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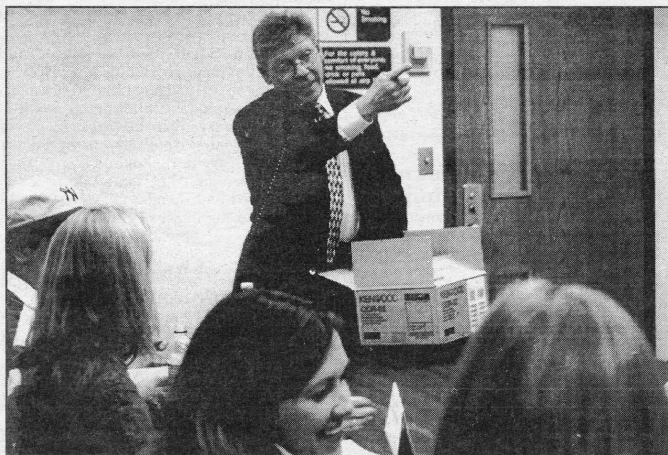
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# THE Commonwealth TIMES

**MONDAY**  
February 18, 2002

Vol. 36, No. 10

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University



Sarah Kite

Joe Richter, president of Kenwood USA, speaks to a VCU class.

## Kenwood president gives talk at VCU

Sarah Kite

CT STAFF WRITER

Joe Richter's southern accent may keep him from learning to speak Japanese, but it hasn't stopped him from blasting his way to the top of car and home audio giant Kenwood USA.

Richter, president of Kenwood USA since 1993, returned to his Richmond roots Wednesday to speak to a management class at VCU.

Richter, who graduated from Benedictine High School and earned a B.S. in business from VCU in 1975.

Richter told students he was trying to learn the Japanese language so he could

better communicate with Kenwood's parent company in Japan. Luckily for him, he said, English is the universal language.

Richter helped fuel the craze for sound as a sales representative for Kenwood in New Jersey in 1981. He became a national sales manager in 1984 and moved to California.

After more than 10 years with the company, Richter became the first American president of Kenwood USA, the American operating subsidiary, which has 18 sales subsidiaries around the world and services America and Mexico.

The company also has eight operating

**KENWOOD** continued to page 11

## Flu attacking less this year

Asia Cozette

CT STAFF WRITER

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cite Virginia as one state experiencing widespread influenza outbreaks, that's not the situation at VCU.

Physicians at health services said the cold is the most common winter illness they've treated this year.

"It's not bad as bad a year as we've seen before," said Dr. David W. Nelson, assistant medical director at University Student Health Services, who said only a couple dozen students have been treated for the flu this season. "It's down some this year. It's hard to know why."

The difference, he said, could be attributed to several possibilities such as a less severe form of the flu virus or better immunization.

Lower numbers do not mean the worst is over. Nonetheless, from late December to March still rates as peak flu season.

"Usually it's a second semester phenomenon. We usually see it in January when people come back from the holiday break," Nelson said. "Sometimes you get a late season that will run into March."

Tiffany Nyreece Gilbert, resident assistant at Johnson Hall, said she hasn't seen anyone with the flu at the residence halls.

"In the dance department I know of one student that said she had it," she said.

Clint Walters, community assistant at the West Broad Apartments, compares both ends of the spectrum.

"Here the heating and air conditioning systems are individual to the room," he said. "So most outbreaks would be contained within the apartment. Whereas,

**FLU** continued to page 4


Brenda Berson

## LUDACRIS PERFORMS AT THE SIEGAL CENTER

The rap star performed for a near capacity crowd at VCU, which was closely watched by a large security force. STORY PAGE 12



Saida Durkee

# IN BRIEF

## CALENDAR

**Monday  
Feb. 18**

**About Face art exhibit** interprets everyday facial expressions. The exhibition is on display at the Science Museum of Virginia and will be running through June. Museum hours: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday; 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information call 864-1400.

**Alien Ant Farm, Glassjaw, Apex Theory and Earshot** perform at the 9:30 Club. Doors open at 7:30. Tickets are \$17.50.

**Tuesday  
Feb. 19**

**Peak Performance Plus: A Forward Look Back** VCU Dance department's look back at the past, celebrating the accomplishments of the present and nurturing the talents of the future. Performance starts at 8 p.m. at the Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$15, \$13 and \$10. Discounts are available for VCU faculty, VCU students, senior citizens and groups.

**Wednesday  
Feb. 20**

**History of African American Dance lecture** in the School of Business Auditorium from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**"Betty's Summer Vacation"** A wacky, twisted and voyeuristic satirical comedy about four social misfits sharing a beach house haunted by disembodied voices living in the walls. Performance starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center - Raymond Hodges Theatre.

**The Greatest Show on Earth!** Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus will be at the Richmond Coliseum through Feb. 24. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

### Anti-embalming campaigner sends threats to funeral homes

An anti-embalming campaigner is accused of sending threatening letters to two funeral homes.

Police in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, said the woman claimed to be a prophet carrying out God's demands.

The letters complained that the process of embalming bodies is a religious abomination.

Mark Paget, executive director of the Wisconsin Funeral Directors' Association said, "This is certainly something way out of the ordinary. To our members, it is very alarming."

The woman is charged with two counts of stalking and two counts of disorderly conduct relating to threatening notes sent to two funeral homes in February.

Lieutenant Eric Larsen told the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, "She claims to be some sort of prophet."

The woman has been released on bail after agreeing not to contact the funeral homes or their employees. The charges carry a maximum sentence of two years in jail.

The notes read, "Thus saith the Lord 'because you have heard not the words of the Lord, I take from you your sons and daughters into early graves. And prepare for burial yourself. Amen.'"

Police said anti-embalming campaigners believe bodies should be wrapped in white linen and laid to rest.

Jerry Folk, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, said, "Modern embalming techniques are fairly new, but I've never heard of anybody making an issue of it. I think it must be limited to very small groups."

### Heinz to launch orange ketchup

Heinz, which last year brought out a green-colored ketchup, has now added orange to their range.

It comes in a rocket-shaped bottle with a nozzle designed for children to use to draw over their food.

Heinz launched their limited edition green sauce in the U.K. in June last year, and was closely followed by a purple sauce in the U.S.

The new orange sauce coincides with the launch of Heinz "Eazy Squirt" Tomato Ketchup, a permanent addition, aimed at children.

It is easy to hold and has the special nozzle designed to allow youngsters to be creative with their dinner.

Mark Schmid, a Heinz spokesperson said, "The new sauce doesn't taste of orange and is, apart from the color, just the same as the red ketchup."

"There was a lot of debate, but the color was picked because it is vibrant and will appeal to children. It is also the color for the summer in fashion, apparently."

### Man sends ex-girlfriend his middle finger

A New York man has sent his left middle finger to his ex-girlfriend's workplace as a Valentine's Day gift.

Forest Simon sent the finger in a black ring box to the unnamed woman. They split 18 months ago.

The 24-year-old man has been charged with aggravated harassment pending a psychological assessment.

His former girlfriend works at the Patricia Fields salon in

New York City, which is behind the styles of the television show *Sex And The City*. Police said the man "was trying to impress her."

It's believed she had filed numerous harassment complaints against her former lover since splitting up, reported the New York Post.

The woman told police Simon had already phoned her several times. Officers traced one of the calls and Simon was arrested with his left hand heavily swathed in bandages. He had already seen a doctor.

### Dozens of bodies found behind rural crematorium

Dozens of decomposing corpses have been discovered stacked in storage sheds and scattered in woods behind a crematorium.

Officials planned to set up a morgue at the site to try to identify some of the fifty bodies discovered so far.

The police were first alerted when a woman walking her dog found a skull.

Within hours, investigators had found three-dozen corpses, some of them stacked next to tools in storage sheds. Last November a nearby resident found a body part in the surrounding woods.

Some of the bodies had likely been left there as long as three years although others could be less than a week old, officials said. They added they expected the body count to rise.

"The worst horror movie you've ever seen - imagine that 10 times worse," said Dewayne Wilson, a Walker County Coroner.

Investigators found at least 50 bodies on the property behind Tri-State Crematory and all appeared to have been sent there for cremation, John Bankhead, a spokesman for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, said Saturday.

The crematorium owners, Ray and Clara Marsh, turned over their records to authorities and were cooperating, Walker County chief deputy Hill Morrison said.

### Virginia man survives fall into peanut pile

A man, who fell into a vat of peanuts, has described how he prayed to God it that it wasn't the way he was destined to "go".

Trapped beneath tons of unshelled peanuts in a warehouse, Floyd Goodman says he refused to panic.

Instead, he slowed his breathing to conserve what little oxygen there was and prayed.

Goodman said, "I was saying 'Lord help me. This is not the way I would like to go. Lord, I know that's not the way you want me to go.'"

