Despite rumors (and wishes) run very unlikely

Joe Lappino-Esposito
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It has been ten years since Gene Nichol first ran for a statewide office, and those days appear to be long behind him.

Despite some rumors among students and other amateur pundits, it is unlikely that his career in politics will start up again anytime soon.

“He landed a pretty sweet gig at the College,” said Luther Lowe, senior and Virginia chair of College Democrats. “A lot of former senators and congressmen would love to be president of a university, so I don’t see why he would want to leave William and Mary.”

Yet even so, since the president’s installation over the summer, whispers began as the Democratic Party in Virginia, looked to be on it's heels, having come off another “red” showing in the 2004 election and their gubernatorial candidate Tim Kaine trailing in the polls. The problem became apparent; in 2006, Senator George Allen would be up for re-election, and there was no leading Virginia Democrat to take down the presidential hopeful. Governor Mark Warner was looking to a presidential bid himself, and Tim Kaine, had he lost, could not have run again.

Nichol’s name then entered the fray, as history appeared to be repeating itself. Nichol was the University of Colorado Law School Dean before he ran for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in Colorado in 1996. Once again, Nichol found himself in a high academic position, quickly gaining respect and becoming increasingly recognizable.

“It’s possible he could get re-fired up again because of the Jack Abramoff scandal,” said JWC Postal, the political field director for Nichol’s Senate campaign in 1996. “I think it’s the classic civil rights, human rights and environmental issues that drive him. There’s government reform and corruption scandals in Washington. That angers him, the lobbyist issues.”

Yet even Postal said that a run, now, is just about out of the question. “I can’t imagine it, but he

RUNNING MAN
continued on page five

Rivalry brewing between SA and UCAB says SA officer

Stephanie Long
Layout Editor

One you have been on the William and Mary campus for more than a semester, you quickly learn that the University Center Activities Board (UCAB) is a major part of campus life. One leading Student Assembly (SA) member says that is because there is a rivalry between the SA and UCAB, one that UCAB is winning because of an unfair advantage.

Bryan Jones, current Vice President of Student Affairs for the class of 2008 and former member of UCAB’s music committee feels strongly regarding the competition between the two groups. Yet all the while, leaders from both groups contend that any such competition exists.

“UCAB was birthed out of SA,” explained Jones. Since the SA plays such a seemingly minor role in organizing student activities, few students realize the

THE SA/UCAB RIVALRY?
continued on page five
Sex Signals discusses stereotypes, miscommunication

Chase Coleman

Staff Writer

As part of the College’s plan for sexual assault awareness and prevention, Amber Kelly and William and Mary graduate John Mallory came to perform a program called “a great start” for sexual assault awareness and prevention, according to the survey, William and Mary students are overwhelmingly heterosexual, with 94.4% of students considering themselves as heterosexual, 1.6% as gay/lesbian, 2.1% as bisexual, and 1.8% as unsure. The majority of students on campus are single (62.1%) and 36.4% are engaged or are in a committed relationship. Students who were married, separated, divorced and widowed all represented less than 2% of the respondents. Within the last year, over 41% of respondents had zero sexual partners. Less than 27% had only one sexual partner. The average number of partners among students reporting at least one partner was 2.8. The College has a slightly lower frequency of marijuana use (12% using one or more days in a month compared to a nationwide average of 17%). William and Mary students are less sexually active compared to the national average: 35% of William and Mary students versus 46% of students nationwide have one sexual partner within the last year.

Cleveland says that Health Services will be "using [the survey] data to guide educational efforts by pinpointing problem areas that we want to work on. Students would like to know what's happening on their campus. Also, it's a great opportunity to dispel thoughts about substance abuse and sexual activity that could influence their own choices."

Health Survey reveals dangerous perceptions

Ashford Duffy

Staff Writer

In Spring 2005 Student Health Services conducted a survey regarding student habits relating to alcohol, tobacco, drug use, sex and general physical and mental health. A questionnaire created by the American College Health Association was sent to 3,500 randomly selected undergraduate students with 1,246 responding, garnering an impressive 36% response rate.

Alcohol: According to the survey, during the 30-day period in which they were surveyed, 56.9% of the questionnaire, 56.9% of the student respondents never consumed alcohol. Of those who did drink, more than 70% had five or fewer drinks the last time they had consumed alcohol. Then there were the issues of how students actually consumed alcohol.

Participants were asked to list negative consequences they experienced as a result of consuming alcohol over the last 30 days. A total of 245 respondents drove after one drink—33 drove after having consumed five or more drinks. Sandi Cleveland, Substance Abuse Health Educator at the Health Center, commented that “64% of students report being able to make decisions while drinking. It’s important for students to create a community where ‘drinking and driving’ is not acceptable. It would be great if students would support alternate modes of transportation by supporting ‘Steer Clear.’ Also, designing a driver [helps].”

Frequency of drinking was compared between first year, sophomore year and Greek students. Members of a fraternity or sorority had the highest percentage of alcohol use, with 89.8% of students having consumed alcohol in the last 30 days. 48% of students had consumed alcohol in the last year. 38% of students had never having consumed alcohol. 86.4% of fourth year students reported drinking alcohol in the last 30 days while only 59.2% of first year students reported drinking.

Drugs: Alcohol use was then followed by the quantity used. Of the total number of students who used alcohol in the last 30 days, 4.8% of students had used marijuana one or more times in the last 30 days.

Most students on campus are single (62.1%) and 36.4% are engaged or are in a committed relationship. According to the survey, William and Mary students are overwhelmingly heterosexual, with 94.4% of students considering themselves as heterosexual, 1.6% as gay/lesbian, 2.1% as bisexual, and 1.8% as unsure. The majority of students on campus are single (62.1%) and 36.4% are engaged or are in a committed relationship. Students who were married, separated, divorced and widowed all represented less than 2% of the respondents. Within the last year, over 41% of respondents had zero sexual partners. Less than 27% had only one sexual partner. The average number of partners among students reporting at least one partner was 2.8. The College has a slightly lower frequency of marijuana use (12% using one or more days in a month compared to a nationwide average of 17%). William and Mary students are less sexually active compared to the national average: 35% of William and Mary students versus 46% of students nationwide have one sexual partner within the last year.

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“...
Student Assembly ends busy month of February, moves closer to elections
Executive discusses sexual assault, mascot; controversial budget item also in the mix

SB 313-031 The MBAA Leeds Net Impact Case Competition Funding Act - Funding for business school group to attend competition; included travel expenses
Senate attempt to override veto failed, 11-4

SB 313-035 Elections Reform Act of 2006
Reasons for veto not specified publicly
Senate attempt to override veto failed when quorum was lost at the last meeting

May Day assembly ends busy month of February, moves closer to elections
Executive discusses sexual assault, mascot; controversial budget item also in the mix

Matthew Sutton
Staff Writer

Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield ('07) and Vice President Amanda Norris ('07) concluded a busy first half of second semester during which they introduced a budget to fund a new mascot for the College and addressed the growing sexual assault problem on campus. Vice President Sam Sadler's emotional email to the student body about sexual assault inspired the theme from The Remnant, who drew the attention of President Scofield. He cautioned both Sadler and The Remnant saying, "Email was an ineffective way to discuss this very serious subject. Face to face meetings are the best way to conduct this dialogue." Scofield went on to offer his thoughts on the growing student led demand for reforming the College's judicial process. "It is never bad to criticize the judicial system. I think more of campus needs to know the specifics of it but questioning it is good." He also promised that a representative of the Executive would attend the forum on sexual assault organized by The Informer scheduled for March 16 at 800pm.

