



SPECTRUM: Why is this man yelling?
Page 6.



NEWS: SGA lends helping hand, page 5.



COMMONWEALTH TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Monday, September 24, 2001

Vol. 35, No. 8



VCU back in swing of things

As the rest of the nation slowly begins to return to normal, the focus at VCU once again returns to more scholastic things. Here, Brooke Culliton, a first-year student, hits the books, trying to soak up the last warm rays of September.

Kent Brockwell

Campus Briefs

International film festival continues

University of Richmond kicked off its 13th annual International Film Series Thursdays.

Seven other films will be shown in the following order: "One Day in September" on Sept. 27, 28, 30; "Beau Travail" on Oct. 4, 5, 7; "Solos" on Oct. 18, 19, 21; "Shower" on Oct. 25, 26, 28; "The Silence" on Nov. 1, 2, 4; "Rat" on Nov. 8, 9, 11; and "Me You Them" on Nov. 15, 16, 18.

All Thursday and Sunday showings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Jepson Hall, Room 118, and all Friday showings begin at 3 p.m. in the Adams Auditorium of the Boatwright Memorial Library.

Films are free and open to the public. All are shown in the original language with English subtitles.

Prominent authors read at literary festival

Six authors will read during the University of Richmond's Tucker-Boatwright Literary Festival, which runs various week-ends from Sept. 27 to Feb. 7.

The first author, Nikki Giovanni, will read Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Keller Hall. Giovanni, a contemporary voice of racial pride and family connection, is one of the best-known African-American poets. She has published more than 10 collections of poetry including "The Women and the Men" and "Those Who Ride the Night Winds."

Derek Walcott, deemed the "great poet" of West Indian culture, will read Oct. 18. Walcott has written more than 20 volumes of poetry including "The Gulf" and "Sea Grapes."

J.M. Coetzee, a prominent South African literary figure, will read Oct. 25 at 8 p.m. in Keller Hall. Coetzee has written

seven novels, including "Waiting for the Barbarians" and "The Life and Times of Michael K."

Robert Hass, poet laureate of the United States from 1995 to 1997, will read Oct. 29; Joy Harjo will read Jan. 21; Paule Marshall will read Feb. 7.

Sports, society and leadership

Sportswriter Frank Deford along with NFL Hall of Famer Alan Page and the creators of the museum exhibit "Game Face" are three of several speakers for University of Richmond's Jepson Leadership Forum.

Deford, senior contributing writer to "Sports Illustrated," will speak Oct. 1 at the Modlin Center for the Arts. Deford, deemed the "world's greatest sportswriter" by "GQ," is a regular commentator on National Public Radio.

Other speakers include Herman Boone, James Shulman, Jane Gottesman, Geoffrey Biddle, John Naber, John Beilein and many others.

All events in the forum are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Brian Eckert at 287-6659.

Dance on camera comes to VCU

VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography is hosting a free film screening on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Grace Street Theater, 934 - 936 W. Grace St.

"It's a combination of film and video," said Martha Curtis, chair of the department of dance and choreography. "It's an unusual event that is not available for distribution."

The screening will feature six short films that appeared in the Dance Films Association's 2001 Dance on Camera Festival. Also, the festival will show "On the

Trax," an award-winning work by Martha Curtis.

"Both aspects (dance and video) have innate strengths," Curtis said. "When they are put together, the things that come out are very interesting."

For more information call Valerie Jeremijenko at 828-1711.

Campus Calendar:

Monday, Sept. 24

Program: Learn how to perfect your multiple-choice taking skills, noon to 1 p.m. in the University Student Commons Forum Room. Event sponsored by University Counseling Services.

Program: Dr. Eric Young presents "A Case Presentation" at the Infectious Diseases Conference, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Sanger Hall, Room 8-036.

Meeting: SGA Senate meeting, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Student Commons Forum Room.

Meeting: Join the Forensics and Debate Club, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the University Student Commons Canal Room.

Program: Want to learn how to find millions of research articles using your home computer? Cabell Library presents "Locating Full-Text Research Resources on the Web," 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Cabell Library third floor classroom/lab.

Program: Susan Frankel-Striel will speak at the Progressive Student Community Alliance, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the University Student Commons Commonwealth Ballroom A.

Tuesday, Sept. 25

Program: Learn how to create your own candles! The APB/Mosaic Committee presents "Candle Art Creations," 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Student Commons Plaza.

