

Editor
The Progress-Index

15 September, 2003

Dear Editor:

Stories last week in the Progress-Index misrepresent the connection between the College of William & Mary and City Pointe Recoveries (CPR), the latter being the organization seeking a permit to recover artifacts from the river bottom off of City Point. No William & Mary archaeologist on either the research staff or the teaching faculty approves of the CPR plan. The “William & Mary archaeologist” CPR seems to have enlisted is a student at the college – not a member of the professional staff. CPR is apparently using this student’s unexplained involvement to establish an affiliation between their group and the College that does not actually exist.

The William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research has been working on behalf of the City of Hopewell for the past two years to identify, learn from, and protect the city’s remarkable archaeological resources. An ultimate objective of the work is to develop a comprehensive plan for managing the area’s historical resources. Most would agree that the world-class archaeological evidence surviving beneath the waters of the Appomattox and James rivers deserves careful protection above all else. To allow a team of unqualified, private individuals to remove portions of this part of our national heritage would run counter to any credible, long-term plans for preservation and authoritative study.

Sincerely,

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