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## The Amicus Curiae (Vol. 10, Issue 5)

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# The Amicus Curiae

VOLUME X, ISSUE FIVE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2000

WILLIAM & MARY SCHOOL OF LAW

## Date Auction Brings Out a Crowd and Their Checkbooks

By Lauren S. Fassler

From leather pants, high boots and short skirts for the women to kilts, muscle tanks and bare chests for the guys, the Marshall-Whythe law students came to strut their stuff. It worked; their classmates opened up their checkbooks.

Some dates went on stage to dance and serenade the audience while others brought props, which ranged from roses for the ladies to whips and handcuffs for some other fun.

On Saturday, February 5th from 7 p.m. to midnight over 200 law students found their way to Trinkle Hall in the Campus Center for the Public Service Fund's (PSF) 13th Annual Dinner Date Auction. Students paid \$8 to \$12 for admission, which included free beer, soda, and snacks, plus the opportunity to see their classmates parade on stage.

In addition to the dinner dates, students got to bid on hotel packages, music memorabilia, and other items in the

silent auction, and lunch with professors, golf packages, and law review courses in the live auction.

Everything received a bid, and all the money goes toward the summer fellowships that PSF funds every year. Altogether, the Dinner Date Auction raised \$11,000 after subtracting expenses. Not surprisingly, the one-week stay for a party of eight in a Duke, N.C., condo immediately following finals attracted the highest bid of the night at \$625.

It was obvious that the audience consisted of law students



The bidding for Kate Tucker (2L), set what is believed to be a Date Auction record when it topped out at whopping \$400

when a Barbri course went for \$500 and a six-day PMBR review course for \$250. But, law students still want to have fun. A day of golf for four at Ford's Colony garnered \$205, while a 1999 tour poster signed by the band REM raised \$300.

And Kate Tucker apparently set a new record for dinner dates. The competition was stiff, but some lucky guy won her for \$400. Shannon McClure and Erika Kroetch, both in black evening gowns, and Adam Casagrande in a white suit with a Mickey Mouse vest acted as the

and Dan Bartoli were DJs for the evening while Carole Hirsch kept the spotlight on the MCs and the dates.

PSF Board member Jessica Arons courageously agreed to be the first student up for bid. Arons' package included dinner for two at the Kitchen at Powhatan Plantation, and the MC started the bidding at \$60. Arons took off her belt, and then her leather jacket. She fetched \$135. Greg Bane walked on stage and borrowed the microphone from the MC, proceeding to walk among the audience and serenade those lady law students. Then he loosened up his tie, but the MC coaxed him, "If you're going to tease us, you might as well follow through." Bane took off his tie and jacket, eventually raising \$120.

In between the dates, the MCs auctioned off the other packages. Various students paid \$130 for lunch with President Sullivan, \$60 for a week's use of Dean Reveley's parking spot, \$135 for an

See Date Auction on 2

## Moot Court Team Starts New Season Strong

By Rod Frazier

The Moot Court Team has gotten off to a good start this year and hopes to build off of last year's record of achievement. The Regional National competition was held in November 1999, and our Moot Court team was victorious, garnering first place honors.

The event was held at the Federal Building in downtown Richmond before a panel of eleven state and federal justices. Cameron Cobden, Laura Rugles, and Terry Driscoll represented the school well, with Terry winning an award for Best Oralist in the competition. The team then went to New York City to compete in the National Moot Court finals where they finished as Octofinalists.

As the season is fairly young, there are still many competitions yet to come. There are 10 events total scheduled for the year.

The Duke contest will focus on medical ethics, New York University on labor law, American University on First Amendment issues, and University of North Carolina on constitutional law. Of course our very own William B. Spong Tournament is imminent and will include 22 teams in total.

This tournament is named after a previous distinguished dean of the law school. Megan Hogan and Chris Workman are putting it together this year, with Chris writing the question at issue.

That proposed issue is as follows: "Can

academic research on a publicly owned computer be censored by authority of a state statute because of concerns that the material under examination is obscene and offensive?" This issue is purely fictional and is compiled from the ideas of a number of actual cases.

Of particular interest is the fact that the judges of the contest will all be Virginia state and federal district and appeal justices.

All but the final round of this competition will be closed to the public, but feel free to observe on February 26<sup>th</sup> when the victor will be decided.

For all the 2-Ls out there: take note. Over the next two weeks the selection of the Moot Court board members occurs. Even if you are not a member of the Moot Court, you may become a board member. Please feel free to participate in the upcoming year of activities if you are a 2-L.

The Chief Justice generally supervises and coordinates the administration of the Moot Court team for each academic year. The board essentially runs the Moot Court program and assists the team in preparing for tournaments.

Additionally, the board arranges the team's participation in competitions and organizes the Bushrod Tournament, which is held each fall to select team members for the following year.

The Bushrod Tournament is a two-

week intramural competition that is similar to actual Moot Court tournaments.

It is here that the team for the following year is selected out of the ranks of the 2-Ls. The field usually begins with about 120 students and continues until a winner is selected, with a final team roster of 32 students.

Although Judie Ledbetter provides guidance as the advisor to this program, the Moot Court Team is all student run, like so many activities here at Marshall-Whythe. This affords the participants an opportunity to fully explore the experience and to succeed on their own terms.

The 1999-2000 Moot Court Board is: Jonathan Campbell-Chief Justice, Chris-

tina Hewett-Business Justice, Gerald Smith-Bushrod Justice, Kindra Gromelski-Bushrod Research Justice, Megan Hogan-Spong Justice, Christina Workman-Spong Research Justice, Carl Ewald, Amy Kirtland, Julie Wilson Swartz, and Nicholas Ohanesian-Administrative Justices.

For those 1-Ls who are wondering how to become a part of this challenging endeavor, the Bushrod Tournament in the Fall of 2000 will be your chance to become a part of the team.

Until then, wish our current team well and show up to support them in the final round of the Spong Tournament on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

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# Attention 3L's: Its Class Gift Time

## DEAR CLASS OF 2000:

A few weeks ago Justice Breyer reportedly was going to visit Marshall-Wythe. Studying in the dungeon of our library on the scheduled day, I daydreamed of Breyer being given a tour of the library and a chance introduction to a Supreme Court Justice of the United States. Then I thought about it, why would a Justice want to see our library facilities? No disrespect intended, but the physical plant of our law school leaves much to be desired. Facility faults aside, I thought of the wonderful students, administration, and professors I have met here and knew that a Justice would be fortunate to spend time with our people, no matter how second-rate our facilities may be.

Almost three years ago we all began the arduous task of learning the law. We were young, old, confident, uncertain, experienced, green, excited, and apprehensive. Where are we today? I cannot answer for all of you, but I can share my experience. You, my classmates, have awed me with your brilliance and diverse backgrounds, brightened my day with your smiles, comforted me when times were hard, shared with me your triumphs and fears, shaped my life and thinking by expressing yourselves, and sincerely made my three years at William and Mary one of the most momentous, influential, and memorable experiences of my life. How have your days at William and Mary been? Did you have one professor who really made it all worthwhile? Did you develop a friendship or bond that will last a lifetime? Do you have memories of these years that will bring a smile to your face when it is old and wrinkled? Have you surpassed goals that at one time would have seemed preposterous? Whatever your answers are to these questions, I believe that choosing William and Mary as our law school is a decision that will benefit us all in the days to come, intellectually, socially, and professionally. Attending school at William and Mary, with such exceptional classmates, has been a privilege and honor.

Here are a few of my fondest William and Mary

memories. Those of you who had Professor Urbonya may recall my unrehearsed rendition of Farmer Filburn, an Ohio farmer who challenged a wheat quota statute as a violation of the commerce clause. My comical hick accent and dialect belied the fact that constitutional law was not my forte. That was my first introduction to many of you, and despite the brevity of my acting career, many still call me "Farmer Filburn" today. For those of you who missed the performance, I am sure having Smolla made up for it.

