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Deed is done

It was a dark and stormy night. The mist twirled in ghastly schools. A certain eerie ambience permeated the scene; a pregnant silence bespoke the presence of horrors unknown even to H.P. Lovecraft.

The smell was of dead flesh. Rotting, sulfurous bodies, half-consumed corpses decaying among the autumn leaves, waiting to be discovered by a curious baker at the expense of his sanity. My companions and I stood before our innate adversary, solemnly questioning our apparently defunct sense of self-preservation.

As we gazed across the Crim Dell, the Crim Dell gazed back at us. Legend had it the Crim Dell was slag with the bones of the dead, by an army of gibbering madmen - that is, ex-colonial re-enactors who had gone mad and now howl at the walls of Henrico Mental Institution. Druids blessed the water with the umbilical blood of deformed children.

It is not traversed by the faint of heart. As a freshman who had purchased a William and Mary Triathlon T-shirt, however, I was bound to complete it. As an individual wholly dedicated to accuracy and integrity I refused to wear the shirt until I completed all three aspects of the venerable triad.

The Sunken Gardens! I'd been dead only in a backwards Metallica baseball cap and Reebok running shoes when I completed it at 2 AM on a Wednesday morning. A casual visual check of the surrounding area had suggested that the area was deserted—an assumption proven quite wrong when, midway through my run, I nearly had a heart attack when two girls waiting to be discovered by a curious hiker emerged from the brush, two other freshmen and I. In spite of—or perhaps because of—this intrusion, I finished my run in just over two minutes, leaving a smoldering trail of grass in my wake.

The Governor's Wall? After a kid down the hall suggested that we Google Earth to figure out the pathway through the hall used his subscription to Google Earth to figure out the pathway through the hall used his subscription to Google, I decided to take a measure of the Crim Dell itself. Systemic poison ivy? How does that even work? The Crim Dell is not a test of swimming ability. It's a test of biological foolhardiness.

And I? I will spare you the gory details.

True, it was sad that I had to incinerate the bathing suit, fumigate my sandals, and scrub myself down under a scalding shower for thirty minutes. My toenails have grown in green, which can't be healthy.

Nevertheless, I succeeded in my conquest. The Crim Dell is certainly double—although I would implore the College to provide some sort of filtering mechanism to remove those monstrous waters, so that those poor souls with constitutions less hardy than mine might yet survive this essential College event.
The Crim Dell: Photogenic pond or bacteria’s best friend?

The Virginia Informer investigates safety of the water’s shallow depths

Gustavo Elias
Staff Writer

Do sea creatures live in the Crim Dell? If you fully submerge yourself in the water, will you later grow an extra hand out of your forehead? These and other wild myths surround the Crim Dell, the picturesque pond bordering Old and New Campus. As part of the famed Triathlon which many students try and complete before graduation, hundreds if not thousands of college students have entered the murky water. But many will not jump in, citing safety and health concerns. This motivated The Virginia Informer to investigate and see what the Crim Dell is really made of. With this investigation, we looked to see whether it was safe for students to take the plunge into the Crim Dell as part of the Triathlon.

The main components we looked at were fecal coliform bacteria—a group composed mostly of strains of E. coli, levels, pH (level of acidity), and the ratio of phosphorus to nitrogen. The pH of the Crim Dell was neutral and where it should be, at 7.06. This is where the pH of regular tap water is. Astonishingly, the bacteria level was at 0. Unfortunately we cannot say the same for some of the other bodies of water around the campus and Williamsburg, such as the storm-water pond near Lake Matoaka. It has a high bacteria level of 429, way above the average of 99 for ponds. This is one thing that you do not want to get stuck in. The ratio between phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) is a good indicator as to whether the water is hospitable for algal blooms. Algal blooms are spurts of algae growth in the water, making the waters stinky and murky, unfit for swimming. An N:P ratio of approximately 16:1 provides the conditions necessary for algal blooms. For the Crim Dell, the ratio is 1:3, providing algae-free waters.

During summer, when the trees around the Crim Dell shed their leaves onto it, how do they disappear so quickly? How does it stay so clean all the time? Do employees of the College dust off their rowboats and sweep the waters for leaves using nets? Do the new koi fish eat it up? A bubbling system is used to maintain clear waters. This system allows aerobic (oxygen loving) organisms to decompose the leaves that drop down to the bottom. These organisms release ammonia (NH₂) and ammonium (NH₄⁺) as waste byproducts. Other harmless bacteria in the water convert these two compounds into nitrates and nitrates (NO₃⁻ and NO₂⁻ respectively). Anaerobic bacteria convert these nitrates and nitrates into gaseous nitrogen, which are then released into the atmosphere.