In other business, the retirement of previous unofficial mascot "Colonel Ebirt" by the school has left the College currently without a mascot. President Scofield and Vice President Norris are working on developing a replacement. Ebirt the large green gelatinous blob inspired both confusion and affection from the student body during his tenure as the mascot. His forced retirement by the College led Owen Gentry ('07), one student who portrayed Ebirt, to approach Scofield and lobby him for a new mascot. Scofield, who played the mascot for his high school, agreed to start the new mascot search and is considering sending an email soliciting ideas from the student body. Vice President Amanda Norris agreed to work with Scofield to support a new mascot saying, "it would rally up lots of spirit at sporting events." Some of the ideas under consideration are King William, Queen Mary or a generic muscled mascot named Trimble guy. One idea not likely to be considered would be to reinstate the previous mascot which was a student dressed as an American Indian when William and Mary's nickname was still the Indians. A student proposal that a student group, Voices for Planned Parenthood was allocated money for "a vacuum cleaner, a gutter system, a small couch, a rugs," but was rebuffed in their efforts. Barker, an employee of the Executive Office, said that the College had previously requested the school's administration to provide an appropriate $500 for these items. The bill passed 11-4 unanimously.

The last meeting of the month took place in the Board of Visitors Room on February 28th. The first proposal was "Tangis" Keep the Barrett Computer Lab Safe and Secure Bill. The act encouraged that card readers be installed on the doors of quorums. The last meeting of the month took place in the Board of Visitors Room on February 28th. The first proposal was "Tangis" Keep the Barrett Computer Lab Safe and Secure Bill. The act encouraged that card readers be installed on the doors of quorums. The last meeting of the month took place in the Board of Visitors Room on February 28th. The first proposal was "Tangis" Keep the Barrett Computer Lab Safe and Secure Bill. The act encouraged that card readers be installed on the doors of quorums.
Walk, dance, cook and play to feel good about yourself

Love Your Body Week to raise awareness of eating disorders, body image issues

Amanda J. Yasenchak
Editor-in-Chief

Monday, March 20 begins the annual Love Your Body Week, sponsored by William and Mary CARES – Collegiate Awareness Regarding Eating Smart. In the United States, as many as 10 million females and 1 million males are suffering from an eating disorder. Many of these are college students.

The theme of 2006’s Love Your Body Weeks is “Be Comfortable in Your ‘Genes.’” Each day features different events and programs which promote eating disorder awareness and healthy body image.

CARES has partnered with Dining Services to provide two healthy cooking classes at 4 and 6 PM on Monday. Participants and the Executive Pastry Chef. Those interested should sign up at the UC or the Caf beginning this week.

On Tuesday is the student panel on eating disorders which features William and Mary students sharing their personal stories. For those who remember getting up early for the morning walks with former president Timothy Sullivan each year, President Gene Nichol has stepped up to the tradition on Wednesday morning at 7 AM. Wednesday evening is the second annual “Celebrating Our Bodies” Dance Showcase, featuring a variety of campus groups, including Pointe Blank, Tribal Dancers, the Swing Dance Club, Ballroom Dance Club, FASA and the Rec Center Fitness Demo Team.

Thursday offers the Body Fair from 4 to 6 PM at the UC Terrace. “The Sit and Be Fit program offers hints for those William and Mary students too busy to get to the Rec Center. A free Master Fitness Class will be offered that evening. CARES is sponsoring a Dodgeball tournament on Saturday. All proceeds will go to the National Eating Disorders Association.

“Celebrating Bodies” Art Display will be featured throughout the week in the UC Lobby. Also ongoing will be the Great Jeans Giveaway at various locations throughout campus. Finally part with a pair of jeans or any other item of clothing that no longer fits but you were hoping you could get back into one day. All items will be donated to charity.

For more information about Love Your Body Week or to find out how to get involved with William and Mary CARES, please contact Michelle Alexander, mmalex@wm.edu, or visit any of the week’s events.

Come to the Forum on Sexual Assault

Thursday March 16th
Andrews 101
8 PM

Join the discussion...

Sponsored by The Virginia Informer & the Alliance of Sexual Assault Prevention

Love Your Body Week 2006

Monday, March 20
Healthy Cooking Class, 4PM Lodge One
Healthy Pastry Class, 6PM, The Commons Football Dinner Room

Tuesday, March 21
“W&M Student Panel on Eating Disorders”, 8PM, UC Idawater B

Wednesday, March 22
“Walk with the President”, 7AM, Wren side of the Brafferton. FREE mugs to the first 100 walk participants and FREE hot beverages from the Daily Grind for ALL walkers.

2nd Annual “Celebrating Our Bodies” Dance Showcase, 7PM, UC Commonwealth

Thursday, March 23
“Body Fair”, 4PM – 6PM, UC Terrace
Freebies! Massages! Lots of information designed to help you take care of yourself!

Sit and Be Fit, 6:30 PM, Tucker Hall, Room 202
“Master Fitness Class”, 7:30PM, Rec Center Gym

Saturday, March 25
Dodgeball Tournament, 2PM, Rec Center Gym. Entry fee - $10 (student teams) and $20 (faculty/staff teams) - Six people per team. Free t-shirts for the first 8 teams. Sign up beginning 3/13 at the Rec Center or during LYBW at all events.

Deadline to register your team is Wednesday, March 22nd.

All Week
Great Jeans Giveaway, Various Campus Locations
“Celebrating Bodies” Art Display, UC Lobby
Come see a display of art work donated by Tangelo and the W&M Art Department.

“Our community is struggling with matters that challenge us at our core. Our conversations, though difficult, even crushingly so, can reflect the values we hold close. We’ll talk more broadly about this in the days ahead.”

- Gene Nichol
THE SA/UCAB RIVALRY?: Class of 2008 officer details problems in funding, administrative support for SA

SA used to be the sole source of activity planning. Mark Constantine, assistant vice president of Student Affairs and head of Student Activities, saw a need to implement a group which would organize more large-scale events. UCAB was the result.

But according to Jones, when UCAB was created, many people who were involved in planning SA events switched over to UCAB. Also, the Student Activities Department, which is the key source of funding for activities, began to “drift away” from class events. Due to the SA’s smaller staff, it was unable to coordinate events with as high a turnout which caused the Student Activities Department to lose confidence in it.

