

the Vine

the student magazine of Virginia Commonwealth University
January 2003

preparation

Jeff Capel's plan to take VCU to the top of the CAA

nobel prize winner: john fenn
student organizations
year in review
interview: sean hemeon
homelessness in richmond

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American Nightmare

Everyday as you are going to class you see or ignore the homeless people who make Monroe Park and other parts of the city streets their home. Now hear their stories.

Jeff Capel

Learn more about the man who plans to lead our Rams to basketball victory.

"VCU's Soap Hunk"

One of VCU's own was chosen to act on 'As The World Turns.' Find out his story and watch 'As The World Turns' on November 18 to see this 'Soap Hunk.'

letter from the editor

The Vine is in a period of transition, so this letter is going to be kind of awkward. This isn't quite a letter from the editor, because the editor of this project was Randy Gaskin. Randy Gaskin has been the editor of this publication for the better part of his academic career. Randy Gaskin has spent more nights in The Vine office than a lot of VCU students have spent in dorms. Since Randy Gaskin has been here he's written stories for writers that couldn't quite come up with the material themselves. But ironically enough, the story that Randy Gaskin should be writing is being handled by someone who's only been at the university for a few months now.

This is his last issue as editor and it's kind of symbolic. Although he won't be able to write stories, Randy Gaskin and The Vine are inseparable. Call it a passion. Call it an addiction. Either way, Randy Gaskin can't get enough of The Vine.

Also, The Vine is looking for talent. Mass Communications majors fresh out of Newswriting 203 are more than welcome to bring their copy editing skills to the table along with fresh new story ideas. English majors with work that's fit for publication are encouraged to talk with Vine staff members about making that happen. People with voices and opinions that need to be heard can be invited to *xpress* themselves through our magazine. The Vine is also looking for hard-working designers and photographers.

Now for business, it's been a long time coming for this issue, but it's stacked. There's a profile on the Rams new head basketball coach, a look at student organizations, reflections on the year 2002 and tons more. Tell us what you think about it via email at thevine@vcu.edu. Enjoy!

Julian Benbow

Editor-in-Chief

benbowj@vcu.edu



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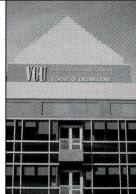
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opinionated

The last issue was hot. I was very impressed. It's amazing what can happen in a few years. You all are doing a wonderful job at VCU. I wish you much success on the year.

LaCriscia M. Fowlkes
VCU Graduate

send your letters to thevine@vcu.edu



Bonds make way for new improvements

by t.d. brown

In a statewide approval of 72%, voters supported the general obligation bond referendum of \$900 million to be issued for construction projects at state-supported educational facilities in Virginia.

The referendum's greatest support came from the Charlottesville area, home of the University of Virginia, with 86.5% of voters voting "yes" and Albemarle County had the highest vote among counties, at 82.1%. Rockingham, Patrick, and New Kent Counties were the only localities to reject the referendum, despite the presence of nearby James Madison University. Fifty-eight percent of voters said "no" in Rockingham, 54% in Patrick, and in New Kent voters said "no" by just 62 votes, 2,400 to 2,338.

In Richmond, turnout for the November 6th election was at 34%, with 84% of those voters supporting the educational bond referendum. According to the Center for Public Policy here at VCU, the bond package will generate more than \$1.5 billion in economic activity by 2008, and it will create nearly 14,000 new jobs.

The \$77 million allotted to VCU will support construction and renovations on both the academic and medical campuses.

Projects in the bond package include:

- * **Construction of the Medical Sciences Building II at \$22.6 million.**
- * **Renovation of the West Hospital and Johnston auditorium at \$14.3 million**
- * **An addition to the Massey Cancer Center at \$10.1 million**
- * **Renovation of the Hibbs Building at \$8.8 million**
- * **Renovation of the Sanger Hall laboratory phase I, at \$7.9 million**
- * **Construction of the School of Engineering, phase II, at \$6.2 million**
- * **Renovation of Franklin Terrace at \$3.5 million**
- * **Renovation of the Music Center at \$3.4 million**
- * **School of Engineering, phase II, construction, \$6.2 million**
- * **Franklin Terrace renovation, \$3.5 million**
- * **Music Center renovation, \$3.4 million**

Voters who disapproved of the referendum such as anti-tax groups argued that borrowing the money now would overextend an already strapped budget, thereby leading to higher taxes in the long run. Opponents cited the bond as being fiscally irresponsible in this state's time of debt.

Supporters say the bond is responsible because it will not increase taxes and will not effect Virginia's "triple A" bond rating which, due to the passage of the bill, will leave Virginia well below its capacity to repay debt.

Prior to the referendum's passage, Gov. Mark R. Warner and school officials at universities statewide informed, persuaded, and pleaded students and other voters to support the bond referendum. Upon the passage, Warner called the outcome of the bond referendum a victory for investment in Virginia's future.

Using the Privilege

by dorescia paige

Every seat in the VCU Commons forum room was filled for the Palestinian Struggle discussion presented by Free Palestine Now!, Students for Political Awareness, and the Muslim Students' Association. More and more students, professors and others who were simply interested in the cause crept in until there were people sitting on the steps and even scrunched against the walls. It was very clear that VCU students care deeply about bringing peace between Palestine and Israel. People from every ethnic background gathered to exercise their American privilege of freedom to do whatever they could for the oppressed people of Palestine.

The discussion exhibited two speakers, Mark Lance of SUSTAIN (Stop US Tax Aid to Israel Now!) and Adam Shapiro of the International Solidarity Movement. Lance's speech focused mainly on the aid the United States gives to Israel. "Every person plays a role...every time you send a dollar to the United States government in taxes," Lance affirmed to the eager listeners. "You are paying for the Israeli occupation. You're paying for the weapons, you're paying for the bulldozers that demolish homes, you're paying for the secured infrastructure, and you're paying for the intelligence abuse. You're paying for it with your taxes." He ended his stirring lecture with an even more astounding thought: "America is an empire and empires always fall. They fall when they get over extended and when the people stop revering them."

Adam Shapiro is thoroughly noted for his heroic acts in Ramallah when he escorted ambulances into the city to treat the wounded from an Israeli attack. He spent the night in Yasser Arafat's headquarters while the Israeli army continued to shell the town. Shapiro followed Lance with his account of this experience and others he along with the International Solidarity Movement endured with the oppressed Palestinians. In horrific detail, he described the bombings, the evictions of over 50,000 Palestinians from their homes, and the curfews that forced citizens to stay in their homes almost 24 hours a day. "But the Palestinians haven't given up, and neither should we", Shapiro asserted. "As Americans, we have a responsibility, and as citizens of the United States, especially being that we are a global power, we have to take responsibility of that global power."

His message to the students of VCU was simple - get involved! "I think what students can do here is build coalitions. All these social justice movements fit together and it is important that we come together and unify and draw strength from that. Draw the issues together and then take it to our elected representatives. It is not enough to have your demands and hope a candidate picks up on your demands; you need to go as the Latino community, as the Muslim community, and as the African American community, all join together in solidarity and go to a democratic candidate or a republican candidate and say if you want our community votes, you have to represent us."

"And that can include more opportunities for African American in this country. It can include justice for Palestinians or an end to Israeli occupation. This is the point of representation, they are supposed to represent us, not us vote for whatever they want to say. We have to define for our candidates what their agendas are going to be. And I think that is the way we can organize effectively around all of these social justice issues and really make a difference."

"VCU is what a dance department should be - - a place that fosters thinking and artistic inquiry, a place where the teachers really care about instilling a passion for the art in their students. It is an institution that is very much in touch with what is going on in the dance world, where guests from the artistic front lines are brought in regularly to inform and inspire. Most importantly, it is a place with a vision - - to produce young artists who can think for themselves."

Joe Goode, VCU Alumnus

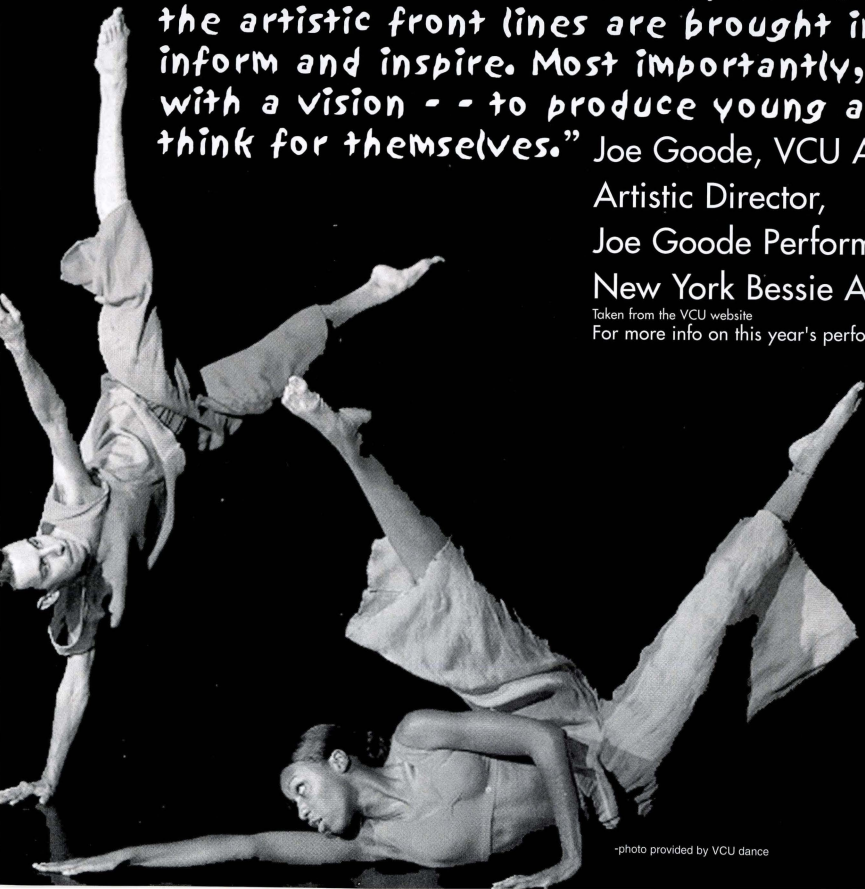
Artistic Director,

Joe Goode Performance Group

New York Bessie Award Recipient

Taken from the VCU website

For more info on this year's performances, call 828.2020



-photo provided by VCU dance

"We are dying out here. Tonight I could die...
Last night I didn't, I was lucky.
But Tonight I could..."

As VCU students, we are taught something about our eventual role in society everyday. I think we get a better helping hand of it though, than most universities because we happen to be located in the heart of a lot of troubles.

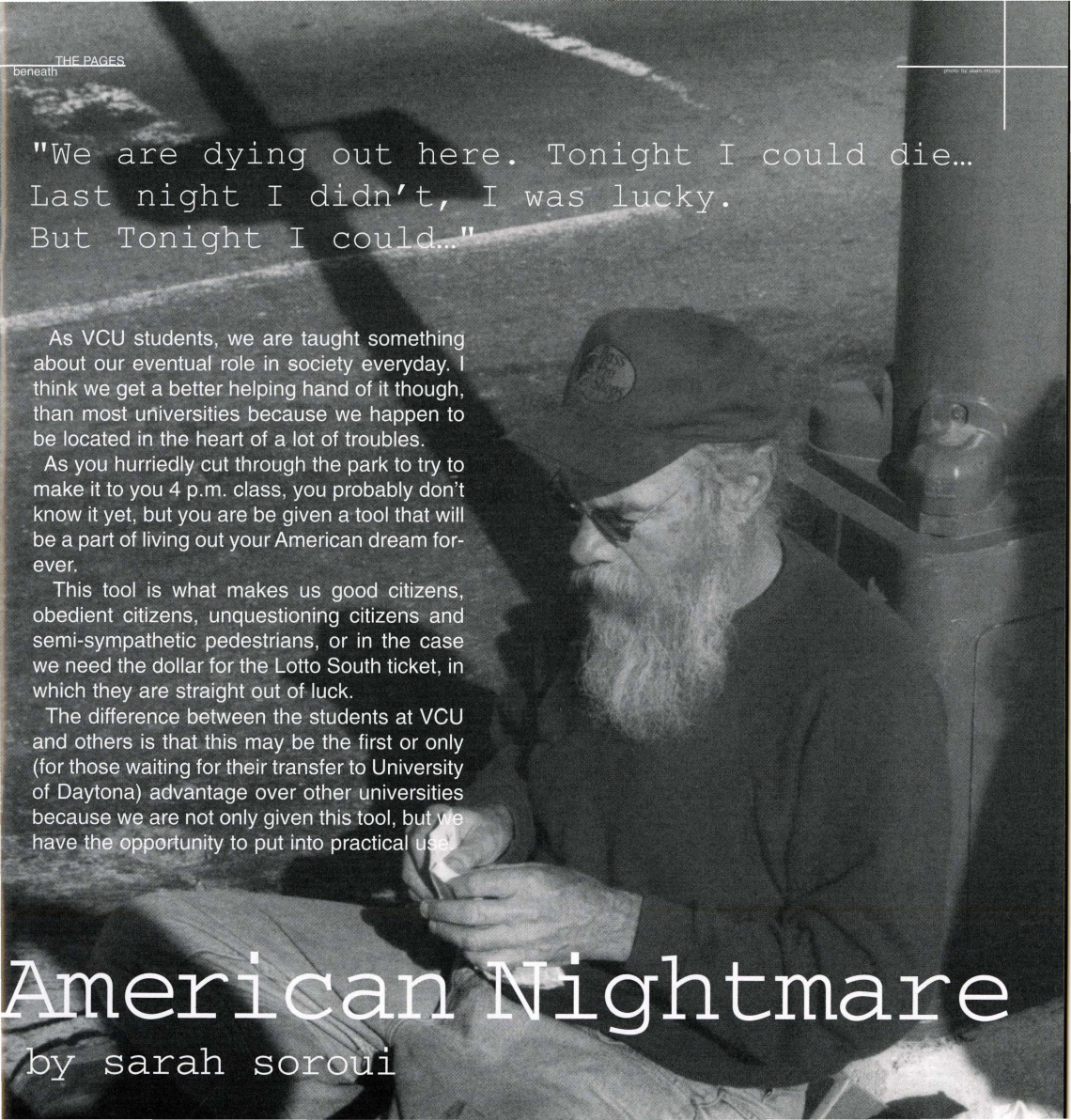
As you hurriedly cut through the park to try to make it to you 4 p.m. class, you probably don't know it yet, but you are be given a tool that will be a part of living out your American dream forever.

