is in disagreement with.

 Initially, Stone attacked the Facebook profile of William and Mary Republicans. However, Stone, included in the俣 profile, track these users, can see their profile, and then call the cops while Stone remained at their homes.

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Initially, Stone asked why these students, if in support of the war, were not in Iraq, and verbally abused them until he was forced from the residences. The College Republicans, however, could only dispose of Stone physically, following which his attack escalated.

This was the case with Pannell, who, after tiring of Stone referring to him as a “pussy” for not fighting in the war, tried to push Stone out of his home, with the help of the roommate, Matt Long, Stone then punched Long in the face and a fight broke out between the two. Pannell attempted to break up the fight and simultaneously remove Stone from the premises. He was eventually successful and then called the cops while Stone remained outside. Stone has been charged with three counts of assault and battery due to the incident. Since the attack, Stone has posted many anti-Republican and other violent remarks on Facebook, aimed at those he is in disagreement with.

Bruce Urquhart, Business Editor

Andrew R. Bray, Business Editor

Rex. Myr. Simon Tumulison

Contribution

Webster. How do you feel about the recent changes to the Honor Council? Do you think they will improve the legitimacy of the body?

The Virginia Informer is produced by students at the College of William and Mary.

Mission Statement

The Virginia Informer is an independent, non-partisan, student run publication devoted to reporting the news to the William and Mary community.

Whether it is coverage of student activities, stories of interest to students of the greater Williamsburg community or coverage of news sources. We do not, and never will, receive any financial support from the College of William and Mary. We will not shy away from controversy or be afraid to challenge the norm. We strive to inform and engage our readers through responsible journalism and in-depth reporting, while fostering and giving voice to opinions that are often shut out by the campus establishment.

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**Professor says precedent trumps Constitution**

**Mandie Costanzer**  
Staff Writer

At a university that educated many of this nation's founders, including Thomas Jefferson, scribe of the Declaration of Independence, a speaker argues against the written Constitution hardly seems the type of lecturer the prestigious Cutler Lecture series would invite. However, one March 1, David A. Strauss presented his lecture Do We Have a Written Constitution? to over 100 people at the Law School at the annual James Goold Cutler Lecture, a series established in 1927 to provide the William and Mary community with "an outstanding authority on the Constitution of the United States." Strauss was elected by the Law School faculty, and is the Harry N. Wyatt Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1978, has argued eighteen cases before the United States Supreme Court, and is one of three editors of the Supreme Court Review.

Strauss began his lecture by proposing concepts we attribute to the Constitution, such as innocent until proven guilty, prohibiting laws unconstitutional, protection against discrimination, all of which he claims come more from how the language of the document is interpreted. Strauss went on to state that the written Constitution is not the most important part of constitutional law, instead that it is secondary to precedence. He drew on the example of Brown v. Board of Education. In many cases since then, the Supreme Court, schools tried to implement "separate but equal" facilities, but were always ruled unconstitutional by the Court. The Court overturned the 14th Amendment because precedent revealed it to be impossible to institute. Strauss argued that while precedent should guide decisions today, the text of the Constitution is important because it narrows the range of disagreement. It does not pass judgment on controversial issues, but it does set forth the date the President leaves office, the number of Senators per state, and a number of other matters that should not have "wiggle room.

In conclusion, Strauss said that the founding fathers were geniuses, but even they could not rule today's world. The nature of their genius in constructing the Constitution is that they settled what could be settled and left unsettled what needed to be determined by later Courts, such as the Marshall and Warren Supreme Courts.

**Professor Slevin challenges ageism**

**Steven Nelson**  
Staff Writer

Sociology Professor Kate Slevin gave a speech before a packed crowd of elderly alumni on Thursday February 22 about "Ageism." The event was part of the Christopher Wren Association's Town & Gown Luncheon and Lecture series, hosted weekly in the University Center's Chesapeake room.

Ageism is the stereotyping of and discrimination against people because they’re old. Ageism is a form of discrimination regarded by Slevin to be especially vicious because “it is the only prejudice that everyone in all societies have."

Slevin has recently written a book on the topic of ageism called Age Matters: Re-aligning Feminist Thought. In it she describes how our society views old age as something that can be cured and should be avoided. She identified for the audience various industries as provocateurs of this notion (cosmetic surgery, skin care, etc…).

Ageism is distinguished from other forms of discrimination because, as Slevin states, minority racial, religious and sexually orientated groups, "at least have respite when around others like them, but for old people, there is no respite."

To remedy the stereotyping, Slevin suggested taking back the word “old,” rather than dancing around old age and by saying “for elderly people” or “retired.” The point that Slevin drove home, to a clearly age-appropriate audience, was that old age is a good thing and that, growing old is what happens if you’re lucky!

**IT “fixes” daylight savings problems**

**Chase Coleman**  
Staff Writer

Over the past few weeks, Information Technology (IT) has been preparing the software and hardware systems of the College for the change to Daylight Saving Time (DST) on March 11.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 expanded DST three weeks in the spring and one week in the fall, an increase that could lead to computer problems. Much like the difficulties associated with the Y2K transfer, the alteration in DST affects many electronic systems, including “hardware, applications and electronic devices that have built-in DST rules for date and time processing,” according to Susan Evans, Director of Networking, Imaging and Communication Services at IT.

In order to prevent any problems, IT has been reviewing all systems and hardware, applying patches and updates where necessary. This maintenance has caused some outages of certain services, and upcoming scheduled outages can be viewed at www.wm.edu/it/dst. These short maintenance operations, however, should not impact IT services, according to Evans that "because we’re planning ahead and patching affected systems, [DST] should be no big deal."

Personal operating systems will also be affected. Updates for these systems, however, should prevent any problems.

**House bill would provide resources for pregnant and parenting students at colleges**

**Megan Locke**  
Staff Writer

This past February, a Republican and a Democratic representative jointly introduced The Elizabeth Cady Stanton and William and Mary Student Parent Act. If this bill is passed into law, it would encourage programs of Feminists for Life, a grassroots organization, according to their website, whose mission is to provide grants to set up offices to provide alternatives to abortion. "Women should not be forced to choose between their education and career plans and their families," said Feminists for Life President Scrin Foster.

The legislation is named after Elizabeth Cady Stanton because she is recognized as the founder of the women’s movement. She is known for both promoting female education and supporting motherhood.

Proponents of the bill argue that it is a necessity for American college students today. Foster cited US Department of Education statistics that one in four undergraduate students is a parent, and one third of all graduate students are parents.

According to the department, approximately four and a half million undergraduate and graduate students are parents in the United States.

How would this legislation affect William and Mary? If the act is passed and William and Mary receives a grant, the College will first need to host a pregnancy and parenting resource forum to discuss what resources are needed on campus. Some potential resources for student parents at William and Mary might include maternity coverage, child care, housing, flexible academic scheduling, and post-partum counseling. The forum would set goals for providing these resources, and a pregnant and parenting student services office would be established on campus to fulfill those goals using the grant money. In order to prove its dedication to the program, the College would need to match the grant money that the Stanton Act provides. A total of ten million dollars distributed as two hundred grants would be given out by the Stanton Act to various colleges.

The Students for Life President at William and Mary, Katie Poonadi (’07), supports the Stanton Act. "It encourages schools to build up infrastructure that makes it easier for a woman to have her baby and continue her education, something that many women who become pregnant in college exterly seems impossible," Poonadi said. "Any effort that makes it easier for a woman to keep her baby expands the real options that a woman has, and is what feminism is all about. I think this would be a great piece of legislation for any college campus, including William and Mary."

The Virginia Informer apologizes for the following error that appeared in our February 2007 Issue:

The headline on the news brief on page 2 incorrectly stated that James City County was the healthiest communities in Virginia. Poquoson County is the healthiest community.

The Virginia Informer would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via email to edit@vainformer.com.
Stephen Dause
Staff Writer

The Student Assembly Senate started off its myriad of debates of the second month of the spring semester with The Campus Wetlands Reclamation Act 2, a reduced version of the first unsuccessful bill. After being passed by the senate by a margin of 13-7-0, the original act was vetoed by SA President Ryan Scofield ('07) who claimed to have concerns about the bill’s viability.