The 52-year-old, Virginia man, an employee of a peanut company, sunk further and further into tons of peanuts when he fell off a beam.

"Basically, I got sucked in," he said. "I knew there was nothing I could do."

He says he wound up in a squatting position, protected only by a pair of goggles and the paper dust mask he was wearing when he fell.

Pushing against the peanuts to make room for his body helped a little, but still "the peanuts mashed against my chest, my head," he said.

Firefighters and company employees worked for more than 90 minutes to free him. Goodman said he feared he might be buried alive. "I was afraid they wouldn't find me in time," he said.

### The day Oasis played to a crowd of 12

A music promoter is putting out a web archive featuring bands like Oasis before they went big.

Oasis once played in front of only 12 people at one of John Keenan's gigs.

Nirvana, Supergrass, Radiohead and Pulp were only support bands when Keenan put them on at the Duchess pub in Leeds.

Mr Keenan is launching an online archive of every gig he has organized over the last 25 years. He is celebrating a quarter of a century in the business.

On February 19 he is installing a section on the LiveInLeeds.com website dedicated to archiving every gig he has promoted.

### Monty Python gag voted film's best one-liner

A joke from Monty Python's 'Life Of Brian' has been voted the best ever film line.

The poll was won by Terry Jones' riposte: "He's not the Messiah, he's a very naughty boy!"

Second was Michael Caine's line in The Italian Job: "You're only supposed to blow the bloody doors off!"

The poll by BOL.com also saw lines from Austin Powers, Some Like It Hot, Airplane, Carry On Cleo, Withnail And I and When Harry Met Sally make it into the top 10.

Jones, who delivered the funniest line, told the Daily Express, "The Messiah line was performed to an audience of Tunisian women and they didn't think it was funny at all."

"So frankly the poll comes as a bit of relief after all these years of uncertainty."

## THE Commonwealth TIMES

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# NEWS

## Black Student Alliance reconvenes after hiatus

**Devon Marrow**  
CT STAFF WRITER

The Black Student Association kicked off its second attempt to form an organization for black students Thursday, a year and a half after the organization was originally formed. According to Carrie Parker, president of the BSA, lack of leadership and guidance ruined the last group's chances. But this time she's ready with the help of Vice President Shalunda Washington and advisor Vincent Price, Parker said.

"Joining a black student organization is not only a commitment to the school or people that participate," she said. "It is a commitment to (your) black community and to the overall uplifting and education of Blacks and Africans in America."

"We all have a duty to fulfill, and we all will fulfill in some part our duties by being a member of the Black Student Alliance."

Students, who came to the meeting voiced their expectations and opinions.

"I'm from a small town and it's very important to me that I learn about my heritage, part of that comes from being involved in something black [oriented]," said Brook Hudnall, a computer Science major at VCU.

Common themes were discussed as students stressed some of their concerns. A lack of leadership, communication and learning about other cultures within the black community were among concerns voiced.

"That's the type of thing we need to infuse, not only in the BSA but within this campus," said Napoleon Peoples, director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs and professional advisor to the BSA.

Parker is no stranger to student organizations. The political science major is the secretary for the Black Caucus, VCU's governing body for black organizations. She is also parliamentarian for the SGA and was secretary for the BSA in fall of 2000.

Parker first noticed things seemed to be hanging in the balance concerning the BSA during the spring semester of her freshman year, by fall semester she had spoken with the former president and received permission to jumpstart the or-

ganization.

Since the Black Student Alliance is a subdivision of the Black Caucus, without the Black Caucus being in order, Parker realized, there wouldn't be a BSA.

She then enlisted the help of Price, administrative assistant in the Student Activities Center.

Parker said there tends to be some confusion as to what the difference is between Black Caucus and the BSA.

One basic element that differentiates Black Caucus from the BSA is event programming. Because of organizational struggles, the Black Caucus took over event programming, Parker said. Pointing out that is not the goal and purpose of Black Caucus.

The purpose of Black Student Alliance is to provide the programming basis for the Black Caucus. The BSA can be compared to the Activities Programming Board, however the BSA targets a more specific group of students.

"My goal as president is to ensure that this organization works as a coherent unit

to get the BSA where it should be, a historical organization built upon traditions and innovative programming," Parker said.

Since the organization is rebuilding from the ground up, BSA members will use this semester to strengthen and organize their group.

Currently, the BSA doesn't have a constitution of its own. In the past, it has borrowed excerpts from the Black Caucus, but since they have different goals and purposes, Parker said it should be a priority to create a constitution more relevant to the BSA.

Parker said she wants the BSA to be a mainstay on campus. She is looking to get an official flag and an office for the BSA. Since the BSA isn't putting on any large functions this semester, the organization is also looking to host forums and co-sponsor events with other organizations around campus.

"I'm very excited, Parker said. When we get this done we'll be able to look back and say 'wow, we worked with nothing and still got things done.' For more information about how to become involved in the BSA contact them at [vcu\\_newbsa@hotmail.com](mailto:vcu_newbsa@hotmail.com).

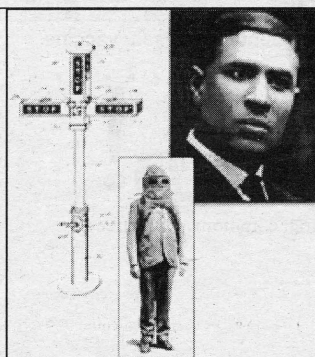
"I'm from a small town and it's very important to me that I learn about my heritage, part of that comes from being involved in something black [oriented]."

— Brook Hudnall

### Black History Month:

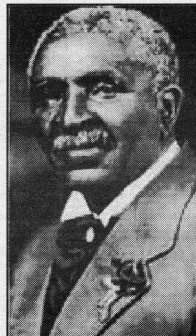
Honoring the inventors that helped make today a better place

<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Invention</u>	<u>Date</u>
George Washington Carver	Peanut Butter	1896
Garrett Morgan	Gas Mask	1914
Frederick M. Jones	Air Conditioning Unit	1949
Alexander Miles	Elevator	1867
Lydia O. Newman	Hair Brush	1800s
Robert F. Flemming Jr.	Guitar	1886
Paul L. Downing	Mail Box	1891
L.A. Burr	Lawnmower	1889
Sarah Boone	Ironing Board	1887
J. Standard	Refrigerator	1891
Edmond Berger	Spark Plug	1839
T.A. Carrington	Stove	1876
Garrett Morgan	Traffic Light	1890
J.L. Love	Pencil Sharpener	1897
Charles Drew	Blood Plasma Bag	1945
Henry T. Sampson	Cellular Phone	1971



Garrett Morgan (above) invented the gas mask and the traffic light in the 1800s.

George Washington Carver (below) invented peanut butter in 1896.



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**FLU** *continued from page 1*

with the traditional hall it's throughout the building.

"I would say on a 40-person hall 10 to 15 would come down with the flu or a bad cold during the year, and normally it's all at the same time."

Sometimes students leave campus while they recuperate, which helps to keep the virus from spreading.

"If a parent can pick them up and take them home that ends up being a good solution," Nelson said.

Though flu vaccine rates as a common method of prevention, college students are among those needing the vaccine because they're in a closed environment.

"The flu shots are available usually in October. It's good to plan ahead," Nelson said. "People who have any chronic illnesses should make sure they get it (the vaccine)."

While students still can receive the flu shot at health services at no cost, it is not fail-proof. According to the CDC, the vaccine has shown to be 70 percent to 90 percent effective. Yet, many people cannot distinguish the flu virus.

Flu symptoms resemble those of the cold virus but usually become more prominent, because someone suffering with a cold could have a low fever, runny or stuffy nose, cough and a feeling of malaise. In contrast a person with the flu virus could have a temperature ranging from 100 degrees to 103 degrees, muscle aches, dry cough and sometimes even insomnia.

So, what should people do when they have the flu?

Physicians suggest they stay home and get plenty of rest so the immune system eventually can fight it off.

"The treatment does slow the flu down



**Student winces while being vaccinated**

so it helps people get better a little bit faster than they might otherwise," Nelson said, citing amantadine and rimantadine as two types of antiviral drugs used in the treatment of influenza type A and zanamivir and oseltamivir used in treatment of influenza types A and B.

Treatments, however, can come with a long list of side effects and can create a resistant form of the virus that can be transferred to. Side effects include nausea, dizziness, insomnia and dry mouth.

Nelson estimated that students typically could miss about three days of class, but they still need to be careful about their contact with people.



**Student receives flu vaccine**

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**ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP** starting. First meeting will be Sunday, March 3rd at Retreat Hospital. First floor in conference room. For more info contact - [catherinejohnson77@yahoo.com](mailto:catherinejohnson77@yahoo.com)

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Part-time sales person needed for the Museum of the Confederacy's Admissions and Visitor Services Desk. Regularly scheduled hours during the week; availability on weekends is a must. Other part-time opportunities elsewhere in the Museum may be available. Perfect for history students or others who are interested. Please call Eric Appat 649-1861 x32 for more information.