This tool is what makes us good citizens, obedient citizens, unquestioning citizens and semi-sympathetic pedestrians, or in the case we need the dollar for the Lotto South ticket, in which they are straight out of luck.

The difference between the students at VCU and others is that this may be the first or only (for those waiting for their transfer to University of Daytona) advantage over other universities because we are not only given this tool, but we have the opportunity to put into practical use

American Nightmare

by sarah soroui



You used it the time you were a freshman in Rhoads and your exam at 5 p.m. meant cutting through Monroe Park to get to the Life Sciences Building on time. You hesitated when you remembered the warning from your RA at the last floor meeting to stay away from the park at night because that's when the burns are likely to mug you. .

We put it this into use when we walk on Broad Street and you look straight ahead when you pass them because you are convinced that they will not ask you for money and if you don't look at them. If you don't see them then, they don't exist. Whether they ask you or not, it wouldn't matter because our tool works so well for us that we don't even notice anymore.

When you graduate with your degree in marketing, you also are officially certified in complacency, the very tool that has kept you isolated from the societal ills (the ones you thought someone else was taking care of), which may have distracted your attention from more pertinent matters.

It is complacency that blocked your vision of the man sleeping on the bench, the same man who went to three different universities, graduating with a degree in Business, who is now starving from the lack of nourishment and dying of an incurable disease. It was complacency that let you ignore the woman sitting on the bench, the one who just three months ago was working and going to school but grew tired of her husband putting knives to her throat so who is now surviving on a pay check and a bench.

In the November rain your complacency was the tool that kept you from realizing that the father of two is walking Grace Street not because of laziness, but because of the education system that failed him as a child and an economy that is failing him now as an adult. It is complacency that keeps us from realizing that a few steps off the paved paths of Monroe Park is a world of proof that that the economic social balance of our system is more than lopsided and nothing less than unfair.

Among the several people I talked to, becoming homeless was a result of a compilation of things, none of which can be easily put into categories (as complacency would tell us to do) without losing something in that translation of experience to judgment.

For most of these people, homelessness was not a result of drastic downturns but of accumulation of changes and the failure of a system in which they relied on. In short, becoming homeless was not only ever anticipated but rather unexpected and a challenge almost to great to overcome in a system where all odds are against you.

I stepped off the path, which typically led me from my classes, and onto the grass and into another world. I met Marvin while he was sitting on the ground with several other people on a warm day in October. At first I thought that getting just one interview would be difficult, as many homeless people were wary of press attention which in the past, as I gather, made them out to look like deviants. As I sat down next him though, I managed not only to get his story but bits and pieces of other people's experience which led me to the realization that this epidemic was not the kind reserved for a certain sector of our society. Homelessness is a survival experience that can happen to anyone. It literally is life or death. "Basically I have been on my own since I was 13. I breezed through High school. I got a grant to the University Of Tennessee and I went there for two years, and then I wanted to come back home so I went to the University of Virginia for a while. My major was business, and I ran a business for a while but then I got tired of it and I wanted to become a CPA (certified public accountant). Before I went to college I met a girl who liked me and decided that she wanted to marry me and we had a daughter and a son together... The absolute worst moment of my life was when my wife told me I didn't live there anymore and I had to come home and get my clothes and my daughter was just hanging on my leg saying 'please daddy don't go', that was the worst... I see my wife every Sunday and she tells me that she loves me but she can't live with me... I was living in Daytona for a while and I came back up here stay with my father who had a stroke..."

At that time I was working at the Home Depot and I came home one day and my dad's girlfriend told me that I couldn't stay there any

more... I told her that I didn't mind coming home from work dirty but I wasn't going to work dirty... I came here to the park and I asked the people living here to show me how to live here, show me to survive on the streets... So that's where I'm at today..."

Now at 52 years of age, Marvin survives the best he can despite the fact that he not only suffers from the lack of basic needs but also from Lou Gerigs disease, which he was diagnosed with almost 15 years ago. He sought medical treatment when he first discovered that he was sick, but stopped after being told that there was nothing he could do. Despite his circumstance though, Marvin has managed to survive longer than doctors expected him to.

The idea of pulling yourself upon by your own boot strings is completely unrealistic and apathetic ways of looking at how people like Marvin live. Many homeless like Marvin have serious illnesses that they cannot afford to treat and that hinder them from any possibility of working labor-intensive jobs. The "survival of the fittest" attitude that so many people embrace is the same ideology most policy makers accept in order to justify bad policy making. It is also the same ideology that keeps citizens complacent and apathetic to real human suffering, since it can easily be passed off as a choice of the individual rather than the real socioeconomic imbalance which creates these polar standards of living and encourages human suffering.

"I just don't want to die out here... you know...I do not want to die out here. I don't want to wake up dead"

As I was talking to Marvin I met a few other people, including a man who told me that he used to be a homeless counselor. Now on the streets he describes the daily and nightly trials that he and other Homeless people have to cope with.

"The police tell us to move on and die... You want to know the truth I used to be a homeless counselor, I got a degree in Human Services. People here are sentenced to die... The best thing that can happen to you is that the they [the police] will lock you up so at least you have a place to sleep... last night I froze to death..."

You go home to your house tonight and you think about what it's going to be like for us.... Out here it's life and death...and average day here is life and death...I live in a world that I could die every night, Tonight I could die, last night I didn't, I was lucky. Tonight I could..."

During my interview, a woman came up to me and told about how she came to be living on the streets. From first site, you can tell Brenda is not only a victim but also a survivor. She escaped from near death only to discover that the amnesty that she hoped to receive from the system she put her faith into, could do nothing for her.

"A lot of the women out here have been the victims of violence. I originally not only three months ago was working towards a college degree, but I had a place to live.

Unfortunately I had a man who enjoyed putting knives to my throat and tried to throw me down three story balconies. I moved, he tried to get me evicted. I lost my job, both of them. I moved again. I got pneumonia because I took a job that I shouldn't have taken to start with,



and I ended up back out on the streets.

I crawled my way back off the street with my old employer who was nothing but a drunk and hated all women...[he] wanted to use me and abuse me like an old shoe, in more ways than one...so I left, and I'm back out on the streets again...

Some of us work temp jobs and don't make enough money to make the minimum monthly income requirements to get housing...[the city] is a joke. I went to social services one time when he beat me half to death and they wouldn't help me... Their exact words were once you get back on your feet you come to talk to us, and then you can talk to the domestic violence team... That was the whole entire reason I went to them to start with... The city would not help me, the shelters were full and I ended up sleeping out on the streets in the winter time.

I had a friend of mine let me stay in shop and shop bench. Even the domestic violence team, the YMCA, the YWCA wouldn't help you... Sure I could have made it if I turned into a prostitute, I chose to be homeless rather than do that...but I'm looked down upon for it by society and other people..."

Unfortunately, Brenda's situation is very typical among homeless women. There are long waiting lists for assisted housing and since most shelters are usually filled, the choice is either the street or abuse.

I met Rodney, walking down Grace Street a few days later. He politely asked me for some money and I politely asked him for an interview. I gave him \$6 for his troubles. He gave me a priceless contribution that I would take with me forever; Awareness.

"I dropped out of school when I was in fifth grade, I had a learning disability... When I was going to school back then the teachers didn't know how to deal with me back then... They didn't have the right type of classes because I had attention deficit disorder and I was a slow learner... So they just put me in one grade to another, I didn't really pass; they were just trying to get me out of school as quick as they could... The education system really sucks in America if you don't have any money... They don't care nothing about you... If you have money you get can all the education you can... but if your poor your lost...there is no hope for them... My parents wanted me to go back to school, and a few years later, my father died... That really messed me up. I really missed him... I worked here and there but I didn't do too much really.

I was 17 when I had my daughter and I was about 32 when I had my son... During that time I lived with his mother and then I moved out and then I got involved with a few more women and I got involved with another woman and she was really wonderful, but I had an anger problem so...she put me out about a week ago... And I just lost my job yesterday... I had been working there for nine years... I have been out of their streets before, but not like this... It's cold, lonely, and sad... I go to the park sometimes to eat or at the Daily Planet... People look at me like a bum... I keep clean, I got clean clothes, clean underclothes, I wash off at the service station or I go to the hotel and take a shower. I got clean clothes in a bag and a blanket under a bridge... I'm trying to hang it out here till I can do better... The city has a lot of money to really help the homeless and build more shelters; they don't really do that much to help you...

I have a social security check coming in next month, so hopefully I can get a place by then... I will get a place by then... The city hasn't done anything, except for the Freedom House and the Daily Planet; they are doing a really good job... But the city itself is not doing anything else to help the homeless...

The government plays a big role having homeless people in the situation in which they are in because they can have better housing; they can make more shelters... I don't go to the shelters because I usually keep to myself... I guess I have to toughen it out for a little while... Even though I have my faults and my downs, everything is still going to be all right through the mercy and the grace of God, and He's going to take care of my situation and everything is going to be better. And I'm got be strong and not go down anymore, it's time to be strong..."

And perhaps the most unequal aspect of our society is our education system. It still proves that social injustice and some may even



PHOTO BY RANDY GIBSON

say racism still exists whole-heartedly today, under the disguise of the American public school system. Lack of education and job skills is an important factor in why many people become homeless. Minimum wage jobs, which are now, barely even offered to people with diplomas, let alone people who were robbed of the opportunity to receive one. Despite this though, a minimum wage earner would have to work more than eighty hours a week in order to afford a sub standard lifestyle. People with children need not apply.

I asked Rodney to tell me something that he would like people to know about him, specifically the college students that saw him in passing. The statement is simple and the message was essentially the same answer that I got from everyone I interviewed. It is a reminder to all of you who look but sometimes forget...

"Homeless people are human beings, we have our down faults just like everyone else, some of us are sick, some of us need help both mentally and physically, and some of us cannot help ourselves out here... We don't need to be looked down upon like hobo's or beggars...most people ask for money because they are hungry, and they don't have any other means of getting things to eat..."

Homelessness is an epidemic that is fueled by complacency. It is something that we assume occurs as the result of our own stereotypical presumptions rather than a bigger problem whose burden falls on the shoulders of everyone in this society. We live in a society where so few people are allowed to have so much when so many people have nothing. If you look for things that are being done by the people that should be doing them, you will find, as I have that not only are some government programs out there not doing enough to help the issue. They are actually hindering the efforts of the many people who are sincerely trying to deflate the situation.

There are many organizations out there that spend their life's work to help root out this problem, but even that is not enough. The only way to end such a cycle of suffering is the unification of people on this issue through awareness. That's hard to do though, especially when complacency is the order of the day.

It is an easy life to focus on your own goals and aspirations, without being distracted by the problems of others. It is the American dream to pursue your own happiness and to assume that the ills you may encounter within life are being taken care of by someone else, even when they are so obviously not. It is complacency that keeps us ignorant of the world around us, the one that doesn't consist of frat parties, the smoothie king, your 2 p.m. class, the budget cuts, the library curfew, or other major things that consume our lives as students. But it is this form of apathy that also manages to create an eclipse that shadows the reality of your surroundings.

It is in fact complacency that breeds ignorance and stereotypes of poverty, especially that of homelessness. That is why both will continue to exist in a perpetual cycle.

For most of us, it is about living out the American Dream. For the many others who walk the street and hope to be helped, it's about surviving the American nightmare. ☹

Sexual

You're in the heat of the moment. Your hormones are raging and you've got that urge. Not the urge to herbal, but that sexual urge. That desire. Before you start having that hot, steamy, passionate lovemaking session, you've got something else urgent to ponder: Every 30 seconds, a young person is infected with a sexual transmissible infection and every 30 minutes, a young person is infected with HIV. Not much comfort in those numbers, so sit back, grab a condom and read on.

AIDS: myths and realities

It's 2 p.m. As a group of AIDS: Myths and Reality students wait for Professor Daphne Rankin to arrive, they begin talking about the infamous videos in Rankin's other class, Human Sexuality.

One student says, "Have you seen the female masturbation video? This one woman does this thing with her legs."

"Really? No way," another student replies.

Enter Professor Rankin and teaching assistant Dwight. Rankin apologizes for being late due to the crowded elevators in the Hibbs Building, takes a seat, and the class finishes up their book presentations.

