Student group assists in attempt to unionize dining services employees

Benjamin Locher
Staff Writer

Only four dining services employees met Thursday October 5 to discuss the possibility of creating a union for hourly workers at the College’s dining locations. Local union organizer Edith Heard set up two meetings on Thursday at the Williamsburg Public Library for interested employees.

“We’re trying to organize [the workers],” Heard said. “There is some interest, but there is also a lot of fear. They are afraid of losing what they have. Even though it’s not much, it’s better than nothing.”

Dining services workers are paid by Aramark, the company the College contracts with to operate the school’s food services. The Aramark employees were informed about the Thursday meetings through fliers distributed by a student organization, the Tidewater Labor Support Committee (TLSC).

TLSC first raised the issue of unionizing last year when Aramark management adjusted the schedules of Market Place workers.

“The big issue was with management cutting hours below where [the workers] could qualify for full-time status with benefits,” TLSC organizer Andrew Shoffner said.

While those changes have been rolled back, Shoffner said there is still a need for a union.

“There are other issues too,” he said. “One or two terminations have been perceived as unfair. I know one has been contested, and she won and was reinstated with back pay.”

Heard formed a union for Colonial Williamsburg employees decades ago and has since organized Aramark workers at other locations across the country. She said that she began looking into forming a union for the College’s Aramark employees when a few of them approached her last year.

Though the first meeting this year was

DINING SERVICES UNION
continued on page sixteen

Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

The Honor Council is one of the most esteemed and respected institutions at the College of William and Mary. Traditionally, the Honor Council has conducted most of its business in secret. However, some William and Mary students noticed a room reservation for the Honor Council meeting and approached The Virginia Informer asking us to investigate the meeting and examine the legality of the Council’s practices. What we turned up was evidence that the Honor Council operates in violation of the law.

According to Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Council Staff Attorney Alan Gernhardt, since the Honor Council receives public funding, it is a public body and by Virginia law and a Virginia Attorney General’s ruling the Honor Council is required to post meetings in a “prominent public location [. . .] at least three business days in advance of the meeting.” According to Gernhardt, meetings that discuss individual scholastic records are closed to the public and meeting times do not need to be posted. However, since the meeting in question was to discuss Honor Council business and not individual cases, the meeting should have been open to the public.

The Honor Council failed to announce the meeting in a “prominent public location” since the concerned students only discovered the meeting’s location by accident. I e-mailed Honor Council President Nora Wolf (’07) about attending the business portion of the meeting and she agreed to let me to attend.

At the business portion of the meeting, the council discusses internal matters ranging from making rules about how frequently existing members have to attend office hours to setting attendance versus study abroad requirements for potential members. The Council also nominates and votes for a member to receive a weekly “Squishy” award given to a member who goes above and beyond the normal Honor Council call of duty.

I was asked to leave the meeting when they switched from discussing business matters to a specific case. This is legal according to Gernhardt, as individual student records are discussed. After the closed portion of the meeting, the Honor Council was dismissed and all of the members left the room. However, Gernhardt said that according to Virginia law, whenever a public body comes out of closed session, all the members have to vow on their honor that what they said would be discussed in the meeting was all that was actually discussed. This is usually done by a roll call vote, a practice not employed by the Honor Council.

Wolf said that she had contacted the school’s legal counsel about the violations and if they agree with Gernhardt, Wolf promised to fix all of the problems listed above as well as make minutes and agendas of the business meetings public.

Any student, faculty member or administrator may make an accusation against a student for violating the Honor Code. The accused student then has twenty-four hours to report to the Honor Council via e-mail, phone or stopping by their office. Wolf then

HONOR COUNCIL
continued on page sixteen
Convenience fee added to online W&M Express deposits

Those convenience fees add up! Students now have to pay a $1 fee each time they make an online deposit to W&M Express.

Chase Coleman
Staff Writer

Beginning this year, a $1 convenience fee will be added to all W&M Express deposits made online. Director of Auxiliary Services, Charlie Maimone, made the decision to charge a fee based on the rising costs of online transactions. In previous years, the College has covered the entire costs of all transactions; however, as online deposits have become increasingly popular, the costs involved have also increased. The ID Office website states that “10 to 25 cents per transaction, 3% plus cost to the credit card company, secure servers and development time” add up to an average $1.20 cost to the College per deposit. With more and more people depositing online each year, these costs will doubtlessly add up.

“We’re really not interested in collecting fees we don’t have to collect,” assured Maimone, but it is now necessary to ask students to shoulder some of the escalating expenses. The alternative to charging a convenience fee would be raising the minimum deposit, which would limit the total number of transactions. Since each transaction costs a fee, limiting the number of transactions would decrease the total costs. The College has raised the minimum deposit in the past, but Maimone feels increasing the minimum again would be inconvenient for students. “The point is...to make it as convenient as possible and the next step is to place a convenience fee there to help offset some of the costs.”

There are still options for those students who do not want to pay the convenience fee. Students can make deposits for free at six different locations on campus, one of which, the ID Office in the Campus Center, accepts credit card deposits. Since the credit card company’s transaction fee is less when the card is actually present, depositing in person at the ID Office is still free to students. One more option for students wishing to avoid the convenience fee is to deposit via telephone. Unfortunately since the credit card is not present, there are greater fees for the College involved with the transaction. However, Maimone pointed out that since very few people use this method of depositing the College does not need to charge a convenience fee. In order to deposit via the phone, students should contact the ID Office.

Maimone reminds students that although this is the ninth year of Express, “for the first time in its history it’s asked the students...to pay for some part, and I’m hoping that we minimize that.”

Briefly...

Actor named to star in “John Adams” movie to be filmed in CW

Oscar nominated actor Paul Giamatti will play John Adams in the forthcoming HBO movie. Filming is expected to begin in spring 2007, with a large portion to take place in Colonial Williamsburg. The film will be based on the Pulitzer Prize winning biography, John Adams by David McCullough. Giamatti has recently starred in Lady in the Water; Giamatti was nominated for best supporting actor in the 2004 film Sideways.

Alum, BOV member Plumeri to lead Homecoming Parade

Joe Plumeri (’66) will serve as Grand Marshal for the October 28 Homecoming Parade. On campus today Plumeri is best known for lending his family name to the College’s baseball field, Plumeri Park. Plumeri played both football and baseball during his time at the College. His family owns two minor-league baseball teams in his home state of New Jersey. Plumeri currently serves on the Board of Visitors.

Starbucks pulls application indefinitely

Starbucks has pulled its application to make exterior renovations to the College Delly property should the Delly’s owner sell to the corporation. The application was to be reviewed at the October 12 Architectural Review Board meeting for the city of Williamsburg, but it was withdrawn before the meeting. When asked why the application was withdrawn, Architectural Review Board secretary Dee Scott said, “The Starbucks representative wants to put its application on hold indefinitely because of further negotiations.”

