Important Student Rights info not distributed by Dean’s office

Steven Nelson
News Editor

This summer members of the Student Assembly collaborated on a project aimed to better inform students who were charged with a violation of college policy. The project compiled flow charts for student conduct proceedings as well as student rights information into an informational packet which was to be distributed by the Conduct Office to students charged with a violation.

SA Senator Ben Brown (’11) developed the idea and met with Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct David Gilbert several times during the Spring 2008 semester to implement the project. “He was very receptive to the idea and we agreed that most students charged with a violation are unaware of how the process functions,” says Mr. Brown, who also worked with Student Conduct Council Chair Ashley Bevis (’09) on the project.

Dean Gilbert was sent a draft for approval from the Student Assembly and after negotiations agreed to distribute the packet. To avoid wasting paper he decided not to hand out copies to all students, but rather only those who appeared before his office.

The student rights information featured in the packet is sourced primarily from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education’s Guide to Due Process and Fair Procedure on Campus, and covers basic rights and preparation for hearings. The packet also references Student Legal Services’ availability to assist in cases.

The Virginia Informer and Student Assembly representatives recently learned of a conduct case in which a student was summoned to the Student Conduct office and not given the informational packet advising him of his rights. The student received a severe punishment after opting for an on-the-spot informal resolution.

Contacted by worried members of the Student Assembly, Dean Gilbert assured them that the information contained in the packet was available on-line. He went on to note that

STUDENT RIGHTS PACKETS
continued on page four

No mid-year tuition increase, endowment drop significant

Andrew Blasi
Editor in Chief

In a conversation with The Virginia Informer as well as at the College’s first budget forum on October 29th, President Revey stated that the administration will not impose a mid-year tuition increase on students unless absolutely necessary. President Revey stated, “students and their parents have already established their budgets for this year and it would not be fair to them if we undertook such action.” He also discussed how the College has been in conversation with other public universities in the Commonwealth and that they have also determined not to impose a mid-year increase. This assurance comes on the heels of an additional $3.43 million cut in state funding to the College announced by Governor Tim Kaine last month.

Since October 2007, the state has cut roughly $12 million in projected funding to William and Mary and is anticipated to make further cuts again for fiscal year 2010. Since the announcement by Governor Kaine, the College has already managed to cut $2.2 million from its projected fiscal year 2009 budget, but a shortfall of roughly $1.2 million still remains. In responding to questions posed by The Informer, the College’s Vice President for Finance Sam Jones stated that he believes the College would be able to achieve the necessary savings in order to address the remaining shortfall. When asked about The Informer’s recent investigation into the College’s potential savings on energy expenses as a result of the recent fall in energy prices, Jones stated he hopes that is one source from which cost savings are to be achieved. The College anticipated spending $4.2 million in utility charges this fiscal year when the budget was being set in the spring and energy prices were significantly higher. A shortfall of $2.5 million still remains for the College’s projected budget in fiscal year 2010.

President Revey also told The Informer that while it would be impossible to predict where the endowment will be at the end of December given present market conditions, he would not be surprised if it was presently down between 15 and 20 percent year to year. He could not confirm these figures as official, yet when looking to the endowment’s assets going forward he stated, “we have not been able to predict where the endowment will end up, but it will be a difficult environment.”

ENDOWMENT DECREASE
continued on page four
Residence Life to bring room deposits, housing contract online

Bryan Callaway 

As part of Residence Life’s ongoing initiative to expand its online presence, plans are slowly in the works to bring the Room Reservation Deposit process online.

The introduction of an online deposit service is a logical follow-up to Residence Life’s launch of its online room selection program in Spring 2007; its most significant foray into “e-commerce”. If implemented, the initiative would provide students with a more convenient and financially flexible way of paying their on-campus housing deposit by removing the arcane requirements that the deposit be paid both in check and in-person at the Bursar’s office.

Student Assembly Senator Ben Brown (’11) has been at the forefront in advocating for this service. Mr. Brown’s interest in the initiative began earlier this year when he contacted the Bursar’s office about installing such a program, and was surprised

RES LIFE MOVING ONLINE continued on page four

Lips magazine sticks it to Pub Council, receives SA funding

Ian Kirkpatrick Assistant News Editor 

In a recent meeting of the Student Assembly Senate, Annie Brown, Co-editor of the magazine Lip’s Expressions of Female Sexuality, discussed the publicists’ council’s lack of openness in providing funding for her organization. She explained that “every magazine we put out has been received with great enthusiasm. We tried to apply for a position on the publications council... but I was harassed about the content of our magazine. We requested special funding, because it [the publications council] would not be a good place for us... we just got some very exciting submissions; they’re juicy, I promise you.”

The decision to fund the magazine sparked intense debate. SA President Valerie Hopkins, for instance, brought up the fact that Lips’ previous requests for funding had been denied by the Senate. The reason we didn’t fund it initially is because [Senator Beato (’09)] said it was not appropriate for the SA to fund this publication.” Nonetheless, there was widespread sympathy for Brown’s troubles with the Publications Council. Secretary of the Student Rights Department Braun Katz (’10) added, “If you are a new publication on campus, there literally is no way to get funding.” He also mentioned that this may soon change, as the SA is currently working on a solution with Mark Constantine.

Later in the meeting, Vice President Kristin Slawter mentioned that the SA is currently trying to change some of the 800 outdoor lights on campus. Slawter attributed the well-known phenomenon of lights turning off when a pedestrian is in the vicinity to a sodium imbalance.

The introduction of the Virginia Gazette, which was made possible by Sen. Walter McClean (’09), was also discussed briefly.

SA ELECTION RESULTS PARTY continued on page four

Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Assistant Opinion Editor

Kiplinger’s ranks William and Mary fifth best value among US public universities

In December 2008 Kiplinger’s will release its annual report on the 100 best values among public universities in the United States and has determined William and Mary to place fifth, down one position from last year. In making its determination, Kiplinger uses such factors as tuition and fees, financial aid, graduation rates, cost and financial aid. In response to the report, President Taylor Reveley stated “We’re pleased once again to be recognized by Kiplinger’s as one of the country’s best values in higher education.”

Alumni Participate in Symposium

On October 24, the Alumni Association hosted a symposium that offered alumni the opportunity to hear senior administrators speak on their goals for the College. Reveley used the occasion to outline a new plan for alumni relations, focusing on relationships, planning, finances and communication. In response to the financial crisis and state budget shortfall, Reveley exhorted alumni to give back to their alma mater. A session was also held to review historical and current College traditions.

VIMS Finds Fatal Bacterial Disease in Striped Bass

Marine biologists at VIMS have found that Chesapeake Bay striped bass are dying from myobacteriosis, a chronic bacterial disease. The findings were based on surveys conducted from 2003-2005, with assistance from ongoing VIMS biological research teams. The 1,420 striped bass sampled were sorted by age, sex, and disease status. Based on the model assumptions, it was concluded that infection with myobacteriosis reduced the probability of another year’s survival by 70 percent.

The current extent of infection is estimated at more than 50 percent of the stock of striped bass in the bay. Researchers hope that these initial results will encourage closer scrutiny and the development of new models for disease transmission in aquatic ecosystems.