One young lady tells the story of a surgeon who found out he tested HIV positive over the phone. When they called him to work, he could no longer perform surgery. Now he is an activist.

After the presentations, Professor Rankin gives them a Thanksgiving assignment. During her first year of teaching the course, she told her students to go home and tell their families that they were taking the class and to discuss it during Thanksgiving dinner. She said some of her students' families didn't respond too well when they found out their child/grandchild/etc. was taking a class about AIDS.

This year's assignment is different. Rankin tells her class to go home and look at someone that they are truly thankful for having in their life and tell them how thankful they are. It seems to fit with the theme of the class.

"The most important lesson I've come away from the class with is that [AIDS] is a problem that is going to be around for a long time and the main difference you can make is in your own life and in the people around you," student Zak Angel says.

As AIDS: Myths and Reality professor Daphne Rankin fast forwards through an episode of Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman and then through the segments of Primetime Live, the class discusses whether or not Sam Donaldson dyes his eyebrows and how cheap McDonald's hamburgers were back in the day: 75 cents for a quarter pounder with cheese according to one of the commercials, but all this is irrelevant to the core subject of the class. AIDS: Myths and Reality is much more than hamburgers and what's growing above Sam Donaldson's eyes. It's about discovering truth.

"You learn the mechanics [of AIDS] and you learn how to incorporate it into our personal lives. We kind of have a motto in this class, 'each one, teach one.'" Reality student Stephanie Hill says.

After Dr. Quinn and the commercials, the class settles to watch a Primetime live segment about Elizabeth Glaser and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation. In 1988, Glaser co-founded the foundation after discovering that she and her children, Ariel and Jake, had been infected with HIV. When her daughter Ariel died at age seven of the disease, Glaser and her friends lobbied for more funding towards pediatric research in the area, something that had been overlooked before.

"It's really hard to take care of it and you have to have a lot of strength to get through it," Glaser's son Jake tells Diane Sawyer during the interview.

After watching another video, which happens to be an MTV True Life special, Professor Rankin reminds the class to bring in two bags of food for the Fan Free Clinic on Monday. They discuss driving arrangements to the clinic and who will be sorting the food. Class is dismissed.

Monday arrives and one by one the Reality students bring their bags of food to the Chugger's parking lot on Franklin Street. The designated drivers have not shown up. The group waits for several minutes before partial drama ensues. What to do? Someone volunteers to drive their car to the clinic. Thirty-plus bags of groceries were loaded into the trunk of a young ladies car and she was off. The remainder of the group disbands or goes to volunteer at the clinic.

Are you infected? They may have the answer.

It can take a window from three weeks to six months for HIV to show up in a test once you have been infected. Not very comforting if you had unprotected sex at that party last night. If you are concerned that you may be infected, VCU has its own anonymous HIV Antibody Testing and Counseling Services located at Church Hill and at South Side Plaza. The HIV/AIDS Center prefers appointments for the free blood test, but students can also walk-in. When they come to the site, they give their first initial and last name and that is how you are spoken to. Students are then assigned to a nurse who counsels them throughout the process. According to Jane Baggett, Director of the HIV/AIDS Center, since the center is anonymous, it is not required to report HIV positive tests to the state health department. Contact the HIV/AIDS Center on the VCU/MCV Campus by calling 828-2210.

URGENCY

by kevin clay

Gifts that keep on giving: *Living with chlamydia, herpes and genital warts*

There is a "Big Three" on VCU's campus. According to Dr. Linda Hancock, Assistant Director of Health Promotions, these big three aren't prestigious athletes on the football team or buildings on campus, but the most common sexually transmissible infections (STIs) she treats daily: chlamydia, genital herpes, and genital warts. These are the most common and treatable because of the socioeconomic status of the VCU's students and because access to treatment is readily available at University Health Services.

Chlamydia

Since chlamydia is caused by bacterial infection, it is the only curable one on the list of the big three. Symptoms may include mild itching during urination and clear or pus like discharge. If a pregnant mother goes untreated, her newborn child may suffer from blindness. Transmission is primarily through vaginal, anal, and oral-genital intercourse. This is the big three disease that is spread through bodily fluids, being defined as blood, semen, and vaginal fluid.

Herpes & Genital Warts

Both of these have incubation periods where the person may not know they have them and they are the STIs that are spread through skin contact.

Recurring painful, itchy lesions or blisters in the genital regions are signs of a herpes outbreak. Genital sores usually develop within four to seven days after sexual contact, but that can vary.

In women, these sores appear on the labia, clitoris, vagina, or cervix, and men typically have them on the head or the shaft of the penis. When the lesions heal, they will become crusted and this is when viral shedding can occur. The virus is still contagious and can be passed along to your partner during this time period. Asymptomatic viral shedding may also be a problem because you can pass the virus along even when there are no obvious signs of an outbreak or crusting.

Professor of Human Sexuality Daphne Rankin says, "You never lose that virus. It's the gift that keeps on giving. If you went to your clinician and asked if you had herpes, they could do a visual exam and see no herpetic outbreak or lesion. Then they could say, 'you look okay to me,' when in fact, we know that the virus could actually be shed even though there is no visible outbreak."

There are medications on the market that will help prevent outbreaks, but will not necessarily help in the prevention of spreading the virus.

Genital warts usually appear as small, soft, moist, pink, or red swellings and grow rapidly. If the cluster together, they may resemble cauliflower. They can appear as early as one month after infection to as late as 18 months after infection. Sometimes, if severe, they must be frozen or removed by laser. Usually, an over-the-counter product will help remove them, but like herpes, the virus remains. Two forms of HPV, the virus that causes genital warts have been linked to cervical and penile cancer.

"Genital warts, especially the flat warts, are very hard to see sometimes. Going and getting checked by someone is a great idea," Professor Rankin says.

Even with negative stigma attached to warts and herpes, sufferers can still enjoy a normal lifestyle.

"Your immune system can learn to live in harmony with the virus," Dr. Hancock says.

Contact University Health Systems at 828-8828.

wrap it up: a guide to condom usage

Wallets are made for money, not condoms. Condoms should always be stored in a cool, dry place. If your partner is allergic to the traditional latex, try the alternative polyurethane. Before opening the package, make sure it contains an air pocket. If there is no air pocket, the condom may have been punctured, so throw it away.

You may want to place a small amount of water-based lubricant containing spermicide inside the tip of the condom. This may increase protection and sensation. Put the condom on the penis as soon as it becomes erect and prior to any vaginal or anal contact. Your penis may still emit sperm or infectious agents through pre-ejaculate.

A quick note on spermicides: Since the early 1980's, lubricants containing nonoxonyl-9... "The Foam" when used in connection with "The Condom" is proven as effective as "The Pill" in preventing pregnancy.

- 1...If your condom didn't come complete with a reservoir tip, make one by pinching off a half-inch space at the top of the condom before applying it. Air bubbles can cause breakage. Look out for them.
- 2...Uncircumcised? Pull back that foreskin before putting on the rubber.
- 3...Keep grip of the condom at the head of the penis as you unroll downwards. Again, make sure no air is left in the tip.
- 4...Add lubrication (spermicidal) to the outside of the condom if it is a nonlubricated tip. (*Note: Do not use oil-based lubricants like Vaseline, baby oil or other petroleum-based products because it weakens the condom and may cause it to leak or break.*)
- 5...Attention: Step away from your partner. Step away from your partner. After ejaculation, move away from the partner's genitals and from breaks or cuts in the skin. Hold the condom at the rim and withdraw the penis while it is still erect.
- 6...Wrap the condom in tissue and dispose of it in a trash can.
- 7...Wash your hands and body off wherever semen spilled before returning to your partner if things got messy during disposal.
- 8...Before you get your groove on again, make sure to use a new condom. It's not wipe, rinse and reuse like some of those newfangled paper towels on the market now.

If you happen to be making sweet, sweet love in the kitchen and there is no condom in sight, go for the plastic wrap. Wrap the penis up in many layers and between your crotch just to be safe. This may decrease sensitivity, and is not the recommended method of male contraception, but it's better than nothing since you weren't prepared.

Parts of this guide were adapted from "How to Use a Condom," Exploring Human Sexuality: Making Healthy Decisions by Richard D. McNulty and M. Michele Burnette



"Prior preparation prevents

Capel plans to motivate VCU to victory



So three guys are waiting for the elevator. There's a first year VCU student, a first year VCU faculty member (pharmacy) and a first year VCU head basketball coach.

The pharmacist says to the coach, "So, do you play basketball here?"

The coach says, "no, actually I'm a coach."

The pharmacist says, "what do you coach."

Coach answers, "basketball. My name's Jeff Capel head coach. Nice to meet you."

They talk a little about how the team should look this season and how young Capel looks for a head coach.

When the pharmacist leaves, Capel tells the first year student, "I get that a lot."

But while talking about his youth as a head coach, his outlook on the season and his experiences up to this point – on and off the court – Capel displays something that gets lost in the frenzy that can surround the youngest active coach in the NCAA: maturity.

The former Duke Blue Devil admits that being head coach of a Division I basketball team is a bit overwhelming, but it's certainly not out of his ability.

Capel was appointed head coach in March after former coach Mack MacCarthy resigned. The news caught him off guard, but not just because the team was left without a headman.

"I was shocked," says Capel. "Not only by the resignation, but about what my next move would be."

He tuned out the bearer of bad news, Director of Athletics Dr. Richard Sander, and immediately weighed his options. After all, a coaching change meant he was essentially jobless.

But how does he react to Sander offering him the vacant position?

"I was even more shocked," Capel puts it plainly.

The two talked over the situation for about two hours. Sander asked Capel if he was ready. Capel told Sander that he could take on the responsibility, but he still couldn't believe all this was happening.

"I talked to my dad [Jeff Capel Jr.] and he didn't believe it. I asked him if he thought I was ready and he said "you better be."

But is he?

He spent four years as a starter for arguably the best basketball college on the planet. As an intern, he learned under coach Mike Krzyzewski for a year. But otherwise, Capel became head coach with two years of experience as an assistant and only one of them was at VCU. Exactly how is this justifiable?

"Nothing prepares you for being a head coach besides being a head coach," says Capel. "As an assistant, you suggest things. You offer your opinions to the head coach. As head coach you have to make the decisions."

Capel made his first decision pretty quickly. It was a team meeting in West Broad Apartments.

"We all met up in one of the guys' apartments and talked about everything that was going on and how they felt about it."

They also talked about where to go from there. Capel discussed each player's individual goals and challenged them to work towards them. During the summer, Capel actually called his players to make sure they were still working hard.

"I told them 'look, these are the things you told me you wanted to do. Are you doing what you should in order to make them happen?'"

So, why is Capel so big on self-motivation? After all, he is the head coach, he could require his players to do whatever he sees fit. The truth is that Jeff Capel Jr. had a lot to do with Jeff III's work ethic

poor performance.”

by julian benbow

and he tries just as hard to instill it in his players.

“When I was younger,” Capel recalls, “I remember telling my dad that I wanted him to get me up every morning, I wanted him to work me out and put me through drills so I could get better. My dad told me that he wasn’t going to do that, because if you want it bad enough, you’re going to do it yourself.”

Capel constantly relays this message to his players. “You’re going to determine your own success,” Capel explains. “It’s our job as coaches to put you in a position to be successful, but your success is determined by how hard you work and how much you’re willing to sacrifice.”

Jeff Jr. definitely knows what it takes to be successful. He’s currently head coach in the NBA Developmental League and before that, he was head coach at conference rival Old Dominion for seven years. He was a coach in some form or another since Jeff III was in elementary school.

Jeff III wanted to be around dad as much as possible. So basketball became a constant. Jerry Capel, wife to Jeff Jr. mother to Jeff III, made sure Jeff and little brother Jason stayed on top of schoolwork, but she was also the one to carry them to basketball practices because it was so important.

If Jeff wasn’t a ballboy for one of his dad’s teams, he was shooting around in a gym for fun or trying out for the school’s basketball team. Playing ball professionally became a serious goal for Capel and after four years at Duke it became a reality.

Capel spent time in France and also the Continental Basketball Association. The Fayetteville, North Carolina native didn’t exactly have the greatest time in France.

“It was beautiful, but I couldn’t enjoy it. I didn’t speak the language. I didn’t have anybody to share the experience with.”

He had another American teammate, but he was a newby. So most of Capel’s days were excruciatingly routine: lift weights, practice, shoot around, get a paper (yesterday’s USA Today) because it was the only U.S. newspaper in France and eat some McDonald’s. Capel’s time in the CBA was a little different.

“The CBA was like a job interview every time you step on the court,” he says. “You’re always trying to get the call-up [to the NBA].”

The CBA proves a point that Capel stresses to his players.

“You can play professionally and not play in the NBA. You can still make good money. And you can still make yourself a better ballplayer.”

Capel knows that there are several players on the roster with the talent necessary to play on the next level. He doesn’t believe in labeling players by positions, but his plan is to put players in positions that they would end up playing on professional teams so they can become acclimated.

Even though he tries to feature certain players, the starting lineup stays nearly wide open. “It’s definitely under wraps,” Capel admits, “Because you never know. We like to keep things open around here. I have an idea in my head about certain players that are going to be tough to beat out for a job, but anybody can play anywhere.”

He isn’t just saying that either. “We might end up with five guards on the court,” Capel says.

