

THE Commonwealth TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 37
No. 10 September 30, 2002

Monday

Bob answers
your questions,
page 10.



FREE!

inWEATHER

P. Cloudy
Hi 79
Lo 58



inNEWS

Theresa Pollak
nurtured art
programs at RPI/
VCU and UR
during her life.



inOPINION

With Motorola
gone, what
will become
of the promise
to Engineering
School?



MOTOROLA

inSPECTRUM

The world is not all pink
and blue!
Transgender
activist Leslie
Feinberg brings
issues to VCU.



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Gay students attacked on campus

OLIVIA LLOYD
Executive Editor

The diversity of VCU has been scrutinized after a recent unprecedented attack on a gay-student organization.

The attack occurred around 10 p.m. Sept. 17 as members of VCU's Sexual Minority Student Alliance met in the University Student Commons.

"One of the guys came in and said that there was a group of guys outside that had just hit him because he was gay," said Joye Abbott, 20, a freshman women's study major who was attending her second meeting.

Members of the SMSA went outside to investigate the student's claim and were greeted by several college-age men who repetitively yelled defamatory remarks at them.

"They called us every name in the book," said Kevin Pritchard, 27, a mass communications major and member of SMSA. "I said, 'Look, just be a man and walk away.'"

Advertising major Kevin Fenton, 22, who was getting ready to leave the meeting, witnessed the altercation as he was walking to his car.

"There seem to be a face off between the five alleged assailants and the gay people," he said. "They were just arguing back and forth."

One man, Abbott said, dropped his pants and mooned the group.

"They started charging," she said, "kind of running back and forth."

"The first guy came up and hit me in the side of my head. I turned around and the second guy was charging at me as well, and that's when I pushed him away and he hit me in my mouth, busting the inside of my lip."

The beating didn't end there.

"The first guy came up behind the second guy and struck me across my face, breaking my nose."

"I was dumbfounded," she said. "I was knocked stupid, I couldn't comprehend what was going on after that."

Fellow SMSA members escorted Abbott to the bathroom. She was later rushed to the hospital with another student and treated for head trauma.

"I've never been in a situation like that," she said. "I mean, I knew that it happened; it's kind of like that cliché, 'I never thought it could happen to me.'"

Fenton agreed. "I've never had a problem at VCU," he said. "I've never been faced with any sort of hate crime."

Two men, ages 18 and 19, have been arrested on charges of assault, said Capt. Carlton Edwards of VCU Police, but others remain at large.

"There are many, many individuals involved," Edwards said, "we just haven't been able to ID anyone else at this point."

"The suspects were former Virginia Union (University) students," he said. "We believe

Why did this happen?

I heard people say 'Oh my God, he hit her.'

It's kind of like that cliché

'I never thought it could happen to me.'

Hate affects all of us.

A guy came in and said they hit him because he was gay.

Sometimes we have to fight to keep ourselves safe.

One guy said, 'I'm not afraid to hit a dyke,' and threw a punch.

I've heard people say derogatory stuff in classes to me about being gay.

This is not going to stop me from being who I am.

One of the guys mooned us and called us "faggots."

Our differences are what makes us strong. I believe last week's attacks were a wake-up call to our community.

The first guy struck me across my face, breaking my nose.

Hate crime legislation is a joke here in Virginia.

Photo illustration: Sheena Lloyd

they were individuals that just didn't like gay and lesbian individuals."

Standing before a crowded Commonwealth Ballroom during last Thursday night's SMSA forum, Abbott retold the story of her assault.

With a black eye and swollen nose, she broke down several times as she addressed more than 100 listeners.

"We're all here to stand together," she said. "If we don't stand together we can't be heard."

"Our differences are what make us strong. Without everyone's support, nothing can be changed."

Faculty, students, members of the SMSA and other local gay, lesbian and bisexual groups attended the forum to discuss the attack, including the Richmond Pride Coalition, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, Virginians for Justice and others.

Some audience members consoled each other while others expressed concerns about

campus safety and university's failure to provide notification about the assault.

The decision about whether to notify students and faculty about campus crime depends on whether it is a single act or a series of events said Henry Rhone, vice provost for Student Affairs.

"This incident is what it is, just an incident," he said. "This kind of incident has not happened at VCU before."

VCU President Eugene Trani described the incident as atypical of the respect for diversity that exists at the university and added that VCU will continue to educate about diversity and celebrate diversity.

"We will continue to let people know that we do not tolerate violence," he said, "and if such occurs, we will respond immediately to halt such and take action against those who are involved in the instigation of violence."

