



# THE VINE

The Student Newsmagazine of Virginia Commonwealth University

Monday, January 24, 2000

Vol. 25, No.1

# The Vine

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Monday, January 24, 2000

## Briefs

### Time Warner, EMI talking merger

Time Warner, fresh from announcing a blockbuster merger deal with America Online Inc., is in talks with Britain's EMI Records to create the world's second-largest record company, CNN reported.

Officials from both companies confirmed the talks took place. Published reports said Time Warner and EMI agreed to combine their music operations into a \$20 billion joint venture that would bring top Time Warner recording stars such as Cher, Eric Clapton, Phil Collins, Madonna, Metallica and REM and EMI's lineup of, among others, the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Spice Girls, Garth Brooks and Smashing Pumpkins all under one roof.

In a statement, EMI said it would announce details of the proposed deal before the London stock market opened Monday.

"The board of EMI Group confirms it is in the final stages of discussions about the merger of its recorded music and music publishing business with the music operations of Time Warner in a 50-50 joint venture structure," the company said in the statement. "The transaction contemplated represents an opportunity to establish the world's premier music group and to create very considerable value for shareholders of both companies."

The move comes two weeks after Time Warner — in a stock swap worth about \$145 billion — announced its merger with Internet giant AOL. The AOL deal will give Time Warner much-needed access to Internet distribution channels for music, films and other forms of entertainment. Through the joint venture with Time Warner, EMI would also be a key player in the digital music industry.

Time Warner spokesman Edward Adler confirmed the talks happened, but said no deal had been signed yet. The new company would be called Warner EMI Music, and would have Time Warner's Atlantic, Elektra and Warner Brothers record labels and EMI's Virgin, Priority and Capitol.

### Drugstore chain begins system to avoid drug, herbal supplement interaction

Woonsocket, R.I. (AP) — One of the nation's top drugstore chains has begun tracking herbal supplements used by customers in an effort to avoid potentially risky combinations with prescription drugs.

CVS Corp. is asking customers to tell their pharmacists what herbal supplements they use. The pharmacies enter the information into a computer program that cross-checks them for adverse combinations with prescription drugs.

"We are deeply concerned that an increased use of vitamin and herbal therapies can lead to an increased chance of potentially dangerous drug interactions," said Chris Bodine, CVS vice president for pharmacies.

For example, the supplement St. John's Wort, taken to relieve depression, reduces the effectiveness of some heart medications, Bodine said Thursday.

Herbal supplements, largely unregulated, have grown into a \$1.5 billion annual industry and health-care providers have been struggling to educate people about using the remedies safely.

Pharmacist Felicia Rauchle of the independently owned Barrington Pharmacy, said she watched the alternative-remedies shelf across from her counter and made sure to ask customers what they were buying.

"We talk to all of our patients," said Rauchle, who said she had seen supplement sales at her store skyrocket in the last year. "If we don't think something is good for them to take, we tell them."

CVS/Pharmacy, the nation's second-largest drugstore chain in terms of sales, will distribute forms to customers and then hold the information in a confidential patient profile.

When the patient has a prescription filled, the computer system automatically will list possible reactions from mixing the drug with a supplement. CVS has started a national advertising campaign encouraging customers to use the service.

Walgreens is developing a database that would offer the same service, company spokesman Michael Polzin said. Walgreens pharmacists currently use online reference material to cross-check drugs against herbal supplements.

Patrick Pfupajena

## I've had enough

All right, I'm a little angry. I'm tired of seeing; scratch that. I'm tired of *hearing* people walking up and down the streets, appearing in movies and rapping lyrics in which they, in effect, call one another "dawg" — slang for dog; "nigga" or "niggy" — slang for nigger; and when speaking about women, say "bitch."

At some point we all must realize what this does to the psyche of the person hearing this trash. How many times did it take for a black man growing up here in Richmond during the 1910s all the way up until the 1970s being called a nigger before he thought he was one.

I'm certain, the first few times he heard that vile expletive from a white oppressor, he was like f-that. I'm no nigger. But think about another word that you have been called repeatedly over and over again. Be it nerd, dork, geek, fag, queer, slut, whore, stupid, idiot, bastard, bitch, dawg. At what point did you stop being angry with that person and start believing that person? At what point did a simple word defeat you. Do you even know? Let's face the facts. Most people, whether black, white, Chinese, Filipino, Greek, Hispanic or whatever, aren't very strong. We need Richard Simmons to tell us to stop eating whole turkeys and whole cakes and to start an exercise program before we will even consider changing our eating habits. We need self-help seminars to empower us over people who simply recognize that the rest of us are weak. All they want is our money. We need to try to slit our own throats or run down the street

screaming for someone to kill us before we realize that we have a drug problem. We need to beat our wives and children, just to show someone we aren't a failure and that we do have powers.

We fall for the lies our government tells us and we accept the position we occupy every day of our mundane lives. Be it being poor, homeless, fat, ugly or too short, we let people verbally and physically defecate on us and our response is a smile and a trendy handshake. Because of our supreme intellects, we worry about things for which an ant — with its immensely small brain — doesn't have time. So what am I trying to say? That's a shame if you haven't already got it. I recognize that I'm going all over the place, but that's just my style; your style is to call your best friend a nigga and then embrace him with a cool shoulder-to-shoulder hug as if he just said, "I love you."

If you honestly believe that "nigga" is different than "nigger," you're the kind of fool the starts with MF. If you believe "dawg" is a term of endearment for your fellow brother, you're almost as bad as that fool. If you call our sisters "bitches" just because you're angry at them, or because you're so used to saying it that you apply it to all women as a reference, you're a piece of... Now I'm not better than any of you; I have said, and do say and probably will say everything I criticized in this rant. But at least I recognize that I have a problem. And it didn't take me spending \$49.95 plus \$8 shipping and handling to help myself.

### Letters to the Editor

Editors, The Vine,

I am currently a senior at VCU and will graduate with university honors in May. I just wanted to comment on the article by Clarence Lewis published in the December 6, 1999, issue of *The Vine*. The title of the article is "Talk Too Much, Never Shut Up" a poor Run DMC spin off.