The Virginia Informer apologizes for the following error that appeared in our August/September 2006 Issue:

The photo on page 7 was incorrectly attributed to the Catholic Campus Ministry. The photo is of Father Sanford Key, College Chaplain of Bruton Parish Episcopal Church. The Virginia Informer would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via email to editor@vainformer.com
SDS written up for non-compliance at activities fair

Steven Nelson
Staff Writer

Students for a Democratic Society, a revived 1960s radical student group, has a large and growing presence on the William and Mary campus in spite of the notice it was given on August 29 of pending judicial action for events surrounding their recruitment at the activities fair hosted at William and Mary Hall.

The SDS display outside of William and Mary Hall made a statement and distinguished the club from the others who were all confined inside of the Hall. In fact, in Terri's case, many doctors misdiagnosed 50 percent of the time. Schindler argues that the media overlooked the fact that it is extremely disheartening to hear we are giving up on the battle to save our logo, the feathers do not define who else would make up this club.

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Mark Sadler will chair a meeting to be held at the end of this semester to discuss the club's future.

Terri Schiavo’s brother speaks out against Persistent Vegetative State diagnosis

Amanda J. Yasenchak
Editor in Chief

On September 13, the William and Mary student group Students for Life sponsored a lecture by Bobby Schindler, the brother of Terri Schiavo. Schiavo, who was the center of media attention, is currently in a Persistent Vegetative State

Express cards anything but ‘express’ at Bookstore

Stephen Dause
Staff Writer

For many students at the start of this school year, the WM&K Express debit card system was anything but “express.” Between August 29 and September 4, the William and Mary Bookstore was unable to accept any WM&K Express transactions. For students who wished to use Express to buy their textbooks at the beginning of the semester, this presented a problem, as they could neither buy nor return any books without another method of payment on hand.

This combined with the long lines created because the bookstore staff had to transpose both Student ID numbers and textbook barcodes became the cause of much frustration for William and Mary students.

“[Express] didn’t work the first few times I went over there, like, the first couple weeks,” complained Crystal Nuñorite, a freshman at the College. “The lines took forever.”

When asked whether she thought the bookshop should have been better-prepared at this time of the year, Nuñorite responded, “Definitely.”

“The textbooks are down in the basement, so I went down there, got my books, went to the register, and I heard from this girl that they weren’t taking Express, so I went back down and gave them back,” said Aaron Gregory, a freshman.

When he returned a couple of days later, Gregory found that students could use Express, so long as they were willing to wait in line to get a handwritten receipt and an explanation that their Express account would be charged as soon as the bookshop got back online.

Apologizing to students for the inconvenience, manager Steve Bubel said, “We know that it’s the busiest time of the year, and we were just as upset as everyone else was. It caused us a lot of extra work and problems that we are still working on... It was a computer problem that had to be fixed by Barnes & Noble.”

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SA Senate defeats constitutional convention, as some urge to look beyond internal affairs

Gender blind housing bill attracts student, media attention

Stephen Dause & Roy Mor
Staff Writers

The Student Assembly Senate closed a busy first few weeks of the semester by debating several non-internal affairs acts. Many of the bills proposed and passed were internal in nature, dealing with the organization and procedures of the SA rather than bills that affect more general topics. Despite the focus on internal matters, others sought to realize long unattainable goals, such as extending Health Center hours. The Senate has been operating at full capacity after the September 28 election brought in four freshman senators, Andrew Blais, Scott Morris, Sarah Rojas and Orlando Watson.

In order to give the Senate a more accurate and direct response of students’ attitude toward Senate, Senator Zach Pilchen (’09) introduced and the Senate passed TAO (Together As One) Act, “which sought to establish monthly referenda for students on their satisfaction with the Student Assembly” through SIN.

Preparing for 9/11 Memorial Events, Senator Matthew Sibiak (’08) introduced the 9/11 Memorial Constitution Act, a bill that asked the SA for support for the planned campus memorial service along with $900 to pay for commemorative t-shirts, which was passed 15-0-0.

The Defense of Nightlife Act, sponsored by Pilchen, was designed to oppose any takeover of the College Delly by organizing a student petition. The bill was vetoed by SA President Ryan Scofield (’07) after its unanimous passage in the Senate.

Pilchen also sponsored the bill that received the most student and local media attention this year, the Freedom of Housing Act, which sought to allow gender-blind housing, in which members of opposite sex would be allowed to live together. In members of opposite sex would not only share ball halls, but might also share dorm rooms. The meeting where the Senate voted on the bill was full especially the public audience was vocally in favor of the bill. The act was passed unanimously, 15-0-0, with only Senator Sharriff Taniouos (‘08) abstaining.

Senate Chairman Scott Fitzgerald (’07) sponsored the SA Budget Process Reform Act III, a bill that would add two senators to the committee that writes the SA budget. Two senators on the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) would only be allowed to ask questions but not participate in the discussion or vote, enabling them to provide the final constitution would be enough to ensure proper hearing of the bill.

“Our main purpose was to make students aware of gay rights” in assuming the bill would lessen the number of weekly Internal Affairs bills, the constitution of IA SA members would be democratic, and that the power of the Senate (or the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils) to veto the final constitution would be enough to ensure proper hearing of the bill.

“We need a system where conflict is not an inherent part of the system,” said Fitzgerald. Senator Victor Sulkowski (’07) noted that the current constitution was set up based on the US federal government, but argued that “that doesn’t work in a student assembly,” and thus a new constitution is needed.

Luppio-Esposito was disappointed with the vote’s results but was unwilling to give up. In a short interview afterwards, he indicated that alternative ways of adopting a new constitution would be utilized in the near future.

Another bill that sparked lengthy discussion was the Repeal for Internally Displaced Students Act (RIDS), sponsored by Pilchen. The bill would seek to turn the SA house on 404 Jamestown Road into a refuge camp for students evicted by the City of Williamsburg under the three-person-to-a-house injunction. It was going to be held tonight, but was amended to remove a clause asking City Council “respectfully” for advice on converting the house, whose maturity was questioned by some senators. Senators then recognizing that the omission significantly changed the bill, voted to send it back to committee.

The Student Parking Act, sponsored by McCarthy, was one of two non-internal affairs acts last night, and it passed unanimously. It urged the Parking Advisory Board and Vice President of Administration to “realloclocate approximately 50 faculty spaces in the Parking Garage to day and resident parking and “utilize the Plant parking lot for visitors during football games” as opposed to the William & Mary Hall parking lot. The “Plant” parking lot is behind the Campus Center, adjacent to the old Campus Police office.

The final bill voted on last night was the Voting Rights Act, whose main purpose was to ratify the Student Decree, a statement written by Senator Brett Phillips (’08) to share with the student governments of many colleges and universities in Virginia. The Decree explains to the Virginia General Assembly, in formal and succinct language, why the capacity for college and university students to vote in the city or county in which they reside during the school year should be a right.

Finally, Rojas and McClean announced their investigation of the hours of the Student Health Center and meeting with SHC officials. Their proposal is to expand the weekend hours of the Center, allowing for non-emergency visits on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as well as a similar four hour period on Sunday. The cost of this, they said, could be covered by either increased health fees, increased weekend co-pay fees, or other options. They also mentioned investigating a possible student referendum on the issue.

