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**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-Wythe 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 towhills 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, masicmemorabilia, 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 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 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 Powhaten 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 suse of Dean Revely’s parking spot, $135 for an evening of 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. If there is 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-Wythe. 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, Christina Workman-Spong Research Justice, Carl Ewald, Amy Kurtland, 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 26th.
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 to attend William and Mary was an act of faith and sincerity 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 to attend William and Mary was an act of faith and sincerity made my three years at William and Mary one of the most momentous, influential, and memorable experiences of my life.

My fondest 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 Blala’s lecture and credentials dazzled us both, but the cooperation and genuine enthusiasm that the volunteer 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 recallharassing 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 sanguiiney 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
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 on 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 held in the auditorium of the school district.

Separation of church and state is an axiom that is imprinted during every American schoolchild’s education. Yet although this concept is firmly established, the need to balance the views of the religious and non-religious minorities remains. Particularly troublesome has been the need to accommodate a plethora of religious denominations and sects reality. Yet although this concept is firmly established, the need to accommodate a plethora of religious denominations and sects has always remained a subject of debate. The debate raises historical arguments evoking Jefferson, Madison, the Federalist Papers, the Church of England, and other every 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 religious denominations and sects 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 assured 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 Minchew, Vice-President of the National Legal Foundation; and Steve Fitschen, counsel for the National Legal Foundation. Professor Neal Devins will act as moderator.

The problem this year is, 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 p.m., followed by the panel discussion from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. 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 many 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:

Aberdeen Barn
Ames Tuxedos
Artistic Hair Designs
Band Box Music and Video
Barbri
Baskin-Robbins
Beethoven’s Inn
Ben & Jerry’s (3044 Richmond Rd)
Ben & Jerry’s (7097 Pocahontas Trail)
Berret’s Restaurant
Big Apple Bagels
Bikes Unlimited
Bikesmith
Buseh Gardens & Water Country USA
The Candle Factory Restaurant
The Carrot Tree
Cattle Baron’s Buffet, Woodgrill & Bakery
Charly’s Airport Restaurant
Chet Trinh
Classic Creations
The Coffeehouse
Colonial Capital Bed & Breakfast
The Corner Pocket
Courtyard Café
Domino’s Pizza
Double D Ribhouse
Embassy Suites Hotel
European Beauty Concepts
European Body & Skin Care Studio
Farn Fresh
The Female Adventure
Figaro Hair Studio
Fireside Steak House
Food Lion

Ford’s Colony Golf Course
The Fresh Market
The Gazebo House of Pancakes
Giorgio’s Pizza Shoppe
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
J.M. Randall’s
James River Pie Company
Jeff’s Flowers
The Kitchen at Powhatan Plantation
Kwik Kopy Printing
La Toleca
Lexis-Nexis
Mamma Mia’s Deli-Restaurant
Mama Steve’s House of Pancakes
Mariners’ Museum
Miyako
Monica Spiritual Reader & Advisor
The Music Theater of Williamsburg
My Sister’s Place
Mystery Dinner Playhouse
Nawab Indian Cuisine
Old Chuckahominy House
Paw’s Ham & Deli
Paul’s Deli
Peddler Steak House
Peking Restaurant
Pizzeria Uno
PMBR
Polo Club
The Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center
RHEMA Massage
The Right Fit Formal Wear and Tailoring
Sal’s Italian Restaurant and Pizza
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 Public Service Fund Date Auction Photos

All photos by Lauren Fassler
And you thought you went to school in the South: The Blizzard of 2000

All photos by Lauren Fassler
YOU’LL HAVE MONEY LEFT OVER FOR PIZZA!

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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 19th 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 in each 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 deficit enough to cancel class, 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 saddened 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 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@acub.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 "gatekeepers" 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 intersex 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 Redkins are warming themselves by the fireplace watching the playoffs on TV, and CPAAs 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, passed against Duke, and 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 borrowers) 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 ‘farms’ like them Bills, and their interference personal behavior appalls me. But this appalling provision benefited law students, and isn’t that what’s really important?