Contact us: (804) 828-1058 • CTVCU@hotmail.com

IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

**Monday
Sept. 30**

Infectious Diseases Conference

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. meeting in Sanger Hall room 8-036 on the MCV campus. Open to the general public and all VCU faculty, staff and students.

Toni Morrison Celebration

3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. meeting in Hibbs 307. The general public is welcome to join VCU's English Club as they celebrate and discuss the work of Nobel Prize winning author Toni Morrison. Light refreshments will be served.

**Tuesday
Oct. 1**

Commuter CoffeeBREAK

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the University Student Commons. Students living off campus are invited to stop by for a free snack and cup of coffee. Information about Off Campus Student Services and representatives from co-sponsor departments will be available.

Resume Workshop

For VCU students, faculty, staff and alumni. The workshop meets in the University Student Commons Capital Ballroom C from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Wednesday
Oct. 2**

Marks for Success

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the University Student Commons Forum Room. Marks for Success is a presentation about better study habits, test taking techniques and other general studying tips.

Domestic Violence Forum

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in University Student Commons Capital Ballroom A. Delta Sigma Theta and Student Affairs are sponsoring a forum about domestic violence open to the general public.

**Thursday
Oct. 3**

Dog Show

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the courtyard of the Temple Building. The mass communications faculty and staff will have a dog show. Registration is \$5 per dog, free for spectators. Proceeds go to the Mass Communications Giving Campaign. Contact Suzanne Horsley at jshorsle@vcu.edu for a registration form.

"The Boys Next Door"

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Raymond Hodges Theatre. "The Boys Next Door," by Tom Griffin and directed by Gary C. Hopper. Box Office: 828-6026. Free for VCU students with valid ID. Seniors, VCU faculty and staff: \$8. General admission: \$10.

VCU makes Influenza vaccines readily available

While the supply last, University Student Health Services will offer free Influenza vaccines to full-time VCU students who were unable to receive tetanus vaccine the previous 2 semesters due to the nationwide tetanus shortage.

Students should go to a VCU clinic on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to receive the vaccination.

Clinics are located at 1000 E. Marshall St., room 305 in the VMI building on the medical campus, or 1300 W. Broad St. on the second floor of the Sports Medicine Building.

Protesters' momentum weakens as crowd thins

Police Making Preemptive Arrests, some Say Protesters who threatened to blockade the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank largely abandoned those plans yesterday, the second time in two days that a heavy security presence overwhelmed their ranks and easily controlled downtown Washington, D.C.

Police prepared for as many as 20,000 protesters, making this demonstration the largest since April 2000's IMF and World Bank meeting. But police easily dominated the scattered group of 3,000 to 5,000 people Saturday night.

Protesters said the police limited their ability to block delegates, but they claimed victory nonetheless. The April 2000 protests came several months after activists in Seattle had shut down meetings of the World Trade Organization amid clouds of tear gas and street battles with police.

Last year's annual meetings were called off because of the terrorist attacks, and the anti-globalization protests scheduled to coincide with them were replaced by smaller antiwar marches. Some activists said the time gap between protests cost momentum.

Friday's demonstrations resulted in the arrest of 649 protesters. Some protesters said the heavy police presence may have intimidated some activists.

Many of the protesters said they believed the arrests were preemptive and based on what police feared they might do, not what they actually did. There were scattered outbreaks of minor property damage, including the breaking of two windows at a Citibank branch at K Street and Vermont Avenue NW.

In D.C. Superior Court, Saturday, 184 of the protesters arrested on Friday were arraigned. One hundred of these cases were dropped because there was no paperwork.

Rumors pour at U-Va. when rain doesn't

Conditions Leave College Town Battling More Than Drought

With Charlottesville reservoirs threatening to dry up in just 88 days, some students at

UVA have entertained thoughts of Christmas break starting around Thanksgiving.

Rumors of an early university shutdown were so pervasive this past week that college officials sent an e-mail to students denying plans to send all 18,000 of them home early to conserve water.

The university is supplied by the municipal system, whose reservoirs are at 54.1 percent of capacity. City officials said that with no rain and unyielding consumption, they would run out of water in three months.

University workers, meanwhile, have been rushing around the school's grounds changing showerheads and faucets, turning down the air conditioning, closing pools and fountains and setting up portable toilets at Scott Stadium. During summer break, 216 water-conserving washing machines were installed in dormitories, and the dining halls are using paper goods to avoid dishwashing.

Water use dropped by a third after the city and the university instituted mandatory restrictions, but it has not been enough. City officials are considering more drastic steps if the reservoirs drop even more.