Editor’s Note: Joe Luppio-Esposito is the Assistant Editor in Chief and Andrew Blais is a staff writer for The Virginia Informer.
Student Assembly welcomes freshmen officers

The Virginia Informer sits down with newly elected officers to discuss their plans for the year.

President Ali Snell
Virginia Informer: As president, what are your goals for the year?
Ali Snell: I really want to have a variety of socials to bring our class together. Events like movie nights, BBQs, date nights, dance parties and others would really promote unity. I’ve also been approached by several philanthropy groups that are interested in working with us to raise money for their causes.

Vice President for Social Affairs
Kristian Obeceme
Virginia Informer: How do you plan on promoting attendance at social events?
Kristian Obeceme: That’s a tough question because I know some people hate “school sponsored” functions but lots of those functions are actually a good time if they would give it a chance. So I guess it’s necessary to break down the inherent aversion to those functions.

Secretary
Laura Nelson
Virginia Informer: What are your duties as secretary?
Laura Nelson: Obviously taking notes during meetings, lots of PR work, sending out class emails, taking pictures during the social events and helping out with whatever needs to be done.

Treasurer
Sonam Shah
Virginia Informer: What are your goals for this year?
Sonam Shah: Usually students don’t know where all the money goes so correcting that problem is important to me. But I would also like to increase the number of fundraisers we have and save our money so that we can have a really incredible senior year.

Senator Andrew Blasi
Virginia Informer: How do you feel about your fellow seniors?
Andrew Blasi: They all seem very dedicated and ambitious to make changes that they see as important to their platform and constituents.

Senator Sarah Rojas
Virginia Informer: What is your primary goal for the year?
Sarah Rojas: I want to make sure that the Student Assembly hears what the freshman class has to say. I don’t want us to be billed as a quiet class from the beginning.

Senator Orlando Watson
Virginia Informer: What are your goals for this school year?
Orlando Watson: I want to help current senators change the direction this school has been going. They seem to be cracking down on students a lot and I hope to implement policies that would give students the freedom they deserve as responsible adults.

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If you leave everything alone, you’ll be fine.

The College’s quiet tradition of tunneling

R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

William and Mary students take pride in their traditions. The Triathlon, the lore surrounding the Crim Dell, the Yule Log ceremony—all of these are time-honored parts of the William and Mary experience. However, there are several traditions at the College that are kept much quieter. One of these is an old and peculiar practice called “tunneling.” Never heard of it? Don’t feel left out. Tunneling is a practice shrouded in discreet silence.

So what is tunneling? It involves descending into the 3,000 feet of tunnels that run beneath William and Mary’s Old Campus and having a look around. The metal pipes that run through the tunnels were built in the 1850’s and are still used to deliver heat, in the form of 375°F steam, to the academic buildings around the Sunken Gardens. The tunnels also run under several dormitories close to Old Campus, including Barrett Hall, Old Dominion and Taliaferro.

As you might imagine, tunneling is no pleasure cruise. As the 1970s Flat Hat ghost writer Ed Doe put it, “the tunnels are very hot and dirty, and dark and noisy... and the temperature is intense.” In fact, the average temperature underground is about 120°F, according to one contemporary tunneler. When the tunnels aren’t blazing hot, they’re soaking wet, sometimes filled knee-deep with water in the springtime. In many places passages are only 4 feet high, making it necessary to crawl on your hands and knees through layers of dust and dirt. On top of all this, there are no lights, and it’s essential to wear a mask, long pants and sleeves to protect yourself from the airborne grit, rats and giant-sized cockroaches. Who would anyone in their right mind want to go tramping through hellholes like these? One seasoned explorer provides a very simple answer: “It’s fun,” says John Doe Tunneler*. “It’s like jumping the wall in CW; it’s exciting!”

There are a lot of ways to get into the steam tunnels. One website lists more than a dozen, along with several intriguing bits of wall-writing, some of many of the locations on the web’s must-see list are interesting bits of wall-writing, some of which date back half a century.

John Doe Tunneler came across the quiet tradition by chance, when he and his friend stumbled onto one of the several entrances to the underground network his freshman year. Curious, John and his friend did some poking around and came across maps of the tunnels posted online. “It seemed pretty interesting and fun to do. We knew it was against the rules, but whatever,” John’s first accidental brush with tunneling has led to a streamlined routine that the he has gone through several times. “We go down a couple times a year in late August and in fall, just me and a few friends. Usually we go down in groups of 3 or 4, so it’s not so conspicuous.”

William and Mary administration have long been opposed to the practice of tunneling. In the past, they have warned that tunneling students might receive burns from escaping steam. John Doe Tunneler has a quote on administration’s warning: “The administration has a tendency to overblow things about safety. They sort of try to scare people with things that have a really low probability of happening. I know that Facilities Management still goes down there, so by the school’s own logic, if there were really a risk of steam blasts, then they wouldn’t send their own people down there.”

However, John is quick to say that tunnelers should take precautions and be smart. “You never go down alone. If you go down by yourself, you’re really in trouble. If you go around kicking the pipes, you know, you’re stupid. But if you leave the environment alone, just walk around and look at what’s down there, then, no, it’s not that dangerous. If you leave everything alone, you’ll be fine. You should take down a flashlight and a bottle of water,” he says, “If you can’t take heat very well, or you drank a lot the night before and you’re dehydrated, then you couldn’t pass out down there. If you feel faint, you should just get your 4* out. You can’t call for help down there, since cell phones don’t work in the tunnels.”

The question of repercussions for tunneling is one that has now entered the realm of campus legend. The student handbook has only this to say: “For reasons of safety and security, [the] steam tunnels of College buildings are closed to all but authorized employees.” However, some students have reported very serious consequences for getting caught in the underground. “I’ve heard that being down in the tunnels is the only offence that the College can expel you for with no questions,” said one 2006 alumnus. This, however, seems not to be the case. There is only one documented instance of a student being reprimanded for tunneling, and the student received nothing more than an oral reprimand from the Assistant Dean of Students.

Former Head of Campus Security, Harvey Shepherd, Head of Maintenance at the College, was charged with criminal trespass and that the College can expel you for with no questions. He replied. “There are so many sets of stairs and manhole covers you can use. They could make it more difficult to get in, I guess, but they couldn’t stop it.”

The veteran Subterranean Snake echoed John Doe’s assertion two decades earlier: “Are you ever worried that you won’t be able to get in?” he was asked. “There are always ways to get in if you’re dedicated,” the Snake replied.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

Editor’s Note: Entering the College’s steam tunnels is prohibited in the Student Handbook. Neither The Virginia Informer nor this reporter endorses the practice of tunneling.
Dollars & Sense for students
Dropping gas prices give clues on where to invest

Andrew B. Blasi Jr.
Staff Writer

Perhaps the most significant event in the business world over this past year has been the massive drop in gasoline prices that we as consumers are paying at the pump. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), in the state of Virginia the price of a regular gallon of self-service gasoline has fallen 27% over the past year, from an average of $2.94 in October 2005 to an average of $2.14 as of October 1. In addition, according to AAA, prices have fallen nearly 30% in the Newport News-Norfolk-Virginia Beach region over this same time period to an average of $2.08.