Scofield had said that he was “hesitant to approve spending on a program whose viability may hinge on whether it rains or snows in the next couple of weeks,” a concern that Botany Club President Andrew Zebal ('08) found confusing.

After much discussion of both Scofield’s and the senators’ concerns, the new bill, which reduced spending on beautification of the “swamp” in the New Campus woods area by 27% over the previous bill, was passed 13-6-0 and signed by Scofield.

The Freshmen Orientation Act, sponsored by Senators Scott Morris ('10) and Andrew Blasi ('10), strongly asks that extended orientation programs be rescheduled to before the academic year begins as the logistics of holding those events take place. When a student goes to trial for a judicial sanction, past incident reports of which he or she is unaware are brought up as corroboration evidence of the student’s probable guilt. The act calls for this anomaly to be remedied.

Although Blasi and Morris have shown themselves to be very active senators in the SA, neither of them will be running for re-election. In a message to his Facebook campaign group members, Morris gave his reasons for leaving the Senate, saying it “has shown itself to be a body that is not concerned for the betterment of its constituents.”

“I find it sad that what could be the greatest forum for new ideas and thought on campus is in practice an inward-looking organization constantly concerned with internal affairs and SA politics.”

Criticism of the SA and especially the senate from its own members have become especially popular lately. The Student Empowerment Act, introduced by Sharrif Tantious ('08), claims that the “Student Assembly Senate has become an inefficient body to convey the needs and priorities of students,” and seeks to reallocate many of the powers of the senate to the undergraduate council.

The Safety is Paramount Act, sponsored by Senators Zach Pilchen ('09) and Beato, aims to unite the Senate and give it a clear voice in the ongoing campus discussion of amnesty for underage students who call for medical aid in an alcohol-related emergency. While the official campus policy now gives students that amnesty, Campus Police is not required to and therefore is not following the policy. The Act asks the Police to reconsider their position and adopt the new campus policy.

As the SA gears up for the March 29 elections held on the Student Information Network, more referendum questions are being added to the ballot, senators James Evans and Sean Gillick are replacing resigning candidates on the elections committee, and changes are being made by the senate to the election code.

Notable were the changes that now allow a candidate to use organizational email listservs to campaign, should they have access to them, and explicitly deny a candidate the ability to solicit door-to-door, which was already illegal under college policy.

In light of recent events, the Senate quickly passed the Student Eviction Response Act, sponsored by Senators Beato and Zach Pilchen ('09) which requests the City of Williamsburg to temporarily not enforce the law that places a maximum of three unrelated residents to a house. Passed unanimously, it declares the law to be “impractical, illogical, and discriminatory.”

Editor’s Note: Joe Lapicco-Espin, assistant editor, is the Assistant Editor in Chief and Andrew Blasi is the Business Editor of The Virginia Informer.

Matthew Sutton
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President Ryan Scofield is quickly approaching the end of his term as the election for his successor as president of the Student Assembly will be held on March 29. In an interview with The Informer, Scofield discusses the fallout from the Wren Cross controversy and looks back on his last two years in office.

Virginia Informer: Over a third of the House of Delegates voted to cut Nichol’s salary in half. Do you think Nichol still has a mandate to lead as president of William and Mary?

RS: Notably, his salary still paid him more than the average college professor.

Virginia Informer: Has this controversy distracted from the core concerns of the College?

RS: Distressingly, yes. The administration of the College has had to spend so much energy addressing this issue that could’ve otherwise been spent elsewhere.

Virginia Informer: What do you think will be your legacy as you prepare to leave office?

RS: For me, I don’t really get into discussions of “legacy,” to be honest. I don’t give it much thought. I hope that when [SA Vice President Amanda Norris] and I are done, people will look at our administrations and think, “Wow, those two were hard-workers and they did a lot for us.” We pride ourselves on our approachability and “normalness” and hope that people appreciate our efforts.

VI: What are your future plans?

RS: I’m going to law school next year, though I don’t yet know where. After that, who knows? Maybe a firm. Maybe a clerkship. Maybe neither.

VI: Any advice for your successor?

RS: Work hard and fast – one, or even two years, aren’t all that long. The time flies by, and before you know it, you’re looking at upcoming elections, trying to pick out who’s going to succeed you. Contacts are the most important thing, and discontinuity is the most difficult thing you’ll have to overcome. By this I mean that while student leadership changes regularly, college leadership is more constant – this poses an inherent disadvantage to student leadership in its ability to be up to speed on all issues and be able to partake equitably in substantive communication on various topics.

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RS: I’m going to law school next year, though I don’t yet know where. After that, who knows? Maybe a firm. Maybe a clerkship. Maybe neither.

VI: Any advice for your successor?

RS: Work hard and fast – one, or even two years, aren’t all that long. The time flies by, and before you know it, you’re looking at upcoming elections, trying to pick out who’s going to succeed you. Contacts are the most important thing, and discontinuity is the most difficult thing you’ll have to overcome. By this I mean that while student leadership changes regularly, college leadership is more constant – this poses an inherent disadvantage to student leadership in its ability to be up to speed on all issues and be able to partake equitably in substantive communication on various topics.

Scofield calls cross controversy “distracting” Two-term president offers advice for successor, but opts not to worry about own “legacy”
EVOCICTIONS: Student Directory given to city officials every year, against College policy

continued from page one

given the names of the students directly to city officials, Rhodes plainly stated that he “did not receive any information from the College.”

He did, however, admit to using a student directory as an investigative tool, along with parking permits, lease agreements and neighbor complaints, in finding the violating students. According to Rhodes, the letters sent out to the 38 students late this January were the culmination of a semester’s worth of work. He said that complaints from neighbors began coming in around the beginning of the school year, and during the fall semester the City investigated these complaints, simply choosing to notify all 38 of the confirmed violators at once, although one household was informed “much earlier” and was not included in the counts of six houses from which the 38 must leave. Rhodes reported that an “overwhelming majority” of the students are complying.

The student directory printed at the beginning of each school year, however, is not meant for members of the public. According to Susie Perry, Assistant to the Associate Provost & CIO at the Information Technology Department, who publishes the directory, the directories are distributed only to members of the College community, and members of the public may not obtain one. She said this was a matter of College policy.

When asked how the City obtained the directory, Rhodes told The Informer that the College sent a copy to each office in the city municipal building at the beginning of the year.

This news elicited a strong reaction from Senators Zach Pilchen (’09) and Matt Beato (’09), both of whom have endeavored in the past to improve town-gown relations, especially in their homes. Giving them extra time, he said, “If you’re living off campus with more than three people, do not allow your name to be printed in the student directory.” Students wishing to remove themselves from the listing may send an email to support@wren.edu.

Beato and Senator Zach Pilchen (’09) examined two of the six households, on Briston Court and Chandler Court, and found that of those students who received notices from the City, all of their names and addresses were listed in the directory. None of their unlisted housemates received notice from the City. Beato and Pilchen discovered this situation while conducting research for their bill, The Student Evictions Response Act, introduced in the Senate shortly after the students received their notices.

The bill, which calls for a moratorium on enforcement of the three-person-to-a-house rule and criticizes it as “impractical, illogical, and discriminatory,” passed the Senate unanimously, with one graduate senator abstaining. The bill also called for a panel of students, City Council members, and members of Neighborhood Council to recommend practical alterations to the Three Person Rule, and body produce a report for the full City Council’s review.

“The Mayor has said that students and City Council need to approach this issue, “in the spirit of cooperation and trust.”” said Senator Zach Pilchen. “Maybe I’m being naïve, but it seems to me that furiously scouring through the student directory and sending eviction notices to thirty-eight students is a funny way to express a cooperative or trustful spirit.”

