Sadler then:

Sadler now:

Sadler defends logo decision

Recants 1970s memo praising feathers logo, citing changing sensitivities

Matthew Sutton
Assistant News Editor

The Virginia Informer: Do you think the feathers logo is hostile or abusive to Native Americans?

Vice President of Student Affairs W. Samuel Sadler: I agree with the president that the NCAA has missed the boat on this issue. I wished that the NCAA would focus on establishing standards like sportsmanship and integrity in college sports.

Informer: In 1978 you wrote, “The monogram and feather is a distinctive symbol, easily recognized, and adaptable to a variety of uses. By using it, we avoid completely the charge that we are not being sensitive to an ethnic minority?” Do you still believe that?

Sadler: That was 30 years ago and sensitivities have changed. I support the president's decision.

Informer: Do you agree with President Nichol's decision not to sue?

Sadler: Ultimately there are some decisions that a leader has to make without waiting for a consensus to develop.

Informer: How were alumni and the student body consulted during the decision-making process?

Sadler: The President did have many meetings with both students and alumni after the NCAA handed down their initial decision to ban both the logo and Tribe nickname. He received a lot of emails about their initial decision and they were pretty one-sided against the NCAA. That's why he decided to pursue the appeals against the NCAA.

Informer: Why weren't alumni or the student body consulted on Nichol's decision to give in to the NCAA without even exploring a privately funded lawsuit by alumni?

Sadler: The legal advice that President Nichol received indicated that any legal action would require large amounts of funds and would be unwinnable. Also, the way William and Mary would be painted is that we are defending the use of imagery that might be seen as offensive by some people. The burden of proof would be on us to prove that the logo was not offensive. This combination of circumstances made it unwise to pursue a lawsuit.

How Indians became the College’s team names and logos

Part two in a series about the College’s team names and logos

All photographs and reproductions are courtesy of Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.
To Feathers?

William and Mary’s legal option

U of North Dakota uses alumni funds to save “Fighting Sioux” team name, citing antitrust laws

Matthew Sutton
Assistant News Editor

While most of the 18 schools subject to the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s (NCAA) new policy banning the use of American Indian nicknames, imagery and symbols, either have been granted exemptions or have quietly complied, one school has chosen to continue the fight in the legal arena.

The University of North Dakota (UND), located in Grand Forks, has been known as the “Fighting Sioux” since the 1930s after the nearby Indian community. The school’s current athletic logo is a stylized depiction of a American Indian figure which had been created by an American Indian artist and UND alumus.

After final appeal to this matter, the nickname and logo were rejected by the NCAA, the university president, Charles Kupchella, after consulting with students, faculty and alumni, decided to pursue a lawsuit against the NCAA. In a letter to the university community, he said, “sometimes – even at some cost and some risk – it is best to stand up to injustice.”

On October 6, the state attorney general of North Dakota acting on behalf of the university filed a civil lawsuit against the NCAA. UND has also filed for a preliminary injunction against the NCAA to prevent the association from penalizing its student athletes while the case is being litigated.

The University of North Dakota Alumni Association established a fund to pay for the lawsuit after the state board of higher education voted that taxpayer dollars and school funds could not be used. This fund successfully solicited enough donors from the alumni community for the university to proceed with its legal action.

The university is suing on the NCAA on three legal grounds. Relying mainly on breach of contract and state antitrust claims, UND alleges that the NCAA has breached their mutual contract by not following the procedures laid out in the NCAA’s constitution and bylaws. Secondly, UND alleges that the NCAA’s shifting evidentiary standards and inadequate due process violated the restraint of trade law rights of good faith and fair dealing. Lastly, UND also alleges that the NCAA’s selective application of their policy is an unlawful restraint of trade because it places UND at a competitive disadvantage in hosting and competing in NCAA championships.

In a press release, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said, “The NCAA is a monopoly. Any institution that wants to compete in collegiate athletics has no real choice but to join. The NCAA’s action in imposing this rule, with the resulting sanctions, places UND in an impossible economic predicament, in violation of the state’s anti-trust law.”

This is not the first lawsuit based on anti-trust grounds that the NCAA has faced. The University of Oklahoma and University of Georgia filed suit against the NCAA on the basis that it had violated federal anti-trust laws in its stance on the televising of college football games. This case, entitled, NCAA v. Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Oklahoma made it up to the Supreme Court in 1984 where the NCAA lost in a 7-2 decision written by Justice Stevens. Among the concursus justices were current William and Mary Chancellor and former Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

Professor William Van Alstyne of the William and Mary Marshall Wythe School of Law also offered another potential route for a legal action. “Other options include federal antitrust claims under the Sherman Act (see 15 USC Sec. 1, prohibiting any ‘contract, combination ... or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States) and federal civil rights claims under Section 1983 (see 42 USC Sec. 1983), providing for liability of any person, under color of state law, deprives another of rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution or other federal laws — the allegation here would be that the NCAA is essentially a state actor, and has deprived individuals of their rights of free expression and association under the First Amendment. This position, unfortunately, has been disfavored by courts.”

