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The Amicus

VOLUME IX, ISSUE SEVEN

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1999

WILLIAM & MARY SCHOOL OF LAW

Moot Court Team chalks up another successful year

By Bob Ford

The Moot Court Team has had one of its most successful seasons in its history this year. Hours of research and practice have yielded a string of successes in tournament after tournament.

One difference this year has been a greater emphasis on preparation of briefs rather than entirely focusing on presentation. Moot Court competitions require the submission of a brief which counts as anywhere from one-third to half of a competitor's score. The remainder of the score is comprised of the competitor's oral grades.

Here's a quick breakdown on their successes:

At the Howard University Civil Rights competition the team comprised of Dennis Barghaan, Darryl Franklin, and Allen Palacio captured First Place and Best Brief. Dennis Barghaan was awarded Best Oralist.

The ABA Constitutional Law team of David Carney, Steve Wilmore, and Michael Pascual were among the top four teams for our region and have advanced to the na-

tional ABA competition in Chicago. David and Steve were also among the top 10 oralists.

At the Duke University Legal Ethics competition the team of Mark Epley and Wendy Daknis placed second and were runner-up Best Brief. Wendy was the runner-up Best Oralist.

The Fordham University Securities Law team of Martha Barnacle, Eunice Kim, and Ross Parr made it to the semifinals and won Best Brief.

The New York Labor Law team of Ellen Bowyer, Deanna Griffith, and Sheila Staggs made it to the quarterfinals.

Earlier in the year, the Nationals team comprised of Elizabeth Sumner, Kristi Davidson, and Kathryn Voyer advanced to the quarterfinals at the regional level of competition.

Moot Court Chief Justice Eunice Kim summed it up this way; "We've had a great year and continued the tradition of excellence established by previous teams. We hope next year's team will do even better."



Teammates Ross Parr and Eunice Kim, along with team coach Jerry Smith, pose with Hon. Justice Antonin Scalia as they show off their award for Best Brief at the Fordham University Securities Law Tournament. Marty Barnacle (not pictured) was also a member of the Fordham team. Justice Scalia was on hand to judge the final round of the competition.

Federal Appeal Held in Death Penalty Debate Courtroom 21 brings in big crowd

by Lee Harrell

On February 26th, the McGlothlin Courtroom hosted arguments before the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in the case of *United States v. Rockwood*. The case involved complex issues of military law and national importance. Law students Jim Gibson, Ian Iverson, P.J. McGuire, Bill Ruhling and Paul Ziegler submitted an amicus curiae brief on CD-ROM. Jim and Bill argued before the court in support of the amicus brief.

In September 1994 the United States Army's 10th Mountain Division was deployed into Haiti. Their mission was part of Operation Uphold Democracy, an initiative to ensure the return of Haiti's legitimately elected President. Rockwood, a counter intelligence officer, became concerned about reports detailing the deplorable conditions at Haiti's National Penitentiary in Port au Prince.

Herepeatedly, but unsuccessfully, tried to initiate an official Army inspection of the facility by alerting his superior officers, a captain in the judge advocate's office and his division chaplain. When it became evident that the Army was not going to inspect the facility, Captain Rockwood decided to go to the penitentiary himself.

His visit was unauthorized and because of it, he failed to report for duty.

Rockwood was charged with several offenses including insubordination and failure to obey orders. At his court-martial, he was acquitted of some of the offenses but convicted of a number of others. Rockwood was dismissed from the Army in September of 1995.

Rockwood was represented at this appeal by Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General of the United States. Paul Ziegler explained that the appeal focused on two separate prongs. First, the appellant argued that there is a limited safe harbor privilege which exists under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

This privilege is court created and very limited in its scope. It serves as an affirmative defense for a soldier who disobeys an order if the good in doing so exceeds the offense of insubordination. In this case, Rockwood argued he was acting to save civilian life and although his actions directly controverted portions of the UCMJ, the limited privilege allowed his actions. Although there are no specific precedents in American military law for this novel approach, the appellant used principles from international law to

See Military Trial on 3

By Eric Tew

On Wednesday, February 24, The Institute of Bill of Rights Law sponsored a public debate concerning the issue of whether the death penalty should be abolished. An overflow crowd withstood the sweltering heat of room 120 to witness the hour long debate, which was moderated by professor Paul Marcus.

Professor John Blume argued in favor of abolishing the death penalty. Blume is a Cornell Law School professor and director of the school's Death Penalty Project. In addition, Blume somehow manages to maintain a private law practice in South Carolina.

His opponent in the debate was Mike McGinty, who is the Commonwealth's Attorney for James City County/Williamsburg,

and an adjunct professor at the law school.

As Professor Marcus pointed out in his introduction of the speakers, McGinty is also a William and Mary Law School alumnus.

Blume denounced not only the death penalty's purpose, but also the manner in which it is applied. Blume argued that statistics show that the death penalty is not a deterrent to violent criminals and large, secure prisons are equally effective at incapacitating criminals.

He also attacked the manner in which death sentences are imposed, arguing that economically disadvantaged non-whites are disproportionately represented on death row. Furthermore, Blume compared death

See Death Penalty Debate on 3

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Whatever you do, don't get Sick.

Over the last few weeks the halls of the law school have borne a strikingly close resemblance to the halls of hospital ward. Everywhere you look everyone seems to be sick. Sometimes its been hard to concentrate in class with all the sniffing, sneezing and hacking going on. That is, if you make it to class, I know I didn't. All the empty seats has made it even more difficult for the ill and unprepared to hide in class. The repeated illnesses among the Amicus staff is the main reason its taken so damn long to get this issue out. Top that all off with the beginning of allergy season and you have a real mess.

But never fear William and Mary has the King Student Health Center to take of students. Just make sure you call in for an appointment before you get sick, otherwise you are never going to get in. And don't dream of showing up without an appointment. Do that and the receptionist looks at you like she would like stab you in the heart with a thermometer. I mean what did think the place is, a place to make you better. I envy those of you who have been lucky enough to not get sick and haven't had to deal with it.

A friend of mine, and the person who I blame for passing the illness on to me, called and got an appointment but then got held up getting over onto campus and was 10 whole minutes late. Okay, so you figure they bumb her down the list and she has to wait a while, which is what their policies state. No, they tell her to come back tommorrow and admonish her to be on time for her appointment.

I understand that William and Mary is sort of a small school and can't afford to staff a campus

version of an ER, but come on.

The place closes at 5 pm during the week so if you get sick from something you ate at dinner you better suck it up and hold on til morning. Even my rinky-dink little undergrad school managed to have a nurse on duty 24 hours a day, everyday. I understand you can't have a doctor on stand by all the time for people to just walk in and see, but how much of more an expense would it be to expand the hours some.

On the weekends this travisty is even worse with the Health Center **closed** on Sundays, that's right closed. What, college students don't get sick on weekends? With most illnesses that I know of you can't control when you get sick. Self-inflicted illnesses (hangovers) are your own damn fault and don't count.

For most of us coming to school here the Health Center is really the only viable option to seek medical attention. If we are spitting up blood or our arm is bending the wrong way the emergency room is the obvious choice. But for the simple flu or horrible cold there is no other place to go than the health center. This is even more true if you purchase health insurance through the school's plan. Yet they don't tell you that all your buying is coverage for half the time, the rest of the time they are on their own.

All they need is one student to get seriously ill because they couldn't see someone in the Health Center when their illness was just beginning. Maybe it'll be a law student who paid attention in torts and decides to put it in to practice.

Graduation Awards Nominations Information

Carr Cup and Sullivan Awards

The Committee on Prizes and Awards will meet in April to select the recipients of the major College awards, the Carr Cup and the Sullivan Awards. Nominations for the Carr Cup and the Sullivan Awards may be made by any member of the College community. Criteria for the awards are as follows: **The Carr Cup** is "awarded on the basis of character, scholarship, and leadership. The aim is to find a well-rounded student, having good standing in all three of these respects, and withal a carrying a spirit of willingness to sacrifice and give oneself to the cause." **The Sullivan Awards** are given annually "to not more than on man and one woman in the graduating class, and to one other person who has a close relationship to the College. In the selection of the recipients, nothing is considered except the possession of characteristics of heart, mind, and conduct as evince a spirit of love for and helpfulness to other men and women." Please submit all nominations and supporting materials to the Vice President for Student Affairs Office (219 Campus Center) by Friday, April 9.

THE AMICUS

William & Mary School of Law

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"Dedicated to the complete and objective reporting of student news and opinion"

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Editorial Policy

The letters and opinion pages of *The Amicus* are dedicated to all student opinion regardless of form or content. *The Amicus* reserves the right to edit for spelling and grammar, but not content.

Letters to the Editor may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper or its staff. All letters to the Editor should be submitted by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to publication. *The Amicus* will not print a letter without confirmation of the author's name. We may, however, withhold the name on request. Letters over 500 words may be returned to the writer with a request that the letter be edited for the sake of space.

Join the Amicus, please!!

The Amicus is now in the process of recruiting new staff members for next year. If you would like to help out in any way **Please** get in touch with us.

All ideas and all volunteers are welcome.