MARCH SCHEDULE

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Movies

The Queen (PG-13)
Fri., Mar. 2-Sun., Mar. 11
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
Mar. 3, 10, 11 matinees at 4 p.m.
Mar. 5-11 screening room (35 seats)

Amazing Grace (PG)
Sun., Mar. 11-Sat., Mar. 18
7 and 9 p.m.
Mar. 12-16, 18 screening room (35 seats)

Pan’s Labyrinth (R)
Sat., Mar. 17-Wed., Mar. 21
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.
Mar. 17, 19-21 screening room (35 seats)

The Last King of Scotland (R)
Tues., Mar. 20-Wed., Mar. 28
Mar. 20, 22, 27, 29, 33 screening room and 8:40 p.m.
Mar. 26 shows at 3 and 9:15 p.m.
Mar. 22, 24, 25 screening room (35 seats)

The 6th Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival on Merchants Square
Close to Home (Not rated)
Sat., Mar. 24-Wed., Mar. 28
7 and 8:45 p.m.
Mar. 26-28 screening room (35 seats)

Venus (R)
Thurs., Mar. 29-Wed., Apr. 4
7 and 9 p.m.
Mar. 29, 30, Apr. 2-4 screening room (35 seats)

The Kimball Theatre presents
Oni Buchanan, Concert Pianist and Poet
Wed., Mar. 7 at 8 p.m.
All seats $12

The Williamsburg Symphonia presents
Subscription Concert #3
Thurs., Mar. 8 and Sun., Mar. 10 at 8 p.m.
Tickets: $37, $27. Advance tickets available through the Williamsburg Symphonia; Call (757) 229-9857

Laughing Redhead presents
Clean Comedy Night – Erin Go Bragh!
Featuring comic Marlan Kelly and the Rhythm of Ireland Performing Company
Fri., Mar. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission $15, Seniors/Students $12

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Presents as part of the Williamsburg Playhouse of 1760 and the World of 18th-century Theater Symposium
Two Scenes from The Beggar’s Opera
Fri., Mar. 16 at 8 p.m.
All seats $8

College of William and Mary’s
Improvisational Theatre
Fri., Mar. 16 at 8 p.m.
Adults $8, Students/Children $5

Come to the Kimball Theatre on DoG Street!
A conversation with Delegate Bob Marshall

Matthew J. Sutton
Assistant News Editor

Delegate Robert Marshall (R-Petersburg) recently made headlines when he proposed an amendment cutting President Nichol's $331,000 annual salary in half if the Wren Chapel cross was removed. His amendment ultimately failed but only after attracting 36 votes, over a third of the House of Delegates, to his side.

Controversy, anyone?: Delegate Marshall seems to have radar for hot-button issues.

Dr. DRM: In short the answer is yes, both手套 and raincoat are compatible with the “educational, cultural, and athletic purposes” of William and Mary. And they are not all permitted. Student volunteers live in right wing fever swarms.

If some at William and Mary want to have their way and they can just keep this up and see what happens in the next budget cycle for William and Mary. I am also troubled because I believe that some students were required to attend this erotic carnival festival as part of their class duties. President Nichol told me he had heard and found that no students were required to attend the sex show. While the public flashpoint for William and Mary came as a result of the Wren cross incident, it is now somewhat bigger, and it involves both the leadership of President Nichol and the oversight of both the board of visitors and the trustees. They can and will, by their actions and omissions, determine the future, prestige and academic standing of a great college, and the public response to this controversy which has spread far beyond the confines of Williamsburg, Virginia.

So what do you think about the compromise, does it resolve your concerns or not, why?

Dr. DRM: Making the Wren cross a museum piece on display just doesn’t cut it. When I understood the so-called “compromise,” I immediately thought of the efforts by Soviet leaders after the 1917 Red Revolution to make museums uninteresting and beyond the confines of Williamsburg. The public life, a policy which President Nichol, becomes, from the William and Mary Board of Visitors, decided to remove the cross. I am sure President Nichol and his wife, is the second oldest college in America, is it an ongoing flash point for controversies. Do you think it’s appropriate for President Nichol to allow this show after removing a 18 inch bronze cross because it’s “unwelcoming”?

Dr. DRM: State owned facilities need not be reached at delegatebobmarshall@ hotmail.com or PO Box 421, Manassas, VA 20080.

Sweatshop worker speaks out

Steven Nelson
Staff Writer

On Thursday, February 27, an advocate against sweatshops gave a talk in the University Center titled “Breaking the Sweat Shop Cycle.” The speaker was Chie, a former sweatshop worker from the Northern Mariana Islands, a United States’ territory. Her speech was hosted by the Catholic Campus Ministry and the Tidewater Labor Support Committee (TSLC).

Chie, originally from the Philippines, signed a contract to do “flashpoint” sweatshops from the Northern Mariana Islands. Like many others, she was lured by the promise of America being a welcoming place, as well as the home of the all-powerful dollar. What she experienced in her next few years was miserable: living conditions “similar to the all-powerful dollar.” What she experienced in her next few years was miserable: living conditions “similar to the all-powerful dollar.” What she experienced in her next few years was miserable: living conditions “similar to the all-powerful dollar.”

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Living in the territory include Gap, Levi-Strauss, Calvin Kline, Liz Claiborne, Tommy Hilfiger, Limited Too, Sears, and many others. They settled a lawsuit in 2002 for $20 million to be re-distributed to workers and prevent future recession.

The existence of sweatshops is relatively widespread according to Chie, now an anti-sweatshop advocate for the organization Global Exchange. She strongly local involvement to help change the worldwide problem.

According to Chie, the living quarters were infested with roaches and the ventilation and had no hot or drinkable water. She was forced to drink rainwater due to the high salinity of the tap water. The company which she employed her, the Ministry of Social Justice, had no regular position. From the wording not forbidden by state law to release such documents. While this is correct, he is not required to release such correspondence. In short the answer is yes, both手套 and raincoat are compatible with the “educational, cultural, and athletic purposes” of William and Mary. And they are not all permitted. Student volunteers live in right wing fever swarms.

If some at William and Mary want to have their way and they can just keep this up and see what happens in the next budget cycle for William and Mary. I am also troubled because I believe that some students were required to attend this erotic carnival festival as part of their class duties. President Nichol told me he had heard and found that no students were required to attend the sex show. While the public flashpoint for William and Mary came as a result of the Wren cross incident, it is now somewhat bigger, and it involves both the leadership of President Nichol and the oversight of both the board of visitors and the trustees. They can and will, by their actions and omissions, determine the future, prestige and academic standing of a great college, and the public response to this controversy which has spread far beyond the confines of Williamsburg, Virginia.

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Dr. DRM: State owned facilities need not be

only have her working contract terminated. She appealed and continued to work, during which time she was the star of a television show 20/20 in order to expose the sweatshops. The response was a crackdown on sweatshops in the Marinas, with many of the workers here and in the Philippine Islands being relocated to other states. The working conditions in the territory include Gap, Levi-Strauss, Calvin Kline, Liz Claiborne, Tommy Hilfiger, Limited Too, Sears, JC Penny, and many others. They settled a lawsuit in 2002 for $20 million to be re-distributed to workers and prevent future recession.

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Student Legal Services offers often anonymous services to W&M community

Matthew Sutton
Assistant News Editor

While Student Legal Services (SLS) may occupy just a small office in room 166 of the Campus Center, this dedicated group of law students provides a much needed service for the campus community. More than forty volunteers dispense free legal help to a clientele of mostly students from matters ranging from housing problems to traffic tickets.

The Informer recently sat down with Neal Hoffman, a first-year law student and volunteer at SLS to highlight the often anonymous work of the group. He opened the interview by speaking about the important role SLS plays on campus. “Most students don’t have the interview by speaking about the important role SLS plays on campus. “Most students don’t have the time or the resources to conduct legal research on their own,” he said. “We at SLS can help by advising students on their cases.”

He went on to caution that the research and advice provided by SLS is not meant to substitute for a lawyer, but SLS can help determine if a student needs the help of a lawyer or not.

SLS can help students in multiple areas, from advice on how to present their case properly to effective use of witnesses and evidence.”