Everything went splendidly until the hill 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 re-submitting 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, assuming 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 (use 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 $75,000 ($60,000 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 paid your tuition expenses, for example, and then paid the remaining balance 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 Colombanian 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 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,
a/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 will someone please demonstrate to the Mustangs of the world that there is a Big Ten, Big Twelve, PAC Ten, and SEC?

The end of the bowl season was great. Florida and Virginia Tech put on a great show for the fans who came to the Citrus Bowl. Florida’s defense managed to stop Virginia Tech’s running game and then, late in the game, Florida’s offense was able to drive the ball down the field and score the winning touchdown. Virginia Tech’s quarterback, Michael Vick, was unable to find an open receiver as he was pressured by Florida’s defense. Virginia Tech’s running back, Cedric Peerman, was also unable to find any room to run as Florida’s defensive line was able to stop him at every turn.

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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
Cate Blanchett
Meredith Logue
Philip Hoffman
Freddie Miles
Jack Davenport
Peter Smith-Kingsley
James Rebhorn
Herbert Greenleaf
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 disagrees on, and finally we've reviewed a drama, instead of a feel-good, hahahaha, comedy. Because we disagree on the merits of the film as a whole, we've asked Catie 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 not. First, 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 style in effect, taking Dickie for himself and making him "his own." We can bable 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 maddeningly 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 imitate 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, I can tell whether or not a movie reeks) the plot drones on 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 an 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 numbers "My Funny Valentine," one realizes that Tom's apparent calm reserve is just barely hiding his fratic, desperate longing for his newfound object of affection and love, whom Tom will subsequently consume and take over as his own. This scene also draws us into Tom's soul. The genius of Dickie's character is that 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 anger and less sympathetic reactions. The essence of Tom's mantra, however improbable, that some year on some distant planet, the Lions will win the big one.

Sports Rants

Sports Rants from 8 is my favorite new team to watch. They run up and down the court, their dunks are like sometimli a circus, and point guard Jason Williams fires passes that defy imagination. The Kings are a welcome change from the already lame plot. Although I don't think this movie is completely evil and a psychopath, I still felt a little bit of sympathy for Tom's vulnerable side.

Sports Report:
Don Martin, co-ed team won the IM championship. However, it happened so many glasses of beer, eggnog, scotch, champagne, and beer, 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.

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 criticizing 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

Carnike 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
**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 members 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 Rosenburg, 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 Broodhaus (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.phidelphi.org.

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**The Colonial A Visit**

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’ve not visited it. I refer not to the Farm Fresh shopping center, which is a different sort of museum, 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 Season’s 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. 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.

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-the-way-to…the-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.

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**The Door:**

**Williamsburg**

Crowd Factor: (1-10, 10 being like the floor of the NYSE and 1 “meaning we were alone.”) Naturally, in CW crowds depend on the time of year. We were to visit in August, the crowds would probably garner an “11.”

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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 a 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 Confederate, 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 schoolteachers, there is currently a proposal to pay James City County schoolteachers 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 unpleasant things 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. 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 LL'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 possibly 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
Wednesday February 9
Miracle Lecture
Dr. Rose Marie Toussaint, a liver and kidney transplant specialist and the author of Never Question a Miracle, will speak at the UC Auditorium starting at 7:30 pm.

Men's Basketball
The WM Men's team takes on East Carolina University tonight at 7:00 p.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 5:30 pm.

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 7:30 p.m. in the University Center Tidewater room.

Friday February 18
Barrister's Ball
It's Prom Night for law students. Time to dress up and get down. The party begins at 9:00 p.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 7:00 p.m. in Trinkle Hall.

Men's Basketball
Come out and see the Tribe battle the Richmond Spiders at 7:00 p.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 this issue and then will judge the final round of the 1L moot court competition. It all takes place beginning at 1:30 pm in the McGlothlin Courthouse.

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 two," will be performed in Phi Beta Kappa Hall at 7:00 p.m.

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.