UCAB Given National Honor

UCAB received the Board of Excellence Award at the National Association for Campus Activities South Conference, beating 50 other schools. Organizations produced an online publication, organizational goals, organizational information, planning and preparation, publicity and promotion, evaluation, and campus support. Six organizations (including UCAB) made presentations to the Board itself. Katy Lang (’09), UCAB’s Director of the General Board, was also recognized as Student Leader of the Year.
Publications Council discusses radical changes to bylaws

Steven Nelson
News Editor

Persistent criticism has plagued the Publications Council since its election last semester to deny student funding to three new student publications, including feminist magazine Lips. On Friday, October 31 the Publications Council held its first meeting of the academic year. The Publications Council, commonly referred to as the Pub Council, is an organization on which all major student media outlets hold membership, with the exception of The Virginia Informer. The Council determines the leadership of its member organizations and allocates roughly $150,000 in student fees amongst its members annually. Council members include the editors of The Flat Hat, Jump! Magazine, The Flat Hat, Winged Nation, Dog Street Journal, The Monitor, Marshall-Wythe Press, William and Mary Review, Colonial Elite, and a stack of handouts featuring the William and Mary library, have received a new donation of $2.5 million from H. Elizabeth McLeod (’83) and her husband J. Goodenough Tyler III. The donation is the largest ever to the College’s libraries.

W&M Students for Life advocates the right to life through silent solidarity

Rachel Smith
Assistant Arts and Culture Editor

On Tuesday, October 21st many William and Mary students witnessed their peers walking around campus with red ribbon tied around their arms, and a stack of handouts featuring the statement “I am Silent.” These students were members of William and Mary Students for Life (SFL). William and Mary Students for Life is a non-partisan, not for profit, non-secretarian organization that believes in the preservation of life from conception to natural death. Students, faculty, and members of William and Mary community about the right-to-life through literature, speakers, and presentations. Tuesday, October 21st marked a national Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity, is one of the SFL’s main methods for informing the William and Mary Community about the right-to-life.

The Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity pays tribute to the millions of women and children who have had their voices silenced through abortion. To represent those voices that were cut short, people from across the nation go throughout their day holding red ribbons as a silent protest against abortion. They cannot speak for themselves. Not only did participants silenced their voices, but they also chose to wear red arm bands and red shoe laces over their shoes to demonstrate their involvement in the day dedicated of solidarity.

Betancourt Hardy, the current center director, will hold this position. The remaining $1 million will go towards the McLeod Business Library which will open next year, when the Mason School of Business has its content transferred into Alan B. Miller Hall. The donation is expected to increase the quality of service that business students will receive at the new facility. Both electronic and printed information will be more easily accessible, and other traditional services will be improved, including a digital catalogue, study lounges, and copying. The gift was made in appreciation for the influence that books had in McLeod’s life, taking note of the fact that her childhood home was full of them.

We have not been following our by-laws for the past few years...we have been giving all members of the Council to vote, revising the process for electing members’ editors, and deciding how to appropriate seed funding, in an apparently content-driven manner.

A proposal by The Flat Hat, reflecting public suspicion of the current process of editor selection, proposed a change to the process. The current system permits all members of the Pub Council, including administrators, to have a say in the election of other publications’ editors. The proposal by The Flat Hat would allow member publications to opt out of the current system. A publication would instead have to submit a new policy for internal selection of leadership to the Pub Council, on which two-thirds of the Council’s members would have to affirm support. Permission from the Council to conduct internal selection would be effective for three years before coming up for review. According to Editor in Chief Austin Wright (’09), no student money was given to The Flat Hat last semester. However, according to budget numbers released by the Office of Student Activities, $3,500 in student activity money to buy your shoelaces? Do we need to be having Jump! Magazine’s presentation was notable for blending comedy with its goals. “Gangster shoeless” was included among more serious objectives. The fairly transparent joke was not well received by some, including Mr. Constantine, who demanded to know: “do we need to be giving them student money? Do we need to be giving Jump! Magazine to buy your shoelaces? Do we need to be having student money?” Mr. Constantine opened the meeting sharing the latest of student submissions while 1% of submissions, mostly from non-students. However, according to budget numbers released by the Office of Student Activities, $3,500 in student activity money was given to the publication for the event. The series of posters, which were spread across the Meadows, read: “Today we stand silent in solidarity with the women and children silenced by abortion.”

Stephanie Long (’09), Secretary of SFL, discussed her participation in The Day of Silent Solidarity with Kate Johnson. For Long, the day presented her with an opportunity to stand up for what she believes in, and it was also the first time she had the courage to advocate her feelings openly on a campus. “I know that our members will never be inspired to pro-life movement if our officers aren’t willing to take that risk,” Long said. “I decided that even though it would be difficult, this year I would remain silent in solidarity with the women and children who are silenced by abortion.”

Long also cited experiences had by other SFL members. Freshman Liz Horne’s professor was so enthusiastic about the cause that she sparked an in-class discussion about the 4,000 abortions that occur in the United States daily. In another incident, the SFL’s Vice President, Sarah Evans (’10), verbally assaulted by a group of people while she put up posters in the Crim Dell Meadows. She swore at her, stating that she had no right to make women feel bad about what they choose to do with their bodies.

In light of both positive and negative reactions, the SFL will participate in this year’s Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. No matter their stance on abortion, all students should appreciate the freedom of expression one’s editor is in a responsible and positive manner.

We have not been following our by-laws for the past few years...we have been giving all members of the Council to vote, revising the process for electing members’ editors, and deciding how to appropriate seed funding for new publications. As of the 2006-2007 school year, the Publications Council discusses radical changes to bylaws.
RES LIFE UPGRADING ONLINE: Students to be provided new options for contracts, deposits

continued from page two

to learn that despite support for it by various departments on campus, no progress on it had been made. “I couldn’t get a definitive answer from anyone (about when it was going to get done),” said Mr. Brown. Unsatisfied by the vagueness of the responses he was receiving about the project’s status, Mr. Brown sponsored and unanimously passed a bill last Tuesday conveying the SA’s interest in seeing the project being made a reality no later than by the end of the 2008-09 academic year. However, impediments to the project’s development have prevented an exact date being set for its launch. According to Ms. Katrina Pawluk, the Associate Director of Residence Life, these delays have primarily been the result of integration issues, stemming from the pending release of Banner 8, which is due out later this year, and coordination among the relevant departments, such as Information Technology and the Bursar’s office, each of which is set to play a significant role in the development process.

SCOPE OF ENDOWMENT DAMAGE UNKNOWN:

Preliminary estimates range from 15-20 percent

continued from page one

into this year, coupled with recent trends in the stock market, such a prediction is not untenable (see chart on WAMIT investments for an endowment performance report). The information was not provided to students, but was available in his office upon request. To determine the status of the packet’s distribution, The Informer went to the Dean of Students Office and requested one. The copy given to The Informer by the office appeared to have been printed only once. The office secretary aiding the request commented, “I have never had someone ask for this before.” The cover of the one available packet also possessed a sticker stating, “Please do not remove from Dean of Students Office.”

SA, UCAB HOST ELECTION RESULTS PARTY: SA revising “know your rights” cards for students

continued from page two

In recognition of this year’s presidential election, UCAB is hosting “DemOCRacy” celebration on the terrace on 4 November, with a results viewing party to follow in Lodge 1. Senator Brown introduced a new “know your rights card”, which has been updated and is now printed on plastic instead of paper. One graduate representative inquired, “Does that include what happens when you get pulled over for a DUl?” After the laughter subdued she added that there were “2 [DUIs] in the last 12 months.” The bill, co-sponsored by Mr. Brown, Steven Nelson (’10) and Mr. McLean (’09), passed unanimously.