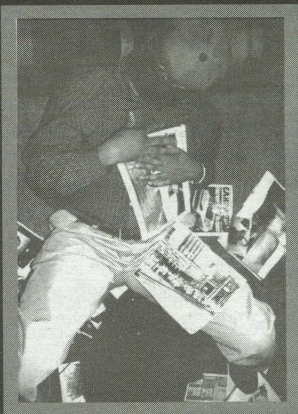
As a student at VCU, I found this article very embarrassing. Does anyone at *The Vine* proofread the articles, or even read them for content? The piece had no direction, and in short made the author look extremely illiterate. If I was not a student at VCU and read this article I would most likely consider the academic level of the entire student body to be very poor. The remedial writing skills of the author scream out IGNORANCE. I also

found the comment about the VCU police extremely offensive. Not only does it stereotype the VCU police as racists, it also insinuated that "smoking bidis" is acceptable and common among the black students at VCU. I think the author should follow his own advice and not only keep his mouth shut, but keep his fingers from tapping on the keys of any computer to write another column until retaking English 101. Honestly, do you think ANY publisher would consider offering a job to this "Staff Writer/Sports Columnist." Obviously a rhetorical question after reading his work published in *The Vine*. Please take a moment to reread this article and see what you think!

-Very Respectfully,  
VCU Senior

## Opinion Policy

*The Vine* is published twice-monthly by the students of Virginia Commonwealth University. Staff meetings are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in Room 1140 of the T. Edward Temple Building. Views expressed in columns and letters are those of the author and should not be interpreted as views of the *The Vine*, or VCU's administration, faculty or student body. Editorials are the views of this newsmagazine and should not be interpreted to be views of VCU's administration, faculty or student body. Letters to the editors, R.L. Gaskin and Kevin Bailey, are greatly encouraged. Letters to the editors should be a maximum of one single-spaced typed page. They must include the author's address and telephone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and grammar consideration. Letters can be submitted by e-mail or the postal service. *The Vine's* e-mail address is [vcuvine@hotmail.com](mailto:vcuvine@hotmail.com). Drop off letters in Box 86 at the Student Activities Center or send letters to *The Vine*; P.O. Box 842035; Richmond, Va. 23284-2035.



## State executes 2 murderers

**GREENSVILLE** — The Commonwealth of Virginia executed Steve Edward Roach and Douglas Christopher Thomas by lethal injection last week at the Greensville Correctional Center. Roach died Thursday and Thomas died Monday.

In 1990, a jury convicted Thomas, then 17, of killing a Middlesex County couple with a shotgun. The couple were the parents of Thomas' 14-year-old girlfriend, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

Three years later, Roach, also 17 at the time, shot and killed a 70-year-old widowed neighbor, took her purse and car keys and fled to South Carolina.

When asked if he had a last statement, Roach quietly recited Psalm 23 from the Bible.

Anti-death penalty protestors held candlelight vigils for each of the condemned. Several people outside the institution carried signs. One read, "Stop state executions now. Don't kill for me." Another read, "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind," the paper reported.

Gov. Jim Gilmore released a statement saying he declined to intervene in the executions.

## The Union for Student Rights holds overnight vigil at VCU

**LaCrisia M. Fowlkes**  
*Staff Writer*

Last Tuesday, the Union for Student Rights said they would be outside braving the cold and snowy weather as long as it takes to make their point to the university. It took three days for USR to get some of the information they wanted.

The group of students held a sleep-out in front of the McAdams House on West Franklin Street to try to show the university they wanted answers about VCU's contract with McDonald's.

**"We hope to push the administration to finally address termination of the contract with McDonald's."**

— Marc Redmond,  
VCU sophomore

The vigil started at 7 a.m. with about eight students, and grew to about 15 that night.

USR representatives said their mission was to persuade the university to terminate its 20-year contract with the fast-food restaurant, senior Tim Wright said.

The university's contract with McDonald's started in 1997 and has three possible renewals, every five years, until 2017. The group has held sit-ins at McDonald's and has had meetings with university officials to get the facts about the contract.

"We felt they were dragging their feet," Wright said.

Group members said they might return to the same spot and have more sleep-outs.

"We hope to push the administration to finally address termination of the contract with McDonald's," sophomore Marc Redmond said. "No response today."

Someone from the university asked the group to move some things off the stairway and keep the sidewalk as clear as possible, Redmond said.

## America Online, Time Warner join Merger reportedly worth more than \$145 billion

**Alex Turley**  
*News Editor*

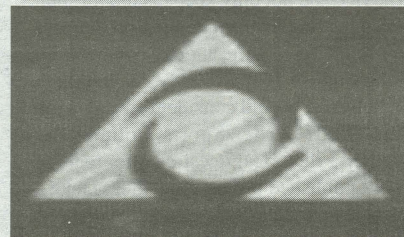
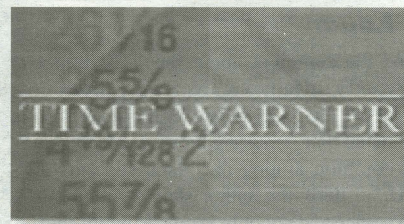
America Online Inc. and Time Warner Entertainment combined forces in a \$145 billion merger bringing interactive entertainment one step closer to reality.

The merger allows AOL/Time Warner to lead the development of new interactive media and new interactive services. The new company will focus on the development of products specifically for the interactive medium.

America Online Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Steve Case will take the position of chairman of the board of AOL/Time Warner.

"We've always said that America Online's mission is to make the Internet as central to people's lives as the telephone and television, and this is a once in a life time opportunity to turn this promise into reality," Case said. "By joining forces with Time Warner, we will fundamentally change the way people get information, communicate with others, buy

products are entertained-providing far-reaching benefits to our customers and



shareholders."

Gerald Levin, Time Warner's chairman and chief executive officer, is now chief executive

officer of the new company.

"This strategic combination with AOL accelerates the digital transformation of Time Warner by giving our creative and content businesses the widest possible canvas."

Time Warner will now have AOL's marketing power to promote their music labels and artists.

The combination of Time Warner's cable networks and Warner Bros movies with America Online's AOL TV and MovieFone is also probable.

Warner Bros stores will also be found via AOL. AOL Time Warner will provide online news media with CNN, Time and other news services.

The merger should be complete by the end of the year. There are, however, possibilities of the merger falling through.

AOL and Time Warner still need governmental approval of the merger as well as the approval of AOL and Time Warner stockholders.

## Department of Communication Arts and Design shows diversity through art display

LaCriscia M. Fowlkes  
Staff Writer

For the fourth consecutive year, VCU's Department of Communication Arts and Design held an art display in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the concepts with which he graced the world.

"This was a chance for people to get outside their own boundaries," said Pam Turner, the department's assistant chairwoman.

The show displayed work of students from the department's four disciplines: photography

and film, illustration, kinetic imagery and graphic design. Four students from each discipline formed groups to express oppression and prejudices toward other people, based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation or disciplines. This exercise was meant to help desegregate the department based on the teachings of King, said Teresa Konechne, associate professor in the department and committee representative from the department's video section.