It’s a legitimate possibility. There are five guards on the team with Division I experience and one of them, Domic Jones, was first team All-CAA in the preseason. Capel acknowledges the fact that VCU has a history of being a guard heavy university and the former guard actually embraces it.

“It does help,” Capel says. “It helps in recruiting when we’re able to talk about Gerald Henderson, Kenny Harris and Lamar Taylor and now Domic Jones. We have a history of very good guards at VCU. And I’m not going to lie, being a guard, I want to have the best guards in the league every year and I think we have the best backcourt in the league right now. There’s depth: guys that defend, guys that can score, and guys that can shoot the ball. That’s something we always want to have.”

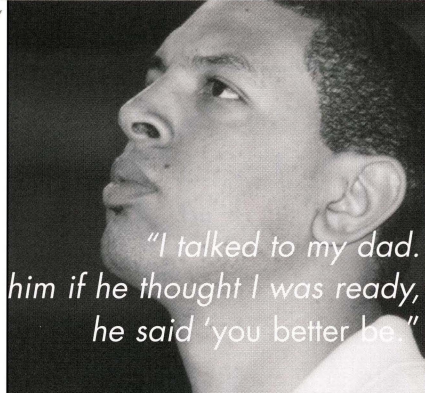
He may have the best guards in the CAA, but he admits that there are a lot of good guards in the conference from Brent Blizard of UNC Wilmington to David Fanning of James Madison. If Capel wants to put up numbers anywhere near last season’s 22-11 third place finish, he’s going to have to get some production out of what he describes as a “green frontcourt.”

“Our strength is in our guards. But we feel like we’re strong inside too. Hopefully we’ll be able to put guys on the court so that collectively we’ll be very strong. We have guys in the frontcourt that are capable of playing very well for us this year, the thing is that those guys don’t have a lot of college experience.”

The frontcourt is full of underclassmen from freshman forward Nick George who has no NCAA game experience to sophomore forward Derrick Reid who’s in-game presence stands out to coach Capel. All the team’s experience lies with the guards and Capel says that he needs these guys to step up as leaders this year.

“I would love for our seniors to really take ownership of this team and to demand a lot of everyone. In order to that you have to do the things you supposed to do yourself. I really challenged three seniors, Willie Taylor, Emanuel Mathis and Antoine Willie, to do that. This is their last year to get to a NCAA tournament. It’s the biggest stage in college basketball and we have a chance to get there this year and a lot’s going to depend on them.”

Capel knows what it will take to get to the big dance and he sums it up in a cleverly corny catch phrase. “Prior preparation prevents poor performance.” It’s a



“I talked to my dad. I asked him if he thought I was ready, he said ‘you better be’”

line his dad used whenever he spoke in front of people. Because of it, Capel always tries to be the most prepared. That means a lot of hard work goes into everything he does. Capel has made hard work a must for the basketball team this year.

“We don’t want to be outworked,” Capel says. “In order to be beat, a team’s going to have to outplay us. But we won’t be outworked. That goes for everything we do: recruiting, conditioning and strength training. We’re going to work hard.”

“I want us to play hard every time we step on the court. We’re going to have fun, but once we cross those lines [onto the basketball court], we’re going to leave everything on the court.”

“I want my players to understand that it’s a privilege to play college basketball and there are a lot of people that would like to be in their position. Because of that I want my guys to really appreciate the blessing they have and take advantage of it.”

Capel has a passion for the game that is evident in every great coach. He succeeds a coach that took the Rams to the NCAA’s only a few years ago. In order to break away from the team’s third place preseason ranking, which Capel called accurate yet nothing to worry about, he not only has to maintain the tough defense that coach MacCarthy made a religion, but he wants to bring his new element to the team’s character.

“I want to put my own stamp on VCU basketball. I want the theme for this team to be ‘attack.’ I want the offense to attack all the time.”

Capel may want the team to run the floor for forty minutes and wear the defense out. He may want to work the ball from half-court and pound on the opponents’ big men. Either way the team will definitely know how Capel wants it done, because Capel will be on the floor in practice running with them.

“I can still get out there and do some things,” Capel says. “The fact that I can get out there and demonstrate helps sometimes.”

Capel’s coaching style is definitely an advantage that only a few teams have. And it should get the Rams to their ultimate goal: the NCAA’s.

It seems like Capel’s going to make a lasting impression on the VCU athletic program. That first year student might actually get out of here with a diploma. As for that pharmacist ...

UNKNOWN TERRITORY

We attend a university brimming with activity, especially amongst the various organizations and clubs, but what about the LESSER KNOWN organizations at VCU? These groups don't have notoriety but they have a sense of purpose and direction. They are the groups that you don't read about or hear about on a regular basis. They are the groups that until now have been shadowed by their more dominant counterparts. They may be smaller but sometimes their problems are bigger than most other groups. What keeps them going?

The Vine will find out in **UNKNOWN TERRITORY**, the stories of unrecognized groups trying to establish their own voice in a huge urban university jungle.

For this series' premiere, four organizations are featured.

Shelter from the Storm

VCU's Black Caucus

by tiara smith

The Black Caucus has been a part of VCU since the 1970's and many people still don't know what it is or even what it does.

According to its President, Kieyona Davis, "It's the governing body of the majority of the minority organizations on campus... we're like the black SGA."

Almost all of the black organizations at VCU fall under the umbrella of the Black Caucus. These include the NAACP, Black Student Alliance, Latino Student Alliance, Black Awakening Choir, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) which is the Greek governing body, National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), Ebony Quest and even The Vine. The Black Caucus constitution states that it serves as a "vehicle" for these organizations as well as minority students to speak out about their "concerns and opinions about conditions and decisions, which affect their existence at VCU."

In years past the Black Caucus has done just that. A few years ago the Black Caucus supported students who wanted to establish an African Studies major at VCU. Although there still isn't an African Studies major, the word got out that this was a concern for the minority students at VCU. Also, last year, students turned to the Black Caucus with concerns that the African American faculty was dwindling at VCU.

This year there are no major issues that students are rallying for. Davis says she's concerned that many students may think the Black Caucus is just a program planner. "We are known for throwing parties and that's not what we should be known for. We should be known for doing educational things like holding forums."

Davis says that each Black Caucus meeting is a forum within itself because discussions can often arise from people just speaking their minds. The meetings are held on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Forum Room in the Student Commons.

This year the Black Caucus is organizing two big events, the Kwanzaa celebration on December 2 and the annual Black Ball in April. They have also helped organize Greek step shows in the past.

Davis says black faculty members at VCU are very supportive of the Black Caucus and often want to collaborate on activities on campus but it often doesn't go through. Davis says, "It's overwhelming to a certain extent. They want to do things with the students but I can't do anything when organizations don't show up [to the meetings]."

The meetings usually lack the presence of its constituent members otherwise known as the organizations that are under the Black Caucus. "A lot of people don't know that they're members and it's hard to reach out to members if they never show up," says Davis.

Dr. Napoleon Peoples, the Black Caucus Faculty Advisor, agrees that more student organizations need to connect with the caucus. He says, "We are trying to make it happen so that the Black Caucus can be that umbrella that is representative of the black student body at the University."

Because the Black Caucus isn't an organization but rather a governing body, it can't vote in its own representatives. There is a candidate for the position of Historian but she cannot fill the position until constituent members vote her in.

However things are looking bright for the Black Caucus Executive Board. This semester so far has shown a high rate of attendance by non-members at meetings and the officers are communicating more. Dr. Peoples says he has enjoyed working with the Executive Board because, "They're positive and looking at issues from analytical standpoints...and trying to move forward in terms of their mission," he says.

Davrae Stokes, the Vice President of the Black Caucus says about the executive board, "We're all on the same page...everyone knows their role and we're a lot more organized."

There are many plans on the Black Caucus agenda this year including working with organizations for Black History Month and Women's History Month. Plus there are plans to hold the university's first ever Black Caucus Awards Ceremony in the spring.

a new beginning

345vvcu-abcdefgh

the Association of Black Communicators

by jimmy rice III



As a young boy I was told that if a person wanted to go far in life they should join other people who were headed in the same direction. That's because people generally share the same life patterns with the people they associate with most. I carried that same ideology with me as I helped to initiate Virginia Commonwealth University's newest black organization, the Association of Black Communicators (ABC).

ABC is a student chapter of the National Association of Black Journalist (NABJ) and is open to any students with a Mass Communications major. The organization is looking to help enhance student's academic, professional and social self by networking with each other, and various local or national professional in the mass communications field. ABC is about people sharing a common ground coming together to help encourage, enlighten and empower one another.

I have always said that the most difficult part about doing something is starting it. It sounds weird but if you really think about it – it's the truth. I can imagine that's what happened when VCU Professor Dr. Clarence Thomas suggested that there be a student chapter of NABJ on campus a few years ago, folks were unable to begin. That's why when I heard about the latest efforts to form the group I was little hesitant to help out. I didn't want to begin something that I felt I might not have finished. Nevertheless, forming such an organization was important so I decided to offer myself and help make it happen.

I teamed up with Dr. Thomas and VCU Sophomore Jovan Hackley and together we explored ways to get the word out and then a proposed student chapter of NABJ was in the works.

After a few weeks of discussions a first meeting time was set and to our surprise students showed up. About six people attended that day and things looked very promising. After getting through the logistics of a new organization things were well on their way. That first-ever meeting was held during the latter part of spring 2002 and now this semester we are nearly 30 strong.

ABC plans to host a lecture series, conducted by several mass media professionals in the area who plan to share their career stories, and hopefully offer some sound advice. These professionals are likely to include such local celebrities as Sabrina Squire, news anchor at NBC 12. ABC will also play a major role in providing various educational opportunities about black journalists who have made significant contributions to the Richmond community and the world, during Black History Month.

As we continue to evolve over the years, I expect nothing but the best out of the Association of Black Communicators. I know that it will be a great service to the VCU campus and the city of Richmond.

For more information about ABC you can e-mail jrice3@hotmail.com or call 692-4348. ☺



safety first:sometimes

Attacks on Gay Students Challenge SMSA's Mission

by tara brown



Despite popular belief, one does not have to be gay to be a member of the Sexual Minority Student Alliance.

Julie Kerr, president of the SMSA, dispelled that assumption right off the bat.

"You don't have to be homosexual to be a part of our organization," she said, "in fact, some of our most vocal advocates are straight."

The mission of SMSA members, as quoted from the Student Organizations Directory, is to work to provide an accepting and supportive environment for sexual minority students and to educate the university community on issues facing the gay student body. The mission was seriously challenged after an attack on two SMSA members left other members feeling anything but accepted.

Once a week SMSA meets in the Commons and Kerr recalled being there on September 17 when a young man who was a first-time visitor to the meeting came in and said he had been attacked.

Kerr said SMSA members left the meeting only to be confronted by the attackers and a fight broke out.

"The whole thing is upsetting, but what bothers me the most," she admitted, "is that they picked on a girl. These were men, and one of them punched a girl in the face and broke her nose." Disbelief, horror and outrage registered in her facial expressions and in her speech; emotions almost identical to Chris Savas', a supporter of SMSA.

Savas, 20, said he initially was surprised. "VCU has so many gay students and everyone is so understanding," he said, but his surprise turned to fear knowing that it could have happened to anyone.

"It scared me because if it could happen here, it could happen anywhere." Savas said he was grateful for the forums and discussions regarding the hate crime after the incident.

"They were important to me because a lot of people were scared and it was a good way to show support. Discussing it was a way to relieve the stress and get it out."

Kevin Pritchard, 27, said that his response to the hate crime was to get more involved in the gay and lesbian community. "The activist part of me just took over," he said. I wanted to empower myself and empower others through information, through support, and through my story."

Pritchard said information provided to him through SMSA has taught him a lot about issues that he and other members view as prejudiced and unfair. He likens the gay rights movement to the civil rights movement in the respect that groups of people were being discriminated against, and as a result were denied certain rights.

"Blacks had to sit in the back of the bus and two men in a gay relationship can not hold hands in public," Pritchard said.

Through SMSA, Pritchard said he has learned about other organizations that work for the gay and lesbian community and organizations that promote gay issues, something that the SMSA will be doing more of.

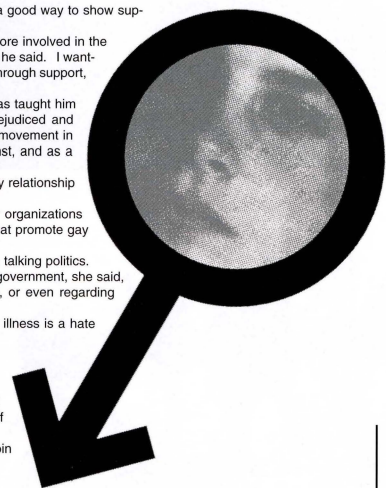
Whereas before the hate crime, SMSA was more of a social group, now members are talking politics. Kerr shared that now; they're more on fire to promote gay rights and awareness. The government, she said, basically doesn't acknowledge them as far as certain sexual practices are concerned, or even regarding crime.

"Assaulting someone or killing someone because of race, religious beliefs, or mental illness is a hate crime," Kerr said, "but sexual orientation is not included."

"In Virginia, you could get even kicked out of your apartment because of sexual orientation, because it doesn't say anywhere [in one's lease] that it's illegal to do so," she added.

Though Kerr, Savas and Pritchard feel that the government does not support them, all three agree that VCU does. All three praised VCU as being diverse and accepting of minority students such as some of the members of SMSA.