The city is asking the university reduce water use by 20 percent and is increasing water rates to encourage conservation. But city officials say closing the university is included only in "doomsday scenarios."

Since students began classes Aug. 28, UVA has been bombarded with pleas, warnings and directives on water use.

Iraq rejects inspection revisions

Teams Free to Return Only Under Old Rules Iraq said yesterday that it would not comply with any new U.N. Security Council resolution that incorporates demands by the Bush administration to revise the rules governing the work of weapons inspectors in Iraq.

Iraq's vice president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, said weapons inspectors were free to return under an existing arrangement with the United Nations, but not if the Security Council adopts a draft resolution being circulated by the U.S. government.

The resolution calls for inspectors to be accompanied by guards and be allowed to freely enter President Saddam Hussein's palaces and orders Iraq to declare all weapons of mass destruction programs within 30 days and implicitly threatens military action if Iraq fails to comply.

Iraq announced Sept. 16 that it would accept the unconditional return of U.N. weapons inspectors, who left Iraq in 1998 after a dispute over which facilities they would be allowed to visit.

But within days, Hussein's government stipulated that it "will not cooperate with any new resolution that contradicts what has been agreed upon with the [U.N.] secretary general," including providing advance notice and conducting inspections in the presence of diplomats.

Bush, in his weekly radio address, contended that any delay in dealing with Iraq could have disastrous consequences.

Iraq lashed out yesterday at recent allegations by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice that Iraq has provided training and other assistance to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda organization. The Babel

newspaper, owned by Hussein's eldest son, Uday, called the accusations a "stupid new American play" in a front-page editorial.

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NEWS

The changing role of teachers in Virginia

REBECCA ORTIZ
News Writer

Editor's Note: Such events as the attacks Sept. 11, the shootings at Columbine High School and the implementation of the Standards of Learning and Internet classrooms, have altered teacher's responsibility and teaching methods in Virginia's classrooms. Incoming teachers have to be prepared for a different classroom environment than their predecessors to teach. The Commonwealth Times decided to interview two VCU administrators for their viewpoints. The following is staff writer Rebecca Ortiz's interview with Alan McLeod, division head of teacher education for the School of Education, and Jill Fox, assistant division head, concerning the changing role of Virginia's teachers and their classrooms.

Commonwealth Times: How have teachers had to adapt to the changing classroom situation now that the Internet and other technology have been implemented for classroom? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Alan McLeod: Clearly, they are having to make use of that technology. It's not just the Internet. There are all kinds of technology play(ing) an increasing role in the classroom and instruction.

(The teachers) have to become more knowledgeable about what is available on the Internet.

I don't know that there is a particular disadvantage to having the Internet in the classroom.

The problems are do you have enough computers and connections for the students? And have the teachers gotten significantly competent in the use of the technology and aware of the sites? I think many teachers are, and school divisions have been working with them to make sure just as we have to prepare graduates of our program to meet those standards.

Jill Fox: One of the issues is that technology in the workplace and in life in general changes so quickly, and can the schools keep up with those changes?

Can teachers keep their own knowledge base current?

CT: How do teachers keep themselves updated on the latest technology?

McLeod: Many (teachers) have computers at home, and they use that pretty regularly. (There are) staff development opportunities provided by the school divisions. Sometimes (teachers) come back and take classes at VCU in the technology.

If they are going to use the Internet they will be exploring it, I should hope, on a pretty regular basis searching for news ways to use the content available.

Fox: The State Board of Education and the Department of Education have established tech-

nology standards for education personnel. We have had to request those standards in our program so that our graduates are competent.

Going further than that, school divisions have had to provide training opportunities for teachers who are already in the class. School divisions have offered after-school workshops, joined in with VCU or one of the community colleges.

I think when we first started using computers in the classroom, many of us were using them just to be using them. But now we are having to look at how will the technology really enhance student learning, sort through the software and the Web sites and really help students to make goals and objectives.

They aren't just looking for the coolest software; they are looking for the stuff that really will make the point that they are trying to get across.

CT: What can incoming teachers expect when they enter today's classroom in contrast to before such events as the shootings at Columbine?

Fox: Obviously, school security is a lot tighter than it was 10 years ago when I left elementary education.

Visitors have to have a pass and there is a lot more scrutiny of people coming and going.

I think that upper-elementary, middle- and high-school students are more conscience of the possibility of something that might happen, and they might be more observant of each other.

McLeod: In some of the middle schools and high schools, you may find security personnel, resource officers, metal detectors, metal-detecting wands just because those buildings are so large, and those are the age groups that are more likely to get into issues. But what we are talking about in large measure is around students and their behavior.