It is easy for us as individuals here at the College to understand the benefits of these lower gas prices, but when we look at how these lower prices are changing nationally we may consider the possibility of new and dead investment opportunities. According to AAA, the national price average for a gallon of gasoline has fallen nearly $0.57 over the past year. When we consider the total number of gallons consumed in the United States each year (150-160 billion gallons, according to the US Department of Energy), this drop in price has resulted in the savings of tens of billions of dollars, both for consumers and businesses. Although the stock market has already adjusted for these fuel savings, if the slide in gasoline price continues, there are many companies that may be worth taking a look at as possible investments.

Some of these include retail and consumer manufacturing companies that will see an expansion of sales as a result of greater consumer spending. Perhaps the greatest of these include Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) and Procter & Gamble (NYSE: PG). Wal-Mart is America’s, and the world’s, largest retailer that primarily serves the middle and lower classes. These two economic groups are most affected by the volatility in gas prices, and as gas prices fall, these groups have more money to spend at such places as Wal-Mart. Procter & Gamble is the world’s largest consumer goods company, manufacturing hundreds of famous brands—including Crest, Folgers, Duracell, Gillette, and Pampers—22 of which have sales over a billion dollars per year. Both of these companies have been hindered as a result of the 2005 spike in gas prices, and very well may benefit from increased spending power on the part of consumers.

In addition to companies benefiting from consumer savings, it may also be worthy to look for investment opportunities with firms that are saving a great deal of money as a result of this drop in gasoline prices. Some of these firms include the shipping stocks of FedEx (NYSE: FDX) and United Parcel Service (NYSE: UPS), airlines such as American (NYSE: AMR), Southwest (NYSE: LUV), and US Airways (NYSE: LCC) all of which can continue to charge relatively the same for their services while having to spend less on fuel. (This logic is not to be applied with the railroad and transport services companies, however, as they have been able to defer the higher cost of fuel of the past few years through an increase in customer surcharges.)

It is also important to note how these changes in the price of gasoline are affecting the energy industry as well, because they are not all negative. When we talk of a massive drop in gasoline prices, it is clear that those companies involved in the direct sale of energy to consumers and firms may face difficulties, such as Schlumberger (NYSE: SLB) and Baker Hughes (NYSE: BHI), both of which are addressing the world’s increasing demand for energy through their unique services.

The information contained in the article is for informational purposes only and neither The Virginia Informer nor the author of this article provide certified 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.

Money Saver Tip
The lowest price regular self-service gasoline in Williamsburg as of October 12 can be found at Cigo on 1510 Richmond Road at $1.999 per gallon. Source: Automotive.com

Virginia unleaded average

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Return of the "Serial Stenciler?"
In January 2006, The Virginia Informer, was the first publication to print the story of the "Serial Stenciler," who was vandalizing campus with spray paint designs. Some of the images included the vulgar "Wilton and Mary" as well as a picture of President George W. Bush with the caption, "MURDERER." In the past week, it appears as though the "Serial Stenciler" has returned, or has at least inspired a copycat.

The images pictured here include a stick figure smoking and skipping class, as seen on the King Student Health Center (top) along with an ominous eye of Vice President of Student Affairs as captured on this electrical box behind Washington Hall (bottom). The "DON'T GO TO CLASS" images have been eliminated on all painted surfaces, but the Sadler eye images have gone up more recently.
Do you want mango, grape or sweet melon?

Whatd’ya Know?

The Blue Caterpillar hookah bar provides new, under-21 students an excellent college football player. It was on a run out of the College Delly on Wednesday nights between 2 p.m. and 2 a.m., the Blue Caterpillar offers the 18 to 21 crowd — which encompasses a vast majority of William and Mary students — an alternative legal social outlet.

The hookah bar is run by three William and Mary students, Gregory Cooper (’08), Patrick Perlmutter (’08) and Victor Sulkowski (’07).

Cooper and Sulkowski explained that they wanted to offer William and Mary students who were not 21 years old an opportunity to enjoy themselves in Williamsburg. Last spring, they, along with Perlmutter and the Phi Tau fraternity, wanted to demonstrate to the College administration that there was a real student interest in having a hookah bar on campus, and that it could be successful.

“Phi Tau purchased supplies and equipment for a hookah night,” Sulkowski said, “and all the proceeds went to charity. Despite the success of the Phi Tau hookah night, the administration still did not allow space on campus for a weekly event of this type. ‘We thought we had a viable business model,’ said Sulkowski, ‘but we needed the space. So we thought to ourselves, what’s a close space near campus?’

And that is when the College Delly was approached about allowing a once-a-week, student-run hookah night on its property. Cooper, Perlmutter and Sulkowski have purchased the hookahs and continue to purchase the shisha themselves, out-of-pocket. Darlene Gilland, the College Delly’s manager, was very enthusiastic about the idea, according to Cooper and Sulkowski. She agreed to let the Blue Caterpillar be run out of the Delly’s adjacent patio on Wednesday nights. “Essentially, the Delly allows us to operate for free. For them, it’s a draw in. People come in the door, they see what’s going on, we suggest that they get food, etc.”

The Blue Caterpillar, whose name refers to Alice in Wonderland where a blue caterpillar smokes a hookah, has now had several increasingly successful nights since the start of the fall semester and is continuing to grow. “Business has been steadily expanding, so much so we might actually see a profit! It’s a constant process of reinvestment, and we’re getting to the point where we can reinvest and expand and purchase better equipment and improve our presentation. There is a Facebook group entitled “Blue Caterpillar @ College Delly,” which contains information regarding hookah sizes and number of desired hoses (with corresponding prices), as well as a bevy of different available flavors.

O’Connor William and I

Taking advantage of Chancellor Sandra Day O’Connor’s visit to campus this past week, students took the opportunity to voice their opinions about the campus’s feeling of reinvestment, and we’re getting to the point where we can reinvest and expand and purchase better equipment and improve our presentation.”

The Blue Caterpillar was a character from Alice in Wonderland. The new hookah bar at the College Delly provides an alternative nightlife scene for students under and over 21 alike.

Whatd’ya Know? Did Gene Nichol really play football in college?

It’s a statement often quoted but rarely elaborated upon that President Nichol played varsity football while attending Oklahoma State University as an undergraduate. This fact was especially touted last year, when the new president had to be introduced by a lengthy list of accomplishments at every school function, pep rally or bake sale. It seems as though the college administration felt compelled at each event to explain why they had selected such an intimidating giant to lead the second oldest liberal arts college in the nation.

With the more recent solidification of his image as an intelligent, yet cuddly, teddy bear, it has become less apparent that Nichol’s size and powerful gait would make him an excellent college football player. It was on a football scholarship, however, that the future William and Mary president first attended college at the University of Florida. Nichol’s impressive high school career netted him a quarterback position on the varsity squad, but his “slow, lumbering, drop back” style of play didn’t mesh with the Gators’ offensive playbook, according to Nichol.