Program: Dr. Richard Glennon will present "Drug Discrimination: Application to the Investigation and Classification of Psychoactive Substances," noon to 1 p.m. in the Smith Building, Room 224. Event sponsored by the School of Pharmacy.

Program: Learn your way around Tompkins-McCaw Library, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tompkins-McCaw Library first floor service desk.

Program: Learn all you need to know about VCU's on-campus interviewing program, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the University Student Commons, Room 130. Event sponsored by the Career Center.

Program: Cabell Library presents "Books on the Web," 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Cabell Library's third floor classroom.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Program: Frunch — free lunch! Join the Baptist Student Union for a free lunch,

noon to 1 p.m. in the BSU House Sun Room. All are welcome.

Program: Open Mic Night! Join the APB/Expressions Showcase, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the University Student Commons Commonwealth Ballroom A-B.

Thursday, Sept. 27

Program: Help the American Red Cross and Salvation Army. Join the Graduate Student Association for a sock sale. Buy a pair of socks for \$1 and then donate them to the relief effort, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Sanger Hall, first floor.

Program: Learn how to perfect your multiple-choice taking skills, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the University Student Commons Forum Room. Event sponsored by University Counseling Services.

Program: Dr. Reed Humphrey presents "Oxygen Consumption Issues in Chronic Heart Failure," 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Sanger Hall, Room 3-016. Event sponsored by VCU's MCV Department of Physiology.

Program: Curious about makeup trends? Join VCU's Fashion United group for a workshop, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the University Student Commons Forum Room.

Classifieds

SPRING BREAK INSANITY!
WWW.INTER-CAMPUS.COM OR CALL
1-800-327-6013 GUARANTEED LOW-
EST PRICES! ALL DESTINATIONS! FIF-
TEEN YEARS EXPERIENCE! WANTED:
REPRESENTATIVES AND ORGANIZA-
TIONS, EARN TOP \$\$\$.

Looking to earn money for your organi-
zation or yourself? Try Fund-U, a no cost
fundraising program that's easy and reli-
able. Call 1-866-48-FUND-U or visit
www.fund-u.com.

MAKE YOUR OWN HOURS. Sell
Spring Break 2002 Trips. HIGHEST COM-
MISSIONS-LOWEST PRICES NO COST
TO YOU. Travel FREE including food,
drink & non-stop parties!!! WORLD CLASS
VACATIONS. 2001 STUDENT TRAVEL
PLANNERS "TOP PRODUCER" & MTV'S
CHOICE (Spring Break Cancun Party
Program). 1-800-222-4432.

Part time sales person needed for the
Museum of the Confederacy's Admissions
and Visitor Services Desk. Weekend hours
available on a regular schedule. Perfect for
history students or others who are inter-
ested. Please call Eric D. App at 649-1861.
x 32 for more information.

#1 Spring Break Vacations! Cancun,
Jamaica, Bahamas & Florida. Earn Cash
& Go Free! Now hiring Campus Reps. 1-
800-234-7007. endlesssummertours.com.

Aikido of Richmond. Learn effective
self-defense techniques of this authentic
Japanese art in a fun, friendly environ-
ment. Excellent martial art for men and
women. Call 217-9222

HOW TO REACH US

The Commonwealth Times publishes Mondays and Thursdays for distribution around VCU's Academic and Medical campuses and the Fan. Our offices are in Room 1149 of the T. Edward Temple Building, 901 W. Main St. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 842010, Richmond, Va. 23284-2010. Address comments, complaints or suggestions regarding the content of the news, sports and Spectrum sections to Ty Bowers. Address comments, complaints or sugges-
tions regarding any other aspect of the CT to Olympia Meola.

PHONE: 828-1058 or 828-1059

FAX: 828-9201

E-MAIL: CTVCU@hotmail.com

Administration

Olympia Meola, executive editor

Ty Bowers, managing editor

John Messiter, business manager

Advertising Department

J. Michael Fisher, director

Business Office, Advertising Department and Spectrum Department: 278-2008

Production

Carl T. Holscher, production chief

News Department

Holly Clark, editor

Jessica Brown, associate editor

Sports Department

Derek Stamey, editor

Spectrum Department

Nicole Johnson, editor

Photography Department

Kent Brockwell, photo editor

Circulation

Stacy Reed, director

The Commonwealth Times doesn't endorse the advertising that runs in the newspaper.

Bush wants bin Laden, speaks to nation

Olivia Lloyd
CT STAFF WRITER

Osama bin Laden is missing, Taliban officials reported Sunday.