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# Iowa State U. regent, fund-raising foundation relationship questioned

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In recent months several Iowans have questioned the relationship between the regent university foundations and the universities they serve.

The relationship between the fund-raising foundation and the Board of Regents also has come into question.

These questions appear at a time when the Foundation's open records policies are being debated in the Iowa Senate, and the Iowa State University Foundation and the Iowa Newspaper Association are attempting to reach a compromise.

"The ISU Foundation has always been an independent, private, nonprofit corporation, as are most institutionally related foundations in the United States," said Tom Mitchell, president and CEO of the ISU Foundation. "This status allows the ISU Foundation to assure donors that their gifts are separately invested from state-appropriated funds and used according to the donors' wishes."

Bill Kunerth, ISU professor emeritus of journalism and mass communication, said the ISU Foundation is distancing itself from the university.

Kunerth said examples include the fact the university president no longer appoints members to the Foundation's Board of Directors. Additionally, he said, Iowa State gave \$1.3 million each year to the Foundation for salaries until last year. Now the university will pay the Foundation

\$750,000 for services rendered. Also, the Foundation is moving off campus.

"Those changes are only cosmetic," Kunerth said. "There is a symbiotic relationship there because the university and the Foundation are so closely allied."

Mitchell said the ISU Foundation's decision to move off campus is unrelated to its relationship with the university. The space simply has become inadequate, and there is no space available on campus.

"The Foundation's physical location does not affect or change in any way its mission or openness," he said.

Mitchell said the other changes are a result of recent changes to the Foundation's articles of incorporation. He said those changes will "help assure donors that their private gift funds are separately and distinctly accounted for from state allocations."

"The changes also will ensure that no one person or group of people could change the mission of the Foundation," Mitchell said.

Others have raised concerns about the relationship of the Board of Regents and the regent university foundations.

Thomas Hanson, of Des Moines, Iowa, law firm Hanson, Bjork and Russell LLP, said Feb. 6 the Board of Regents had yet to respond to a letter sent Dec. 7 to then-Interim Executive Director Robert Barak.

Hanson's letter was sent on behalf of Des Moines businessman Arlen Nicholls, who could not be reached. The letter explains the relationship between the regent

university foundations and the board, citing Iowa Code 262.9, which lists the powers and duties of the Board of Regents.

Duty eight reads, "...accept and administer trusts and may authorize nonprofit foundations acting solely for the support of institutions governed by the board to accept and administer trusts deemed by the board to be beneficial."

The Board of Regents responded to Hanson's letter with a letter dated Jan. 11.

In the letter Barak said, "It appears to me that we have an honest difference of opinion about the relationship of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to the foundations of the universities."

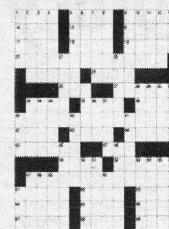
The Board extended an invitation to Hanson to meet with the legal counsels of the universities.

Mitchell described the relationship between the Board of Regents and the Foundation as a coordinating and communication-based relationship.

The ISU Foundation was established as a nonprofit corporation separate from the university in 1958.

Mitchell said the Foundation has an annual service agreement "to secure and manage private gift support and to manage the ISU alumni/donor database. The ISU Foundation raises private gifts to support priorities that are set by the university, not by the Foundation."

He said as part of that service agreement the Foundation provides a copy of its annual report to the Board of Regents.



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# Country legend Waylon Jennings, 64, dies

Tom Netherland  
CT STAFF WRITER

An empty stool sat on stage of the Ryman Auditorium during the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville Saturday night.

Waylon Jennings' longtime friends, Hank Williams Jr., Porter Wagoner, Travis Tritt and Marty Stuart, gathered to honor via song the man known for such songs as "Luckenbach, Texas."

Jennings, 64, died Wednesday afternoon at his Chandler, Ariz., home from diabetes-related complications. The country singer's health had been in decline for several years.

Yet he continued to perform through

late last October, using a wheelchair because of poor circulation in his legs. Just before Christmas his left foot was amputated.

"I'll never forget seeing him that way," said David Allan Coe, Jennings' friend of 30 years. "I cried. Here was this big and powerful man, always in control. And he couldn't walk."

News of Jennings' death hit the country music world hard.

"My heart is broken," said Travis Tritt. "With the passing of Waylon Jennings I have lost a great friend, a tremendous influence, a mentor and a teacher. He represented everything that I admire and respect in an artist and in a

person. Doing things his own way, speaking his mind regardless of the consequences and reaching out and touching the true inner-feelings of his audience are all things that Waylon stood for throughout his career."

Hank Williams Jr.'s manager Merle Kilgore said Jennings' friend of 40 years grew real quiet and kept to himself for several hours afterward.

Later in the day, Williams told of a particularly memorable recent encounter with Jennings. While on a flight to a concert date, inspiration struck and he wrote a tribute song about his friend.

By flight's end, "Eyes of Waylon" was complete. He then deplaned for a con-

necting flight.

"When I walked on the connecting flight, the first eyes I looked onto were Waylon's. He was sitting there with (wife) Jessi on the same flight I was catching," Williams said.

"We got to sit together and shoot the breeze and I had a chance to show him the song I had just written that day. I know he wouldn't care me tellin' he had tears in his eyes that day - especially not today when we've all got 'em."

Born in the wind-swept West Texas town of Littlefield on June 15, 1937, Jennings gravitated toward music at an

**JENNINGS** continued to page 13

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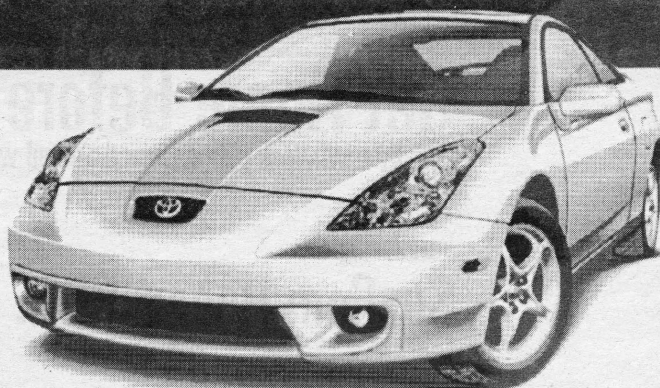


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# U.S. Lawmakers indicate likely failure mandatory military service legislation

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**H**ansen always knew college was where he wanted to spend his post-high school years.

Military service was something he contemplated but never fully considered because getting an education ranked higher on his priority list.

Hansen, along with other males between the ages of 18 and 22, would not be given this choice if one U.S. representative has his way.

Rep. Nick Smith, R-Mich., introduced a bill Dec. 20 that, if put into law, would mandate every male between 18 and 22 have six months of military training, preferably directly following high school graduation.

Women, though not included in the bill, could volunteer for the six-month training.

"In a state of emergency, how ready are our armed services to respond?" said Joshua Sabin, Smith's spokesman. "This bill would certainly address getting more people involved, particularly young people."

Sabin said the bill's purpose is to encourage a level of volunteerism and pride in the country.

After completing the training, he said, participants would come away "with experience and more knowledge of future endeavors."

Fellow members of Congress said the legislation will probably never leave the House Armed Services Committee. Some policy-makers don't think the bill is necessary.

"This is not going to pass," said Rep. Martin Sabo, D-Minn. "This draft would overload the military and provide more people than it needs. There is no capacity for this kind of training."

Sabo said he didn't think a draft was necessary in the war on terrorism and said the draft would be necessary only for an extended ground war.

Adam Peterman, spokesman for Rep. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn., agreed it wasn't likely the bill would ever see the House floor.

"This is a free country. You choose if you

want to participate in military functions," Peterman said. "There isn't support in Congress for legislation like this."

Many University of Minnesota students, who could be greatly affected by this proposed legislation, have said the training would interfere with their education.

Hansen said if he were forced to train, it would turn him off from the military.

"It would force me to take six months out of my life," Hansen said.

The gender differences in the bill have also turned some students against the idea of military training.

Jennifer Kolenda, a civil engineering senior, said she didn't think the training draft was necessary, but if it were she said it should mandate training for both males and females.

"I don't think it's fair. There are many women in the military today," Kolenda said. "If they do it for men, they should do

it for women too."

However, some students said a life in the armed forces is a good way to learn about life and pay for college.

Jason Murphy, a cadet in the Army ROTC program at the University, said the military has taught him a lot about himself and about other people.

"It means a lot to me," Murphy said.

But he said he thinks the volunteer military is a good system because the people involved want to be there.

"The soldiers that I relate with are all there because we signed up for it," Murphy said. "There is a level of professionalism and commitment there."