A funding dispute with the Student Assembly and some administrators threaten to halt an important initiative of SLS. In 2004, the Senate assigned $30,000 for the purpose of funding a lawyer to counsel students on issues of interest to William and Mary. This bill gave Student Legal Services the power to hire an attorney with the consent of a panel of five student representatives. This lawyer would take cases from students free of charge, instead of using the current system whereby SLS has to refer serious problems to outside lawyers.

SA President Ryan Scosfield opposed the bill, but failed to veto it within the time frame specified in the Constitution. This controversy reached the SA’s review board, the judicial branch of the SA, which ruled officially that the bill was not successfully vetoed by Scosfield. Currently the $30,000 is sitting in an escrow account and Hoffman reports that Scosfield and the administration seem reluctant to release the money.

Student Legal Services is open every weekday in the Campus Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (757) 221-

Reverse shot photo of Crim Dell will be featured on all new laptops for freshmen next year

Rachel Sapin
Contributing Writer

The myPhoto myNotebook contest has decided on a winner. A photo taken of the Crim Dell by Rachel Simmons, a junior at the College, was chosen from more than 50 entries. “I chose the Crim Dell because it’s such a classic William and Mary location,” Simmons said. “However, I felt like a new angle would make the picture more unique, so I shot the bridge from behind.”

Simmons took home the Adobe Photoshop Elements 5.0 and Adobe Premier Elements 3.0 as her chosen prize. Her photo will appear as the new desktop background image on the ThinkPad Z61t myNotebook laptops ordered in May 2007. “For the first two years, the ThinkPads had a desktop image created by an IT staff member,” Director of Web Communications Susan T. Evans said. “This year, we decided to offer a student contest with some fun prizes.”

The myNotebook program is entering its third year at the College. Fulfilling the College’s notebook computer requirement for incoming students, myNotebook typically sells 1,000 laptops to mostly incoming freshmen. “We know from the photos we receive for the myWM campus photo gallery that there are some very talented photographers among the William and Mary student body,” said Jason Alley, creator of the contest.

“I was pretty surprised to be chosen—I’ve watched the photo rotation on myWM, and there are some great photographers here,” said Simmons. IT plans to feature more contest entry photos on myWM in the upcoming months.

The switch: Marva Maid will now supply all of the College’s milk needs.

Carefully Random
Where has all the milk gone?

At the beginning of this semester, students began to notice a shortage in the availability of milk. Some were concerned that their favorite milk type, skim, never seemed to be available. Others’ milk of choice, chocolate, seemed also to be disappearing at an alarming rate.

Where did all the lean cows go? Have the brown cows deserted us and found a better home elsewhere? These were the questions that plagued students’ minds as they returned to campus after winter break.

Director of Dining Services Phil DiBenedetto was tracked down to answer these questions and give some reassurance to milk-thirsty students everywhere. Thankfully, it turned out, the milk shortage was only temporary and a result of a decision by the College to switch milk companies from Pet Dairy to Marva Maid.

The decision was one that had been under consideration for about a year. A change in Pet Dairy’s management, which resulted in less accommodating business relations with the College, was one of the main reasons for the change, along with price and quality.

By early- to mid-February, said DiBenedetto, the inevitable learning curve required in switching companies had been overcome, and the milk situation was under control. Students at William and Mary drink a lot of milk. At the Caf alone, 15 five-gallon containers at each of the four milk stations are emptied and have to be replaced each day.

Items such as milk, produce and bread are purchased locally and are thus purchased directly by the College. Other less perishable items are under the control of Aramark, the corporation under which all of the campus dining locations operate.

Dining services’ operations are now in full swing, and students can sleep peacefully at night knowing that all the milk their stomachs desire is right around the corner.

Do you have a burning question and can’t discuss the specifics of these, he did offer several examples from last semester. Some of the cases that he had recently resolved include an honor council case, in which the student relied on the advice of SLS to successfully win his trial, and a dispute between The Flat Hat and an outside Web site that had reprinted an article without permission.

He also spoke about the future of SLS. “We would like to expand our publicity on campus and reach more students. More students need to use SLS and we are especially looking to assist more with disciplinary or honor proceedings. We can help students in multiple areas, from advice on how to present their case properly to effective use of witnesses and evidence.”

A funding dispute with the Student Assembly and some administrators threaten to halt an important initiative of SLS. In 2004, the Senate assigned $30,000 for the purpose of funding a lawyer to counsel students on issues of interest to William and Mary. This bill gave Student Legal Services the power to hire an attorney with the consent of a panel of five student representatives. This lawyer would take cases from students free of charge, instead of using the current system whereby SLS has to refer serious problems to outside lawyers.

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www.VAInformer.com
All the news that’s fit to go online.
This academic school year two new social fraternities, Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Phi, have risen to the ranks of William and Mary's Greek life. Both fraternities provide a new outlook on collegiate brotherhood and social service.

The Alpha Tau Omega's first fraternity was established at the Virginia Military Institute right after the end of the Civil War, as a way for former soldiers to create a brotherhood. Nationally it is the fourth largest fraternity and is famous for creating the Leadershape Program, designed to create and fortify leadership skills among its members.

After colonizing on campus on October 13, 2006, the national representatives of the fraternity elected Will Bleser, a sophomore from Towson, Maryland, as president of Alpha Tau Omega. The perfect blend of service and social brotherhood, and the opportunity to lead this new experience is what attracted Bleser to the fraternity. Will and his brothers saw other fraternities as being too focused on the social aspect of the brotherhood and not placing enough emphasis on philanthropy. To Bleser, Alpha Tau Omega allows them a greater opportunity for community service. “With more community service, we hope to mold an aptitudinal fraternity experience,” he said. Bleser would also like to see less disconnect between the fraternities and would like to foster new bonds within Greek life at William and Mary.

After colonization and an initial rush period, Alpha Tau Omega currently has 16 members and the highest average GPA among all campus fraternities. This chapter of Alpha Tau Omega would like to establish it studies, the black studies program and the departments of government, economics, and sociology, a “fine building [that] contains convenient and comfortable classrooms and offices.” Within two years, the ground floor of Morton became home to the classical studies department, which relocated to the second floor in the early 1980s. When the history department moved out in the mid-1990s, both the classical studies and women's studies departments relocated to their present location on the third floor. The black studies program also began using this floor three years ago. Morton has seen many other departments pass through its halls, including the religious studies department, which had a stint there during the second half of the 1970s, and the Schools of Business Administration and Education, which had offices and classrooms in Morton in the 1980s. Although students may bemoan its location and unique Y-shape, which was designed by Hubert Chappell, continues to “be used in search of truth and knowledge.”

The addition of Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Phi to the College further enhances the already diverse offering of Greek life for men on campus. These additions will provide the men of the College more options in finding their niche on campus.

Chase Coleman
Staff Writer

Today, Morton Hall houses the departments of government, economics, sociology, classical studies, women's studies, the black studies program and the public policy program. Since Morton's opening in 1937, many departments have moved in, out and around the building; only the locations of the government, economics and sociology departments have remained unchanged.

The social science building was officially named in 1973 after Richard Lee Morton, a distinguished history professor at the College in the first half of the 20th century. Morton called his namesake, which originally housed the departments of history, government, sociology, and economics, a “fine building that contains convenient and comfortable classrooms and offices.”

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Swimming off the deep end:
Amusing at best: a poor attempt at humor

We were more than pleased to see that The Flat Hat's Friday, March 2 edition has finally caught up to creating a humor column much like The Virginia Informer's. Strangely, they chose the title of "Staff Editorial" to headline this column, which we assume can only be a sophisticated, post-modernist play on words. The logic and content of their "editorial" concerning a withheld $12 million alumni donation was quite amusing, although perhaps unintentionally so. This skepticism on our part is not unfounded, however. We've been burned by relying on The Flat Hat for too long now, so we've decided to try something new. After suffering from a delicious double whammy of an April Fools' Day draft, we decided to pick up the Friday, March 2 edition of The Flat Hat to read their staff editorial entitled "Students caught in alumna donation crossfire." In case you missed it, we'll briefly summarize their points:

"While it is undeniably the prerogative of all alumni to pledge or retract financial contributions from the College, his (McGlothin's) withdrawal of future contributions...sets a dangerous and troubling precedent of alumni using financial donations as a tool to influence or buy College policy."