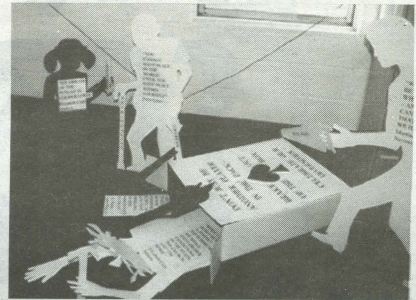
Knowing the history is good, Konechne said, but people need to move forward. She said she sees the country's deep-rooted history of the confederacy and slavery as a hindrance and finding power and moving on as the key to positive change.

"This helps students deal with oppression," Konechne said. "This is a way for them to speak out about that oppression."

This project was not only for the students to examine today's world, but what the world could and should be like tomorrow, Konechne said.

"Students typically have biases toward others (of different disciplines) in the department," said Mary McLaughlin, associate professor in the department. "This helps us reintegrate the department."

The projects in the show displayed the talents of each student. The students came up with two pieces, one to express the voice of their group as a whole, and the other to express the points of view of each student in their group.



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## More than just a party...

Carissa Wilkins  
Vine Staff Writer

Jan. 14, The Organization, a group of urban artists, gathered VCU students and local Richmonders to 104 Addison St. for what most thought was just another house party.

The usual could be seen upon arrival. Two black men at the door were accepting the entrance fee and making sure no "ill vibes" were entering the home. Stepping in from the 20-degree wind and into the heat of the house, the overwhelming sense of actually being in House Party 2 could be felt.

The group of guys along the wall barely able to balance, the girls on the floor dancing to every rhythm except for the one being played,

and finally, if you could still focus on the floor and make it down the stairs to the basement — or what frequent visitors call the Lions' Den — you find the home of Dready, an artist who is a member of The Org.

The Org. is a collection of young people involved in the arts. From painters, to prose writers and poets, to fashion designers and hip-hop artists — it's all represented.

"(The group is open to) any person who has a passion to pick up a pen, paintbrush, needle or microphone or any businessperson who wants to help and see young people come together with no negativity whatsoever," some of its members said.

**This party was the first endeavor from The Organization, which plans to have more functions in the near future.**

**But those functions will not become a reality without the help of other VCU students and members of the local community, as well as businesspeople, teachers and the retirement community. If you would like to become a member or would like more information please send an e-mail to us at: [allorg@hotmail.com](mailto:allorg@hotmail.com).**

**Keep your eyes peeled and your hands ready to grab a flier! NEXT EVENT: African Student Union fashion show; Feb. 10, 2000!**

**Attention VCU Students and Recent Graduates!**  
**Mark your calendars!**

# **PROSPECTS CAREER FAIR 2000**

**Tuesday, February 8**  
**10 am - 3 pm**  
**Siegel Center**

- ❖ Meet with employers!
- ❖ Establish important contacts!
- ❖ Learn about companies!
- ❖ 100 companies expected to attend!

Be sure to bring copies of your resume and wear professional attire.

For more information, visit the VCU Career Center website at  
<http://www.students.vcu.edu/careers>

## Statistics prove ????

**Edom Sahle**  
Staff Writer

Female faces may seem to adorn Virginia Commonwealth University's Campus more than men. This could be true.

Of VCU's 23,125 students, 14,087 are female while males make up only 9,038. This unequal proportion can be seen not only at VCU, but other co-ed campuses across the country.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, there has been an overall rise in enrollment of college students since the 1960's. The rise is most apparent for women, who composed 37% of the population in 1960 and almost doubled that to 62% in 1990.

There are many factors for the change in those numbers.

With the help of the civil rights movement of the 1960's, affirmative action and women organizations, the number of women enrolled in Universities and colleges dramatically increased.

In 1983 there were 6.4 million women in college. The number grew in 1996 to 8 million. The projected enrollment of women in college is expected to rise to 9.2 million people in the year 2008.

While women are growing in size at colleges and universities, men seem to be doing the opposite. In 1980, 51.8% of people in colleges were males. In 1996, the number dropped dramatically to 44.9%. These numbers seem to be lowest for black males with black women making up 2/3 of the graduation rate.

There seems to be no known reason for the dramatic drop of men, but some speculations point at the growing of technology.

By having the option of working in computer fields without having to attend a four year college more males may apt to enter the work force directly out of high school.

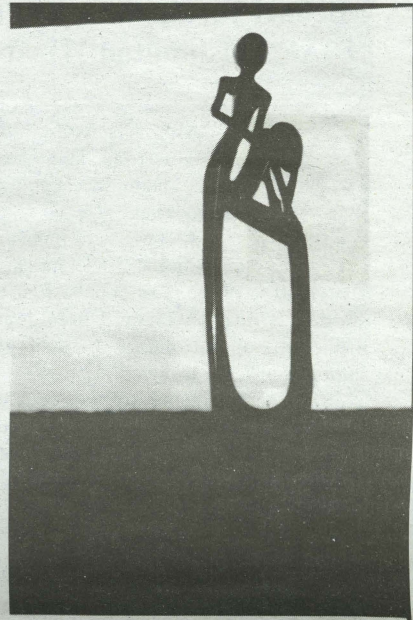
Statistics also show that the male high school drop out rate is higher than that of female.

Males are also enrolled in more special education classes. The lack of father role models in single parent homes may also play a part in recent findings.

Women still face the disadvantage of unequal wages to that of men. There is still a large gap between the male/female ratio in engineering, dentistry and other male dominated fields.

The 6.9% drop in only 16 years is a trend that may severely affect males in the future.

Sources say solutions may be found with more attention to the issue.



## Y2K efforts yield long-term benefit for Delta Dental and PMI Dental Health Plan

**CP Wire**

Thirty million dollars may seem like a lot to spend fixing the Y2K bug, but company officials at California's largest dental-health plan and its HMO affiliate company said Y2K contingency planning yielded another benefit: disaster preparedness.

At 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1, a fully staffed command center helped Delta Dental Plan of California usher in the new year with continuity of service to 12 million enrollees, 18,000 dentists and 14,000 corporate and government client groups. PMI Dental Health Plan, Delta's dental HMO affiliate with another 1 million enrollees, maintained a similar vigil at its Cerritos headquarters.

Company officials said Delta and PMI did more than simply reprogram millions of lines of computer code to keep their claims-processing, customer-service, eligibility and billing systems working. The companies also installed a crisis management and communications system capable of supporting

a full or partial business recovery if the worst-case scenario had unfolded.