The NCAA has filed a response brief in North Dakota state court and has submitted several exhibits and one affidavit to bolster its claims. A hearing will be held shortly on North Dakota’s motion for a preliminary injunction and a decision is expected within the next month.

Indians became the Tribe

In a series about the College’s team names and logos

Indian teams were at most of the 20th century by the Tribe the most popular choice of nickname; today, Back in the Blackfoot (sic) for young Indians, rounding country, many were to be educated which was operated secondary. Now, as never adopted a nickname why not call them ‘Indians’. It is a short, snappy name, is used by several professional baseball teams, and is far more appropriate than most college team’s names.

Several of the professors and several of the students interested in College Activities have heartily endorsed the idea. Hats off to the “Indians”!

Controversy over the nickname grew during the 1970s. Dartmouth College underwent its own divisive internal struggle during this period over their nickname which they shared with William and Mary. Now Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler headed a college committee appointed by then President Thomas Graves to study this issue.

Sadler officially endorsed the retention of the Indians moniker, saying, “The College should continue to use the nickname ‘Indians’ in sports and teams. Unlike other institutions which have used this nickname in the past, William and Mary has a strong historical reason for having chosen this designation. This historical basis is reinforced by a long tradition and virtually no one with whom I have discussed it wishes to see the nickname changed. The use of the nickname itself is not viewed as either offensive or demeaning to American natives.”

The nickname Tribe first appeared in the late 1960s; it is unclear who first introduced it. For nearly two decades the Indians and the Tribe were used interchangeably but tending to favor Indians. Slowly, the Tribe overtook the Indians, largely due to John Randolph, the College’s athletic director from 1965 to 1995, who quietly eradicated the Indians moniker. Now, 1989 Flat Hat article, entitled, “College assessed Indian mascot” said that Randolph explicitly tried to emphasize Tribe over the Indians.

Unfortunately, the changeover from Indians to the Tribe were occasional controversies that threatened to remove all Indian references, such as the cheerleading uniforms of the 1987 football season which resembled female American regalia. Yet through it all the administration cited various local and national sources to justify the use of the name.

In 1980, local Pawnee Indians even made hand crafted leather and beaded headresses for the cheerleaders to emphasize the tribal theme, according to the 1981 Colonial Echo. S. Douglas Bunch, graduate of both William and Mary College and School of Law also offered another potential route for a legal action. “Other options include federal antitrust claims under the Sherman Act (see 15 USC Sec. 1, prohibiting any ‘contract, combination ... or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States) and federal civil rights claims under Section 1983 (see 42 USC Sec. 1983), providing for liability of any person, under color of state law, deprives another of rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution or other federal laws — the allegation here would be that the NCAA is essentially a state actor, and has deprived individuals of their rights of free expression and association under the First Amendment. This position, unfortunately, has been disfavored by courts.”

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Why is your parking decal so expensive? The Informer investigates where the money goes.

Nick Hoekler
Staff Writer

Parking services may be one of the least popular aspects of the school administration. From high decal costs, problems with undergraduate parking, an obscure appeals process and the requirement that students move their cars from certain lots before football and basketball games, students certainly have enough reasons to gripe about parking on campus. In an interview with The Informer, William Horacio, the College’s parking and transportation manager, explained the College’s rationale behind these issues, highlighted ways concerned students can be involved in solving these problems and elaborated on some of the lesser known features of parking services.

One complaint about parking services is that the price of a parking decal is far too expensive. The price of a decal is $240 per year. However, according to Horacio, that price is not set by parking services. The decal price, as well as the cost of parking fines, are determined by the vice president for administration, Anna Martin, and the Parking Advisory Committee, which consists of faculty, staff and students. Martin and the Committee analyze parking services’ budget and collectively determine adequate prices. Students from all years and graduate schools can serve on the Committee.

More information about serving on the Committee can be found on the provost’s Web site. Decal prices were brought in over $800,000 in revenue in the 2005 fiscal year. According to Horacio, that money is used for lot maintenance, debt payment for the parking garage, parking services’ staff salaries and other expenses. However, when the revenue from decal sales is coupled with money collected from parking fines and weighed against the costs, it leaves parking services with a large surplus. In 2005, that surplus was nearly $380,000. According to Horacio, that money is given to the College to use at their discretion.