A few of you gave me the opportunity to relive past moments of high school gridiron glory by playing tackle football almost every Sunday. And tackle we did; our injuries included a broken nose, a torn rotator cuff, broken fingers, a broken collarbone, a broken tibia, and a cut above the eye that required numerous stitches. Our football sacrifices all paid off a few weeks ago during the snow storm when Kevin Rice and a few others were filmed during a game, making the Wavy News 10 weather highlights. Who says William and Mary football is never televised?

My final recollections are of the Accepted Applicants Day during the Spring of 1997 and the last lecture of Law Camp. The sense of community and friendship my wife and I experienced on Accepted Applicants Day made my decision in choosing a law school unequivocal. Professor Bhala's lecture and credentials dazzled us both, but the cooperation and genuine enthusiasm that the volunteering students evinced was the real clincher. I know now, as I felt then, that this school provides an atmosphere that is almost entirely conducive to learning the law in a friendly and noncompetitive manner. Fred Lederer spoke to my section during the last lecture of Law Camp. He dramatically illustrated the story of a young lawyer's brave and defiant stand against injustice and inequality. That lawyer was Abraham Lincoln. I think all of us left the room with an enthusiastic sense of mission, purpose and the lofty values we could serve in our new profession. Fred held our hands, ensuring that our first step as law

students would be on the right foot.

Today, these memories all hold meaning for me. I recall hamming it up as a midwestern farmer and running a lot slower pass routes while appreciating the added weight of ten years when tackling some of you. Most importantly, I remember the sanguinity I experienced during my initial days at William and Mary and how the past three years have verified that emotion.

Enough reminiscing. Despite my experience and the optimism I think most of us have toward our education here, the law school must march onward. And upward. To do this, the school must continue to attract high quality applicants, professors, and administration. Annually, we all look to U.S. News and World Report for a reflection of the school's prominence, collectively responding with discontent and dismay at our top 35 ranking. We also wonder what it will take to move up that ladder, regardless of its validity. Obvious ways of improving Marshall-Wythe's professional stature include being more generous with the number and value of scholarships, hiring and retaining high caliber professors, and improving the school's physical appearance and amenities. This all costs money.

In the coming weeks, you will learn of the chance to participate with your classmates and give something back to the law school in the form of a Class Gift. This is a golden opportunity to commemorate your special experiences here while providing the school with a Gift that will benefit us, the students who came before, and those who will follow. I know that money is tight and that most of us have borrowed and paid tuition for the past three years, but a Class Gift is a means of improving this school which has provided us all the promise of a bright future, and the memories of a joyful time in attaining that promise.

Sincerely,

John Eric Blanton  
Class of 2000

## THE AMICUS CURIAE

### William & Mary School of Law

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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 Thursday 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.

## PSF Date Auction Highlights

### Date Auction from 1

autographed Dave Matthews CD, and \$110 for lunch with Professor Marcus. As the evening progressed, the MC Adam Casagrande reminded the law students not to forget about the silent auction, which closed promptly at 10 p.m.

He also said, "Keep those checkbooks out. The night's still young, and we've got a lot of great packages left."

Amy Lamoureux and Christyne Bourne hit the stage doing a lip sync and dance to the early 80s hit, "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." Dressed in high black boots, micro-mini red plaid skirts, and tight black shirts, they claimed to be Catholic school girls but looked more like part of the cast of "Clueless," members of the Spice Girls, or contestants at a Britney Spears look-alike contest. Lamoureux's package included lunch for two at Berret's plus two tickets to the Williamsburg Theatre while Bourne came with dinner for two at Beethoven's Inn plus two tickets to the Virginia Symphony. These two popular girls raised \$575 together.

Andrew Hampton brought his girlfriend, who paid \$200 to keep the other women away from her man.

John Mauk arrived in Hawaiian shirt, sandals, and even a couple of leis from the islands.

Billy Commons pulled a dozen roses from his bag and tempted the women with tickets to two to Busch Gardens. Christian Simpson, offering a dinner at the Williamsburg Inn plus an evening at the Williamsburg Theatre, responded to the women's excited shouts of "take it off!" First the cap, then the shirt, and finally the black tank top.

There was some action as well to make the men in the audience happy. Sarah Sarty, offering dinner for two at Season's and an afternoon of skating at the Ice Palace, strutted on stage in black leather pants and removed a baggy shirt to reveal a tank that said "foxy." Audra Hale went classy, dressed in heels and a sparkling black evening gown. April Thompson and Kara McGhee came as a pair, inviting two lucky guys to lunch at Nawab, an afternoon of biking, and a kiss thrown in as a bonus.

"I think things went very well," said PFS Board member Katherine Morrison, a co-chair of the night's event. "Everything went smoothly, no major glitches. A lot of people came out and had a good time. Obviously, as the evening went on, people were a little more inebriated and got a little more into it."

## Religion in Our Schools: A Debate on Freedom

By Eric Nakano

Need a way to celebrate President's Day, this Monday, February 21? Come listen to a panel discussion/debate of the all-American principle of separation of church and state. This year's Institute of Bill of Rights Law Student Division's annual spring symposium will be on religion in public schools.

Separation of church and state is an axiom that is imprinted during every American schoolchild's studies. Yet although this concept is more American than baseball, mom, and apple pie, where to draw the line of separation has always been a subject of dispute. The debate raises historical arguments evoking Jefferson, Madison, the Federalist Papers, the Church of England, and every other facet of life in the early days of the Colonies and the United States. Contemporary arguments focus on the religiously heterogeneous America of today and the need to accommodate a plethora of religions large and small, as well as the need to accommodate the views of the non-religious.

Particularly troublesome has been the need to balance the seemingly opposed Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment. While there has never been a shortage of scholarly debate on these First Amendment principles, the sparks truly fly when theory intersects reality. So far, some of the most exciting and

enduring of these battles have been waged over public schools. And with the increasing religious diversity of public schools, we are ensured that this debate will not be decided soon.

This year's symposium brings together a panel of speakers long involved in the debate of religion in public schools. These speakers include Ellen Johnson, President of American Atheists; Elliott Mincberg, Vice-President of People for the American Way; Steven Aden, Chief Litigation Counsel for the Rutherford Institute; and Steve Fitschen, counsel for the National Legal Foundation. Professor Neal Devins will act as moderator.

Preceding the panel discussion will be the final round of the IBRLSD 1L moot court competition, which will be judged by the panelists. The problem this year, *Ferguson v. Wythe City School District*, involves a school district that has instituted a "non-censorship" policy for student speeches at rallies, which has effectively encouraged student prayer at rallies. The competition has been very close this year, so you can expect quite a show from the finalists.

The moot court competition will be from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 PM, followed by the panel discussion from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. The entire symposium will be held in the courtroom with video overflow to room 120. Admission is free, and everyone is invited to attend.

## Toys for Tots

This past Christmas PAD completed its most successful toy drive in recent memory. The law school community donated a total of \$719 in cash and 303 toys. Thanks to generous discounts provided by K-Mart and Target, most of the money was converted into 72 additional toys, bringing the total number of toys to 375. \$140 was also donated to Toys for Tots for purchase of more toys. These toys were distributed to needy children in the Peninsula area by the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Much of the success of this year's toy drive can be attributed to the "class race" format of donations and Prof. Barnard's challenge to her Corporations Class. Prof. Barnard donated \$2 in toy purchases for every toy brought to her final Corporations Class. This challenge netted just over 100 toys for the drive.

In the "class race," the 3L class demonstrated its generosity with total donations of \$364 and 127 toys. The 2L class charitably gave \$115 and 114 toys. The Faculty & Staff donated \$145 and 38 toys, in addition to Prof. Barnard's donation. The 1L's also weighed in with \$95 and 24 toys.

PAD extends many thanks to everyone who participated in donating to the toy drive and to those who gave generously of their time in soliciting donations.