"Our Y2K contingency plan worked flawlessly and now leaves us better prepared to face earthquake, flood, fire and many other possible catastrophic events with the potential to disrupt service," said William T. Ward, Delta's president and chief executive officer. "I'm not saying I'm glad we had to spend \$30 million on Y2K, but since the investment was necessary, it's good to know that the same planning necessitated by the millennium bug prepares us to undertake almost any kind of recovery effort."

Long before New Year approached, Delta, PMI and Delta Dental Insurance Company, a for-profit affiliate with major operations in 10 states, including Georgia, Florida and Texas, began its contingency planning effort. The companies updated employee phone trees, established crisis-command centers and issued regular updates to key personnel regarding the Y2K readiness of their facilities, data systems, applications and security.

"We felt the need to be ready in case all of the assurances that our computers could handle this were wrong," said Jerry Holcombe, Delta's chief information officer. "When you process nearly 60,000 claims a day and receive thousands of customer phone calls that rely on easy retrieval of information, there's no room for glitches. People depend on us for access to dental care, and they won't get that if our systems can't verify who they are and what their dentists are supposed to be paid."

Delta Dental Plan is California's largest dental plan with 12 million members, nearly one third of all Californians. The nonprofit dental-service corporation is also the parent company of PMI Dental Health Plan, one of California's largest dental HMOs, with more than 1 million enrollees, and of Delta Dental Insurance Company, with about 660,000 enrollees across the South and Southeastern United States. Consolidated revenues for Delta in 1999 are not yet finalized, but are projected at more than \$2.5 billion.

## Back in Stride

Michael Jordan becomes minority owner and president of basketball operations for the NBA's Washington Wizards



**NBA Photos** Mike is back... This time, however, he will be knotting neckties instead of shoelaces. Last week, the millennium introduced Michael Jordan, one of the most popular figures in sports, as part-owner and president of basketball operations of the struggling Washington Wizards organization.

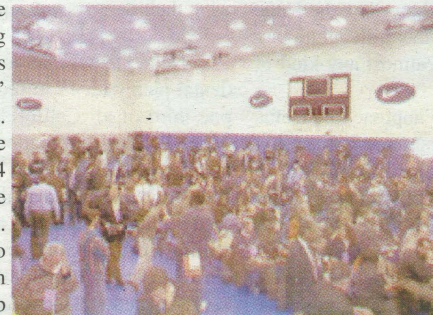
Jordan makes history once again, becoming the third minority African-American owner of the National Basketball Association, joining Edward and Bettianne Gardner of the Chicago Bulls and Ervin "Magic" Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers.

According to ESPN, Jordan's deal with the Wizards requires an "out-of-pocket investment", but it is unknown exactly what percentage he will own.

ESPN's David Aldridge clarified Jordan's ownership role with the Wizards, reporting that he has acquired equity in the holding company which has a minority interest in the Wizards. That holding company, Lincoln Holdings, will have the right of first refusal to buy the remaining 56 percent of the team upon the death of Abe Pollin or Pollin's decision to sell what he currently owns. At that time, Jordan can buy additional shares in the company, but at no time will he have controlling interest in the Wizards.

Aldridge also reported that Jordan is simply a minority owner of a minority share of the

company. The holding company is Leonis' company. Leonis is the owner of 44 percent of the Wizards. Jordan also will have an ownership stake in the NHL's Washington Capitals, which are owned by Lincoln



**NBA Photos** Live shot of the press conference.

Holdings.

This is not Jordan's first attempt to part-own a NBA team. He tried to get a chunk of the Charlotte Hornets last year, but somehow, situations went sour and Jordan took his interests elsewhere.

The transaction could not come at a better time for the Wizards, who is (at press time) ranked last in the Atlantic division in winning percentage and desperately in need of a turnaround.

In the last 15 years, the Wizards have advanced to the playoffs only twice. Ironically, the last time the nation's capital was getting adapted to winning ways, Jordan spoiled the party and swept the {at that time} Washington Bullets out the playoffs in 1996-97.

Poor management decisions, bad draft picks, and lack of loyalty to players are just some of the qualities the organization has been known for. Most fans blame general manager Wes Unseld for Washington's never ending misery. "Until we get everyone on track, everybody's disposable to some degree," Jordan said, opening many eyes in the press conference. "It's going to take some time for me to come in and evaluate what's here, what's going to stay here and what's going to leave."

Wizards forward Juwan Howard, who has fell under the media's negative criticism, stated, "If I'm not getting the job done, I hope he (Jordan) ships my butt out of here."

Very bold statement from a guy that is, in reality, untradeable due his large contract and poor performance. Howard, who will see over \$36 million the next two seasons, has not played up to his potential. The player the organization traded in the past because of Howard, Chris Webber, is having a MVP type seasons for the Sacramento Kings, respectfully.

The NBA does not allow owners to play and players to become owners. That will not stop Jordan, however, from practicing with the



**AP Photos** Jordan shakes the hands of Ted Leonis and Abe Pollin.

team. "I don't get to play. I don't get to wear a Wizards' uniform," Jordan said at the packed press conference. "But I will have influence with the players who wear the uniform. I'm going to try to have my imprint and footprints all over this place."

His influence on the court should do Wizards rookie Richard Hamilton some good. Hamilton, the Wizards first round draft pick this past year from Connecticut, has struggled due to the team's negative attitude and performance as a whole. "The best way to evaluate a player is to look in his eyes and see how scared he is, and I've seen that," Jordan said.

"I have an attitude about the way I play," Jordan said. "I have an attitude about the way I win."

Due to Jordan's attitude, he has six NBA championships to his credit, five more than the Wizards organization has achieved in their history. Without question, Jordan has excepted a challenge that will take time, smarts, patience, and effort — making the Washington Wizards a consistently winning organization.

"I will be here for as much time as it takes to turn this team around," Jordan said.



# May I have your attention please...

Patrick Pfupajena

Allow me, if you will, to share a postulate with you.

I was reading the bible the other day, the *Tora* to be exact, and a thought came to me out of the vacuum that was my brain after all this "hype-lennium hoop-la"; Native American Indians and African Americans are due a payday.

Now for all of you sitting there thinking to yourself, "Huh?" Bare with me. According to the bible, the first shall be last and the last shall be first. Likewise, whatever you do unto another man or woman will be measured back unto you tenfold.

I must say that I'm not directly quoting the bible, I'm simply interpreting it. And you don't have to be a Christian, believe in creationism, or even be a genius to understand this basic rule of thumb that can be dubbed karma, for the lack of a better word.