After transferring to Oklahoma State, a school closer to his home state of Texas, Nichol saw more play time as the second-string quarterback. “I would typically play if we got behind and we were trying to throw the ball,” he said, “but I was nothing to write home about.” After having three knee surgeries, and faced with the prospect of a metal replacement if he injured his leg again, Nichol dropped out of the football team to pursue his degree in philosophy and, eventually, law.

Although he says that he didn’t amount to much in football, President Nichol did say he thinks that these experiences taught him the courage and ability to think quickly, and helped him succeed in law school and later life.

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All the news that’s fit to go online.
successful night's they've had in a while—because of the Blue Caterpillar."

Cooper continued, explaining that "the Delly has never done anything like this before, they didn't know how to take advantage of it. Now, they've posted menu changes—$1 pizza slices, for example—and offer different types of non-alcoholic drinks. They're looking to expand and we're trying to get them to understand by targeting not only the 21-pluse market. They can try to reinvent themselves, but right now they need the inspiration, and they need to know about what students want. One of the most impressive things about the Delly is that they are really, honestly committed to students... and a Starbucks doesn't seem, to me, to be an optimal use of limited space. The Blue Caterpillar is not necessarily what the Delly is going to become, but it is definitively one way to expand their success."

"It's great," Sulkowski said. "Managers of Paul's [Delly] and the Green Leaf come over and are amazed at the amount of people who are at the Delly on Wednesday night. The Leaf has mug night, the Green Leaf has Corona night, and now the Delly has hookah night."

When asked what would happen to the Blue Caterpillar if the Delly eventually does get sold out to another business, Sulkowski said that "the Blue Caterpillar will stay no matter [what happens to the Delly]." The further we go the more possibilities we have. The Delly has been extremely supportive and we love it, but we won't let it be the end of our operation. It's totally student driven, we really have to thank the students for their support. We don't like to think of it as a "business"—it's an atmosphere. I'm surprised by the gratitude of students and we really have to thank you."
Brooklyn based R&B duo Deep offers smooth harmonies, provocative lyrics

Alex Mayer
Staff Writer

Looking for something fresh and new on the urban music scene? Perhaps you should give a listen to Deep, an R&B duo hailing from New York and gaining popularity across the U.S. and overseas.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Deep is by no means a newcomer on the music scene – they began their career at age ten, deciding to “dedicate their lives to music” after winning a local talent show. The group, comprised of ministers ShmOld Time and Elijah, told The Informer that they were “exposed to all walks of life.” Their personal stories, looking out my window I can think of a million stories I could write about. One for every person who walks In my window...the banker and the pusher could be “Hand in the Sky,” “Feel It In The Air,” and “Dear Mama.” Others are more upbeat and club-friendly, such as the fast-tempo “Ballin’” or the driving anthem “1 Hand in the Sky.”

Their new album pushed Deep into new territory musically and lyrically, according to the duo. The “more personal” nature of Reality means that the group has “learned to see our flaws and not to be scared to speak about them.” They have also learned how to vocally take ourselves to the most vulnerable state to capture a moment in a song.

The story behind Deep’s album stems from their new home in Brooklyn. Deep captures the helplessness felt by many trapped in that situation with lyrics like: Sometimes I feel like I’m standing on the edge, holding out my hand / No one even knows I’m alive / I’m just a shadow in the streetlight. The song also calls the rest of society to address this problem, for in Deep’s opinion too many people are willing to ignore the plight of those less fortunate: When the smoke clears / where will we go from there? / Will you turn your back / or begin to care?

It can certainly be said Deep’s new album breaks fresh ground and gives listeners a chance to hear a more raw and personal side of the R&B duo.

Renowned Vienna Boys Choir comes to Williamsburg

Historic group spans seven centuries

Pablo Fierro
Staff Writer

Internationally renowned choral music comes to Williamsburg on October 24, courtesy of the Vienna Boys Choir and the College of William and Mary’s Lively Arts Series. The world famous choral ensemble features an impressive array of performers ranging from ages ten to fourteen, who range from soprano to alto. It is recognized as one of the oldest existing and most prestigious boys’ choirs in the world. The choir has performed for presidents, prime ministers and religious leaders.

The Vienna Boys Choir has existed since 1498 when Emperor Maximilian I commissioned a group of 12 for performing masses and church services. Because of their ties to the throne, they received top-class instruction under many well-known composers and conductors. These include some of the classical music greats such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Leonard Bernstein.

The choir has produced many musicians and vocalists who went on to have incredible careers after performing with the group and helped to shape the Austrian musical scene of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Vienna Boys Choir was officially established in its current form in Austria in 1924 under Rector Josef Schmitz with the death of the monarchy. It is a non-profit, private organization, with a mission to “create an atmosphere in which children can pursue their love of music and develop their musical potential.” They work to improve themselves while learning to contribute and speak about their art.

The Vienna Boys Choir currently resides in the Augarten Palace, and consists of about 100 members divided into four groups. Gerald Wirth has been the Artistic Director of the chorus since 2001, and Dr. Eugen Jesser is the President of the organization. They continue to perform every weekend, leaving at least one group in Austria to sing Sunday mass in the Imperial Chapel of Vienna.

The Vienna Boys Choir will perform at Phi Beta Kappa Hall on October 24. The experience will definitely be worth the $25 price of admission. Tickets are available either in the Campus Center at the Office of Student Activities or on the day of the show at Phi Beta Kappa Hall.

Deep roots: Born and raised in Brooklyn, Deep draws inspiration from the likes of Michael Jackson and the Notorius B.I.G.

William & Mary Theatre presents
Gypsy
October 19-22
Read the review online
VAInformer.com

“Everything is coming up roses”
Professor Griffioen offers class to Christopher 
Wren Association members on Bach Cantatas 
Bach Cantata Series ongoing in Wren Chapel 

Gustavo Elias 
Staff Writer 

The Bach Cantata Series, a lecture and performance series on Johann Sebastian Bach's sacred cantatas is held weekly in the Wren Chapel on Thursday mornings. This weekly lecture series is taught by the College’s adjunct associate professor of music, Ruth van Baak Griffioen. Now in its fourth season, this continuing multi-year series has its sights set on surveying all 200 of Bach’s sacred cantatas. For six consecutive weeks in a recording of the cantatas, Professor van Baak Griffioen explores two cantatas per class. At the midpoint of the lecture, a combination of local professionals and Mary students perform one of Bach’s arias. The performance maintains Baroque authenticity by playing at proper Baroque pitch (A=415Hz, instead of the modern A=440 Hz) on old instruments. Several informational packets are available for class, including a glossary of musical terms, musical scores for the pieces sung in class, and the words to Bach’s sacred cantatas in both German and English. The class begins with everyone singing the opening chorus to one of these cantatas. Professor Griffioen then provides the class with a detailed analysis of the entire cantata. She plays a recording of the cantata and discusses each individual movement, its compositional technique and style and its Christian lyrics. The lecture also features a live performance of a Bach aria, which provides a pleasant break from the program’s analysis. All throughout the two hours, Professor Griffioen’s energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of the materials keep the class wanting more. After class, Professor Griffioen enlightened participants with the fact that the organ inside the Wren Chapel is an original 18th-century organ in Baroque pitch.