These are the basic elements of the nitrogen cycle. However, one of the most important nutrient cycles found throughout the ecosystem, mainly terrestrial ones. Another reason why the Crim dell stays so clean is because of the high turnover rate. This is due to the inflow of water from an underground stream beneath the Sunken Garden and the outflow through a spillway. However, aeration and turnover alone are not enough to combat algal blooms. We got in contact with Facilities Management regarding techniques they use to suppress them. They claimed to use bubbling for the algal blooms but assert that they perform no other maintenance. However there must be some sort of algacide used to keep them from occurring. It is odd that the administration told us this, because a number of students have come up to me reporting that they saw a truck earlier this year dumping a blue chemical into the Crim Dell. The Dell was reportedly colored blue on Admitted Students Day last year, and people reported seeing blue crystals being thrown into the water. The school suggests a student-run group on campus could have been responsible. Whatever the case may be, we believe there is something other than bubbling being done to suppress algal blooms in the Crim Dell.

As for other myths behind the Crim Dell, there were also reports of a Fire Truck dumping water into the Crim Dell. The local Fire Department (FD) uses the pond to test/service their pumpers trucks. It is part of the College’s effort in assisting the local FD. The Facilities department of the College also claims that no fish inhibit the Dell, but we have the picture to prove that koi fish are swimming in these waters. Thanks to the analysis of the results by Dr. Randy

The Tribe 12...

Many students may think twice about entering the murky Crim Dell waters, but some have thrown caution to the wind and

Emily Bagiensky, '06
No, definitely not. It’s disgusting, people have died in there, and people have found water moccasins in it.

Scott Brandt, '09
I’ve done it twice on consecutive nights, actually.

Ashleigh Dechow, '08
I just transferred here—I know nothing about the Crim Dell.

Kirstie Dorfler, '09
No, but I plan on doing it in the nude during the dead of winter.

Ksenia Ferrand, '07
I have not done it yet, but only because I haven’t had a chance to or found a night my friends and I actually thought it was a good idea.

Abigail Fine, '09
No. I’m still working up the nerve to do it. I did stick my toe in though.

Shelley Knewstep, '06
No, because I don’t think it’s safe, and I’d rather not risk health on something as silly as the Triathlon, as important as the tradition may be.

Scott Leverty, '08
No, because the water is a very funny color.

Carl Scott, '07
No, it’s not really a priority of mine. I prefer to stay dry and clothed.

Tiffanie Tsui, '07
I plan on it. I want to jump in when it’s raining and the water is warmer.

James Wilton, '06
Yeah, I did it like fifteen times freshman year. I used to jump off the bridge, but since a student was killed three years ago doing that I don’t think anyone does that anymore.
Student group of the month:
International Relations Club
Ven, Vidi, Vici
R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Did you know that you have reigning world champions living and working right under your nose? They took the world by storm in 2004 at Egypt and did it again in 2005 at Scotland, winning the Outstanding Delegation Award both times: They are your William and Mary International Relations Club. The IR Club is a group of students who are interested in international affairs and diplomacy. In addition to hosting expert speakers and educating their members about global issues, the IR club also participates in Model United Nations simulations across the country and around the world. The Club also plans, coordinates, and executes three annual conferences themselves; one each for middle schoolers, high schoolers, and new William and Mary IR Club members. Even though they are the very best at what they do, IRC meetings and conferences are not at all stodgy. As President Karie Spatz is fond of saying: “We don’t want you to just go to conferences to work and be serious. We really want you guys to have fun!” The atmosphere at the club’s meetings is light and friendly, and thanks to hardworking Vice-President for Campus Affairs, Arielle Kuiper, members have lots of opportunities to get together for parties and social functions. This year, the IR Club is off to a great start, having garnered more than a dozen individual awards as well as the “Outstanding Large Delegation” award at their first Model UN conference of the year, W/THSMUN, at Georgetown University. They host their prestigious high school conference, W/THSMUN, on the weekend of the 19th, and will be sponsoring lectures, forums, and social events through the end of this semester. In the spring, they will travel to schools in Virginia, New Jersey, and Canada to participate in Model UN simulations before sending a delegation to the WorldMUN conference in Beijing in March. There, they hope to bring home a third consecutive world championship title.