Take a minute to reflect on your own life. Have you ever done something malicious like steal from a store? Or cheat on an exam? Whether or not you got robbed or failed a quiz a week later is semantics. If anything unpleasant happened to you sometime after your transgression, like being assaulted or being in a car accident, you could say that karma caught up with you—would you stipulate?

To break it down, the Egyptians (or early Africans) ruled the Middle East. They were the first. But like our own great country, they used slave labor to reach this zenith. As a consequence of their heinous actions, the African race was and is now enslaved. The karmic cycle doesn't end here however, because the Hebrews (or Jews) were the ones enslaved by the Egyptians. Despite this, no stereotyping or generalization intended, the Jewish community as a whole is doing quite well (at least fairing better than the African community).

Though it wasn't always such green pastures for God's chosen people. We all know about the Holocaust and how 61/2 million Jews were exterminated by Nazi Germany (look at Germany now, still fighting to reclaim a third of it's former glory). But why would God allow his elect to be wiped-out? The secret's in the sauce. For those of you who don't know, the Jews destroyed Jericho. Killing everything and everyone. They said God told them to do it, the truth of the matter is Jehovah said no such thing.

Now what does all this have to do with the American Indian and you? Keep in mind what happened to the Indians, they suffered a similar fate as the Jews and have yet to recover. Having inhabited all of what we now call America, the American Indian was plentiful and prosperous yet in a blink of an eye they were snuffed out. Comparable to Russia, once a powerful nation now reduced to a bunch of weak

# WITCH'S BREW

Nicole Johnson

The millennium, the new era, was a hope for some, a fear for many and a disappointment for even more. For me, something I was tired of hearing about and ready to get through, long before the clock struck midnight. As much as I really did not want to write about it, I was almost forced to, yes me the proverbial pig headed one, the strong willed wannabe sister souljah, never succumbing to the ideals of the masses (yeah right). From hundreds of references to this natural progression from numerous millennium specials, Y2k updates, and those damn commercials about the last chance of the century to buy some stupid painted coin, or some other meaningless crap that has sat on the back shelf of warehouses as overstock and got some millennium branding put on it. We were fed the importance of the millennium intravenously from the boob tube, radio, shopping, and print, hence this column. The angst I felt was mostly induced by everyone placing such importance on something as inevitable, as man and woman creating a child. It had become commercialized, sensationalized and plastic. My mind tried to fight the frenzy, but after reading millennium issues, watching millennium shows, eating millennium cookies, and hearing one of my high school friends was going to name her daughter Millennial, they had succeeded, defenses began to weaken and I couldn't fight it any longer. I became a member of the collective and used my power in the media to influence. (Sound cult like enough yet?) Now on with my orders!

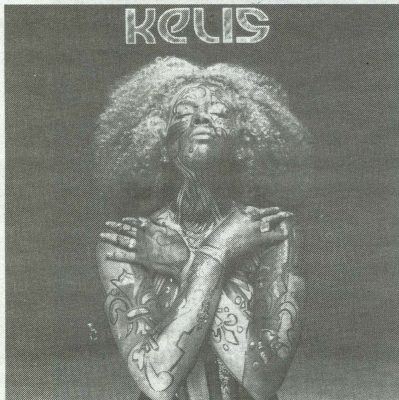
Nevertheless what does the new century (which doesn't really start until next year) mean to a little black girl from V-A. Some say not a damn thing. I on the other hand think once we get past the apocalyptic stress we can actually use this millennium as a chance to start anew. Not unlike many New Year's resolutions of loosing those extra stomach rolls, losing that looser, (even though he do rub you right!), being a little kinder, and some other half promise that won't last past the Super Bowl; this New Year's presents a new beginning of sorts. Not the "new beginning" many speak of though, I don't care how many New Years we have; some stuff ain't never going to change. People are still going to act ugly, politics will still be a dirty game, good girls will still love thugs and Hip Hop will still be one of the greatest art forms even when white folks turn their interest to a new flavor of the month. But certain things do have a chance to be a little different this century. As women, we can keep it moving by continuing to infiltrate many mail-dominated worlds. Big up to Hillary C. As women of the yam(sisters) we can continue our foremothers great trek to the top of this social success ladder and plant our flags, were they belong. We've got the initiative, the access, and soon we'll have the numbers (2005, keep your eyes on the hour). With the elements in place this new beginning gives us a chance to reconcile with each other, and ourselves, teach the young duns that making a baby at 15 is not the right move and understand how we can't make love unless we are loved. (Okay, enough Iyanla V. goop). It's true the millennium may not bring about all these epiphanies and transitions, but hey it sure sounds a lot better than nuclear war games, and computer meltdowns. So forgive me for giving in to the millennial pressure, blame it on the media. (Oh, I am part of the media). Well blame it on those damn A&E people of the century specials. Those things are addictive. Make a change and most of all Love you.

What we *breathe*, how we move, where we're at with ours . . .



## Kelis has boarded the Mothership

### Funk, punk and junk packed into Kaleidoscope



**Nicole Johnson**  
Features Editor

Okay I know what you were thinking when you saw the video; "Rainbow Brite is back, and this time she's got an attitude". Well there is a little more to this big-haired Harlem chick, than screams of "I hate you so much right now!" and pink eyebrows.

The liquid voice behind Ol' Dirty's latest single "Baby I got your money" brought a much needed melody to Dirty's insane flow.

The debut album by Kelis, titled *Kaleidoscope* is a refreshing take on R&B, its an interesting blend of pop, hip hop, and neo-soul.

Her voice, which stays pretty easy and smooth throughout the album is complemented by the Virginia bred production team, the Neptunes futuristic, sometimes comical beats.

Kelis sings the majority of her songs about affairs of the heart, but with songs like *Suspended*, and *Mars* she definitely takes you on a spin through the cosmos with references to her own type of galactic travel. Many of the lyrics are not penned by the songstress, which is evident by the lack energy in many of the tracks. Not many songs have the polished sound of the first single "Caught out there", but this is to be expected of a first time effort. "I need your love", may be the only other fine tuned song, with a strong beat, and thorough lyrics. Without many outside appearances from the 'big names', Kelis is not able to hide behind anyone else's vocals. Her slow moans are reminiscent of Fionna Apple in a cheerful, soulful way. She keeps it in the family by collaborating with her Star Trak Entertainment label mates. Her voice is often delicate and the hooks keep the songs fresh in your head all day, making her album an easy listen with alot of sing along tunes.