1999 Annual William Spong Tournament Judged a Complete Success!

By Kindra L. Gromelski

The 28th Annual William Spong Tournament, which took place on the weekend of February 26-27, 1999, was a complete success. The Moot Court Board of William and Mary School of Law held its first individual moot court tournament in the winter term of 1972. The Marshall-Wythe Invitational Tournament rapidly became one of the leading moot court tournaments in the Mid-Atlantic region. In 1986, the Tournament was renamed for William B. Spong, Jr., in recognition of his ten years service as Dean of the law school. While William & Mary won the tournament in the five years prior to 1986, this year and in the past several years, we have not had a team compete in the tournament. So don't be surprised when you see we aren't mentioned!

This year's problem, written by Tina Gray Burke, revolved around the Violence Against Women Act. This is a congressional statute that gives victims of violent gender-related crimes the right to file civil suits and gain punitive damages in Federal Court. The Petitioner was arguing for the perpetrator of the alleged crime, William Wythe. The Respondent was arguing for Mary Marshall, the victim of the alleged

crime. The District Court originally dismissed the case on Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) motion for Plaintiff's failure to state a claim on which relief can be granted. The Court of Appeals for the 14th circuit (which is fictional) held that the district court erred in dismissing the action. The Supreme Court then granted certiorari.

The final round pitted the South Texas School of Law (Team 2) against the University of Florida. Florida argued the side of the Petitioner, while South Texas was arguing for the Respondent.

First place overall went to the University of Florida's team, consisting of Michael Holbein and Karen Zagrodny (arguing the final round), and their teammate, Alice Sum. Second place winners and the winners of the award for the "Best Brief" went to Team 2 from South Texas, which consisted of Karlene Dunn and Will Womble (arguing the final round) and their teammate, Emily Shields. The "Best Orator" went to Vivica Simmons from South Texas Team 1. This was the first year Florida has ever won the Spong Tournament. South Texas won in 1995 and 1996 and so it was not surprising to see their high finish in the tournament. The Annual Spong Memorial

Award this year was presented at the Cocktail hour to our new Dean, W. Taylor Reveley for his dedication to the school and community in the spirit of the late Dean Spong.

The tournament went off this year without a hitch thanks to the hard work and dedication of Marte Barnacle (1998-99 Spong Justice), Tina Gray Burke (1998-99 Spong Research Justice), and Eunice Kim (1998-99 Chief Justice), as well as members of both the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Moot Court Boards and current moot court team members.

The Moot Court Board would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the many dedicated people of the law school community who have made the Tournament possible. The following individuals deserve recognition for the assistance they have provided during the planning and operation of the Tournament: Dean W. Taylor Reveley, III, Professor Susan Grover, Professor Judith Ledbetter, Mrs. Gloria Todd, Mrs. Della Harris, Williamsburg Hospitality House, Mr. Troy Rackman, and the many students and members of the William & Mary Moot Court Bar who have volunteered their time to the tournament.

Courtroom 21 Hosts Real Court-Martial

Rockwood Court Martial from 1 bolster this defense.

Additionally, Rockwood asserted that there should have been a change of venue for his court-martial. In accordance with usual procedures, his court-martial was convened within his command structure and court members were selected from his unit.

Rockwood claims that his command's view of the entire incident as an embarrassment to the 10th Mountain Division permeated the proceedings, influencing the decision against him. Thus the appeal alleged that his court-martial was unfair. A decision from the appeal is expected in September.

Another unique aspect of this trial was the use of Courtroom 21 and its extensive technology. The appeal was likely the most technologically sophisticated yet, including the submission of briefs on CDROM.

Paul Ziegler said that the use of technology was very successful and effective. Zeigler pointed out, "The judges liked it because it allowed them to go to specific points in the record or pull up parts of the trial transcript and other cases."

Death Penalty Topic sparks sharp debate



A packed house of students and faculty was on hand to see Blume and McGinty square off over one of the most controversial topics in the legal profession.

Death Penalty Debate from 1 row to a shark net, which is intended to keep out sharks (the worst people) but also catches dolphins and turtles (people who are innocent or who otherwise should not be on death row).

McGinty responded by stating that the primary purpose of the death penalty is retribution, not deterrence. In essence, the death penalty is an expression of society's moral outrage at particular acts of violence, such as the recent gruesome drag-

ging death of a black man in Jasper, Texas.

McGinty also pointed out that the system is designed to prevent injustice. For example, capital cases require a bifurcated hearing, meaning a guilt phase followed by a separate penalty phase. Additionally, death sentences are automatically appealed.

Following their presentations, the professors responded to questions and comments from the audience. The event concluded with a reception in the lobby.

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Choice Places

Not all Pancake Houses; Hidden Local Gems

By Chris Garber

Being around Williamsburg for three years, I've gotten to know a few places around town that really give you your money's worth. Places where the word service isn't treated like it's in a foreign language. Places where you walk out with a smile on your face. Places, in other words, unlike the Williamsburg Post Office, or any administrative office on the main campus of William & Mary.

While I'm as anxious as the next guy to get out of this Burg, I've found a few places that I'd like to recommend. So, for the next few weeks, I'll tell you about a few of them each issue.

Instead of more introductory garbage from me, here are a few of my recommendations for places to spend your money.

Berkeley Cleaners, Three locations, (I go to 1208 Jamestown Road), phone 229-7755: When I first moved here, I had a horrible time finding a place that could actually *clean* my shirts, and not just return them to me in a plastic bag with stains in new places. Berkeley Cleaners on Jamestown Road is the one place that finally met the grade. First of all, the shirts actually get cleaned and pressed.

The lady who works there (maybe owns it, I don't know) is really nice. Once, when the pressing machine busted a button on my shirt, she took it back and made sure not only that the shirt was fixed, but that the button matched. That doesn't sound like much, but compared to most of the other cleaners in town, it's a miracle.

Berkeley also gives a student discount—mens' shirts laundered for only \$1—I don't know what the deal is on dry cleaning or women's clothes.

Running errands really irritates me, but stopping at Berkeley Cleaners is much nicer than it should be. Oh, and one time, I went to pick up one shirt (\$1) but only had a \$10 bill and the lady told me to just pay the extra dollar the next time I had dry cleaning. That kind of system is rare these days.

The Crab Shack, 4601 River Rd. (On the fishing pier, next to the James River Bridge in Newport News), 245-2722

A shiny, new, moderately-priced seafood restaurant on "the longest fishing pier on the east coast" (never mind the fact that it's on a river), The Crab Shack is special because of its more humble beginnings.

Recommended by a self-proclaimed "neurotic" I met at the Yorktown Pub, the Crab Shack used to be an actual shack, situated on one side of the pier, while an identical shack on the other side housed the bait shop.

On my first visit, the place was empty, but the person I soon learned to be the owner welcomed us in, turned on a space heater (it was November, and two of the Shack's walls were made of storm plastic sheets. The guy who owns the place can't be more than a year or two older than me, but is making quite a name for himself in the restaurant business (unfortunately, I can't remember that name right now).

After inviting us in and waking up the cook, the owner showed me the blueprints he had for the new Crab Shack. It was an ambitious project, turning a summer-only place to get a crabcake and some beers into a full-service waterfront restaurant, complete with a large patio overhanging the James.

As cool as it was to be let in on those plans, it would have meant nothing if the food sucked. Happily, it didn't.

For the rest of that winter, I wondered about how the project was progressing. A few phone calls over the winter assured me that everything was coming along, but the opening date steadily moved later and later.

Since the plan called for a mid-April re-opening, I gathered a group of friends and went down to visit. I guess one more phone call would have been advised, as the restaurant was still under construction. Luckily, my old friend the owner was there, and he invited us all in for a tour, with promises of a grand re-opening the next weekend.

Eventually, the new Crab Shack opened and, while it lacked the grubby charm of the original, the impeccable service, great food, and fun atmosphere remained. Instead of a 20-seat shack, there's a real restaurant that seats a hundred or so, and outside dining for about the same.

It seems like everyone that works there is either friends or relatives of the owner (his father is also a restaurateur, I believe). I've been seated by his mom, waited on by his wife, and served beers by his buddies.

When I spend much of the summer after my first year here in town, I took several trips to the Crab Shack. Never was I disappointed. It's the only restaurant I've ever been where I had the same waiter twice in a row (about two weeks apart), and he remembered my drink order from the last time I ate there (and I only had three drinks the first time).

I highly recommend eating or drinking at the Crab Shack. Its not that far, its not that expensive, and it's the only place I can think of on the east coast where you can watch the sun set over the water.

Directions to the Crab Shack: Take I-64 East to Mercury Blvd./258 Exit. (The signs may say Hampton, but don't worry.) Take Mercury Blvd. west (or whatever's

Garber's Recommended Local Gems

Berkeley Cleaners, Three locations, (Including 1208 Jamestown Road)

The Crab Shack, 4601 River Rd. (On the fishing pier, next to the James River Bridge in Newport News)

Book Exchange of Williamsburg, 117 Colony Shopping Center

Power Alley Batting Range 2 Boykin Ln., Newport News

opposite of the Hampton Coliseum). Go about 4 miles on Mercury (which is also called 258 and 17), past Jefferson Ave. (143). After passing J. Clyde Morris Blvd./Rt. 60, take the last exit before the James River Bridge. Turn right into the riverside park, and the Crab Shack is located on the fishing pier right next to the bridge. (None of this is as hard as it sounds.)

Book Exchange of Williamsburg, 117 Colony Shopping Center (same as the Fresh Market and the Polo Club), off Jamestown Rd. just west of Rt. 199, 220-3778.