The September 28 lecture featured Cantatas 42 and 44. Almost all of the people in attendance in the Wren Chapel were members of the Christopher Wren Association (CWA), a group of more than 1,400 members who attend educational programs and lectures after retirement. There is a variety of classes members can choose from, which range from classical music to computer skills. There are no tests or quizzes involved, just a love and pride for the love of learning. This lecture series in particular is meant for both CWA members and the public.

The Bach Cantata Series runs on Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Wren Chapel. The series concludes on October 19.

Put down Hamlet: 
UCAB headlines with slam poet performance 
at Lodge 1 

Stephen Dause 
Staff Writer 

Step aside, Shakespeare. Make room for Joaquin Zihuatajeno, a man with some universally applicable rhymes of his own. He’s not down with the lambs, and form poetry isn’t his style, but this slam poet definitely has what it takes to deliver a powerful, in-your-face message while dazzling his audience with down-to-earth imagery and blunt statements about ethnic identity. Thanks to the University Center Activities Board (UCAB), Zihuatanejo will be featured in “Slam Poet” in Lodge 1 on Friday, October 20. He will be reading poems in a way that will be familiar to some and totally new to others.

Slam poetry is essentially a combination of rap and conventional poetry. It involves an emphasis not necessarily on the words being read so much as how they are read. Audience members can expect dramatic pauses, rapidly gesturalized phrases, and a hefty amount of gusto. Hearing slam poetry performed can be intense, considering that all it really boils down to is simple poetry reading.

His profile on louderARTS.com is unique. Zihuatajeno has received recognition for both his work as a teacher and his poetry. He is a proud father and husband. His family life growing up was indeed difficult. The barrio of East Dallas was his home, and his life was “plagued by gang violence, a heritage steeped in sacrifice, and borders.” What’s special about Zihuatajeno’s style is that he made something heartening out of something troublesome. He isn’t trying to appear victimized or accusty – just realistic.

So on Oct. 20, if you’d like to hear some modern poetry with a distinct, very real ethnic vibe, put down Hamlet and head over to Lodge 1 at 9 p.m.
Thomas Friedman shows his excellence as a journalist and his failure as an economist. Early on, he recalls the Law of Association, sometimes referred to as Ricardo’s Law of Comparative Advantage. This basic law states that two or more actors may maximize production and utility if they engage in the production of the good in which they have comparative advantage (lowest opportunity cost). The Law of Association has a formal deductive proof, much like that of any theorem of mathematics. However, Friedman seeks to test if this law “remains” valid.

In his quest to show that one and one continue to be two, Friedman, while casting himself as an international modern man, falls back upon statist and nativist leanings. He believes that Ricardo’s law is still valid, but only if America expands government regulation over its economy, kind of like the successful economies on the other end of the Berlin Wall, and forces its people to educate themselves in the natural sciences and mathematics.

Overall, *The World is Flat* is a worthwhile read, but do not expect to be stunned or awakened by any deep revelation of new world order. Thomas Friedman is first and foremost a modern journalist; he is able to focus upon the emotional and surprising, but is not well acquainted with the technical.

Friedman then identifies 10 major factors contributing to the flattening of the world. These range from the fall of the Berlin Wall, to innovative supply-chains, to offshoring. Journalistically and even historically, he notes the close correlation of these events to each other and recent history.

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24-Hour Play Festival a dramatic success
One night, six plays and endless creativity

Megan Locke
Staff Writer

P utting on a play involves many steps: writing the play, casting it, rehearsing with the director, and finally presenting it before an audience. The students who participated in William and Mary’s 24-Hour Play Festival from September 8 to 9 amazingly did all of the above in less than one day.

Producer Kerry Stinson ('08) conceived the idea for William and Mary’s event after she attended a similar one act festival at the University of Mary Washington. She set her plans in motion after she received sponsorship for the festival and recruited six interested student directors and six student playwrights.

The clock started ticking at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 8 when the cast members auditioned. After the directors had chosen their casts, it was the playwrights’ job to write an approximately 10-minute play before 8 a.m. that Saturday morning. The production staff gave the playwrights their first and last lines as a starting point, with the last line of one play as the first line of the play following it. This connection running through all of the plays was “something extra for the audience,” explains Stinson.

Six plays were showcased at the festival, Snakes on a Plane: A Musical (written by junior Peter Hess) depicted the struggle for survival among the various foods in a refrigerator. Fizz and Starts (written by junior Andy Hill and directed by senior Peter Nye) dealt with existential themes. The Late Bloomer (written by junior Dan Piepenbrink and directed by junior Mike Mott) chronicled the developmental woes of a college junior. The Next Step Forward (written by junior David Techman and directed by freshman Ashley Bush) contrasted the melodrama of a college student with the toilet-training experience of her younger brother. Lastly, Philanthropy (written by senior Mary Davenport and directed by sophomore Kate Brunick) explored the relationship between two friends.

After rehearsals all day Saturday, the six plays were performed in the Theatre Lab in Phi Beta Kappa Hall at 8 p.m. that night. “The space lends itself to a lot of different styles,” explains Stinson, who likes the small, intimate setting. However, the festival was so popular that two performances had to be held to accommodate all of those who wanted to view the finished products.

Stinson is quite pleased with the success of the 24-Hour Play Festival. “We wanted to bring in new people or people who don’t usually do theater,” she said. The festival accomplished just that. Half the cast members were freshmen or sophomores, and several of the students involved belonged to clubs that prevent them from participating in other theater activities.

Stinson assures that there is interest in doing the festival again next year. According to playwright Piepenbrink, “It’s a great way for everyone - writers, actors, directors, techies - to hone their skills.” After the tremendous success of the 24-Hour Play Festival this year, it is impossible not to anticipate even greater things for next year.

Eat, drink, and think at Food for Thought

Shelbi Wilson
Food Critic

Towards the end of last semester, I noticed that a new restaurant had filled an empty space on Richmond Road. Its sign caught my eye – “Food For Thought, Eat·Drink·Think.” I immediately went to check it out. The restaurant offers diners both a place to eat and a variety of thought-provoking ideas.

Food For Thought is located at 1647 Richmond Road. It is open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Sunday; and 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday (featuring live music).

The restaurant is designed with an eye towards providing a comfortable and engaging atmosphere. A variety of seating options, including booths and tables, are available. The decor includes interesting artwork and thought-provoking quotes on the walls. The restaurant is also pet-friendly, allowing patrons to bring their furry friends.

The menu at Food For Thought is well-balanced and offers something for everyone. The restaurant offers a wide selection of appetizers, entrées, and desserts. Appetizers include options such as Pad Thai and Jamaican jerk chicken. Entrées range from classic American favorites like meatloaf and steak, to more unique offerings such as mushroom pasta and Asian-inspired dishes.

There are a number of appetizers including fresh raw vegetables, stuffed mushrooms, fried ravioli and barbeque ribs. They also have several desserts, of which their bread pudding comes highly recommended. These items range from four to nine dollars. Additionally, they offer several daily entrée and cocktail specials at varying prices.