Another complaint about parking involves parking for underclassmen. Freshmen and sophomores with cars pay the same rate as undergraduates. However, in order to get a car, freshmen and sophomores need to apply for a “restricted use” decal, and their request will be reviewed by the Appeals Committee. The appeals process is also similar to that before these restrictions were in place, these were quite common reasons for appeal, and the appeals are always denied; so parking services decided to eliminate these excuses for appeal.

If a student chooses to appeal a ticket for any reason, they may do so either electronically or appear at the parking services building in Williamsburg. If it is a standard appeal, it is sent to the appeals committee, made up of faculty and students, who will uphold the sanction, reduce the fine or void the ticket.

Did you know?
Included in the price of a parking decal is the Motorist Assistance Program which provides help to decal holders with car problems on campus. Parking Services will provide gas, a jump start or towing as long as the problem occurs on campus. Visit www.wm.edu/parking for more information.

The perfect space: The parking garage houses mostly day student and faculty/staff parking spots.

Nick Fitzgerald
Features Editor

Music library offers ‘symphony’ of information

Did you know?

The library boasts an impressive multimedia station, which offers Internet access, interactive-play CD-ROMs and the music composition software Finale. This program, which has suggested retail price of $600, is offered free to students of any musical level and persuasion to try their hand at composing.

The music library in Ewell is run primarily by student volunteers. The music librarian is Jeff Delfinbaugh (jdelf@wm.edu).
It’s Greek to us: Three Olives Restaurant

Shelbi Wilson
Food Critic

According to the Williamsburg Area Restaurant Association’s website, Three Olives, a Greek Restaurant, is “Williamsburg’s only authentic Greek Restaurant.” It is slightly more upscale than your typical chain restaurant and accepts reservations, although they are not required. The atmosphere is pleasant with a large open dining area and lounge off to the far side of the building.

The best asset to their menu is the wide selection of appetizers. They are divided by how they are served, either hot or cold, but entree portions are large. The appetizers range from about five to seven dollars, and the sampler platter is about nine dollars for two people and thirteen dollars for more than four people.

They have a wide variety of entrees including chicken, beef, lamb, seafood and vegetables. Everything is fresh, except for feta cheese baked in phyllo dough. For those individuals hesitant to try new things, Three Olives offers an assortment of more standard dishes such as New York strip, lamb chops, salads and kabobs. Entrees range in price from about nine to thirty dollars. This may seem relatively expensive, but you can and will be able to split easily between two people.

They also offer desserts, such as Baklava, Baklava Sundae and Rizogalo (Greek rice pudding), which are only three to five dollars depending on your choice. Additionally, Three Olives offers a wide selection of cocktails, which range from about eight to twelve dollars. The names of the drinks are tempting, such as Honey Dew, Tootsie Roll and Octopus’s Garden, just to name a few.

Overall, Three Olives is a great restaurant, despite the high cost for the average student’s wallet. The service was amazing and staff is exceptionally friendly. It would make a great location for dinner get-togethers or just for drinks in the lounge. Definitely consider it for your next night out. Three Olives Greek Restaurant is located at 1203 Richmond Road across from Food Lion. They are open 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. There is live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. Call (757) 259-7300 for more information or for reservations.

As Bees in Honey Drown to hit W&M Stage

Andy Henderson
Staff Writer

To end the Fall 2006 season, William and Mary Theatre will put on a provocative and intriguing production of As Bees in Honey Drown by Douglas Carter Beane.

Eric Wolfenstein writes a charming book, his very first, about the duplicity inherent to the human condition. He then turns around and publish it under the pseudonym “Evan Wyler.” “There just aren’t any — you know — any ‘I wish I had’ moments in my writing,” he explains. He goes on to assume the name of this one. His nearly-but-not-quite famous attorney will swiftly woo market himself in order to market his art — of course never forgetting the sordid reality which asks him to do so — is lampooned in In As Bees in Honey Drown, William and Mary’s winter production under the direction of the Theater Professor Christopher Owens.

In the play, Wyler’s words get him into People Magazine, but choosing to take his shirt off for a photo shoot would wind him on the cover. Played convincingly by a member of the College’s theatre department, chois his cast for his ability to switch very quickly from one character to the next. He says, “[It’s a] kind of vignette work in that you’ve got to establish the presence of a character in a short time to make a really clear impression.”

Owens thinks this will present a challenge to his players that will be different than any other kind they may have faced in the past. An actor may only be on stage as one character for a minute or two before scurrying back stage for a hair, makeup, and costume change. Professor Owens believes his crew is up for it, and that the payoff will be large. The audience is forewarned: double takes and deja vu ahead.