I was lying on the couch the other day (no surprise there), irritated at television's failure to entertain me sufficiently. In my molasses-brained stupor, I began counting the books on our bookshelf. While proud that I was able to count the books without moving my lips, I was stunned at the total I reached. In my 2 1/2 years in Williamsburg, I have purchased somewhere in the neighborhood of 96 books. Even more shocking is the fact that I've read several of them.

Now, amassing such a library may seem beyond the reach of a typical law student, much less a notorious cheap-ass (i.e. cut off from Daddy's handouts). How did I acquire those books, you ask? Did I steal the cream of the law library's fiction shelf? Did I mug tourists outside Rizzoli's in Merchant Square?

As you may have guessed, the answer to all the above is "no." I simply shop at the Book Exchange of Williamsburg...way too much.

The Book Exchange sells paperbacks (and a few hardbacks) for 1/2 the original price. They will also "buy" your used books for 1/4 the original price, but you only get store credit—no cash.

Despite my efforts at inventory depletion (such as buying 3 copies of The Old Man and the Sea), the Book Exchange still has an excellent selection of fiction and non-fiction. As one would expect from a store selling paperbacks, the mystery, romance, and sci-fi sections are sizable. However, there are also decent selections of "literature," sports, and humor books.

One nice byproduct of our generation's intellectual decline is the affordable classics shelf. Since nobody reads "the greats" anymore, almost all the books in that section were printed at least 25 years ago.

Why are old books better, you ask? Because the Book Exchange's prices are

based on the cover price of the book, and a paperback copy of Huckleberry Finn or 92 in the Shade went for about a buck and a half in 1973. Now, they cost...yep, 75 cents.

The Book Exchange has a minimum price of 75 cents for all books, so don't get any bright ideas about a 7.5 cent copy of The Maltese Falcon. That said, the prices and selection of the Book Exchange of Williamsburg, plus the helpful service and quiet, relaxed atmosphere make it a must for book lovers.

Note: The Book Exchange of Williamsburg carries no law books of any kind. No Emanuel's, no Nutshell, no casebooks, nothing. You can only read fun stuff here. Well, my roommate did get some James Fenimore Cooper books there, but that's another story.

Power Alley Batting Range 2 Boykin Ln., Newport News, (757) 872-7711. (Just off Rt. 143/Jefferson Ave. near Wal-Mart.)

Now that spring training is full swing, and the pressures of exams near, some of you may want a chance to re-live past diamond glories—or beat out some frustrations in a socially-accepted fashion. Either way, you may want to pay a visit to the Power Alley Batting Range in Newport News.

The equipment is fine (although one of the hardball cages has horrible sight lines making it tough to see the ball—at least that's the excuse I'm using), the staff is friendly and helpful, and the prices are reasonable. For less than five dollars, you can build up enough blisters to have people wondering.

In addition to tokens (which you can usually get a sweet deal on), the small office/hut sells sodas, snacks, and hands out the loaner bats and helmets (you decide if you need one). If your hands start hurting, you can always sit inside for a while, talk to the owner and watch sports on tv.

If you want to get ready for the softball season, or just pretend that the softball is your roommate's head, I recommend heading down to Newport News and taking a few cuts at the Power Alley.

Directions: Take I-64 East to Newport News. Take the VA-143 West/Jefferson Ave. exit. Head west on Jefferson for about 3/4 mile. The batting cage is actually located behind a car dealership just past Wal-Mart, but you can see it from Jefferson Ave.)

(Local) Adventures with Jeff and Rebecca

Checking Out the Norfolk Waterfront

By Jeff Yeates

If you are a really observant reader of this column (hey, I've got a few fans) you may notice that Rebecca and I never visit the place indicated in "Next Issue:" at the end of each article. For example, my last article promised a visit to the Virginia Air & Space Center and instead you're going to read about The National Maritime Center, Nauticus, in Norfolk. Am I doing this on purpose? No. It just happens. Will I try to do better? Probably not. However, I'm sure we'll eventually make it to the VA Air & Space. For now you will have to be satisfied with the Norfolk waterfront.

Our first, and primary, stop in Norfolk was the Nauticus Maritime Center. Don't worry about parking. Downtown Norfolk was deserted when we arrived at 10:30 am. We parked in a garage right across the street from Nauticus. As we crossed over, we spied a banner tied to the Nauticus building extolling their latest exhibit: "Mysteries of the Bog. Thru May 16."

We know you won't want to miss this exhibit, even interrupting finals if that's what it takes to catch it. I actually wasn't sure what a bog was. "Are a bog and a swamp the same thing?" I asked Rebecca as we walked in.

Upon paying \$7.50 each for admission we each got a big cartoon character sticker. These characters, "Moray," a very buffed out babe for me, and "Captain Nauticus," an Aquamanish-looking guy for Rebecca, will not be joining the X-Men anytime soon. We tried to avoid sticking them on, but there is always that older fellow manning the gates at every museum in the world, who admonishes you to "wear your sticker"

and so we dutifully complied.

Nauticus is three levels of maritime oriented exhibits. I think much of Nauticus funding comes from the Navy and local shipyards from the looks of several exhibits on maritime commerce, ship design, naval weapons systems, and the like. But first, "Mysteries of the Bog." It's a little weak.

The dry-ice machines and burlap partitions were a bit too high school drama club-like. Nor did the museum brochure raise my hopes when it mentioned that you could meet the "Bogey Man" in the exhibit. (I'm not kidding.) It wasn't a total loss, though, for I found out that while swamps and bogs have many similarities, there are some differences. Swamps are teeming with more life than bogs and, generally, you can't grow cranberries in a swamp. In fact, cranberries appears to be only *raison d'être* for bogs.

Moving on, the exhibits got more interesting. Rebecca spent a half-hour in front of one of several interactive computer stations about the human brain.

Looking back, neither of us are sure what the maritime connection was, but it sure had her mesmerized. Look for brain facts in Spanish at James Blair Middle School, Room 112, this week. Meanwhile, I watched a model crane unload cargo from a model container ship, designed my own ship on a computer (which, the computer informed me, would promptly sink), and learned how oil companies pump oil from the ocean floor.

We met an hour later at the multimedia theater to see a simulated AEGIS equipped navy ship in action. The Navy really sunk

your tax dollars into this one--this is not Mysteries of the Bog.

You walk into a room set up like the control center of a modern Naval warship equipped with the AEGIS defense system (I never found out what AEGIS stands for). There are computer consoles, video and projections screens, blinking lights, surround sound, and individual video consoles for each participant.

Up front, two Navy guys (who were a bit too much into this presentation, if you know what I mean) explained how the system worked and gave us different threatening scenarios for which we (the audience) would pick an appropriate response. Rebecca and I elected to fire a SAM missile at any and all threats to our vessel which resulted in blowing up our own ship at one point. This kind of ticked the Navy guys off.

The highlight of the exhibit, and don't laugh at me you W&M military personnel, was this amazing gun--the Vulcan cannon. The Navy guys told us it could shoot 3600 rounds a minute. *3600 rounds a minute!* Even if you are an anti-gun fanatic, that's got to impress you a little.

You could put absolutely anything in front of this baby and it would shred it in less than a second. Not just blow it up, but obliterate it. I spent the rest of the day pondering the fates of various objects placed in front of a Vulcan cannon firing at 3600 rounds a minute.

After another half-hour at Nauticus, spent looking at some fascinating tropical fish and browsing the gift shop, we walked out to the Norfolk waterfront. Norfolk has turned their waterfront into a park with a

few enormous anchors standing in the grass.

After a short walk, we arrived at the Waterfront, a sort of mini-mall. It has a great food-court, where we got some good cheesesteak subs and listened to live music provided by a local Irish folk group.

Getting There: I suggest getting a Nauticus brochure with a map. However, if you want to rely on my directions, get on I-64, going towards Virginia Beach. Cross the bridge-tunnel, and proceed to the I-264 interchange. Go west on I-264 and take the Waterside Drive exit. Nauticus will be the big gray building on the left.

Crowd Factor: 7 There would have been even fewer people if not for the arrival of a tour bus from Maine. Why would people from Maine visit the Virginia waterfront? **Expense:** 5 Tickets for Nauticus were \$7.50 each for adults. A bit pricey, we thought, for what you get. Cheesesteak sandwiches and big fries for lunch at the Waterfront Mall cost about \$15. That was worth it. Toss in gas money for the two hour round-trip from the 'burg, and it was probably the most expensive of our mini-trips this year.

Romance: 4 Nauticus is not a romantic museum, nor was the mall. The waterfront area, however, was pretty nice.

Overall Rating: 6 We would definitely visit Norfolk and the waterfront area again. It's sort of Baltimore-like. If you've been to Baltimore's Inner Harbor area (which I recommend), picture that, divide by three, and add a lot of grass.

Next Issue: VA Air & Space Museum. But don't count on it.

Anxiously Counting Down to Star Wars

By Bob Ford

It's coming. No not Y2K, that will be just a faded memory in five years. No the biggest event of the year will happen May 19 when George Lucas releases *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace*. Its taken a decade and a half but Lucas is finally going to take us all back to that "long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away."

Episode I: The Phantom Menace will take place 40 years before the original *Star Wars* and is the first installment of the new prequel trilogy of *Star Wars* movies.

Okay, I admit it I am a huge Star Wars fan. My one crystal clear memory as a little kid isn't my parents, or going to Disneyworld, its being in my pajamas at a drive-in movie seeing *Star Wars*.