"It's an informal, open support group," Kerr said, of the organization, "if you want to join you can." Again, despite popular belief, "all are welcome." ☺



movin' on up

VCU's Black Data Processors Association
by tiara smith



A good job can be hard to find, especially right out of college. However, there is an organization that can lessen the stress and anxiety of job searching. Candace Johnson, President of the VCU Chapter of the Black Data Processing Associates says, The economy is changing and with students just getting out of school, BDPA keeps you up on technology, the job market and the economy.

The title Black Data Processing Associates may be misleading. Although the organization initially assisted minorities in information technology majors like computer science, computer engineering and information systems, this national organization now networks with companies to provide internships and jobs for students of all majors and races.

For over 25 years, BDPA has helped students get their resumes exposed, find a job within their expertise and move up in their careers. BDPA now has 3,000 members in over 40 chapters in cities all over the country. BDPA also holds an annual national conference. The 2003 conference will be held in Philadelphia. Its theme is Information Technology: From the Classroom to the Boardroom.

Corey Clark, Vice President of BDPA and an information systems senior says, Just because we're at I.T. (Information Technology) organization doesn't mean we don't know people in other fields.

Networking is very instrumental, says Johnson who is also a senior majoring in information systems. If a student goes to another state, BDPA members in that state will help that student out. It's not just what you know, it's who you know.

BDPA has assistance from such companies as Motorola, Sears, Abbott Laboratories and Allstate Insurance, among others, to provide students with internships.

The Richmond chapter includes VCU, Virginia State University and Virginia Union University. But college students are not the only members. Members include alumni, professionals, and even high school students. Meetings are on the first and second Thursday of each month at the Suntrust Bank in downtown Richmond.

According to Johnson, the VCU chapter was not active this semester because most of the officers graduated last semester and some of the structure was lost. In addition, Johnson is graduating in May but has not found anyone to take her place. Clark is also graduating and will also have to be replaced.

Johnson mentions that Annette Yates, the liaison for the VCU chapter helped get them back on track. She helped us restructure. We want things to stay active once we graduate, Johnson says. If next semester we're putting things in writing so upcoming freshmen, sophomores and juniors will have something to look forward to.

BDPA's list of duties also include working and volunteering within the community, going on trips and also planning activities like a recent golf tournament. Their current plans include a computer-training program for local high schools.

The BDPA website () has a lot of information including job and internship listings as well as how to join. Membership for students is \$15, a small price to pay for possibly landing a good paying job.

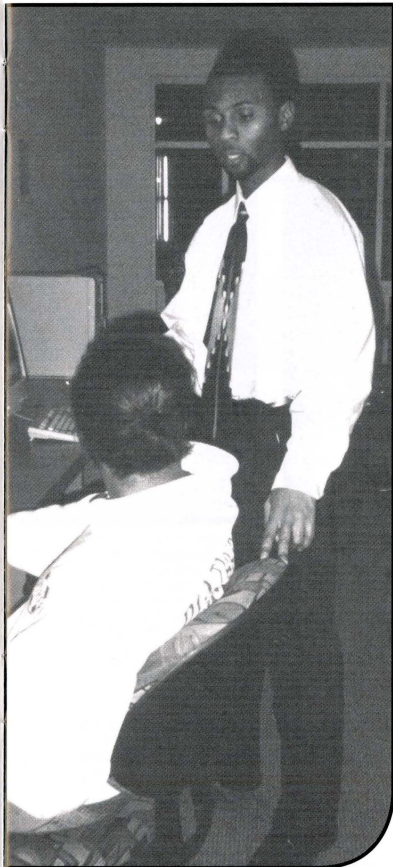
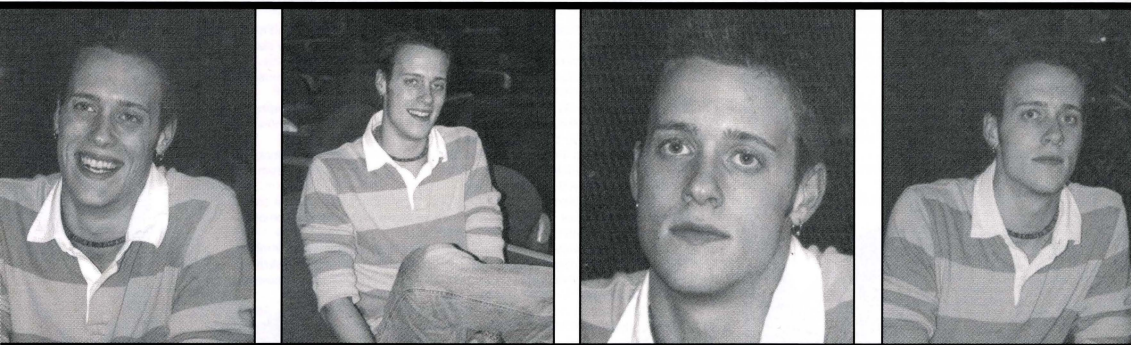


photo by tiara smith

Sean Hemeon

The Untold Story of VCU's "Soap Hunk"

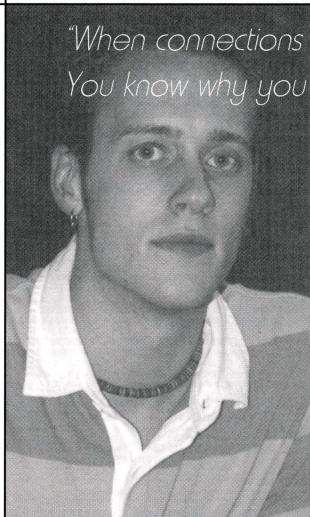


Northern Virginia native and VCU student, Sean Hemeon, is doing more these days than just studying. The twenty-one-year-old sophomore is living out his dreams by pursuing acting to the next level.

A major in Theater Performance, Hemeon caught the eyes of the casting director for the CBS soap opera *As The World Turns* during its *Catch You If You Can* tour around 10 area college campuses. On a stop through VCU's campus, Hemeon auditioned, and was picked out of almost 400 students to play Max on the soap opera.

Besides being the new hunk on *As The World Turns*, Hemeon is a regular college student with student loans to pay and grades to maintain. With a positive attitude towards his goal of performance and a cool personality, you can't wrong. This is his story...

"When connections are made with an audience, it's just an amazing feeling. You know why you are doing what you are doing at that point."



How long have you been acting?

SH: Since my freshman year in high school.

What plays have you performed in?

SH: I have been in one play. I was in a fight scene in 'Romeo and Juliet'

Have you ever been in a movie or thesis film?

SH: No. 'As the World Turns' was my first time [being] behind the camera.

How did you hear about the 'As The World Turns' Auditions?

SH: There were posters everywhere about the audition. Every theater major was there. We treated it [the audition] like a job.

How long did you wait in line to be interviewed?

SH: 21/2 to 3 hours

Did you think that you would be picked?

SH: No, not for a speaking role, maybe for a background role or as an extra. I didn't expect to have lines.

How did the interview go?

SH: I was nervous. The casting director (Mary) had dealt with so many people before me at that point. I read a script a couple of times, and she told me all right thanks for reading, and that was it. I didn't think I would get a call

Tell me about the infamous "call-back".

SH: The casting director called me two hours later [after the interview] and I flipped out!

How did family and friends react?

SH: My mom thought it was really great. She was a little apprehensive about me acting at first.

Who is your character on 'As the World Turns'?

SH: As the World Turns is based in the fictional town of Oakdale. The three young stars of the show, Aaron and his girlfriend Lucy and their friend Allison are on the run because Aaron is accused of starting a fire. While on the run they attempt to hide out at different colleges to blend in and not be found. At this point, they become pretty famous with the media and everyone knows who they are. Max, the character I played, is a first year film major at VCU, of course, and attempts to film one of the "Oakdale Three," but is quickly thwarted from doing so and he ends up getting his tape stolen by them. You'll see, the episode should come out the week of November 18.

What has been your inspiration?

SH: Too many things have been my inspiration. I could name people, events or places. I have had directors in school that just open your eyes to your potential, movies that just make it seem like it was so fun to create, and just always in front of an audience. When connections are made with an audience, it's just an amazing feeling. You know why you are doing what you are doing at that point.

Do you watch soap operas?

SH: No, not on a regular basis. I have female friends so I have been updated on 'Days' [Days of Our Lives]. I've never watched As the World Turns. **Who are your favorite actors and actresses?**

SH: Julia Roberts, Kevin Spacey, and Russell Crowe.

What do you do in your spare time?

SH: Spare Time? I wish I had spare time, don't we all. Well now I'm busy with the play, but a lot of my spare time is devoted to physical activity, you know like jogging, gym etc.

What type of music do you listen to?

SH: Does anybody really have a type anymore? I mean there is just so much good music out there, yet again there is some equally just as bad. I like it all I guess. What's not to like? Look at someone like Christina Aguilera, I don't like her music, but damn have you seen the new video? Music is weird, where it's usually lacking in one area, it really makes up for it in another.

Have you received any TV or movie offers since your taping on As the World Turns?

SH: A year and a half ago I was going to be cast in a 'Just Say No' commercial, but I couldn't do it because I became sick. I will be performing in my first full-length play at VCU called The Rivals. The Rivals is a period piece set in the late 18th century. It is a real fun comedy. I can guarantee that the audience will have a good time with this play. There is a definite line between the upper class and middle-class in this play, a play for the absurd. I play the character Thomas, the coachman. The Rivals will go up the first two weekends in November, including matinees.

How would you describe you self?

SH: I feel I can be a very committed person, which therefore makes me very confident. I'm a great person to be around. I say this meaning I'm always up for having fun. You know, I like to laugh, I feel like it brings people closer together. What's good in being around someone with a bad disposition, they'll just bring you down. I guess I'm just very open and compassionate with what and whom I deal with in my life.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

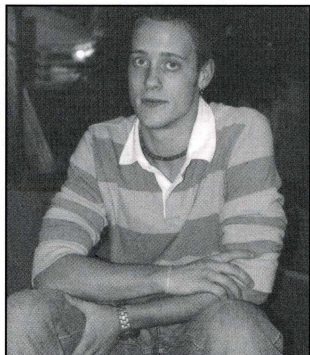
SH: Working [Acting], doing commercials, theatre. It's a very difficult industry you just have to verbally work it.

Have you signed any autographs yet?

SH: My mom jokes about that...no. You're the first person to ask that.

Do you mind signing my copy of 'The Vine'?

SH: Sure (laughing). ☺





instant fame

VCU Professor John Fenn wins the Nobel Prize

by tiara smith

Life will never be the same for Dr. John B. Fenn. Ever since he won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, the 85-year-old VCU chemistry research professor has experienced celebrity and all that comes with it.

"The number of people who send in requests for autographed pictures is unbelievable. I mean, these people don't know me from Adam," Fenn said during an interview with VCU's new television show, VCU Insight.

Fenn, a modest man who still chooses to take the city bus to work, refuses to let this recognition go to his head. Rather, he says he is humbled by the fact that there are thousands of other people who are as good as he but were not quite as lucky as to win a Nobel Prize.

Wister Brooks, a reporter for VCU Insight says, "I think that he's kind of overwhelmed. He says that he's become an instant celebrity."

During the interview, Fenn talked about, among other things, how much he enjoys working with the students. He says it's stimulating talking with them. He also discussed the circumstances that brought him to VCU.

After working at Yale for over 20 years he had reached the age of 70, which meant he had to retire under a retirement mandate that is no longer in practice today. Yale's policy, like many universities, gave their retirees great prestige, but "no privilege," Fenn said. He was able to keep his office but he had to give up his lab space. Fortunately, VCU gave him a lab and the rest is history.

It was at VCU where Fenn would continue his research that would win him the Nobel Prize. He shares this honor with Koichi Tanaka of Japan and Kurt Wuthrich of Switzerland. The awards committee says Fenn's invention of electrospray ionization (ESI); a protein measuring technique will contribute to the development of new medicines to fight diseases.

Tara Cifarelli, producer of VCU Insight says that Fenn is very humble. "He doesn't think that he should be getting all this attention for it. He credits it all to luck. He won't admit that he's brilliant."

Wister Brooks says, "He's a really laid back, cool easygoing guy who just thinks that he got lucky by getting this prize."

Dr. Fenn's interview will air on the premiere episode of VCU insight in mid-January.

So how does it feel to win the Nobel Prize?

"It's like being valedictorian in your graduating class, it's the top honor you can get, it's great."

Three Questions for Dr. Fenn:

Why does he choose to take the bus to work?

"It's so much easier...you ever try to park here?"

So how long does he plan to continue to work at VCU?

Until he gets too old.

What will he do with his prize money?

He doesn't know yet 🤔

athletic success without

From top to bottom, Virginia Commonwealth's athletic program is one of the most impressive in the Colonial Athletic Association. Last year, head coach Paul Keyes led the baseball team to a CAA championship and its fourth trip to the NCAA tournament. This season, the men's soccer team is ranked 18th in the country and tops in the CAA along with winning the CAA championship. Both the men's and women's basketball teams finished in third place in last season.

Group all that with a golf championship in 2001, three All-CAA first teamers in women's soccer and nine consecutive NCAA tournament appearances by the men's tennis team and VCU should have one of the most well recognized programs in the country.

In actuality, VCU athletics is still back page news in its own city. Coach Keyes says, "we don't get the proper respect from the media and the city. [Our program] doesn't get enough play."