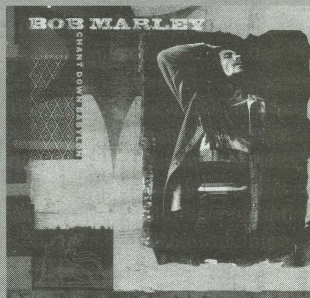
For those who are fed up with the bland scene of R&B, Kelis has arrived to take you on a ride through space and time.

## Chant Down Babylon: BOB MARLEY

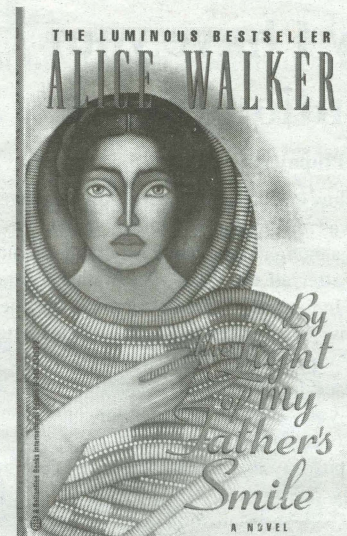
Carissa Wilkins  
Staff Writer

This CD is one of the newest in his collection of classic reggae hits. Bob Marley's unique and passionate words of liberation and freedom have an extra bit of spice added to them this time. The entire album was executive produced by one of his sons, Stephen Marley.

Stephen uniquely transforms some of Bob's original songs into a mix of hip-hop and reggae. With the help of some of today's legendary hip-hop, R&B and rock artists, from Erykah Badu and MC Lyte to Steven Tyler and Chuck D an unforgettable tribute is born. Songs such as *Burnin'* and



*Marley continued to page 11*



## Walker explores father-daughter relationships

**Nicole Johnson**  
Features Editor

She's whispering in your ear, by way of words. She's telling our stories, and that's why we love her. Alice Walker's "By the Light of my Father's Smile" is yet another gem in a long line of Walker blessings.

This time Walker tackles delicate father-daughter relationships, denied love, homosexuality and death.

A family of anthropologists travel to a remote area of Mexico to study a group of mixed-race South Americans. Susannah and Magdalena, the two daughters in the family, are the main characters of the story. Walker travels with these two girls through the loves, disasters and life-changing events that have made them the women they are.

For each girl, the same dramatic experience involving her father affects her in two different ways. One refuses to be loved, while the other accepts love from any source -- male or female.

Walker takes a post-modern approach in this novel, as she jumps around from story

*WALKER continued to page 16*

a different vibe:

**Top 9 at the Vine...**  
 The 20th century has gone on to glory; its funeral, Y2K, was the biggest non-event in history. Rest in peace, 20th century, and here are some of your best that we are more than happy to bury with you...

**1 Boomin' systems-** Before we produce another generation of deaf children, let's take back our streets from bass heavy hooties with tints and gawdie rims.  
**2 Tupac and Elvis** See you in Heaven not in Ukrop's  
**3 The Color Line** - W.E.B. DuBois said it was the "problem of the twentieth century" and it's destined to become the problem of the twenty-first. Can't we all just get along?  
**4 Super-sizing-** Unparalleled greed in a nation where too many of our children live below the poverty line; We're selling them short as we sell our souls to McDonald's Big K-Mart, Super Walmart-let's stop the madness.  
**5 The Big Stick-** What a thing it is to have a country that can't be wrong but if it is, is right anyway," says George to Editha in 1905. Come on America, it's time to sweep around our own front doors and stop trying to police the world this century  
**6 Keepin' it real-** "Will make you a casualty of abnormal reality," according to Mos Def. So leave those romantic notions on the curb and start walking the walk instead of talking that talk.  
**7 Jordans-** The man retired; now let's retire his shoe. You don't see Chuck Taylors changing every year. Besides, don't we all shudder to think what new millenium price they're gonna tag on the new millenium shoe?  
**8 High Top Fades** From the gummy to fan favorite 6-incher, we're glad to say goodbye!  
**9 Excess** How big does a SUV have to be? (What the hell is a Excursion anyway?) How much platinum, how big the RAM in your labtop; when does it end? Simplify, Simplify, Simplify!

## At the southern tip of limbo: Around Town 2 local photo exhibits

**Darlene Anita Scott**  
*Elements*

Two photo exhibits in the city represent the precarious position African Americans have occupied in Richmond since the 1880's.

The Valentine Museum hosts "Strength and Pride: Portraits of African-American Men," a series of hardly less than somber photographs highlighting the experiences of African-American men in the city.

Coarse images of cotton picking in the 1890's and an ironically unsmiling 1888 celebration of Emancipation Day, however, give way to images that are less grating to the viewer. Like the infamous "Neverrett's Place" in the historic Jackson Ward and the debonair "Polk Miller's Old South Quartet" of 1910. Luckily, even gentler to the touch are the images on display at the Black History Museum's latest exhibit, "4 Views of Color in Black and White." The balancing exhibit is the collective work of local artist Debra Dilworth, Regina H. Boone, Theodore Holmes, and P.H. Polk whose words explain the significance of the exhibit. "Anybody can take a snapshot, but it takes an artist to make a picture." Plain folks and some not-so-plain folks create the artistry of this exhibit. And they find a compelling place, particularly before Polk's lens. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson hangs out at a baseball game dressed to the nines while "the Boss," a 1933 subject dressed in her apron and head kerchief, stands poised for action with hands on buxom hips. Nowhere is this limbo-likes position of African-Americans more apparent than in Regina

Boone's renderings of youth. The shyness of Boone's subject in "First Day of School" balances her bold goggled swimmer in "Splash Master." Theodore Holmes adds the soundtrack of these images with his music theme photos like the beginning trumpet student in "Learning to Play the Trumpet" and "Kids Band in the Park" which shows a group of young street musicians performing. Debra Dilworth's more experimental images are clearly more than snapshots from her multiple exposures of herself to "Imani," a grinning youngster whose eyes beckon the viewer to stay a moment, and the collage-like "Love Letters." While this exhibit leaves the Museum on January 23, there is a permanent collection upstairs as well as a new chronicling the Middle Passage opening on February 5 at the Black History Museum.

The museum is located at 1015 E. Clay Street and is open from 11-4 Tuesday through Saturday. The \$3.00 student admission covers the Museum's main exhibit as well as the permanent galleries. For further information, call 780-9093.

The Valentine will host "Strength and Pride..." in the Stern Gallery through April 30. Located at 1015 E. Clay Street, the Valentine is open from 10-5 Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 12-5. General admission is \$4.00 for students and covers a tour of the house and all the galleries. For more information, call 649-0711.

### Attention from page 9

provinces by virtue of sins of the past.