If the International Relations Club sounds interesting to you, don’t be afraid to come and check out one of their meetings, held on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in Tyler 102. They take new members all year long and no experience is required, so don’t miss your chance to get involved with such an exciting organization. For more information, check them out online at www.wm.edu/soc/irc.

International Renown: Senior members of the club won the ‘Best Large Delegation Award’ from the Georgetown Conference.

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Army leaders increasingly sought by business world

The Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps is designed to help students reach their full potential. The program can accomplish that in numerous ways, including quality instruction, physical fitness training and scholarships for qualified students. It’s been reported that Army officers with five to 10 years experience are in high demand in private industry. When E. Michael Moone was manager of sales recruiting for Proctor & Gamble Co. several years ago, he hired a number of young ex-Army officers. Now that he’s president of the Bentering Winery in California, he’s still hiring them. “I prefer officers to MBA’s,” Moone said. “MBAs may be smart, but they can’t park their bikes straight.” Edward Hanes, an executive recruiter in Richardson, Texas, feels the same way. A former employment manager for the Texas Instruments, he said, “I’ll just hire a captain with an accounting degree. The MBAs don’t have the stickling power.” Hanes said the Army men and women leave today “is different from the way it once was; his officers are primed to succeed in business.”

The fact is more than ever before, Army officers are prepared to succeed in and out of the military. And many are primed for success through participation in Army ROTC.

Army ROTC training builds confidence, develops leadership skills and creates self-discipline. ROTC is a college elective that teaches skills essential for career success, such as management, organization and leadership. In teaching officer skills, Army ROTC combines courses in military science with summer training sessions to develop Soldiers in the Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. Army ROTC consists of several courses taken as part of a regular course load and usually counts for college credit. It is neither a separate school nor a college major.

Cadets enroll in military science classes the same way they register for all other college courses. At the Leader’s Training Course, cadets undergo rigorous training in leadership and management skills, as well as physical fitness. The advanced course provides further instruction in leadership development, organization and management, tactics and administration and builds on the military and personal skills taught at either the basic course or the Leader’s Training Course.

The most important fact any prospective cadet should know about Army ROTC is it gives students the tools they need to start a successful career.

In and out of the classroom, Army ROTC teaches cadets to meet and overcome a variety of challenges. After four years of hard work, cadets will graduate with a college degree, a commission as a second lieutenant and the leadership skills, confidence and experience necessary to succeed in any career they choose.

To find out further information about Army ROTC at William & Mary, contact Captain Matthew Lutz at (757) 221-3611 or email malutz@wm.edu.

This article was written by Mr. Steve Armstrong, Editor of The Leader, a publication written for LTC students, parents, families and friends. It was used by permission.

Williamsburg Area Transport – Is it insufficient? Students cite lateness, unreliability as top complaints

Amber L. Forehand
Staff Writer

Deprived of cars, but still left with places to go and people to see, public transportation has turned into a necessity for many students. Out of that 28%, 90% ride the Green Line, 8% ride the Red Line bus, call 220-5493, extensions 1, 2 or 3 with the bus line, stop and time of day. Route changes and other radical changes must pass through plenty of red tape, including numerous board meetings, but WAT insists that they are doing what they can to better their system. This year they added the Tan Line, which stops at Lowest, Walmart, and even Miller Mart.

WAT has even made attempts to extend their hours to accommodate students, but they can only expand when the resources are available. As of right now, WAT runs from 6 AM – 8 PM, Monday through Saturday, between the months of September to May. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day hours are extended from 6 AM – 10 PM.

The most complaint among students is the buses’ chronic lateness; the Red Line seems to be the most oft-named culprit. Freshman Adam Muzyczyn said, “The Red Line bus often comes later than scheduled, leaving passengers to stand outside in sometimes very bad weather conditions.” When told of these complaints, Drumwright apologized for the inconvenience and said he had yet to hear of any complaints. In order to serve the community better, the administrators at WAT must first receive criticism.

It has also been alleged that the bus schedules and maps posted on their website, www.williamsburgtara.com, are wrong. Drumwright replied that they are currently updating their website.

WAT is striving for a better relationship with the College. They currently have college interns managing their website, regularly changing the schedules when needed. They have also planned a meeting with some of the college’s board members in November.