Despite students' concerns, duty to one's country does have an impact on students' views on the draft.

Kolenda said it might be a good learning experience to be in the military.

"I think it's good to get a sense as to what's going on," she said. "The training would be good to see how serious war really is."

Hansen said if his country called him to participate in defense he would do so.

"It's the last thing I would want to do," Hansen said. "But if I were drafted, I would stand up and do my duty."

**"I don't think it's fair. There are many women in the military today. If they do it for men, they should do it for women too."**

— Jennifer Kolenda

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# State's black legislators speak out

**Donne Waugh**  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Racial profiling statistics are skewed, said Delegate Kenneth R. Melvin, D-Portsmouth, during last week's Capitol press conference where the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus addressed issues involving racial profiling, DNA samples from accused criminals and the restoration of felons' voting rights.

Melvin's bill, backed by Gov. Mark R. Warner, would expand compulsory training for law-enforcement officers that would include sensitivity to cultural diversity and biased policing.

"We have been talking about racial profiling for a number of years," Melvin said. "In the past, we have gone at it by requesting statistics through various police agencies.

"In looking around the country, we made the determination that that is probably not the best way to go about it, because these statistics can be skewed by the police officers and by the intrusive questioning of the motorists that are stopped."

The caucus addressed racial profiling from a different angle this year, he said. With the help of the governor and a task force assigned to study the issue, Melvin's bill cleared the House of Delegates with only one dissenting vote.

"We determined that we would come up with a solution dealing with the culture of the problem — the culture of the police if

you will," Melvin said. "What we're going to have is specific diversity training dealing with people of color and other minorities.

"We're also going to deal with biased policing. We're going to do that with the training of police officers in the very beginning."

Col. W. Gerald Massengill, state police superintendent, and the Virginia Sheriffs Association endorsed the action, Melvin said.

The state Department of Criminal Justice would have the authority to create and distribute a model policy for each state and local police agency to use to ensure that law-enforcement personnel are sensitive and aware of cultural diversity. Each county also receives state funding that could be taken away if the county doesn't follow the model, Melvin added.

"We have more Republicans on this bill than Democrats," Melvin said. "I was pleased that it came out of the House of Delegates with only one dissenting vote, and I look forward to more success in the Senate."

Delegate Flora D. Crittenden, D-Newport News, spoke about her bill that would have allowed recipients of the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare program to be exempt from work requirements as long as they are enrolled full time in a public or private state college. Her bill effectively was defeated after the House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee voted to pass it indefinitely.

"It is not dead. We will certainly reintroduce it this year," Crittenden said.

"It's a vitally important bill to minorities and other poor persons for economic security and upward mobility."

Crittenden said most jobs today require a good education, and the state must prepare people for those jobs.

"We have moved people from welfare to work. Now the next step is to move them into jobs that would allow them to care of themselves and their families," she said.

Delegate Jerrauld C. Jones, D-Norfolk, discussed about his bill that would have restored the voting rights of convicted felons.

"As you know, the Legislative Black Caucus for a number of years under the leadership of all of us here have passed legislation in this area," Jones said. "But one of the things that we must do here in Virginia is eliminate this waiting period that exists."

Jones said that waiting period acts as an almost insurmountable barrier for those who have lost their voting rights. Jones' bill sought to eliminate the five-year waiting period.

"We had some very interesting debate about this bill in the House Courts of Justice Committee," Jones said. "We debated it. We debated it and we postponed it and we delayed it. We had a lot of interest. People were coming to me, saying 'I think it's a good idea, but why don't we carry the bill over?'"

"Carry it over is a euphemism around here for killing your bill although the idea is to study it some more, a little more in-depth."

The caucus, Jones said, doesn't think the issue needs to be studied anymore. But sensing the political reality of the situation, he decided to continue the bill until the 2003 General Assembly session.


"We, the black caucus, have met with Gov. Warner on this issue because so much of what can be done is within the discretion of the chief executive," Jones said. "We must simplify the application process. We must streamline, and we must make it more accessible to everyone whatever the waiting period might be."

The governor, Jones said, has assured the black caucus that in the coming weeks and months ahead, he and his office would review all the information involving the restoration of voting rights and that he would take steps in direct response to the caucus' demands in this area.

Delegate Lionell Spruill Sr., D-Chesapeake, urged fellow members to continue supporting the educational bond package sponsored by Delegate Vincent F. Callahan Jr., R-McLean.

"There are many underfunded colleges in the state," Spruill said. "My concern is Virginia State and Norfolk State colleges. What we're trying to do here — in this difficult time — as far as money, we're

**CAUCUS** continued to page 11



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**CAUCUS** *continued to page 11*

trying to make sure that we keep on top as far as what's happening in our schools."

Sen. Yvonne B. Miller, D-Norfolk, said she is confident her bill to ban cross burning in Virginia would make it through the House of Delegates, especially after the Senate unanimously approved it last week.

"This is a bill that has been narrowly drawn in order to make it against the law in Virginia to burn an object to intimidate people," Miller said. "The chances of this bill getting through the process appear to be fairly good. There is a House (version) that has been passed and a Senate (version) that has been passed. They are now crossing houses, and we hope both bills will be passed."

In response to a question, caucus members said they did not support a bill that cleared the full House last week that would require every person arrested for a violent felony to submit a blood, saliva or tissue sample for DNA analysis.

"When a person is accused and you're operating under a presumption of innocence, they're taking your DNA and matching it to see if you've committed other crimes," Melvin said. "It seems to me that this is a tremendous step away from the constitutional guarantees that Virginia has been known for since the inception of these United States."

Nonetheless, caucus members do say

they support new DNA technology because that technology freed James Earl Washington Jr., a man convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death in Virginia. Washington was exonerated after DNA tests proved his innocence.

"Our concern with this bill is that up until this point, there has always been a sample taken after conviction when you have lost your privilege against self-incrimination," Jerrauld Jones said. "The bill that was passed very much seems to erode away at the presumption of innocence, and that's the concern that the black caucus has expressed."

Delegate Dwight C. Jones, D-Richmond, the caucus' vice-chairman, said the group called the press conference at the Capitol to reiterate the importance of the 15-member black caucus.

"It really allows us to stand here today and say that our presence in the General Assembly does make a difference," Jones said. "We come to celebrate our successes together, but yet at the same time we find ourselves in an environment where some of our hard-fought-for successes are being eroded."

"So we're here to maintain our diligence and our mandate to be steadfast in watching to make sure that the things that have been fought for by our predecessors are not eroded in the present atmosphere that we find ourselves in. We will continue to put our best foot forward representing not only our constituents, but also the constituents of the entire state of Virginia."

**KENWOOD** *continued from page 1*

factories around the world, which are slowly closing and being replaced by contract workers in the United States.

Currently, 55 percent of Kenwood's business is conducted outside of Japan.

Kenwood entered the car audio business in the late 1980s. By 1995, sales in the company's car audio business surpassed that of its home audio sector. Richter said in the car audio market, Kenwood ranks between No. 2 and No. 3.

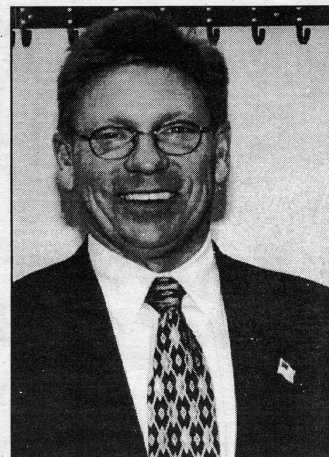
Richter attributes Kenwood's success to its ability to respond to the quickly changing market.

Starting this spring, Kenwood's product line will be sold in Best Buy stores for the first time in almost a decade. Currently, Kenwood's largest customer is Richmond-based Circuit City, the nation's second biggest consumer electronics retailer. Kenwood is gearing up to release a couple new products in the near future.

One product with a highly anticipated release is the Music Keg, a hard drive portable music station, will allow users to download MP3s music files and play them in their car.

Kenwood is also getting ready for the digital satellite radio market, and will make radios for Sirius satellite radio, XM's competitor.

Richter plans to travel to Japan this week to discuss company affairs. One big topic that will be discussed is whether they should discontinue the home audio business, which has become unprofitable.



Richter

Sarah Kite

During his visit, Richter will try to convince the parent company to move development to the United States to help reduce markups and inevitably increase profits.

Kenwood USA is sometimes burdened with a 12 percent to 18 percent markup for development costs that they are unable to pass onto distributors or consumers.

The VCU alumnus left the students with a parting gift: a Kenwood Outdoor Radio made with a Titanium body.

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# SPECTRUM

## Rapper cruises into town to 'disturb the peace'

*Ludacris performs at a heavily-guarded Siegal Center*

**Joy Shepperson**

CT STAFF WRITER

Richmond got a taste of "Southern Hospitality," when Ludacris arrived at the packed ALLTEL Pavilion in a stretch Lincoln Navigator Friday night. The concert, scheduled to start at 8 p.m., did not begin until 8:35 p.m., but was worth the wait.