In contrast, after years of European domination and influences and that cataclysmic event-Hiroshima, Japan is doing remarkably well with other Asian nations like China moving up. Before long the United States won't be the mightiest superpower on the earth—marl my words.

Which brings me to you.

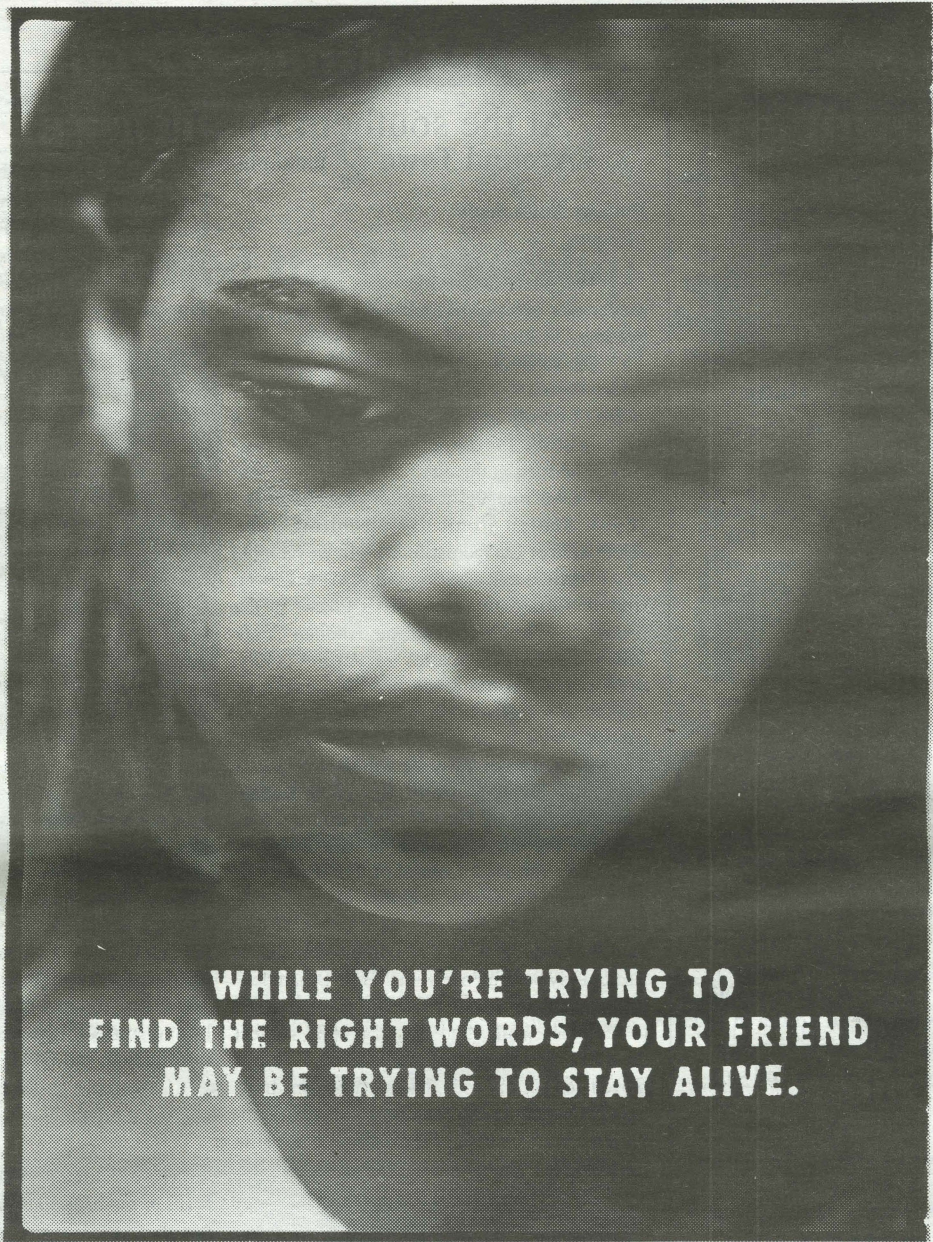
White or Asian, Catholic or Islamic, male or female, what have you done lately? Again, examine your life for a moment. Are you living like Cain, unexcepted by God? Or are you living like Abel, divinely favored? Are you the measured or are you the measurer? And

are you due some form of payback or is some form of payback due you? If I were you I'd use this new lease on life we have all been given, seeing how the world didn't end (as if it was going to anyway) to try to find peace. Break the karmic cycle and unite with one another. You might only have another week, another day, or maybe only another hour to get it right.

Who knows?

But recognize... If you continue to lie, cheat, steal, kill, and hate-that's cool. Just remember one thing the first will be last and the last will be first.

So which group do you currently belong to?



**WHILE YOU'RE TRYING TO  
FIND THE RIGHT WORDS, YOUR FRIEND  
MAY BE TRYING TO STAY ALIVE.**

Talking with a friend who's being beaten up by her husband will never be easy. We understand that you want to say just the right thing, in just the right way. If you need help finding the right words, call 1-800-END ABUSE and we'll send you useful information and suggestions. Whatever you do, however, don't wait too long to offer her your help. At least one out of every three murdered women is killed by her husband or boyfriend. So your friend might not have the luxury of time.



for Domestic Violence.

Family Violence  
Prevention Fund

## Do Remember The Days of . . .

# SLAVERY

How They Beat Us  
Andready

How they worked us so hard. Men raped your mother while your father watched. Do you remember the long journey and bad storms we survived to get to the "United" States. How many of your uncles and cousins didn't make it? Entire lineages discontinued at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