"We are trying to find him and when he is found we will place the ulema's (clerics') decision before him," said Taliban spokesman Abul Hai Mutmaen. "Then it is up to him to leave Afghanistan or not."

Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser, said the U.S. government will not yield to the notion that bin Laden is missing.

"We don't simply believe it," she said.

Bin Laden, notorious for being evasive, has been living in Afghanistan as a "guest" since 1996 and is wanted in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Taliban fights within Afghanistan

According to AP, heavy fighting was reported Sunday between Taliban and opposition forces in northern Afghanistan.

Gen. Abdul Rasheed Dostum, chief of the Jumbish-e-Milli opposition group, said at least 200 Taliban fighters were captured. Other members of the opposition group claimed they captured the district of Balkh province and killed 80



bin Laden

Taliban militia fighters.

An anonymous Taliban official confirmed the fighting but said the opposition group made no gains in the region, according to AP.

From all media reports, the Taliban have spent the past week preparing against possible U.S. attacks. Witnesses and officials said Sunday the Taliban has been busy building bunkers, installing anti-aircraft batteries and arming border patrols in key areas.

There are also reports of the Taliban having Stinger missiles that the United States originally gave the group in the 1980s to aid their war against the Soviet Union.

In addition, media reports indicate that the Taliban officials have begun recruiting tribesmen. Many volunteers have gone forward to help defend their villages, according to Reuters' international news service.

U.S. tracks terrorist network

During an interview on "Meet the Press" Sunday, Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell said the United States is targeting its military action against Osama bin Laden and anyone associated with him, not the innocent people of Afghanistan.

"We are not interested in going after the Afghan people," Powell said. "We are interested in going after Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qaeda network — murderers of over 6,000 people in this incident, murderers in earlier incidents."

Powell said killing bin Laden doesn't solve the problem of terrorism.

"The whole network needs to be ripped up and brought to justice," he said, and that is the first objective of the president.

On Sunday, President Bush waived sanctions on Pakistan and India after both countries agreed to aid the United States

in its fight against terrorism. The sanctions had been placed on both countries for their nuclear testing in 1998.

Taliban officials said their forces Saturday shot down an unmanned spy plane over Tashkurghan and a helicopter near Dara-i-suf, according to Reuters' international news service.

NATO confirmed a helicopter crash but stated that a mechanical error, not an attack, caused the crash.

Mullah Abdul Saleem Zaeef, a Taliban ambassador, said a pilotless drone plane had been downed while taking pictures over northern Afghanistan.

"It made two or three rounds in the area before being shot down," Zaeef said.

Last week, the Taliban declared all Afghan air space off limits.

On Saturday, the United Arab Emirates severed diplomatic relations with Afghanistan's Taliban rulers after the Taliban refused to surrender suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden to the United States without proof of his guilt.

"The United Arab Emirates does not believe that it is possible to continue to maintain diplomatic relations with a government that refuses to respond to the clear will of the international community," an unidentified UAE foreign ministry official said.

Bush talks up economy

President Bush, who last Thursday delivered a speech before Congress, attempted to assuage the country's fear of an oncoming recession during his Saturday weekly radio address.

"The terrorists who attacked the United States on Sept. 11 targeted our economy as well as our people," the president said. "They brought down a symbol of American prosperity, but they could not touch its source."

Despite the recent slump on Wall Street and the airline company layoffs, Bush said, the economy remains "fundamentally strong."

This week the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 1,370 points — its biggest one-week-point drop in history, according to AP.

"We're still the greatest nation on earth," Bush said, "and no terrorist will ever be able to decide our faith."

Once President Bush told Congress that a war on terrorism was drawing near, U.S. officials immediately increased the number of military machines being sent to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

Military on the move

Heavy B-1 and B-52 bombers and "warthog" attack planes designed for destroying tanks and providing close air support for ground forces were making their way to the gulf on Saturday, according to Reuters. Elite Army Special Operations troops were also en route.



Afghanistan

found a crop-dusting manual during a search for suspects linked in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Sources would not release where the manual was found, but the media reported that many officials have concerns about the potential of crop-dusting planes being used for chemical and biological attacks.

The FBI has asked all crop-dusting operators to be on high alert for any suspicious behavior and to keep aircrafts away from major cities and their vicinities.

