By David Maccar

As 2004 comes to a close, many concerns raised by the U.S. Patriot Act have not.

One of the most politically controversial, and generally overlooked, topics is that of the intelligence reform bill currently before the House and Senate. The goal of the bill is to end the “sunset” clause of one potentially privacy intruding section of the U.S. Patriot Act, which would allow it to be extended indefinitely without congressional review.

The section in question, Title III, requires a broad category of what the Patriot Act calls domestic financial institutions and domestic financial agencies to take special measures against money laundering. Title III has come to mean anything from auto dealers, jewelry stores and travel agencies to the “financial fuel that permits transnational criminal enterprises to conduct and expand their operations to the detriment of the safety and security of American citizens.”

There is a section, 303, of Title III which states that the provisions of the title will terminate on or before Jan. 1, 2005 if the Congress enacts a joint resolution to do so. However, the intelligence reform bill would quash even this small measure against the continuance of Title III.

It may not seem like a stretch of the imagination that requiring financial institutions to be vigilant of money laundering activities would help quash illegal activity. However, the definition of “financial institution” is what is really in question.

Apparently, “financial” has come to mean anything from auto dealers, jewelry stores and travel agencies to a new category of what the Patriot Act calls domestic financial institutions and domestic financial agencies.

Penetrating Patriot Act problems: part 2

By Randy Townsend

Westminster Choir College ratified a new constitution which makes their Student Government Association (SGA) a true voice for the students with a representative legislative senate and an executive board as its backbone.

The first draft of the new constitution was completed in November of 2003. Its purpose was to shift the focus of the SGA from programming to governing. According to president Mordechai Rozanski, the students from Westminster said that they wanted to have a greater opportunity to take advantage of courses at Lawrenceville, and students from the Lawrenceville campus want to take advantage of programs at Westminster.

“Westminster SGA sets off in a new direction

By Lacey Korevec

Pay problems have surfaced for a number of student workers this semester.

Though many blame Student Financial Services and the Office of Disbursements, members of both departments have said that it is the fault of students and supervisors.

“Student workers unpaid

“The University is truly proud of the new constitution because it helps us advance the notion of one university, two campuses,” said Rozanski.

“We have leadership on both campuses by student governments moving forward in the integration of both the academic areas and the social interaction of students.”

The decision to create a new constitution came from wanting to move forward as an SGA and we needed a strong, founding government document in order to have such a thing as a senate and do things to promote the student body and student opinion in a formalized and professional manner, said Joseph Woodhull, SGA president.

“When I was elected into my position last year, one of my first meetings was with the leadership of the Lawrenceville SGA,” said Woodhull. “Cassie Iacovelli, their advisor, suggested that as the executive board moves ahead into more of a government role and programs, we need to have a formal government in place, and thus a student government.”

“If we want to be a university, we need to be a university. This is the first step into being a university.”