WAT encourages questions and concerns. To report a late bus, call 220-5493, extensions 1, 2 or 3 with the bus line, stop and time of day.

Students cite lateness, unreliability as top complaints
Dispelling the mysteries of faith

Balfour Hillel: Jewish Campus Life

Alex Randy Kyrios
Staff Writer

The oldest surviving monotheistic religion is alive and well on the College campus in the form of Balfour Hillel, the only student group dedicated to Judaism. The College's Hillel group is just one branch of the international “Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life,” which boasts over 500 chapters. Existing to serve all Jews on campus, Hillel is a nondenominational Jewish group which caters to Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Jews alike.

The group is named for the renowned Jewish sage, Hillel, who lived around the first century B.C.E. He famously summed up the Torah with the phrase, “That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor.” Some scholars believe this served as the direct inspiration for Jesus of Nazareth’s similar dictum.

Recently, Balfour Hillel has been celebrating the “High Holidays” of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—the two most important holidays in Judaism—and has been a part of the Student Assembly’s Department of Diversity Initiatives.

Hillel’s only regular meetings are Shabbat—or Sabbath—services, at 6:00 PM on Fridays (as Sabbath begins at sundown) at the Hillel house at 100 Chandler Court. The services are religious, but one does not need to be Jewish to attend. For High Holiday services, Hillel coordinates rides to four area synagogues and temples: nondenominational Beth El in Williamsburg, Reform Temple Sinai in Newport News, Conservative Rodef Shalom in Hampton, and Orthodox Adath Jeshurun in Newport News. Hillel leadership also meets regularly. The current president is junior Gina Sobel.

According to Hillel’s vice president, sophomore Sara Slater, the organization not only works with Jewish students on specific Jewish issues—such as helping students keep kosher on campus and sponsoring trips to Israel—but it seeks to spread understanding of Judaism and work with other cultural groups on campus as well. While Judaism does accept converts, proselytization is forbidden by Jewish law. At the beginning of the semester, Hillel participated in the Cultural Mosaic event sponsored by the Department of Diversity Initiatives. An interfaith open mic night in Lodge 1 is being planned with the Muslim Student Association.

Hillel is also planning a musical festival in association with Daniel Pearl Music Days. Pearl was a journalist of dual American-Israeli citizenship kidnapped by alleged members of al-Qaeda in Pakistan in January 2002. He was held hostage for around a week before he was executed. Since then, his family established the Daniel Pearl Foundation “to address the root causes of this tragedy, in the spirit, style, and principles that shaped Danny’s work and character.” Through this organization, worldwide Music Days are coordinated around the October birthday of Daniel in remembrance of his love for music.

In an ongoing project, Hillel is sponsoring the fifth annual Hillel Regional Shabbaton in April. Hillel chapters from across Virginia will meet at the Weinstein Jewish Community Center in Richmond for fellowship. The College’s Hillel has organized this event every year since its inception, securing its status as an invaluable resource for Jewish students in the Commonwealth. More information on Hillel is available at their website, http://www.wm.edu/so/balfour-hillel.
**Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary**

The Phoenix memorializes the undying spirit of the College.

R.C. Rasmus  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Have you ever been walking by the Crim Dell and wondered why we have a massive coin with a bird stamped on it lying around? Ever wonder why the same weird looking bird is in the background of the most important portrait at William and Mary? Ever wonder where the English department’s alumni newsletter got its name? For more than four hundred years that the college has been open, this unique symbol of the phoenix has been associated with it. As time marches on, the symbol becomes more and more meaningful as a reflection of the spirit of the school.

The phoenix is a mythological bird, and legend has it that at the end of its life, a phoenix becomes engulfed in a curtain of flame and burns to cinders, only to be reborn from the ashes. The myth of the phoenix has its origins in Egypt, but was eventually adopted into Greek and Roman mythology, and eventually into the folklore of Russia, Persia, and Western Europe. During the Middle Ages, the bird became associated with Jesus, who, according to the Christian religion, was raised from the dead after three days. In the early eighteenth century, the symbolism of the phoenix was applied to the College of William and Mary.

