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# THE Commonwealth TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

THURSDAY  
January 31, 2002

Vol. 36, No. 4

## Student leaders lobby for activity fee hike

Juan Lizama  
CT STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association wants to provide more funding for student activities, including possible future requests for funds from additional organizations.

The SGA has made a recommendation to raise student activity fees to meet its funding objectives.

Ultimately the university will decide if student fees will be raised.

If the university accepts the recommendation, the increase takes effect this fall.

The Appropriations Committee allocates 77 percent of student fees to fund the activities of eligible student organizations. The other 23 percent goes to VCU's Student Media Commission.

SGA members Melanie Owes, director of communications, and Steven Bowen, director of financial affairs, were the chief presenters of the recommendation at the meeting.

According to the resolution sponsors, the university fee has increased \$349 in the past 11 years, while the student activity fee has increased just \$2 in the same period.

The recommendation calls for the fee to increase from \$22 to \$45 per semester for full-time undergraduate students; \$3.30 per credit for part-time undergraduate students; \$8 for full-time graduate students per semester; and \$3.30 for part-time graduate student credit.

Eligible organizations can allocate those funds to pay the fees for speakers, bands, equipment, promotions and travel expenses

to conventions, among other things.

The fee increase is needed, Owes said, to keep pace with students' activities.

For example, she said, funds to pay travel expenses have been reduced, allowing only three or two students to travel on organization business. In years past, up to five students could travel using activity fee money.

Yet, not all students are in support of the proposal.

Andrea Procher, a nursing major, said she is against the resolution.

"I'm not going to pay for somebody else's expenses," said the part-time student.

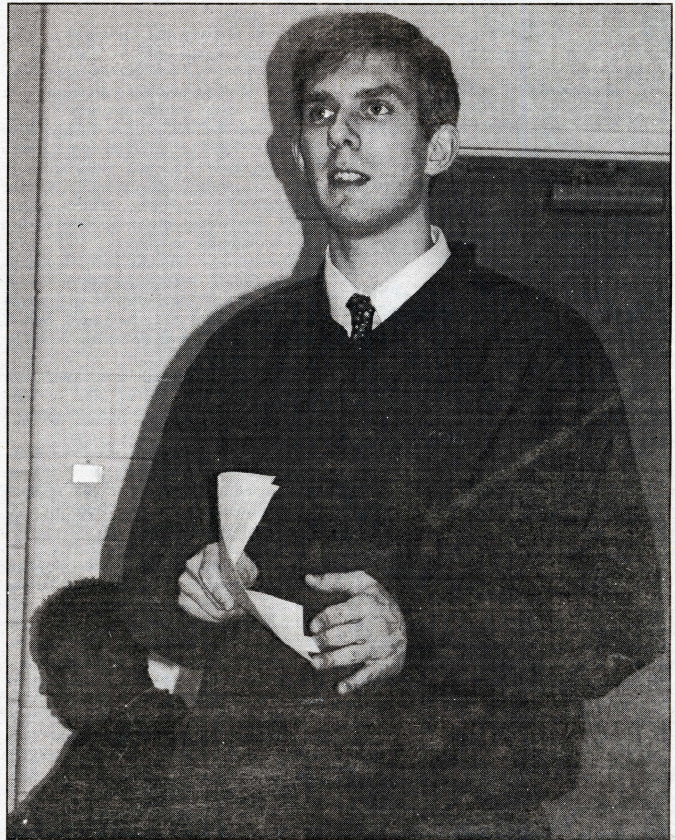
She said all students may have to pay but not everyone participates in the activities. If she belonged to an organization, Procher said, she would organize fund-raising events to cover the expenses rather than hit up the SGA for money.

Chemistry major Tiffany Smith said she has planned for an increase because of the economic recession the country is facing.

"I personally don't mind because most things VCU does are beneficial (to the students)," she said.

Organizations that are categorized as political, religious or social fraternities or sororities are not eligible for funds, according to the Appropriations Committee guidelines. But that may change soon, Owes said.

The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision that would make all organizations eligible for funds regardless of their category. That means 40 additional organizations will be asking for funds to appropriations, Owes said.



Kent Brockwell

Steven Bowen makes the case for raising student activity fees at Monday's SGA meeting.

## State budget cuts could mean tuition increases

Holly Hobbs and Olivia Lloyd  
CT NEWS EDITORS

Budget cuts proposed by Gov. Mark Warner to counter the state's deficit could create hard times for VCU.

In an e-mail sent to VCU administrators, President Eugene P. Trani described the impact of these cuts as "very serious."

"For Virginia Commonwealth University, the proposed cuts, combined with likely tuition increases, will mean a reduction of \$5.3 million in spending this fiscal year," Trani said in an email statement, "and a reduction of approximately \$14.3 million in spending in each of the next two fiscal years."

Before leaving office, then-Gov. Jim Gilmore proposed a tuition increase to offset a portion of the budget cuts, according to Trani.

"For VCU, this recommendation would have permitted us to increase tuition by 8 percent of our in-state undergraduate rate, or \$200 per student," Trani said.

According to Ellen Qualls, Warner's press secretary, Warner's budget plan would cap tuition for undergraduates at 5 percent.

Also under Warner's budget plan, cuts to all state organizations would increase over the next two years, starting with a 3 percent cut this fiscal year, 7 percent in the 2002-2003 fiscal year and 8 percent in the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

"Gilmore would have allowed a tuition increase of 6 to 17 percent," Qualls said.

VCU students could also see an activity fee increase next semester. A recommendation from Student Government Association members Melanie Owes, director of communications, and Steven Bowen, director of financial affairs, would raise fees to more than twice their current rate.

"It's probably not the only choice they have, but I guess it's the easiest choice," Kelly Ledbetter, a nursing major at MCV, said. "I guess this is the easiest way to raise money. College is a business."

Other students, like Lori Haase, are paying for their own education.

"Education should be free," said Haase, a psychology major. "It could be worse, tuition isn't all that expensive."

According to Ed Blanks, vice provost for academic administration, everyone will feel the affects of the governor's budget cuts.

He said classes, which are currently offered, might not be available in the future. Also adjuncts, a professor who is on salary but not on staff, might be teaching more classes.

Currently planned construction projects on campus will go on as scheduled and will not be affected by budget cuts, Blanks said.

"We're not seeing any pressure to lay people off," Blanks said referring to current VCU faculty and staff.

"In Governor Warner's proposal there was no indication of a raise for state employees," Blanks said adding, "there are no salary raises scheduled for faculty."

Plans for coping with the proposed budget cuts are being formulated by VCU staff, according to Assistant Vice Provost of Finance and Administration Dianna Chinnici. She said VCU's reduction plans would be submitted to the state in early February.



# IN BRIEF

## CALENDAR

Thursday  
Jan. 31

**Sevendust** with Gravity Kills and Flaw perform at the 9:30 Club. Doors open at 7:30. Tickets are \$20.

**On-Campus Interviews/Car-reer Connections** available 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Student Commons Room 130. Get connected with employers visiting the VCU campus.

**Angry Johnny and The Killbillies** perform at Swingers. Show starts at 9 p.m.

**Wheelbite, Municipal Waste and Automation** perform at the In the Wall. Show starts at 10 p.m.

**Busta Rhymes** performs at the Nation. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Friday  
Feb. 1

**Bo Diddley** with Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun perform at the 9:30 Club. Doors open at 7:30. Tickets are \$25.