It's not so much their behaviors have changed, it's the degree in the number of individuals who when I was growing up in the last century were called juvenile delinquents.

Those who have issues emotionally may behave in ways we prefer not to have. What we do have now probably is a greater instance of children with very special needs, particularly those that come out of unsupportive environments. They are children really of children.

Fox: I think there are also more new teachers and parents that are much more proactive, (and) that parents with students (who have) special needs are becoming more involved.

Parents are much more likely to question policies and to make a positive contribution.

McLeod: I think you will find that happening a lot in schools that have the higher end of socioeconomic spectrum represented.

You will find it some in the lower economic spectrum, but you will also find there that it is very difficult to be in touch with the parents. They don't come to school, in my experience, because they are working or for other reasons.

You're going to find at some schools considerable stability, basically where the middle-class is highly represented.

But in some urban inner-city and some suburban schools that cater to a lower socioeconomic group in many instances because of the housing and the life, you will find regular

turnover, particular in elementary school.

You can go to certain schools and at the end of the year there may (only) be a few children there that have been there the whole year.

Solutions that are often proposed don't often deal with the complexity of the issues.

CT: How do administrators help prepare incoming teachers for threats of violence?

Fox: I think one of things we saw after September 11 was a huge variety in the way that principals instructed the teachers to share what had happened to the children.

The dissatisfaction among parents and among teachers was apparent.

In many schools that I'm aware of, the principal and the teachers have come to together to establish a policy that should there be a national emergency they will be prepared. Prior to last fall, no one had ever even thought about how to deal with something like that.

McLeod: My understanding is that in some school divisions the communication came to the principals to not have the teachers tell the students what was happening or to tell them that there had been an attack but not to really go into the details around it. So you had children, in some instances, fearing that the attack was coming to the school.

Fox: My son, (for example).

McLeod: Others just had different positions around it. You had some teachers who were gutsy and truthful with students.

Fox: Even some who turned on the TV and allowed students to watch the TV coverage.

I think it needs to be (a) joint policy where parents and teachers and administrators work together to decide, OK this is the approach we want to take, and so everybody is aware of that approach before the crisis happens.

McLeod: You've got at least two different levels: What should be happening school-divisionwide and what should be happening in the building, and how do you make those two work together.

CT: How do you think incoming teachers should be trained to deal with possible violence in their classrooms, such as the training with law enforcements at Gloucester High School where there was a mock shooting to train police for future violence similar to Columbine?

McLeod: We can't possibly do everything that needs to be done; it's too complex and there are too many issues. Some of this has to occur off the job and through staff development.

But we have a responsibility for addressing some of those possibilities, and a large part of that should occur when we are talking about managing the classroom and the behavior of the students in the classroom, capturing their attention imaginatively so that they are engaged in the lesson.

I think our first obligation is to help teachers be successful in the classroom and (help them to be) comfortable having a pretty good idea of what to do when certain situations arise.

There is no cookie-cutter formula. We are talking about human beings, and their behaviors are not predictable and not consistent.

Fox: I think that parents need to take a proactive role in helping our teachers to relate to our students through child development in finding out what might be going on physically

and emotionally with all students.

CT: After such events as September 11th, how can teachers learn to help their students deal with these events and still keep themselves in control?

McLeod: What you do is you have to step out of yourself and say my responsibilities are to these young people in the class.

I'm going to have my own concerns about how are my children (are) doing or grandchildren, but I can't really do anything about that. I have to deal with where I am, and so teachers will have to rise up to that occasion and accept that responsibility.

When we get out there our primary obligation is to the students that (we) are teaching. So many of our students for all the right reasons are trying to take additional courses, and they are having to work. And what we find happens for some of them is that they've taken on far more than they can chew and something has to give.

And if it starts to give in the classroom, then they aren't going to succeed. They've got to have their primary focus on their students and their learning. Giving anything less than that is unacceptable.

The responsibility of teachers is to open doors, not close them and we close doors when we do not give our best effort. Teachers need to prepare themselves with a variety of situations.

CT: Name three major concerns you have for future teachers in Virginia.

Fox: The growing population is a big one, but the number one is the Standards of Learning, and I would say that behavior guidance and classroom management are also important.

McLeod: I agree with those but on the economic side the disparity among school divisions, and their ability to provide the technology and teacher salary and (then) aging school buildings.

CT: According to the Richmond Times Dispatch, William Boshier, dean of the School of Education, as saying, "On-the-job training with appropriate support makes a distinction between being prepared for a job and actually being ready to do it."