The phoenix originally referred to the first fire in the Wren Building, which occurred in 1705. Professor James Blair, the founder of the College, promised that William and Mary would be like a phoenix, something beautiful rising from the charred shell of the old Wren Building (which, incidentally, was called “the College Building” back then). In fact, Blair’s portrait, which hangs in the Muscarelle Museum of Art, has an image of a phoenix rising from the base of the Wren in its background. However, the symbolism of the firebird doesn’t stop at the first Wren fire. As everyone knows, the Wren burned twice more; in 1859 and again three years later in 1862 when it was razed by drunken soldiers from the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment. In addition, the President’s House right next to the Wren was accidentally set on fire November 23, 1781 by French Soldiers who were quartered there after the siege of Yorktown. The phoenix has also been applied to the period when the college was closed due to a lack of funds, from 1881-1888.

At first, the phoenix referred directly to the fire of 1705. Since then, it has come to mean a lot more to the school, said Stacy Gould, University Archivist. When the Wren and the President’s house burned, they were rebuilt. When the school was closed in the late 1800’s, President Ewell rang the bell every year at the start of the term to remind Williamsburg that the school was still alive. Every time things looked hopeless, the school rose from her ashes, shook herself off and continued on.

The phoenix has long been called the “unofficial mascot of the school.” It has lent its name to everything from a nineteenth century debate club to a modern partnership with middle school-aged kids. There has even been talk of making it Colonel Ebright’s successor. Why has this mythological bird stayed around our campus for so long? Because it represents the spirit of our school; the will to keep on even at our darkest hour, to rise up out of destruction and failure and keep going, to go from a pile of ashes to the king of the air. The phoenix is a symbol of the interminable spirit of William and Mary.

Come to the Kimball Theatre on DoG Street!

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**

**Schedule**

**MOVIES**

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<tr>
<td>Junebug (R)</td>
<td>Thurs., Nov. 3-Wed., Nov. 9</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 4, 6-8 screening room (35 seats)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broken Flowers (R)</td>
<td>Wed., Nov. 9-Thurs., Nov. 17</td>
<td>7 and 9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Fifth Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival: Rashevski’s Tango</td>
<td>Sat., Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. (opening night)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloomy Sunday (R)</td>
<td>Sun., Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watermarks (R)</td>
<td>Mon., Nov. 14 and Tues., Nov. 15</td>
<td>6:45 and 8:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk on Water (R)</td>
<td>Wed., Nov. 16 and Thurs., Nov. 17</td>
<td>6:45 and 8:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2046 (R)</td>
<td>Fri., Nov. 18-Wed., Nov. 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aristocrats (R)</td>
<td>Fri., Nov. 18 and Sat., Nov. 19</td>
<td>10:30 p.m. only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everything is Illuminated (PG-13)</td>
<td>Tues., Nov. 22-Wed., Nov. 30</td>
<td>7 and 9:10 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constant Gardener (R)</td>
<td>Tues., Nov. 29-Mon., Dec. 5</td>
<td>6:45 and 8:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grizzly Man (R)</td>
<td>Thurs., Dec. 8-Wed., Dec. 14</td>
<td>6:45 and 8:45 p.m.</td>
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**LIVE PERFORMANCES**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Williamsburg Symphony presents Latin Rhythms</td>
<td>Sat., Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4 at 1:30 and 3 p.m.</td>
<td>All seats $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas With the Coyotes</td>
<td>Fri., Nov. 25-Sun., Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>General admission $15, Seniors/Students $12</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Williamsburg Symphony Holiday Concert</td>
<td>Sat., Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4 at 1:30 and 3 p.m.</td>
<td>All seats $18</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Kimball Theatre presents The American Boychoir</td>
<td>Tues., Dec. 6 and Wed., Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>General admission $30, Seniors/Students $27</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Hodge in Concert</td>
<td>Sat., Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>All seats $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Chesapeake Bay Wind Ensemble in Concert</td>
<td>Sat., Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>General admission $10, Seniors/Students $7</td>
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A Deli that closes before Mug Night: Lenny’s Gourmet

Shelbi Wilson

Lenny’s is a great place with quick and friendly service. Lenny’s has a great selection of wraps and sandwich items. You won’t get a deal; their prices are no better than anywhere else in Williamsburg. But don’t let that discourage you. Lenny’s is definitely worth the extra buck. They’re not stingy with their meats and cheeses — a plus for the hungry William and Mary student. I ordered Far East wrap (teriyaki chicken, havarti, lettuce, red onion, alfalfa sprouts, and honey mustard) and about two thirds of the hearty wrap was completely filled with chicken. It was impressed because I can’t say that about every sandwich place around campus.