All around, the production is designed to have a fast-paced, cinematic feel that should be genuinely fun to watch. In order to facilitate very quick scene changes between altogether different settings, Professor Owens has decided to use minimal staging, normally relying on one block of scenery which can evoke the entire setting. For example, a beautifully upholstered sofa suggests an elegant bedroom, or a real — and heavy — iron railing turns the stage into the Staten Island Ferry. Keeping the action moving with a very modern, contemporary feel, other scenery will be projected photos or film. In one scene’s taxi ride through New York, a video taken through the back window of a New York taxi will show across the cyclorama.

Professor Owens looks forward to putting on a modern play whose target audience is as much the student body as the local community. Bees’ scathing, take-no-prisoners attitude, witty script, and large characters promise to keep any audience engaged. Obviously, the most interesting role is a fairly small part, which happened to be written for the student body. This role, as Professor Owens notes, is largely “a man on a mission.”

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The Devil is fun but forgettable

Joe Piero
Film Critic

It’s always interesting to see what happens when a specific actor or actress is the reason people see a movie. That’s certainly the case with The Devil Wears Prada. Meryl Streep, the best actress working today, steals this movie and makes it much better than it should have been.

Anne Hathaway plays Andy Sachs, a young woman starting a job at Runway Magazine, a fashion magazine eerily similar to Vogue. She arrives at her first day of work as the assistant to the editor, Miranda Priestly, played by Meryl Streep. Andy quickly discovers that Miranda (who is eerily similar to infamous Vogue editor Anna Wintour) is nothing short of the devil incarnate and will do anything to make her magazine successful.

The rest of the movie is quite formulaic. Andy’s personality changes, she becomes more and more like Miranda, she loses her boyfriend and she finally rediscovers who she truly is. However, what makes The Devil Wears Prada entertaining and saves the movie from becoming another boring, meaningless chick flick is Meryl Streep’s performance. Every time Miranda whispers “That’s all” to Andy, you see the pain in Hathaway’s face and you can see how much fun Streep is having with the role.

Next, to Streep, none of the actors really match up. It’s not really their fault and Hathaway is naïve enough, I suppose, but up against such a powerful legend, there is really no comparison. The supporting cast is never fully fleshed out. Adrian Grenier plays Hathaway’s boyfriend and Simon Baker plays his competition, but there is not any real any development of these characters. The only role that brings any heart and any fun to the movie is Miranda’s other assistant, Emily, played by Emily Blunt, who is hilarious throughout the movie.

The Devil Wears Prada is an entertaining movie, that’s definitely true, but it is also extremely forgettable. This film could have had a sharper, satirical wit to it but consistently misses this mark. The moral of the movie could have been “no matter the style, it’s what’s on the inside that counts,” but it just seems that the real theme was “Meryl Streep always saves the day.”

The Devil Wears Prada is the UCAB Blockbuster Movie for November and is showing at the UC Commonwealth Auditorium on November 17 and 18.

The Informer gives The Devil Wears Prada a B-.
Have you ever heard Mozart’s music played on a glass armonica?

Crystal Concert is an audiophile’s delight

Jon San
Staff Writer

How can someone perform an entire concert using instruments made exclusively of glass? Dean Shostak, Williamsburg’s world-renowned glass armonica performer, presents a Crystal Concert at the Kimball Theatre several times a month. Using the rare and delicate armonica, a relic invented by Benjamin Franklin and played regularly in Williamsburg more than two hundred years ago, Shostak creates hauntingly beautiful music. The strangest part of the armonica is its unique construction. On one end of the instrument, which is stationed on a wood table, is a large wheel that rotates when Shostak pushes down a foot pedal underneath the table. The rotating wheel then causes an attached rod to spin. On this rod are about 40 glass bowls. The bowls, each slightly different in size, are arranged from smallest to largest and spin at a speed determined by Shostak’s foot. In order to produce the notes, Shostak dips his fingers in water and gently presses his damp fingertips against the rotating glass bowls. In this way, the armonica operates much like a traditional piano.

Shostak played songs ranging from popular Christmas tunes to complex Mozart arrangements, and made sure to provide the audience with historical information in between pieces. While the armonica was the focus of the concert, Shostak played several other glass instruments as well. Near the end of his performance, he unveiled one of his most prized possessions: a glass violin. Composed entirely of glass (except for the strings) Shostak told the audience that only 2 such instruments exist in the world; the second can be found in Tokyo. The other notable instrument featured in the program was the Cristal Baschet, which is made up of 54 glass rods that work like the keys on a keyboard. However, these glass rods are attached to metal blocks of differing heights which create the different notes. Like the armonica, the Cristal Baschet is played using fingers dipped in water and sounds very much like an organ.