Ever since than I've been hooked. I collected all the toys, which by now are stored in my parent's attic and worth a good bit of money, have seen each of the original three movies enough to recite them line for line, own all the books, etc. I've been waiting for this next movie for years and will be in line to get tickets the day it opens.

But I am not that bad compared to a lot

of fanatics out there. There is a practicing attorney in Michigan named Luke Skywalker. He changed his name after seeing the movies. Just a quick look around the web will tell you that Star Wars fans are quickly overtaking Trekkies in numbers, which, in my book, is definitely not a good thing.

Unless you've been buried underground or something you have to know by now that it is coming. You have to know. Everywhere you turn its *Star Wars*. In the newspaper, on television (60 Minutes did a story just last weekend) and on the internet. There are more websites dedicated to Star Wars than any other subject.

If you want to learn about the movie, even read early versions of the script its all there. I recommend any search begin at "theforce.net", where they will tell you everything you might want to know about *The Phantom Menace* but will help you avoid spoilers that could ruin the movie for you.

What other movie has ever generated this much hype months, even years be-

fore it opens. And the situation is only going to get worse. With 47 days, as of April 1, til it opens *Star Wars* is going to be everywhere. Taco Bell, Pizza Hutt and KFC are going to convert themselves to represent particular planets from the movies. Pepsi is going to have characters from the movies on all their cans and bottles along with lots of prize giveaways. The toys were the hottest item last Christmas and the movie wasn't even out yet.

Add on all the commercials and news coverage and its a good chance the average person will get sick of *Star Wars*.

There is hardly any question of whether it is going to break Titanic's box office record, the only question is how long will it take. As for the opening weekend it's going to be a mad house. Lucas and 20th Century Fox have forbidden theaters from selling advance tickets for the first two weeks of release. Really this is a good idea so as to prevent people from buying all the tickets up and then scalping them for a couple hundred bucks.

But that means its even going to be more of a mess those first few days. One

estimate on the internet yesterday was that 2.2 million workers were going to not go to work that day and instead go to see *The Phantom Menace*. Combine them with all the kids staying home from school and the couple odd law students finished with school and you have the makings of some tremendously long lines.

The next question is whether it will be worth it. It would be disastrous if, with all this hype, that the movie really sucked. It is, after all, pretty radical in its design. Most of the movie will be digitally enhanced, meaning that it was drawn in a computer. Even one of the main characters is completely digital.

But all signs so far have been positive. The footage on television and both trailers have been awesome and of course the music and special effects will be incredible (they might well give away those two Oscars now). Steven Spielberg, who saw a rough cut of the movie told Lucas it was the greatest movie he had ever seen and he couldn't wait to see it again.

And just think, after this there are still two more movies to go.

The Legal Realist

Joe's Take on the Honor Code: Part Deux

By Joe Grogan

In the spirit of Lent I had planned a positive column this week, resolving to embrace optimism and hope, but pettiness and spite come so easy to me.

Last issue's counter-attack of my assault on the honor code and the way it is administered here, far from instilling doubt, only confirmed my distaste for the whole system. I'm glad that both writers sought to erase my ignorance of the honor code, because now that I know more, I'm more convinced than ever that the whole thing is a joke. Bill Edwards, in lucid, delicate, cogent prose, proves exactly why the honor code should be scrapped. I was heartened to read that the honor code makes it quite clear that cutting and pasting while using a computer while taking an exam is an honor code violation. What section is that tidbit under? "Troubleshooting for the Morally Retarded"? What kind of degenerate doesn't know that? Anybody who commits that offense should be beaten like a rented mule and expurgated on principle. If we let in somebody that stupid (mistakes happen), that person should not be given a second chance (he was), because somebody whose moral sense is that deformed will certainly commit another gaping violation of propriety (he did), and we'll have to throw him out anyway (we had to).

Also edifying was the news that we can't submit one paper to two different professors for two different classes with-

out express permission. This needs to be explained? Who doesn't know that? You didn't pick that flash up in four years of undergrad? Who, exactly, are we letting in here? I have never been anything but impressed with Faye Shealy's performance; now comes news that the honor council thinks she let in a bunch of infants with no sense of right and wrong. Well I'm not going to let Bill Edwards bad mouth Faye Shealy.

Here's a tip for the honor council: Some moron comes to the honor council and says, 'I didn't know I couldn't cut and paste on an exam.' Gone. Gone because anybody that stupid should not be allowed to practice law. Gone because that person is dangerous. Gone because that person must reside in some sort of quasi-fantasy land. Gone because what type of decision will that person make when a genuinely difficult moral decision comes down the pike? I guarantee if he makes the right one, it'll be wholly by accident.

I am concerned about one thing Bill Edwards did say in his column. Relating to that bit about not being able to lie on your resume. He mentioned that that rule lies in Section 2.1 (just like the laws grown-ups make, sections and everything), which governs conduct off-campus while representing oneself to be a student of the college. Does that mean that I can't pretend to be Dean Reveley when I need to get a reservation on short notice anymore? Please don't tell me no more obscene phone

calls pretending to be Prof. Williamson. But wait, I'm not representing myself as a member of the College in those instances, I'm misrepresenting myself as members of the faculty, so what sections govern that?

And this brings us back to the crux of the matter. Bennie Rogers makes a point of the fact that we've got 600 great legal minds here. That's the problem. 600 great legal minds and no sense. We're spending all this time on this masturbatory nonsense, squeezing the interstices of the honor code ever smaller, rather than demanding that we follow the spirit of the laws, by a code of personal integrity that stands fast regardless of what any code, any law, states. Integrity means wholeness. That which lacks integrity sinks. That's why we should go to a jury system, so that the whole law school community stands in judgment. Put a faculty member on the jury with the students. Let's stand together, and rather than scribble these sections of minutiae, have a simple code that states if you fail to live up to the moral standards that the law school demands, you bring shame upon this institution. Punishment can range from a variety of sanctions, from personal to public apology, reprimand, personal amends, all the way to expulsion. The jury would decide. If it is feared that such a system might engender lawsuits due to lack of specificity or due process (I am told that a student won such a lawsuit against U.V.A. re-

cently), maybe that's justice for a profession that seems incapable of facing its own culpability in the degradation of American civilization. We have become vanguards of an unruly mob, pushing the Visigoths onward to plunder any outpost that dares deny our authority and slay any stragglers who haven't yet sworn allegiance to our divine rule. We have claimed the moral high ground and succeeded only in driving the population into a valley flooded with lawsuits. Abandon all hope, for in this deluge personal accountability and honor are no longer buoyant.

Now even this law school stands vulnerable to the threats of highwaymen. Highwaymen trained at institutions just like this one. Highwaymen who cloak themselves in the law, and betray it's purpose. Should this surprise us? When we can't expect honor of ourselves?

And when that lawsuit does come, if it hasn't come already, we should settle. We should settle without a fight. Give them the money that they want. We should settle because we lawyers have extorted so many others, demanding that a settlement be reached. We've turned society into a quibbling, confused mass who understands what the meaning of the word 'Is' is, but probably won't for very much longer. When the Masque of The Red Death comes knocking at the door and demands that we settle, throw that stupid honor code at him, and tell him that we already have.

Readers, if You are out there Please Write Back

By Sari Benmeir

Boy, talk about writer's block. Here I am churning out articles that nobody reads except Joe Grogan just to see if I'm less coherent than he is. I know nobody reads my articles because my tires are still intact after the last article that suggested that prostitution was a glamorous career and not an oppression of the poor, oppressed, good female gender by the rich, evil, oppressive males of the species

But I'm not going to write about "gender inequality" because my views, if expounded upon, would surely have the effect of rending my tires because (help, I must be a Nazi) I do not believe that "equality" is a gender issue ...

So I could, of course, write about the misery of dating. But since I have had so little recent experience in the area, the only advice I can give here is: If he wants to set up several dates before you go out on the first date, DON'T GO OUT ON THE FIRST DATE!!!! He knows something that you don't know: that is, that after you go out with him once, you will never want to go out with him again. And he's depending that your innate sense of duty will force you to go out on the subsequent dates because you said

you would. Before you know it, you're stuck with some dork who sings tenor and drives a minivan ...

Speaking of minivans, why do I hate them so much? Well, Firsterix, you can't see around the damn things when you're sitting in traffic on the DC beltway. Secondus, they look like giant suppositories. Thirdly, I hate them. Fourthem, they are dorkmobiles. Fifthmore, they make 'em with remote control doors. Didja ever hear of anything so ridiculous? Designed for the total couch potato. Sixus, the term "couch potato" has recently been defined by Justice Scalia of the Supreme Court as "one who owns a minivan with remote control doors." Blort v. Chrysler, 10359 U.S. 693, 1067. Sevenor, they are slow with a capital S. Some of those things are designed to hold eight, but have 0.03 (or 3×10^{-2} for those of you who are familiar with scientific notation) L engines in them. Even my 1977 Pontiac (that beautiful hunk of metal) with a lethargic 301 is faster than those duds (if you want to know how to convert between cubic inches and liters, ask my son. I teach him only useful information). Eightah, did you recognize the names of the kids from The Family Minus

by Fernando Krahn? The Family Minus does not, by the way, ride around in a minivan, but in Electrisnake Number One, which was invented by Mrs. Mary Minus, using the battery from Mr. Harry Minus' car. Mr. Minus refused to ride in the Electrisnake, (a sort of caterpillar-like vehicle, with an egg-shaped pod to hold each kid) but opted to take the bus ...