The night started with Ebony Quest, a dance troupe at VCU.

Things started out a little rough. There were technical difficulties with the music a dancer got her belly chain caught in her

### REVIEW

hair. Still, the show went on.

Zulu, "the Big Lip Bandit" from Hot 99.3 morning, hyped the crowd by throwing freebies and T-shirts into the audience.

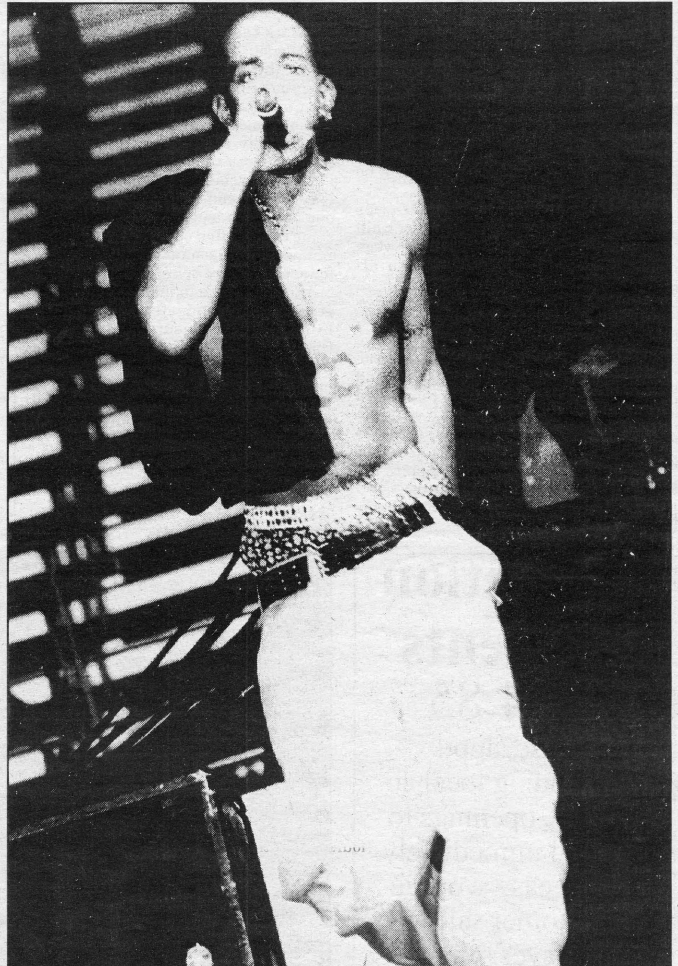
After waiting 40 minutes, Ludacris hit the stage, accompanied by the DTP (Disturbing the Peace) camp. What made this concert special was that Ludacris was not

the only artist performing that night. Every person performing on-stage was featured in a showcase.

Ludacris sang a variety of songs from his old album, "Ludacris: Back for the First Time," and his new album, "Word of Mouf." The crowd loved every minute of the show, often singing along and dancing, especially for Ludacris' more popular songs.

A highlight in the night's performance was Shawna, a member of the DTP camp. Shawna accompanied Ludacris on "What's your Fantasy" and showed love to the ladies in the audience. Disk Jockey J.C. also got love from the ladies when he performed a low-key strip show while working the turntables.

Ludacris performed for an hour and a half show without a dull moment. Despite the confusion finding a seat and the extremely tight security, which included pat-downs, bag checks and metal detectors, this show was worth the \$15.



Saida Durkee

Ludacris performed nearly two hours at the ALLTEL Pavilion Friday.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PERSON:

#### A down-to-earth rapper

Fans from all over the Richmond area flocked to see Def Jam recording artist Ludacris, Friday. Even if you didn't get a chance to catch the concert, it was difficult not to know it was there. Spots advertising the concert were played on six separate local radio stations and flyers were posted around town. VCU, who hosted the concert, supplied students with discounted rates.

We were backstage waiting for our chance not only to photograph the concert, but also to meet the man himself. We found our way to the second level of the Siegal Center to Founders Room, where Ludacris was to host a meet and greet with fans. Around 8:15 p.m., he arrived with his crew and fellow performers and made a swift run through the crowd, and made his way back toward the stage. We happened to catch him before he got onto the elevator, and asked him if we could take his picture. "Sure," he said and posed for a quick picture.

Although our motive at the concert was to take photographs, it was difficult not to notice the appeal of this artist. Even though we spent most our time running from one side of the stage to the other, we had some chances to sit back and watch. At one point, we stood be-

tween the barrier and the stage and saw Shawna, the female member of Ludacris' entourage lean over and talk to fans in the front row. Kids from the backstage area were invited up to the stage to watch the artists perform. We watched the crowd respond to his music, and Ludacris perform not for himself but for the fans.

As they worked their way off the stage, we got the chance to meet Shawna, who signed our All Access pass and allowed us to take pictures.

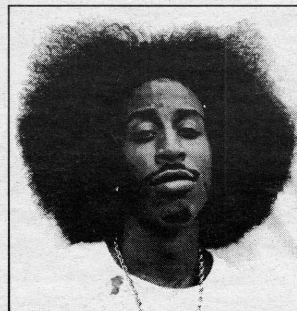
"What's your name?" she asked, signing my pass "To Brenda, God Bless. Shawna."

She shook my hand and made her rounds with other fans. We found our way back to the dressing room where Ludacris and his crew were relaxing.

Offstage, his character had changed from "Gangsta Thug" as seen in his videos, to a very approachable, smiling guy, just happy to be with his friends and relax. He met with fans, signed some photographs and allowed us to shoot some more candid pictures.

Unlike many artists, who refuse to talk to the press or sign autographs, he welcomed us and was willing to sign as many autographs as we wanted with his trademark signature, "Ludacris (404)". The night ended with a huge turn at the concert and a top performance by Ludacris.

- by Brenda Berson & Saida Durkee



*Offstage, his character had changed from "Gangsta Thug" as seen in his videos, to a very approachable, smiling guy, just happy to be with his friends and relax. He met with fans, signed some photographs and allowed us to shoot some candid pictures.*

photo by Butch Belair



# Richmond a a great place for singles?

## VCU students take issue with AOL study

Amber Hendrix  
CT STAFF WRITER

A recent article in *The Economist* magazine cites the emergence of a new census group. The magazine has deemed this group "Bridgets," based on the title character of Helen Fielding's novel, "Bridget Jones's Diary." Bridgets are similar to Fielding's famous female protagonist in that they are young, single professionals fumbling their way through the often-unforgiving dating scene. Bridgets are a multi-industry driving force in cities such as New York and London, and are an emerging dynamic in places like Paris and Tokyo.

While the difficulty of isolating such a group makes it impossible to reveal, in this article, whether Bridgets exist in Richmond, the findings provided by America Online earlier this month make the strength of urban singles a topic of interest.

The study by the Internet service provider asserted that Richmond is the second best city in the United States for singles, topped only by Sacramento, Calif. In other words, Richmond has a large singles population, making it seem likely that singles could couple off with little to no difficulty.

This information, of course, resulted in a "who knew?" reaction from many Richmond urbanites.

The finding carries with it a certain stigma for those who are the subject of such a study. Perhaps local radio personality Allen Price said it best and most unsympathetically when he deemed chronic singles "losers" during one of his recent broadcasts.

The implication surrounding the study results and Price's comment, though in good fun, seem to function as a blow to the already fragile egos of the marathon dateless. However, a reprieve exists in the form of such a study's ambiguity. Without an isolated age group, single college students are allowed some room to squirm.

I found such an attempt viable when I informed friends of Richmond's new claim to fame.

"Really, number two? I had no idea," was the collective reaction. This followed by, "I think that applies to late-twenty to thirty-somethings, not us."

I admit that I did not know the solicited age group but, perhaps, they were right. In fact, I shared this opinion. That several years post-high school group, I thought, was not included in a "singles" scene. The dominant reasoning behind such an assumption was that most university students are simply too busy, too multi-faceted to concentrate their after 5 o'clock energy on coupling off.

The difference between professional singles and college singles may be, age-wise, little to nothing. However, the social scene provided by a university is quite different than the one that results from work and after-hours interaction

in the professional world.

My brother, a 23 year-old New York "single with prospects," informed me there was a real and perceived difference between dating in college and dating after college. Business luncheons and chance-meetings were the stuff of potential relationships for him and his acquaintances.

There are exceptions but, for the most part, academia supplies a network of social circles that seem to dwindle after graduation.

Jessica Sims, a VCU senior, agreed that finding a date seemed to be the product of interacting in a social circle of friends and acquaintances.