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On an internal note, senators discussed the SA checking account, which will be reopened after certain changes regarding financial policy, among which is a $150 limit for any single expense. Senator Douglass ’11 dissented, arguing that “an arbitrary limit will not get the job done. If you look at [former SA Vice President Zach Pilcher’s] spending, it consisted of 18 purchases totaling less than 150 dollars.” Douglass also suggested a regular audit every six months. Beato shot back, saying that “having an audit every 6 months is an awful, awful idea… that’s being reactive. We need to be proactive.” Eventually, a higher limit of $250 was suggested, but voted down in favor of the $150 limit.

STUDENT RIGHTS PACKETS IGNORED: SA-Conduct Office agreement seemingly goes unfollowed

continued from page one

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We need to be proactive. Eventually, a higher limit of $250 was suggested, but voted down in favor of the $150 limit.
Research associate at W&M IR institute found in violation of harassment policy at University of Georgia

Kristin Coynner
Opinion Editor

Dr. Stephen M. Shellman, a research associate at the College and former professor at the University of Georgia (UGA), was found to be in violation of the UGAs anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy, stemming from two incidents involving sexual alcohol and contact with students. Dr. Shellman was never criminally charged, but was dismissed from UGA following the investigation's conclusion in March. At the time the incidents and subsequent resignation took place, Dr. Shellman was a faculty associate at the College. William and Mary did not file any charges at that time and did not consider the allegations until Dr. Shellman was to become a research associate at the College's Institute for Theory and Practice in International Relations.

Dr. Shellman was unable to be reached for comment.

Documents made available by the Red and Black at the University of Georgia, and available on TheInfoner website, indicate that Shellman was admitted to his indiscretions in a March 20 statement. They included an "unwelcome sexual advances," a student in a in a hotel and an "alcohol blackout" after "drinking heavily" at a local bar.

For his part, Shellman publicized the statement Dr. Shellman also apologized for his actions and called them "a lapse of judgment in a life-changing experience."

The College's legal affairs coordinator, Kiersten Boyce said "if there were no questions or concerns that time, we would have been at [Shellman] while at William and Mary since it would have been in the public interest to do so." However, The Infoner has learned from the UGA Office of Legal Services that their office was only contacted during the deliberations on whether to bring Dr. Shellman to the Institute. Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, Tammy Carries, who is responsible for investigating sexual harassment charges at William and Mary, was not aware of the claims Dr. Shellman faced while he retained his title of faculty associate concurrently with his associate professorship at the UGA. She noted that she was not consulted during the process of Dr. Shellman’s re-affiliation with the College.

The college policies are brought to our attention, then we would have to address those then. They would not have been ignored, " said Ms. Carries. She further added, "Incidents occurring off campus or at another university unrelated to our students would be out of my authority. I believe bringing it to my attention—[Dean Strikwerda] could have mentioned it to me, " she said.

Ms. Boyce explained "the College does have the ability to discipline any faculty employee."

She went on to say that "all individuals affiliated with the College—whether as volunteers, members, faculty, an employee, a faculty member, a consultant, a researcher—are expected to comply with applicable College policies."

Upon news of Dr. Shellman's violation at UGA, no investigation was conducted regarding Dr. Shellman. From 2003-2005, Dr. Shellman taught opinion policy clarifications continued on page ten

CATO fellow talks about US healthcare, Obama, McCain

Alexander Powell
Staff Writer

On October 29, Michael Tanner, senior fellow at the CATO Institute and coauthor of Healthy Competition: What's Holding Back Healthcare and How to Fix It, presented a talk at William and Mary.

Mr. Tanner also shed light on the claim made by Senator Obama’s healthcare plan, "Healthy Competition: What’s Holding Back Healthcare and How to Fix It," that there are 47 million people in the US who are never taught by teaching assistants.

"I learned infinitely more Italian in my twice-a-week drills, for instance, from my twenty-year-old TA than I did from the supposed professional," said Mr. Tanner.

Mr. Tanner also cited positives of TAs, such as "a small but significant number of graduate students in the Arts and Sciences."

The report detailed, using survey analysis, the ways in which the College had perhaps formerly overlooked its commitment to the training and supervision of graduate and undergraduate students.

The committee responded with ways in which the College could use their presence as a factor in judging departmental performance.

The College has vested interests in the meaningfulness of Teaching Assistants, as various publications will use their presence as a factor in judging the academic quality of an institution. In spite of the decade-old problem, Dr. Shellman and the College do not appear to be addressing the issue.

"One of the great things about teaching assistants is that they get to use their presence as a factor in judging departmental performance," said Ms. Carries.

Next, Mr. Tanner reviewed presidential candidate Barack Obama’s healthcare plan. "Mandates, regulation and subsidies are the three pillars of the Obama healthcare plan," he explained. Tanner pointed out that Senator Obama’s plan did not have an individual mandate, forcing people to have insurance, so it is not a universal healthcare system.

It is a system that ties a person even more to their job, so the plan does have an employer mandate. "An employer mandate hits small businesses economically," said Mr. Tanner, which would raise the cost of employee compensation so worker wages and benefits will have to be cut for the employer mandate to be paid.

He also noted that Senator Obama’s plan for the idea of community rating for price increases in a system that already has healthcare while rewarding those who wait until they need it, since healthy people will have to pay the same as sick people, and sick people cannot be denied. Mr. Obama claimed that this program will cost $65 billion in new spending, while others say it will be as high as $600 billion. Mr. Tanner said that we can predict any figure as in 1964, when Medicare was passed and Congress estimated that it would cost $9 billion by 2002 when in reality it cost $400 billion.

Mr. Tanner did not speak heavily on John McCain’s plan because he assumes that his candidacy is a long shot at this point. Mr. Tanner did cite positives of allowing cross state purchase and the tax credit and subsequent tax, which would provide 90% of people with more money to buy healthcare.

"You sign a contract," Park said, "saying that you won’t have sexual relations with your grad student. But what is one of our responsibilities as an academic?" asked Mr. Tanner.

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Trader Joe’s brew beer-ly tolerable

Alex Kyrios
Contributor

Trader Joe’s offers some exciting and exotic food products (try their buffalo jerky!), so I eagerly paid a visit to their new Williamsburg store near New Town a little while ago. Imagine my delight when I discovered their impressive line of craft beers. The thought of beers from a mostly natural-foods grocer demanded the attention of a beer snob like me.

I decided to treat myself to a little central European tour, sampling four Trader Joe’s brews styled after German, Austrian, and Czech beers.

Joseph’s Brau (German-style pilsner)

Instead of a true pilsner (see the Czech Pilsner Urquell or the German Wernesgruner), the Hopfest more closely resembles standard American beers of Budweiser, Miller, and Coors, labeled a pilsner but without the distinctive hopped taste characteristic of the style. It has the right light, golden color, but Hopfest doesn’t live up to its name. Connoisseurs of especially hoppy beers should stick with IP As and must unfortunately rate it 0/5 steins.

Trader Joe’s Bohemian Style Hefeweizen

This is quite possibly the worst beer I have ever tasted, and it shames the land of my forefathers (Germany) in pretending to have anything in common with it. Its label rants about its use of some German hop that has the right light, golden color, and banana or hops; its simple design adheres to the storied German beer style. Unfortunately, it does taste (and smell) like banana. It’s also incredibly yeasty, compared to the bizarre Magic Hat Participation Lager, part of their election-themed variety pack. If you like your beer yeasty, you may want to give this monstrosity a try, but as for me, I think I’ll prefer Natty. I can’t believe I just wrote that. If at all possible, this beer gets 0/5 steins.