## PSF would like to thank the following donors for their generous support of the Date Auction:

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Giuseppe's Italian Café  
Golden Horseshoe Golf Courses  
The Green Leaf Café  
The Hair Shop  
Hayashi Japanese Restaurant  
Henry Street Chocolatier  
Holiday Inn Express  
The Ice Palace  
International House of Pancakes  
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The Kitchen at Powhatan Plantation  
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Miyako  
Monica Spiritual Reader & Advisor  
The Music Theater of Williamsburg  
My Sister's Place  
Mystery Dinner Playhouse  
Nawab Indian Cuisine  
Old Chickahominy House  
Padow's Hams & Deli  
Paul's Deli  
Peddler Steak House  
Peking Restaurant

Pizzeria Uno  
PMBR  
Polo Club  
The Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center  
Rhema Massage  
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Sam's Camera Shop  
SBA  
Schmidt Florists  
Season's Café  
Second Street Restaurant and Tavern  
Stonehouse Golf Course  
Supercuts  
Target  
The Trellis  
The Veranda at the Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center  
Virginia Beach Indoor Rock Gym  
Virginia Opera Company  
Virginia Symphony  
Williamsburg National Golf Course  
Williamsburg Bowl  
Williamsburg Brewery  
Williamsburg Inn  
Williamsburg Lodge  
Williamsburg Theatre  
Winn Dixie  
Wythe Candy Shoppe  
Yukon Steak Company  
*PSF would also like to thank the faculty members who donated date packages of their own!*



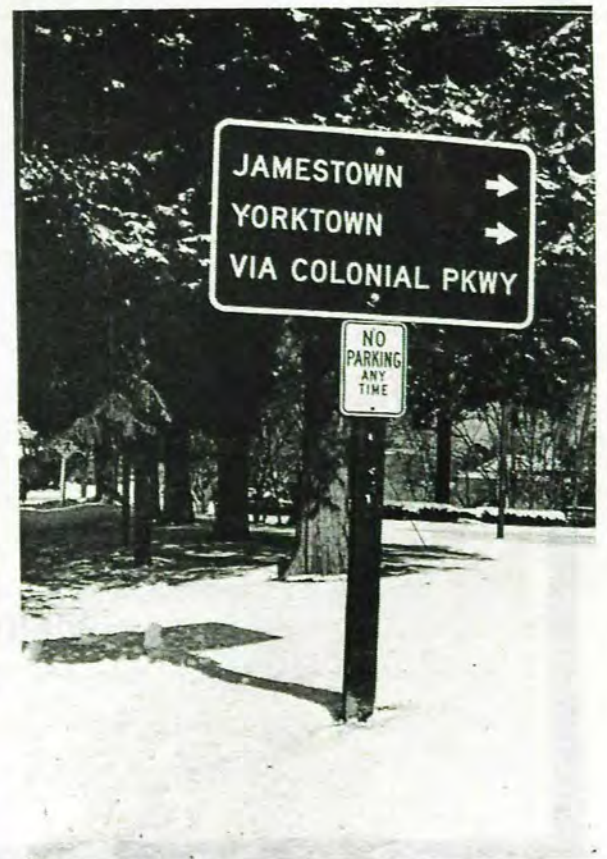
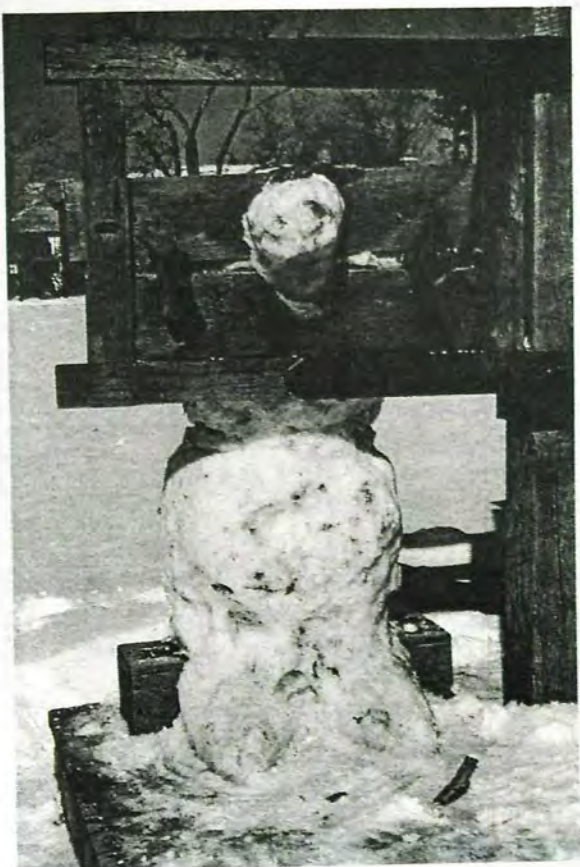
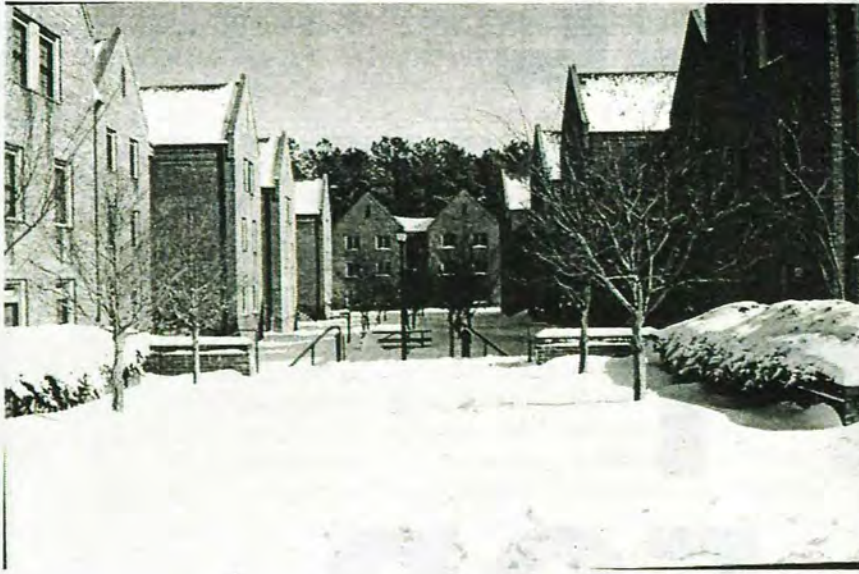
2000  
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# And you thought you went to school in the South: The Blizzard of 2000

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# Flavor in Your Ear

## Special Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commentary

By Tim Emry

As the United States enters a new century, it seems that some of us are still trapped in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Meanwhile, I simply ask "What would Dr. King think of us now?" Let's examine ourselves here at William and Mary for example. We are at a fine law school that claims to be a leader in scholarly research of the Bill of Rights. However, what did we do last Monday to honor a man that defines the spirit of the Bill of Rights and human rights to a greater level than any other leader of our time, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? Classes were in session; we were here with no fanfare, no reflection, and no appreciation for the impact that Dr. King and thousands of other freedom fighters like him have had on our brief lives. While I know of at least one professor that was decent enough to cancel classes, we needed more. This holiday, a federal holiday, deserves to be a university holiday during which we can gather and listen to scholars reflecting on the continued importance of Dr. King and the fight for justice in an intolerant society. They day can also serve as a tool for personal reflection and taking inventory

on what we can do to work together and ensure a better tomorrow.

We live in the state of Virginia, a state where the legislature thought it would be funny to recognize Dr. King day along with two racist confederate generals: Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. What a shame it is that we live in a state that still cannot come to grips with having a day solely devoted to honoring an African-American, a true patriot who fought for what is right. Instead, Virginia insults the legacy of Dr. King by speaking his name in the same breath as a couple of war criminals. However, things may be looking up on this front. Recently, Governor Gilmore indicated he would like to see Dr. King Day be its own holiday, where it rightfully belongs. He feels it is time to let go of the past. If people want to celebrate Lee and Jackson they should do it on a separate day, according to Gilmore. I applaud him for speaking out in this manner. It is embarrassing that Virginia is the only state that does not properly honor Dr. King Day.