**"Aftermath: Artists Respond to the September 11, Tragedy"** at Artemis Gallery, 1601 W. Main St. through Feb. 8. For more info call 254-2755.

Saturday  
Feb. 2

**Ferris Bueller's Day Off** is playing at the Byrd Theater. Show starts at midnight.

**Sterophonics** with JJ72 perform at the 9:30 Club. Doors open at 7:30. Tickets are \$15.

Sunday  
Feb. 3

**New Faberge Gallery Opens** at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The museum's world-renowned permanent collection of Fabergé and other Russian decorative arts is presented in a new gallery display, along with some objects recently received as gifts. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday 11-5, Thursday 11-8.

THE Commonwealth  
TIMES

**A computer virus disguising itself as an e-mail containing party photographs has infected scores of students' computers at Virginia Tech and Duke University.**

Students who earlier this week mistakenly visited the web site, www.myparty.yahoo.com, were peppered with hundreds of e-mails with the subject line, "New photos from my party!"

Once alerted of the virus, dubbed W32/Myparty.a@MM, Duke officials installed a filter on its McAfee anti-virus software program that caught about 100 e-mails per minute containing the bug. Virginia Tech, which uses Norton Antivirus software, also reported similar activity.

The schools' officials said the virus spread rapidly across the campuses because users mistook the bug for an Internet link, rather than an attachment. School technicians, however, do not think the virus is dangerous.

Still, the program will install a backdoor in systems with Windows 2000 or Windows XP that allows hackers to access a user's hard drive.

Warnings to students are basic. Officials urge them to exercise commonsense when opening e-mails and not to open correspondence from an unknown entity or with a vague subject.

**The Richmond City Police Department is looking for new clues to old cases.** The department's Web site includes about 30 homicide cases, which are several months to several years old. The Department doesn't have any current leads and is posting the cold cases on their site in hopes to uncover new clues.

Anyone who believes they may have information that could assist with a case is asked to call the Detective Division at 646-6741.

**The University of Virginia's potential involvement in the University of Arizona's large binocular telescope project has ignited opposition from numerous environmental and Native American rights groups.**

The furor has stalled a final decision by U.Va. on the project which, if joined, would allow the university research access to the as-of-yet unbuilt Mount Graham, Ariz., telescope.

The Apache Survival Coalition issued a letter to U.Va. President John T. Casteen III last December in opposition to the project. In the letter, the group said the university's participation would be an "assault on Native American people, their culture and their religion."

The activist groups' concerns have gained the support of many U.Va. student groups, who are especially concerned that the project would threaten an endangered subspecies of red squirrels on the Arizona mountain.

U.Va. astronomy department officials said they wonder why activist have waited until now to air their concerns for the squirrels' safety.

The squirrels had been legally hunted until 1985, and a paved road, summer homes, an artificial lake and communication facilities have already been built on the mountain, said department Chairman Robert Reed, who downplayed the Apache group's plight to halt

the project.

No final decision on the fate of the project has been made.

**Starting this month printing quotas to limit lab users to less than 1,250 sheets of paper have been established by George Washington University in Washington D.C.**

After this semester the quota will be lowered and students will be charged for each page above that amount. According to Michael Peckman, Center for Academic Technologies Labs, the quota is aimed at cracking down on wasteful printing because his department no longer has the budget to support all free printing on campus.

Two years ago, university Librarian Jack Siggins and CATs officials discussed implementing a 250-page quota with a 10-cent a page charge after that. The Student Association passed a resolution last fall criticizing the idea of charging for paper.

Peckman said he does not have the budget to allow free student printing because of "technology-politics." CATs manages all campus computer labs except in the residence halls, some classrooms and upstairs library labs.

Peckman said George Washington University has pushed to charge for student printing during discussions "for quite a few years."

Siggins said Law School labs were the only ones charging for printing before, leading some law student to take advantage of the library's free printing.

"Just yesterday there was a law student who printed out a security exchange document and left it there. It was 1,000 pages," Siggins said.

Peckman said the money used for free printing paper could be spent on services rather than supplies.

CATs reports that 16,000 clients used the CATs labs last semester, 93 percent of which printed 1,250 or fewer pages. Peckman said the 7 percent who printed 1,251 or more pages consumed almost half of CATs' printing resources.

Peckman said the average student printed 314 pages last semester.

"If a limit affecting 6.6 percent of the population is implemented, it should be well received by the remaining 93.4 percent since their computing dollars are in essence funding the needs of the minority," Peckman said.

**Governor Jeb Bush's daughter was charged with prescription fraud Tuesday after she was arrested at a pharmacy drive-thru window while allegedly trying to buy the sedative Xanax.**

Jeb Bush and his wife, Columba, issued a statement saying they were "deeply saddened" by the incident involving their only daughter, 24-year-old Noelle.

A Walgreens pharmacist called police while Noelle Bush was waiting in her Volkswagen in the drive-thru lane Tuesday morning, according to a Tallahassee, Fla. police report.

Monday night, a woman claiming to be a doctor called in a prescription for Xanax for Noelle Bush, police said.

The police report said a colleague of the doctor, Dr. Noel Scidmore, said he was no longer practicing in Tallahassee and the phone-in prescription should be treated as fraudulent.

Pharmacist Carlos Zimmerman said Noelle Bush called the pharmacy to ask about the prescription and was told it couldn't be filled because no quantity was given, according to police. Someone claiming to be Scidmore called back and gave a quantity. When Noelle Bush called back she was told the prescription would be ready in about 40 minutes, according to the report.

Noelle Bush later admitted to the police that the contact number for Scidmore that was left on the pharmacy answering machine was her second home phone line.

Xanax, a sedative similar to Valium, is typically prescribed for anxiety or sleep problems.

Noelle Bush graduated from Tallahassee Community College in 2000 and attended Florida State University during the 2000-2001 academic year but is not currently enrolled, the university registrar's office said.

Jeb and Columba Bush had said previously that one of their three children struggled with a drug problem following Bush's unsuccessful first run for governor in 1994. They did not say whether it was Noelle or one of her brothers.

President George W. Bush's twin daughters, Jenna and Barbara, have been charged with underage drinking. The charges were dropped after the twins performed community service, attended alcohol awareness classes and paid \$100 fines.

A separate underage drinking charge in April against Jenna Bush went on her record as a conviction because of the earlier violation. A judge fined her \$500 and suspended her license.

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# NEWS

## Flag salute remains

**George Templeton**  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

It's final. Members of Virginia's House of Delegates will continue to open each day's session with the Salute to the Flag of Virginia, and many delegates say they are eager to deal with other items on the agenda — especially the budget.

Within hours after the 2002 session opened Jan. 9, the House unanimously voted to begin each day with the flag salute and the Pledge of Allegiance. Debate later pursued about the wording of the salute until mid-afternoon Tuesday, when the delegates were called upon to amend the rules so they could stop saying the flag salute.

That amendment failed by two votes, 50-48.

"This whole situation has been very burdensome," said Delegate Mary T. Christian, D-Hampton, who authored the amendment that would have ended the practice of saying the salute. "We wanted to move from the past to a new Virginia."