Though Jones believes strongly in this rivalry, but the same can not be said for all SA members. James Evans, the SA chief of staff for Ryan Scofield stated, “I fully support UCAB doing the bulk of the programming on this campus because they’ve proven themselves to be efficient and competent.” He accounts for the amount of funding they receive as a reflection of their excellent work on campus. Furthermore he claimed, “I don’t believe students in general would gather there is a rivalry when they attend events like Pat McGee or The Roots and see SA members and UCAB members working together in service of students.”

UCAB echoed Evans’ sentiments. Though he refrains to discuss the subject, Trevor Rudolph, the executive director of UCAB, denied the assertions made by Jones and affirmed, “I am unaware of such a ‘supposed rivalry.’ I have a positive working relationship with every member of the Student Assembly, I know.”

To this Jones replied, “It may not be a rivalry yet, a full scale rivalry, but you do see that the attitude that UCAB has for SA is as if we’re inferior to them,” the room of which extend back to the creation of UCAB.

Funding is the key element separating the two groups. This year Jones’ class requested over $4,000 from the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC), which is an entity of the SA executive office of with every member of the Student Assembly I know.”

Jones suggested leveling the playing field and providing equal opportunities between the two groups. Finally, he re-emphasized, “I like both groups… and I think we should all work together and be equal players, but we’re not.

Running their hand: The Student Assembly is no longer the primary campus wide programming body, though many of their sponsored events are open to the entire student population, such as the Class of 2008 Charity Poker Tournament. With a limited number of participants in SA, the gap in programming between UCAB and the SA grows every year.

Scofield. The class received only $1,200—30% of what they had asked for. UCAB on the other hand received 75.9% of their $123,786 request, and were granted a budget of $94,000—an increase of $19,500 from the previous year.

The ease with which UCAB receives approval for events in comparison to the Student Assembly has left Jones feeling frustrated and even “ashamed[6],” so much so that he is retiring from office this year. He stated, “I have to operate around a system where even if I was last minute or two weeks in advance, I can still be delayed very, very easily. UCAB can go in there a week before and say, ‘Hey, we need a certain amount of money because we need to pay for meals or a hotel that we didn’t know about,’ and they’ll get it right then and there.”

All of these things work to the advantage of UCAB which has, according to Jones, given the student a feeling of superiority. Jones recalled of his UCAB experience, “I actually got out of UCAB as soon as possible once I realized the advantages that the UCAB had for SA. And since I was involved in both, my love for SA goes a little bit deeper.”

Despite feelings members of the two groups may or may not have towards one another, Jones and other SA members feel that they are not given the same opportunities that UCAB has been given and are almost helpless. This has incited Jones to express his fear that, “Because Senate has the precedence of saying ‘no’ to many organizations and now UCAB is all of the sudden saying a lot of ‘yes’es… that’s going to draw more support for UCAB and that’s going to undermine the Student Assembly’s roles, and before you know it the Student Assembly’s going to phase out and UCAB will take over the student government’s role.”

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

On page eight, Ben Locher’s article, “Charges Dropped” should have read:
“...when they arrived, the three went upstairs, Decker and Harrington had consensual sex...” instead of implying that Jason Mustain was also engaging in intercourse.

The Virginia Informer would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via email to VInfo@wm.edu.
SOMETHING NEW IN A CITY THAT’S ALL ABOUT THE OLD.

* * *

A trip back to colonial times reveals a whole different world. But no place you visit is more unusual than the new Yankee Candle Williamsburg.

Beyond being one of the world’s largest candle stores with over 150 true-to-life scents, you can also enjoy treats, musical performances, candle making demonstrations and more.

Stroll inside Holiday Park, where it’s Christmas every day of the year. It’s always snowing, the ice pond is always frozen, Santa’s Workshop is always bustling and the holiday shops are always full of surprises.

William & Mary students and faculty receive a 10% discount off their entire purchase with valid school ID.

* * *

YANKEECANDLE* | WILLIAMSBURG
Quite an unusual place.

2200 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA • 877.616.6510 • www.yankeecandle.com
Potassium Iodide: What the W&M community needs to know to protect itself from possible nuclear radiation

The way to save your life in just one little pill: The potassium iodide pill, that every student can get at the Student Health Center, may be enough to save you from radiation if the Surry Nuclear Power Plant encountered a major leak.

The Office of Health Education staff via the W&M Student Health Center.

Kevin Pearce, Emergency Planner for the Peninsula Health District. It cannot, however, protect against other radioactive contaminants in the event of a reactor accident. Not many students at William and Mary know about this medication provided by the Student Health Center.

Potassium iodide—KI for short—is a supplement help mitigate the effects of exposure to radioactive iodine. If taken properly and quickly, it can block absorption of the radioactive material by the thyroid gland and reduce the risk of thyroid cancer. KI helps mitigate the effects of only one isotope (of about 30) that would be of concern in an airborne release, according to Kevin Pearce, Emergency Planner for the Peninsula Health District. It cannot, however, protect against other radioactive contaminants or a so-called “dirty bomb.”

In 2002, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) distributed potassium iodide pills to students, faculty and staff via the W&M Student Health Center. The Health Center launched a public advertising on campus and gave out around 1,600 pills to students. The 2002 distribution of KI to the general population was for those persons who wanted the available medication, said Pearce. It was never intended to provide medication to every household within the 10 mile boundary. Pearce stresses that the Peninsula Health District has enough KI for all those individuals that could be affected or evacuated in case of an accident.

Over a year ago, Dr. Moses, the Director of the Student Health Center, contacted the VDH to ask what to do with the remaining pills and did not receive any response from VDH. Subsequently, the Health Center took the information on potassium iodide off of its website. Christine Britton, Business Manager of the Health Center, says that they had just assisted the VDH in the past and the Center’s action was more preventive than proactive.

The stock of potassium iodide tablets at the Health Center will expire in 2007. Do people on campus still need to have the pills? Pearce said that there is no requirement for the Student Health Center to issue the pills and no reason to have an aggressive campaign. Pearce said that given the historical improbability of a nuclear accident and the recent inspection of the facility, the nuclear power plant is not a threat to the W&M community, since potassium iodine is not necessary, “unless there is an emergency.”

Few disagree that the chances of a nuclear accident are slim, but why the College would not provide a prudent, inexpensive avenue for students to protect themselves remains unclear.

There are some potential side effects to KI, such as gastrointestinal disturbances, minor skin rash, and allergic reactions. Anyone with potassium iodide allergy should consult doctors before taking potassium iodine. As of this printing, the Student Health Center still provides KI pills and instructions for taking them.

W&M Trivia Crossword

Down:
1) The largest college drive of its kind in the nation.
2) An alternate to fair trade coffee.
3) W&M is the only American school to have this kind of charter.
4) Swem only offers this kind of trade coffee.
5) The kind of city Colonial Williamsburg offers its guests every afternoon.
6) Nichol’s former employer
7) Visit to pick up your iodide pills.
8) Popular center currently under construction.
9) Show playing constantly on WMTV.
10) Will speak at 2006 Commencement.
11) First chapter established at W&M.
12) Almost all dorms fall within 1 mile radius of this.
13) Jefferson peeps into girl’s bathroom here.
14) Humorous discussion of a serious issue.