Dangerous? Unless McGlothin's donations were used to purchase man-eating Siberian tigers to control the squirrel population—although it's not a bad idea—we don't think withholding funds from the College based on strong principle is quite that alarming. The real shocking precedent is Nichol's refusal to listen to alumni and react to their concerns. Something tells us that McGlothin is not trying to buy College policy, but rather is communicating in the only language Nichol seems to understand. Gene "Big Chops" Nichol doesn't listen to peons who write e-mails or sign petitions, but when Big Daddy Warbucks takes away the checkbook he comes whining to The Flat Hat, which seems to have no problem obliterating him.

"It remains a possibility that the Wren cross controversy and McGlothin's extracted donation will back Nichol and the College into a financial and political corner."

Serious? No, seriously! Since when would losing $12 million in donations and alienating the General Assembly back anybody into a political corner? Anyone who thinks that this "hypothetical" situation is not already a reality is about as serious as last week's Gilmore Girls rerun.

"Though it is a shame that he has decided to wield his checkbook as a weapon against the College, in the end our integrity as an institution is more important than the money ever could be."

Yes! You're absolutely right. For far too long now, we've been held hostage by the limitations of United States currency. How much more must we continue to pay faculty and staff, to erect buildings, and to maintain campus grounds with real money? In a future envisioned by The Flat Hat's editorial board, we will maintain our campus and its operations not on US dollars or Chinese yuan, but rather on 100% recyclable and environmentally friendly Integrity dollars. (Integrity dollars are not legal tender and cannot be exchanged for any other currency.) The result of reverting back to this primitive barter system will be the end of the deal at the College. For example, Big Chop's $330,000 salary will be paid using this new currency, as will the annual budget of The Flat Hat for fiscal year 2008. With this economic change, perhaps The Flat Hat can come out with a Sunday edition as well, so they can keep us laughing with more of these dashing "staff editorials"—although, God forbid, they wish their normal budget as a "dangerous and troubling" weapon against the rich alumni.

Swimming off the deep end:
Amusing at best: a poor attempt at humor

Biology Professor Greg Capelli well-known among students for controversial reading assignments, lectures

Nick Fitzgerald
Features Editor

Biology professor Greg Capelli has been teaching at William and Mary since 1995. He holds an undergraduate degree from St. Louis University in biology and a Masters and Ph.D. in zoology and freshwater ecology from the University of Wisconsin’s Laboratory of Limnology. Immediately after completing his doctoral work, Capelli applied for and was offered a one-year, temporary teaching position at the College. Instead of leaving after a year, however, Capelli convinced the department to make the job permanent, and he has been teaching at William and Mary ever since. “It’s a wonderful job, a great job,” Capelli said. “I really enjoy it.”

Capelli’s expertise is in freshwater ecology and his enjoyment of the outdoors have served to complement one another in his effectiveness in teaching. “In recent years, I’ve been doing work on small streams in the College woods. They’re nearly pristine, which is very hard to find in these areas. We use the streams to get an idea of what natural communities—those that have not been subject to human perturbation—‘should look like.’”

Capelli has also expressed interest in starting to document information about Lake Matoaka and the College woods with far more precision, organization and depth than so far has been done. “Over the last several decades, students and faculty have gathered a lot of information concerning the lake and the woods. Some has been published, some not, some organized, some not. I want to compile that information and get it organized in one place, and also continue with ongoing monitoring and research of the lake. The lake and the woods are extremely valuable to us and for our teaching programs.”

While very focused on learning from the natural environment, Capelli also emphasizes work in the lab and the classroom. Perhaps somewhat strangely, however, he requires no textbook for his BIOL 108 course, Introduction to Ecology and Environmental Science. “Part of the reason I don’t have a textbook is simply the nature of the subject,” he explained. “Ecology and environmental science are both extremely broad subjects and there’s a lot of variation in the kinds of things that any instructor would want to emphasize. It’s often the case that a textbook may not match very well the major ideas or themes a major instructor wants to put into a class. In all of my classes, I think it’s extremely important to connect what you are teaching to everyday, real world issues that people may be hearing about but not understanding very well. I want students to have a sense of how something we talk about in class relates to every day life and the environment.”

Capelli also acknowledged the fact that, especially recently, there are a lot of very controversial topics in ecology being discussed right now. “There are a lot of controversial issues and a lot of misunderstanding.” In the past, Capelli has been criticized by students for not covering both sides of a particular issue evenly, or that he reveals his personal biases through his choice of readings for the class, given that there is no textbook. “If I want to grab students’ attention, I used a reading in [BIOL 108] that suggested Christianity may have negative environmental impacts. It’s my way of getting our attention on an issue.”

Capelli does not consider his article choice or teaching perspective to be an issue, however. “Students are old enough to think about these things and say, well, maybe I don’t believe that—let me check that out further. I think it is extremely important we discuss, understand, and talk about [controversial environmental issues], and how they affect both our thinking and our actions.”

Some of Capelli’s activities outside the classroom include canoeing, hiking and bass fishing. “The last few years, I’ve also been heavily involved in competitive skeet shooting. And—I hate to say this—but I have a son who’s heavily into Motocross, you know, dirt bike racing. I’m his mechanic and coach—it’s a parent’s nightmare.”