Trader Joe’s Vienna Style Lager (Smooth Amber Lager)

The Vienna is like that one acquaintance of yours—you know the one—that you see all the time around campus and may even call your friend from time to time, but in fact you just have no interest in getting to know any better. My tasting partner summed up the Vienna well when she sagely noted that it “just tastes like beer.” The amber taste is faint to nonexistent. If you want that taste, go for a Killian’s or a Michelob Amber Bock. I can at least see fit to grant it the Vienna 2.5/5 steins.

Trader Joe’s Bohemian Lager (Crisp Refreshing Lager)

What irony that the beer that promises the least delivers the most. Compared to these other varieties, the Bohemian is a veritable rhapsody. It sports an unpleasant smell, but it tastes much better than Heineken anyway. I appreciate Trader Joe’s efforts not to corrupt this brew with banana or hops; its simple design and basic taste vindicate the wisdom of the aforementioned purity law (or Reinheitsgebot, for you fellow-German-philes). The Bohemian earns 3.5/5 steins, which may be a bit of a Trader Joe’s curve.

While Trader Joe’s beers disappoint pretty heavily, they’re a bit of a Trader Joe’s curve. Here’s recommending you make like an artist and stick with the Bohemian. Prost!

Not even fit for Joe Six-Pack: White certainly a bargain choice at $5.99, for a couple more dollars you can guarantee a much better tasting beer.

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Student Life

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

The William and Mary Revolutionary War Reenactment College Company led ghost tours as a fundraiser for their club on the evenings of October 29th-November 1st. These tours have become an annual tradition for the club in order to raise funds for provisions like costumes, gun powder, and muskets for reenactments. The ghost tours, which typically bring in between $200 and $300, serve as the main fundraiser for the company of about eight to fifteen members. These tours differentiate themselves from others in the area, as they focus solely on the ghosts that haunt William and Mary’s campus.

The tours begin in the Wren Courtyard where participants are greeted by company members dressed in colonial garb. Members Chris Oxenford (’11) and Pete Giannino (’10) began our ghost tour with a brief history of the Wren building. They told a curious tale in which an English professor was teaching a night class in the classroom underneath the Great Hall. During the class, footsteps were heard above them and the professor exclaimed, “Oh, it’s Sir Christopher Wren!” At that very moment, they heard a crash. The class rushed upstairs, only to find an empty Great Hall. They were the only ones in the Wren building that night.

Our next stop was Tucker, the site of several suicides. Giannino and Oxenford recounted several suicide tales, including one involving a ghost who visits students studying late in Tucker. If she asks how your studies are going, never say well, or she will “haunt you good.”

A more recent eerie incident occurred in 2005, when a group was working on a film studies project downstairs. The room briefly lost power, though the rest of Tucker retained it. Eventually, the computer turned back on, and they were able to burn DVDs of their project. While showing the project to their professor the next day, the group was surprised to find that images of the lecture room, a black and white 18th century Spanish dancer, and faces of their fellow classmates had been inserted into their presentation. No one knows where these images came from.

Stories of unexplained footsteps and door slamming were told at the president’s house. Across the way at the Braddock, our guides recounted the tale of one Native American boy, who mysteriously died while attending school there. He can still be seen running above the Sunken Gardens on cold, misty nights.

The last stories were told in front of PBK, a location which “Lucinda” is known to haunt in her white dress. Lucinda was a student at the college back in the 1950s and was chosen to play the lead role in a play. She died a few days before the show, and her understudy took over the role. While rehearsing, the understudy saw a dark shadow moving across the back of the theater. They investigated, and found Lucinda’s white dress draped on a back chair. Lucinda and her white dress still haunt PBK, as students and even the police claim to have had encounters with the white dress.

After hearing about the ghosts of William and Mary, it was hard not to be spooked. So the next time you witness moving shadows during late night studying, take the time to look beyond the obvious caffeine-induced coma for explanations.

On October 31, FBI Director Robert Mueller came to William and Mary and spoke in Ewell’s recital hall about present counterterrorism efforts as well as the Bureau’s current priorities. The specific content of Director Mueller’s remarks was placed off the record.

FBI Director visits College

Alex Kyriou
Honor code reforms await student referendum

Chris Ours
Staff Writer

All freshman and transfer students coming to the College of William and Mary take the following pledge: “As a member of the William and Mary community, I pledge on my honor not to lie, cheat, or steal, either in my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust, of which we are all stewards.” The Honor Code is a historic document that helps maintain and enforce this pledge. The commitment to honor is at the heart of William and Mary tradition and Ginger Ambler, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, has stated that the Honor Code is one of our “most cherished traditions. The code’s origins stretch back to William and Mary alumnus, Thomas Jefferson. While he was Governor of Virginia in 1779, the first student honor system was drafted. The basic attitude has changed little from the original, in that William and Mary students continue to vow not to lie, cheat, or steal. But how we understand these terms and the mechanisms by which they are upheld have evolved with the ever-changing dynamic campus.

The Honor Code was last revised in 1997, and for well over a year, a new revision has been on the minds of many students. On Wednesday, November 5, the student body of William and Mary will vote by a referendum on proposed changes to the William and Mary Honor Code.

The proposal is set forth by a collection of representatives who form the Council of Chairs. The Council has proposed changes to the Honor Code to make it easier to navigate and understand, clarify the definitions of offenses, make more transparent the Honor System Procedures, and update the amendment process.

The new organization scheme of the Honor Code divides the document into sections and subsections for easier navigation. The definitions of lying, cheating, and stealing have each been streamlined. For example, the existing description of stealing is “the intentional taking or appropriating of the property of another without consent or permission and with the intent to keep or use the property without the owner’s or the rightful possessor’s permission.” While the proposed definition states that “stealing is a deliberate taking or use of another’s property without the owner’s consent or permission.”

The Honor System Procedures have been better defined to inform the student body of the workings of the Honor Council, how violations of the code are reported, and how they are followed up on. Lastly, the proposed changes alter the amendment process for alterations to the Honor Code with regards to procedure. Formerly, these changes had to be approved by referendum of the student body, but the proposed change does not require such vast approval, allowing the amendment process to be more efficient when necessary. General changes to the Honor Code must still be made by referendum.

Most important is the student body’s approval of the revised Honor Code. Students are strongly encouraged to review the proposed changes on Wednesday, November 5 through the Student Information Network (SIN) where voting takes place online. If passed by the student body, the proposed changes must be approved by the Attorney General of Virginia’s Office. Finally, it will be signed into action by the President of the College.

For the complete draft of the proposed changes to the Honor Code go to: http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentconduct/honorrevision/index.php
The Virginia Informer (VIA): As mayor of Williamsburg, who you believe is the greatest concern to tackle among the problems in Williamsburg?

Mayor Zeidler: It is definitely the economy. We are not immune from what is going on nationally and internationally. And we are a small city, a city very dependent on tourism and the taxes from tourism [have been] flat or declining. When people don’t travel, our revenue decreases. And beyond that, we are a small city with two world class institutions. Both are off course impacted by a downturn in the economy. We think that is the biggest concern.

BUDGET CRUNCH

VIA: What will potential budgets cut mean for the city?