Money no longer an issue

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld invoked a "feed and forage" law on Friday, which allows the Pentagon to run up financial bills for the offensive buildup, and to call up 50,000 reserve troops for "homeland defense," according to Reuters.

Muslim Turkey said it would allow the United States to use Turkish airspace and air bases, and the Philippine government said it would allow U.S. planes to refuel there. Saudi Arabia, a United States ally during the Persian Gulf War, continues to resist U.S. requests to use a new command center in its country.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan now stand alone as the only two remaining Arab countries to recognize the Taliban as Afghanistan's official government after the severance of the United Arab Emirates.

Late last week, Congress approved a \$15 billion rescue plan for the airlines that have been hit hard because of the decline in customers since the attacks forced them to cut more than 100,000 jobs and about 20 percent of their flight schedules.

The approved plan calls for \$5 billion in cash and \$10 billion in loan guarantees to the affected airline companies. It also limits American and United Airlines' liability for the death and destruction caused by the terrorist attacks and maintains their insurance coverage.

Recovery effort continues

In New York, 10 days after the initial attacks, experienced forest

firefighters were called in to help battle blazes burning in the seven stories beneath the World Trade Center.

Workers had hoped to find survivors inside voids and pockets of air in the rubble, but fire officials said they found the temperatures in the open spaces too hot to sustain life. With the official number of people missing rising to 6,333, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and other city officials still consider the search a rescue effort. No survivor has been found since Sept. 12.

Workers now are bringing in heavy equipment to help remove the 1.2-million tons of debris. A half dozen cranes are pulling out the huge steel I-beams and other heavy pieces to reach people possibly trapped inside the rubble.

"We are just trying to reach some of those people — trying to give their families anything we can get," said one fire captain assisting in the recovery efforts.

Slowly returning to normal

An estimated 35,000 people showed up Friday at Shea Stadium in New York for a Major League Baseball game between the New York Mets and the Atlanta Braves. It was the first game in New York since the terrorist attacks.

Mets players, Reuters reported, wore caps honoring the city's fire department, police and emergency services, Port Authority police and state court officers, while the crowd chanted "USA."

Also on Friday night, movie, music and television stars joined together for a nationally televised benefit show to raise money for the victims of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. The show titled "America: A Tribute to Heroes" was broadcast from candle-light studios in Los Angeles and New York City.

Televised on 31 U.S. broadcast and cable networks, the show was seen in 156 countries around the globe, aired on 8,000 radio stations and on the Internet. Among the entertainers participating were Al Pacino, Halle Berry, Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise, Julia Roberts, Sylvester Stallone, Clint Eastwood, Bruce Springsteen, Mariah Carey, U2, Sting, Willie Nelson and many others.

Listeners and viewers heard stories of fallen firefighters, of victims on the planes and of people trapped in the buildings. According to Reuters, the benefit marked the world's biggest assemblage of broadcast and cable outlets around a single entertainment event.

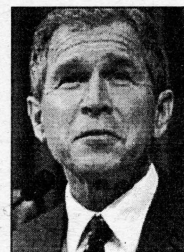
Operation "Infinite Justice"

President Bush, praised throughout the country after his Thursday night address to Congress and the nation, told the military to be ready.

"I have called the armed forces to alert, and there is a reason," he said. "The hour is coming when America will act, and you will make us proud."

The war on terror, Bush said, begins with the Al-Qaeda and won't end until every terrorist group is found, stopped and defeated.

BUSH continued to page 5



Bush

Major in savings.



HP 315 Digital Camera



Canon ZR20 or ZR25 MC Camcorder



Rio 600/32MB MP3 Player



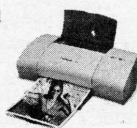
Handspring Visor Edge Handheld

Buy more. Save more.

Buy any Mac and receive a free Lexmark color printer*
(tax and other charges not included).

Now's the time to buy your Mac. They're fast, easy to use, and loaded with features. Express yourself by creating your own iMovies. Use iTunes to rip MP3s from your favorite CDs, or burn custom CDs. Enhance your work with productivity and graphics software. And share files with anyone.

The benefits add up—just like the savings.



Save even more when you also buy these great products:

Canon ZR20 or ZR25 MC Camcorder, HP 315 Digital Camera, Handspring Visor Edge Handheld, and Rio 600/32MB MP3 Player. For each product you buy, you'll receive a \$100 instant rebate.

Take advantage of special student pricing. You can even get an Apple Instant Loan for Education. Buy and save online at the Apple Store for Education: www.apple.com/education/store, call 800-780-5009, or visit the VCU Campus Bookstore at 907 Floyd Avenue, Room 135.