So, it's now reader survey time. Here's a sampling of columns that I have written but have not yet submitted for publication. Please drop the little tear-off form on the column into my (2L) hanging file stating your preferences (by checking of the little boxes, for those of you who are instructionally challenged). Then I can find out if anyone really reads this crap.

Go to next column

1. Fifty ways to sue your law school (or, Just slip out back, Jack).
2. Sari's analysis of the chronic MW building temperature problems.
3. General complaints (from the master of complaining) about MW's facilities. (or, Where's the soap???)
4. How to discipline your kids in public.
5. The 10 danger signs of aging (or, Do you sing along in the grocery store?)
6. Why everyone should wear a "Churna" shirt.
7. My most humorous drunken escapades involving mud (need I say more?)
8. How I will retaliate if you slash my tires (or, Vital things most people never learned in school that I picked up hanging out in bars and parking lots).
9. My personal favorite lawyer jokes (or, What's the difference between a dead skunk in the road and a dead lawyer?)
10. The ideal man.
11. How did someone who finds the fact that the word "snot" is included in the dictionary extremely humorous make it into law school? (or, Why I value my immaturity).

The Amicus' Web Site Choice: Urban Legends Reference Page

Richard Gere never had a gerbil removed from ANYWHERE

By Chris Garber

Urban Legends Reference Pages
<http://www.snopes.com/>

Nearly every time you check your email these days, you can see a message with "FWD" in the subject line. While most of these turn out to be the same stupid jokes you got the day before, sometimes you get something a little more interesting. Something like an offer for a free trip to Disneyland from Bill Gates, a warning about how the sweetener in Diet Coke turns to formaldehyde, or yet another list of nominees for the "Darwin Awards."

Now, my philosophy has always been, "if it's on the internet, it must be true." If you don't share this view, if you're a little more curious, the Urban Legends Reference Page is a great place to check out the newest story about a computer virus or that story about what was pumped out of Elton John's stomach.

The page, maintained by the San Fernando Valley Folklore Society, investigates and archives nearly every urban legend, myth, or rumor you've ever heard. The page has special sections for legends

about Halloween, Sex, TV/radio, Disney, weddings, college, horror, music, Coca-Cola (called "Cokelore"), questionable quotes, and "toxins du jour."

You can look up the newest myths, browse by category, search the database, or just click on the "randomizer" and learn the truth behind the stories you grew up hearing. While, you may be disappointed to learn that about 90 percent of the stories you've heard or read via email are totally fake, it's still fun to read about the lengths people go to create hoaxes, and the arm-chair psychology the site gives to explain the prevalence of the myths. Plus, every now and then, one of the crazy stories turns out to be true.

Here are just a few of the things I learned:

Mikey from Life cereal commercials did not die from eating pop rocks. He's very much alive. It's just his career that's dead.

Proctor and Gamble is not, in fact, run by Satanists, although the company has sued Amway distributors for spreading these rumors. Amway distributors ought to be sued just for being irritating, but that's another subject.

Some British dude had friends over to

watch the video of his recent wedding. There was a bit of "extra footage" from his single days still left on the tape. What was on the tape, you ask? Well, lets just say that the chap was "making friendly" with the neighbor's bull terrier, Ronnie.

Walt Disney's body is not cryogenically frozen. He is apparently buried in the same cemetery that houses Dan Ackroyd and Chevy Chase's senses of humor.

The site provides freeze-frame photographic evidence that the minister in the wedding scene of the *Little Mermaid* is not "aroused," although images of a topless woman was inserted into a few frames of *The Rescuers*.

Sylvester Stallone did, in fact appear in a porn film before he "made it big." Originally titled *Party at Kitty and Stud's*, the film was later re-released as *The Italian Stallion* to capitalize on Stallone's *Rocky* fame.

Looking at the Urban Legends page is a great way to kill some time, and, in the words of Bill Cosby on the Fat Albert show, "if you're not careful, you may just learn something."

Other Choice Internet Sites:

ESPN.com

<http://espn.go.com/>

My first choice for sports news. Timely, well-designed, the "web page of record" in its area.

Expedia Travel

<http://expedia.msn.com>

Even though its run by Microsoft, this is my favorite place for travel information and reservations.

Amazon.com

<http://www.amazon.com>

Every book you'd ever want. Plus, I'd rather give them my money than Barnes & Noble, who rips us off all the time at the W&M bookstore.

Law School Outlines

<http://www.lawschool.org/>

While I haven't personally used this sort of resource in a long time, I bet this sort of thing could help somebody.

A Lettington Letter

Robert Develops the Kenyan Version of the Ten Commandments, Actually Twelve but who's counting

By Robert Lettington

I hope that you will all forgive my absence from the printed page for this short period but I've been terribly occupied with something that I can't quite remember - always the best sort of thing to be involved with if you ask me. Of course you probably won't ask me and even if I could remember what I was involved with there are many secrets which I just don't think we're ready to share darling.

Since my last investigation into the world of international troublemaking, I have been pondering the question of the Ten Commandments. If one group has their own idea of what they are then surely many others do too. Nairobi being the rather idiosyncratic city that it is, I have been particularly curious as to what the Kenyan Ten Commandments might be.

So after my period of deep thought, and in the Chronicle's tradition of totally fictional cutting edge investigation, here are my conclusions: -

1. Thou shalt drink beer.
2. If there is no beer thou shalt find it.
3. If there is still no beer thou shalt drink absolutely anything else that might be intoxicating, up to and including jet fuel.

4. Thou shalt drive like a maniac, but as long as you flash your headlights and are drunk enough it shalt be correct behaviour.

5. Thou shalt not have four people in any vehicle when you could have thirty to make it really dangerous.

6. Thou shalt not be monogamous.

7. Why have two when you can have more? (see 1 & 6).

8. Thou shalt only stay out all night when thou hast to work the next day.

9. Thou shalt only go to work the next day if thou art drunk, otherwise see 1.

10. Thou shalt not worship false idols (beer other than Tusker).

11. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, sleep with her instead.

12. Thou shalt drink beer.

Now I know there are twelve but Kenyans are a) generous and b) don't like to restrict behaviour too much. And of course there is no problem adding an extra if it involves drinking more beer.

At the moment I am sure that many of you are accusing me of overt racism but then I live here and you don't so believe me when I tell you that your average Kenyan would completely agree with me.

I am also sure that the Christian law society is about to declare a crusade against me but they should remember that Kenyans are terribly religious and as an evangelist once told a friend "sin is o.k. as long as you are repentant". But then I don't think I'm going to be nominated as honorary president of the Christian law society anytime soon anyway.

I might be a bit upset if they start Guinness and cigar outings though. There is no doubt that things may be a bit extreme here from time to time - taking a bazooka on a cattle raid would seem a good example - but there is definitely an upside too, when you worry about something here you really should be worrying. People in the Developed World have too much time to worry about too many irrelevant things.

Would you rather be stressed out about moot court and the three hundred resumes you've sent out with a typo in the mailing address or would you rather be worried about where your next beer / girlfriend is coming from. At the end of the day it's just a little more direct here, the only reason you're worrying about moot court and the resumes is that you see them as the route to your personal

beer / girlfriend anyway.

I suppose the ultimate Ten Commandments view is that it is all in the hands of the Lord. Since he's already come up with Guinness and Cigars, oh and of course the world and all that, while my total output is a couple of novel cocktails I think I'll just leave him to it.

Editor's Note:

The Lost Letter: Robert actually wrote this letter some time ago during last semester. Unfortunately it happened to come too close to the black hole we call the *Amicus* office and disappeared until a recent rescue attempt was successful.

Update: Robert did actually make it in to town the week before Spring Break. Nothing very interesting to report, otherwise we would have pictures. However Robert did show off his official International Press Pass which he obtained from the Kenyan government for being the *Amicus*' foreign correspondent.

Tribe Rowers Begin New Season

By Charles Ehrlich

While many students and William and Mary sought warmer climes over Spring Break, the members of the Rowing Club braved unseasonably cold temperatures, blizzards, and an outbreak of the flu in Williamsburg to prepare for the racing season. The training has produced resounding early success.

At the season opener in Norfolk on March 20th against Virginia Tech, North Carolina State, and host Old Dominion, the Tribe won all but one of the events entered. A trip halfway to Canada and back last weekend produced more wins and high placing for all crews.

The Women's Varsity Heavyweight Eight returns five members of the crew which finished the 1998 season ranked #8 in Division III, the highest-ranked unfunded crew. It entered the 1999 campaign looking to improve on last year's successes. With only two seniors on board, its intention is to establish a new dynasty.

On March 20th, it rowed to an easy victory, completing the course in 6:26, 36 seconds ahead of Virginia Tech and 37 seconds ahead of ODU.

Last Saturday at the Bucknell Invitational, the women's varsity took on some of the finest Division III crews from northern Pennsylvania and New York State at the Bucknell Invitational. Their powerful rhythm gave them an early lead, which they built on with each stroke. Mercyhurst, a strong Division II program, came in over two lengths behind, a very large margin considering a very fast stream had produced quick conditions (the Tribe finished in 5:03). Fordham, Bucknell, Lehigh, and Susquehanna trailed.