Swimming off the deep end:
Amusing at best: a poor attempt at humor

Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton
Humor Columnists
The report blames rankings such as U.S. News was a direct correlation of 1 percent increase in were more likely to have lower scores than “non- was conducted by the University of Connecticut’s Study shows that average college senior “Crisis” on the horizon not accounting for civic literacy. In fact, there would fail basic American civics exam average score was failure, with market economy the weakest at 50.5 percent and American history at a high of 58.5 percent. Overall, seniors failed the civic literacy exam, averaging 53.2 percent nation. Some of the questions included those the founding of Jamestown and determining which was the start of the American Revolution. (That’s Yorktown, not Gettysburg, of the Civil War, as 28 percent of respondents believed). Over 70 percent of students did not know what the purpose of the Monroe Doctrine was, nor did they know where the phrase “a wall of separation” between church and state came from. Negative learning was the result at many institutions. The percentages themselves come from the test scores of the seniors at each of the 50 universities. The difference in score between seniors and freshmen was knowledge gained. “Negative learning” is defined as a lower average score for seniors than for freshmen, indicating that there is an aggregate loss of knowledge. (See chart at right for scores). The second finding was put quite simply: “Prestige doesn’t pay off.” Elite schools such as Georgetown, Yale and Brown Universities, were more likely to have lower scores than “non- elite” schools, including Rhodes College, which finished first with an increase of 11.6 percent. The report blames rankings such as U.S. News and World Report and Barron’s for blindly re-ranking these universities as the best while not accounting for civic literacy. In fact, there was a direct correlation of 1 percent increase in civic learning to a decrease of 25 spots in the U.S. News and World Report annual rankings. In a more obvious observation, the third finding proved that in the schools where there was minimal or negative learning, high school seniors fewer courses in the target areas that were required or made accessible to more students. The higher the number of courses taken in history, political science or economics, the higher the score of those students. The students cannot learn these necessary ideas are not being taught as a regular part of their education. The William and Mary required courses, General Education requirements, covers some of these categories including history in the western tradition, philosophy and social sciences. The fourth and final finding showed the effects of lower civic literacy on active citizenship. This active citizenship included registering to vote and actually voting and volunteering, both in the community and for political campaigns. With minimal or negative learning, there were fewer students know about civics, the more likely they are to be involved in them, even if just by voting. Additionally, the study found that family is important when it comes to learning and understanding the history of the institutions of America. Students with two parents married and living together had higher civic literacy than those with separated or divorced parents, or when at least one parent is deceased. Family was also important when it came to the discussion of current events, as that was also a factor in civic learning. Several recommendations stemmed from this report. The study calls for universities to assess their effectiveness in these areas, and for the boards and other influential people in higher education to hold those in charge of these colleges accountable. Parents were also encouraged to become involved in understanding the curricula of universities and to be knowledgeable as to what they are paying for. The most specific of all recommendations was for universities to increase the number and quality of courses relating to civic literacy. Finally, universities are called on to build centers specifically for the learning and understanding of civic literacy, meant to be connected similar to those in multicultural and women’s studies. “Centers of excellence” should be established for the purposes of civic education as well. The report did not include William and Mary, but it did include other peer schools, including the University of Virginia, which was ranked 42 of 50, with a loss of learning of 11 percent. The National Civic Literacy Board is headed by Lt. General Josiah Bunting II, former superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute. Other members of the board include former US Senator for Virginia George Allen, Ross Mackenzie of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, T. Kenneth Crib Jr., the President of ISI, as well as many other leading scholars and businesspeople. **Ranking the Colleges** Learning Added or Subtracted 1. Rhodes College +11.0% 10. Colorado State University +9.7% 2. Calvin College +9.5% 11. Grove City College 9.4% 3. University of Colorado, Boulder 8.9% 12. Spring Arbor University 8.3% 4. University of New Mexico 8.2% 13. University of Mobile 7.5% 5. Florida Memorial University 6.8% 14. Central Connecticut State University 4.8% 6. University of Virginia 4.5% 15. Lynchburg College 4.0% 7. University of Massachusetts, Boston 3.0% 8. Princeton University 2.8% 19. Eastern Kentucky University 2.7% 9. Kenyon College 2.6% 20. West Texas A&M University 2.5% 21. University of South Alabama 2.0% 22. University of Texas, Austin 2.0% 23. Wheaton College 1.9% 24. Harvard University 1.9% 25. University of Washington 1.8% 26. Appalachian State University 1.7% 27. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1.6% 28. Capital University 1.3% 29. American University 1.0% 30. Stanford University 0.9% 31. University of West Florida 0.7% 32. Washington & Lee University 0.2% 33. Dartmouth College 0.1% 34. University of Michigan 0.1% 35. Ithaca College 0.2% 36. University of Chicago -0.3% 37. Massachusetts Institute of Technology 0.4% 38. Dartmouth College 0.1% 39. Williams College 0.1% 40. University of Florida 0.8% 41. Wofford College -0.9% 42. University of Virginia -1.1% 43. Georgetown University -1.2% 44. Yale University 1.5% 45. State University of West Georgia -2.9% 46. Duke University -2.3% 47. Brown University -2.7% 48. Cornell University -3.3% 49. University of California, Berkeley -5.6% 50. Johns Hopkins University -7.3%

**Average Knowledge and Learning on American Civic Literacy Exam**

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Dollars & Sense for Students: Is an economic recession looming and how will one impact you if it does come?

Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.
Business Editor

On February 26, Alan Greenspan, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, stated in reference to the previous recession of 2001, “When you get this far away from a recession, invariably forces build up for the next recession, and indeed we are beginning to see that sign.” He also issued further insights on when the event may happen by stating, “While, yes, it is possible we can get a recession in the latter months of 2007, most forecasters are not making that judgment and indeed are projecting forward into 2008...with some slowdown.” His position should be just as alarming to us students as those currently on Wall Street; if this prediction materializes, it would certainly impact our ability to acquire jobs following graduation. Understanding this, there are measures you as a student and potential investor can take to prepare for a recession today that just may make or break you down the road.

The greatest question one must ask is if this recession will be inflationary (prices go way up) or deflationary (prices go way down). If the recession is inflationary than we can expect interest rates to rise; if such an event occurs you would desire to LOCK in on the current rate of your student loans, car loans, or any other debt payment you may currently have. In terms of investing, gold and commodity-based companies could weather the storm much better than most others. If the recession is ultimately deflationary—which may occur if (1) the Federal Reserve raises interest rates in an attempt the curb inflation and/or (2) world markets such as China’s plummet (on February 27 China’s Shanghai Stock Exchange fell over 9% in one day)—then cash is king and you would NOT want to lock in on any interest rate. Ultimately if a recession does occur then the stock market (in general) may be a place to temporarily avoid, especially considering that a stock’s volatility—its ability to violently swing up and down in price—will increase. Now may be the time to take more caution when it comes to all forms of investing, I would strongly recommend saving more than you normally would, in the event that economic trouble looms ahead.

For more information, contact business@vainformer.com

Editor’s Note: The information contained in the article is for informational purposes only and The Virginia Informer nor the author of this article hold itself out as providing any financial advice. The investments mentioned involve risk and uncertainty and they are not guaranteed by any enterprise. Any equity investment has the potential to lose value.

Any questions?
Want to have The Virginia Informer look into one of your questions about the stock market or the economy?
Email business@VAInformer.com

VOTE
YES!
For the Laundry Referendum on March 29th

And support all the Student Assembly candidates that support the referendum too!

Look up the Facebook group “wooah, free laundry?” to find out more!
Nooks and Crannies of William and Mary: The Centerpiece of the College proves rich in history and costs

R.C. Rasmussen
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Most William and Mary students take the Sunken Gardens for granted. They simply cross and re-cross the 3-acre space without remembering that it once played host to a garrison of Patrick Henry’s revolutionary war troops, several formal spring dances, and even, in 1979, Henry’s revolutionary war troops, several formal spring dances, and even, in 1979, Building Development Project. The project concerned the construction of a “New Campus,” which ironically would in 1924 as part of then-President J.A.C. Chandler’s 1916-23 William and Mary Building Development Project. The project concerned the construction of a “New Campus,” which ironically would have been a meal for an entire week. This is a great option for those who want a home-cooked meal with minimal kitchen space. They have limited outdoor seating, but otherwise, they do have a selection of readily available whole pizzas. These change daily, so be sure to call ahead and see if they have your favorite. If not, pies can be ordered up to 30 days in advance for special occasions or just because. Additionally, they carry vanilla bean and featured flavors of ice cream to pair with their pies for $3.4 per pint or $5.6 per quart.

Jamestown Pie Company also carries a soup of the day, Greek salad and several sandwich selections. Their selections include options such as Turkey and Muenster, Big Greek Veggie, Southside Barbeque and an Italian Sub. The only downside is that their sandwiches are only available before 7 p.m.

Located about three and half miles from campus, Jamestown Pie Company is definitely off the beaten path for most students. They have a relatively small dining room, but the majority of which is dedicated to kitchen space. They have limited outdoor seating, which includes a few concrete tables and benches for use during warm weather. That being said, you should probably expect to call-in your order for carryout or delivery. As an incentive, they do offer a ten percent discount to William and Mary students and faculty.

Jamestown Pie Company is located at 1804 Jamestown Road, across from 7-Eleven. Their hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. For more information or to place an order, call (757) 229-7775.

Film Review:
Borat Redefines Comedy

Every few years there is a movie that redefines a genre and forces us to look at the world around us. Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan is one of those films.

Sacha Baron Cohen plays Borat Sagdiyev, a reporter from Kazakhstan who comes to America with his overweight producer, Azamat, to make a documentary about the American way of life. However, after seeing an episode of Baywatch late at night in his hotel, Borat’s trip becomes a cross-country journey with Azamat in search of Pamela Anderson, the perfect woman. Obviously, hilarity ensues.

The comedy in Borat is a satirical view of American culture. The comedy, and sight gags continually satirize the varying aspects of American culture. The comedy, while vulgar, profane and nearly revolving, is real and the edge that Borat will probably be seen as a paradigm shift for film comedy. Past satirists, like Mark Twain, would be quite proud. The VA Informer gives Borat an A.

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan is the UCAB blockbuster for March and is showing in the UC Commonwealth.