In a nutshell, what do you think would help teachers the most in their training?

McLeod: What would be my ideal model: We would be like medical school.

We would be housed in schools in the numbers that we need to be to do that and working with young people in the classroom.

We would do a wonderful job with clinical experience. We have good field experience opportunities. Now though, in the foundation of education courses we have practicum and teaching internships. We encourage volunteer activities, camps, Big Brother and Big Sister programs.

Fox: I wish we had a larger field base in our program. We have tried to get adequate funding from the state for our mentorship program. They did fund us but not to a degree that we would really get something appropriate.

Ideally, those programs would be developed in partnership between universities and school divisions so that we can take our graduates to a realistic environment.



McLeod



Fox

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NEWS

VCU loses local artist and founder

HOLLY HOBBS
News Editor

The names that mark VCU buildings might not mean a lot to students, but they are the people who have sculpted the university.

VCU's School of the Arts building, built in 1971, was dedicated to Theresa Pollak, a founder of both VCU's and the University of Richmond's School of the Arts, who died in her sleep Sept. 18 at the age of 103. She was born in Richmond in 1899.

"Most of the artists in town, ages 50 and older, studied with Theresa at one time or another," said John Bryant, assistant dean of Sponsored Research and Development.

He said Pollak gave her students three things: discipline, a feel of the structure of art and a real love for art.

Pollak was the first college art teacher at the university in 1928, then known as the Richmond Professional Institute, Bryant said.

"In the early years when it (RPI/VCU) was founded, it was known for the arts and social work programs," said Brian Ohlanger, associate vice president of Facilities Management.

When she began teaching at RPI, about 20 students were under her direction in the School of the Arts. Since then, the number of students has swelled to more than 1,500.

She retired in the late 1960s shortly after the university became VCU, after 41 years of teaching, but continued her work in art almost until her death.

"She's definitely a sort of local celebrity," said junior art major Mike Credle, who said he took an interest in Pollak after reading about her from a building dedication plaque.

Pollak has been credited with the intro-



Pollak Building

Candice Anderson

duction of modern art to Richmond when gothic art was still popular in America.

Throughout her career as an artist and educator, Pollak received many distinctions including the Distinguished Service to the Arts Award in the Arts in 1976 from the Richmond Federated Arts Council. In 1977, she was presented with the Peer Eminent Award in the Arts from Virginia Cultural Laureate Center.

Pollak graduated from Westhampton College, now part of the University of Richmond, in 1921. She taught at the University of Richmond's first art courses part time from 1930 to 1935.

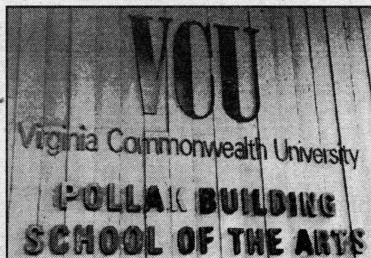
Pollak's works span three decades and can be found in the collections of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Chrysler Museum and the Anderson Gallery at VCU.



VCU News Services

Theresa Pollak, founder of VCU's School of the Arts, died in her sleep at age 103. (1899 - 2002)

"I didn't paint to sell. The joy was in doing it. I enjoyed the effort... I still haven't made sense out of life, but art has helped me try," said Theresa Pollak in an interview with the Richmond Times-Dispatch earlier this year.



Candice Anderson

The School of the Arts Building was dedicated to Theresa Pollak in 1971

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SPORTS

CALENDAR

Sept. 30, Monday

Golf - Louisville
Intercollegiate, Louisville,
Ky.

Oct. 1, Tuesday

Women's Soccer -
James Madison,
Harrisonburg, Va. - 7 p.m.
Volleyball -
William & Mary,
Williamsburg, Va. - 7 p.m.

Oct. 4, Friday

Women's Soccer - Towson,
Towson, Md. - 4 p.m.

Oct. 5, Saturday

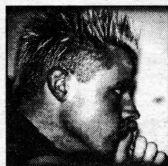
Men's Cross Country -
George Mason, Bull Run
Invitational, Fairfax, Va.
Women's Cross Country -
George Mason, Bull Run
Invitational, Fairfax, Va.
Field Hockey - Appalachian
State, Richmond, Va. - 1 p.m.
Men's Soccer - UNC
Wilmington, Richmond, Va. -
7 p.m.
Volleyball - UNC-
Wilmington, Wilmington,
N.C. - 7 p.m.
Club Ice Hockey - UMBC,
SkateNation Plus, Richmond,
Va. - 1 p.m.