On the return trip from northern Pennsylvania, the crews stopped off to race at the Occoquan Sprints in Fairfax, where there were heats and finals. The women's varsity won its heat easily, rowing at 23.5 strokes per minute (akin to jogging in a running race, since a normal racing stroke rate is in the mid 30s), before moving on to the finals. The results in the six-crew finals were a forgone conclusion, as host George Mason succumbed to the Tribe's onslaught, finishing second. The Green and Gold varsity improved its record to 16-0 on the season.

The second varsity women opened their season in Norfolk by thumping North Carolina State's first varsity by fifty seconds. At Bucknell, the crew raced in the first varsity lightweight event since no one else had brought a second boat. The fast stream produced an uneven start, leaving the Tribe behind before the race even began. The Green and Gold surged to finish fourth of seven crews. The crew made up for it on Sunday with a resounding win in Fairfax.

The two novice women's crews are also enjoying remarkable success. Both crews wasted no time in establishing their dominance in Norfolk. Traveling to Bucknell and George Mason with the varsity squad, the first novices kept their undefeated season alive with resounding wins on both days. The second novice women, who did not make the trip to Bucknell, finished second only to Delaware's first novice lightweights on Sunday.

On the men's side, the crews are building into the season. The men, less seasoned than the women, are using the regular season as a learning experience, and are

marking improvements each week in preparation for the championships in May. Already less experienced than the women, the men lost several key rowers to injury over the Winter, and then caught a major flu bug over Spring Break which forced them to miss the following week of practice and head into the season less prepared than they had anticipated. The first varsity eight contains only two seniors, one of whom is the only person who raced in last year's first varsity who managed to earn a spot on this year's top crew.

In Norfolk, the Tribe faced a tough challenge from Virginia Tech. Last year, the Hokie men's varsity finished ranked #10 in Division III, and lost only one member of that crew to graduation. The Green and Gold therefore expected a hard race. Indeed, Tech took an early lead off the start, but the Tribe neutralized this soon afterwards, before moving out steadily to win by two and a half lengths over Tech by the finish. ODU trailed in third, a fair distance behind.

This past weekend, the crew raced well *See Crew on 11*

Op Ed

Consumers Pay for Local Phone Monopoly

By C. Michael Armstrong
Chairman & CEO, AT&T

America deserves a massive tax cut — from your local phone company.

The tax I'm referring to is the \$10 billion a year that local phone companies charge consumers and businesses to originate and terminate long distance calls. Out of every dollar you pay in long distance charges, an average of 30 cents goes to the local phone monopoly. This is a consumer tax because it represents a regulated markup of about 600 percent over what it actually costs the local company to originate and complete your call. Access charges are a form of pricing that can only exist in a monopoly market.

Unfortunately, access charges are also a weapon that serves to keep that monopoly intact. These access charges frustrate the intent of the 1996 Telecom Act, designed to open the local telephone market to competition and give consumers access to the most advanced communications services.

Congress realized that 98 percent of long distance traffic still has to be completed through the networks of the local monopolies. So the Telecom Act provides that the short trip through those monopoly networks shouldn't be prohibitively expensive for new competitors.

Long-distance calls shouldn't subsidize the local companies. But regulators have let the Bell companies continue to charge these excessive fees. If this continues, the effect on competition will be chilling.

Put yourself in the position of a com-

petitor in the local phone service market. You offer local and long distance service, and probably add some advanced features to differentiate your offer. In other words, you want to do just what the Telecom Act intended.

However, access charges are subsidizing your biggest competitor: the existing local phone monopoly. The local monopolies will typically charge 4.6 cents per minute to carry your customers' calls through their local network, a service that only costs the local company six-tenths of a cent.

How long do you think any competitor could last with that as your cost base?

The big monopolies threaten consumers with higher local phone rates if the access charge subsidy from long distance calls is taken away. People have been left with the impression that these big local companies need inflated access charges in order to provide what our industry calls "universal service" — which essentially means affordable local phone service. But this simply isn't true.

In fact, precious little of those billions of dollars in access charges go to support local phone service. The big local telephone companies have been using part of this cash to finance overseas investments, from the EU to Brazil to East Asia. Long distance callers are subsidizing those investments every time they pick up the phone.

Nobody's customers should have to subsidize big, financially healthy corporations. We think subsidies should go where they're really needed.

AT&T is out in front supporting a plan to subsidize the service of small rural telephone companies in high-cost areas where customers would have trouble paying the true cost of service. And we support targeted subsidies for five million low-income households who otherwise couldn't afford basic phone service.

Those subsidies can be supported very well without soaking every long distance customer in America for what amounts to a \$10 billion a year windfall for the big local phone companies in access charges.

AT&T is on its way to bypassing the local telephone loop and reaching customers directly over cable TV lines thanks to our merger agreement with TCI and our joint venture with Time-Warner. These agreements will eventually give us a path into better than 40 percent of all American homes. But more than that, they'll give us the ability to exploit the convergence of TV, PC and telephone to create a whole new generation of communications, information and entertainment services.

But there is nothing in what we are doing that would excuse the Bell companies from their responsibility to obey the law of the land and open up their monopoly markets to competition.

It will be many years before AT&T or any other new competitor will be free from dependence on the local networks. American consumers shouldn't have to wait that long for the benefits of competition.

Competition will only have a level playing field and be effective if federal and state regulators hang tough and insist that access charges be based on cost. That would

give added momentum to the Telecom Act, just as the Act is taking root in the market.

A year ago the Act seemed mired in a swamp of litigation created by the Bell companies and GTE. But now we can see a way out of the swamp. In January the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Act and the authority of the FCC to enforce it.

Communications companies are investing in new technology and new services, in part because the Act gives them certainty that the ground rules of the market won't be changed.

All of this investment, however, would come to a screeching halt if Congress were to re-open the Telecom Act. That would mean a return to the uncertainty and chaos of the past. The Telecom Act doesn't need re-thinking; it needs enforcing.

Federal and state regulators should continue to stand firm, as they have, and send local phone companies the message that their obligations to open their markets under the Telecom Act are not optional.

In addition, the Bell companies must stop charging consumers a hidden access charge tax. When these conditions exist, then consumers will enjoy real choice, real competition and lower prices. Ending excessive access charges is a key step that will deliver a \$10 billion tax cut for American consumers.

Editor's Note: This article is a press release obtained from AT&T. They sent to us and we needed to fill space so the views presented in it do not necessarily represent the views of the Amicus staff, that is if we have a view.

Movie Review

Size Really Does Matter and 8 Millimeters just doesn't measure up

By Nancy Lee and Catie Zaller

With the whirring of the film reel, the event unfolds...but is it real? This is the question that private detective Tom Welles, played by Nicolas Cage, must resolve for his client, a rich widower who wants to know the truth about an apparent snuff film left behind by the late Mr. Christian, business tycoon extraordinaire.

Longdale, the lawyer (who fulfills all the nasty lawyer stereotypes) who is the executor of the Christian estate, introduces Welles to Mrs. Christian, who commissions him to find out the identity and status of the mysterious young girl in the snuff film.

The film then follows Welles' descent into the Dante Inferno-esque journey into the underbelly of the hard core porn industry.

DISCLAIMER: In order to preserve any suspense for those readers willing to subject themselves to this film, we declined to review many inadequate portions of the movie that would spoil any potential surprises. We have only begun to touch on the problems of the movie in this review!

CZ: Although I was expecting to be disturbed and frightened by a movie developed by the same screenwriter who wrote

Seven, I did not find the movie to be terribly scary.

I was only struck by how gross the graphic depictions of pornography were. There were more scenes than I want to remember depicting weird sex acts and naked people doing distasteful things.

Although I was aware that the movie was about a snuff film before I saw it, I was unprepared for the graphic and gratuitous use of simulated porn.

NL: I wasn't bothered by the simulated porn-I was just bored by these scenes. Lots of sensory-overload in this film, but it was all style, and no real substance or coherence. To top it all off, the movie seemed to have a hazy blue filter on it the whole time.

True, the midnight blue lighting that predominated in this film effectively emphasized the seediness of the enterprise, but the dramatic chiaroscuro did nothing to bolster its meaningfulness.

CZ: Furthermore, the acting was sub par. Nicolas Cage wasn't even close to convincing in the emotional scenes where he was supposedly professing his love to his wife.

His acting seemed shallow and superficial. Perhaps he should stick to less melodramatic roles.

The rest of the cast was equally unim-

pressive. Only Joaquin Phoenix was convincing in his role as retail salesperson of porn. He was definitely the highlight of the movie and displayed an interesting style of spandex, leather and latex. Aside from his performance, the rest of the cast was painfully boring.

NL: In this film, we were supposed to be caught up in Cage's transformation from a man who knew who he was and what he was supposed to do, to a man who got caught up in the game of the devil and could not get out without some major repercussions.

This idea has potential, but watching the scenes play out with this surly bunch was not a joy, and watching Cage's misplaced histrionics at key moments left me laughing, instead of feeling the scene's supposed seriousness. Watching Cage was like watching an actor act on autopilot. CZ: The film also had really bad scoring. Whenever something scary or disturbing would happen, the director started playing Indian music.

I fail to recognize the connection between yucky porn and Indian music. I imagine it has something to do with the notion that both Indian music and porn are somewhat "exotic".

The idea, however, was dumb and I don't appreciate the association of Indian

music and porn.