Mayor Zeidler: We don’t know yet. We don’t know how good or bad it might be. We will probably get through this year fine because the city has been very conservative financially. We have a lean budget and we are conservative on projected revenues because we are so dependent on tourism taxes. We also have a conservative rainy day fund. And if it’s rainy you dip into your rainy day fund. But next year, that will be the crunch. We see James City Council project a three million dollar deficit for this year’s budget, and potentially, a nine million dollar deficit for next year. This affects Williamsburg because we do a lot things together with James City County, so who knows? At this point, we aren’t looking at service cuts but we don’t know if that’s going to happen or not.

LOCAL CRIME

VIA: There has been some talk about recent gang activity. Do you think that the city should be worried about more in future?

Mayor Zeidler: I think our public safety people have a good understanding of what is going on in this community. They know the signs of gang activity. But most importantly they do a lot of prevention work. I don’t think we have a problem in the historic triangle, especially not in Williamsburg. Our own police department and human services work with youth to prevent that kind of activity and to help people who are struggling and create form underprivileged homes to be successful.

Mayor Zeidler: It is for, to keep the people safe and to jeopardize public safety. One program is done by a police officer and work on team building. I don’t think there is gang activity and to help people who are struggling and human services work with youth to prevent that good. We know what’s going on.

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Dedicated tree mysteriously cut down

For quite some time, a tree planted in honor of a former William and Mary student from the Class of 2007 has been left cut down near the Randolph Complex and across the street from DuPont Hall. The tree’s stub still remains as does the plaque honoring the student. The plaque reads as follows:

“In Memory
Steven Thomas Wallace
William and Mary
Class of 2007
Virtuous Friend
Gentle Heart
Always Remembered”

The Virginia Informer has submitted a request to the administration that the tree stub is removed and a new tree be planted in its place.

Behind the BOV
The making of its members

Brittany Lane
Contributor

As the foremost governing body of the College, the Board of Visitors presides over the wide scope of affairs on campus and plays an integral role in the inner workings of the College. Selected by the Governor of Virginia, the Board consists of seventeen members who each serve a term of four years. Furthermore, the Board is divided into twelve committees, which focus on reaching out to the community.

According to the Bylaws posted on the William and Mary website, the members of the BOV elect a Rector of the College, a Vice Rector, and a Secretary of the Board. They also select the President of the College, academic officers, faculty members and other employees necessary for the efficient management of the College. President Reveley and Provost Feis, along with six vice presidents of various areas of administration, must report directly to the BOV in order to make academic and administrative policy.

Consequently, if a Board member fails to adequately conduct their duties for one year without validation, the Rector has the right to notify the Governor.

Additionally, more selection occurs within the BOV every year. The Rector appoints the President of the Student Assembly to the non-voting position of an advisory representative on the Board. The Rector also appoints a full-time faculty member to a similar position. He or she must have been a past president of the Faculty Assembly.

Every other year, the Rector chooses three members of the Board to nominate candidates for the offices of Rector, Vice Rector, and Secretary. However, nominations are also accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Elections soon follow, and new officers serve two-year terms and have the option of being re-elected for an additional term afterwards.

Following officer elections, the Rector appoints one Board member to chair each of the standing committees and other special committees seen as obligatory by the Board. In the order as listed in the Bylaws, the committees are the Richard Bland College Committee, the Committee on Financial Affairs, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, the Committee on Administration, the Committee on Academic Affairs, the Committee on Development and Alumni Affairs, the Committee on Public Affairs, the Committee on Student Affairs, the Committee on Athletics, and the Committee on Audit. The Rector has the power to replace chairs, remove and/or add members at his or her discretion.

With the guidance and reference of the President of the College, the Board of Visitors appoints the six vice presidents. The Vice President for Finance focuses on business interactions, the VP for Administration focuses on providing administrative assistance to the College, and the VP for Public Affairs creates programs for economic development, community outreach and other public relations. Meanwhile, the VP for Development coordinates development programs incorporating the College’s financial support from voluntary, private donors, specifically gifts and grants from alumni, and the VP for Student Affairs works with the programs related to student life on campus.

Make an impact on campus...
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THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

The Informer is the only paper at William and Mary that is entirely independent of the College, meaning we go in-depth to publish what others dare not print!

COME TO A MEETING:
Mondays
7:30pm
Blair 223

Drink of the Week
Blueberry Jammer

Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

- 1 T good blueberry preserves
- 6 oz Ginger Ale
- 2 oz 100 proof Vodka

Directions
Dollop the blueberries into a glass. Pour in the vodka and stir vigorously. Add the ginger ale to the swirling concoction. Enjoy, but be attentive to this powerful mistress. She’s 100 proof and therefore demands your respect.

Editor’s Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.
SHELLMAN CASE PROMPTS
QUESTIONS: Confusion over College employment policies at turning point

Ms. Currie said, “I think that each person has their own level of tolerance. I would advise my children here to interact with Shellman only in the workplace setting and discourage outside interactions. Otherwise, you may give way to loose boundaries.”

Dr. Shellman fully explained how this could reoccur at the College. "I am just using this as a renoun of the allegation we would at least investigate," said Dean Strikwerda.

Similarly, Ms. Car rie has assured that “The sexual harassment policy applies to anyone, not just faculty.”

The over jurisdiction for investigations of violations of harassment at the College remains unclear. But Ms. Car rie said that the College is at a “turning point” with its policies regarding harassment.

"We have to establish more rules and guidelines" she said. “As we grow, and we are growing in diversity, research and civic engagement, you have to incorporate guidelines and policies that are conducive to this larger group. So as we add Shellman to the equation we have to be conscious of how this could reoccur at the university, what impact that could have, and we have to set policy.”

Ms. Car rie also hypothesized on a solution to the present problem, highlighting the dilemma the College faced this year. “Maybe we’ll want to decide to a policy which stated, ‘If you have just been investigated by your previous university, you aren’t allowed a job at the College.’ I am just using this as an example.”

Mayor Zeidler: I like Paul’s and I like the Green Leafe. You can find me in either of those places.

VAI: When you were a student, did you go out to them much?

Mayor Zeidler: No, (laughs) although we are invited and do attend tailgates. Certainly, I used to always go to Tribe soccer games because my son was a soccer player.

Mayor Zeidler: There is a lot of really fun stuff to do. One of the things last year we published was a great book on great city walks. And there is one that really surprised me: the Basset Hall Trail. There is a great wooden path behind Basset Hall. It goes through the woods and is absolutely gorgeous. Some William and Mary students run it, but most students don’t know about it. It is actually on our website.

Mayo r Zeidler PROVIDES INSIGHTS: Believes College students make city a better place through service

LEGEND

Mayo r Zeidler: Well, there is a lot of really fun stuff to do. One of the things last year we published was a great book on great city walks. And there is one that really surprised me: the Basset Hall Trail. There is a great wooden path behind Basset Hall. It goes through the woods and is absolutely gorgeous. Some William and Mary students run it, but most students don’t know about it. It is actually on our website.

MA YOR ZEIDLER PROVIDES INSIGHTS: Believes College students make city a better place through service

continued from page eight

Williamburg-Area Bike Club, Active Alliance, the Land Conservancy, and other organizations and non-profits that people with different interests can engage in. Beyond that, it would be great to see students volunteer to serve on boards and commissions. In my experience, only one student ever applied to serve on a board. And he was appointed to the Planning Commission, a very important commission in city government. He was appointed because he was the best applicant and he was a very strong member.

President Reveley: VAI: How would you describe your relationship with President Taylor Reveley? Did you interact with him much when he was dean of the law school?