The concert, which lasts for 45 minutes and is a regular feature at the Kimball Theatre, promises to amaze the audience. Not only is Shostak an incredibly talented musician, but he also seemed genuinely passionate about his job. He even stopped to answer questions during his concert and allowed an interested audience member to try out one of his instruments.

Tickets are only $5 for a truly unique show. Additional information can be found on Shostak’s website: www.glassmusic.com.
From a few colored lights to a fireworks spectacular
Christmas in CW has come a long way since 1934

Chase Coleman
Staff Writer

On the first Sunday of December, tens of thousands of people will gather in Colonial Williamsburg for the 72nd Grand Illumination. This annual holiday tradition will see Duke of Gloucester Street filled to the brim with seekers of merriment and festivity. However, such an elaborate celebration has not always been the case.

Expecting few visitors, less than a dozen trees strung with colored lights decorated Colonial Williamsburg on its first Christmas in 1934. This, however, did not please Colonial Williamsburg President Kenneth Chorley, who wanted something more elaborate and historically accurate. Unfortunately, the research department only told Chorley that they had one tree, but not the other; colonial Virginians went to church and feasted instead on cards of candlelight and illuminating their city.

Landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff had the idea to display a lighted candle in every window, a practice that began in Boston in 1893. By Christmas, each of the four buildings open to the public—the Governor’s Palace, the Governor’s Garden and Parade House—had a candle in each window, placed in a dish of water to prevent fire. This “White Lighting” cost only $50, a pittance sum compared with that of today’s elaborate affair.

The use of real candles began to taper off as the community, resulting in a “never-ending three-way compromise between historical authenticity, safety, and modern celebration,” according to an autumn 1995 article in the journal Colonial Williamsburg. Many people wanted a safer, more decorative way to celebrate the season. One such person was College President John Stewart Bryan, who adorned the Wren Building with red lights in the late 1930s, despite its historical inaccuracy.

By 1940, Colonial Williamsburg had switched to electric candles, and city employee Thomas McCaskey was appointed to expand the White Lighting ceremony by organizing a truly coordinated celebration. Visitors could now not only enjoy candlelight in the windows, but also bonfire gatherings, fireworks and a procession of singing children down Duke of Gloucester Street.

“Fireworks, although not historically associated with Christmas, were used to celebrate important events in the 19th century, so in 1957 it was no surprise that Colonial Williamsburg launched fireworks to celebrate Jamestown’s 350th anniversary.”

With such annual festivities, the popularity of the White Lighting ceremony quickly grew. The custom of placing electric candles in windows expanded outside of CW, as tourists bought the imitation candles from local department stores. Unfortunately, the outbreak of World War II restricted both the use and the purchase of these candles. The custom was back on its feet again by 1947 with the development of a more realistic electric candle.

Fireworks, although not historically associated with Christmas, were used to celebrate important events in the 18th century, so in 1957 it was no surprise that Colonial Williamsburg launched fireworks to celebrate Jamestown’s 350th anniversary. Before the small displays were not an uncommon occurrence in the White Lighting ceremony, but after 1957, more elaborate fireworks displays began, and today the magnificent fireworks show is a major attraction.

The Grand Illumination featured fireworks and entertainment that attracted visitors from across the country, prompting television specials and magazine features. And, as always, electric candles became more popular.

The Grand Illumination should prove to be no less festive. Entertainment, both historic and modern, will begin at 4:45 p.m. on December 3 on stages throughout the Historic Area. At 6:15 p.m., the traditional candles will be lit in shops, homes and public buildings, and a synchronized fireworks display will be set off at the Governor’s Palace, Magazine and the Capitol. No tickets are required, but any who seek the joviality should dress warmly and come early to Colonial Williamsburg’s kick-off to the holiday season.

Book Review: *Booze, Broads, and Bullets*
R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When my friend Beth told me that she read graphic novels, I have to admit that I laughed at her. “Comic books?” I asked, “Beth, you’ve got to be kidding!”

“They aren’t comic books!” she defended, and she was right. They’re not.

I have had my mind completely changed since that initial, irreverent stab at the graphic novel a few months ago. The book that reversed my normally steadfast literary opinion was *Booze, Broads, and Bullets*, the sixth Sin City compilation produced by author and artist Frank Miller. I was very modern in my interpretation of the story. The characters were complex and interesting, and the ironic surprise endings often leave the reader dumbstruck and wanting to read the story over again with a broader perspective.

Take my advice, ye naysayers: give graphic novels a chance. You might be pleasantly surprised, and if you’re wondering where to start, Frank Miller’s *Booze, Broads, and Bullets* might be just what you’re looking for.