Before voting on the amendment, House Speaker S. Vance Wilkins, R-Amherst, worked with the Legislative Black Caucus to help form a bipartisan commission to write a new salute.

"He (Wilkins) went beyond the call of duty," said Delegate Fenton L. Bland Jr., D-Petersburg. "He extended an arm out to the Legislative Black Caucus, and I was very pleased with how much he worked with us."

Members of the Legislative Black Caucus took issue with the wording and the author of the salute, Cassye Bonner Gravely, a member of the United Daughters of Confederacy.

"There is something within me that causes me not to say the pledge," said Delegate Lionel Spruill Sr., D-Chesapeake. "It brings back memories. We won't say the words, but we will stand here and respect the flag."

House Majority Leader H. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, pointed out that people are flawed and that the good things shouldn't be wiped away because of the bad things they believe. Griffith then read passages from the writings of Francis Bellamy, author of the Pledge of Allegiance:

"There are races, more or less akin to our own, whom we may admit freely and get nothing but advantage from the infusion of their wholesome blood. But there are other races we cannot assimilate without a lowering of our racial standard, which should be as sacred to us as the sanctity of our homes."

Griffith said Bellamy's words were difficult for him to read because he finds them offensive.

"If we are going to be consistent then we shouldn't say the Pledge of Allegiance," he told his fellow delegates.

Delegate Winsome Earle Sears, R-Norfolk, didn't vote the first time around, but she was there for the second vote.

"Thank god it registered the second time," said Sears, the only black female Republican in the House, who later called the passages Griffith read "eye-opening."

Hopewell Republican Delegate Riley E.

Ingram said he voted with 46 other Republicans and two Democrats to keep the salute after talking with some of his constituents.

"No one — black or white — that I talked to saw anything offensive at all," Ingram said. "I can see where people wanted to change the state song because of certain references in it. I voted for that, but I didn't see anything wrong with the salute. The

people of my district sent me here to vote my conscience. That's what I did."

With the vote now history — at least for this year's session — the legislators expressed a desire to move on to continue doing the people's business.

"I am not disappointed with how the vote turned out

because we got more positive votes than I anticipated," Christian said. "We took the issue to the floor and voted our conscience, and the issue is closed for right now."

Bland said House members have a lot of work to do with the 1,198 budget amendments before them.

"Even in this budget year we have \$4.6 billion in amendments to consider," he said. "I wasn't sent here by the people of the 63rd District to deal with a flag."

**"E**ven in this budget year we have \$4.6 billion in amendments to consider. I wasn't sent here by the people of the 63rd District to deal with a flag."

**Delegate Fenton L. Bland Jr., D-Petersburg**



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## Rodney comes home

Bring your dancing shoes and plenty of school spirit for VCU's first university sponsored homecoming.

Started in the 1980s, VCU has held homecomings in the past but wants to establish a new annual school tradition said Felicia Keelen, associate director of student activities.

"This is a starting point," Keelen said. "We hope to build campus spirit."

The events kick off on Friday, Feb. 8, when VCU's Lady Rams take on Hofstra University at the Siegel Center and continue on Saturday, Feb. 9.

The homecoming theme, "Weekend at Rodney's," is a spin-off of the movie "Weekend at Bernie's."

"Rodney is the name of the VCU mascot," Keelen said. "Not many people know that so we're trying to promote that."

Sponsored by the VCU Athletic Department, University Student Commons and Activities, the Student Government Association and others, the event has an itinerary that includes everything from tailgate parties to a parade.

Some of the scheduled activities include a slam dunk contest, a pep rally and a spirit competition, where members of registered student organizations and groups can paint windows in the Commons, show off their chalk writing skills and decorate cars for the tailgate party said Keelen. There will also be special performances by Mello-D & the Rados and Carbon Leaf.

The festivities wind down Saturday

night with a VCU night on the town. Cover charge is free to students with a valid VCU card at Radius, Catch-22, Have a Nice Day Café and Tiki Bob's. Shuttles will be provided to transport students to and from the clubs.

For more information visit the Homecoming website at <http://www.students.vcu.edu/activities/homecoming.html>.

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## VMI policy draws scrutiny from NOW

FROM NEWS SOURCES

VMI's policy to force any cadet who becomes a parent or married to resign from the institute came under the fire of the Virginia chapter of the National Organization for Women.

The policy was established after one cadet became pregnant.

NOW cites the VMI rule as unconstitutional sexual discrimination.

Lt. Col. Chuck Steenburgh, public relations director for VMI, said the Federal Justice Department requested that VMI issue a written policy concerning future pregnancies.

Steenburgh said VMI would have rather dealt with pregnancies case by case to assess each situation according to its cir-

cumstances.

NOW representatives feel the policy intrudes on the educational amendment, Title IX, which guarantees gender equality in government-funded schools.

NOW's statement also says single female parents are more common than single male parents, and VMI has no provision requiring paternity testing.

If a female cadet accused a male cadet of fathering her child she would have to bring him to court in order to prove it, said NOW.

In addition, male cadets can potentially father a child without VMI ever knowing, while female cadets who are pregnant are forced to face expulsion, according to NOW.

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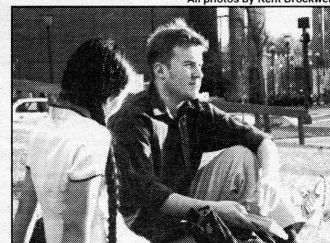
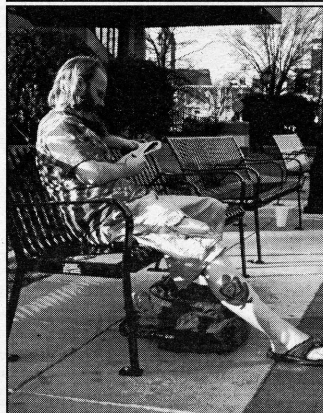
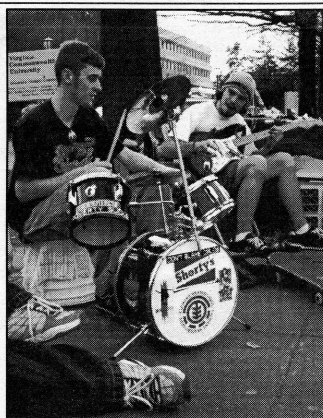
## Early Spring?

VCU students took some time out of their busy days to enjoy the unseasonable warmth.

Drummer Ben Garber, a freshman majoring in business management, and his friend on guitar soak in the weather.

Shane Barton thumbs through a good book in the Commons plaza.

Two friends sit for a while on the grass outside the Commons.



All photos by Kent Brockwell

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# Administration limits information after Sept. 11

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BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Attorney General John Ashcroft sent a memo to all government agencies Oct. 12, 2001, advising them to be more careful about what information is released to historians, journalists and members of the general public under the Freedom of Information Act, a law that allows the public to keep tabs on the inner workings of the federal government.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and The Pentagon, the government has been curtailing the information normally released to the public in the name of national security. Information has been removed from Web sites, and information requests are delayed or denied, making it difficult for Indiana University professors to complete necessary research.

"Some of these steps make sense in the light of Sept. 11, such as removing detailed information about nuclear plants and chemical weapons from Web sites," Indiana University law professor Fred Cate said.

But some of the information being restricted does not seem to have any connection to the interests of national security.