Speaking of letting go of the past, the state of South Carolina seems to be proving that many of its "good" citizens have

a problem with letting go. The flying of the confederate flag over the state capitol is simply poor taste and demonstrates a brutal insensitivity to the millions who have and continue to suffer from oppression in the United States. The confederate flag has nothing to do with honor and pride in the past. If you believe that, you are kidding yourself. Grab a book and research why that flag started flying over the capitol. It was done out of spite by the (Dis)Honorable Strom Thurmond and other KKK public officials in South Carolina's state government in the 1960's. After losing a long bitter battle over preventing federal civil rights legislation, Thurmond and other oppressors felt that putting the stars and bars over the state capitol would be a good way to stick it to loving and justice-minded individuals. So, upon examination, the flag is truly flying over the capitol because of hate, it has absolutely nothing to do with pride in history.

With all of the countless examples of hate around us, it leads one to ask "where has Dr. King's vision gone," and "what would he think of us now?" I must regretfully state that I believe he would be sad-

dened by what he sees. And yet he would not be as saddened by all the hate and violence as we would expect. His dismay would be caused by seeing the people of this nation that walk through life with blinders, unaware of society's problems and tricking themselves into believing that things are all better now, and that racism, sexism, etc. are no longer problems we must confront. However, these are issues that we must always confront, for as we ignore and underestimate the problems, they will only grow stronger. That is why it is so important that we fight to do the right thing, and why it is important that we realize the fight needs to start with us. We all need to reflect and work within ourselves to elevate society to a higher ground. We need to commit to seeing that Dr. King's Day be properly honored at William and Mary so that on that day we can reflect, give thanks for our blessings, and focus our efforts on what we can do to ensure a just and loving society.

E-mail me at [timemry@gocubs.com](mailto:timemry@gocubs.com).  
Thanks for reading.

Letter to the Editor

## The Patients' Bill of Rights or Wrongs

The upcoming presidential election has brought the Patients' Bill of Rights to the forefront of American politics again. But what is right about the Patients' Bill of Rights? Little, if you ask me. The sound bites sound good though. Who can argue with whether you should be able to choose your doctor or whether you should be able to make your own decisions about the level of care you receive? If we were really being denied our choices, the Patients' Bill of Rights would seem an appropriate remedy. But before we fix the health care system, let's make sure we know what's broken.

Proponents of the Patients' Bill of Rights argue that we are currently denied a choice of doctors and health care. There is a degree of truth to their rhetoric, but it is Congress, not HMOs that have restricted patient choice (ask your Congressman if you can pay cash for medical care to a doctor enrolled in the MediCare program). HMOs do not restrict your right to choose your doctor; they merely limit your choices if you elect to take advantage of their services. In other words, in order to obtain medical care more cheaply than you could on your own, you choose to voluntarily limit your choice of physician by choosing to enroll in the HMO. Even then, you may still receive medical care of your choice from doctors of your choice if you choose to pay for it yourself - within the constraints Congress has placed on your choice.

Arguably, HMOs are not the solution to the rising costs of health care but neither is the Patients' Bill of Rights. In fact, the Patients' Bill of Rights adds greater expense to the system. HMOs restrict your choice of doctors within their plans so that they can use "gatekeeper" doctors to make economically sound health decisions that will be financially advantageous to the HMO. At first glance, a cost benefit analysis of whether or not you or I should receive possibly a life-saving procedure seems offensive. But that is precisely why the HMO is able to offer affordable health care. If it has to pay for the leading doctor in a particular field to provide a medical procedure that has a one in a hundred chance of saving your life, the advantage of the HMO in offering affordable health care ceases to exist.

In conclusion, passage of the Patients' Bill of Rights not only won't provide us more choices it will also increase the costs of our health care plans or eliminate them altogether. If you still want to find a culprit in limiting patient choice then look to your Congressman. And let's all ask our candidates and elected leaders to stop feeding us only sound bites and demand they engage in substantive discussions of relevant issues.

Matthew Curtis  
Class of 2001

## The Journal of Women & Law Presents a Symposium:

### [De]Constructing Sex: The Legal Implications of Transgenderism and Intersexuality

Thursday, February 17  
3-6 p.m. McGlothlin Moot Courtroom  
Reception to Follow

Come hear from experts in this expanding field of law - including two successful transgendered attorneys - as they discuss what it means to be transgendered or intersexual and the legal implications of being a gender non-conforming person.

# The Taxman Cometh

(It's that time of year again. The snow is falling, the skiing is good, the Redskins are warming themselves by the fireplace watching the playoffs on TV, and CPAs everywhere are burrowing into their little cubbyholes to await the coming of the taxman...)

## Questions for the Taxman:

Taxman, do women find your being the taxman sexy? 'Cause I'm thinking that tax law might be a good field for me, but I want to do something in law that will attract the ladies.

-Got an 'A' in Donaldson's Income Tax

Dear 'Got an 'A',

First off, I've got an A for ya right here buddy. I'm going to shine it up real nice, turn it sideways, and stick it up your ... (deleted due to potential trademark infringement).

To answer your question, do you see my name anywhere in this column? Exactly. Join the JAG Corps; women like men in uniform. Next...

Taxman, I landed a primo job last summer and started paying off my law school loans early. Can I deduct the interest?

-Got an 'A' in Coven's Intro to Tax

Dear 'Got an 'A' II,

Please see first line in answer above, then continue.

The short answer is no, you cannot deduct interest paid on student loans until you are **required** to pay back those loans. Generally, that's for payments starting between 3-9 months after your graduation. Check your loan agreement for its terms.

The long answer is still no, but I'm

going to give it anyway because the taxman was really pissed off about something that happened last fall and hasn't been able to vent the fumes until now. Congress, in its infinite wisdom, decided that an incentive to delay repayment on student loans doesn't make much sense. So, they introduced a provision that would have enabled you and me (or your parents if you're fortunate to have them as the primary debtors) to take an above-the-line deduction for a lot of the interest payments you make, whenever you make them. *Definition: Above-the-line deduction is an expense that you can deduct regardless of whether you itemize or take the standard deduction. (And if this is all foreign to you, just remember that above-the-line is good, below-the-line is not so good).*

Congress had a great idea. It made sense from a policy standpoint; it made sense from an economic standpoint. All right, it **does not** make any sense. The idea that Congress uses the tax code to influence personal behavior appalls me. But this appalling provision benefitted law students, and isn't that what's really important?

Everything went splendidly until the bill reached the desk of Bubba. And as is his wont, good old Mr. C screwed around, and then vetoed the bill. Something about the bill costing the government too much money... yada yada yada.

The good news is that there is bipartisan support for resubmitting that law student friendly provision. The bad news is that it's an election year where everything becomes an attempt to make the other side look, well, worse than your side. So, while the provision will likely be introduced in future bills, it will just as likely be attached to other provisions which will force the president to veto the bill, assum-

ing it even reaches his desk. The history of the present student loan interest deduction supports my forecast. That deduction, which had been introduced in a number of congressional bills, took over a decade to see the light of day.

One last side note Mr. Primo Summer Job, if you're going to be working for the Primo Law Firm post-graduation, you'll likely be phased out of taking any interest deductions due to your oh so Primo salary anyway.

Q: Taxman, aren't there any tax deductions I can take for the cost of law school this year?

-Ms. I. M. Notreadyformytrial,

Dear Ms. Notready,

Finally, a serious question. The answer is yes, but it isn't a deduction, it's a credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit. After you, (using the term 'you' loosely here), determine your federal income tax due, subtract off the Lifetime Learning Credit to arrive at the final amount due. *Definition: Credit is a good thing. (Except if your lifetime learning credit exceeds the tax due, you don't get a refund, and then it's only a little bit of a good thing.)*

The lifetime learning credit is equal to 20% of your first \$5,000 of tuition costs and required student fees, in other words no more than \$1,000. Those tuition costs do not include room and board, insurance costs, or transportation fees. For you daytraders and people with spouses who daytrade, the credit is phased out (gradually reduced) if your modified adjusted gross income is between \$40,000 and \$50,000 (or \$80,000 and \$100,000 for married filing jointly). But if you are married filing separately, you get zip. The credit

cannot be claimed for married people who file separately.