Keyes's has one of the best teams in the nation and they play exceptionally well at home. Since 1998 the Rams have won 108 games at home. Despite that success, the support for the men's baseball team is still discouraging.

"We're more well known away from the university in places like Baton Rouge [Louisiana] and California," Keyes explains.

"It's disappointing," he continues. "You can go around campus and people still have to ask where you play."

The Rams won those 108 games at the Diamond and will play 37 more games there this season.

It's definitely hard to pinpoint any particular reason for the lack of adequate support, but Keyes has a few ideas.

"Programs are built by the media," says the sixth year head coach. "Beat writers have to create publicity, VCU's a school where students follow publicity. We try to get publicity by winning games, [but] there are a lot of off campus students and people are busy."

Coach Tim O' Sullivan of the men's soccer team faces the same problem. He says that it's hard for his team to get the respect it deserves.

O' Sullivan's team has been in the nation's top 25 for six years and is recognized as a good program. Even though they get respect from other programs, O' Sullivan admits that it's definitely harder to get the same respect as other schools.

"Sometimes it's easier in the ACC [Atlantic Coast Conference] because it's more visible. It's easier to get that national recognition. We're starting to get that recognition, but it will be more difficult because they're playing good games every game."

It is just as hard for O' Sullivan to get attention locally.

"Most of the local media sends its attention to football and basketball." O' Sullivan says. "We don't get the attention we deserve. But we understand, but still it's a little disappointing."

According to O' Sullivan, a football team, in this situation, serves as a double edge sword.

"There's a good and a bad side to not having a football team," he explains. "The good side is that we don't have to share anything with football. Football is a big financial burden. We don't



digital illustration by tee freeman

lose a lot of money to a football team or compete with it for support."

The bad side would be the lack of notoriety that comes along with the spectacle of a football team.

O' Sullivan says, "our [soccer] program and others expect to be the best in the Colonial. The department looks at itself as a mid-major school without football, but we still expect to be the best in the conference."

But would the battle to be the best be easier with the help of a football team? Maybe, more people would come to games. Maybe, the struggle for attention would be eased. And maybe, just maybe, money would flow into the university.

Dr. Richard Sander, VCU's director of athletics, reveals why that's not quite the case.

First, Sander explains that VCU is indeed one of the best programs in the nation and proves it time and time again in the Sears Cup.

Sander describes the Sears cup as "a program used to evaluate the broad based quality of athletic programs across the country. A championship is awarded to the school with the highest ranking."

"We're seventh in the country among non-football schools in the Sears Cup," says Sander. "Of 100- non-football schools, that's not bad."

So, a football team doesn't necessarily have a direct effect on the success of an athletic program, but it definitely brings in money, right?

"When you have football," says Sander, "it's a tremendous financial commitment to keep it going. While people think it's a big cash cow, for many schools it actually costs."

Just to start up an I-AA program, it would cost \$20-25 million.

Sander uses his tenure at Memphis State University as an example of how tough it is to make a football program successful.

"When I was at Memphis State 17 years ago, the football budget was \$6 million. The team generated \$2.5 million. It ended up costing us \$3.5 million."

Four presidents later, the value of a dollar has changed slightly, but the cost of building a football team remains the same.

According to Sander, "the university isn't allowed to allocate any funds to the athletic department to start a football team. "The university has non-state funds, but can't put them towards football. It's an issue of prioritizing."

Sander reveals what it would take to bring a football program to the university.

"It would take a major university revenue stream to do that. The only way is for a very enthusiastic student body to accept raises in student fees. Other people would get interested, alumni would become interested and corporations would become interested."

Exactly how big would these increases be?

"Ohio State and Michigan's annual budget for athletics is around \$30 million. VCU's is \$7 million. Student fees at these universities is about \$700-800 more."

Sander knows that football isn't the big money-maker it's made out to be, but he certainly doesn't downplay its importance.

"Schools build around football," he says. "Saturdays in the fall, alumni coming back, a traditional American scene. That's something we can't do. Because you don't have football, you don't get recognition. It's hard because we get so far into the school year before we actually start a major sport that our program isn't visible."

It will take a lot of work to get support for a program that may cost each student as much as \$800 more a year, but it certainly isn't impossible. Until then, the athletic department will have to work to maintain the success it has enjoyed for so long.

Sander says, "we've developed a strategic plan of where we are and where we're going and everybody knows what that is. Everybody's working towards it. This is a high quality program with great athletes and coaches and that makes for a lot of fun."



Philos

Philosophie. 3132 W Cary St. Richmond, VA 23221. 804-355-3102

In the heart of Richmond lies an area of vibrant specialty shops with store windows lit to attract the young and the old. While scouring this street, you may pass an antique shop with one of a kind trinkets, or a restaurant graced with the aroma of freshly baked bread. Welcome to Cary Street, a place of diverse measures, something for everyone.

In the year 2000, 3132 W. Cary Street was an abandoned building with a shabby interior. Along came Diane Brozna, and Taryn Lloyd to view available sites for their new business they had in mind. The original ceiling from 1938 still remained, but the rest of the inside needed much work before it could carry the Philosophie name. Some restoration was in order and a dream of building a new business came to light.

Fast forward to today, Philosophie has been standing for two years strong, by two successful businesswomen who know the ins and outs of the fashion business. Specializing in better sports wear, Brozna and Lloyd definitely have an eye for color, texture and overall fabric quality. 700 square feet is (500 retail space and 200 office space) is covered with eminence clothing an accessories adorn by women from their late 20s -70s.

On Fridays and Saturdays, business picks up faster than ever. The doors open at 10 o'clock am and close at 5:30pm Monday through Saturday, and the store's merchandise rolls in on the same schedule. Everyday there is a shipment of new items from jewelry to sweaters. Both owners travel to New York at least five times a year to sample the market for the latest trends, and buy what they think will be the hot item of the season.

These two women do it all, and have no problem with telling you. They are self made, hard workers who don't cut corners. Alterations, steaming, window displays, ticketing items are just a few of the tasks that are done by these two. Alongside the owners, there are two other staff members, and two helpers who keep the store in order. The owners are present everyday, and when looking for new employees, they believe the most important thing in a person is being able to feel comfortable with others and able to present themselves well.

o p h i e

of fashion

story and art by kimberly jackson
page design by chimere c. faulk



If one was to compare Philosophie with another store, it appears to be an upscale Express, yet with the classic styles and cuts of the Gap. Shades of brown and other fall colors are now present on the store's racks. Sizes from 2-14 are sold here. A designer by the name of Eleen Fisher (known for her fine

wools) is one of the great stylish designers the store carries. Her wools are simple, yet have a flare that women of all sizes can wear. A skirt and sweater set was on display and caught my eye with a warm violet shade and brown contrasting top to match. This particular type of wool is very easy to take care of, is washable, and fits well on any body type. It's an excellent choice for someone not trying to be too revealing, but also has a modern edge.

When asked "What's the best selling item of the season?", their eyes widen in delight as they point to a white blouse made of rayue. It comes in black and white, with cuffs and a collar, and is fitted. This one in particular has a line of sheer fabric running through it horizontally. Textures are the next thing Lloyd speaks of. Suede, flocking, and print fabrics are on the top of the list as well. The price range for garments varies.

Sweaters can run anywhere from \$70-200, shirts average \$70, pants around \$110, jackets \$170 and jewelry around \$50. So when looking for first class quality, and sports wear pieces, Philosophie is the place to shop. With an ample range of garments and stylish flare, there is a lot of class found within the walls of Philosophie.



WILLIAMSBURG 50

WASHINGTON 105

VA. BEACH 108

MUNICH 5000



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

by sarah soroui

The time students stuff the last bit of laundry into the hefty bags, yell the last obscenity to the shifty one across the room who has been caught rummaging through your sock drawer twice and who keeps getting water ringlets and chili stains on your thesis has come and gone. It was the time to leave one extreme of living, college life, to quite a different extreme, family life. Holiday time comes around and students begin to herd out back to where they came from, places like Mechanicsville, Springfield, Tidewater, Lahor, Delhi, Islamabad, and Hopewell, to name a few. Diversity is a very prominent feature of VCU and as a result allows us to name places such as Portsmouth with a place such as Salmiya.

For most of us the holidays are a time we typically spend with family and friends. This also doesn't typically require us to travel very far; usually the greyhound or the kid on the second floor can get you there. Traveling out of the state is typically unnecessary, but what if your family and friends lived out of the entire country? For less than three percent of VCU'S students are people from those far way places we only here about in your Survey of (country name here) class. It isn't easy for many of us, ironically in a huge commuter school such as our own, to understand that home means a plane ride and a two layovers in Heathrow or Munich away.

International students in all universities are faced with the sometime difficult decision when the winter break comes around, a decision that may not be based on what your really want to do rather what you can afford to do. Being an international student in it is very expensive compared to the cost of an average in-state student, so paying airfare for three times a year is just another addition to the expenses. On the other hand, being away from people who you love when it is the time to be together can be even dearer. Ahmed Muejed a second year in college, " I am originally from Dubai, but I will be staying in Richmond. I don't really know what I'll be doing. I would go home but I don't have the money."

Talking with a number of different International students that attend Virginia schools, there is a diversity of plans for the one-month recess. Irfan Ahmed, a fourth year student typically goes back home for his break. "I almost always go back to Pakistan for break. The only time that I didn't go was once last year. I went to California then to see my brother." Omer Shaukat also a third year "For break instead of going back to Pakistan, I usually go and stay with my aunt in Florida." Sheherzad Kaleem also a fourth year "this year I'm going to California, but usually I do go to Pakistan. Zeenat Iqbal, fourth year says she isn't likely to go home this year either, "I am going to New York or Washington to stay with her brother or uncle, but usually I go back Bangalor (India). It usually depends on my bank balance though." Ahmed Muejed a second year in college say that, " I am originally from Dubai, but I will be staying in Richmond. I don't really know what I'll be doing. I would go home but I don't have the money."

Though there few in numbers, International students bring to Universities a direct connection to people from very diverse backgrounds. These students have a come al long way to study and learn about another culture with very different traditions. And sometimes they travel a long way to get back.



without writers

the voice of
the student body
fades
away

the vine

meetings Mondays at 6 p.m.
Temple Building Rm 1140
thevine@vcu.edu



So how would YOU answer these four questions?

1. What position does your tradition take with regard to other religious traditions?
2. What position does your tradition take with regard to humanity's relationship to nature? What responsibilities do we have with regard to nature and how are these responsibilities related to your tradition's understanding of spiritual life?
3. What position does your tradition take with regard to women and sexuality?
4. What position does your tradition take with regard to socioeconomic justice?

email your answers to
thevine@vcu.edu

Celebrating diversity

The first ever FESTIVAL OF RELIGIONS

by tiara smith

Learning about different religions doesn't always require signing up for Religions of the World class. VCU's recent Festival of Religions gave interested students a firsthand experience on various traditions from the people who represented them. The event was organized primarily by the Hindu Students Council and co-sponsored by IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship, Hillel, Muslim Students Association, Religious Studies Society, United Sikh Association, Baptist Students Union and many other organizations.

According to Krishna Mukkamala and Shivani Gupta of the Hindu Students Council, the purpose of the event was to unify the religious community at VCU. Over 250 students of all races and nationalities attended the festival in the Capital Ballroom of the commons. Various tables depicting Hindu, Judaism, Christianity, Sikh and Islam through food, pamphlets, books and posters were set up for students to peruse.

The food was all vegetarian and kosher "to accommodate the large number of religious vegetarians in attendance," said the Hindu Students Council. They also said that, "Hindus are primarily vegetarian due to animal rights and moral issues. Also Jews and Muslims only eat kosher meat." The food included samples of baklava, a middle-eastern dessert, and Jewish foods like hummus, matzo crackers, babka and also carrot salad and cucumber salad.

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Later, an interfaith dialogue took place between speakers who represented each religion. Each speaker had to answer four questions about their religions. These questions required them to give a perspective of their religions on other religions, nature, women and sexuality and socioeconomic justice in the world.

Students had varied reasons for coming to the festival. Corey Boone, a VCU senior and Christian said, "I wanted to learn about other religions and see how they felt about Christianity and how strongly they viewed their own religion."

Caroline Todd, a VCU senior and member of IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship said, "Our campus is very spiritual...the whole purpose of this was to enlighten everyone, not just say one religion is better."

Caty Hill, President of Hillel, said that she saw positive reactions from students who attended the festival. She also said, "This was a good opportunity for Hillel to get their voice out there in a positive manner and to let people know what Judaism is about."

After the interfaith dialogue, there was a question/answer session where the audience asked the speakers about their religions' belief of the afterlife, the end of the world, final judgment, and heaven and hell.

According to the Hindu Students Council, this was the first year the event was held. They say they plan to involve even more religious organizations next year.