NL: I must say that this movie had a deliciously chilling sense of foreboding around it, and I initially had great expectations. 8MM had great potential, and some promising premises, but all were mitigated by bad acting, verbal and visual clichés, and a script without subtlety-everything screamed out at us, but nothing stuck.

This movie is just as ephemeral as the movie ticket I purchased for it. Perhaps in the hands of a better director, all would've been fine.

But Joel Schumacher has never been one of my favorites-I already had a sinking sensation when I found out, during the opening credits, that he directed this film.

He's the man who gave us Batman Forever. I guess the key is consistency; when in doubt, throw in some men in leather.

CZ: Overall, I would definitely not recommend this movie because it's not scary or interesting or all that suspenseful. It was a waste of time and money.

Save your hard earned loan money and rent some other suspense thriller, such as Chinatown, instead!

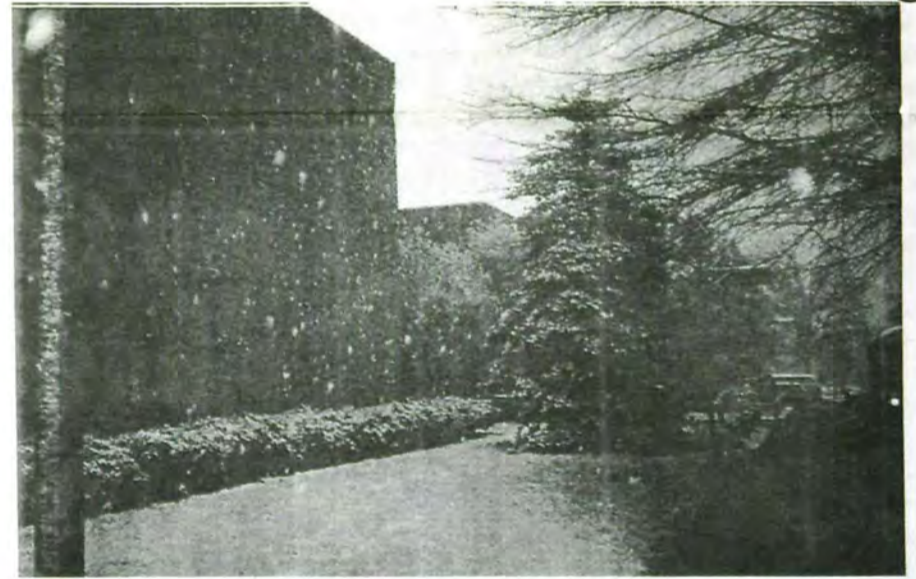
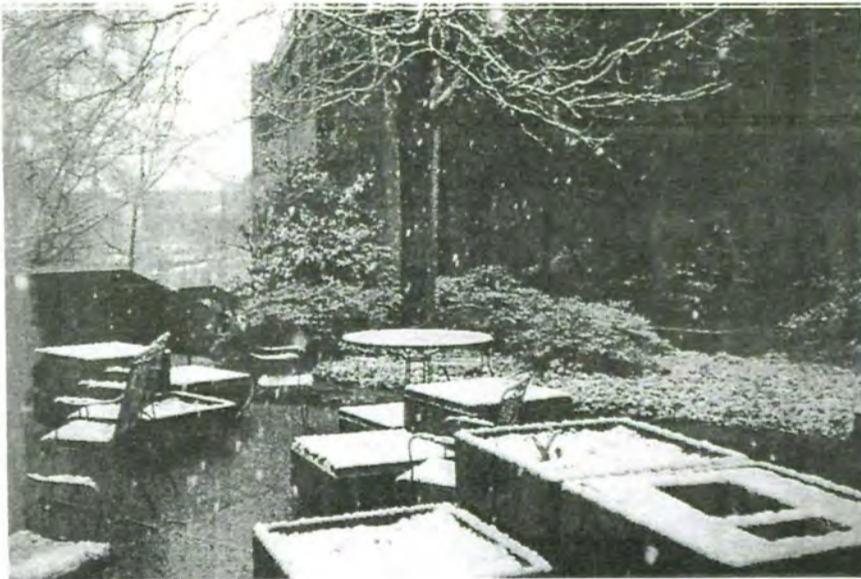
NL: What if 8MM didn't suck? View the fulfilled potential in Angelheart!

Hampton Town Center 24		Carmike Cinema Four Monticello Shopping Center		Williamsburg Crossing	
8MM (R)	Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels (R)	Analyze This (R)		The Deep End of the Ocean (PG-13)	
7:10 9:50	7:50 10:10	7:10 9:20		9:00	
Affliction (R)	Message in a Bottle (PG-13)	Cruel Intentions (PG)		Forces of Nature (PG-13)	
5:20 7:50 10:10	7:00 9:50	5:15 7:15 9:15		7:10 9:25	
Analyze This (R)	The Mod Squad (R)	Baby Geniuses (PG)		The Mod Squad (R)	
5:50 7:40 8:10 10:10	6:00 7:30 8:10 9:50	5:00 7:00 9:00		7:15 9:15	
Baby Geniuses (PG)	My Favorite Martian (PG)	EDtv (PG-13)		Ravenous (R)	
5:30 7:30 9:40	5:50	7:00 9:00		9:30	
Deep End of the Ocean (PG-13)	October Sky (R)			True Crime (R)	
5:30 7:50 10:10	5:20 7:40 10:10			7:00 9:45	
EDtv (PG-13)	The Other Sister (PG-13)	Hampton cont'		The Rage: Carrie 2 (R)	
6:00 8:30 9:40	6:00 8:30			7:15	
Forces of Nature (PG-13)	Payback (R)	Shakespeare in Love (R)		Doug's First Movie (G)	
5:50 7:20 7:50 8:20 9:40 10:10	5:40 7:50 10:10	7:10 9:50		7:00 9:00	
Life is Beautiful (PG-13)	Saving Private Ryan (R)	Wing Commander (PG-13)			
7:00 9:40	5:20 8:40	5:30 7:50 10:00			

Having Fun on Spring Break 1999



Only to return to school as Winter revisits Williamsburg



Did you know that the law school once had a yearbook, called For The Record, but it only lasted a short time and was discontinued.

Would anyone be interested in trying to restart a yearbook for the Law School?

If interested contact Billy Commons (1L).

The Amicus Announcement Policy

The Amicus is the student newspaper of the William & Mary Law School. As such, we are pleased to print announcements from any student organization or about any event of interest to the law school community.

Submissions should be turned in to *The Amicus* hanging file or to the hanging file of Bob Ford (1L). Submissions must be signed and must contain a phone number of the person making the submission.

The Amicus does not vouch for the accuracy of the statements contained in the announcements printed on this page.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Jeff Polich

You can sense it in the air. A spring in the step of every man (and more than a few women) aged 18 on up. Knowing smiles passed between friends at the bar watching highlights on *Sportscenter*. Is it Christmas again already? Close Johnny, but you haven't been *that* good this year. It's the 1999 National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Championship or as it is affectionately referred to among close circles of unshaven college students, the "Big Dance."

Three weeks of pure ecstasy. 64 teams. 63 games. 48 winner-go-on, loser-go-home games over a four day span! And with the proper equipment or an accessible sports bar you can see every single one. Although I don't make it a practice to quote 80's mega-star comedian, and Cold War warrior, Yakov Schmirnov, I can't think of a better way to sum it all up - "What a country!"

First, you have tradition. Did you know that the NCAA's used to be secondary in stature to the National Invitation Tournament, current weak sister of the NCAA's and sustenance for college ball junkies who can't get enough tournament action on the weekends? Not any more. You've got the legend of UCLA's John Wooden who coached something like 152 NCAA championship teams over a nine decade period. You've got the boys with the smoker's cough from Duke and Carolina who incidentally, despite their stature, are still not above implanting devices in the brains of opposing players to make them do silly things in the second halves of important games. You've got Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and countless others who annually use their perennially well-stocked and well-trained teams to try and make us forget how truly inept they are at playing real college sports like football. Add up all the tradition and you have an

event of magnificent proportions, deeply rooted in the past, that gives us happy memories and high hopes.

Then you have the Cinderella stories. The NCAA really does have one up here on college football. The tournament selection committee gives at least one invitation to each of the thirty Division I athletic conferences from the Big East to the Big Ten to the Big Sky. All but two of these conferences give their automatic berth to the winner of its own conference tournament held at the end of the season. This is how we get first round match-ups involving Duke and Mount St. Mary's, Kansas and Prairie View A&M, and my personal favorite, UCLA and Princeton. No matter how pathetic the team, no matter how pathetic the conference, *any* Division I player whose team can put together a few wins at the end of the season has the guaranteed right to get on a plane, fly somewhere exotic like Lexington, Kentucky, and get his ass kicked by future NBA superstars while having his name mispronounced by Billy Packer on national television. It's beyond words.

The funny thing about these Cinderellas leads me to the third great thing about the tournament: at least once a year one of these teams pulls off a huge upset. Richmond over Syracuse. Princeton over UCLA. Rhode Island over Kansas. These games are always close and always a blast to watch unless you are rooting for the team that is about to be Cinderella-ed. It makes the tournament consistently interesting as weaker teams are weeded out before reaching the final four. It renews your belief in the power of a hungry underdog and your faith in the unbending equality of the rules. And it ensures that every flippin' year the office pool is won by someone who made their picks according to whose uniforms they liked best.