Mayor Zeidler: I met him when he was dean, but I really didn’t know him. Since he has become president we have had a number of opportunities to get together. We have monthly meetings to discuss issues on campus and in the city. And I am tremendously encouraged about the work he is doing and his understanding about what it means to be a college in the city and a city in the college. I am very pleased with the relationship.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE...

VAI: Do you ever go to the Delis on signature nights?

Mayor Zeidler: Sometimes. You can often find me on the Green Leafe on a Friday night.

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703-691-2001
Orchesis meshes comedy, improvisation, ethnic music in Dancevent

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

From October 30th through November 1st, William and Mary’s modern dance company Orchesis put on their fall show titled Dancevent. The show had a diverse set of pieces including an improvisation dance, traditional Native American dancing, and a theatrical dance. It was choreographed by the William and Mary dance faculty and performed by the dance faculty, Orchesis dancers, and some guest dancers.

The first dance was the traditional Faculty/Senior Improvisation. It was a collaborative effort between the seniors and faculty in which nothing was choreographed; each time producing a different result. They danced to various funny sound clips, such as the YouTube video “Charlie bit my finger,” the “Head On” commercial, and Miss Teen South Carolina’s response during the Miss Teen USA pageant. These clips had the dancers producing funny, quick moves and creating a piece that had the audience chuckling.

The next two pieces were choreographed and danced by the dance faculty. The first, Fiddle Dances, was performed by faculty Joan Gavaler and Lauren Morris and incorporated a lot of lifts. The second, danced by faculty Leah Glenn and Denise Damon Wade, was a cute and funny piece titled He Loves Me, Not, in which various sound clips were utilized. These two pieces were not choreographed for the show, but rather was originally done by the Linon Dance Company. Leah Glenn was able to reproduce the dance using the piece’s labanotation, which are symbols that represent dance movements.

The next dance, Symbol, was choreographed and danced by Joan Gavaler, incorporated Groutian Chants with live Native American music and dancing. FILLING STATION, Route 66, the final piece, was a theatrical dance choreographed by Denise Damon Wade with music performed by a small pit orchestra. The dance was based on Virgil Thomson’s ballet Filling Station. The stage was set up as a 1930’s style gas pump, with members of Orchesis casted in various roles like the filling station attendant, truckers, and bookkeepers. All of the members did an excellent job acting and dancing out a short story sequence.

Dancevent’s wide variety of dances allowed every audience member to leave with a different favorite piece. The incorporation of live music and guest performers really added to the show. While it was Orchesis’s fall dance performance, the emphasis seemed to be more on the faculty and their projects rather than on the student dancers. However, it was still a memorable show.

**SASA wows campus with annual Expressions performance**

Bryan Callaway
Contributor

Let me begin by saying that I am by no means a professional dancer, professional dance critic, or anything in between. Dance and I have never exactly been best friends, and at six feet seven inches tall and with the agility of an elephant, I think you can figure out why. However, I do know a spectacle when I see one, and that is exactly what I saw at the South Asian Students Association’s (SASA) annual Expressions performance at the Sadler Center on October 31.

The only thing that came close to rivalling this phenomenal display of talent and skill was the thunderous applause it garnered from the packed crowd. The show, which combined elements of primarily Bollywood, Afghan, and Bhanga dance, was interwined with rather comical and satirical intermissions. These sitcoms revolved around the production of a fictional film titled “Not another Desi Movie.” Featuring the rather hilarious and entertaining brilliant Mohammad Totalebeijad (‘10) and Preethi Sundaraman (‘11), these skits were designed to “help provide a continuity between the dances,” says cast member Sam Schreder (‘13), who himself provided the act with several priceless moments of humor as its “dancing stud.” Despite the power of these scenes, they did not compete with the dance performances, but rather complemented them in an admittedly unusual but highly effective way. The end result was a series of comedic intermissions perfectly set by the splash and awe of the dance routines.

Splendor and awe only begin to describe the dance performances, which were something in and of themselves. This was partly due to the wide array of pieces that the show offered. SASA sought to touch upon cultural and stylistic differences within the South Asian region, according to performer and SASA Vice President Sravya Yelewarepun (“10). One style that featured prominently in the show was the Bollywood genre. This style, which is generally comprised of romantic undertones, originated in Bombay. However, due to its use of the Indian national language of Hindi, the style is commonly associated with all of India. The routines in these genuinely magnetic pieces were choreographed using music from well-known Bollywood films such as “Jah We Met” and “Om Shanti Om.” As enthralling as the techniques of these performances were, they were equally captivating as a result of the host of emotions that they conveyed. “The entertainment factor in the dances comes from the emotions,” says performer and SASA PR Co-Chair Nakul Kadapa (‘11). In addition to Bollywood elements, the show featured pieces from both the Afghani and Bengali genres. The two-hour performance was capped off by a final routine from William and Mary’s Vanity Bhanga team. The Bhanga dance, a more acrobatic style than its Bollywood counterpart, provided a striking finale to an already impressive show.

At two hours the performance was admittedly on the longer side. However, the seamlessness and excellence in its execution more than made up for it. This was due to the culmination of more than six weeks of rehearsals and preparations for what is SASA’s most major annual fundraiser. Six-weeks of four hour rehearsals? Perhaps a bit much, but as they say, practice makes perfect.

**Fee your inner machie fanatic at the dellys**

Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

When out with your friends, you don’t order filet mignon, but get cheap and greasy bar food instead. But is it really any better bar food, I decided to compare the two American classics that both institutions have to offer: chicken tenders and nachos.

The nachos at the Leafe ($9) came out stacked high on a small plate. All of the toppings had been placed on in layers preventing them from mixing and spreading the flavor around. Nature was fighting to keep the toppings from adequately getting onto the chips. It actually looked as if the toppings had been haphazadly globbed on. With the toppings stacked and the chips on the bottom, most of the chips did not get a single toppng, let alone a mixture of them. The lack of mixing prevents one from truly experiencing the dish. Also, although the dish contained plenty of beans and beef, there was an inadequate amount of cheese. The nachos at the Leafe were very disappointing and at best a D.

The nachos’ ($7.25) at Paul’s were much better. They weren’t stacked, but spread wide on a plate allowing for the ingredients to mix. The mixture of toppings had a good balance of ingredients which got onto all of the chips, creating a very tasty mixture. With such excellent toppings, the nachos would have been near perfect, except that there were very few chips compared to the large portion of toppings. In the short time it took for all of the chips to be eaten, more than half of the toppings were still left and had to be finished with a fork. With large portions, great taste, but not enough chips, somehow these nachos still earn a B.

The chicken tenders ($7.50) at the Green Leaf were alright. The portion was of normal quantity and the chicken tenders themselves were fairly sized. They tasted okay and were hot and crisp, but lacked any special spices to add to the flavoring, leaving them a little bland and boring. They rate a C+. The chicken tenders at Paul’s ($6.80) were more enjoyable and came in a larger quantity. The tenders themselves were wider and thicker than the one’s served at the Green Leaf. They also had a lot more flavor and were much juicier. Nothing about them stood out, but they were a solid and enjoyable appetizer. B.

The Green Leaf and Paul’s Deli, both located on Scotland Street, are great institutions and great food can be found at either place. Paul’s has much better bar food that is reallyally couple dollars cheaper, but after 9pm the appetizers at the Green Leaf are only $5.
Post-game show, Ben Stein still wins

Patrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

I decided that it was time to see a documentary for my next review, so I took a trip to the Redbox and rented Ben Stein’s new work, *Evolved: No Intelligences Allowed*. The film is narrated and documented completely by Stein himself. He explores the foundations of intelligent design, misconceptions in Darwinian Theory that are taught in schools, and the overall hostility that the topic would have made even the slightest exploration of this idea.