>> *in retrospect*

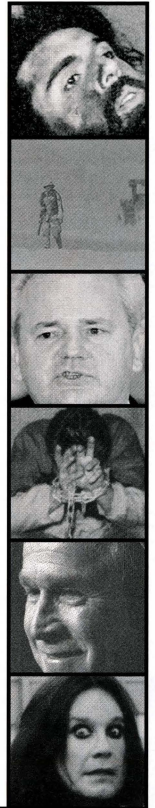
the year 2002 >> at a glance / by chris green

The year 2002 began in the wake of terrorist acts around the world. Surprisingly though, there were few acts of violence, terrorist related or otherwise, at the beginning of the year. The United States was at war in Afghanistan and everything seemed to be getting back to normal. As the year progressed though, the Middle East, especially the country of Israel, began to perform acts of violence towards the Palestinians and the Palestinians to them. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Saddam Hussein began to take a stand against most of the rest of the world over whether he had weapons of mass destruction and whether United Nations Weapons inspectors could begin to tour Iraq again. As the year progressed, Osama bin Laden's Al-Quaida terrorist group seemingly began to pull back together after our best efforts to wipe them out. A new series of bombings began to occur around the world, most notable of which was in Bali.

In our own state of Virginia, budget cuts have affected every student's life. Whether you work for the University and are afraid you will lose your job in the next round of layoffs or you would just like to take a few of the classes you need in the spring, you have definitely felt the cuts. Our state was also host to several horrible murders in October, in which the murderers shot their victims from far away. The shootings even came close to us here in Richmond when a man was shot, not fatally, in Ashland. These events instilled a sense of fear in everyone around northern and central Virginia.

More recently in the year, in November, elections were held here in our country. Unlike Iraq's election earlier this year, ours was not a presidential election and nobody won unanimously like Saddam did. In our election this past November many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate were up for grabs. Although the Democratic Party had control over Congress going into the election, when all the votes were counted, Congress had switched to being controlled by the Republican Party.

It was an interesting year to say the least. It seems that the opposite of whatever we thought would happen occurred. Here is a time line of all the major events that occurred over the year:



theVine's 2002 year in

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01. On January 13, President George W. Bush fainted after choking on a pretzel.
02. At the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia, a student killed three people and wounded three others on January 16.
03. Attorney General John Ashcroft announced on January 16, that John Walker Lindh would be brought the United States to face trial. He was charged with conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens, providing support to terrorist organizations, and engaging in prohibited transactions with the Taliban of Afghanistan.
04. On January 16, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted sanctions against Osama bin Laden, his terror network, al-Qaeda and the remnants of the Taliban. The sanctions required that all nations impose arms embargoes and freeze their finances.
05. Michael Jordan played his first game in Chicago as a visiting player on January 20. The Wizards beat the Bulls 77-69.
06. Kmart Corp. became the largest retailer in history to seek legal protection from its creditors when it filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 22.
07. EMI announced on January 23 that it would pay Mariah Carey \$28 million to end their association, which was planned to last for several albums and was estimated at \$100 million.
08. John Walker Lindh returned to the U.S. under FBI custody on January 23.
09. On January 25 "Les Misérables" played for the 6,138th time to become the second-longest running show in Broadway history. The play "Cats" closed in 2000 with the record of 7,485 shows.
10. A series of explosions occurred at a military dump in Lagos, Nigeria on January 27. More than 1,000 people were killed in the blast and in the attempt to escape.
11. On January 30 Slobodan Milosevic accused the UN war crimes tribunal of an "evil and hostile attack" against him. Milosevic was defending his actions during the Balkan wars.
12. Kenneth Lay, former Enron CEO, exercised his constitutional rights and refused to testify to the U.S. Congress about the collapse of Enron on February 12.
13. The trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic began on February 12, at the UN tribunal in The Hague. Milosevic was accused of war crimes during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.
14. On February 14 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Shays-Meehan bill. The bill, if passed by the U.S. Senate, would ban millions of unregulated money that goes to the national political parties.
15. In Reqa Al-Gharbiya, Egypt, a fire raged through a train killing at least 370 people and injuring at least 65 on February 20.
16. On February 27, in Boston, twenty people working at Logan International Airport were charged with lying to get their jobs or security badges.
17. It was announced on February 28, that John Madden would be replacing Dennis Miller on "Monday Night Football." Madden signed a four-year \$20 million deal with ABC Sports.
18. On March 1, Operation Anaconda began in eastern Afghanistan. Allied forces were fighting against Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters.
19. MTV began airing "The Osbournes" on March 5. The reality television show followed the daily activities of rock musician Ozzy Osbourne and his family.
20. A federal judge awarded Anna Nicole Smith more than \$88 million in damages on March 7. The ruling was the latest in a legal battle over the estate of Smith's late husband, J. Howard Marshall II.
21. Fox aired "Celebrity Boxing" on March 8. During the show Tonya Harding beat Amy Fisher, Barry Williams beat Danny Panofsky and Todd Bridges defeated Vanilla Ice.
22. On March 14, a Scottish appeals court upheld the conviction of a Libyan intelligence agent for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. A five-judge court ruled unanimously that Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi was guilty of bringing down the plane over Lockerbie, Scotland.
23. Burger King began selling a veggie burger in the U.S. on March 15. The event was billed as the first veggie burger to be sold nationally by a fast food chain.
24. Actress Pamela Anderson disclosed that she had hepatitis C on March 20.
25. On March 21, in Pakistan, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was charged with murder for his role in the kidnaping of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. Three other Islamic militants that were in custody were also charged along with seven more accomplices that were still at large.
26. An unmanned U.S. spy plane crashed at sea in the Southern Philippines on March 30.
27. On March 30, suspected Islamic militants set off several grenades at a temple in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Four civilians, four policemen and two attackers were killed and 20 people were injured.
28. Israeli troops surrounded the Church of the Nativity on April 2. More than 200 Palestinians had taken refuge at the church when Israel invaded Bethlehem.
29. On April 7, the Roman Catholic archdiocese announced that six priests from the Archdiocese of New York were suspended over allegations of sexual misconduct.
30. On April 9, Rapper Eminem agreed to pay \$100,000 minus attorney fees to a man who had filed a civil lawsuit against him for allegedly hitting him in the head and face with an unloaded handgun. The man, John Guerra, had kissed Eminem's wife Kim.
31. On April 11, Kid Rock and Pamela Anderson announced their engagement.
32. Actor Robert Blake and his bodyguard were arrested on April 18, in connection with the shooting death of Blake's wife about a year before
33. On April 19, Layne Staley of Alice in Chains was found dead in his apartment of an apparent overdose.
34. The USS Cole was re-launched on April 19. In Yemen, 17 sailors were killed when the ship was attacked by terrorists on October 12, 2000. The attack was blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.



review >>>>



35. The VCU Board of Visitors approved an increase in tuition and fees for the 2002-03 academic year for 6.6 percent to 7.5 percent on April 25.
36. Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes of the singing group TLC was killed in a car crash in Honduras on April 25.
37. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf was overwhelmingly approved for another five years as president on April 30.
38. The final show of the MTV Campus Invasion 2K2 came to VCU on May 1. Bands featured there were Nickelback, Default and Injected.
39. On May 10, Robert Hanssen, an FBI agent was sentenced to life in prison with no chance for parole for selling U.S. secrets to Moscow for \$1.4 million in cash and diamonds.
40. Taiwan test fired a locally made Sky Bow II surface-to-air missile for the first time on May 10. They also fired three U.S.-made Hawk missiles.
41. Dr. Pepper announced that it would be introducing its first new flavor in 117 years on May 10. The new flavor was to be called Red Fusion.
42. On May 12 former U.S. President Carter arrived in Cuba for a visit with Fidel Castro. It was the first time an U.S. head of state, in or out of office, had gone to the island since Castro's 1959 revolution.
43. On May 18, VCU awarded more than 2,700 professional, graduate, and undergraduate degrees at its 2002 Commencement.
44. On May 22 Chandra Levy's remains were found in Washington, DC's Rock Creek Park. She was last seen on April 30, 2001. California Congressman Gary Condit was questioned in the case due to his relationship with Levy.
45. Barry Bonds (San Francisco Giants) hit his 583 career home run on May 22. He tied Mark McGwire for fifth on the all-time list.
46. On May 28, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Phase 3 of the Student Commons was held. More than 125 faculty and students were present. The construction is supposed to be completed by spring 2004.
47. R. Kelly was booked on child pornography charges on Jun 7, In Chicago, IL. He had been arrested two days before and released after posting bond.
48. On June 14, 12 people were killed and 44 were injured when a car bomb was used to attack the U.S. consulate in Karachi, Pakistan.
49. In Jerusalem, a suicide bomber killed 19 people and injured at least 50 more on a city bus on June 18. The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.
50. VCU held commencement exercises on June 27, in Doha, Qatar. This was the first graduating class of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar. Twenty-one students were awarded bachelor's degrees in graphic design, fashion design and interior design. January 9 the U.S. Justice Department announced that it was pursuing a criminal investigation of Enron Corp. The company had filed for bankruptcy on December 2, 2001.
51. In Algeria, 35 people were killed in violent attacks on July 5, the day that the country celebrated its 40 years of independence from France.
52. On July 5 former Nazi SS officer Friedrich Engel was convicted of 59 counts of murder stemming from massacre of Italian resistance fighters on May 19, 1944.
53. John Walker Lindh pleads guilty to two felonies on July 15. The crimes were supplying services to Afghanistan's former Taliban government and for carrying explosives during the commission of a felony. Lindh agreed to spend 10 years in prison for each of the charges.
54. On July 21, WorldCom Inc. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, at the time it was the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history.
55. US Airways announced that it had filed for bankruptcy on August 11.
56. The Charles M. Schulz Museum opened to the public on August 17 in Santa Rose, California.
57. On September 6, in New York, the U.S. Congress convened at Federal Hall for a rare special session. The session was held in New York to express the nation's mourning for the loss on September 11, 2001 and unity in the war against terrorism.
58. The "September 11: Bearing Witness to History" exhibit opened on September 10, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.
59. In Senegal, over 1,000 people were killed when the ocean ferry MS Joola capsized on September 27.
60. On October 9, VCU Professor John Fenn won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
61. Britain stripped power from the Catholic and Protestant politicians of Northern Ireland on October 14, and resumed sole responsibility for running Northern Ireland.
62. On October 16, it was reported that North Korea had told the U.S. that it had a secret nuclear weapons program in violation of an 1994 agreement with the U.S.
63. The Arthur Andersen accounting firm was sentenced to five years probation and fined \$500,000 for obstructing a federal investigation of the energy company Enron on October 16.
64. On October 26 Russian authorities released a gas into a theater where separatist rebels held over 800 hostages. The gas killed 116 hostages and the gas or gunshot wounds killed all 50 hostage-takers.
65. The Anaheim Angels won their first World Series when they beat the San Francisco Giants in Game 7 of the series on October 27.
66. Emmitt Smith of the Dallas Cowboys scored his 150th touchdown on October 27, and became the all-time rushing leader in the NFL when he extended his career-rushing yardage to 16,743. It was his 193rd game.
67. On November 4, the book "Journals" was released. The book is a compilation of diary entries and letters from the 1980's until 1994, written by late Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain.
68. The New England Patriots defeated the St. Louis Rams by a score of 20 - 17 during Super Bowl XXXVI on February 3.
69. The Los Angeles Lakers defeated the New Jersey Nets four games to zero in the NBA Finals.





Words of Inspiration

by: sarah soroui

When I was sixteen-years-old I introduced myself to Toni Morrison and that's when I also became reborn as a writer.

I never thought that five years later I would sit in the front row of the Siegel Center and look up as the lights went out to see her standing before me.

The hush that sustained in that auditorium that night was the same that onlookers of the court may give to their Queen, and very much like a queen to her throne did she take the podium to read to us a passage from her latest manuscript.

My editor asked me to cover the story not knowing that the woman he was asking me to cover was the same woman who had inspired every paper, every column, every story and every illegible sentence that I have ever written. And sitting there looking up upon Toni Morrison, the only writer that inspired me to lift the self imposed sixteen-year-long writers block, I could say that it was nothing less incredible to me. Toni Morrison not only provoked me to be the writer that I am today but also the one woman that I am becoming.

continued on page 19



Truth Telling

Only two and a half weeks left in the semester Angel's advice to you is either take it easy till midterms or survive off of coffee and coca colas to stay up and cram the nights away. Either way I wish the best of luck to all.

With the close of this frosty winter semester I have observed something that happens everyday to both men and women which can be avoided with the simplest rule: Telling the truth. There! The Angel has spoken, but the question is will people act on this. The answer: NO! Of course not. For centuries people have thought that by not telling the truth, manipulating the truth, or even avoidance is an easy way out. Actually, over time lying has become "overrated."

By the term "overrated" I mean lying has become so expanded that it really hurts people than help them. I know we all are no saints and I myself fall in the traps of a lie sometimes. But my mother always taught me that, "whatever you do in the dark will come to light." This is so true. By always telling the truth I have a very close relationship with my mother. Also by telling the truth, I probably got more beating than a little bit.

People, I see this at the gym, in bars, in the classroom- it's festering. It's an epidemic that needs to be remedied. Before writing this article I spoke to a few people on what comes to mind for them when I mention telling the truth. Many respond by saying the exact opposite of what the term stands for. People said the word lying comes to mind, cheating, and deceit. Very negative connotations. But how can telling the truth be bad?

As a society, people are very egocentric. We are self-absorbed. On an average people- and I say people because both men and women are at fault with this. We only care about what is being revolved around us. This could mean the amount of money a person has; the number people are around them, or the car they drive. We take pride in all that can be gone in the blink of an eye. The reason we take pride in these perishable things is because of the compliments we throw off.