"It doesn't seem like many people in college date outside their social circle," Sims said. "If you're in a social circle without many single people, well, you're screwed, but not literally."

The absence of such a set social network is the constant lament of Bridgets, who seek to compensate for this loss with the creation of "urban tribes." Fielding's Bridget Jones has one in the form of her single female and male stand-bys. This is not to say, however, that such "tribes" do not exist in the world of college students. Sims confirmed this when she admitted to relying heavily on a group of singles, sprinkled with a couple or two, for her social activities.

"It's not a necessity," she said, "but it does make you feel better to know that other people are in the same situation and are okay with it."

"It's also great to have a guaranteed group to hang out with."

I asked Teresa Maxwell, a freshman Advertising major at VCU, if she felt she and her female friends had such a group.

"Yeah, I guess we have a sort of 'Joy Luck Club,'" she said and laughed.

Of course, one's urban tribe is always threatened by the possibility that one or more members will become involved in a relationship and leave the group.

"The potential pairing off of people in your circle does have a certain fear factor attached to it," Sims said. "It's natural, but it's still disappointing and it disrupts your comfort level."

Another phenomenon closely linked with that of urban families is the existence of "predatory groups." The main difference is the object and dynamic of such groups. Urban families are a support group, comprised of both genders and of singles and non-singles alike. Predatory groups, however, are exclusive to the dating scene and include only one's own gender.

In fact, Kevin O'Brien, a political science major, told me he thought of urban tribes as more of a female exclusive occurrence, while both genders sometimes travel in predatory groups.

"I think of women when I think about social scene support groups," O'Brien said, "I know there are exceptions but, in my experience, single guys I know haven't really needed to rely on emotional support from each other."

Of course, anyone who's ventured to Shockoe Bottom on a weekend night could attest to the existence of predatory groups among both genders. This raises the question: what about college singles who want to avoid the bar and nightclub scenes?

Ryan Elliot, a chemistry graduate student, said the classroom interaction available to college students is a potential alternative.

"School's the best way to meet people—all you have to do is go to class and you're likely to meet someone with similar interests," Elliot said. "It seems that any liberal arts university would be a great environment to be single in." He said being an "aggressive" member of a predatory group often proves futile when the object is a meaningful relationship.

"When you go out with the intention of meeting someone special, you never do. He said it just doesn't happen that way. It's sort of the fortune cookie philosophy: you can't search for love, it finds you."

According to America Online, the idea of love discovering a Richmond single seems valid. Elliot, however, was skeptical about such a study and its implications.

"I wonder how they would come to that conclusion," he said. "It seems like a useless study because it would be totally dependent on people's interests."

This point, perhaps, best explains the weakness of America Online's findings. It not only relies on the aforementioned age-group ambiguity, but seems to disregard the varied interests of Richmond's singles. This is not to say America Online should have released a study of the abundance or lack of singles in each identifiable Richmond "scene." That would be expecting too much of what was, essentially, a promotional study. However, people around VCU definitely took notice of these discrepancies. Some College singles, said they feel they have little to fear from a study that does not necessarily represent them.

"I don't think that consensus particularly applies to my age group. I think it's more like late 20's to mid 30's," said Anne Wu, a graphic design major.

This reaction is not astonishing (the ubiquitous "they" have released findings that generalize metro singles).

Perhaps sculpture major Mike Riccioppo spoke for the masses when he said, with more than a hint of sarcasm, "Yeah, Richmond's a good place to be single—for a long ass time."

### JENNINGS

—continued from page 6

early age. His family moved to Lubbock when he was 12, a move that soon led the tall and lean youth to radio.

Though but 14, he worked as a discjockey on Lubbock's KLLL. Bitten hard by the music bug, Jennings wanted more. So he learned to play guitar.

Opportunity struck when Lubbock's rock superstar Buddy Holly came calling. He needed a band to replace the Crickets, and so he called upon Jennings to play bass guitar in 1958.

Fate fell hard in 1959 when Holly, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson and Richie Valens were killed in a plane crash. Jennings would have been on the plane if not for having given up his seat to Richardson.

Jennings moved to Phoenix in 1960 and formed his band, the Waylors. For three years he honed his talents as the house band at J.D.'s. A&M Records chief Herb Alpert discovered him there in 1963 and signed him to a record deal.

Besides the notice, little came of it.

But RCA's Chet Atkins noticed something in the dark and mysterious Texan. Signed to a long-term contract, Jennings scored his first charted single with RCA in 1965 with "That's the Chance I'll Have to Take."

Not that Jennings cared. He soon grew to hate having no control on how his songs sounded. By the early 1970s, he'd had enough.

He demanded that RCA allow him complete creative

control or he'd refuse to record another album. They relented. Soon thereafter a fair-to-middling career burst into that of a superstar's.

Jennings and buddy Willie Nelson produced the country outlaw's 1974's breakthrough album, "This Time." Within a year the bearded men were country's best sellers.

Fellow country rebel Merle Haggard took note. "Waylon and I were real close," Haggard said. "We were close in age, and we both made our start out west. We go back a long way. We're all going to miss him. He's one of a kind."

Jennings lived long enough to see himself entered as a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame in October.

"Waylon Jennings is a totally unique and irreplaceable character in the colorful history of country music," said Country Music Association chief Ed Benson, "and I'm so very glad his greatness will be forever acknowledged by his recent induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame."

Forever enshrined, the ramblin' renegade with the penetrating eyes and intimidating persona was beloved by millions. Including his buddy Johnny Cash.

"Waylon was a dear friend — one of the very best of 35 years," Cash said in a statement. "I will miss him immensely."

### Eyes of Waylon

By HANK WILLIAMS JR.

When it comes to real rounders there's only one  
That was better than I was at havin' some fun  
It's true he shows grey in his beard

Does that mean he's history or is he a pillar and a pier  
This music called country, somethin' we all make  
No it didn't just happen 'cause of the latest rage  
Son, he was the biggest thing to come along  
In Nashville in those days

He sang his song called "Are You  
Sure Hank Done It This Way"  
I don't know if he did, but I sure  
know what I saw

The first triple platinum album  
in that town was hangin' on his wall  
Radio will play him till the end of  
time

Because he's a real legend, not  
the phony kind.

And I looked in the eyes of Waylon  
And there I saw things that I'd  
never seen before

I saw a father, and a brother,  
and a friend

I saw the nights we spent wild out on the road  
It's not the money, it's not the fame, it's not the ladies  
And the eyes of Waylon just told me so.  
Yes I looked in the eyes of Waylon  
There I learned things I'd better know  
And if I doubted there's a hillbilly heaven  
The eyes of Waylon just told me so  
And if I doubted there's a hillbilly heaven  
The eyes of ole Waylon just told me so.



Jennings

# OPINION

**Robb Crocker**

## Give credit where it's due

**R**udolph Giuliani was knighted last week in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

It is a rare occasion when the United Kingdom knights an American (let alone a politician) but what about all the policeman and firefighters who endured, suffered and witnessed worse during the attacks of Sept. 11?

I think that Giuliani is well deserved of knighthood, as is George W. Bush and to some extents, former Virginia Governor James Gilmore, but let's give credit where credit is due: the firefighters, police officials and those involved in the massive cleanup of Sept. 11 deserve more credit than anyone in this country can ever give them.

Our leaders have been strong moving our country to the next phase after the terrorist attacks but to just single out one individual from the aftermath was a bad move.

Don't get me wrong; Giuliani is well deserving of any accolades he has received.

But those who were at the scene during and after the attacks of the Pentagon and the World Trade Center will never receive the credit that they deserve.

A very close friend of mine was a part of the cleanup at the World Trade Centers and he said that the aftermath was "awe-inspiring." And being as humble as he is, he constantly told New Yorkers who attempted to shower him with praise and kindness that they need to save it for those who were more deserving of it, such as the firefighters and policemen. With that being said, I would like to unofficially knight all those who helped during and after the terrorist attacks. This includes firefighters, police officials, cleanup officials, people who donated to various funds and people who lost loved ones.

I am taking it upon myself to give credit where credit is due. Giuliani did an amazing job leading New York City through this crisis but there were hard working Americans who did most of the work. Thank you.

**Mike Talley**



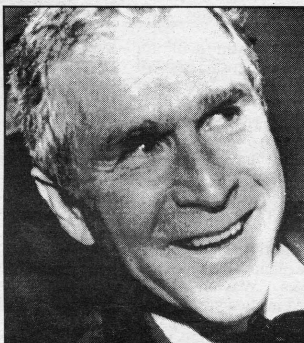
SILVER IS THE MEDAL  
OF CHAMPIONS...

## President should rethink his drug policy

© U-WIRE

**MINNEAPOLIS** — President George W. Bush announced his new Drug Control Strategy Tuesday, saying, "We're putting the fight against drugs in the center of our national agenda." The president's policy rests on three main principles — stopping drug use before it starts, healing U.S. drug users and disrupting the market.