In addition, Lenny’s has great sushi at reasonable prices. Forget the usual campus sushi and try Lenny’s instead. Here, freshness, wasabi with a bite, and an amazing pinch of ginger.

Lenny’s Gourmet is located at 445 Prince George Street near Merchant’s Square. If you would like to phone in your order, call (757) 253-0458 or fax (757) 253-0459.

We Have Great Replay Value

B oppity boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop boppity hop baby in a microwave one two three boppity boppity bop two three boppity boppity bop. "IT's like a family." “The people who started up IT created all of these traditions that sort of forced them to hang out together,” said member Brian Sallade. “We still do that kind of stuff but it seems odd, because we hang out on a regular basis anyway.” According to Sallade, “hanging out together and being friends actually helps out our performance. It makes our comedy better because we know each other, and we know how to work together.” “It also makes it easier to make fun of each other on stage.”

This is easy to see. During their warm-up exercises, which include everything from the boppity boppity hop game to an off-the-cuff sing-along, the members of the Company joke and play off each other effortlessly. There is laughing and face-making and even a little ass-slapping, and the group takes it all in stride.

When asked about their favorite audience to perform for, member Adam Miller states unequivocally, “William and Mary. The students of William and Mary.” Sam Bandstra elaborates: “The best audience is a responsive one. If we go out there and we say ‘All right, can we have a suggestion for your favorite color?’ and all we hear are the chicken chirping, it normally won’t be a good show.”

With all of that off-the-cuff acting, you would think that IT members would have a big problem with blanking out. According to group members, though, it isn’t too big a deal. “If we blank, we know that the other person, can…uh…can…-’ help! someone shouts out. They all laugh.

When most people think of IT, they think of comedy; slapstick or satiric, but comedy nonetheless. Little did I know IT has a serious side as well. I thought that IT company members were out and out comedians, rather than intensely serious actors. I was wrong. I was given the exclusive opportunity to observe a rehearsal for one of IT’s “scene-based” shows, which focused on “scenework” rather than their more lighthearted improv games.

The whole thing started out with the randomly selected word “androgyne”. From there, the group went on to act out scenes dealing with Playboy, Egyptian scrolls, feminism, child murders, guinea pigs, and lollipops. It was absolutely fascinating. And get this, kids: the acting was spellbinding. And I see a lot of theatre; I know. When you think about IT, “Oscar-worthy” might not be the first thing to pop into your head, but take it from me, people, this performance blew me away. Through it, I discovered that IT is not just a ragtag group of funnymen; they are a serious company of enormously talented actors.

IT’s last show of the semester will be on December 6th. You should be there. And they don’t just do student performances either. IT is available for private bookings for everything from charity balls to cookouts to dorm shows. For more information on that, check IT out online at www.wm.edu/so/improv.

C O M P L E T E T H I S C R U S H: 1 6 9 3 7 2 5 1 8

A Change of Scene: Located near Aroma’s on Prince George Street, Lenny’s Gourmet gives William & Mary students a different dining-out option.

Puzzle Corner

Compiled by Shelbi Wilson

Fallen Phrase:

Put the letters below back into the column above it in the correct way to see the phrase.

Double Puzzle:

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Arts & Entertainment

November 2005 Page 13

Stephanie Long
Innocent until proven guilty

On November 2, students at the College received an email from Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler about an alleged sexual assault in Charles City County involving two William and Mary students. While the victim was, understandably, left anonymous, Sadler identified the alleged assailant by name.

Sadler’s message to the community had an essential point: “It is important for everyone to remember that Patrick has only been charged with this crime. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty.”

Let us remember this later if Patrick proves to be innocent. With his name released in Sam Sadler’s email, the one mode of communication from the school that many students actually pay attention to, Patrick is already a marked man.

Does anyone remember back in September 2003, when another male college student was accused of rape? While his name was not immediately released in Sadler’s email to the College, hours after the incident was reported the alleged assailant’s mug shot was displayed prominently on the Student Information Network’s (SIN) homepage. The Flat Hat and The Dog Street Journal both addressed the alleged crime with the information that was available at the time; a fraternity brother allegedly raping a non-student minor. The mug shot was taken down a few hours later but the damage had been done.

In January 2004 the non-student minor withdrew her charges. The student pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors: providing alcohol to a minor and having sex with a minor, although the minor admitted that the sex was consensual. The student was sentenced to 30 days in prison, a $500 fine, and nearly that much in restitution to the minor.