This semester I have seen truth telling at it's downfall. It's really sad the amount of ducking and dodging we go through just to avoid telling someone the truth. Another downfall I've seen this year is people who lie to themselves, which leaves nothing but living in a pretentious world. Some lies hurt people more than others. It would be great if we all wore signs over our heads some saying, "Hey I'm only wearing these dreeds cause I like them- I've never listened that soul music." Or "yeah I act like I've been locked up but never entered the projects before." Or "I've never had hair this long so don't think you can run your fingers through it" and my favorite "I really want call you I'm just saying that to be nice"

Nice- that's not nice the nice thing to say is how you feel. It's more emotional on both the liars to remember what they said to whom. And it's emotional on the recipient to catch the person in the act of lying. Some people don't mean to lie. Sometimes we think lying or avoiding situations are for the best. To not hurt the recipient's feelings but like Mom's said, "what you do in the dark will come to light."

The Angel is only speaking from personal experience and through observation this needs to cease - you never know the next person you may lie to may turn out like Marky Mark in Crushed or Lynn Whitfield in Thin Line between Love and Hate. Have a great Christmas vacation.

DESTRUCTABLE CORPSE





photo by randy gaskin

Inexcusable Inefficiency

(Part 1: The Cold Product)

by kevin hite

I've been at school for a while now so I've been around before the budget cuts. And what grabs me the most is that after all the cuts (also the growing of the campus, and an even more diverse student body than before), the university as a whole has full-time staff (excluding student workers) with poor people skills and exerts the inability and/or unwillingness to connect with the students. In my experience, I've found these to be at the top my list:

- The Engineering Department. Fabio Guerinoni was a professor at the University under this department. His failure rate since he had been a part of the university had been troubles with Guerinoni's methods of instructing.

I had Guerinoni's course and he was impossible. He reduced points if programs weren't designed to his liking. Never specifying what we really had to know, he just expected us to be like him.

Numerous complaints went out for years, but finally as of this semester, he's not a part of the Engineering Department anymore. I wonder if they used the budget cuts as an excuse to lay him off rather than telling him that he's a horrible instructor.

- The Housing Department. As the population of out-of-town and out-of-state students grows in the university, there becomes an increasing problem in on-campus housing.

When I first came to VCU, there were only three dorms on the academic campus, Rhoads, Johnson and Gladding Residence Center. There was a small problem then and they moved students into a hotel for that year. But today there are those three dorms, West Broad Apartments, West Grace, Capital Garage Apartments and Coliseum Lofts and they are building another student apartment complex at the corner of Belvidere and Broad. What's funny is that the problem is only increasing because students can't afford to pay the outrageous prices for the newer dorms. West Broad Apartments is \$5500 - \$6000 per 12-month contract PER PERSON and you still have to share the apartment between one to three roommates, go through the awkward-timed fire drills and sign your company in and out like you have to as a freshman in Rhoads or Johnson. Where do they get this price? Somebody please tell me. That's approximately around \$500 a person.

Multiply that by four, that's \$2000 a month. Multiply that by 12 months...that is \$24,000 VCU is making off of the students just in that four bedroom apartment alone (and not from on-campus housing) for one 12-month period.

How can they wallet rape the students like that? The attractiveness of the apartment doesn't live up to the money. They give you a single room with nice thin walls, ceiling fans, wall-to-wall carpet and the usual generic furniture. But they know students come here to Richmond and need a place to stay plus they give you the illusion that you aren't going to be paying bills. They just give you this one uniform flat rate that is due on October 18. If you think all this is worth your yearly \$6000, then you can have my room next year.

- Financial Aid. Do they have the worse attitudes in the world? I see why some of the best of the staff like James Wise and Will Travis (both who were willing to help you out) left. You can always expect this at the Financial Aid Office. You are going to stand in line long enough to get a haircut then they stare you down like you messed up their whole day by coming in to get YOUR money right; then they give you the bad news line...

-- Financial Aid Worker: "VCU isn't going to pay all of your financial aid this year, and the rest of it is due tomorrow."

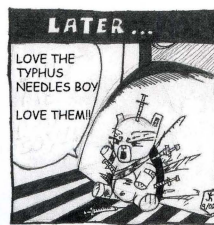
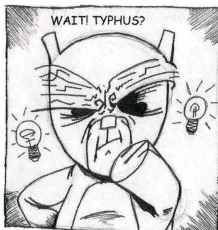
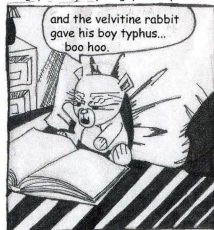
-- Student: "Why not? I don't understand."

-- Financial Aid Worker: "I don't know. Thank you. NEXT!"

That's the normal blow off now.

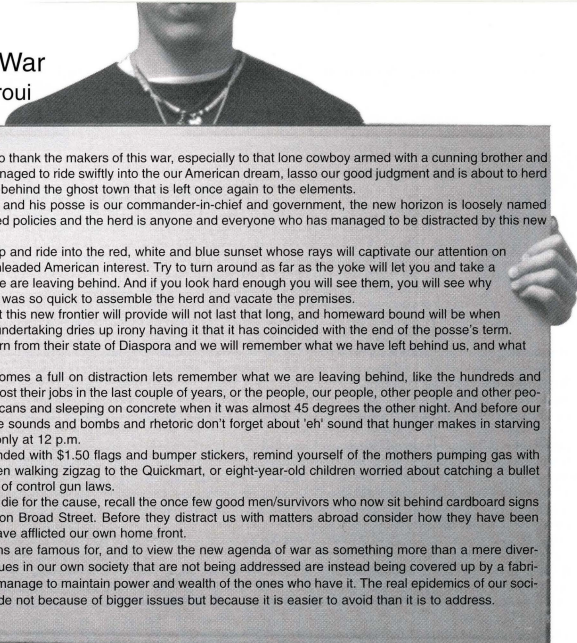
You all may be wondering, "Why don't you just transfer to a different school?" My answer, if I transfer, I'm not helping out my lovely people here from another school. The matrix is everywhere, from one university to the next. I just talk about what I know and what I know is this university.

Angry Teddy: by Angry Teddy



Forget the War

by sarah soroui



Congratulations. I would like to thank the makers of this war, especially to that lone cowboy armed with a cunning brother and an ambitious posse, who has managed to ride swiftly into the our American dream, lasso our good judgment and is about to herd us into another horizon leaving behind the ghost town that is left once again to the elements.

In modern terms the cowboy and his posse is our commander-in-chief and government, the new horizon is loosely named Baghdad, the ghost town is failed policies and the herd is anyone and everyone who has managed to be distracted by this new frontier.

But before we saddle up and ride into the red, white and blue sunset whose rays will captivate our attention on the protection of our unleaded American interest. Try to turn around as far as the yoke will let you and take a glance back at what we are leaving behind. And if you look hard enough you will see them, you will see why the posse of this town was so quick to assemble the herd and vacate the premises.

But the distraction that this new frontier will provide will not last that long, and homeward bound will be when the oil-asis's of our new undertaking dries up irony having it that it has coincided with the end of the posse's term. Our attentions will then return from their state of Diaspora and we will remember what we have left behind us, and what they wanted us to forget.

So before this prophesy becomes a full on distraction lets remember what we are leaving behind, like the hundreds and thousands of people who have lost their jobs in the last couple of years, or the people, our people, other people and other people's people eating out of trash cans and sleeping on concrete when it was almost 45 degrees the other night. And before our ears become accustomed to the sounds and bombs and rhetoric don't forget about 'eh' sound that hunger makes in starving children because free lunch is only at 12 p.m.

Before we are completely blinded with \$1.50 flags and bumper stickers, remind yourself of the mothers pumping gas with the speed of lightning, the children walking zigzag to the Quickmart, or eight-year-old children worried about catching a bullet in the lunch line because of out of control gun laws.

And as they take your family to die for the cause, recall the once few good men/survivors who now sit behind cardboard signs and behind empty coffee cups on Broad Street. Before they distract us with matters abroad consider how they have been avoiding chronic plagues that have afflicted our own home front.

Distractions are what politicians are famous for, and to view the new agenda of war as something more than a mere diversion is a grave mistake. The issues in our own society that are not being addressed are instead being covered up by a fabricated urgent need that will only manage to maintain power and wealth of the ones who have it. The real epidemics of our society are again being put to the side not because of bigger issues but because it is easier to avoid than it is to address.

photo by lee freeman



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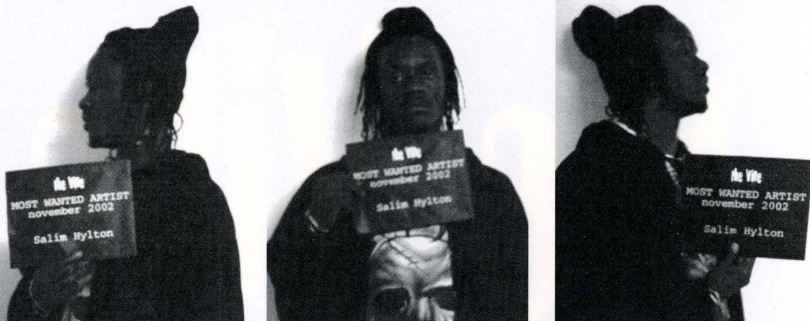
Writings on the wall

once again
the broken pieces
of you
have fallen into my lap
and you smile
when I pretend not to recognize you
you know me too well to know me
go show me again
who I am
resticted yourself into this fabric
bewitch me with your soul magic
hum your charmed tunes
make me swirl dance
on the inside and the outside again
inhale exhale-inhale exhale
like you do
I know you know I hear you
Talking to yourself
To me under your breath
I feel your paintbrush on my face
Dyeing my skin to match your tone
Staining my soul to match yours
I feel your silence when our eyes converse
Your silence when our minds mingle
Your silence
Because you know
we are the same

-saima malik

name: Salim Hylton
 age: 20
 hometown: Washington, D.C.
 status: Sophomore
 major: Film

"A man who toils for money or honor, or whatever else in deference to the wishes of others, rather than because of his own desire or needs lead him to do so, will always be a fool." These are not the words of our featured artist, Salim Hylton, but they are the words he lives by, or paints by, should we say. Whether he's airbrushing a portrait or sketching an image straight from a picture, Hylton remains true to his calling by continuously expressing himself in each piece of artwork.



photos by Joe Freeman

What brings you to VCU?

SH: I was at Columbus College of Art and Design [in Ohio] but I wasn't getting a lot of state grants because I was an out-of-state student, and it was a slow city, so I decided to transfer to VCU. There was more funding here, it's cheaper and closer, and plus VCU's film department is way better.

What projects have you already completed in your major and what do you plan to accomplish?

SH: I've already done a documentary on homelessness: and I've made a music video too. I want to continue making documentaries, specifically about Go-Go music. Go-Go gets wilder than rock, man, and I want to make a film about that. I also want to do a film on alterations in rural neighborhoods.

So you don't intend to pursue a career in "art" so to speak?

SH: I'm always gonna do art. Like, when I got here I hardly had anything in my drawing book, but now it's almost full. I'm just focusing on fill to [broaden my horizons]. Eventually I hope to have my work in fine art shows and galleries.

What types of awards have you won?

SH: I won first place at Future Fest in D.C. in '97 for a watercolor painting. I've won the Superior Court Art Contest two years in a row, in '98 and in '99. In '98, I also won the Congressional Award for a print called "Duke Makes The World Go 'Round." It was a print making of Duke Ellington with planets orbiting him.

As far as airbrushing, how would you describe your style?

SH: Fresh and inventive; I try to airbrush everything on anything. I've airbrushed drawings that I've already had and I've even airbrushed painted art.

What types of things or experiences give you inspiration?

SH: Natural stuff like being at home watching little kids play outside, things that go in the street. You want people to look at your work and reminisce, but through your eyes. They can see through your eyes and hopefully relate, like, "I remember when I was little..."

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find out more about salim and see more of his art at

<http://www.theVine-online.com>



morrison:

Though she is acclaimed for her riveting story plots, it wasn't her stories that inspired me to be a writer. It wasn't because she wrote about the man, who loved a sixteen-year-old, dead by his own hands girl. It was because by then I knew that there were wayward men in this world. Nor was it because the little girl thought blue eyes could make her beautiful. I knew about the standards of beauty, if you looked different from the rest, by then. It wasn't even the little girl who became pregnant because her father confused her for his wife, the one that would hit him over the head with a frying pan each morning when he would wake up drunk, because by then I had heard of incest and bad marriages. It wasn't even because she told stories of men flying or the model who fell in love with the stow away. The inspiration that she

gives is not due to the her plots but rather the way she strings together her words into an outfit which she eloquently undresses as she tells the tale. And each layer of her stories has threads from different time periods, which intensify the readers search for a plot that has deep historical roots. Her stories have not only themes of personal struggle, but also a scheme of social plight and historical repression.

Sitting in the crowded auditorium room with dents and older people alike, it wasn't hard to look around and see faces in awe as she read that night, to know what a great impact that she has had on writers and readers alike.

To call Toni Morrison a storyteller gives no justice to true potency as a writer. It isn't words on page, but feelings,

emotions, love, hate and the whole rainbow that is the human experience articulated into masterpieces of words.

More than a writer, Toni Morrison is a historian, a poet, a lyricist, a musician, a conductor, a psychologist, a prophet and even more.

I realized as her reader that writing is about complete and utter freedom. I have come to see that being a good writer has little to do with rules and more to do with expression.

But perhaps the most valuable thing I have taken from her, as a reader, is how words can not only describe but also inspire.

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