President George W. Bush issued an executive order Nov. 1, 2001, blocking the access of sensitive presidential documents, which were available under the Presidential Release Act of 1978. Now the information held

in presidential archives can only be accessed with the consent of the sitting president and the former president in question.

Many anticipate challenges to the limitation of information release.

"I don't believe that Ashcroft will (have) that much effect because there will be legal challenges and the courts will, in all likelihood, strike down almost all obstacles blocking the functioning of the free press and scholarship," history professor Irving Katz said. "The burden of proof that a national emergency requires such restrictions on what journalists and scholars can gain access to will rest heavily on the federal government's lawyers, who will have to convince judges that it is in the national interest to impose such restrictions."

While perhaps temporary, these changes in policy make scholarship in many fields a difficult or impossible task. They also affect journalism adversely.

"This ruling makes research nearly impossible," associate history professor Nick Cullather said. "Many presidents don't want all of their papers released, and now they can prevent that, making research into modern presidencies extremely difficult."

Cullather added that he has had difficulty receiving information under FOIA.

"Some of my requests have been delayed," he said. "And when I receive the documents, they are heavily edited."

Political science professor Gerald Wright said the re-

strictions would hamper research.

"Anything that keeps important information from the public undermines the ability of scholars to fully understand and explain the decision making of the executive branch," he said.

The Bush administration has been heavily criticized for the reversal of presidential access and in the eyes of many has not produced convincing arguments as to why the access is now limited.

Cate, who agrees that some limitation is necessary for safety, believes that the administration has gone too far.

"Most of the administration's actions have either gone too far or have nothing to do with Sept. 11 in the first place," he said.

Christine Barbour, clinical assistant professor of political science, also said the limitations were unnecessary.

"I think Bush's motives in giving a sitting president control of what other presidents' papers are released are highly questionable," she said. "From where I sit, it looks like he did it to prevent some of Reagan's papers from being released, which would embarrass many members of his administration, and his father, as well. I can't think of a justifiable reason for doing that, and none of the reasons provided by the Bush administration seem persuasive to me."

Cullather said the recent restrictions in information access were to be expected.

"The public goes through stages in how much information it demands," he said. "The nineties saw a great demand for information, and more was released. After the attacks of Sept. 11 the public is allowing for more secrecy in the name of security."

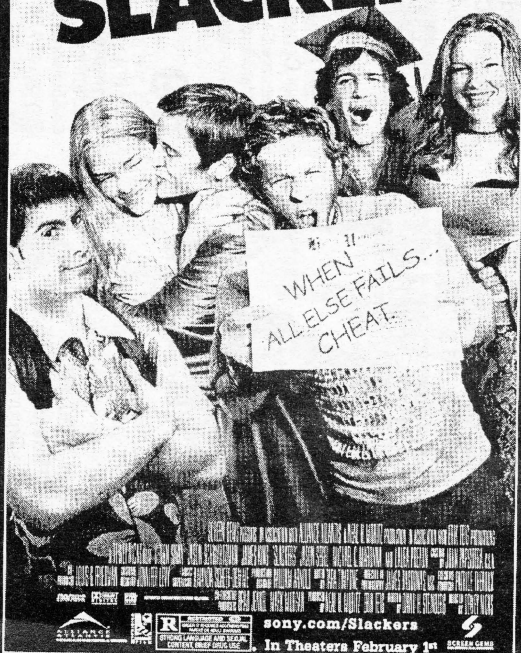
Cate warns that giving up liberties in a Faustian bargain means that the terrorists accomplished their goals.

"Remember the words of Benjamin Franklin," he said. "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety, and all to often achieve neither as well."

**"A**nything that keeps important information from the public undermines the ability of scholars to fully understand and explain the decision making of the executive branch."

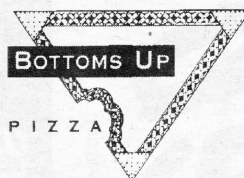
—Nick Cullather

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Tel: 804-271-1572  
Fax: 804-271-1805  
Email:



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

# February 2002

*"What I would really like said about me is that I dared to love."*  
- Maya Angelou

## EVENTS

**February is Black History Month.**  
For event information, visit  
[www.students.vcu.edu/omsa/bhm/](http://www.students.vcu.edu/omsa/bhm/)

**3**

**8-Ball Tournament**  
in the Break Point Games Room  
Register in Break Point. \$2.50 registration fee.  
Call 828-1981 for information.

**4**

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Commuter CoffeeBRAKE!**  
Commons Lobby  
Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student  
Services and Parking & Transportation.

**5**

12 noon - 2:00 pm  
**Noon Time Jazz Series**  
Common Ground  
Free! Sponsored by APB Concerts

**8 - 9**

**Homecoming:**

**15**

9 am - 5 pm  
**Virginia Student  
Leadership Conference**  
University Student Commons  
Super Leaders! Uniting Campus, Uniting the  
World! For registration information contact  
Felicia Keelen at (804) 828-6500.

8:00 pm  
**Ludacris in Concert**  
Siegel Center  
Tickets are \$15 for VCU students with  
VCUCard and \$25 for general public. Call 828-  
7267 for information.

**19**

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Commuter CoffeeBRAKE!**  
Commons Lobby  
Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student  
Services and Parking & Transportation.

**21 - 24**

**Maymont Flower & Garden Show**  
Richmond Convention Center  
This popular garden show moves into the

## Body Awareness Week



February 25<sup>th</sup> - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
For a complete calendar of events visit  
[www.students.vcu.edu/health/](http://www.students.vcu.edu/health/bodyawareness)  
bodyawareness

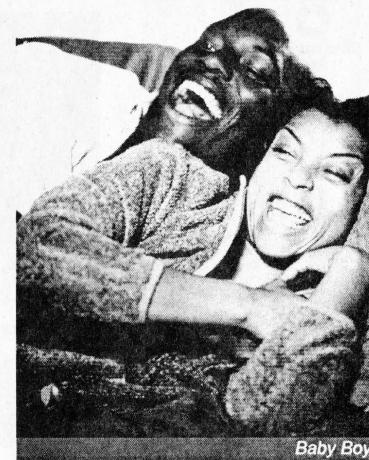
**26**

**The Body Fair**  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Commons Lobby  
Get a FREE 5-minute massage, make a Stress  
Balloon, learn about campus resources, eat  
some free food, and just have fun! Part of  
Body Awareness Week (see above)

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Lecture: The Grateful Dead**  
Business Building Auditorium  
Dennis McNally, biographer and publicist for  
the Grateful Dead, author "A Long Strange  
Trip." FREE! Sponsored by APB Lectures  
Committee

7:00 pm  
**Tom Feelings**

## FILMS



All films are sponsored by APB Films  
Committee, are free with your VCUCard  
and are shown each weekend in the  
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guest limit per each VCUCard.

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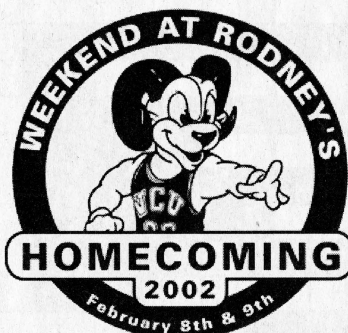
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**8 - 9**

**Homecoming:  
Weekend at Rodney's**  
See description below.

**14**

**Valentine's Day Special**  
Break Point Games Room  
Bring a date to Break Point in the Commons  
and get one free hour of pool, ping pong,  
darts or two free tokens.