Bush said his goal was to reduce drug



Bush

use by 25 percent in five years, with a 10 percent reduction in two years.

Unfortunately, Bush's goals are unrealistic and his methods are potentially more harmful than helpful.

Perhaps the greatest threat of Bush's new plan is his commitment to continue and even further U.S. meddling in foreign governments' business. He has targeted the region most victimized by previous U.S. efforts — South America. Specifically naming Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Panama and Ecuador, the president promised billions of dollars to help these countries and others fight drug manufacturers. Yet, the United States has an atrocious history of destabilizing governments, funding murderous regimes and causing civil unrest in the name of foreign drug policy.

Bush justifies this global interference by connecting drug use to terrorism. He said, "Make no mistake about it, if you're buying illegal drugs in America, it is likely that money is going to end up in the hands of a terrorist organization." He used the Taliban as an example.

"Just think about the Taliban in Afghanistan — 70 percent of the world's opium trade came from Afghanistan, resulting in significant income to the Taliban,

significant amount of money to the people that were harboring and feeding and hiding those who attacked and killed thousands of innocent Americans on Sept. 11.

This is revisionist history at its worst. The fact is, the Taliban banned opium production. The Drug Enforcement Administration reported that under the Taliban, opium production in Afghanistan was reduced from 3,000 metric tons to 74 metric tons. The "lion's share" of that 74 metric tons, the report said, was produced in the areas controlled by the Taliban's opposition, our allies. Meanwhile, most Afghan opium is sold in Europe, not the United States, the report said.

Proponents of the Drug Control Strategy rightfully note that scrunched between these pitfalls is the plan's one good side — increased funding for drug treatment.

Although needed, people should not accept politicians attaching one altruistic intention onto a self-serving policy. Citizens must demand politicians create wholly egalitarian policies that actually benefit the majority of society. This plan clearly does not.

**SOUND OFF!**  
Write a letter to  
the editor.  
You should send  
correspondence to:  
[ctvcu@hotmail.com](mailto:ctvcu@hotmail.com)

**TIMES**

**Ty Bowers**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**Robb Crocker**  
EDITORIAL EDITOR

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Jen Triske

# Hollywood's perfect woman can kiss my average butt

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**GRAND FORKS, N.D.** — The other day at the gym I was flipping through an old copy of People magazine and came across an article about Jennifer Aniston. As I skimmed the article I was appalled when I read what Hollywood had to say about Jennifer's measurements. Apparently "Rachel" was a little "hefty" at 5'6" and 130 pounds, so she was told to lose 20 pounds, leaving her at a "sleek" 110.

I stopped dead in my stair-stepping tracks. I happen to be 5'6" and 130 pounds on the dot. I thought I was semi-sleek. Like every other girl on the planet, I think my butt is a little too big and my thighs are a little too flabby. But I certainly would never label myself "hefty." But I didn't need to. Hollywood had decided for me that I was 20 pounds overweight, and I had a lot more stair-stepping to do.

It doesn't matter in the entertainment world that the average American woman wears a size 10-12 dress and weights be-

tween 145-165 pounds. The women they portray to us "hefty" girls as being "normal" and "sexy" weigh about as much as one of my thighs. I can't watch TV or open a magazine without seeing some waif-like model trying to tell me I should look like her. I actually feel bad for them. They look like all they have eaten for the past year is celery.

But I too, like many girls of all ages, have been brainwashed. I think I should look like that. Even though the smart part of my head tells me that if I lost 20 pounds I would look unhealthy, the part of my head that sees Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera dancing around in bra tops won't listen. I think I have been on a diet since I was 11. (Minus freshman year, when I gained the infamous "freshman 15.") I eat a couple slices of pizza and I sweat an extra 20 minutes on the treadmill. Anything to be able to wear a bra top to the bar without that annoying little "pudge" around my stomach that I affectionately call "my little Buddha man."

I am the first person to admit I am being stupid. It is ridiculous to try to live up to Hollywood's beanpole standards. If I had a personal trainer, a personal chef, a personal dietitian and ate only lettuce for the rest of my life I would look that good too. But I don't. And that is OK.

I am a normal American girl. I like to eat pizza from time to time and my busy schedule doesn't allow me to workout three hours a day. And let's face it, nobody is going to airbrush my mugshot in here for me. So I made a new goal for myself, one that I think all you ladies out there should follow. Instead of comparing myself to all the waify, airbrushed models, I am just going to strive to be healthy and happy. And if I ever happen to get in touch with Hollywood, I am going to tell them to kiss my 20-pounds-overweight ass.

• *The writer is a student at the University of North Dakota.*

## President's abstinence-only policy a mistake

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**ANN ARBOR, Mich.** — President George W. Bush's new budget proposal is expected to provide significantly increased funding for sex-education programs that teach only abstinence as a method of protection against sexually-transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Research acknowledged by the surgeon general has found that programs that teach only abstinence are not as effective as programs that teach both abstinence and contraception.

The more effective programs emphasize that abstinence is the only way to completely eliminate the risks of contracting sexually-transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies but they go on to teach that those who choose to have sex should use contraceptives and condoms.

Because these programs are more effective, they should be emphasized and given priority, in terms of financial and human resources, over abstinence-only teaching

## Politically correct? Enough is enough.

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**PITTSBURGH** — Our society, like any other, is susceptible to the occasional irrational panic. Urban legends of people drugged by strangers who cut out their organs to sell them on the illicit transplant market.

Yet no panic is more irrational or fantastic than the sort that is created, stoked and maintained over a long period of time by elite opinion-makers and mass media commentators. And of these, none is more specious than the much-hyped phenomenon of "political correctness" at U.S. universities.

An incalculable number of column-inches in U.S. newspapers large and small have been devoted to the subject of "P.C." over the past 10 years. By the looks of the most recent output, it appears the leading pundits of the right have developed a computer program that allows them to randomly generate a standard denunciation of the specters of subversive and "anti-Western" tendencies in U.S. universities.

Such columns inevitably begin with a standard byline — like George Will and William Safire. They proceed to an anecdotal story about a supposed campus P.C. horror — the student who got in trouble for calling some other students "water buffaloes," the professor who was reprimanded for using the word "niggardly" or a literature course that features Alice Walker rather than Shakespeare.

At this point there is a statement of

exasperation. "This time they've gone too far!" "What will the P.C. police think of next?" Then the columnist speculates as to why this has happened ("former '60s radicals became professors and now have become tenured radicals" etc.) and follows up with an overworked cliché that is supposed to be funny ("Marxism failed everywhere but the English department, ha ha ha").

The column then wraps up with an ominous speculation about the implications for the culture — students will know more about Frantz Fanon than George Washington, "relativism" will replace "objective truth" and so on. As anyone who has spent more than five minutes on a university campus knows, there's a major flaw with this line of analysis: It bears no relation to reality.

In reality, universities are not run by the left, but are bulwarks of the status quo. Our own University, for instance, has a board of trustees staffed mostly by corporate executives and by politicians like Dick Thornburgh, who crushed the now-defunct state student association when he was governor and went on to become U.S. Attorney General under Bush the Elder.

Our administrators angle for corporate dollars and therefore attempt to run the University on principles congenial to corporations, e.g., deliberate efforts to attract a more affluent clientele in the form of more and more well-to-do students, and a hostile anti-union labor policy that seeks to keep wages as low as possible and to outsource work to outside firms where feasible. By and large, our administrators hobnob with corporate figures on a regular

basis, go to the same parties and play on the same golf courses. They are of the corporate world.

Our most high-profile Vice Chancellor, Jerome Cochran, opposes the collection of statistics to determine whether the Pitt police engage in racial profiling. There's no need to do so since the Pitt police don't engage in racial profiling. How do we know this? Because Jerry Cochran says so.

It's true that the occasional radical can be found on the faculty of a number of university departments on this campus and on many others. Though contrary to myth, most '60s radicals either got more conventional occupations or found jobs in "movement" institutions like community organizations, civil rights and other nonprofit groups and labor unions. Yet, they draw the ire of political commentators, not because of their dominance, but because of their visible marginality.

The left has been driven from nearly every opinion-forming institution in the country from radio to newspapers to television. The exceptions prove the rule: Michael Moore's "TV Nation," for example, was popular as a pilot on both Fox and ABC, but never made it as a regular show. Moore was later relegated to the more marginal Bravo network. A few radical professors hang on in the universities, but their presence hardly interferes with the agenda of those who really run the academy.

*Because some adolescents will have sex despite what they are taught, any sex-education program should also include information about contraceptives.*

methods. Because some adolescents will have sex despite what they are taught, any sex-education program should also include information about contraceptives. Programs that teach abstinence only ignore the fact that using contraceptives helps lower the risk when compared to unprotected sex. They ignore the fact that contraceptives better than using nothing at all.