*Editor’s Note: Do you have any books you would like to see reviewed? Email suggestions to editor@vainformer.com.

The art of the graphic novel
Stephanie Long
News Editor

A little over one month before opening night, I sat in on Shakespeare in the Dark’s first full run-through of *Romeo and Juliet*. It was surprising to see something returned to the true tale of tragedy.

*Romeo and Juliet’s* actors take their task quite literally; performing seems very much to be for them, rather than work. They turned up with stencils, tongue-twisters and references to Monty Python’s “ministry of silly walks.” Off-stage strength and colorful lights decorated the stage very lovely and pleasant. Once they took the stage, though, the actors immediately entered war-torn Verona in the year 1944, and brought the tragic characters of the Elizabethan period to life in this new world.

When performing *Romeo and Juliet* there is always the challenge to do something new and different. The director,ottie Morris (’07), decided to do this by changing the time period and setting the play in the 1940s. She said her main goal was to focus on Romeo and Juliet’s relationship and how “the circumstances around them affect it.” She also cut out the fairground, Raleigh Tavern scenes in order to make the Capulets and the Montagues reconcile, because she didn’t feel that it was SPECIFICALLY a “Nurse’s” job, and she just felt like that would cause more bloodshed.

Certain actors appeared to take to heart the more modern interpretation of the characters. Megan Ammirati (’10) who plays the Nurse, feels the feeling of a Jewish Yenta. Also, the Capulets seem very much like a modern dysfunctional family. Megan is complete with a domineering and borderline-abusive father and a helpless mother. Other characters are much more traditional in their appearance, such as heart-broken Romeo, played by Peter O’Shanick (’08), and the ever-hostile Tybalt, played by Kay Schellman (’09). The English majors who have to often laugh at the story of *Romeo and Juliet* because of its high and holy place in the literary canon, was struck by the true tragedy of the story, which only became apparent upon seeing the play performed.

Shakespeare in the Dark’s presentation of *Romeo and Juliet* will be showing December 2-5, and I have every confidence that the show will be well received by audiences who will be deeply moved by this fresh, modern spin on an old and hackneyed work.
Staff Editorial:

No sign of the cross is a tightening sign of the times

President Gene Nichol’s decision to remove the cross from the Wren Chapel was then, and is still now, wrong.

President Nichol and other administrative officials have defended this decision on the grounds that the cross’ removal from the chapel is furthering diversity. In his e-mail to the campus, Nichol stated: “I believe a recognition of the full dignity of each member of our diverse community is vital.”

His decision does not further diversity, but erases diversity. Christians, William and Mary’s largest religious constituency, have extensive ties within the campus community through intervarsity service organizations, Greek life, the Honor Council, faculty and alumni. Removing the defining symbol of the Christian faith from the chapel sends a message to the Christians at William and Mary that their faith is not welcomed by the chapel from a place of worship to nothing more than a glorified conference room is insulting to people of all religions.

The decision making process Nichol employed is profoundly hollow. The removal of the cross was unbecoming of an institution of higher learning.

Plucking the cross off the altar table in the dead of night and relegating it to a supply closet is an unbecoming action for any college president, let alone one from the College of William and Mary. The College prides itself on intellectual debate and inquiry, and provides a marketplace of ideas for students and faculty. Nichol’s decision intentionally bypasses these vital characteristics of our College which, as a community, hold so dear. By not opening the subject for debate, this president has created an image of himself as an impervious ruler, handing down facts from on high without being subject to any accountability.

Never intending to make his decision publicized to the college community, Nichol was forced to justify his position in his October 29 e-mail. In the e-mail, Nichol explicitly welcomed “a broader College discussion of how the ancient Chapel can reflect our best values.” Hereafter, there has been absolutely no such discussion offered to the student body. In his addresses as president, Nichol has repeatedly called for both intellectual, informed inquiry and civic engagement. Apparently, Nichol believes these qualities need not apply to him.

We urge President Nichol to reverse his indefensible decision, and restore the cross to its rightful place in the Wren Chapel.

Letters to the Editor

Gay marriage amendment article hits a nerve

Dear Editor:

I was completely offended by the opinion article entitled “Gay marriage debate over lunch is icky” by John R. Kennedy. I am a heterosexual woman, but I still found that the piece to be poorly written and based on complete fabrications, and I’m incredibly disappointed that your newspaper would publish such utter rubbish. In a particular passage, Kennedy states, “What gay marriage supporters do not tell you is the most important information: they do not respect the traditional family. Mothers and fathers are not necessary in their vision of America.” He is essentially saying that any family that does not have a mother and a father is not an acceptable part of society.