Across:
1) The kind of city Colonial Williamsburg offers its guests every afternoon.
2) An alternate to fair trade coffee.
3) W&M is the only American school to have this kind of charter.
4) Swem only offers this kind of trade coffee.
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7) Popular center currently under construction.
8) Will speak at 2006 Commencement.

Solution on page sixteen!
Hope you like Thinkpads

Next year’s freshman class will be required to buy IBM laptop as part of MyNotebook program

Ryan Lintelman
& Chris Peterson
Staff Writers

Members of the class of 2010 will be required to purchase a laptop before they can attend William and Mary, in accordance with the new myNotebook program.

According to Gene Roche, the chair of IT, the movement was an effort to standardize the laptops that students were already bringing to school in an effort to facilitate support and technological integration.

"By looking at the models of Wake Forest and Harvard, for example, we saw that laptop computers could enhance classroom discussions, though not replace them," said Roche. And the decision to try to have all students move to the Lenovo IBM Thinkpad T60 was prompted by a desire to make the repair process smoother. "It doesn't make a difference to us which computer students bring to campus, but it makes sense for us to encourage people to buy a certain brand. Not just from a cost standpoint, but it's easier for support," said Roche. Furthermore, by standardizing the program through the school, students receiving financial aid will be able to roll the cost of their laptop into their packages.

But are College students interested in technical integration? Although information provided on the myNotebook website (www.wm.edu/myNotebook) claims that “99% of freshmen brought a laptop to campus [this year]… the amount of students who actually bring a computer to class is far lower."

"99% of freshman brought a laptop to campus [this year]... the amount of students who actually bring a computer to class is far lower."

Working hard or hardly working?: IT hopes to increase classroom use of laptops with the MyNotebook program but critics doubt students will bring their laptops to class to do schoolwork instead of instant messaging and playing games.

According to Roche, the notebook computers will not be in any way used to

LAPTOPS continued on page ten
**Little Thing**

In which the author, scattered brained by the mists of midterms, rambles incoherently about assorted articles of interest that you will nevertheless feel compelled to read because of its witty subtitle

I'll admit it. It's been difficult, for me, to pull things together and succeed in buying a sound break between midterms, work, football, and the assorted things I do for the paper (check out our new podcasts, by the way). I've just been too busy to write a formal column. Shucks, I even slept through my Macro class.

(Sorry, Clyde. It's not you, it's me. Really. I friended you on Facebook to make up for it, though.)

In the vein of Peter King, then, I'd like to relay a few thoughts that have been bouncing around my head recently. They are, to paraphrase King, and probably flit with infringing his copyright, a few things I think.

**The Decker Case Has Gone Far Enough**

The College is, for a college campus, a churl place. To deny this is to lie. I work at Swem, and I know full well that it is the most continuously populated place on campus. Let's look at it comparatively: at some colleges, they actually have daily newspapers. Can you begin to fathom that? The fact that you would love to print more often, but there's little enough for us to report on it. This is why the *Flat Hat* so often fails to report a week's worth of actual news every Friday. The open secret is that in any given week at William and Mary, not enough happens to justify a newspaper issue.

Who can be surprised, then, that the Decker case has inspired so many to gossip, to argue, to analyze? It's the biggest thing to happen on campus all year.

It happened. A sexy witness was in front of me. I'd pay no attention at all.

William and Mary, not enough happens to justify a newspaper issue. Perhaps a more established paper did disservice by failing to report the facts out of an understandable concern for full education.

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**The Pershing Rifles Company Has Gone Far Enough**

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**Pershing Rifles/Queen's Guard**

**Playing with guns (heavy ones) on campus has never been better**

**Jon San**

**Staff Writer**

The Pershing Rifles Company of William and Mary, also known as Company W-4, is unlike any other fraternity. Not only do they wear $10000 dollar Queen's Guard uniforms and perform elaborate maneuvers with 12 pound rifles, but they also march at some of the most prestigious events in the state, all the while remaining students here at the College.

At the College, the Company has 12 active members. In addition, it has 3 inactive members, including 2 who have just returned from a tour in Iraq and another who is studying in Japan. Contrary to popular belief, not every member of the Pershing Rifles is involved with the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

College junior Solomon Chang's attraction to the Pershing Rifles was fairly simple, "The [Queen's Guard] uniform was very appealing to me, and I also was interested in learning the rifle drill tricks. Not to mention the deep sense of ceremony and tradition that surrounds the Pershing Rifles."

The Company is heavily involved in color guard ceremonies at events like baseball games, football games, Veteran's Day and Homecoming.

According to Company Commander Jimmy Lucas, 96, "We also marched at the governor's inauguration, which was a pretty cool experience, and we commemorate the events of September 11 by marching on the Sunken Gardens while images of boot camp cross peoples' minds when they think about the Pershing Rifles, the group is actually not that physically challenging."

"The time commitment, not necessarily the physical rigor, is the most demanding aspect of being a member of the Pershing Rifles," Lucas said.

A regimen of two hours of rifle practice a week is mandatory for all members in addition to outside training—including to Mandie Costanzo, "you have to be able to handle a 12 pound rifle perfectly well."

There is also a required meeting on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. at the ROTC building.

The Pershing Rifles is open to everyone. Like a typical fraternity, new members are recruited; and they must undergo a pledge process before they become a full-fledged brother. Chang, who holds the SS position, which makes him responsible for recruitment, said, "We have three pledges this spring which is surprising since we haven't had a spring pledge class since 1996."

But what does a Pershing Rifles member do after graduation? Lucas said, "The national organization has set up an alumni group entitled the Varsity Rifles which is open to former Pershing Rifles."

Sophomore Tim Lee added that "many alumni are financially involved in helping current Pershing Rifles members pay for their expensive uniforms and other accessories."

Another expense for members of Company W-4 is the cost of traveling to competitions. The highlight of the competitive season is the National Society of Pershing Rifles National Convention and Drill Competition (NATCON). The event—which took place last year in Indiana—will be held this year from March 22 to 25 in Washington, D.C.

Sophomore Matt Hanson said, "While we are there to compete, it's always great to see the other teams. Some of the teams, particularly Clemson, are really proficient in their rifle drill tricks and it's always exciting to see their performances."

In addition to learning the rifle tricks, members learn saber maneuvers, how to properly salute, and grasp the qualities of a distinguished leader. In fact, the slogan of the National Society of Pershing Rifles is "ROTC creates leaders, Pershing Rifles helps create the best leaders."

General John J. Pershing founded the group at the University of Nebraska in 1894. Originally designed as a morale booster for ROTC units, it eventually evolved into something greater. Numerous political events, including presidential and governor inaugurations, feature Pershing Rifles performances. Notable alumni include Colin Powell, James Earl Jones, and G. Gordon Liddy.

To contact the Pershing Rifles, email rifles@wm.edu.**
LAPTOPS: “IBMs” to be as vital as “ABCs” for class of 2010

continued from page eight
detract from the student/teacher relationship. “We don’t want to detract from faculty-student interactions, which of course are the reason that people come to William and Mary—to experience those. We just want to create new types of communication that can be beneficial to learning.”