### Spirit Competition

Show your school spirit by having your organization, residence hall floor or student group participate in the Homecoming Spirit Competition. Contact Felicia Keelen, at [fkeelen@vcu.edu](mailto:fkeelen@vcu.edu) or 828-6500 for details.

### Friday, February 8

7:00 pm  
**Women's Basketball**  
**Rams vs. Hofstra**  
Siegel Center  
Prize valued at \$250 will be given away during the game.

**15**

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Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student  
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**21 - 24**



**Maymont Flower & Garden Show**  
Richmond Convention Center  
This popular garden show moves into the dazzling new Richmond Center Ballroom. Convention Center is located on the corner of 5th and Broad Streets. For information call 804-358-7166 for times and admission prices.

**25**

1:00 pm  
**Virginia Campus Compact Kick-off**  
Berkely Hotel, 1200 E. Cary Street  
Come and join national and state leaders, college and university presidents, staff, and students to celebrate the official launching of Virginia Campus Compact, a non profit organization who's mission is to build and sustain a coalition of institutions of higher education committed to active engagement with their communities. RSVP's are requested by February 4, 2002. For more information and to RSVP, call (804)289-8989.

<http://www.students.vcu.edu/activities/homecoming.html>

9:00 pm

**Homecoming Pep Rally**  
Siegel Center  
Activities include a Slam Dunk contest, pep rally with music from 106.5 The Beat and performances by Mello D & The Rados and Carbon Leaf.

Prices include admission to Basketball game and Pep Rally. Free to VCU Students with Valid ID, \$5 Adults, \$3 for youth ages 17 and under, senior citizens and VCU Faculty and staff. Limited number tickets will be available after the Women's Basketball game, so come out early, enjoy the game and stay for the Pep Rally.

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author of The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo  
A Black History Month presentation. For location and details call 828-6672 or check the website listed on this calendar.

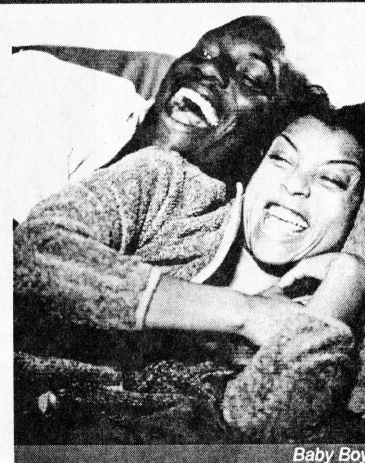
**27**

**Slim Hopes: Advertising and the Obsession with Thinness.**  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Business Building Auditorium.  
Video and discussion. Part of Body Awareness Week (see above).

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**Open Mic**  
Commonwealth Ballroom  
Free with VCUCard\*  
Sponsored by APB Expressions Showcase

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Baby Boy

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7:00 pm: O  
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8:00 pm: **Training Day**

**9**

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**15**

8:00 pm: **Two Can Play At That Game**

**16**

7:00 pm: **Two Can Play At That Game**

**22**

7:00 pm: **Higher Learning**  
9:30 pm: **American History X**

**23**

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### Saturday, February 9

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Pre-Game Tailgate Party**  
Check the website for details.

6:45pm

**Pep "Parade"**  
Pep Band leads crowd to Siegel Center for Game

7:30pm

**Men's Basketball**  
**Rams vs. Old Dominion**  
Siegel Center

Adult Reserved seats are \$12. For youth or group ticket prices, call the VCU Ticket office at 828-726.

### Post Game Activities

After the game, take advantage of VCU night at designated area clubs. Check back later for details.

**For more information contact:**  
VCU Athletic Department: 828-7000  
Commons & Activities: 828-6500  
Student Activities Center: 828-3648

**For basketball game ticket information contact:** VCU Ticket office at 828-7267

Homecoming 2002: Weekend at Rodney's is coordinated by the Homecoming Planning Committee, VCU Athletics Department and University Student Commons & Activities.

# VCU Life is good here!





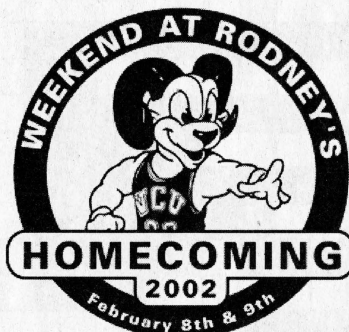
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Homecoming 2002: Weekend at Rodney's is coordinated by the Homecoming Planning Committee, VCU Athletics Department and University Student Commons & Activities.

**VCU** *Life is good here!*

Published by University Student Commons & Activities, Division of Student Affairs. All events and times subject to change. VCU is an EEO/AA institution. If you need special accommodation to participate in a university sponsored event due to a disability, contact staff at (804)828-6500. For assistance with non-university event, contact the listed sponsor.



Indicates non-university,  
 Richmond area event.



# SPECTRUM

## 'This ain't nodisco:' New wave hits Richmond

**Saghi Tehran**  
CT STAFF WRITER

Lights flashed vibrant hues of blue and purple onto a crowded dance floor as people sporting everything from sneakers, platforms, docs and sandals all moved their feet to a single beat.

A new reason to get up, get out and dance — a typical Tuesday night in Richmond? Wrong.

This past Tuesday welcomed the newest night of Britpop, new wave and electro pop to conquer Godfrey's at 308 E. Grace St.

As Depeche Mode would say, "Lots of surprises in store. This isn't a party, it's a whole lot more," from "More than a Party," the "Construction Time Again" album.

Thanks to the vision and devotion of two men, Richmond can no longer say it lacks entertainment.

Ross Horwitz, former VCU student and alumnus of the band Zentraedi, along with his good friend Kristoffer DeNitto put their talents together to create The Reflex, a night of indie underground dance.

"Basically we were tired of not having

anywhere that played cool music to dance to around here," DeNitto said.

Horwitz attended some 80s dance nights in Los Angeles and noticed "that they had it down and I thought 'you know this is great, why don't we have this in Richmond?'"

Horwitz and DeNitto searched clubs — such as Washington, D.C.'s new wave dance night "Mousetrap" held at the Black Cat — for ideas, but felt the shows were lacking something.

"I thought it could be better," Horwitz said.

And so, Reflex was born.

Horwitz hired DJs Marty Key, Jonathan Knowles and Travis Seitz in preparation for the show.

**"T**his is the best of everyone dancing, partying and having a good time for the first time in a long time in Richmond. A party worth having every week to remember what life is for fun."

— Jennifer Swanson

"Marty spins at Ipanema and he plays a lot of garage soul and really old underground hip-hop," DeNitto said. "And all three DJs have really nice record collections."

Reflex debuted at Godfrey's Tuesday night. Music varied from Madonna's "Express Yourself" to old-school rap to groups as Depeche Mode and The Cure.

Clubbers danced, some dressed casually in jeans, others taking the night as a chance to doll-up.

"It's great — one minute you've got guys break dancing and then the next you have people singing along to some Madonna," said Valerie LaPointe, a VCU junior.