Oct. 6, Sunday

Field Hockey - Temple,
Richmond Va. - 12 p.m.
Women's Soccer - Dela-
ware, Newark, Del. - 1 p.m.

FACE OFF

ANDREW HALE



So what is a Zamboni anyway? Zambonis are one of the most common brands of ice resurfacers. So what is an ice resurfacer? It's one of those things

that smoothes the ice between periods at a hockey game. Frank Zamboni invented the first one in the forties to use at his own ice rink in California. Their process for resurfacing the ice took multiple people over an hour. Thanks to Mr. Zamboni, drivers can now make an ice cut in less than ten minutes.

I am one of those drivers.

High up on the list of 10 things I have to do before I die was driving a Zamboni. I had seen them frequently at hockey games and ice rinks and I was fascinated. Because I am male, my curiosity for large gadgets drove me in an almost lustful manner to seek out the large machines. They were big, loud, truck-like and cool, and I had to drive one.

Naturally my quest for the machine led me to an ice rink where I applied for employment. I was hired soon after. Phase one of Operation Zamboni Driver went smoothly and as planned. The next step was to blend in and ensure my advancement in the company, become a manager and, more importantly, a

Zamboni driver. Phase two was completed winter of last year when I was promoted to manager.

The day had come. I was going to learn to drive the machine.

At last, months of hard work had paid off. After thorough instructions on proper machine operation and a ride around the ice as co-pilot I was ready for my first cut. This day was paramount.

I approached the giant blue monster,



old and rusty from years of use. The machine had no brakes and touchy throttle. The network of switches, buttons and valves might appear intimidating to most, but I had been waiting for this day for a long time. After focusing my positive chi, I mounted my trusty blue steed and turned the key. The engine roared like a lion as she kicked on and I stopped a second to take everything in. With a deep breath I pulled onto the ice.

For the next 10 minutes, I concentrated hard as I drove the archaic machine around the ice in an attempt to lay my first sheet. I must admit I was rather nervous. I had repeatedly been told horror stories of drivers crashing into the boards or melting a hole in the ice. One false move and I was a goner. I could ruin an entire sheet of ice (not to mention look like a complete idiot), or destroy a very expensive machine, but I didn't. I finished my cut and pulled off the ice. Nothing on the Zamboni was broken, nobody was hurt and I still had all of my fingers. It was perhaps the worst ice cut ever but it was beautiful in my eyes. It was mine.

After months of driving I have blossomed into a mediocre Zamboni driver. I am definitely not the best driver out there but I'm pretty sure I'm not the worst either, and that's all that matters. Recently, the ice rink where I am employed invested in a brand new ice resurfacer. It's not a Zamboni, it's an Olympia and it's about as swank as they come—complete with leather seat, arm rests and a push button control panel. Its silver, shiny, bigger and it offers a ride as smooth as a Cadillac.

Zamboni driving is a fulfilling venture, which requires a lot of skill. I haven't mastered it and I don't know if I ever will, but its cool, and I can mark another one of the items off the list of things I have to do before I die.

BRIEFS

Men's soccer shut out their hometown rivals this weekend when they beat University of Richmond 2-0. VCU's two goals came near the end of the first half. Jose Umana scored the game-winning goal for the Rams. Gonzalo Segares scored again for the Rams shortly thereafter bringing the score to 2-0.

Saul Montero earned his second shutout of the season. The goaltender helped the Rams clinch their fifth win of the season with four saves in the game. VCU now has a 5-3 record.

Playing in net for Richmond was Jacob Hofmeister who made five saves throughout the evening. The Spiders dropped to 3-4-1 with this loss.

The Rams outshot the Spiders 19-9 in this important match between cross-town rivals.

VCU Men's Soccer will play UNC - Wilmington next Saturday, Oct. 5 at Sports Backers Stadium. Game time is 7 p.m.

VCU Field Hockey lost to fourth place Old Dominion on Saturday. ODU had five different players tally ten goals for their win

against the Rams. Tiffany Snow led Old Dominion with three goals and one assist.

The flurry of scoring started in the first half when Lotte Bant scored the first goal of the game for ODU. Snow scored the only other goal in the first half.

Rosalinda Banuelos kicked off the scoring in the second half for ODU. Banuelos tallied a total of two goals during the game. Cora Gerardi scored the final two goals of the game, both unassisted, within five minutes of each other, to bring the final score to 10-0. The Rams fall to 3-4 and the Monarchs move to 8-2.