While Congress was debating the education reform bill (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001), Bush made it very clear that only educational programs scientifically proven to be the most effective method would receive funding. Though these comments were specifically directed at programs teaching traditional academic subjects (i.e. reading and mathematics) one would assume such a result-oriented criteria for receiving federal funds would apply to sex-education programs as well. Unfortunately, this is not the case as Bush and other government officials propose to increase spending on the abstinence-only, scientifically disproven program.

Sex-education programs that teach both abstinence and contraception should be emphasized over those that teach just abstinence. Bush's proposed budget change with regard to reproductive education, a change that will encourage educators to withhold information from their students, clearly falls short of his intention of a system of empirically proven education that leave no child behind.

# SPORTS

## Rams defeat Towson

Derek Stamey  
CT SPORTS EDITOR

How do you treat a hurting wound? How do you relieve the pain of losing five of six road games in the Colonial Athletic Conference?

How about one part Willie Taylor, one part Domic Jones, and top it off with intense, man-to-man defense. VCU used the two-man punch of Taylor and Jones plus their tough defense to soundly defeat home standing Towson 62-49 Saturday night in Towson, Maryland.

Taylor jumped on Towson early, scoring 18 of his 26 points before halftime. Jones picked it up in the second when he used an assortment of moves to tally 12 of his 16 points.

"My teammates were finding me in good position, and I just tried to make them. They were going down tonight," said Taylor about his 4-6 three-point effort that

night.

The Rams were on defensively Saturday night as well. They held the home team Tigers to 30 percent shooting for the game. Towson also struggled at the free throw line, hitting only 10 of 25 free throws. "Defensively, we were very solid," said head coach Mack McCarthy.

The win raises VCU's record to 18-8 overall and 10-5 in the CAA. The Rams hold on to third place in the CAA standings, a half game behind George Mason, who the Rams square off against next.

"This should give us some confidence for the next couple of games," Jones said.

The next two games for the Rams will truly test whether they have reached their potential. Both games are road contests against the top two teams in the conference, George Mason and UNC Wilmington.

Jones said he hopes the Rams will be running into the postseason with a full head of steam.

## Racing legend ready for another season

Tom Netherland  
CT STAFF WRITER

Champs, chumps and everybody but your favorite Uncle Charley has driven for Nascar Winston Cup car owner W.C. "Junie" Donlavey. Drivers on the way up, down and those who scaled little more than a concrete wall number among the nearly hundred heartysouls to wheel the wheel of Donlavey's familiar No. 90.

Having completed his 52nd year of stock car racing last year, the Richmond native and longtime resident looks forward to a good season with fellow Virginian Rick Mast as his new driver.

Bad luck hit last week when Mast failed to qualify for Sunday's Daytona 500. Most folks in his position would have been bowed with disappointment.

Yet middle of the pack, back of the pack or broke down in the garage Donlavey smiles with an undeterred love of the sport.

"It's the only reason why I got into it. It's the only reason why I've stayed in it. Because it's fun," Donlavey, 76, said from his small shop in Richmond. "To waste just one day of your life on doing something that you didn't want to do is terrible because you can't never get it back."

Donlavey first fielded a Modified Division car in 1949 and entered a car in the first Southern 500 in Darlington for Bob Apperson in 1950.

"Junie was there at the very beginning of NASCAR," said Joe Kelly, a longtime Nascar announcer. "He's seen 'em all, known 'em all. There's no better man than Junie Donlavey."

He's fielded cars in more than 800 races divided among more than 70 drivers. Three

won Nascar Rookie of the Year honors, including Ken Schrader and Ricky Rudd.

Yet though he's spun a number of future winners, Donlavey has but one notch in his tool-belt. Yep, only one win. That came in 1981 at Dover's monster mile in the Mason-Dixon 500.

With short track terror Jody Ridley strapped in, Donlavey's Ford surprised the field by snaring the checkered.

Ridley won Nascar's Rookie of the Year the following year.

"Jody was as good as anybody out there. He was that smooth. But then the third year he wanted to take what we had and try to run with the factory cars. We couldn't have done it. You know, pulling more gears, extending the engine and then we had a lot of problems finishing the races."

So Ridley left.

"He ran maybe four or five races," Donlavey said. "He came over one day and said, 'I want to apologize to you.' I said for what? He said 'for the way that I thought and now I've found out how right you were.' You can't extend your equipment. You can only do but so much with what you've got."

No one knows that better than Donlavey. He's the penny-pinching king. For years he employed an all-volunteer crew. Yet week-in and week-out the stalwart made the race. Each week. Every track.

And with enough drivers to fill two fields. Check the list. Greats such as David Pearson, the late Joe Weatherly, Fred Lorenzen and Benny Parsons manned Donlavey's cars.

"Back in the '50s and early '60s, Virginia had some of the toughest modified drivers in the country. People like Ray Hendrick, Sonny Hutchins, Runt Har Today's modified division pales when compared with the stripped-steel demons driven by Hutchins and Dale Earnhardt's daddy Ralph. Each driver was an Earnhardt. Intimidating. Nasty. Win in a modified, boy, and call yourself a driver."



### In other weekend games...

George Mason def.  
Drexel, 79-64

ODU edges JMU, 73-68

W&M def. Hofstra, 61-57

## STANDINGS

	Conf.	Overall
UNCW	13-3	18-8
GMU	10-4	16-7
VCU	10-5	18-8
Drexel	10-6	13-12
W&M	6-8	9-15
Delaware	6-9	10-15
JMU	5-10	12-12
Hofstra	5-10	10-16
Towson	5-10	9-16
ODU	5-10	10-14

## Baseball downs St. Joe's

FROM NEWS SOURCES

Senior Bo Acors hurled a seven-inning shutout and junior Justin Mattison smacked a three-run triple in the bottom of the sixth to break a scoreless tie and lift VCU to a 4-0 victory over St. Joseph's in the second game of a baseball doubleheader Saturday at The Diamond.

In the opener, Rams' senior Davy Martin threw seven strong innings and VCU pounded out a season-high 13 hits to earn a 14-3 win.

The nightcap featured a duel between Acors and Hawks' sophomore Erik Holman, who allowed just two hits over the first five frames. Senior second baseman Bryan Gillespie started the Rams' rally with a leadoff walk and promptly stole second. After a sacrifice bunt from junior Jose Pabon and an intentional walk to classmate Danny Lopaze, Holman issued a free pass to junior Rigo Orozco to load the bases. Mattison then delivered a line-drive that reached the left-center field wall to clear the sacks and sophomore third baseman Nick Jones followed with a sacrifice fly to plate Mattison for a 4-0 VCU advantage.

Acors (1-1) made struck out the side in the seventh and finished with a season-high nine punchouts as the Rams improved to 2-4 overall.

The right-hander allowed just three

hits and walked two.

Jones led the VCU offense in game one with three hits and two RBI, while Lopaze finished two-for-four with a pair of RBI in the opener.

The Rams also received two hits each from Gillespie and Mattison, while senior catcher Ed Bongard drove in two runs during the win.

VCU jumped on St. Joseph's starter Mike Minerva with a pair of first-inning runs in game one. A leadoff walk to senior center fielder Matt Davis and a base hit from Gillespie set the stage for Lopaze's two-run single to left, which opened the scoring. The Hawks countered with two runs of their own in the top of the second to tie the game.

The Rams took the lead for good with two runs in the bottom of the second. Mattison led off with a base hit to left and crossed the plate after a wild pitch and throwing error by Wolfer, and Jones later doubled off the left field wall and scored on a Bongard ground ball to give VCU a 4-2 cushion. RBI doubles from Pabon and Orozco in the third extended the Rams' advantage to four runs and VCU tacked on three more runs off Minerva in the fifth to take a commanding 9-2 lead.

Martin allowed just one St. Joseph's hit after the second and scattered five hits and two runs to improve to 1-1 on the year.

Donlavey's known them all. And he's seen them die.

"I don't know how you can take everything out of it that can hurt you," he said.

Donlavey should know. Dial back to the 1950s and Charlotte, N.C. A young Richmonder named Hank Stanley drove to the track that day to drive for him. He never made it home.

"In the race, the car stopped on the backstretch one time on the mile dirt track. By the time we got over there, he'd gotten it started and back running again. It backfired one time going down the straightaway and it caught on fire."

Flames quickly engulfed Stanley.

Horribly burned, the young driver was dragged from the enflamed metal hulk. Felled by that which all drivers fear, Stanley died several days later.

"Back in those days, they were very dangerous," Donlavey said. "They don't realize how fast life goes by."

Yet Richmond's rocket remains a fixture.

"In all the years that I've been in racing, it's been the best bunch of competitors and people that you could be around," Donlavey says. "And the fans are first class. The reason why they draw so many people is that people like to be with good people. It is a family sport."



Donlavey