One of my favorite things about Food For Thought was its selection of on-tap beers. There are several to choose from, but they are not your everyday brands. Instead, Food For Thought offers tap selections from microbreweries. It was great to try something different for once. The restaurant also offers bottled beers, wines, and cocktails.

The service was very quick, and the staff was attentive and friendly. The only downside is that the restaurant is relatively expensive for the typical student. It is definitely an option for a nice outing, but probably not an everyday location for most.

Food For Thought is located at 1647 Richmond Road near Chanello’s Pizza. Please visit their website, http://www.foodforthoughtrestaurant.com or call (757) 645-4665 for more information.

Food For Thought Hours

Monday through Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday and Sunday: 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.

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Staff Writer

Food Critic

The new restaurant on Richmond Road offers diners both a variety of food and a variety of things to ponder.
A new revolutionary front has emerged in the city of colonial revolution, and it is with the students of this college as we speak. Student housing policies and gown relocations have gone from bad to horrendous. What began as a few minor problems has escalated into the threat of right of entry to students who are no less than a slap in the face.

The students of William and Mary need to wake up to the fact that they are getting a raw deal. The issue of voting has been a concern for students for some time and nothing has been done to alleviate it. The latest effort began in 2004 when three students attempted to register to vote and to run for City Council. This past year, junior David Severs was unsuccessful in his bid to claim a seat. Rulings by the local courts have targeted students, questioning their purposes in wanting to vote in the Williamsburg jurisdiction. One point, the debate was reduced to such a low level that a student was questioned, before a judge, as to her knowledge about government, including the names of council members.

President Gene Nichol has come out in favor of students’ right to vote recently, echoing his comments from last semester. He has vocally claimed that the inconsistencies in voter registration for college students are unconstitutional and a deprivation of basic rights, and he is right. In the infamous case of The College Delly and Starbucks, the city has done nothing to change, there needs to be another form of indifference displayed by the city government. It is a peculiar situation for number one, as they say; yourself, along with your classmates. Just because you do not want to register to vote in Williamsburg does not mean that you should not help students do so. You may disagree with your Ludwell quad apartment, but that is no excuse for not supporting the defeat of the three persons to a house rule.

Economic data from last year shows that the students of the College contribute over $11 million annually to the local economy. That is no small amount. There is strength in this number, as well as in the number of students who support the College student body encompasses half of Williamsburg’s population. It is time for students to stand up against the city with our wallets and our feet. What could the city do if students began to peacefully demonstrate? It is a point raised by the registrar Diana Andrews’ home each morning? What would happen if students held their money back from local businesses that did not help in our cause? The students of William and Mary need to wake up to the fact that they are getting a raw deal. There is no excuse, or, for that matter, no midterm that should stop you from taking a stand. The lead for this comes, partially, from the Student Assembly. However, even within that body, there are factions. This is a fact about dealing with Williamsburg.

After years of nitpicking and making piecemeal offerings in the hopes to convince city officials of change, there needs to be another form of action. And real ACTION, not just another conversation every few weeks.

I will take some form of large, public protest of the city and campus, to show them as owner-occupied houses is with the students of this college, which is why the College Merchant’s Square, but Talbot’s and Delly is such valuable property. "The lead for this comes, partially, from the Student Assembly. However, even within that body, there are factions. This is a fact about dealing with Williamsburg. After years of nitpicking and making piecemeal offerings in the hopes to convince city officials of change, there needs to be another form of action. And real ACTION, not just another conversation every few weeks."

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The students of William and Mary have taken on a new level of absurdity in recent weeks. The SAE alumni house case, in which five students asked to be permitted to reside in a six bedroom home that is being rejected by the city’s Zoning Appeals Board. Meanwhile, the Planning Board, Mayor and City Council all have been overflowed on the use of EconoLodge hotel rooms to be leased by Water Country USA to house Russian student employees. The request was to have 90 students in 20 rooms, meaning that there would be four people in a room. The city’s thirdly voted against any discussion of students renting, or, in the case of the SAE house, even purchasing homes off campus are egregious and despicable.

Even with all of these wrongs being perpetrated against the study body, discrimination seems to be the order of the day for most Williams and Marys. It is a peculiar form of indifference displayed by students who are, on the whole, such overachievers. It is time to look out for number one, as they say; yourself, along with your classmates. Just because you do not want to register to vote in Williamsburg does not mean that you should not help students do so. You may disagree with your Ludwell quad apartment, but that is no excuse for not supporting the defeat of the three persons to a house rule.

Gay marriage debate over lunch is unwise

If you would like to support The Virginia Informer, please contact us at VANInfo@vmu.edu.
In praise of Pickering

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

Here is an all too familiar story: a libertarian or conservative student entering their first year of college goes to class with the intent of receiving a higher education, only to be left due to a tirade of the evils of capitalism and the education system of the West. Investigative journalism has cropped up from time to time to report on liberal professors who directly or indirectly seek to harass conservative and libertarian students, sometimes with the added bonus of a failing grade if said student attempts to defend their ideas. Here is an impressive exception to that story: Professor Paula M. Pickering.

I had the fortune to take Professor Pickering's freshmen seminar: Government 150W Nationalism in the Balkans. The class focused on the historical and modern conditions in the Balkans currently contributing to regional ethnic tension and nationalism. The wide range of topics included the introduction of Christianity to the region, to Islamic invasions, communist government of Ceausescu, and the modern conflicts in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In other words, the course covered enough topics in enough areas to bring up more than a fair share of opportunities for Professor Pickering to indoctrinate.

However, Professor Pickering never once took advantage of her captive audience. In fact, Professor Pickering never brought up her personal politics. She had personal experience in the Balkans, setting up an embassy under the Clinton Administration, working with non-governmental organizations and researching into the modern political movements in the Balkans. If one had to guess at her politics, American liberal would probably not be far off the mark.

Throughout the entire semester, from the readings I had to the papers I wrote, I advanced my own thoughts and ideas as far as we were asked, which would probably be described as anarcho-capitalist, about as far from American liberal as possible. When a discussion concerning the Kosovo Conflict was held in class, I even advanced a position that the United States had no vested interest in engaging in the conflict. This is not to say the Professor Pickering merely allowed me to make unsupported statements, but never did I see a dismissive attitude or did my grade suffer because of difference with the professor.

While problems with professors and conservative students are well known and even reported from time to time, Professor Paula M. Pickering shows the hopeful ideal of treating student-professor relations. Though I have had only one semester to judge her character, I would encourage anyone to try for themselves. Furthermore, it may not be a bad idea for professors in positions dealing with delicate topics to take a page out of her book.

Political correctness: What’s in a name?

Michael Coticchio
Staff Writer

When I came to the south and crossed the Mason-Dixon, right into the heart of our country’s birth, I thought I would re-discover an America long forgotten in the north. I despised to find that it was more of the same.

This first became apparent to me during Orientation, when President Nichol, waxing triumphal, declared that we are proud to announce that the College welcomes 20% AHANA (African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) students to the class of 2010. Now tell me something, if we are to have a society where every man, woman and child is equal under the law, why continually segregate segments of the population along racial distinctions? The only form of self-identification I want to see on a college application is a social security number, not a little box to check in if you’re a Pacific Islander, African-American, Asian or Native American. It really doesn’t matter, and lets just call the box what it is, an unequivocal veg in the application process.