You can include all the tuition-related payments made during the tax year. So, if you prepay your tuition expenses, for example paying for the Spring 2000 in December 1999, you may include that prepayment in your 1999 tax return. Almost any form of tuition payment qualifies regardless of whether you pay your tuition with student loans, cash from your good friend in the Colombian cartel, or your first-born child (tax-free scholarships and military educational assistance not included).

There is a caveat for those of you who can be claimed as a dependent child. The credit becomes an if/then proposition. If your parent claims an exemption for you, then only your parent can take the credit. If your parent does not claim an exemption for you, then only you can take the credit.

Now go prepare for your trial, legal skills is a very important part of your legal education, without it you wouldn't have something to blame for your not getting an 'A' in your tax classes.

If you, or someone you love, have a question concerning taxes or financial decisions related thereto, please write to:

The Taxman,  
c/o the Amicus Curiae  
William and Mary School of Law  
P.O. Box 8795  
Williamsburg, VA 23187

(Disclaimer: All information that resembles tax advice is generic. Your own tax situation may differ. Please consult a tax attorney, and not a CPA or H & R Block representative as the latter two won't ever be me. Thank you.)

## Sports Rants

By Jeff Polich

The end of the bowl season was great. Virginia Tech gave Florida State a much better run for its money than I had anticipated. (I did not realize that Big East games only last three quarters.) As usual, the beginning of the bowl season was meaningless. How good would it have been to have a playoff, even with just eight teams? The fact is that teams from the ACC and Big East do not play schedules that are as tough, week in and week out, as teams from the Big Ten, Big Twelve, Pac Ten, and SEC do. If I'm wrong about that, let Florida State prove it against Nebraska or Wisconsin. And will someone please demonstrate to the Marshalls of the world that there is an upper echelon of college football, and that they are not part of it?

The only way to balance the scale is to let the champs of each major conference and a couple at-larges participate in a national championship tournament. Why punish Nebraska and Wisconsin for close losses to Texas and Michigan when they

didn't have the chance to coast through conference games against Duke and Temple? The problem is that those old geezers who sit on the boards of directors for the bowl games will never give up their free trips and assorted other bribes from the teams that want to play in their bowl. My solution: incorporate the bowls into a true playoff, or else make me one of those geezers.

So Michael Jordan is taking over the Bullets. That idiot. Not only are they currently hopeless, but they have been for the last twenty-five years. Most of their "fans" like them that way, so they can buy tickets to root for the visitors. At any given game, half of the fans are there to see the other team win. Not unlike the Clippers, Nets, and Washington Generals, the Bullets exist only to give real teams like the Lakers, the old Bulls, and the Harlem Globetrotters a chance to visit various major metropolitan areas.

On the bright side, even if I didn't get to see his playing ability decline, at least I get to watch him fail in his managerial

ability. He says he wants a challenge? Puh-lease. You heard it here first—this little escapade will last about as long as his baseball career did.

I went to Michigan. I was there in 1993 when Chris Webber made the time out signal that sealed North Carolina's victory in the finals of the NCAA College Basketball. Flash forward seven years later to the other night at the Green Leaf, where a law student (who shall remain nameless, but who attended some junior college in Durham, North Carolina) gave me the time out signal in response to my rational and intelligent remark about how much Duke basketball sucks.

Unfortunately for her, the taunt did not have its anticipated effect because Webber's time out no longer bothers me. First of all, without Webber, Michigan would never have been in that game. Second, Webber was only doing what his idiot teammates on the bench were telling him to do. Third, Michigan was down by one in the game and there is no reason to believe that had they taken a shot, it would have

gone in. Fourth, there was some justice in the time out because the referees had missed an obvious travel infraction by Webber seconds earlier. Finally, I have come to terms with the fact that the Fab Five never won a national championship. Fact is, they went to the Tournament all four years while I was there and got to at least the final eight in three of those years. Many students never experience a single tournament in which their team participates. Not only that, they were a blast to watch.

So what does bother me? It bothers me that people still give me the time out signal in bars. I mean, it happened almost seven years ago. Webber is over it. His charitable foundation is called "Time Out." For the above stated reasons, I'm over it. Yet, it still happens, and if countless recollections of Bill Buckner's error in the 1986 World Series are any indication, it always will.

Speaking of Chris Webber, Sacramento

See Sports Rants on 9

# The Arguably Talented Mr. Ripley

By Nancy Lee and Jessica Norris

## Cast of Characters:

Matt Damon	Tom Ripley
Gwyneth Paltrow	Marge Sherwood
Jude Law	Dickie Greenleaf(e!)
Cate Blanchett	Meredith Logue
Philip Hoffman	Freddie Miles
Jack Davenport	Peter Smith-Kingsley
James Rebhorn	Herbert Greenleaf(e!)
Stefania Rocca	Silvana

Hi everyone, and Happy New Millennium! This is our first review of the new year, and FINALLY there is a movie that we disagree on, and FINALLY we've reviewed a drama, instead of a feel-good, hahahahaha, comedy. Because we disagree on the merits of the film as a whole, we've asked Cate Zaller (who hasn't seen the movie, and will be acting as a reasonably prudent moviegoer who wants to know if she should see this film) to monitor the proceedings and render a verdict on whether this movie is a must see or a must flee.

About the movie itself: set in beautiful 1950s Italy, Tom Ripley is hired by shipping magnate Herbert Greenleaf—bearing no relation to our favorite (not by choice) watering hole—to retrieve his incorrigible, spoiled son, playboy Dickie Greenleaf. Greenleaf Sr. is under the mistaken impression that Ripley is a fellow former Princeton classmate of Dickie's. Ripley travels first class to Italy from his squalid New York City tenement, and even at this point in the movie, one can see Ripley's mind working fast and furiously, as he becomes more and more acclimated to his newfound luxurious settings. When Ripley arrives in Italy, not only does he not accomplish his mission of taking Dickie back to his father, but he assumes Dickie's identity and lifestyle—in effect, taking Dickie for himself and making him "his own." We can babble on and on about the plot, but we won't. Let's just say that the movie is richly layered with homoerotic undertones which are maddening yet effective.

NL: Well, as you can see in the introduction, we disagree about the movie. I love the movie for many reasons. It is disturbing, intriguing, enchanting (mostly due to the incredible and beautiful cinematography), the characters are well-imagined and very interesting, and Matt Damon (as the disturbed and rather disturbing Tom Ripley) acts in an incredibly challenging role very convincingly. The only problem I really have with the movie is Gwyneth Paltrow's rendering of Marge Sherwood, Dickie's infatuated lover. She looks perfect for the part, as a Grace Kelly-esque blonde with the charm and sophistication that perfectly represents her upper-class upbringing, but what is up with that weird and out-of-place quasi-British accent? Is Paltrow trying to reprise her roles in *Emma* and *Sliding Doors*?

JN: I respectfully dissent from my esteemed colleague. This movie is awful!! It is miles too long, with a very confusing,

twisted and convoluted plot. The movie just goes on and on, and I frequently found myself drifting, even during what should have been the most interesting parts. During the all too crucial initial moments of the movie (which, at least for me, is when I can tell whether or not a movie reeks) the plot drones at a maddeningly slow pace. The first hour of the movie is further dragged out by about five jazz numbers, live and recorded, which lend nothing to the already lame plot. Although it's nearly impossible for me to ascertain which of these little numbers I liked the least, I must say that Ripley dancing around wearing his underwear and Dickie's tuxedo jacket ranks as one of the movie's lamest moments. While the cinematography is well done, the 1950s Italy "feel" is ruined by little annoyances, such as tacky 1970s-like decor and Christmas lights. The movie isn't even remotely exciting until the first hour has passed, but by that time, I had totally lost interest and was grossed-out by the excessively gory scene.