Offer good between July 18, 2001, and October 14, 2001.

* Some purchase required and is subject to sales tax. Offer based on \$69 instant rebate and \$69 Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price for the Lexmark Z53 Color Jetprinter. Offer also good toward \$69 instant rebate for \$199 MSRP on the Lexmark Z53 Color Jetprinter.

© 2001 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Apple Store, Mac, and "Think different" are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. iMovie is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. Other company and product names mentioned herein may be trademarks of their respective companies. iTunes is licensed for reproduction of noncopyrighted materials or materials the user is legally permitted to reproduce.



Authorized Reseller

Students know little about honor system

Sarah Edwards
CT STAFF WRITER

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." This familiar pledge is one with which all VCU students should be familiar, though many may not understand its repercussions.

Students learn from day one that if they are caught breaking the honor code they will be reported to the appropriate authorities—the University Honor Council.

But what happens to students once they are reported?

"I thought VCU had a zero-tolerance policy," said Casey Horton, a second-year

student majoring in social work, when asked what happened to a student who had been accused of a violation.

Melissa Bailey, a senior criminal justice major, Jaime Green and Michelle Kitchen, both psychology majors, all said that they knew students were reported to some sort of council, but had no idea who was on that council or what would happen to an accused student.

Will Mundie, a junior majoring in education, said he knew that there was some sort of trial and appeal process but he did not think VCU does a good job in explaining the honor system to students.

"We had the honor code pressed on us in high school more than we ever had here,"

he said.

VCU's Academic Campus and MCV Campus have two separate Honor Councils. The Academic Campus' council is comprised of four faculty members and three students.

The MVC Council comprises of two students from each department within the individual school and one representative from each graduate department in the School of Medicine and Allied Health Professions. The council consists of seven student-body members and members from at least four different schools, one being a representative from the accused school.

The proceedings vary between the two councils but the concept remains the same.

The accused is notified of the accusations and allowed a hearing before the council. The council then decides the appropriate course of action that is needed and passes down this verdict.

VCU does not release any information to individuals outside the University unless there is written consent of the adjudicated student, or if law requires it.

For more information on the violations, penalties, makeup of the councils or the procedures of the councils, refer to the VCU Resource Guide or review the policies at www.students.vcu.edu/rg/policies and click on VCU Honor System.

Smokers can earn \$\$\$

*Smokers between the ages of 18-50
who smoke at least 15 cigarettes/day
needed for research study*

225-3562

Call Monday – Friday
8am – 3pm

for more detailed information

This study will be conducted in McGuire Hall on VCU's Medical Campus

Principal Investigator: Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D.

Continued from page 3

Taliban asks Bush for additional evidence

He demanded that Afghanistan deliver to the United States all leaders of Al-Qaeda hiding in their land and release all foreign nationals unjustly imprisoned there. He wants the Taliban to protect foreign journalists there, close all terrorist training camps and give the United States full access to the terrorist training camps.

"These demands are not open to negotiation or discussion," Bush told the legislators and the American people. "The Taliban must act immediately. They will hand over the terrorists, or they will share their same fate."

In addressing other foreign governments, Bush warned that any nation harboring terrorists will be regarded as a hostile regime.

"Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists," he said.

The president told Americans of the long battle to come before asking them to be patient, to live their lives and to hug their children. He urged them not to single out people because of their ethnic backgrounds or religious faiths, but to keep supplying victims with contributions at www.libertyunites.org.

Among the special attendees the president honored were five men from the police, fire department and military who aided the initial rescue at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He also recognized Lisa Beamer, widow of Pennsylvania crash victim Todd Beamer who contributed to the crashing of United Airlines flight 93 in a wooded area in Pennsylvania before it could reach the Pentagon.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who visited the World Trade Center site earlier that day, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and New York Gov. George Pataki joined first lady Laura Bush.

During his address the president announced the creation of a new cabinet position and assigned Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge to head the Department of Homeland Security.

"He will lead, oversee and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism and respond to any attacks that may come," Bush said.

At an emotional moment in his speech, President Bush held up and clenched a police badge belonging to New York Police Officer George Howard, who was killed during the collapse of the World Trade Center while trying to save victims trapped inside. Howard's mother gave him the badge, Bush said, and it served as a reminder of those who died.