Which brings me to my last favorite

thing about the tournament - that it is the impetus by which millions of Americans violate federal law each year, thanks to the guy in every office, fraternity, precinct, or church group with the time and compassion to put together the pool. Can you imagine how clogged the judicial system would be, how much in fines could be collected, and how quickly our leaders would be dragged out of office if the feds ever started prosecuting? But they don't and they shouldn't because they know as well as I that organizing the pool is often a labor of love. Our patron saint of brackets collects the money and the picks, watches and keeps track of the games, and inevitably packages up all of the money he collected three weeks before to be given away because sure as sure can be, he did not win. But he does it anyway, year after year, and I thank him for it.

I could go on and on about the tournament, but I won't. Suffice it to say that I anticipate it and enjoy it like I enjoy any other time when I have an excuse get together with family and friends and do something that appears to have no logical impetus, but yet at its base is good and pure. Although I am writing during the week prior, by the time you read this the tournament will be upon us. I hope Sienna or Valparaiso pulled one off. I hope Auburn has been exposed for the fraud that I believe it is. And I hope I have had and am making plans to have great times watching as many games as my eyes could stand with many good friends and much cheap beer.

IMSTUFF:

I don't have a whole lot of room so I'll make this short. Laimbeer's Legal Eagles got slaughtered a few weeks ago to complete their magical 0 and 4 inaugural season, but this columnist got in one good hit and the referee was ridiculous. Must have

had a plane to catch or something. Bob Morris was the star of the game, hitting a three-pointer to keep the game going for another couple of minutes. The Eagles are looking forward to playing the best team in the loser's bracket of B basketball. They ought to move us to the under 5 foot league. ... Ted, Max, Mack, Alan, etc. continue to roll through the B league as they can make baskets. I would like to mention that they are 3, 0, and 1. You heard me. They have a tie. What is this, soccer? There's no tying in basketball. Couldn't you have had a free throw shoot-out at the end of regulation? Yet another reason to place an asterisk beside their names on the trophy. ... Hockey is finally upon us and not a moment too soon. Assault and Battery lived up to their name, winning their first game 8 to 1. Chris Morrison, Dan Keiser, and Goalie Adam Hills get game stars because I was not there and those were the only names I heard in connection with the game. ... The co-ed team whose name is too long to be reprinted here coasted through their first game as well. Stars go to me for filling in at Goalie without all the recommended equipment if you know what I mean. ... Finally, the women's team, the Full Monty, won what they called an "ugly" game in their first outing. I don't believe that for a second. Stars go to Dan Keiser's new puppy because he's soooooo cute.

Correction: An astute reader with a framed picture of Bobby Bowden in his carrel pointed out to me that Buddy Ryan's defensive scheme was called the "46", not the "54". He's right of course. I don't do much fact checking for this column and mistakes like that are bound to happen. It just goes to show how little you need know about sports to have your own column.

Crew Team off to a Fast Start

W&M Crew from 8

on both days and showed marked improvement on the racing from a week before even if the results did not produce wins. The men's varsity ran up against Dowling College (from Long Island) on Saturday, a crew with eight international scholarship rowers.

The Tribe was undaunted however, and placed a competitive fourth of nine crews, falling only to Dowling, Fordham, and Mercyhurst, all varsity-status crews.

The crew had no trouble qualifying out of its heats in Fairfax on Sunday.

In the finals, the inexperienced crew put together the first half of its race for the first time this year, leading for the first thousand meters before letting George Mason and Duke slip by to finish third of eleven crews. The first varsity men's season record now stands at 15-5.

After a fierce battle with Tech's highly-regarded varsity lightweight crew resulted in a half-length win for the Tribe's second varsity men in Norfolk, the crew placed fifth at Bucknell and second at Mason, beating all other Division III second varsities they faced and losing only to

first lightweight crews and one crew from a higher division (Div II Mercyhurst).

The first novice men dealt with NC State and Virginia Tech in Norfolk, and then fell only to a mostly-experienced Bucknell freshman crew on Saturday, but suffered equipment breakage in their heat on Sunday which forced them to withdraw from the Fairfax regatta.

The second novice men, themselves victims of equipment breakage in Norfolk, did not travel to Bucknell, but finished third in their event on Sunday.

The women have next weekend off

while the men travel to Charlottesville to challenge Division II power UVA.

Men and women will travel to DC on April 10th to take part in the George Washington Invitational, whose field will include several Division I and II contenders. William and Mary Rowing will take its accustomed place as the only unfunded fully club-status program among far richer varsity-status opposition.

Calendar of Events

THE AMICUS CURIAE
Thursday, April 1, 1999

Thursday, April 1

Geology Lecture: "Exploring the Timing, Amplitudes and Causes of Neogene Global Sea-Level Fluctuations: the Ocean Drilling Program's Inaugural Expedition to the New Jersey Continental Shelf." Presented by Dr. James Austin Jr from University of Texas. I have never heard of a more sure fire cure for Insomnia in my life.

National STD Month: No I am not joking, April is National Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month, so be aware. Anything I might say here will get me in serious trouble so I will leave the rest to your imagination.

Tuesday, April 2

Writer's Festival Continues: Acclaimed poet Thomas Lynch will reflect on his life and work as an undertaker by discussing his recently published book of essays "The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade. A poet and an undertaker, now there is something you don't hear about every day.

Sunday, April 4

Daylight Savings Time: Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour or you may be an hour late for class, oh no. Wait a minute, on second thought don't set your clocks ahead.

Lights in the Sky: Last day of the Laser light shows at the Virginia Living Museum. "Pop and rock lyrics choreographed in 'a new light' at the Virginia Living Museum's planetarium. Four shows presented every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday." Insert your own Pink Floyd jokes here. 7:30 p.m.; 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.; admission \$7; 3-D glasses \$1.50; Gold Seal available elsewhere.

Monday, April 5

Opening Day: The grass is green, the sky is blue and all is right with the world today as baseball season opens. Today every team is still a contender, even the Marlins, everybody has the same number of home runs as Mark McGwire and every pitcher is a potential Cy Young award winner. **Go O's.**

Thursday, April 8

Visit with the President: Individual students may make 10 minute appointments from 4 to 5 p.m. with President Timothy Sullivan to discuss issues or just chit-chat, or kiss up. Here's your opening to take your brown nosing, sweet talking after class to a whole new level.

Awesome Roots Rock: Bryan Adams in concert at the Boathouse in Norfolk. Tickets available through Ticketmaster. Enjoy the vocal stylings of the "man" who brought you such dreck as "Have You Ever Really Loved A Woman?" and "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You."

Fresh as Today's Headlines: Watch and learn (and maybe even participate...I don't know) as international experts from a variety of fields discuss the past, present, and future of the Balkan conflict. While this costs \$50, it sounds like it may be interesting, and who knows? Maybe there's a student discount. For more information, contact Jodi Fidler at 221-3424.

Friday, April 9

Fresh Meat!!! Go scope out the new class and have your high hopes crushed (again) by the homeliness of the entering 1L class. But, hey you're going to be at the Leafie and who knows, miracles do happen. But they always seem to

Please submit your entries for the Amicus Events Calendar to Bob Ford (1L), or the Amicus hanging file. Entries may include activities sponsored by law school organizations, main campus or community events.

happen for someone else.

Rowdy Fun: The Covenant Players present their rendition of "Nonsense" at the University Center's Commonwealth Auditorium. Performances, which begin Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. cost only a \$5 donation, and all proceeds will go to charity.

Saturday, April 10

Accepted Students Day: Here's your chance to come out and scope any incoming 1L's that you missed at the Leafie last night. I mean who knows when your luck will change. Hang around the law school on your off day and answer questions. Maybe you save a few souls by making them aware of what they are looking to do to themselves by going to law school

Queens Lake 5k Run: Benefits the David Brian Bullock Scholarship Fund. Starts at New Quarter Park (Queen's Lake) at 9:30 am. Entries cost \$15. I don't get it, get up early on a perfectly good Saturday morning to go running.

Triathlon: 16th annual Karen Dudley Memorial Triathlon begins at 8 am from the W&M Rec Center. Entries are \$25 per student, \$50 for a student team. Deadline for entries is April 2 and are limited to participants. For crying out loud, running itself is bad enough now they want you to swim and bike too. So get out there all you masochists. Just to make it more interesting I think there ought to be traps built into the course, like sharks in the water or grease on the road just to make it a little more challenging.

Wednesday, April 14

Not too deep of a throat: Carl Bernstein Talks, Part of the Virginia Waterfront International Arts Festival and Jewish Community Center Forum series. Listen to one of America's most famous journalists talk about his career, politics, and the presidency from Nixon to today. Sounds interesting, but not cheap. Tickets are \$18. 7:30 p.m., Sheraton Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Dr., Norfolk. (757) 622-6664

Friday, April 16

Leadership Forms: Names and contact information for all the poor fools suckered into being leaders of student organizations for the 1999-2000 school year are due in to Gloria Todd.

Coming Next Issue:

The Annual Amicus Ambulance Chaser Issue

We're looking for any and all submissions as we satirize the the school and ourselves so that we have one last laugh before exams hit. If you have any funny photos, inside jokes, funny stories, anything that will fill up space and maybe make people laugh.

If you have anything you'd like to put in drop it in the Amicus hanging file or talk to Bob Ford or Chris Garber about it.