NL: Well, we are all entitled to our own opinions. Admittedly, the movie is long, but it is like a favorite song that breezes by quickly and then you regret its very end. To me, the jazz numbers are very compelling, add a vivid musical component to the movie, and are especially telling vignettes that illuminate and showcase Dickie and Tom's complicated "relationship." For example, in the scene where Tom sings the jazz number "My Funny Valentine," one realizes that Tom's apparent calm reserve is just barely hiding his frantic, desperate longing for his newfound object of affection and love, whom Tom will subsequently consume and take over as his own. This scene basically draws you into Tom's soul. The genius of Damon's rendering of Tom is that he gives Tom a vulnerable side that is very much the flipside of his more violent and manipulative personality—so we, in some ways, are cheering him on, even though Tom's actions in the movie necessitate angrier and less sympathetic reactions. The essence of Tom's mantra,

"A fake somebody is better than a real nobody," demonstrates Tom's vulnerability and sad yearning to be someone else.

JN: Like a favorite song? Regretting its very end? Um, no. Even my favorite slow songs are more exciting and move faster than this film, and the only thing I regretted at the end was wasting \$6.50 to see a sweaty, bespectacled Matt Damon grinning at me for nearly three hours. The mark of a bad movie is caring nothing about its characters. Ripley is an annoying, unlikely oaf, who shows his "love" for others by savagely murdering them. Although Jude Law does a great job as Dickie (and he's very cute), the character is despicable, as Dickie only befriends and/or "loves" others to use them. He tolerates Ripley only until his money runs out, and then he tries to dump him. The same goes for the treatment of the women in his privileged life. He uses and mentally abuses his girlfriend, all the while romancing (and impregnating) Silvana, an Italian villager, who he cruelly abandons when she needs him the most. Freddie Miles, Dickie's friend and Ripley's nemesis, is a loud, pompous jerk. Marge, Dickie's unfortunate girlfriend, is just there, and has a very annoying personality. Some of the lesser characters have good hearts, like Peter (Ripley's love interest after Dickie bites the dust), but the main characters are unlikable and unsympathetic.

NL: I actually had quite the opposite reaction to Matt Damon's Tom. A small part of me always wanted him to get away with, literally, murder, and everything else. Maybe I'm the only one thinking this, but even though Tom is essentially evil and a psychopath, I still felt a little bit of sympathy for the character. This is probably why the movie held my interest until the very end. I was lying in wait the whole time, waiting to see if Tom would indeed get away with his vacillating identities. Another notable character of this film is Freddie Miles, played by the wonderful actor Philip Seymour Hoffman (also in the fantastic

movie *Magnolia*). A very boorish and materialistic friend of Dickie's, Freddy is the only one who can see through Tom's very facade to the insecure, lower class "nobody" who has by happenstance found himself engulfed in Freddy and Dickie's milieu. Although Jessica and I disagree on this movie, we do agree that this is a good movie to rant and rave about.

JN: I'll end my part of this review by complaining about the end of the movie. I'm not going to give it away, but let me just say that practically everyone in the theater was groaning and asking "is that it?" This movie was a huge disappointment for me because its preview trailer gave me such high expectations. I was really looking forward to seeing it, but now that I have, I must say that the trailer is the only good thing this film has to offer.

## Zaller, J., Opinion:

Based on the above facts, I cannot find for Ms. Lee. The excessive length of the movie dissuades me from purchasing a ticket. Although the length of a movie is not usually dispositive of my movie-viewing decisions, the mixed review convinces me not to spend my valuable time being bored.

I was also convinced by Ms. Norris's argument about Matt Damon's performance. I have never been a fan of the actor and am concerned that I would be irritated by his character and acting prowess. Furthermore, I am easily irritated by an obviously fake accent, which Ms. Lee conceded when critiquing Gwyneth Paltrow's performance. Although Ms. Lee's spirited defense of the movie convinced me of the artistic cinematography, art alone is insufficient to persuade me to part with my hard earned (or loaned) cash.

Therefore, I would not spend my money to go see a questionable and lengthy movie.

Judgment for Ms. Norris.

## Local Showtimes

**Carmike Cinema 4 (229-6333)**

**Down to You (PG-13) 7:10 9:10**

**Girl Interrupted (R) 7:00 9:30**

**Galaxy Quest (PG) 7:10 9:30**

**The Hurricane (R) 8:15**

**Williamsburg Crossing (253-2299)**

**Eye of the Beholder (R) 7:00 9:15**

**Scream 3 (R) 7:00 7:15 9:30 9:45**

**Stuart Little (PG) 7:10 9:10**

**Toy Story 2 (G) 7:00**

**The Green Mile (R) 7:30**

**Snow Falling on Cedars (PG-13) 9:20**

**The Talented Mr. Ripley (R) 7:15**

## Sports Rants

**Sports Rants from 8**

is my new favorite team to watch. They run all the time, their dunks are like something at a circus, and point guard Jason Williams fires passes that defy imagination. The Kings are a welcome change from the boring post-up and back in for a five-foot jumper style of the Lakers, Rockets, and Spurs. Too bad NBC is afraid no one will watch if they actually televise Kings games.

The St. Louis Rams are playing the Tennessee Titans in the Super Bowl. I like it. While the pundits from various so-called elite media in the East whine about parity in the NFL because the Giants aren't playing the Jets in every Super Bowl, chumps like me who root for the Lions will continue to watch games in the hope,

however improbable, that some year on some distant planet, the Lions will win the big one.

## Sports Report:

Don Martin's co-ed team won the IM championship. However, it happened so many glasses of beer, eggnog, scotch, champagne, and beer ago, that I can't remember anything about it. Basketball starts soon. I know that half the school is playing, so let me know how you do and I promise to misquote you.

## Organizations

## Spotlight On: Phi Delta Phi

By Sarah Kinsman

Now that students have begun spring semester, Phi Delta Phi fraternity is planning activities like initiation, a service project, and the annual Supreme Court visit.

"Historically we're more active second semester," said President Matt Vinciguerra (2L). "The reason is that the board is composed of second years, and first semester of the second year of law school is unreal. In the second semester we have more time to do activities."

One of the events will be initiation of new members into the Jefferson Inn. Chapters in PDP are known as Inns. About 20 to 30 first year students will join the 42 current members at William and Mary and the 188,000 members throughout 128 Inns in North America. A few of the numerous famous members are Justices Thurgood Marshall and Antonin Scalia, Dean William Prosser, Professor , and 3L.

"Our membership will go up 50 percent in one year," Vinciguerra said. "That speaks well for the 1L class. They're really enthusiastic."

The initiation will be in March or April at a facility in town. Last year the ceremony was held at a local church, Vinciguerra said.

Though called a fraternity, PDP, as well as its counter-

part, Phi Alpha Delta, is not like an undergraduate fraternity or sorority, Vinciguerra emphasized.

"They tend to be less visible than undergraduate fraternities and sororities," he said. "Part of that is they serve a different function. They're not meant to be the main social or service outlet for law students, but are meant to be a means by which students can get together and do things together. Some people get here and see the word 'fraternity' and think there's stuff going on every week, but it's not like that."

A service project is also in the planning stages. One idea, suggested by Professor Ron Rosenberg, is holding a fundraiser for bidding on, purchasing and retiring sulfur dioxide allowances from the Environmental Protection Agency. Another idea was to work with a local Habitat for Humanity group. Each year, PDP holds a different service project. Ideas are presented to the board from members of the law school community. The project is approved in a membership meeting.

"I think it's admirable for people to feel they can budget their time to afford to give to these sorts of things," Vinciguerra remarked.

The Supreme Court trip is the most popular PDP activity. Held in March, after spring break, the trip gives

members and non-members a chance to visit the Court and see Washington, D.C. A charter bus takes students to D.C., where they are given a tour of the Court, hear oral arguments, and meet a Justice for about half an hour. This spring students will meet with Justice Scalia, and possibly another Justice.