"Our grief has turned to anger and anger to resolution," he said. "Whether we bring our enemies to justice or justice to our enemies, justice will be done."

After the president's speech, Senate Majority Leader Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and Senate Minority Leader Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., walked to the microphone to deliver their joint Congressional reaction speech.

"Tonight the president asked for our unity; he asked for our support; he asked for our patience," Daschle said. "We want President Bush to know — we want the world to know — that he can count on us." Lott reaffirmed Daschle's statement before describing the unity of Americans.

"Tonight there is no opposition party," he said. "We stand here united, not as Republicans and Democrats, not as Southerners or Westerners or Midwesterners or Easterners but as Americans."

—Compiled from wire reports

SGA opens its doors

Geoffrey Rowland
CT STAFF WRITER

VCU's Student Government Association wants students to know they can contact the SGA for counseling, help or to express ideas in times of crisis.

"Students can call us or just come by the office," SGA Vice President Shivani Gupta said. "We try to make sure there is almost always (a member) in the office during the day."

Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, in New York City and Arlington, Va., the SGA sponsored some special activities to help students cope with the tragedy. For instance, it organized town-meeting forums and a candlelight vigil for students to participate in the day of the attacks.

"We set up forums for students to express themselves on the day of the attacks," said Ben Harvey, the association's president. "We thought that we had to show that (VCU) will persevere."

Conducting these on the day of the attacks, Harvey said, was important to keep students from turning on each other.

"There is (diversity) among the students here," he said, "and the SGA thought it was important to keep students from pointing fingers at other students."

Even though the SGA is not raising funds for the victims, Harvey said student organizations can raise funds, and SGA's members could help those groups with their efforts.

"Alpha Phi Omega is doing a relief drive," Gupta said. "Tri Sigma sold yellow bows on campus and donated the proceeds to a relief fund."

If an organization submitted a plan to

the Appropriations Committee requesting money to help the victims at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the two officers said, the committee would deliberate and vote on that plan.

Since the terrorist strikes, SGA leaders said they only have not focused primarily on counseling and helping other student organizations, but they also have been talking to the Red Cross about a blood drive on campus. Many student organizations on campus already have helped by donating blood, Harvey said, but a drive could attract more donors.

On the day of the attacks, the SGA leaders obtained a list of VCU students from the New York City and Washington D.C., areas. The Division of University Outreach, Harvey said, tried to contact these students to offer counseling services to those personally affected by the attacks.

"If a student wants to come to us we could probably help in finding counseling," Harvey said, emphasizing the SGA's role on campus. "We want the students to know that we are here if they need help in fund drives or counseling."

What part has the SGA had in VCU's evacuation plan?

"We are not familiar with the plan, but it is something we should probably look into," Harvey said.

Senate meetings alternate Mondays from 4:00-5:30p.m. in the Student Commons Forum Room.
Next Meeting: September 24.
(804) 828-7551
sga-vcu@lists.vcu.edu
Timothy Reed, director.
907 Floyd Ave., Room 216

Film crafts creepy tale

Jeff Jones
CT STAFF WRITER



Noble Willingham as Ace Barker in "The Corndog Man."

I didn't know what to expect when I rented this movie.

Initially a friend had recommended "The Corndog Man" saying the movie would tick me off so much that I would want to smash my television while I was watching it and bury the tape deep under the ground. Of course this peaked my interest, so I looked for the tape in all the stores in my hometown, Yorktown, but couldn't find it anywhere. Finally I found the film at The Video Fan, in the cult section.

Originally debuted at the Sundance Film Festival in 1999 and filmed in South Carolina, "The Corndog Man" has developed quite a cult following. Noble Willingham, best known as C.D. Parker from "Walker, Texas Ranger," stars in the film as Ace Barker, a grouchy hick boat salesman. The plot begins to spiral when Barker begins receiving prank phone calls. Later the prank calls become disturbing and send Barker's life out of control and revealing his secret past.

The dark material provides for some funny, dramatic and creepy moments. The plot twist contains one of the most disturbing pieces of footage that I have ever seen. "Corndog Man" is frustrating to watch at times, as I was initially warned. But my girlfriend's television is still in tip-top shape and the tape was safely returned to the store.

I'd say if you have a penchant toward independent film or are looking for something on the weird side, this movie is for you.

You can find "The Corndog Man" at:
The Video Fan
403 Strawberry St.

Other films by writer/producer/director Andrew Shea include: "Sante Fe," "Children of a Lesser God" and "Take My Breath Away."