Was there a Sam Sadler email with a correct account of the story? Was there a “Message to the Community” to tell us all that the young man was innocent? No. There was a small article in The Dog Street Journal and a news brief in The Flat Hat.

When we contacted the Administration on why Patrick’s name was released via Sadler’s email we were told that since he had been publicly charged by Charles City County, that not releasing the name would have raised more questions on campus and in the community.

Do the students have the right to know the identity of an alleged rapist? Perhaps. But the alleged rapist is still innocent until proven guilty. And if he is proven innocent, the students have the right to 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 put 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.
The United States is an "invisible downward spike from which it would never recover."

Kincheloe "is the author of numerous books and articles dealing with multiculturalism."

Sheehan, Hillary Clinton, Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, and others are incapable of serious intellectual discourse—a bias I've formed over the past few years thanks to people like Cindy Sheehan, Hillary Clinton, Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, and Nancy Pelosi, just to name a few.

"Call me prejudiced, but after hearing only that much about them, I couldn't help but develop some preconceived ideas about what they were going to say."

"T"he lecture opened with a discussion on positionality."

"Ironically, it would be in Joe Kincheloe's and Shirley Steinberg's Lifetime"..."I don't know what you'd call it. I guess you could call it an election."

The absurdity and idiocy of Steinberg's remark only serves to throw gasoline on the very fire they claim to want to extinguish.

Academic elitists might say that perhaps my preconceived notions about liberals would be proven false. As it happens, however, it was at this point that the discussion took a severe downward spike from which it would never recover.

"Karl” says that his ideas are purely good, bad, thought, expressions of intelligence are all established by white norms, by which everyone is evaluated.”

"I was truly shocked, however, when Steinberg likened American politics today to the politics of the pre-Civil Rights George Wallace."

"You know I’m not a reverse racist, but…"
As one of the most beloved buildings on campus, the original “College Building” that dates back to the College’s founding in 1693 and the oldest academic building in continuous use in the United States, it is disheartening to see what appears to be a parking lot alongside the Richmond Road side of the historic building.

The Richmond Road side lawn is covered with wood chips, while the Jamestown Road side has grass, and there has always been service and utility vehicles parked on the wood chips from time to time. But for the past few weeks there have been white parking blocks placed beside the building with vans and other vehicles parked there around the clock.

Dave Shepard, the deputy director of Facilities Management, says that the soil is reinforced and is suitable for the parking of motor vehicles. In the past, Catering Services vehicles occupied the spots when they held events at the Wren. The parking blocks have been added recently to accommodate the contractors working on the President’s House. “The blocks are there for them to use as a staging area,” said Shepard. He also stressed that the blocks would be removed following the construction and that the space will once again be occupied by university vehicles.

Informer investigates...

Campus eyesore: A parking lot next to the Wren Building?

Safety tips for Winter traveling

courtesy of the Fire Safety Department of the College of William and Mary

Winter weather will soon be officially here. In order to enjoy our winter more, be prepared for the changes that it may bring. Let’s look at some tips that will make your winter more enjoyable.

- If your car needs a tune up or is due for regular service, get it done now.
- Mechanical problems can leave you stranded in the winter.
- Make sure your battery and charging system are up to in good condition and keep your battery charged.
- Check the cooling system. Making certain the antifreeze will protect your car to the winter temperatures you’ll experience in your area.
- Keep your gas tank close to full, for a couple of reasons. In the summer, you can take a chance and run down to nearly empty. But, in the winter, if you do get stuck or stranded, the engine will be your only source of heat.
- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape and that your windshield washer reservoir is full. On a snowy or messy day, you can easily go through half a gallon of fluid trying to keep your windshield clear. For that reason, it’s also a good idea to keep some extra fluid in the trunk in case you run out.
- Make sure your rear window defroster works.
- Make sure you have good tires.
- Make sure you have some basic supplies in your car in case you get stuck. Always carry a good ice scrape and a snowbrush. It’s also advisable to carry a shovel and something to help with traction, such as sand or kitty litter. You might also want to carry a blanket, additional winter clothing, and a good pair of boots.
- The very best thing you can do to reduce problem in winter driving is give yourself plenty of extra time to arrive at your destination.

The Virginia Informer wishes to honor our Veterans

Our country will never forget your sacrifice

Merry Christmas & Happy Chanukkah from The Virginia Informer!