Stein is an obvious proponent of intelligent design, and throughout the course of the film he tries to have staunch opponents of intelligent design, such as Richard Dawkins, prove that it must be wrong. Obviously, none of these self-proclaimed atheists can prove that the theory is incorrect. Stein also interviews several academics who claim to have been fired or not been given tenure due to their belief of intelligent design, or for even begging the question. Stein wants to know why the idea is just completely thrown out in most aspects of the academic world without even a little exploration.

I believe Mr. Stein achieved many of his goals in the film. First, the documentary portrays intelligent design as separate from literal biblical analysis, which is often misconstrued to be. Second, he shows that there is a definite absence of freedom of thought in the academic world, that is potentially poisoning to the world without even a little exploration. He often misconstrued to be. Second, he shows that there is a definite absence of freedom of thought in the academic world, that is potentially poisoning to the world without even a little exploration.

On the other hand, I think this film may have been a little too ambitious. I would’ve liked to have heard more about one of the points Stein made about the connection between Darwinism and Nazism. His argument on this topic was much weaker than some of the others, and I don’t think that it had to be. He seemed to be on to something, and I think it would’ve been a potentially scandalous connection — and I love drama.

It is a shame that because this movie has a conservative flavor, it will likely be rejected outright by the Hollywood elite, and, as such, not up for any kind of award. This film did not appear on the short list the Academy recently released for potential nominees for Best Documentary Feature. That’s a shocker! Despite not being the most organized documentary I’ve seen, it was certainly interesting, and Ben Stein’s dry, monotonous humor never ceases to amaze me. As such, I give it a B+.

The Finer Side:

It’s beginning to look a lot like… an expensive holiday season

In just a few short weeks, we’ll be in the midst of another holiday season. With the economy being in a Scrooge-like mood, the time that traditionally puts a strain on people’s wallets will become exceptionally hard this year. But, that doesn’t mean that the holiday season will be any less magical. This season, it’s time to shop smart and not let the Ghost of Christmas Future ruin the Ghost of Christmas Present.

One of the best ways to cut down on sky-rocketing Christmas costs is to start shopping now and shop during sales. Department stores, especially now, want to entice shoppers through their doors and will offer incredible pre-holiday sales. If Black Friday is your thing (or you can recover from the shoppers and the lines behind the loud lady on the cell phone), companies are just starting to unveil their Christmas products and will lower shipping rates to attract business. Stores and outlets online will also offer a wider selection of products that can only be purchased online. Avoid the rush of the malls and do your shopping from the convenience of your own desk. Be careful though, when purchasing clothing, make sure to get your sizes right! Many a wonderful holiday can be ruined when you give someone something a size too large!

Go with stores that offer rewards programs. If you’re going to be buying the items anyway, why not get the perks that go along with it? Lots of stores offer wonderful rewards programs these days as incentives to get customers to return. If it’s a store that you frequent, you might already know about whatever rewards or bonus program the store has. Many times stores will offer bonus points during the holidays. If you rack up enough points on these cards, you’ll end up having a little post-season shopping spree for yourself! Be careful of companies that make you pay to join the rewards program though, and don’t join any rewards programs (free or not) if you don’t shop at that store often.

Be careful when giving gift cards! Gift cards are a wonderful present, and work especially well for the person who has everything, or your little sister who loves to go shopping. But be cautious what stores you purchase gift cards from. Last year, Sharper Image stopped honoring gift cards when they declared bankruptcy, causing thousands of gift cards to become worthless. I’m not suggesting not giving gift cards at all; I’m merely advising that you stay away from fun or luxury stores that may be hurting right now, and stick to secure stores like Barnes & Noble, Nordstrom, Best Buy, etc.

Remember that it’s quality, not quantity that matters. You don’t need to give a plethora of gifts to show that you love someone. Like when Beaker the Muppet gives his red scarf to Serosge in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, give someone a gift that is truly from the heart. Give one or a few meaningful gifts that show you took the time to think about what they would really like, not just that you know how to swipe your credit card. And in keeping the holiday spirit of love and family close to your heart and your gift giving.

Online shopping is a great way to go, and it’s environmentally friendly! No more driving around, fighting for parking spots, and waiting in long lines behind the loud lady on the cell phone. Companies are just starting to unveil their Christmas products and will lower shipping rates to attract business. Stores and outlets online will also offer a wider selection of products that can only be purchased online. Avoid the rush of the malls and do your shopping from the convenience of your own desk. Be careful though, when purchasing clothing, make sure to get your sizes right! Many a wonderful holiday can be ruined when you give someone something a size too large!

Go with stores that offer rewards programs. If you’re going to be buying the items anyway, why not get the perks that go along with it? Lots of stores offer wonderful rewards programs these days as incentives to get customers to return. If it’s a store that you frequent, you might already know about whatever rewards or bonus program the store has. Many times stores will offer bonus points during the holidays. If you rack up enough points on these cards, you’ll end up having a little post-season shopping spree for yourself! Be careful of companies that make you pay to join the rewards program though, and don’t join any rewards programs (free or not) if you don’t shop at that store often.

Be careful when giving gift cards! Gift cards are a wonderful present, and work especially well for the person who has everything, or your little sister who loves to go shopping. But be cautious what stores you purchase gift cards from. Last year, Sharper Image stopped honoring gift cards when they declared bankruptcy, causing thousands of gift cards to become worthless. I’m not suggesting not giving gift cards at all; I’m merely advising that you stay away from fun or luxury stores that may be hurting right now, and stick to secure stores like Barnes & Noble, Nordstrom, Best Buy, etc.

Remember that it’s quality, not quantity that matters. You don’t need to give a plethora of gifts to show that you love someone. Like when Beaker the Muppet gives his red scarf to Serosge in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, give someone a gift that is truly from the heart. Give one or a few meaningful gifts that show you took the time to think about what they would really like, not just that you know how to swipe your credit card. And in keeping the holiday spirit of love and family close to your heart and your gift giving.

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Asian American Cyrano focuses on racial identity, love

Brendan Linard
Contributor

Based on Edmond Rostand’s Cyrano de Bergerac, the International Performance Arts Exchange’s play of Cyrano vs. Samurai tells the story of Travis Park, an Asian American English teacher in Wyoming and his best friend Del, a white man who, according to the director, represents the “All-American white cowboy”. Both men fall in love with a new Science teacher at the school, Veronica, who is also Asian American. Veronica, however, tells Travis that she prefers dating white men so he decides to help Del by writing letters to Veronica for him. The comic relief is provided by Charlie, an Asian by birth, who is adopted by white parents, and constructs his racial identity from Bruce Lee movies and Asian stereotypes.

With just a four-character show, director Eddy Hong (‘09), a senior, felt it was necessary for the actors to feel a personal connection to the play. When he was advertising the auditions, Hong even sent a copy of the script to people who demonstrated interest, so that “the people who did show up…were attracted to the script.” At auditions, Hong received such a strong group of actors that he decided to double cast the lead roles of Travis and Veronica, with upperclassmen in the first two performances and freshmen in the final performance. Said Hong, “Both casts have different personalities, but both fit.” Jasper Lu (‘11) and Derik Kim (‘12) will play the role of Travis, while Melissa Savanh and Nara Yoon will portray Veronica. Adam Wong (‘09) and Pierre Dumant (‘09) will play, respectively, the roles of Chester and Del for all three performances.