NY poet honored

Laura Guiser
CT STAFF WRITER

The Fourth Annual Levis Prize Reading Awards took place Friday. The award was given to Nick Flynn for his first book, "Some Ether," published by Graywolf Press.

The award was established in 1998 in memory of Larry Levis, a beloved poet and teacher at VCU who died in 1996. The awards are given annually to celebrate an author's first or second book of poetry published the year before.

Flynn, now living in New York City, has been the recipient of many awards, including the 1999 PEN/Joyce Osterweil award for poetry and a 1999 Discover the Nation Award. Before appearing in his own collection, Flynn's poetry was published by the Paris Review, Ploughshares and The Nation.

The award show featured an intimate

reading done by Flynn. He read a number of poems, mostly from "Some Ether." But he also read a few new poems that

are scheduled for publication next year.

A few of his poems, such as "And Then, And Then," had a light air of humor to them, with lines such as, "A lot of people looked like Jesus then," referring to the 1970s.

However, many of the poems took more of a melancholy stance. Poems such as "Angelization," though written before the recent tragedy, remind us of the Sept. 11 tragedy with eerie passages such as, "When the plane goes down, we search the wreckage for the black box."

For his next book, Flynn's inspiration is a man named Huber. Huber was a blind beekeeper who discovered many facts about honeybees. With such titles as "Blind Huber," "Workers" and "Hive," the poems reveal the intriguing life of a bee. When asked what his favorite children's book was, Flynn replied, "The Magic Monkey."

"I think I have the only copy," he said.



Nick Flynn, 2001 recipient of The Fourth Annual Levis Prize.

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES THAT ARE CLEAR AND CONCISE. EVEN IF OUR NAME ISN'T.

Aside from our name, we've always been in favor of making things simple. So contact us for smart, easy investment techniques to help you reach your financial goals.

TIAA-CREF.org or call 1.800.842.2776



Managing money for people
with other things to think about.™

RETIREMENT | INSURANCE | MUTUAL FUNDS | COLLEGE SAVINGS | TRUSTS | INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc. and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc. distribute securities products.
© 2001 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), New York, NY 0820

TRUE OR FALSE?

**25% OF PEOPLE SAY THEY CAN DETECT THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN HOW EACH NOSTRIL PERCEIVES SMELL.**

**AMERICANS EAT APPROXIMATELY
350 SLICES OF PIZZA PER SECOND.**

**7 OUT OF 100 AMERICANS HAVE
FLOSSED THEIR TEETH WITH THEIR HAIR.**

**MEN BURP 4.7 TIMES PER DAY
WHILE WOMEN BURP 2.1 TIMES PER DAY.**

**8% OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE NOT
WATCHED T.V. IN THE LAST WEEK.**

**COLLEGE STUDENTS DRINK, ON AVERAGE,
FEWER THAN ONE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE A DAY.***

**ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR AMERICANS
HAS APPEARED ON TV.**

**3.9% OF WOMEN DON'T WEAR ANY UNDERWEAR.
6.4% OF MEN GO COMMANDO.**

© 2001 Anheuser-Busch, Inc. St. Louis, MO

*SOURCE: CORE INSTITUTE 2000

**GUESS WHAT? EVERY ONE OF THESE IS TRUE. MOST IMPORTANTLY,
COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE MAKING RESPONSIBLE CHOICES ABOUT DRINKING.
THANKS FOR MAKING INTELLIGENT CHOICES THE NORM.**

ANHEUSER-BUSCH
Companies
www.beeresponsible.com

 **THE 200+ PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
LAND-GRANT COLLEGES (NASULGC)**
www.nasulgc.org

For this new war: Bush may be best

Here we go again. I've got more to say about what is being termed the "War Against Terrorism." As a newfound sense of national pride sweeps our nation over the Sept. 11 tragedy, our society still needs to realize who the enemy really is.

For example, University of Virginia football coach Al Groh had to apologize for a statement he made during a press conference. Incidentally, Groh is the former head coach of the National Football League's New York Jets and according to the Fox Radio Network, has many former neighbors and friends missing in the aftermath of the World Trade Center collapse.

Groh's comments came after he was asked about his feelings about flying to this past weekend's game at Clemson, S.C. This is what he had to say, according to a report in the Washington Post: "I think, as far as the hijacking issue is concerned — I'm not saying this to make light of it, by any means — but I'm not planning on having any Arabs in the traveling party. So therefore I think probably that the threat of our being hijacked is fairly remote."