According to the website, computer labs, once the pride and joy of a university’s technical reputation, have become obsolete. Schools “recognized the impossibility of ever building enough computer labs to meet growing demand and began requiring entering students to purchase computers as an alternative method of assuring universal access.”

But what kind of freedom will students have under the new program? Though Roche hopes that all students will opt into the program, “I’m not saying that if there’s a student whose father works at Dell she shouldn’t buy that kind of computer—he could just send it home and have daddy fix it in a day.” However, continues Roche, “I think it makes a lot of sense for us to encourage people who don’t have a strong opinion about what kind of computer to buy when they come to college that the option we offer has a lot of strong points.”

Students will still be able to run Linux or Unix on their Wintel machines, although Roche recommends that they configure their computers for “dual boot,” so that they can be booted in both operating systems.

However, Mac users—a growing demographic—present “a particular problem,” says Roche. “Let’s say I’m a professor teaching an introductory Psych class and I decide that we’re going to do a case study that requires students to bring their own computers in for a week of class. Now if everybody’s got it working okay except for that one student whose Excel runs a little differently because he’s got a Mac, I don’t want to have to spend time in class working out that problem.”

Roche recommends that “it’s in-the-wool” Mac users consider buying Virtual PC, available for a discounted price through the school, in case they have to use some programs for which there is not a Mac version. Under the new program most computer labs on campus will be specialized for different disciplines as students run generic programs, such as Firefox, Word, and Excel, on their personal laptops.

“Program capability is the goal,” said Roche. “And as the next five years progress, more and more of this stuff is going to be on the web, so it’s really a matter. You’ll be able to take advantage of all of this stuff as long as your computer can run a web-browser.”

The MyNotebook Proposal

- All incoming freshmen must have a notebook meeting specific hardware and software specifications. Students will keep their computers for four years, though a two year refresh cycle is also possible.
- Grants and/or loans will be available to students on financial aid. Low cost loans will be available to all students who need assistance in purchasing a notebook.
- The College seeks to offer the lowest possible price on a business class computer meeting College specifications. Ordering, delivery, setup and orientation will be managed by the College in close cooperation with the vendor.
- Selected packages will include a four-year warranty and insurance. Students purchasing from the recommended program will be eligible for on-site support. Students purchasing machines from other vendors will have to arrange hardware and software support on their own.
- As part of that procurement process, the College will negotiate a support agreement including loaner machines, on-site spare parts inventory and reimbursement for warranty work.
- The College will expand wireless service to cover all academic buildings and public spaces. Additional services, such as wireless printing, battery swap locations, recharging stations and computer work spaces, will be established to encourage students to carry computers.
- The College will propose agreements for software that allows students to install copies on their personal machines at a reasonable cost.
- Public access computer labs will be scaled back and investments will be refocused on upgrading computer classrooms and on building specialty labs to provide hardware and software with requirements that exceed the capacity of the required notebooks.

A Greek double standard or proper adjudication?
As fraternities vanish from campus, some students wonder what actions will be taken against Tri Delta for their drunken formal in October

Benjamin Farthing
Staff Writer

Last year the fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon was kicked off campus and suspended following alcohol related violations. This semester, fraternities Psi Upsilon and Kappa Alpha are in the program most computer labs on campus will be specialized for specific hardware and software specifications. Students will keep their computers for four years, though a two year refresh cycle is also possible.

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A Greek double standard or proper adjudication?
As fraternities vanish from campus, some students wonder what actions will be taken against Tri Delta for their drunken formal in October

So why has there been such swift action against SAE, KA, and Psi U, and no action against DDDD? Anne Arsenneau, Associate Director of Student Activities, stated that “the details are very different.” She said that the behavior at the DDDD formal was “linked to privately held parties that started before the event.” She pointed out that SAE was on probation at the time of the incident, and that they were found to be serving alcohol to minors. Investigations into the DDDD formal found no evidence that underage persons were served alcohol.

Some students feel that the details were not so different. “It doesn’t make sense that the three frats were thrown off so quickly while Tri-Delt has no action against them,” said freshman Adam Muzyczyn.

“What they did was at least similar.” Matt Beato, a Student Assembly Senator for the class of 2009, had a different opinion. “The College’s policy is that fraternities should only be sanctioned if the infraction has an effect on the college community. Did this party meet that standard? I don’t know.”

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A Gamma of SigEp was kicked off campus and suspended following alcohol related violations. This semester, fraternities Psi Upsilon and Kappa Alpha are in the process of being evicted, and Psi Upsilon is being suspended until 2008. Recently, the sorority Delta Delta Delta held their formal, which had to be ended early because of excessive drunkenness. It was at this party at Board of Visitors member John W. Gerdeman home that a rape allegedly took place. The College has issued no sanctions against DDDD.

Michelle Shimberg, the national president of Delta Delta Delta, stated that “Delta Delta Delta staff, volunteers and local advisors are working closely with our William and Mary chapter to ensure all members fully understand the policies and expectations of social hosting,” and that chapter leaders have “cooperated with DDDD officials throughout the investigation and probation.”

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THE VIRGINIA INFORMER
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Vainfo@wm.edu
The art of sex

S he moves like water, this woman, her earth-colored body slowly undulating like a hypnotic cobra. Her hips sway back and forth as her arms trace slow swirls through the air. Every now and then, she bats her eyelashes like delicate black butterflies. The woman on the stage in front of me is over 45 years old and must weigh at least 200 pounds, and she's still got it. She is a mother, a real-estate agent, and a former sex worker. Her name is Simone de la Gerto, and she is an artist.

Simone, and her fellow troupe members are part of the Sex Workers’ Art Show, a stunning spectacle whose mission is to de-stigmatize the sex industry. To the close-minded, the show might appear to be nothing more than a glorified peep show; a series of stripteases and readings from sexually explicit novels performed by glorified street trash. To the trained eye, the show is a beautiful, artfully executed celebration of the individual and of the human body. Brought to the College by Junior Sean Barker in conjunction with the William and Mary Department of Women’s Studies, the Sex Workers’ Art Show dares to look for art where many can see nothing but sin and shame. And they succeed. Oh, do they succeed.

Each of the acts features former workers in the sex industry. In their own ways, they celebrate their lives and their stories through every medium imaginable. One reads from her book, telling of how she and another sex worker once attempted to undo each other’s fake orgasms while taking turns with a client. Yet another performs acrobatics on the aerial hoop, shedding her costume as she expertly performs one gymnastic feat after another. One woman even runs through the audience anxiously looking for her clothes after being led blindfolded onto the stage wearing a black pair of panties and a strip of black electrical tape over each of her nipples.

It’s been said that all art is rebellion, that in order to be art something has to push back, to force us to shift perspective. The Sex Workers’ Art Show does just that. The performers cross the boundaries between the world of the everyday and the world of the sex worker to show us that the human body is beautiful, that sex itself is beautiful, and that those who choose to make sex their careers have as much a right to respect as any other human person. Through art, the members of the troupe show their audience that sex work is nothing to be ashamed of, and that those who are a part of the industry are talented, intelligent, and beautiful human persons who deserve respect. The acts show that underneath it all, we are all people. Some of us may be parents, some may be real-estate agents, some may be sex workers. And some may be all three.