Abby Stiles and Becca Leuzzi both played in goal for the Rams and made a total of 14 saves. ODU outshot VCU 36-0.

VCU Field Hockey's next game is Saturday, Oct. 5, against Appalachian State at 1 p.m. The game will be played here in Richmond at Cary Street Field.

VCU Club Ice Hockey had their season opener against Division II Virginia Tech Saturday night. Virginia Tech won with a score of 5-4 even though VCU controlled

the majority of the play. VCU spent most of their time on the offensive and outshot Virginia Tech 26-20. The Hookies got on the board first when Justin Wewheim scored three minutes into the game. The Rams responded nine minutes later when Blair Kipp scored VCU's first goal of the game. Will Quinn and Brian Pott also scored in the first period for Virginia Tech, making the score 3-1 going into the second.

David Craig scored first in the second period for VCU on a feed from Brady Cole just a minute and a half into the period. Virginia Tech earned two more goals in the second period, one by Wewheim and another by Paul Heister with just seconds left in the second period.

Again, Kipp scored in the first few moments of the period for VCU. Kipp score again, assisted by Craig, with three and a half minutes left in the game to bring the score to 4-5 and earn the hat trick.

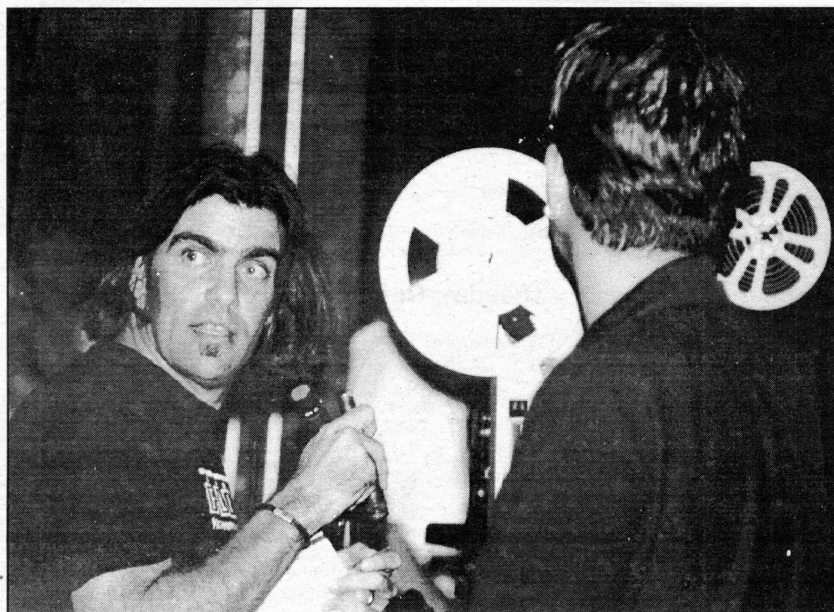
Jim Bearden and Sean Criley played in net for VCU.

VCU Club Ice Hockey has their conference opener Oct. 11 versus Appalachian State at Skate Nation Plus.

SPECTRUM

Flicker, a Richmond Moving Image event, features short Regular 8, Super 8 and 16 millimeter films every two months. Don't miss the next screening at the Canal Club on Dec. 4. For more information on

events or submissions, visit www.rmicweb.org.



Dan Purdy



Courtesy of rmicweb.org



Dan Purdy

Feinberg steps beyond "Dick and Jane Education on Sex and Gender"

MELISSA LYNCH
Spectrum Writer

Leslie Feinberg, award-winning author of "Stone Butch Blues," "Transgender Warriors," and "Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue," spoke on "Transgender Issues" last Wednesday in the Business Building. Anything but passive in Feinberg's beliefs, this person was the epitome of the term "spitfire."

Feinberg began by defining the word "transgendered," which is a person feeling uncomfortable in one's own biological gender. And from there Feinberg spoke about the "color coding" of infants, and that from the color pink or blue people assume so much about the child when he or she is really too young to decide which sex they choose to live as. Feinberg was outraged at the need for people to categorize by gender saying, "using only masculine and feminine is like describing the weather with only hot and cold."

Another heated topic that Feinberg broached on was the genital mutilation of babies if they have more than one sex organ. Feinberg's standpoint on this topic was that the doctor has no right to make such an enormous decision for a child who is unable to give his or her consent. Feinberg explained that the decision was based on which sex organ was larger, so the child is told which sex he or she will be for the rest of their life based on a slight size difference between the two genitalia.