Horwitz and DeNitto have many more ideas and plans for Reflex. In the future,

they said, Reflex will have different theme nights. Also, the duo is toying with the idea of having live digital bands.

They want to bring in XOX and The Audioactive, bands of which they both belong, to perform as well.

"Tonight will be a test run to see what we'll do from here," DeNitto said. "I know we don't want to do this weekly because it will get too old too quickly."

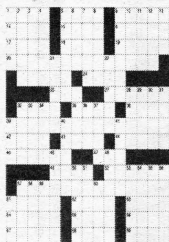
The fans, however, may think otherwise.

Jennifer Swanson, a VCU student, said, "This is the best of everyone dancing, partying and having a good time for the first time in a long time in Richmond. A party worth having every week to remember what life is for fun."

One thing is for certain: Horwitz and DeNitto want Reflex to be a celebration of people coming together.

"Richmond is at an all time low right now," Horwitz said. "People are not going out and there is no unity, so we're hoping that people will come out."

Well back to the lyrics of Depeche Mode. "This is more a story, and we're reaching the end. This ain't nodisco," from "Nodisco," the "Speak and Spell" album.



This is what  
a **PIZZA**  
looks like.

When its won.

THE FIRST PIZZA FREAK  
TO SUBMIT THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO  
THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE,  
WILL WIN A GIFT CERTIFICATE WORTH \$25  
AT BOTTOMS-UP PIZZA

## Test your mettle... with anagrams

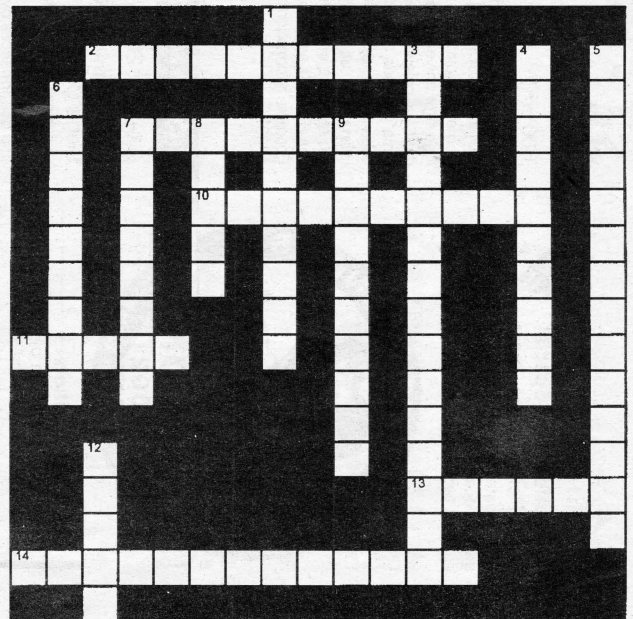
Each of these clues has something to do with VCU or the surrounding area.

### Across

2. Hash noll jon
7. Rift nor rev
10. Chest mom no
11. Pn9 al
13. Fat hen
14. Liberally crab

### Down

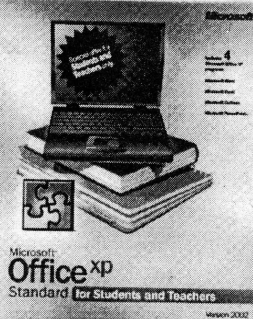
1. Marron poke
3. Heartland trek ma
4. Sectary ret
5. No Clue
6. Flick chia
7. Chin dorm
8. Vto si
9. Real sold hah
12. Bi hsb





**Office XP** is now available at almost **70% off**, for **only \$149.\*** You buy it because:

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- B) It comes with full versions of Microsoft® Word, Excel, Outlook®, and PowerPoint®..... ☐
- C) It's a limited offer..... ☐
- D) All of the above..... ☒




**Microsoft® Office XP Standard for Students and Teachers** is now available at a special low price. With all the tools to help students get more done, faster and easier. It's a no-brainer. Buy it today at one of the retailers below.

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Office DEPOT, OfficeMax, COMPUUSA, Fry's, GameStop, MICRO CENTER, STAPLES, BEST BUY, TARGET

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**TOYOTA**

# Celica— The Inside Story



On the outside, it's easy to see that Celica is race-track inspired. But the real excitement is on the inside...under the hood. Take the Celica GT-S...Toyota worked with Yamaha to build a 180 HP engine redlined at 7800 RPM...equipped it with Variable Valve Timing with intelligence...a computer that constantly monitors and retunes your engine for maximum performance...a cam with two sets of lobes to provide two ranges of valve lift and duration for more usable horsepower. There's direct ignition for greater reliability...iridium-tipped spark plugs for reduced maintenance...a stainless steel exhaust manifold...a water-cooled oil cooler. And mated with Toyota's 4-speed electronically-controlled automatic "Sportshift", you get transmission shift switches on the steering wheel...just like Formula 1 race cars. Sweet.

**www.gettoyota.com**

**Driving a new Toyota is easier than ever —**

because now your Toyota dealer has a special college graduate financing program available thru Toyota Financial Services that offers a lot of great advantages.

So if you're within 4 months of graduation... or if you graduated within the past two years...See your Toyota dealer for details.





# Recreational Sports Fitness Programs

Virginia Commonwealth University

## Division of Student Affairs

[www.students.vcu.edu/recreports](http://www.students.vcu.edu/recreports)

### Siegel Center Classes by Day & Time

Class	Day	Time	Teacher
Gentle Yoga	Monday	9:00am-10:00am	Melody Wissekerke
Step	Monday	10:00am-11:00am	Blair Bodie
Yoga	Monday	12:00pm-1:00pm	George Winder
Cycle Reebok	Monday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Dr. Eric West
Combo Karate	Monday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Tien Mai
Pilates	Monday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Blair Bodie
Capoeira	Monday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Jason Absher
Yoga	Tuesday	12:00pm-1:00pm	Melody Wissekerke
Aerobic Dance	Tuesday	1:00pm-2:00pm	Blair Bodie
Cycle Reebok	Tuesday	2:00pm-3:00pm	Marq McKenney
Yoga	Tuesday	4:00pm-5:00pm	George Winder
Step	Tuesday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Dr. Eric West
Cycle Reebok	Tuesday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Greg Wittwer
Abs	Tuesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Eric & Jake
Tae Kwon Do	Tuesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Step	Wednesday	10:00am-11:00am	Blair Bodie
Yoga	Wednesday	4:00pm-5:00pm	Melody Wissekerke
Cycle Reebok	Wednesday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Eric & Greg
Cardio Kickboxing	Wednesday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Swing I	Wednesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Shawn & Cindy
Swing II	Wednesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Shawn & Cindy
Yoga	Thursday	10:30am-11:30am	Melody Wissekerke
Boxing Circuit	Thursday	3:30pm-4:30pm	Marq McKenney
Step	Thursday	4:30pm-5:30pm	Elena Rushing
Boot Camp	Thursday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Eric & Jake
Hip Hop	Thursday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Suzanne Lynch
Tae Kwon Do	Thursday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Cardio Kickboxing	Friday	4:00pm-5:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Abs	Friday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Jake Glover
Cycle Reebok	Sunday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Beth DeGarmo
Boxing Circuit	Sunday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Jake Glover
Abs	Sunday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Jake Glover

### MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center Classes by Day & Time

Class	Day	Time	Teacher
Cycle Reebok	Monday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Cardio Kickboxing	Monday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Strengthen & Stretch	Tuesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Cycle Reebok	Wednesday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Beth DeGarmo
Cycle Reebok	Thursday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Strengthen & Stretch	Thursday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Rebecca Farley

### Cary Street Recreational Complex Classes by Day & Time

Class	Day	Time	Teacher
Cycle Reebok	Monday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Beth DeGarmo
Cycle Reebok	Monday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Greg Wittwer
Hip Hop	Monday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Suzanne Lynch
Kung Fu	Tuesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Alex Huynh
Combo Karate (Rcq BI Court)	Tuesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Tien Mai
Hip Hop	Wednesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Suzanne Lynch
Abs	Wednesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Jake Glover
Kung Fu	Thursday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Alex Huynh

Passes must be purchased at the the Stuart C. Siegel Center Recreational Sports or  
MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center, but can be used at any of the  
three Recreational Sports Facilities.