New York style pizza in Williamsburg?

Stephanos Pizza & Subs is a student friendly addition to Merchant’s Square

A taste of the north: The latest addition to Colonial Williamsburg’s offerings to the student body is Stephanos/Pizza and Subs which provides all the charms of a New York pizza place for moderate prices.

Shelbi Wilson
Staff Writer

Have you visited the pizza place in Merchant’s Square? Did you know there was one? It’s a nice change of pace to the regular norm of Papa John’s, Dominos, and the like.

Stephanos Pizza & Subs is right next to Season’s on South Henry Street. It is a large restaurant with flat screen televisions and plenty of booths and tables. Numerous windows flood the place with natural light and oldies play the background. The restaurant is trying to attract students with wireless internet and the ability to pay with W&M Express.

Stephanos has a wide selection of subs & sandwiches from Viggie to the Chicken Philly to Barbeque. All are at reasonable prices ranging from $3.99 to $8.49. They also have salad selections, including Caesar, House, and Greek varieties. Their pizza is New York style and is ready in no time at all – the service was quick. They come in two sizes 12” and 16”, similar to a medium or large pizza from the regular pizza places. Types of pizza include Supreme, Thai Chicken, Five Cheese, Grilled Barbeque Chicken, and Mediterranean. I had the Mediterranean pizza and it was great! Prices range from $11.99 to $16.99 depending on what size and type you order. The restaurant also carries a limited selection of sides, desserts, Coke products, and alcoholic beverages.

Stephanos Pizza & Subs is located at 110 S. Henry Street in Merchant’s Square. Their hours are 11am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, 11am to 11pm Friday and Saturday, and 11am to 8pm on Sundays. For more information, call (757) 476-8999.

Book Review:
Lost and Found
This “book of trash” evokes thought, emotion from simple items

R.C. Rasmus
Art & Entertainment Editor

Do you remember that time in high school when you opened your locker and found a love letter addressed to someone else? Remember walking out of the grocery store and seeing someone else’s doodles on the back of your receipt? Remember coming out of the store and seeing someone else’s doodles on the back of your receipt? Remember coming out of the store and seeing someone else’s doodles on the back of your receipt?

Lost and Found: The Best Lost, Tossed, and Forgotten Items from Around the World by Davy Rothbart is a book of trash; it contains photos of dirt-streaked pieces of loose-leaf paper, crumpled post-it notes. It’s what is written on the trash that is truly伤感情.

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Potter Series Ignites with the Goblet of Fire

Like the incomparable books by J.K. Rowling, the films in the massively popular Harry Potter series continue seem to get better with age. The fourth film, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is no exception. After Chris Columbus nearly ruined the first two movies, Alfonso Cuaron revived the series with 2004’s Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, and now with the most recent film in the series, it’s improved even further.

In his fourth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry, Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, faces off in the greatest wizarding championships: the Tri-Wizard Tournament. Two other European schools of magic are staying at Hogwarts and students from the schools participate in three very dangerous and trying tasks. Through it all, Harry encounters his first crush as he is enamored with fellow student Cho Chang. Unfortunately for Harry, Cho is smitten with Cedric Diggory, a fellow competitor in the Tri-Wizard Tournament. However, what would a Harry Potter film be without a little life-threatening danger? In the end, Harry once again encounters intense peril, near-death, and situations before dances to fights with friends. By the thrilling climax, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire has become the best film in the series to date, which is quite the feat.

Visually, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is a feast. It’s even more successful as a thriller, as Rita Skeeter. Also, for the first time in a Harry Potter film, there is a moment of true emotion as a father’s grief-filled wails tear through a crowd in the film’s climax, and it’s chilling.

Contrary to the A- rating of the film’s PG-13 rating, a first for the series. Mike Newell, who also directed Four Weddings and a Funeral, injects his British sensibility into the series, which is a very positive aspect in the film. Steve Kloves does an impressive job with the script, which takes Rowling’s massive book and trims it down to a two and a half-hour movie. The child actors continue to mature in their trade and bring a lot of heart and humor to the film. However, as always, the adult actors steal the show. Brendan Gleeson as Mad-Eye Moody is the most fun to watch, but Miranda Richardson comes close as a gossip columnist known as Rita Skeeter. Also, for the first time in a Harry Potter film, there is a moment of true emotion as a father’s grief-filled wails tear through a crowd in the film’s climax, and it’s chilling.

The next best thing to studying abroad at Hogwarts

MOVIES

MARCH 2006

**WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA**

**LIVE PERFORMANCES**

**The Williamsburg Symphony presents**

Subscription Concert #3: Italian Fantasy

Thurs., Mar. 16 and Sun., Mar. 19 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: $37, $27

**The Kimball Theatre presents**

Stephanie Nakasian in Concert with the Harris Simon Trio

Tues., Mar. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission $12, Seniors/Students $10

**Playwrights Premiere Theatre presents**

History of Classic Rock: Volume II

Fri., Mar. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

All seats $15

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**MARCH 2006**

**MOVIES**

**Match Point** (R)

Sun., Mar. 5-Sat., Mar. 18

6:30 and 8:45 p.m.

Mar. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15-17 screening room

**The World’s Fastest Indian** (PG-13)

Fri., Mar. 17-Sun., Mar. 26

6:45 and 9 p.m.

Mar. 18-22, 24, 26 screening room

**Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story** (R)

Wed., Mar. 22-Thu., Mar. 23

7 and 8:45 p.m.

Mar. 23, 25, 27-29 screening room

**After Innocence** (Not rated)

Wed., Mar. 29-Sun., Apr. 2

6:45 and 8:30 p.m.

Special Screening on Sun., Apr. 2 at 2 p.m.

featuring writer/producer Mare Simon

Mar. 30-Apr. 1 and evening shows on Apr. 2 in screening room

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Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary
Rest in Peace: The William & Mary College Cemetery
R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The very first time that I walked out of the back door of Blair Hall and headed towards Monroe Hall I had to do a double take. Was that a cemetery? Right in the middle of campus? Yes, Yes, it was! Right behind Blow Hall and encased by a low brick wall is what’s known as the College Cemetery. The little patch of ground is the final resting place of at least nine people, of whom only three of the graves are marked. Its story is an interesting one, and one that has not always been happy.

The cemetery was officially sanctioned a century and a half ago on January 18, 1859. All five members of the William and Mary Faculty met together and voted to set aside a small piece of land as “a burying ground for the professors of the College and their families & the students.” Apparently, the idea for the cemetery came from then-president Benjamin Stottard Evell, who wanted to move the remains of his father onto the campus. For some reason, President Evell never had to have his father reinterred. He however did have his mother, his sister, his daughter and her husband, his wife’s mother, and herself laid to rest in the College Cemetery. A diagram drawn in the early 1920s by former librarian Earl Gregg Swem and a woman named Mrs. R. M. Crawford shows that the members of the Evell family are buried against the western wall of the plot.