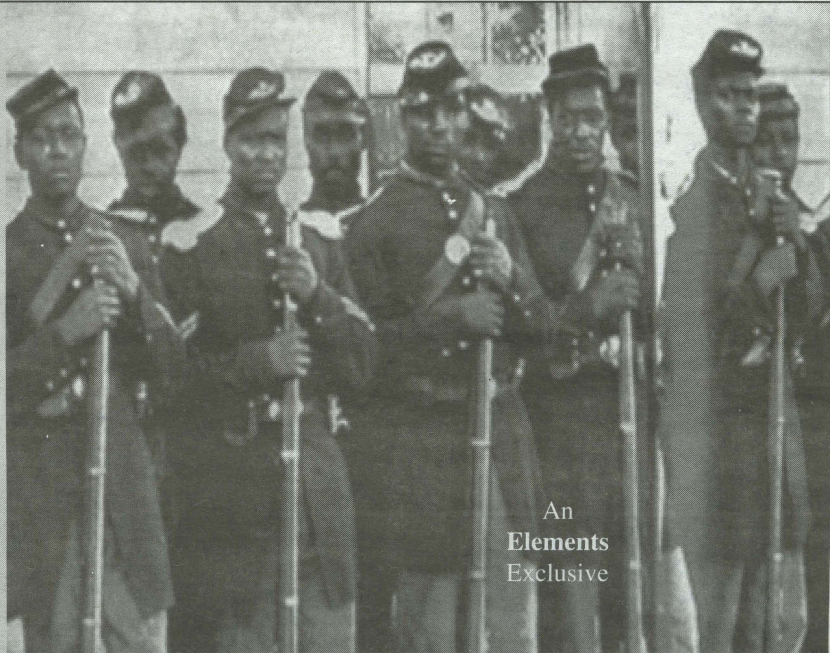
1865, they pass the 15th Ammendment stating the eradication of slavery in America. The downpressers of our cruel and corrupt system have taken the chains off our feet just to program them into our mental. Plenty of us get comfortable in this technological metropolis, content with the way things go on.

Take time out to reflect. As we enter into the "New Millenium", we the children of this society have to ask ourselves are we living up to our forefather's dreams? Have we truly gained equal rights and justice in this adopted nation? This land of the "Free" has failed the Black man and his family.

Enough of us get confused, thinking that we have a judicial system that works in our favor, the Constitution was written with you in mind, corporations are willing to hire trained tradesmen and Nas and Jay-Z are going to pay our bills.

Now that a few Coloured people have made it to a safe and secure middle class status we get content. We don't realize that as long as one of our brothers or sisters remains drenched in shackles that none of us are totally free.

Perhaps it is easy for some that have never suffered from the disease of segregation to pass these words off as the interpretation of an angry blackman, but hear why! When you have seen vicious mobs plotting against your mother; felt the lash of police cursing you; when you have seen your brother beaten and dragged away; when you have sighted a nation of 20 million Negro brethrens and family dehumanized and engaged in poverty stricken slums. Imagine if every project building; every section. 8 tenement was laid



An  
Elements  
Exclusive

down horizontally, they would resemble slave ships.

Two to three families to a two bedroom apartment. Children with no awareness of self. Babies selling poison to their people to obtain jewelry, clothing and automobiles that do not even benefit our own. While soemone stands at the door collecting rent money. When will realization hit? We the children need to

**:Organize:**  
**:Centralize:**  
**:Unify:**

Break free from the chains, Do your Babylonian homework, it's safe to read from your book now! As the great late Martin Luther King Jr. said "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; It must be demanded by the oppressed."

There is no time better than NOW. We see the need for nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men rise from dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of overstanding and brotherhood." Love and

peace should be the order of the day, but before peace can even truly be conceived, equal rights and justice must be obtained.

All the sons and daughters of this generation have a great task before them. Our ancestors did not shed blood sweat and tears for us to go astray. We must forgive but never forget.

WE are the result of M.L.K. Jr.'s Dream; Mumia is now a political prisoner for teaching the youth the truth; Marcus Garvey told us "AFRICA FOR AFRICANS AT HOME AND ABROAD".

A new black son rises every day. With the guidance of our elders: the blessings of our father: the firm understanding of the children, no longer shall we have to wait for what trickles out of the oppressor's bag. Building for oneself is significant.

**More Love  
For Everyone, Everywhere**

*The attitudes and opinions presented in this article is that of the writer and does not necessarily reflect that of the Vine Staff.*

**THE VINE** Calender Events  
January 24-February 7

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January 24-February 7

**Infectious disease  
conference**

January 24  
Topic: "CasePresentation"  
Speaker: Sharon Cucchi, M.D.  
For more info:  
contact Julie Rhodes  
804-28-9711

**Black History Month 2000  
Coordinating Committee**

January 26  
10 a.m.-11 a.m.  
University Student Commons-student art  
space, 2nd floor

All VCU organizations planning Black History Month events are encouraged to send representatives. Organizations that cannot send a representative to the meetings are encouraged to send information to be included in the published calenders and press releass to Victor Collins, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

For more info contact:  
Victor Collins  
828-6672

**"Joe Turner's Come and  
Gone"**

January 14-February 5  
Theatre Virginia presents August Wilson's "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," directed by Kent Gash. Set in 1911 boarding house, this drama chronicles the residents' journey through the past and the urban present. Contains strong language. \$17-\$33. Tuesday through Saturday evenings, 8 p.m.; selected Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday matinees, 2 p.m.; selected Sunday evenings, 7 p.m. Call (804) 353-6161.

**The Richmond Rhythm**

January 29  
The Richmond Rhythm tip off against The Shooting Stars, 7 p.m. at the Coliseum. 601 Leigh St. 262-8100

**Science Museum of Virginia**

January 29-April 30  
The Science Museum of Virginia present "Beyond Numbers," a visiting exhibition that puts a new twist on math using puzzles, art, science, culture and real life, hands on exhibits.

The African American Alumni Council (AAAC) has established a scholarship endowment for undergraduate African-American VCU Students. The annual award will be at least \$500 for the 2000-01 school year.

Contact the Vine for more  
free information

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send a message to [vcuvine@hotmail.com](mailto:vcuvine@hotmail.com)**

Elements



Andready

Walker from page 11

the woman's role and the man's dominance over that role. Her ability to portray the true female spirit is evident in this work as she touches your heart and talks to the demons we all harbor within.

Marley from page 11

Lootin' and Rastaman Chant are made into a passionate and moving deliverance in memory of a legend who will not soon be forgotten.

Some may find it disappointing that no reggae artists other than Bob himself appear on the album. The best aspect of this album is its ability to appeal to a wide range of people.

From the person whose always been a fan of Bob's to someone just getting to know him, all can enjoy thanks to a little modern day technology.

GASP! WHAT WILL JEFFERY DO NEXT?  
**J  
E  
F  
F  
E  
R  
Y**  
 © 1999 GEORGE TATKUS

JEFFERY BIKES TO SCHOOL TODAY



IT RAINED LAST NIGHT

THE WATER THAT WAS ON THE ROAD



FLIES FROM THE BACK OF HIS TIRE TO THE SEAT OF HIS PANTS

HOW EMBARRASSING! LUCKILY, JEFFERY SEES A NEARBY WATER HOSE AND PROCEEDS TO GET THE REST OF HIS PANTS WET.



HOW FORTUNATE FOR JEFFERY. NOW NO ONE WILL MAKE FUN OF HIM BY SAYING HE PEED ON HIMSELF.