“Because Round Food is Good Food”: Jamestown Pie Company

Shelbi Wilson
Food Critic

I had heard of Jamestown Pie Company ever since I moved here from Michigan. Based on mixed reviews from friends and faculty, I decided to give it a try and come to my own conclusions.

Jamestown Pie Company specializes in three types of pies – pizza pies, pot pies and dessert pies. Their pizza choices include “pick your own toppings” and specialty varieties. The specialty pizzas make Jamestown Pie stand out among the crowd. There are so many to choose from based on sauce, cheese and toppings. This restaurant is a great alternative to the normal pizza chains, especially if one night you have a craving for something unusual, such as zucchini, yellow squash and peas. I recommend the River Crab Pie – it was great! Prices are what may keep many students from ordering, as most of their pizzas range from $14 to $25 depending on size (12" or 16") and toppings.

The restaurant is famous for their sizable pot pies. Jamestown Pie offers two sizes for their pot pies: individual (4"), which ranges from $6 to $7.25, or family (9"), which ranges from $14 to $22. If you are willing to pay the extra money for a family size, it could easily be a meal for an entire week. This is a great option for students who want a home-cooked meal with minimal effort. Turkey and Veggie pot pies are classic favorites. The last type of pie Jamestown Pie offers is dessert. The only pie they sell by the slice is pecan; however, you can order a whole pie (4") or to place an order, call (757) 229-7775.

Jamestown Pie Company also carries a selection of ready-made desserts such as pies, pastries, and cakes. They offer a variety of ice cream flavors to pair with their pies. In addition, they carry vanilla bean and featured flavors of ice cream to pair with their pies for $3.4 per pint or $5.6 per quart. They also offer a ten percent discount to students and faculty.

Jamestown Pie Company is located at 1804 Jamestown Road, across from 7-Eleven. Their hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. For more information or to place an order, call (757) 229-7775.
Mike Johnson shakes up Shakespeare with the student production of Tragedy! (A Musical Comedy)

Stephanie Long
News Editor

Have you ever read one of Shakespeare's tragedies and found yourself unable to restrain your laughter? If so, then you have a lot in common with sophomore Mike Johnson, and you would probably enjoy his play Tragedy! (A Musical Comedy) which pokes fun at Shakespeare's classic, Titus Andronicus—as well as countless modern societal customs.

Johnson was inspired to write the musical when he was in a production of Titus Andronicus last fall. He was introduced to the play as, “Shakespeare’s most flawed show,” due to its logical inconsistencies. Johnson’s reaction was unusual, though, as he said, “I thought it was awful because there were so many unintentionally funny lines because of how dark it was. And so I got to thinking, you know this is so dark, that if you just made it a little bit darker it would be hilarious.” Johnson then explained that, “As a joke I told my music professor that I wanted to write a musical, and she said ‘that sounds great!’ So then I had to.”

Johnson started the play as his Monroe project and received funding from Mystic Theater, a student production group for alternative theater, as well as the Student Assembly’s Economic Finance Committee. Johnson approached the project by taking everything in the play, including all of the logical inconsistencies, and making them worse. The musical turns everything into a joke, which is a virtual necessity since Shakespeare’s original work includes multiple murders within families, rape, loss of many limbs, and cooking characters in pies. In fact, Johnson joked about his inability to form a final death count because almost every character dies at least twice.

Johnson’s main goal for the show is to entertain the William and Mary community, but he also wants to do something more. He said, “I think they need theater that isn’t serious but that also isn’t completely devoid of substance.” And so he inserted into the play underlying tones of homophobia and racism among all the characters to get people to consider those issues along with all of the other themes Shakespeare originally included.

The humor of the play, though, derives from hints of Monty Python, Mel Brooks, Disney movies, and Monty Python’s Spamalot which he feels all work well together. Johnson credits the funniest parts of the play to his character Andronicus, who had “a kind of really out there, kind of willing to do anything attitude.” He said, “The really, really funny stuff is just organic to the characters.” Some of the characters who pull this off really well in the play are Erin the Moor, who is played by Amanda “Piper” Wright ’08, Titus Andronicus, who is played by Francis Van Wettering IV ’10, and Marcus, who is played by Thomas Baumgardner ’09.

The visual grandeur of this student musical is also striking. With full sets, music, acting and dancing, the play seems more similar to the Broadway production Spamalot than a Shakespeare in the Dark show. The show is smart and fun, albeit probably inappropriate for children. Johnson stated, “It’s the show that I always wanted to watch.”

Tragedy! (A Musical Comedy) will be running from April 2 to April 5 at 8:00 p.m. in the UC Commonwealth.
Opinion

Staff Editorial:

Cross compromise only the beginning of uncertain future of the College

It is difficult, and perhaps not even appropriate, to declare that someone “won” in the Wren Cross controversy. There are many sides to the debate, ranging from SaveTheWrenCross.org, to Our Campus United, to Gene Nichol, to Jim McGuirk.

The important matter is that the policy now is in place, whether it is acceptable or not, is far better than the one that began at Nichol’s behest in October, and in that much, we support it.

Although the lines of “victory” are blurred, the decision was, however, a severe loss—a grave, stinging loss—for Nichol.

The president's self-appointed Committee on Religion in a Public University overturned his decision to remove the Wren cross from the chapel. While it is not being placed back on the altar—it may now be placed there upon request—it is to be set in a “prominent, readily visible place,” without option of removal.

The committee unanimously made this decision, which equates to only the heaviest of repudiations of Nichol’s lofty ideals, but those goals may still be politically correct and intolerant logic.

The theory that a religious symbol in public is inherently “unwelcoming” has been debunked.

Yet despite all this, Nichol and the College are already beginning to spin the story. At the press conference announcing the committee’s decision, Nichol explained that the decision was the “middle course” that he was searching for.

Bad press talks even louder than money. On the day of the decision, The O’Reilly Factor on the Fox News Channel played the then-day story by Nichol being questioned by a reporter as he walked from the President’s House to his office in the Brafferton Building. Nichol looks confused and nervous, obviously unable to handle any direct questioning. The Virginia Informer knows that The Factor plans to continue to cover this policy for many more days.

If we knew it, the College knew it.

This, coupled with the complete saturation in coverage in the local media, was damaging the College’s reputation, and it had to stop.

With this “conclusion,” it is still important to understand that the committee’s work is not over as the committee itself has stated. It is not completely over, but that these goals may be, but The Virginia Informer will keep a close eye on the proceeding as the Board of Visitors stated in November.

And what of the committee’s provisions regarding this decision? What defines a “prominent, readily visible place”? What more prominent place is there but the altar?

In the end, we are left with an embattled president who has spent all of his political capital on one issue that created a divide when none existed. Some believe that the decision now is even less “open” than the old policy, (see Nick Hoelker’s opinion on page 15).

Ultimately, the old policy of display of the cross unless removal was requested was, and still is, the best policy.

The College needs to seriously revaluate its current position towards the current students, the alumni as well as “…to all Virginians, to the nation, and to the world,” as that is to whom the College “belongs,” as the Board of Visitors stated in November.

Whatever steps necessary to recoup the respect, and generosity of all those groups must be done, and done quickly. It is now only a matter of who will, or better yet, who can, step up and do so.

Taking in more than $300,000 a year. Is that to say money talks? Apparently so, even to Nichol.

There is also the matter of the $12 million revocation of funds that had to factor in to this decision in some way. Frankly, the College is not in a position to turn its nose up at millions of dollars, to which we are not necessarily entitled, as some have intimated. It is not conceivable that the Board of Visitors realized, finally, that Nichol is hemorrhaging money, and that an expedited decision was just one way to stop the bleeding?

Money talks, and money matters. It is far easier to build and furnish the new offensive building science building on money, rather than on naïve ideology.

A special thanks from The Informer

The Virginia Informer would like to thank all of our sponsors and advertisers who made the publishing of this issue possible. The Informer is an independent publication and we do not receive any public funding, unlike the other publications at William and Mary.

If you would like to support The Virginia Informer, please contact us at editor@vainformer.com.