The show focuses on racial identity and “specifically what it means to be an Asian American,” said Hong, who stressed this to his cast. Early in the rehearsals for Cyrano vs. Samurai, Hong would hold meetings for cast members where they would discuss what it meant to be Asian American, as well as the history of the term, which only came about in the 1960’s. The actors felt this helped them connect to their roles, including Melissa Savanh, who said she realized, “people actually had these experiences of identity and race;” during the meetings, Hong said, “Ultimately…the play looks at when it comes to love…race is just another aspect.”

In addition to directing Cyrano vs. Samurai, Eddy Hong is the producing director of the International Performance Arts Exchange (IPAX), a club founded last year by faculty member Francis Tungiao-Aguas. This multicultural organization put on three plays last year and is advertising Cowboy vs. Samurai as William & Mary’s first contemporary Asian American play. Later in the year, they hope to put on William & Mary’s first contemporary Arab American play.

The International Performance Arts Exchange will be performing the play Cowboy vs. Samurai in the Commonwealth Auditorium of the Sadler Center on November 6 at 8 PM and November 8 and 9 at 2 PM. Tickets cost $5 and will be on sale at the tables in the Sadler Center between November 1 and 7 from 11 AM to 7 PM.

November Schedule

Live Performances

Dean Shostak’s Crystal Carols Concert
Nov. 24—Jan. 3, M&RF at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
All seats $10

Virginia Premiere Theatres Presents “The Gift of the Magi”
Preview Performances: Nov. 21-23 at 7:30 p.m.
All seats $10
Dec. 2, 5, 12, 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9, 16, 3 p.m.; Dec. 10, 17 at 7 p.m.
Adults $15; Seniors/Students $10, Children under 12 $10

The Williamsburg Charity Concert Series Presents: "Schnickelfritz and the Osnapols German Band"
Fri., Nov. 7 at 8 p.m.
All seats $15

Laughing Redhead Studio Presents: Clean Comedy Night Featuring Thor Ramsey with Special Guest Jenn Douchette
Sat., Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.
All seats $15

Avalon Benefit Performance Leap of Faith
Sun., Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m.
General Admission $25, Students $15

The W&M Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo in Concert
Fri., Nov. 14 at 8 p.m.
General Admission $8, Seniors/Students $5

Student Groups from The College of William and Mary Present: International Music and Dance Showcase
Fri., Nov. 14 at 8 p.m.
General Admission $5, W&M ID $3, Children under 10 free

The Williamsburg Symphony Presents: Masterworks Subscription Concert #2
Tues., Nov. 18 and Wed., Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.
Tickets $42, $30
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Staff Editorial:

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Don’t trust the Administration to protect your rights

For some time, this public institution has jeopardized students’ constitutional rights through a number of infamous dealings. The latest example of carelessness by the administration with regard to student rights involves Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct David Gilbert. The summer, Dean Gilbert agreed to pass out packets compiled by Student Assembly members that provides information on students on their rights when charged with violations of College policy. The Informer learned that when a student was recently summoned to the Student Conduct office that not only was this packet not given out but that it had never been copied for dispersal; rather, a single copy was retained with a sticker placed on front that reads “Please do not remove from the Dean of Students Office.”

This pack adjudication process, which eventually resulted in opting for an on-the-spot “informal resolution” and severe punishment, could have been informed by the packet’s distribution. The proper distribution packet may have changed the student’s mind on whether to accept an informal resolution that resulted in a severe punishment. In response to the fact that this student was not provided with a packet, Dean Gilbert claims that placing the packet online and retention of a single copy in the Dean of Students office is somehow sufficient – ignoring the fact that few students would “request” a packet that most didn’t even know existed.

This example is just one in a long line of administrative carelessness. Just last fall, the College, and quickly launched, and this attempt, in its original form, would have had the effect of creating a thought administration.

Fortunately, our campus is one in which the majority of students abide by a legal and ethical conduct. However, the high caliber of students should not be all that is needed in order to make decisions; however, at the same time, the esoteric and secretive procedures that many judicial infringements entail risk an individual to be sufficiently informed. The College in informing students of their rights is not particularly surprising, but it is certainly revealing. Failing to distribute the student rights packet is obviously not criminal, but going back on your word shows you to be either incompetent or disingenuous. On top of that, no one would want this information intentionally guided from distribution to students alleged of policy violations. Clearly, this action shows a careless disregard on behalf of the Dean given his previous promise to some members to distribute these packets to students charged with violations.

The College has promised students that their Constitutional rights will be maintained, as is their legal and ethical conduct. I do not believe that students should need to be spoon-fed all the information in order to make informed decisions; however, at the same time, the esoteric and secretive procedures that many judicial infringements entail risk an individual to be sufficiently informed. The College in informing students of their rights is not particularly surprising, but it is certainly revealing. Failing to distribute the student rights packet is obviously not criminal, but going back on your word shows you to be either incompetent or disingenuous. On top of that, no one would want this information intentionally guided from distribution to students alleged of policy violations. Clearly, this action shows a careless disregard on behalf of the Dean given his previous promise to some members to distribute these packets to students charged with violations.

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

The day after: How to react to November 5th

By the time you read these words, barring any last-minute election vote-counting controversy, Americans will have chosen the 44th President of the United States.

The day after a presidential election is, understandably, a dramatic and emotional one. It will be easy to identify the winning candidate’s supporters those who turn around with a spring in their step, riding high on a wave of elation and euphoria. Supporters of the losing candidate are no less obvious – the ones with dark expressions who shuffle around, tullen and defeated.

These reactions are for the most part, unavoidable. There are, however, ways in which each of these two groups can oversee it. With that in mind, I offer a few helpful suggestions for how to act – and not act – on the Day After November 5th.

In the event of a victory for Barack Obama:

Obama supporters should refrain from gloating. That does not mean you shouldn’t enjoy your moment, of course. Especially for those of you who volunteered for the Obama campaign, this day is a chance to celebrate the hard-earned fruits of your labor. But please try to resist the temptation to rub it in, and perhaps recall how you felt earlier this summer when George W. Bush was re-elected in 2004. Then’s how a lot of McCain supporters felt today. It’s tempting to take this opportunity to celebrate, to scream and shout to the world, to everyone who ever doubted you, that you were right and they were wrong. However, to do that would be either incompetent or disingenuous.

If you were one of the lucky ones who voted for Barack Obama, it is easy to get caught up in the thrill of victory; but you should remember that, as your candidate once said (and I paraphrase), “We are not Republicans, or Democrats, but Americans.” The election is not over just because Obama won; there are still a lot of people who need to make up their minds. It is easy to get caught up in the thrill of victory; but you should remember that, as your candidate once said (and I paraphrase), “We are not Republicans, or Democrats, but Americans.” The election is not over just because Obama won; there are still a lot of people who need to make up their minds. It is easy to get caught up in the thrill of victory; but you should remember that, as your candidate once said (and I paraphrase), “We are not Republicans, or Democrats, but Americans.” The election is not over just because Obama won; there are still a lot of people who need to make up their minds. It is easy to get caught up in the thrill of victory; but you should remember that, as your candidate once said (and I paraphrase), “We are not Republicans, or Democrats, but Americans.”

Alex Mayer
Executive Editor

The Virginia Informer

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