I do not and never will, see the need for these classifications among races. Dr. King preached equality, and brotherhood amongst all of mankind. But instead of granting equality, we’ve overcompensated in what I suppose is self-guilt driven atonement, and continue the separation by creating superiority. Why the need to classify and group minorities as AHANAS, why not just welcome all as new members of the TRIBE. But, these Days in America, that’s the way it is, so I guess we can give the administration a break for just tooting the party line.

Then came the brainwashing sessions of Orientation’s diversity day, a highly mandatory meeting. My heart fell to the floor, “What’s happening to this country?” I found that this too was just another opportunity to again create division among people. We learned how to be sensitive, how to alter our choice of words, and our everyday dialect. By God, WAKE UP you losers! If you don’t see what’s happening, you’re being censored into a world where you can’t even describe people by what they look like or what they do. Words which you speak and mean no harm in, are suddenly offensive. You my friend, are being politically corrected.

Now I side with the school regarding its resistance to the recent PC driven NCAA crusade on all “offensive” team mascots and names. But in the same sense, is not the school being hypocritical yet again with this argument? If they would content that describing an action as retarded, gay, or girly is offensive, then I would conclude that calling our team the Tribe (with two feathers) is likely offensive as well.

I mean when people describe something as “hey that’s retarded,” or “man, that was so gay,” the words haved morphed in such social contexts and conversational parameters to be taken as something that it didn’t originally define, and now it has multiple meanings. So, administration, if you stress that we say the word retard to describe an individual who is sick in the head, then why not call the Tribe, the “so-called mighty united group,” or better yet the Pack – no wait, forget about that name, one day may outfend wolves.

At William and Mary, we’ve adapted the traditional Tribe (and two feathers), to mean unity, a certain togetherness. Well then what’s wrong with me taking liberty in using the word retarded, to refer to a stupid statement? Don’t I have freedom of interpretation too? It appears to me that everyone aggressively promotes political correctness except except when political correctness hits home. Then we become these rebels, these lone wolves that shun the system. In reality, we’re really just pawns of the system, pawns that have finally realized what all our empty suit appeasements have brought us. We realize this only now, when the double edged sword of Marxist policy is turned on Williamsburg, on the beloved Ole William and Mary.

This is my main point and what the William and Mary administration misses: “Nothing ever did so much harm as good intentions.” Yes, there are terms that are so vilely offensive that in fact should be censored for the good of public standards. But when we take these good intentions too far, they become perverted. Basic descriptions such as a person’s color, tongue or look become offensive. From there, even terms associated with people, terms which are ingrained in our culture, such as Tribe, become insensitive.

S o if William and Mary has a problem with the NCAA’s bearing down on its team mascot, as it should, I stand with them, but to the administration I counsel with a quote from the Bible, “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, ‘Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?’ Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” Matthew 7:3-5.

With that, lighten up, after all, what’s in a name?
Before we were the Tribe.
Part one in a series about the College’s team names and logos

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Editor in Chief

This past year is not the first time the College has struggled with its logo. In fact, the current logo with the two feathers was only officially adopted in 1978, following decades of unofficial Indian logos and nearly a century of a several different team names.

The first documented evidence of school spirit at the College dates back to 1898, when the school colors were orange and white. Orange was presumably chosen in honor of William III, also known as William of Orange. From 1911 to 1923, the College changed its colors from orange and white to orange and black. In 1923, the College finally embraced green and gold, as well as silver, although it is unclear how consistently these colors were used in the first half of the twentieth century.

Whenever an athletic team was mentioned by name before 1916 it was referred to as the William and Marys or the Orange and Black.

In 1916, the Colonial Echo referred to the athletic teams as the Indians and, the name stuck, for the most part. In 1923, the team was called the Warriors, in 1924 the team was referred to as both the Braves and the Tribe, and in 1925 it was known as the Fighting Virginians.

Soon after, the Indians reappeared and the name was used for the next several decades.

A variety of Indian symbols and caricatures were used throughout the 20th century as logos and mascots. It was common for students to dress up as Indians for sporting events. A 1959 Colonial Echo includes a photo of three women dressed as Indians, official members of that year’s cheerleading squad.

HONOR COUNCIL: Meetings lack transparency; may be violation continued from page one

assign one member of the Honor Council to serve as the accused student’s procedural advisor who along with Wolf, meet with the student to explain to them information about the team’s name. Afterwards, Wolf appoints two three-person committees made up of Honor Council members, one Investigating Committee to gather all the information they can about the case, and a Sufficient Evidence Panel to determine if that information is sufficient enough to warrant a hearing or if the case is dismissed.

If the Sufficient Evidence Panel determines there is enough information for a trial, the accused student is given the Investigating Committee’s findings and a hearing date is set. The next step is the hearing phase, where a student receives two hearings on the trial night, a Guilt Hearing, and if the student is found guilty, they are then given a Sanctions Hearing. At the Sanctions Hearing, the Honor Council has the power to give a student an oral or written warning, timed probation, probation until graduation, suspension or contingent dismissal. According to Wolf, the regularity of the sanctions tends to resemble a bell curve, with warnings and contingent dismissal being very rare. If a student is found guilty, they may go to the Dean of Students office and listen to their hearings and view the transcripts of the hearing, but not the internal deliberations. Students are not allowed to leave the room with their transcript. The next step is five business days to appeal the verdict.

All of the “trial” proceedings are legal and are reviewed by federal statute. However, there needs to be more transparency in the other workings of the Honor Council to meet state regulations of a public body. This self-investigation and review can also be offensive for students, the accused student’s rights. The Honor Council is in motion a series of challenges if the school’s legal counsel decides against the recommendation of the FOIA attorney.

DINING SERVICES UNION: First meeting has small turnout continued from page one

not well attended, she hopes to see more workers out at the next meeting. No date has been set, but she said it will be later in the evening to better accommodate the schedule of workers.

“There is some interest,” she said. “The only way to find out for sure is to make sure all the workers know what we are doing, and see if they come out. If there really, truly is a true interest, that’s great, if there is not a true interest, we will drop it.”

Einth said she hopes to accomplish two goals - making sure the workers receive a living wage and that their employers have respect for them.

“I believe in fair treatment in the work place,” Heard said. “If you work hard, you should be given a living wage.”

Heard said that a living wage would be $10.75/hr, while starting Aramark dining services employees currently make $9.25/hr. Supervisors earn more.

“They are making a lot of people supervisors now,” she said. “It’s hard to tell what most people are making.”

Director of Dining Services Philip Difonzo referred all questions to the corporate Aramark office.

Aramark Director of Communications Karen Cutler said that it is company policy not to discuss specific union activity, but instead issued a statement.

“To ensure our success, we maintain open communication with our employees, our most valuable asset, and work hard to address their concerns on any issue,” she wrote. “We prefer that our employees work directly with us on issues that concern them rather than through third-party union representation.”