As a child of divorced parents, I’m insulted that my family is not considered deserving of equal rights, “he completely contradicts himself. The right to marry: the person of your preference is a human right, and by depriving homosexuals of this it is impeding upon their liberties. He goes on to discuss how homosexuals can’t be treated equally because they can’t procreate, but what about infertile heterosexual couples? Since they can’t have children, should they not have equal rights? Or even senior citizens for that matter, who have been productive members of society because of natural processes can no longer foster offspring? Humans are humans and should be treated equally, as they were created. In closing, Kennedy claims that “The simple truth is that we are not all perfectly equal in state and we do not all need the same legal treatment for democratic values to win.” This statement is COMPLETELY pompous and goes against everything that the founders of this country sought to create.

This utterly rediculous statement reminds me of an excellent line in a brilliant book, “All animals are created equal, but some are more equal than others.” (George Orwell)

Kristen N. Spinale
Class of 2010

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

You criticize proponents of same-sex marriage for using emotional buzzwords such as “gay rights” and “open-mindedness.” I believe that you use of the words “tradition” and “traditional values” is no better. Why do you support these values, and why are they reason enough to oppose same-sex marriage? Should tradition simply be accepted on face as good? I think it is sensible to say that traditions must be questioned, and evaluated on their own merits.

In today’s society, there are children who live with a mother and a father, or with a single parent. But there are also children who live with two fathers or two mothers. I challenge you to provide reasons as to why children who live under same-sex parents suffer unique disadvantages compared with children of heterosexual parents. Even then, should the government regulate marriage based on these disadvantages? I believe that if two men or two women give the same interest in allowing this.

Furthermore, the reason for different legal treatment of infants and the elderly and is apparent: infants are not yet able to reason or care for themselves, and the elderly may be physically frail. But what exactly is it about being born gay that requires different rights, Mr. Kennedy? How do I have different needs from a gay male my age?

Christian Deegan
Class of 2009
No true justice in judicial system

Why the William and Mary judicial system and code do not work, especially in serious offenses

Sean Sheppard
Guest Writer

For the past few months, the Policy Committee of the Student Assembly has been discussing, refining and debating over the Judicial Reform Act. Many SA representatives ran on the platform of judicial reform, which includes alcohol policy, sexual misconduct policy, and the structure of the Student and Faculty Judicial Panels. Some of the proposed changes include the implementation of a jury system, which would allow students to serve on a 7-person jury in order to convict a student who is on trial by the Judicial Council. Selected members of the actual Judicial Council would serve as judges, with the jury providing the verdict of guilt or innocence. Another point of contention has been the burden of proof necessary to convict a student of a particular offense; currently it is clear and convincing, which is a lower standard than used in criminal courts.

After several meetings with different administrators on campus, including Dean Dave Gilbert and Vice President Sam Sadilek, our illuminated interpretation of the judicial code has been revealed. The judicial system is in place to be a rehabilitative process for students, not a punitive one. The sanctions enforced are not meant to injure the students’ career at the college, but strengthen it through a learning process. We live in a “community environment” not necessarily bound by criminal court standards, and for that very reason, we are able to respond to violations accordingly. Students are to learn from their mistakes; it is part of the college experience.

However, there are several distinct rights that the current judicial system neglects to honor. Double jeopardy, for example. If we aren’t bound by the criminal court system, why are alcohol violations reported by police, both William and Mary and Williamsburg, then processed by the Judicial System? The fragile relationship between faculty and students is one that we have to abide by to comply and self-incrimination allows for a very peculiar situation; if you are testifying, and are asked a question that you do not wish to answer because it would incriminate you, you can be charged with Failure to Comply.

The last, most delicately controversial issue that has been raised during the discussion of the Judicial Reform Bill is the capability of the Judicial Reform to try rape cases. The College of William and Mary has been devastated by a series of rape cases. The above mentioned administrators have both admitted that the Judicial System is incapable of trying rape cases, which is why all forms of sexual misconduct, from fondling to forcible intercourse, are defined as simply sexual misconduct.

The question at hand is: is a group of selectively appointed students, and faculty members equipped to be dealing with the emotional and legal enterprise of felony rape charges. There is far too much to consider in trials such as these. However, there is also the important factor of student safety, and mental well being after being through a traumatic experience. It is not fair, on one hand, for the College to absolve itself from dealing with such situations, leaving the victim either abandoned or forced to go through legal procedures; on the other hand, it is not fair to try and possibly accuse a student without the proper investigatory procedures. The administration has taken a strong stance that sexual misconduct should and will be tried by the Judicial Council regardless of the degree of misconduct at question. Is it right to draw the line somewhere? We need student and faculty input to explore this delicate situation further.