Two professors are also at rest in the cemetery: T.T.L. Snead, a professor of mathematics, was buried there in 1872. Professor Snead came to the college at the age of 20, and he stayed on, first as a student and later as a professor, for the remainder of his life. Professor Lucien Minor, possessor of the largest marker in the cemetery, was laid to rest there in 1860 after being moved from his original grave at the Wren Chapel. Patrick Minor was a professor of law at the College and an active member of the Sons of Temperance, a secret society that supported the temperance movement of the 19th century. It was this society that was responsible both for Professor Minor’s reinterment and for the construction of the obelisk over his body.

Much of the mystery surrounding the College Cemetery centers around the students that have been buried there. It is positively known that the remains of B. Thornton Turner, who drowned in 1873, reside there. It’s however possible that two more young men have their final resting places in the cemetery. One is a law student named Richard H. Jones who died in 1861. The College requested that he be buried on the cemetery property. For some reason, President Evell was imploring the College Community to do something about the miserable state of the plot, especially the unmarked grave of President Evell, which, according to tradition, kept William & Mary alive during the Civil War by ringing her bell once every year at the start of the new term; he furthermore lobbied the Federal Government for funds to reopen the college and to repair the damage done by the Union Army to the Wren Building. The pleas of The Flat Hat staff were soon heeded. A fund was raised, and a wall was put up around the cemetery. In addition, a tombstone was purchased and erected in memory of President Evell, who was hailed as “the Old Bell Ringer” and “the best friend old William & Mary ever had.”

The college organized a ceremony at the cemetery in June of 1924, which was repeated for many years afterwards. It commemorated President Evell as well as other members of the College Community who had passed away over the course of the year. This ceremony, now held on the Sanuts Garden during Homecoming, no longer involves the College Cemetery.

Interestingly enough, it’s technically still possible to be buried in the College Cemetery. Such a burial would require the approval of the Board of Visitors. However, an internment hasn’t been held there for over a hundred years, so don’t hold your breath. For now, you know the story of those random tombstones and the stories of the nine, or ten, or eleven people who are buried in the College Cemetery.

Hold your breath! Many of the legendary members of the College are buried on this small plot behind Blow Memorial Hall.

Thorton, is believed to be buried there as well, but only evidence is oral tradition.

For a half a century, until 1924, the cemetery lay neglected, not walled in, and had only two of its graves marked. When construction began on what was then Blow Gymnasium, it was found that some workmen were leaving building materials and equipment in the cemetery. In response, The Flat Hat set a series of articles and editorials imploring the College Community to do something about the miserable state of the plot, especially the unmarked grave of President Evell, who, according to tradition, kept William & Mary alive during the Civil War by ringing her bell once every year at the start of the new term; he furthermore lobbied the Federal Government for funds to reopen the college and to repair the damage done by the Union Army to the Wren Building.

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“Over the past two and a half years, the Bluth family has been the brightest part of television, a medium which has sunk further and further since the rise of reality television.”

From: Arrested Development

APPOINTING DEVELOPMENT continued on page sixteen

Funny Money: Comedian to give monetary advice to college students
Chase Coleman
Staff Writer

Everyone knows the stereotype of the broke college student. You might even be one. However, comedian and rising star speaker James Cunningham can turn your financial woes around with his critically acclaimed seminar, Funny Money.

With a background in theatre and drama from the University of Toronto, Cunningham has toured the world as a comic. Over the past few years he has been touring the United States and Canada as both a comic and a teacher, giving a seminar on how to manage money. In both 2003 and 2004 Cunningham won the “Best Lecture” award at the National Canadian Organization of Campus Activities conference and he has been nominated for “Campus Comedian of the Year” numerous times.

What is so special about Cunningham’s lecture? The idea sounds intriguing: comedy and financial planning. Cunningham uses his knowledge and own personal experience to relate economic ideas to students. Designed exclusively for college students, the lecture, explains Cunningham, teaches them “everything they need to know about budgeting their money, managing their debt, and investing for their future.” In order to explain these financial concepts, Cunningham uses volunteers from the crowd. For example, at some seminars, members of the audience have even had a chance to win cash prizes.

In this age of rising education costs, students need someone who can be both entertaining and informative. The debt incurred from college loans can often seem daunting to students, and some students have trouble keeping track of the money they have. Worried not: the Funny Money website claims that the lecture “will have even the financially challenged student back on their feet.” Cunningham teaches students how to handle these difficult problems through the art of comedy. Even students who are unfamiliar with budgets and debt can learn from Cunningham’s discussion of investment, which explains the various ways to secure one’s future. Anyone who sees Funny Money will come away with both knowledge and laughter.

James Cunningham will be giving his seminar on 8 p.m. at the U.C. Commonwealth Auditorium on March 29th.
On riots and emails

The intolerable rise against free speech is increasingly alarming

T he right to free speech is under siege not only in our world but also on the William and Mary campus. While riots orchestrated by hate-filled mullahs in the Middle East in response to satirical cartoons are not surprising, the intolerance of our own college administration to independent newspapers surely is.

The link between cartoons that sparked violent protests around the globe and Sam Sadler’s recent email might seem tenuous at first glance. They are, however, both linked by a common misunderstanding about freedom of speech that should alarm every student. The ability to speak and write freely brings forth ideas and messages that can be considered deeply upsetting, embarrassing and even blasphemous. It is precisely these ideas that are the most controversial that should be given the greatest amount of protection.

Yet journalists, particularly college journalists, are forced to censor themselves. There are simply some things that cannot be printed. Some issues are just too sensitive. Print an article criticizing some aspect of a certain religion and risk the wrath of angry students. Print an in-depth article covering sexual assault and risk the outrage and censorship of the school administration.

Colleges and universities above all other institutions should value the free flow of ideas especially over a matter that deeply affects every member of the student body. Instead of responding to our substantive proposals on sexual assault Sam Sadler has sent out an email questioning the integrity and motives of The Informer and The Remnant. The retreat from the principles of free exchange of ideas is especially shameful from an institution that produced Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall. We at the Informer will continue to press for answers to the serious questions that still have not been addressed.

Thomas Jefferson once said, “Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.” In the administration’s world it appears they would prefer the former.

Standing up for minority rights

Joe Luppino-Esposito
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It was about this time last year that I, as a Student Assembly Senator for the Class of 2008, came forward with a proposed amendment to the Department of Diversity Initiatives. The amendment suggested that along with the categories of multicultural, religious, gender and sexual orientation, there ought to be a category of “political” in order to assist a very marginalized community at William and Mary conservatives.

I was told that for many reasons, conservatives weren’t a minority. First of all, you cannot single out a conservative just by looking at him, as you can with other minorities although I am still trying to figure out what it takes to know someone’s sexuality and religion by sight. These groups also said they had nowhere to go—which seemed odd, considering that Susan Grover, the Equal Opportunity Director addressed the Senate and said they came to her in the first place and that is why the department was proposed.