Did Groh say what most Americans are thinking or did he just have a momentary lapse of reason? We have all said things that make us think, "Did I really just say that out loud?" I think I've actually written things in this column over the past two years that have made me second-guess myself in addition to regretting spoken words.

Incidentally, Groh apologized for his remarks and it should probably be left at that. What I'm actually intrigued with in this situation is how our nation is viewing this new possible form of racism that is going to arise from the ashes of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

As I thought about this, I put myself in a hypothetical situation. If I was on an airplane with four to six Arabic-looking passengers, would I get off of the plane before it took off? The more I think about it, the more I really don't know what I would do.

Just to give my readers some background about myself, I come from a multicultural family. My father's side of the family is predominately black with some traces of Cherokee and Apache Indian. My mother's side of the family is predominately Irish and my stepmother's family is from Canada. I was raised to be very proud of my unique cultural make up and to respect, learn and befriend those different from myself.

I was raised in the suburbs of D.C. but for four years I went to school in the city. At this particular school, I was exposed to Judaism, as well as Islam. One of my closest friends is from Afghanistan while another one is about as white middle-class American as you can get.

Now that you, the reader, know all of this, maybe I can help you see my point of view. So, do I get on that airplane? I think I would get on the plane, but I would be nervous the whole time.

I have to say that I have been most impressed with the way the president has handled himself throughout this time of crisis. In addition, Governor Gilmore and New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani have been equally impressive. Anyone who thought Bush was an idiot should think again. He has been strong in keeping this nation together.

One advantage the president has is his supporting staff. Some of his advisers include his father, a former president; Colin Powell; and Vice President Dick Cheney. The president has appeared to be a real leader in the face of crisis. His speeches have appeared to be sincere and his overall demeanor shows compassion.

I was not a Bush fan, but I have to say that I am thankful that Al Gore is not the president right now. I think that if Bush keeps up the good work, he may find himself re-elected in a few years.

Rocky Mountain Collegian (Colorado State U.)

U.S. should support Bush

(U-WIRE) FORT COLLINS, Colo. — He was elected by the narrowest margin in United States history. Now 87 percent of the country is behind him.

In the midst of the worst disaster in the history of this country, President George W. Bush is finally finding his true voice. Traditionally, our president has not been known for the power of his oratory; he suffers from malapropisms and he doesn't always appear to grasp the weight of what he says. Read: "... hunt down and find those folks who committed this act." Not exactly Churchillian.

Nonetheless, this president has certainly come into his own since Sept. 11 and his commitment is evident in his speeches. Those who doubted his gravitas before can doubt no longer - he was eloquent, forceful and inspiring.

Bush declared that neither he nor this country would be cowed by terrorism. He issued an ultimatum to Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and to the world: "Every nation has a decision to make. Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists."

Whether we all agree with him or not, and some of us don't, Bush deserves the overwhelming support of the nation. He needs it, not only because of the way he has handled himself but because of the implications of what he has done and will con-

tinue to do. If we are not united behind our leader, how will he - or anyone - get anything positive done?

Bush is already receiving support on an unprecedented level from Congress, which has shoved aside its traditional partisan bickering. In an extraordinary move, Sen. Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) offered a joint statement with Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), expressing their unconditional support. As the latest poll by Zogby International suggests, Bush has the support of the country, as well - 87 percent of those polled last Monday said they support Bush's handling of the terrorist situation. Similarly, 81 percent say they are confident in the president's ability to handle the crisis, while 88 percent believe the U.S. government will find those responsible for the attacks.

But even that 10 to 20 percent minority needs to stand behind Bush. He has already said we are at war, and especially in wartime we must support our president and his decisions and actions.

Though many of us may not completely agree with the military action and other violence Bush may consent to in the coming months, he is truly our leader, someone who could finally bring this country and the world to peace. It is up to us to support him in that astonishing endeavor.

CommonwealthTimes

EDITORIAL BOARD

Robb Crocker — Editorial Editor
Olympia Meola — Executive Editor
Stacey Reed — Circulation Director
Amul Madan — Writer

The opinion section of the Commonwealth Times is a forum open to the public. Virginia Commonwealth University students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit letters and columns expressing their opinions and concerns. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth Times or VCU. Editorials represent the institutional opinion of the Commonwealth Times.

We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.
CTE-mail: CTVCU@hotmail.com. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building.

Lamar Gary • University Blues