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A breath of fresh, fall air

Stephanie Long
News Editor

Sick and tired of the constant complaining and ranting that I hear on a daily basis and is always found filling the opinion pages of the publications on this campus, I feel compelled to share my opinion that there is something positive to be said for the world.

On a Saturday near the end of October, two of my friends and I happened to be up a little earlier than we usually are and decided to see what Saturday morning activities occur in Williamsburg. We were pleased to find that Saturday morning is not to be outdone. The farmers markets are, for we ventured downtown to Colonial Williamsburg and found the Farmer’s Market—of which we had previously only heard tell but for which we could never pull ourselves out of bed. Had our imaginations had greatly undermined the event which in reality was much akin to DoG Street’s version of Dragon Alley. And with much of the same wonder of Harry Potter’s friends and I joined the rest of the bustling customers who were seizing the opportunity for fresh vegetables, baked goods, soups, and even seafood.

Perhaps it was because of our UC-induced eagerness for real food that we enjoyed the market so much. Perhaps it was the enjoyment we got from feeling our first glimpse of the Halloween festivities in the form of painted pumpkins and corn on the cob. Perhaps it was the joy derived from the numerous babies and dogs—which is especially a Golden Retriever who owned the stand that we were at saw this and as we were attempting to weigh the tiny pumpkins said “Here, let me help you with that.” Before we could look at how much the pumpkins weighed, the farmer lifted up the scale so that it would read as if the pumpkins weighed nothing. Perplexed by the man’s possible ulterior motives, my friends and I failed to understand the farmer’s meaning but at the very least, the pumpkins were free. For the first time since I left for college, I was suddenly bend. That is the power of such kindness, even a simple act such as the old adage goes, “money talks and bullshit walks.”

In regards to social drinking, the golden treatment of alcohol only brings us to stark contrast the losey treatment of students. Students are not high income earners like the alumni, so they certainly will not receive the same treatment...right? This brings to mind another problem with the College’s treatment of students.

Students are not treated like customers. They pay for their education only to be treated as children. If a customer was treated this way at a business establishment, he or she would demand to see the manager and get a refund. We believe that paying for an education and getting a degree is a transaction that involves a significant value loss on our part. Receiving a quality ice cream cone at Ben and Jerry’s should not involve being slapped in the face, so why should receiving a degree at William and Mary be any different? Right?

Students deserve to be respected as adults. During this past homecoming, the tailgate festivities went off very well. Receiving a quality ice cream cone at Ben and Jerry’s was not too much to ask. Alumni were given the benefit of the doubt: they know how to drink socially, and they are not mature enough to gather socially and responsibly. However, there is reason why the administration must assume students are not mature enough to gather socially and responsibly.

Homecoming was proof that the College recognizes that the Alumni get free pass at Homecoming: Students get no respect.

During homecoming, one of the greatest past-times is the tailgate party before the football game. Alumni pay for a parking spot on Harrison Street near Zable Stadium and relive old times. Large crowds of people can be seen congregating down the street, drinking and socializing. They come in search of familiar Greek alumni as well. Most of the time, not a cop is in sight. One of the most intriguing parts about homecoming is that the rules are changed to accommodate the large crowds. Students are not allowed to bring alcohol in the stadium, no parking passes are allowed for students, and an arrestable offense is charged if you are caught in public drinking in the stadium. However, a cop has to know where you are and what you are doing to take you to jail. These restrictions seem to only affect students and not alumni, who can bring their own alcohol and space to socialize.

John R. Kennedy
Opinion Editor

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CRIME STATISTICS: Wall Street Journal finds William and Mary as one of top violators of misleading crime reporting

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The Virginia Informer

GATES: Alum has CIA background

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Defense, Bob Gates has been serving as Texas A&M University’s 22nd President since 2002. Bob Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, has twice received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and has received the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the CIA’s highest award, three times. Bob Gates currently serves and has served on several major corporate boards, ranging from the financial board to the drilling industries board. In addition to the private sector, he also serves on the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education, the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. Bob Gates is also the President of the National Eagle Scout Association, of which he himself is highly regarded as a Distinguished Eagle Scout Award recipient.

In addition to his distinguished service in government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector, here at William and Mary Bob Gates serves as a Trustee of the Endowment Fund. In 1998 Gates was the recipient of the Alumni Medal from the William and Mary Alumni Association.

In response to Bob Gate’s appointment as Secretary of Defense, President Nichol stated “Bob Gates will very soon remain the country that his life and work will reflect his alma mater’s tradition of engaged, enabling public service” and “his service will add much to the considerable debt the College, and some of our friends in Texas, already owe for his fine leadership.”