*Classes are subject to change*



# OPINION

## This Damn Budget Mess

The future may soon reveal if former Governor Jim Gilmore's car tax relief was more of a voting gimmick rather than an actual relief. To balance the budget, state employees may not receive raises, which could severely affect the VCU community. Also, tuition increases, which would affect financial aid, may become a reality.

Although VCU is an affordable institution, many students here work multiple jobs in addition to receiving financial aid. Also, many instructors here work other jobs. Potential students may turn to more affordable alternatives and instructors may soon move on to more lucrative endeavors.

These potential issues may be a problem for the future of VCU. If students can't afford to go here, the money spent to expand the campus and programs may go to waste.

Hopefully, VCU's administration is working with other state institutions to prevent these budget cuts or to propose alternate solutions. Hopefully, the General Assembly will stop wasting time debating issues, such as saluting the state flag, incorporating the church with public education and deciding what organization is going to get a personalized license plate.

According to news reports, Governor Mark Warner is in support of a proposal that would increase the state sales tax a half-cent to fund public schools. Why not make the increase two-cents and divide the money between public schools and state colleges and universities?

Increasing funds to public schools is a laudable goal but what happens when Virginians move on to a state college or university? If the state can't increase funding for technological advances, hiring educators and upgrading facilities, how is the state going to attract in-state students?

If VCU and other state-funded institutions don't want to see a decrease in enrollment, then their administrators had better head down to the Capitol to make some friends and noise.

## CORINNE EIDSON What Patriotism's About

Everywhere you go there's no escaping the sight of stars and stripes after the terrorists' attacks. On cars, at businesses and at houses, somewhere people have managed to find a place to display the American flag.

But the signs of patriotism faded as the Christmas season began. Business signs that read "God Bless America" and other patriotic slogans changed to sales beckoning buyers to help jumpstart the economy. Business as usual after only three months.

Patriotism according to the American Heritage Dictionary is the love, support and defense of the country. According to this definition, love of a country is more than displaying a flag during wartime. It involves having a desire to know what's going on among leadership, among the citizens and in the law.

Good public relations strategies keep customers happy. If businesses didn't hang flags and pretended nothing happened, would it affect you? Maybe. That's a chance most businesses are not willing to take.

During the Christmas season this was understandable. Businesses have to generate income. That could explain why they changed the signs back a few months after the attacks.

For some businesses keeping up "God Bless America" signs where you could be advertising the latest deal isn't an option when you are losing money.

For individuals and businesses alike, putting out a flag or saying something patriotic just seemed like the right thing to do under the circumstances. America is still at war. Why isn't it still the right thing to do?

## It's Called Working With The Media, Folks...

Almost anyone who is getting a degree in mass communications knows how hard it is to get someone to talk to them for a story. In some cases, a story for the Commonwealth Times or a class project doesn't warrant an interview in a subject's opinion.

In other cases, some subjects may feel that a student doesn't have the ethical maturity to cover a story properly. And in some cases, the subject may not want a student to sensationalize them or their organization.

Often, the student media finds that these hesitations occur at VCU. It is unfortunate that the institution where we pay tuition and are being educated and "nurtured" for our future careers tends to treat the student media with fear.

Since the beginning of this semester, the staff of the CT has run into brick walls or has been led on wild goose chases by administrators while covering stories. In some cases, phone calls have not been returned or administrators have been "away" from their offices anytime a staff member has called.

The only time it appears anyone from VCU wants to talk to the student media is for an accolade or a new building.

This paper is not just a student-run press release for this university, it is the source of news for the entire VCU community.



I can't imagine that VCU and its administration have anything to hide from the student media, but the lack of cooperation with the CT sometimes implies that very train of thought.

A reporter's ultimate goal and responsibility to their readers is to find out the truth and to report every side of a story. By not working with our reporters when they are investigating every aspect of a story, sources who should know better have jeopardized that goal.

## ROBB CROCKER • State Of The Union, State Of War Or State Of Shame?

President Bush seems to be running for re-election rather than addressing the issues judging from the State of the Union Address. If the nation wanted to get an update on the War on Terrorism, it can tune into CNN.

The country is spending \$30 million a day on this war and we still have yet to find Osama bin Laden. If there were any new developments or strategies in the war, would Bush really be that forthcoming? Meanwhile, there are people who lost family members and jobs as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Bush said that good jobs start with good educations. That's a great notion in theory but how does that help those who have lost jobs because of the attacks?

If Bush wants to improve education, he may need to start looking towards our social icons and questioning their merits. Although this country is built on capitalism, shouldn't it also be based on common sense? Does a football player really deserve \$5 million a season when a teacher makes less than \$30,000 a year? In fact, many careers pay more than educators. Why should someone go to college to become a teacher when they could become a computer technician or actor or athlete or musician and make real money? And why should a big corporation like Enron receive a tax break when it robbed its employees and investors of money?

Unless the country plans to limit money made by entertainers, athletes and other various professions, Bush should not even comment on improving education unless

he plans to institute a mandatory pay raise for all teachers.

Of course, the Democratic response wasn't much better than Bush's speech. House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt spent the early portions of his speech taking a similar patriotic stand. He says that the government is practicing bipartisan politics when it comes to the war efforts. Thanks for stating the obvious.

Both parties need to stop patting themselves on the back for being able to work together. It is unfortunate that it took a war to get our nations politicians to work together.

Gephardt also brought up the need for "high quality" educators as well. First of all, most of our educators (in our public schools) are high quality - they're just underpaid. Anyone who would work for the lousy wages that teachers do must be dedicated. If I were a teacher, I would have been insulted by Gephardt's call for "high quality" teachers. In fact, I'm insulted for all teachers in this country for that statement.

If President Bush and the legislators on Capitol Hill think that there is a need for higher quality educators, maybe they should forgo a couple of pay raises and push that money over to our nations underpaid teachers.

I did like Gephardt's statement about how he can't understand how the two parties have come together in the war efforts but continue to battle over the economy. Of course, right now, those are just words and wishful thinking. In addition, Gephardt

was savvy in pointing out the need for a universal pension so that we don't have another Enron episode.

I'm glad that the country has banded together in patriotism but now we need to move on and use this newfound pride to put this country back together. Note to politicians: leave the war updates to CNN and get back to work.

## THE Commonwealth TIMES

**Ty Bowers**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**Robb Crocker**  
EDITORIAL EDITOR

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.