"(Vice-President Tilghman Broaddus (2L)) did a great job setting this up," Vinciguerra said. "Scalia is a popular guy to sit down with and meet. People are interested in his philosophy and where it comes from."

Following the visit at the Court, students have time to sightsee and have dinner before returning to Williamsburg at night.

Members of PDP are guaranteed a spot on the trip, then the rest of the student body is invited on a "first-come, first-served" basis, Vinciguerra said.

Membership is open to any student until the initiation. Interested students can contact Vinciguerra, or drop a note in the PDP hanging file. Additionally, PDP has a national website at [www.phideltaphi.org](http://www.phideltaphi.org).

## The Colony Next Door: A Visit to Colonial Williamsburg

By Jeff Yeates

"The world's largest outdoor living museum" has been a five minute walk from our house for a year and a half now but we have not visited it. I refer not to the Farm Fresh shopping center, which is a different sort of museum, but to Colonial Williamsburg, or as we "locals" like to say, "CW." As in: I was walkin' down "DoG" street in "CW" the other day while in the "burg." At least this is what I hear the undergrads say.

I should hastily add that Rebecca and I have walked through CW and among the shops and sites many, many times, but we've never actually gotten the passes and walked inside the shops and sites. So, over the Winter Break, we decided to do it now for free before we move and have to pay. If you have a student I.D. all you need do for free admission is attach a sticker available from the University Center on the back of your I.D. Alternatively, if you're living in Williamsburg, a driver's license or utility bill proving residence gets you a free "Good Neighbor" pass which also gives you a 40% discount on tickets for your friends and family.

After obtaining our "Good Neighbor" passes (good for a calendar year) at the Visitor's Center, we walked into CW and decided to first check out the Governor's Palace. It was such a beautiful day that we skipped the indoor tour and lazily browsed through the back gardens for a while. Spring is when these gardens really impress, but the manicured hedges, geometric layouts, and landscaping are still terrific in the winter. We also stopped in at the adjacent kitchen cottage and watched a worker make bread the Colonial way—slow and labor intensive.

Our next stop was the wheel maker's, next to the Governor's Palace. Making wagon wheels is like making bread—slow and labor intensive. Fortunately, these slow and laborious processes produce an excellent product. The head carpenter told us that wheels on their carriages can last many years, more than most automobile tires.

This point was really driven home at the gun maker's shop down near the Capitol. Depending on the gun, it could take months to manufacture one. But some of those guns could last hundreds of years, getting passed down

from generation to generation.

It was impossible not to reflect on how much the world has changed. I have so many more possessions than all but the richest colonial residents could imagine. Yet how many of those would, or even could, I pass down a generation? My 486 computer? My car? A gun manufactured in 1650 was probably still useful in 1750 for fighting French and Indians, and perhaps in 1860 for shooting Yankees. But carrying a gun made in 1950 into a battle today, just 50 years later, would get you killed.

After those weighty reflections, we decided to get some lunch. There are a lot of choices for food in and around CW. We've been to some of the taverns, to the Trellis, and to Seasons Café, which are all very good. If you want something less expensive, we recommend the Cheese Shop, next to Baskin-Robbins on Prince George St. And if you want something really inexpensive, we recommend "bread ends and house" there for \$1.82. The bread ends are hanging in a fishnet sort of basket in the middle of the sales counter—about eight or nine ends per bag. The "house" is a small container of the house dressing. We found a bench in Merchant's Square and sat and enjoyed our delicious lunch for two under \$2.00. (We also split a drink, so add \$1.25).

After lunch, we walked down to the Capitol, where tours begin about every 20 minutes. Frankly, a ton of historical things happened here, so I won't relate them all. The best-known event is probably Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech which, if I remember the guide's lecture correctly, took place in the Virginia Assembly Room.

The tour goes throughout the Capitol, pausing for several minutes at each of three main rooms. Our most interesting stop was the courtroom where our very animated tour guide tried to get our group excited about Colonial trials. According to 3L Jason Divelbiss, who actually worked a summer at CW (he may kill me for revealing this, but soon he will have a real job, so it's okay), it's kind of hit and miss on the tour groups. Some are good-natured and really get into it. Others just sit there. Our group was somewhat active. The tour guide

accused several of us of various crimes and we acted scared. I was a horse thief. All the kids got seated in the jury box, which could have been interesting ("beyond a reasonable doubt"—do you know what that means, kids?), but they never actually judged anything.

After the Capitol tour, we strolled around for a little while more and then walked home, planning on another visit next month because there is lots more to see in CW. We still want to see the inside of the Governor's Palace, the silver maker's shop, the DeWitt Wallace Gallery, and the gardens hidden-behind-that-high-wall-you-pass-on-Henry-St-every-day-next-to-the-courthouse. But what we saw we liked a lot. Even if it hadn't been that great, it's free for students anyway. So, particularly with Spring approaching and the tourists still light, make some time to enjoy our world famous tourist mecca.

**Crowd Factor:** (1-10, "10" being like the floor of the NYSE and "1" meaning we were alone.) 4 Naturally, in CW crowds depend on the time of year. Were we to visit in August, the crowds would probably garner an "11." Winter, however, is a great time to go and since you live here you can pick the perfect 60-degree winter day.

**Expense:** (1-10, "10" is most expensive (which means Rebecca probably paid for it) and "1" is free.) 1. Take it while you can get it.

**Romance:** (1-10, "10" is akin to a moonlit garden walk; "1" is akin to a bowling alley) 7 Gun shops and wheel makers may not be that romantic, but it's easy to get off the colonial Duke of Gloucester Interstate and explore some of the secluded gravel lanes and meadows. (By the way, I have a "trip" planned to the most romantic place in all of Williamsburg, maybe in all of Virginia, in an upcoming issue.)

**Overall Rating:** (1-10, you get the idea) 7.5.

**Getting There:** Duh. Go out from the law school and take a right. If you need more information, CW's phone number is 1-800-HISTORY (cute) and their website is [www.history.org](http://www.history.org).

# W&M Tuition and the Other Six Mysteries of the Modern World

By Sari Benmeir

There are things that occur or exist that fill one with a sense of wonder or awe or bewilderment because you can find no rational explanation for them. Such as:

1. When you are making scrambled eggs and you turn off the heat (you have to have a gas stove) a little wisp of smoke comes up off the eggs. It only happens with scrambled eggs, and not sunny-side up, over-light eggs or omelets. Why does this happen? Why would anyone notice such a thing and let the mystery of it bother them?

2. When you go outside on a cold day and exercise to the point of sweating and then go back inside, your nose runs. Now I have a theory about this phenomenon, but may want to base a patent on it, thus I cannot disclose my theory. Now that spurs your curiosity, doesn't it?

3. Some people are famous for no apparent reason whatsoever. Two who immediately spring to mind are Fabio and Jack Hanna. Fabio is famous for being hit in the face with a goose at Busch Gardens, but apparently the reason that got so much media attention was because he was famous before that. Does anyone know why? And Jack Hanna. Those of you who don't have children may not be familiar with Jack Hanna, but any kid under the age of 15 is. Jack hosts a TV show that consists of Jack going to various zoos around the world and showing the animals and talking to the various zookeepers. Anyone who has seen this show can confirm that Mr. Hanna has the intelligence level of poached squid and a hairstyle that went out before most of y'all were born (i.e., whenever I see him I

scream "GET A DAMN HAIRCUT!!!!"). What's the deal with Jack Hanna?

4. Lee-Jackson-King Day. That's Robert E. Lee, legendary general of the Confederacy, Stonewall Jackson, lemon-sucking general of the Confederate army and Martin Luther King, civil rights leader. Am I the only one who sees the humorous irony in this combination of people? (Actually, apparently other people do not think it is humorous, because there is currently legislation to make it *two* separate holidays - with Lee-Jackson day occurring on the Friday before King day. Thus, Virginia state employees will get even more time off than Federal employees, reducing their annual hours worked almost down to that of public school teachers). (Speaking of school teachers, there is currently a proposal to pay James City County school teachers an extra \$28 per hour to cover other teacher's classes when a substitute teacher cannot be found because of the current shortage of substitute teachers. If I had known that public school teachers made \$58,240 (= \$28 x "40" hours per week x "52" weeks per year) per year, I never woulda wasted my time here).