The Virginia Informer is a nonprofit group, with pending 501(c)(3) tax status.
Honor Council Elections are not so honorable after all
Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.
Business Editor

On February 22 over 10 thousand votes were cast by the student body to elect next year’s 24 members of the illustrious Honor Council. At first glance this voter turnout number may appear to be quite admirable but once one realizes that every individual undergrad had the opportunity to cast 24 separate votes, this year’s turnout was actually miniscule and even shameful.

If every undergraduate student (including seniors, who also had the right to vote) exercised their full voter potential, the total count could have numbered well over one hundred thousand. This potential total, though, assumes that each William and Mary student voted for eight different candidates in all three grades, which even under the most dedicated of circumstances in turnout is highly unlikely simply on the basis of both time consumption and class recognition. These conflicts, both the low voter turnout as well as the very low number of total votes cast, present numerous problems in the way our Honor Council elections are conducted and promoted.

Not only did we see a large absence of votes and voters, but we saw a great deal of write-in candidates, which is the telltale sign of a lack in voter trust and understanding of the system. Amounting to over 12% of votes cast, this high percentage of write-ins can be contributed to both the inability of candidates to campaign, as well as a lack of candidate description and information on the ballot. The only piece of information presented on the ballot was the candidates’ answers to the question, “How does the Honor Code help shape the College’s idea of community?” Not only did nearly half of the candidates (30) start their answers with “The Honor Code” or “The Honor Council” in a similar response, but the answers of all the candidates up for election amounted to over 10,700 words in length. It was the only tool that voters were given and it proved not only to be dry but ultimately unusable, as students did not have the time to read through them or any form of adequate information about the candidates that would allow them to arrive at an educated decision.

In light of this past election, it is now time to think about Honor Council elections reform. For if this process continues, we can expect a continuation of more dishonoring results of the body that is imperative to the college.
To be free or not to be free: the great laundry debate

The bottom line is that the average student saves money: Why you should vote yes on free laundry

Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.
Business Editor

T here can be no doubt that as students bear a great deal of cost to attend and live at William and Mary. There is something we can do, however, to lower this cost—at least in part. We, the Student Assembly, can enact a $20/semester fee for unlimited laundry usage. This is not only a measure that has received support by many in the administration—as it would allow them to receive our payments up front instead of at $1.25 per load—but is something that is practiced at many schools across Virginia and across the country.

Perhaps the greatest concerns that individuals have expressed over such a change—and there are a few—are environmental and structural in nature. After all, if laundry usage is free, then: (1) wouldn’t students do many more loads and waste more water/electricity? (2) wouldn’t it become more difficult to find an open machine? and (3) why should students who do laundry elsewhere have to pay into a system that they do not use? Initially I too shared these concerns, but after much investigation and dialogue with the administration I have found them to be unwarranted.

First, the notion that individuals will do significantly more laundry if there is no additional cost is circumstantial at best, and secondly, the idea that more machines will be used more frequently, while wasting water/electricity in the process, is just as debatable. The fact is, we as students must still take time out of our schedules to do laundry—and I do not believe many more of us will be doing it with any more frequency than before. For those of you who still remain skeptical, I have been informed that the administration will install a program called E-Suds if this proposed laundry policy is adopted. This program will connect our dorms’ laundry machines with Blackboard and will let us know when the machines will be available for use, right from our computer. This will certainly ease traffic flow in and out of laundry rooms, and reduce those frustrating waits until the next washer or dryer is available.

Also, only a very small percent of on-campus students do their laundry off-campus. The idea that those who normally would not do their laundry on-campus can freeoad, and that those who typically do their laundry on-campus are paying for others, can also be applied to dormitory kitchens; not all residents use them, but everyone still pays for their upkeep.

If you still remain skeptical, then let me issue an additional assurance that this program will bring many rewards with little cost. If a problem ever does occur from overuse, or if individuals start using this policy to do their off-campus friends’ laundry, then we can and will utilize the ID readers installed by auxiliary services. A procedure can be applied to this new policy, whereby you would still be required to swipe your ID card’s usage can be monitored. If any individual abuses the system, then the College will know who he is, and can limit his usage. I can assure you that the College administration and SA would not be supportive of this program if they actually believed that usage would significantly increase beyond what it is now.

The bottom line is that the average student saves a lot of money, the College receives payment up front—which they love—and we all get a new program that allows us to monitor our laundry machines right from our computer.

Editor’s Note: Andrew Blasi is a Student Assembly senator for the class of 2010.

Belief in magic motivates the Student Assembly: Why you should vote no for free laundry

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

B efore coming to William and Mary, I fully understood that a college I would be subjected to a great diversity of views. However, never did I believe that I would come across an insane belief in magic. It appears that Marx has been let loose at the Student Assembly and has struck the rather gullible senators with a tried-and-true method of failure: central planning. In discovering new methods to waste my money, the Student Assembly has decided that “providing” students with “free laundry” could be nothing but brilliant. The old cliché “There’s no such thing as a free lunch” seems to have never crossed the minds of the SA.

Here’s the scheme in a nutshell: The Student Assembly will reduce the cost at the washing machines and dryers to zero—nada. However, to recoup the cost, an extra $20 will be added onto the bill of every student in the College, per semester. That’s right, even those who do not use the machines will be forced to pay for the laundry service of others. That’s what a “free” lunch costs you.

I know from both personal experience and from the rather loud objections of others that more than $20 is spent per user per semester. So then, my question becomes: If we have a set number of laundry machines, and those who use them spend more than $20 a semester to do their laundry, over the course of the semester, is it worth the time and energy invested? Would the cost be able to do more laundry at zero cost, all other things equal? The simple answer is, yes.

But, proponents ask, what about those who are not paying for laundry now, who will be paying for others? Wouldn’t that make up the cost? Not considering all the new people who will be demanding laundry service. There will be those who will no longer consider taking their laundry home, and those who will want to do more laundry, and those who used other laundry services but now feel entitled, considering they are contributing to everyone else’s laundry. The indubitable science of economics teaches if costs go down, demand will rise—ceteris paribus, of course. So then, how will all these new problems be resolved? One suggestion was to limit the number of times one could use the laundry. This horrific idea hardly accounts for the differences in lifestyles between students. Students who are more active in sports will have a different demand for laundry services than those who generally nap all day. Why not take these disparities into account?

Then I must be led to believe that we are developing a system whereby people pay a certain fee for laundry services, which are then rendered according to the good graces of the SA. We must also be led to believe that there will be enough people who do not use laundry on campus who will pay for those who do; in other words, that there will be enough people paying so that students can parasitically freeload.

The system reduces down to one word: magic. And while SA Vice President Amanda Norris shares a name with a character in Harry Potter, I somehow doubt she’ll manage to conjure up the proper spell this time—also, Norris is a cat and not much good with a wand. It would seem to me that a system where students pay for their own laundry service and make decisions based upon cost and time on their own is far superior to one that allows for freeloaders and parasites. It requires payment to wash your clothes from the ever blundering Student Assembly.

A South East Asian Spectacular

On March 1 – 4, Professor Francis Tanglo-Aguas of the theatre department presented Ramayana La’ar, an adaptation of the centuries-old Hindu epic. The performance defied expectations: part dance, part pantomime, part sacred performance, the show was a mishmash of the best aspects of each. With delightful costuming and music, clever staging and beautiful choreography, Ramayana La’ar transcended categorization, establishing itself in a genre all its own.

To read The Informer’s review of the show, visit www.VAInformer.com

Want to read more?

Andrew says the program is “more capitalist,” and Jacob questions the idea of “more laundry at a lower cost.”

Read Andrew and Jacob’s rebuttals and more about the laundry referendum at www.VAInformer.com

Editor’s Note: A South East Asian Spectacular is a Student Assembly senator for the class of 2010.

The Informer’s A South East Asian Spectacular

March 2007

The old cliché “There’s no such thing as a free lunch” seems to have never crossed the minds of the SA.

Ramayana La’ar, a South East Asian Spectacular

Courtesy of Pinoyarts