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# SPORTS

**SATURDAY, Feb. 2**

**Men's Basketball  
vs. Drexel 4 p.m.**

**Men's Tennis  
vs. Princeton 10 a.m.**

**Women's Tennis  
vs. N. Iowa 2 p.m.**

**SUNDAY, Feb. 3**

**Women's Basketball  
vs. Delaware 1 p.m.  
(away game)**

**Men's Tennis  
vs. St. John's 1 p.m.**

## John Feinstein visit set for Feb. 26

**Sharon Ramos**  
CT SPORTS WRITER

John Feinstein, a distinguished sports writer for *Golf Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Inside Sports*, *Tennis Magazine*, *Basketball America* and *America Online* will hold a book signing session and a lecture at Virginia Commonwealth University Feb. 26.

The book signing begins at 5 p.m. in the e2 VCU Bookstore located at 1111 W. Broad St. The lecture will be taken place at the ALLTEL Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center at 7 p.m.

Admission to both events is free and open to the public, but tickets are required to attend the lecture. Make reservations for the lecture through the VCU Ticket Office at 828-RAMS.

Feinstein's book, *"A Good Walk Spoiled: Days and Nights on the PGA Tour,"* is his most well-known. *"The Last Amateurs,"* his most recent bestseller, focuses on student athletes in the Patriot League playing Division I basketball.

His other books include: *"A Civil War: Army vs. Navy, A Year Inside College Football's Purest Rivalry,"* *"The Majors: In Pursuit of Golf's Holy Grail,"* and *"A March to Madness: The View from the Floor in the Atlantic Coast Conference."*

His book, *"A Season on the Brink: A Year with Bobby Knight and the Indiana Hoosiers,"* is now a movie that will premiere on ESPN March 10.

Feinstein also is a commentator for National Public Radio and ESPN.

## Who will be super on Sunday?

by **DEREK STAMEY**

The big game is upon us. This Sunday evening we will be bombarded with million-dollar commercials and football. Yes, football. That great all-American game that gives us all an excuse to indulge in our favorite food and beverage. It's the Rams versus the Patriots and it may be a closer game than you think...or maybe that's just wishful thinking.

In case you're the gambling type, here's how some skill positions on the field break down.

### Quarterback:

*Kurt Warner vs. Tom Brady or Drew Bledsoe*

• Advantage Rams. It doesn't matter who starts for the Patriots, the combined skills don't match Warner's. He fits the Rams' offense perfectly and runs it with precision. Coming off the save situation is Drew Bledsoe who probably should start the Super Bowl. He's been there before and he has the arm strength to make the cross field throws needed to defeat the fast Rams defense. But Tom Brady will probably get the nod, despite an ankle sprain that may worsen at the hands of the New Orleans turf.

### Running Back:

*Marshall Faulk vs. Antowain Smith*

• Advantage Rams. Do I really need to explain this one? Marshall Faulk is the best football player this side of Brett Favre and probably deserved the MVP more than Warner. Smith is a great North/South runner who will get many opportunities against the Rams' middle line, but won't cash in like Faulk.

### Wide Receivers:

*Isaac Bruce, Torry Holt, etc. vs. Troy Brown, David Patten*

• Advantage Rams. The Super Bowl is typically played in a warm weather environment or a dome. This year it's inside, which highly favors the passing game, at which the Rams are the best. Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt will run all over the helpless Patriots. Troy Brown and David Patten are good on the verge of great NFL wide receivers, but no one matches the Rams' speed and athleticism.

### On Defense:

Defensively, it's a draw. Both teams play great defense, although their styles differ. The Rams incorporate speed into their attack, along with a simple defensive scheme that allows their players to read, react and attack. The Patriots are a more physical, smashmouth defense that hits hard on every play. The Patriots, however, will need to force turnovers to stay close. The Rams will need to protect the field and give up field goals versus touchdowns. The speed of the Rams will simply be too much for the plodding Patriots to handle. Don't

expect too much offense out of New England.

### Special Teams:

Often in big games, the winner and loser are decided through the play of special teams. Both teams have excellent kickers and can win with a long field goal try. The kickers negate each other, but it all comes down to the punt and kick return game. The Rams can go 100 yards in a hurry, so it will be important for the Patriots to make them go as far as they can. If the Rams can pin the Patriots deep into their own territory, then the Patriots will struggle. They are not the type of team that can put together long, sustained drives.

### Something to Remember:

The last two Super Bowls the Patriots played in were blowouts. Unfortunately for them, they were on the receiving end of each. History tends to repeat itself. Here's another interesting tidbit of info. The last team the Rams played in the Super Bowl was the Tennessee Titans, who advanced through the playoffs on a controversial call (remember Buffalo). The Patriots did the same in the snow-blower fumble-rooski game versus the Oakland Raiders. The Rams went on to win that game against the Titans on a game-saving touchdown with no time left. If history repeats itself, and I'm sure it will, the St. Louis Rams will walk away winners again.

## VCU touted as CAA's team to beat

*Several returning stars should bolster spring roster; team looks to return to NCAA's again and improve on last year's performance*

FROM NEWS SOURCES

Two of the nation's most highly-regarded college baseball publications, *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball*, have dubbed VCU as the team to beat this season in the Colonial Athletic Association.

### RAMS BASEBALL

Both magazines also chose Rams' senior Matt Davis to retain his status as the league's best player. Collegiate Baseball named the center fielder to its preseason second-team All-America squad as well.

Davis was selected last year's CAA Player of the Year and named to three 2001 All-America second-teams after batting .396 and finishing fifth nationally in both runs scored (84) and stolen bases (49).

The two publications also offered predictions for the CAA's top five finishers, with VCU followed by James Madison University, the College of William & Mary, league-newcomer University of Delaware and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Davis was also named to Baseball America's All-CAA team along with sophomore pitcher Sean Marshall and junior first baseman and pitcher Danny Lopaze. In addition, freshman catcher Jeff Parrish was selected as the league's preseason rookie of the year and as its third-best newcomer. Marshall and Lopaze have earned top-player awards in each of the past two seasons.

Davis, Marshall, junior outfielder Jose Pabon and senior pitcher Bo Acors were also dubbed as four of the CAA's "Players to Watch" in the upcoming season by Collegiate Baseball.

Baseball America rates the top big-league prospects for each major conference and highlights the players with the best individual skills in its annual college baseball preview.

Lopaze was listed as the CAA's fourth-best prospect for the upcoming major league draft, while Pabon was rated ninth overall and given the title of the league's Best Outfield Arm. Davis rounded out the CAA's top 10 prospects chart and was chosen as

the conference's Fastest Runner and Best Baserunner.

Scouts also rated Marshall's breaking ball tops among CAA hurlers, while senior Bryan Gillespie was recognized as the league's Best Defensive Second Baseman.

VCU finished with a 41-19 overall record in 2001, tied for the third-most wins in school history, and reached the NCAA tournament for the third time in the last four years under head coach Paul Keyes.

The Rams, who reached the Baton Rouge, La., regional championship game before falling to 2000 national champion Louisiana State University, finished the year ranked 24th in the final Collegiate Baseball Division I national poll.

**VCU opens its home  
schedule on Feb. 16  
with a 2 p.m. double-  
header against St.  
Joseph's.**