So if you look above the sarcasm, it is clear that my argument was well-grounded, but crushed nonetheless. The problem was that there was one thing I could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt; that conservatives were hated by some, and that people did not want us on campus. I had documented plenty of stories from students, but they were laughed off as insignificant. I spent the last year rest-assured that I was right, knowing I had fought the good fight.

And then on February 7, a student attending a vigil for the thousands of murders committed by abortion every year was assaulted near the Cram Dell. A blow to the face and another strike while she was down gave the girl a nice bruise on her head and left the left on campus reeling. That weekend, Stephen Braunsch, a senior and president of Americans Collegians for Life, was able to tell a packed room at the American Conservative Union’s conference of the incident, letting the world know of William and Mary’s hostile environment for conservatives. The “progressives” on campus had been exposed as haters and intolerant, as I argued a year ago.

Is it “I told you so” in order? You better believe it. It is inexusable that the College has taken so long to react to the discrimination. The President’s Committee on Diversity is considering a diversity statement that mentions “academic diversity.” What the College needs to adopt is the full Academic Bill of Rights to guarantee that conservatives can speak openly in class, without fear of retribution from fellow students, or worse, the professor. The College needs to realize the genuine value of diversity of ideas and thought on campus and recognize the fact that diversity is actually more than skin deep.

A Special Thanks

The Virginia Informer would like to sincerely thank Robert Beck who has made the publishing of this issue possible. We are proud to serve the William and Mary community by providing copies free of charge, and by not taking student activities fees, as other publications do.

We would also like to thank Ben Wetmore from The Leadership Institute and Kellie Bowen, Colin Sharkey and all of the Collegiate Network.

If you would like to support The Virginia Informer, please contact us at VAInfo@wm.edu.

Agree? Disagree? Let us know!

The Virginia Informer accepts Letters to the Editor. Letters can be on anything that has been in the paper, or even on something that we may have missed. We appreciate reader feedback!

Letters may be printed anonymously, although we ask that the writer puts his/her name in the correspondence with the promise that it will not be printed. Letters should be approximately 100-300 words in length, concise and clear.

Email letters to VAInfo@wm.edu.

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A biased opinion regarding journalist and reader bias

Stephanie Long
Layout Editor

I first noticed the blue flyers that appeared on bulletin boards late on February 17th from the Alliance for the Freedom of Expression (SAFE) and the Muslim Students Association (MSA). The flyers were proclaiming the lack of “fair-minded journalism” on campus and calling for those in support of their vaguely expressed cause to wear red on Monday, February 20th. I was unsure at the time if these flyers were in response to the article appearing in the February issue of The Informer, which had come out the previous Monday and incited controversy, or simply an effort to jump on the bandwagon.

A representative of ASAP agreed that there are some expressions of speech that “should not be tolerated,” but also cautioned that “saying” to certain groups should be respected in a plural society.

Their sentiments mirror a recent Boston Globe editorial, where the Opinion section comments that these are the free reigns but, on our other pages what we print are facts that reveal the truths—whether he is what the student body wants to hear or not.

Journalism acts as a way to provide information, and one should read the news with the hope of being informed. This can only be done if one looks at the news on the whole instead of getting caught up in trivial semantic details, which can only serve to recall the journalists’ bias. It is one thing to read a newspaper critically, taking into account that some bias is present in the writing of the stories, but it is another to reveal her bias or otherwise subtle it may be.

But this concept is a two-way street. And just as one cannot communicate thoughts without her thoughts passing through her filter, one cannot absorb thoughts without them going through the same filter. Thus, bias, meaning one’s own opinions, is an unconscious part of every human being and affects each person in one way or another.

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Contra Café is democratic and delicious!
A fair alternative to fair trade

Tony Doucet
Staff Writer

Fair Trade coffee has now become the only option for a cup of Joe on campus. Starbucks, which, before last month, offered customers a choice between free and Fair Trade coffee, has now made the transition to an exclusively Fair Trade selection of brews. Is there another option available?

There just might be. It’s called Contra Café, and it’s brought to you by the same people who fought Communism in the 1980s in Central America. “At the height of the Cold War, the Contras fought for political and economic freedom in Nicaragua. Their heroic efforts forced democratic elections and led to the fall of the Sandinista government,” according to their website, contracafe.com.

Today, a cooperative of former Contras grows an exceptional coffee high in the mountains of northern Nicaragua. Contra Café roasts this outstanding coffee and delivers it fresh to your home.

The Contras Café brand of coffee is grown at a higher altitude than most other South American coffees, high in the mountains of Nicaragua. These high altitudes and unusually cool climate provide and development of the coffee cherries that, when hand-picked and de-pulped by a Contra farmer, ensures that the resulting roast is unique.

The overwhelming opinion of Contra Coffee is positive; unsual, but tasty. It has a strong, yet sweet taste that seems to appeal on several different levels. One tester described it as “tasty, but not too heavy,” while another William Jordan-Cooley called it “bitter-sweet.”

But why would the average William and Mary student decide to purchase, or even advocate the brewing of, Contra Café on campus as opposed to Fair Trade coffee? Assuming the taste of the coffee itself doesn’t convince you, then how about this: While Fair Trade coffee pays its farmers around the world in the vicinity of $2.50 per pound, Contra coffee pays its farmers $3.50 per pound of coffee. Arguably, it ends up helping the farmers more than free or Fair Trade coffee would, while producing something would make a better product for practically no extra cost to the consumer. Not to mention, it promotes democracy around the globe.

What did Phil DiBenedetto, head of dining services at William and Mary, have to say about this intriguing new brand of coffee? While DiBenedetto was certainly sympathetic to the plight of the Contras and their delicious coffee.

As of right now, the only way to purchase Contra Café is via their web site. A 16 ounce bag of coffee (whole beans or grounds) is $10. Eco-gounds, the fair trade certified coffee served at Java City on campus is around $10 for only 12 ounces, depending on the variety.

While Contra Café may not be available on campus yet, the Contras still provide a fine coffee for a fair price. So if you’re looking for a delicious coffee that also helped to stop Communism, then look no further than Contra Café.

The taste of freedom: Freshman Patrick Allen is enjoying a nice cup of coffee that could be from Freedom Fighters if Dining Services opts to accept Contra Café.

Economics Chair and Vice Mayor Haulman proposes anti-student housing plan

Student/candidate Sievers condemns Spring Break vote and would look into the specifics of the plan.

Junior David Sievers, who has taken a semester off to run a grassroot campaign to get elected to City Council, has strongly criticized Haulman’s concept and its timing. He told The Informer that he was “deeply disturbed” at the proposal’s “deliberate timing and underlying ethos.” He said that the fact that it was brought up during spring break “believes the divisive nature of city council, something my campaign is working to reverse.” He decried the fact that students have no voice in the matter. Sievers described the attitude of the proposal as “dirty politics” and “exactly the type of thing that made me want to run for City Council.

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The Informer will be hosting a taste-testing event for Contra Café at the UC Center Court coming up soon!

Look for updates at VAnformer.com.