5. Naked Mole Rats. These are small, hairless embryonic-looking animals from Africa that live in colonies of around 100 rats and spend their entire lives underground. The most interesting fact about naked mole rats is that they have a *Queen* rat that bears all the babies for the colony, similar to insects such as bees and ants. So if they can do that, why not people - ya know, have one person who has all the babies, so the rest of us can live lives free from stretch marks and other such pleas-

anties of bearing children.

6. Gravity Hill. There is this road in western Baltimore County, Maryland, where if you go out there in your car in the middle of the night, and if you stop in the right place and put your car in neutral, the car will roll *uphill*! This is a fact that I have witnessed a number of times, so I absolutely know it's true. One of the more interesting things about this phenomenon is that it does not work during the day. You can go out to gravity hill and sit there in your car for many daylight hours and the car will not roll uphill. But if you go out there at night and are facing the right direction, off you go. You even accelerate. It is absolutely eerie.

7. The in-state tuition at W&M law school has risen 34.3% since the 1997-98 school year. According to the CIA, the US inflation rate for 1998 was 1.6%. (I found this out from the CIA website that has useful information about every country in the world) (Please note: I did actual research to write this column. This shows you my general tendency to go to great lengths to prove a point when I get very pissed off. As I did when I saw how much the tuition has been raised without rational explanation). Thus, it is probably safe to assume that the national inflation rate during the time W&M raised their tuition 34.3% was less than 5%. Doing some simple math enables me to figure out that W&M's inflation is at least 700% greater than the national average. By the way, you 1L's can expect an in-state tuition for the 01-02 school year of over \$12,000 at the current rate of increase.

Now how in the hell can anyone possi-

bly justify raising the tuition 700% more than is called for by the national inflation rate? There is no rational explanation. Could it perhaps have something to do with our grand, new Law School Addition? Haven't you seen it? Oh yeah, I forgot that the elusive Addition Project which was scheduled to break ground around the fall of 1998, has yet to materialize as a reality. Yet, correct me if I'm wrong, but my personal tuition was raised a bonus, extra, amount because I, personally was supposed to benefit from the Addition before I graduate. The only benefit I'll ever get from the Addition is that it will give me additional windows to egg seven years from now when I'm still stuck in this damn town because I have not yet found a real job. Just look for me on the corner of Henry and Francis Streets. I'll be the one charging tourists for directions to Colonial Williamsburg.

As a final note, other schools are also being subjected to ridiculous tuition increases, although not to the extent that we suffer. According to an article by Melanie Anne Kielb on page 17 of the December 1999 edition of *Student Lawyer*, the average law school tuition increased 72.5% between 1990 and 1997. This increase "far outstripped those of related economic indicators ... as well as lawyer salaries. Tuition hikes continued despite ... remarkable returns on record endowments." Ms. Kielb goes on to note that the problem of ridiculous tuition hikes is compounded by the fact that there is no rational explanation given for them.

So, for once, it appears that I am not alone in my whining and complaining.

*More Clip 'n' Save Marshall-Wythe Trading Cards! Collect them all!!*

Well they survived. The 1L's made it through exams, mostly, but here are the 1L Casualties



2 for 1: Two 1L's Show the aftereffects of their exams



Can I use my lifeline?



What Exams?

# Calendar of Events

THE AMICUS CURIAE  
Thursday, February 10, 2000

*Wednesday February 9*

## Miracle Lecture

Dr. Rose Marie Toussaïant, a liver and kidney transplant specialist and the author of *Never Question a Miracle*, will speak at the UC Auditorium starting at 7:30pm.

## Men's Basketball

The WM Men's team takes on East Carolina University tonight at 7:00p.m. in William and Mary Hall.

*Thursday February 10*

## Gallery Talk

Kimberley Phillips, associate professor of history, will give a talk explaining the current exhibition *Lifting the Rose-Colored Glasses: Three Social Realists*, in the Muscarelle Museum at 5:30pm.

*Friday February 11*

## FACES Conference

Focusing on Asian Culture Emerging in Society (FACES) Conference begins today on the WM campus and runs through Sunday. The conference is a three-day cultural extravaganza featuring opening speaker Renee Tamija Pena, the award winning director of "My America." There will be various panels and seminars examining the influences of different Asian

cultures in American society.

*Monday February 14*

## Valentine's Day

Oh the joy of another one of those made up greeting card holidays. Time to fork over the money for roses, candy, etc. Really what's with roses being a symbol of love, don't they just wither and die in a few days. Oh wait a minute that means they are the perfect symbol.

*Wednesday February 16*

## Dr. Mae Jemison Lecture

Dr. Jemison is the first African-American female Astronaut. The lecture will be held at 7:30p.m. in the University Center Tidewater room.

*Friday February 18*

## Barrister's Ball

Its Prom Night for law students. Time to dress up and get down. The party begins at 9:00p.m. and runs until 2:00 a.m. in the Williamsburg Lodge.

*Saturday February 19*

## WM Concert Band Pops Concert

The William and Mary Concert Band goes to the movies. The concert will feature the music of Disney, John Williams, among others. The concert

starts at 2:00 p.m. in Trinkle Hall.

## Men's Basketball

Come out and see the Tribe battle the Richmond Spiders at 2:00p.m. at William and Mary Hall.

*Monday February 21*

## Religion in the Schools

This year's Institute of Bill of Rights Law Student Symposium will focus on the subject of Religion in the Schools. A distinguished panel will discuss the issue and then will judge the final round of the 1L moot court competition. It all takes place beginning at 1:30p.m. in the McGlothlin Courtroom.

*Saturday February 26*

## Spong Tournament

The Moot Court Team hosts its annual Spong tournament. Teams from all over the country come to town in order to compete. On Saturday night most head for the Tri-Deli region so there will actually be new faces to see and people to meet.

## William and Mary Theatre

"The Tapestry: a play woven in 2," will be performed in Phi Beta Kappa Hall at 7:00 p.m.

## Amicus Publication Info

### Publication Dates:

February 23

March 15

April 5

April 19

The Amicus welcomes any and all submissions from members of the law school community. We welcome opinion articles or letters to the editor on any subject of concern to the law school community. We will publish any articles about your organization and its activities or run an ad for you free of charge. All you have to do is get in touch with us to let us know what is going on. So drop a note in our hanging file, stop a staff member in the hall, call the Amicus office (221-3582) or send us an email at "amicur@wm.edu".

Please submit your entries for the Amicus Events Calendar to Bob Ford (2L), or the Amicus hanging file. Entries may include activities sponsored by law school organizations, main campus or community events.

*More Clip 'n' Save Marshall-Wythe Trading Cards! Collect them all!!*

You saw them wandering through the halls after exams with blank stares. **The 1L Casualties.**

### Jim Parrett

Jim found the single best solution to the stress of 1L exams, just ignore the fact that they exist. "If you don't know about them, you can't worry about them." Jim helped to organize the post exam celebration, along with many other 1L class social events. Some of his ideas have been more successful than others. The 1L "Act out your favorite Jimmy Buffett Song" Day did not go as planned.

### Kara McGhee

Kara is a big fan of "Who wants to be a Millionaire." Her dream is to compete on the show sometime in the near future. However her love for the show backfired when she asked if she could phone a friend during her Torts exam. There is concern that she is becoming too obsessed with the show and with Regis Philbin. "He's much cuter than Alex Trebek", she says.

### Stephanie Fichter

&

### April Thompson

### Special Edition Double Card

It is hard to tell who suffered the most damage from their exam experiences among the 1L class, but Stephanie and April were among the most likely candidates. Each felt the acute pressure of exams. But they managed to make it through. When it was all over they let their hair down and cut loose. But once they got their hands on a camera it was all over. This picture was an accident, however, as they were trying to figure out how to turn the flash on.