Feinberg was not merely speaking to educate, Feinberg also wanted to get people to participate and speak out against discrimination. "I am angry about the oppression and I want a course of action," Feinberg stated. Along with gathering gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual people together, Feinberg spoke about the importance of gathering other groups who have problems with discrimination, such as women and African-American



Leslie Feinberg

Courtesy of transgenderwarrior.org

in each other's oppression since they are so closely related. Also if certain sections begin to segregate themselves within the gay community, they are then lessening their opportunity to strike a powerful blow for gay rights.

But gay rights was not Feinberg's sole concern, she spoke of it as a multi-issue

Feinberg began by defining the word "transgendered," which is a person feeling uncomfortable in one's own biological gender.

cans, together to organize politically to fight the common enemy. By doing this Feinberg hopes to, "make people want to bust open their doors [to get out of the closet] because they want some of that support."

A disturbing issue within the gay rights movement is the fact that many times lesbians, gays, and bisexuals are asked to try to separate themselves from the transsexuals to gain acceptance and support. Feinberg discussed how these groups are the best fighters

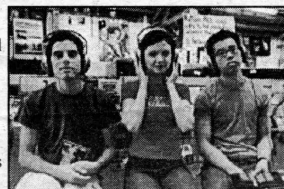
movement. Some of the other issues that are focused on are women's rights, racism, and poverty. Feinberg will also be going to Buffalo to give support to the Arab communities, and to speak out about the trampling of their rights. To watch this person speak one could tell that Feinberg is ready to change the world, and that task is not out of Feinberg's grasp.

Go to <http://www.transgenderwarrior.org> for more information on Feinberg and the upcoming political events.

Happenings

Monday, Sept. 30.

Richmond Raceway Complex. The State Fair of Virginia continues through Oct. 6. Gates open at 10 a.m. The midway is open until 11 p.m. during the week and until midnight Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 228-3200 or visit www.statefair.com.



Mary Frankster

Bogart's. The Devil's Workshop plays their blend of jazz, big band and funk in the famous Back Room. 10 p.m. 21 and up. \$6. 203 N. Lombardy St. 353-9280.

Poe's Pub. Rowdy rocker Mary Frankster takes over Poe's at 9 p.m. \$4. 2706 E. Main St. 648-2120.

Black Cat. OK Go with French Toast and Love Scene. 8:30 p.m. \$8. 1831 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. For more information or tickets, call 202-667-4527 or visit www.blackcatdc.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Poe's Pub. Mike Norman plays an acoustic set at 8:30 p.m. \$3. 2706 E. Main St. 648-2120.

Black Cat. The Chameleons UK with Springhouse and Out Circuit play the mainstage at 8:30 p.m. 1831 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. For more information or tickets, call 202-667-4527 or visit www.blackcatdc.com.



Chameleons UK

IOTA Club and Café. The Waifs with Alice Peacock. 8:30 p.m. \$10. 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. For more information, call 703-522-8340 or visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com.

Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Siegel Center. Nobel Prize-winning writer Toni Morrison will read selections from her work as part of the "Literature, Crisis and Community" series at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free but reservations are required. For more information about the reading or ticket locations, call 828-3836. 1200 W. Broad St.



Toni Morrison

St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Zedashé, musicians from the Republic of Georgia, will perform traditional instrumental and vocal arrangements at 7:30 p.m. Free, donations suggested. 815 E. Grace St. 643-3589.

Fountain Bookstore. Author Lee Smith will read excerpts from his popular work, "The Last Girls." 6 p.m. 1312 E. Cary St. 788-1594.

Thursday, Oct. 3.

9:30 Club. Rebel alt-country rocker Ryan Adams plays D.C. with Tegan and Sara. 815 V St. NW, Washington, D.C. For more information, call 202-393-0930 or visit www.930.com.



Ryan Adams

VCU Raymond Hodges Theatre. "The Boys Next Door" explores the lives of four mentally challenged men living under the same roof. 7:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 12. 922 Park Ave. For more information, call 828-6026.

Richmond Ballet's Studio Theatre. Richmond Ballet opens its season with Colin Connor's "Vestiges" and works by Philip Neal at 6:30 p.m. Continues Thursdays-Sundays through Oct. 13. Tickets are \$16-\$20. 407 E. Canal St. For more information, call 344-0906.

The South rises again with "Sweet Home Alabama"

CINDY CECIL
Spectrum Writer

"You can take the girl out of the honky-tonk, but you can't take the honky-tonk out of the girl." This rather memorable quote from "Sweet Home Alabama" sums up the theme of Reese Witherspoon's latest movie. Never straying from the romantic comedy format, the movie proved heartwarming and provided more than its fair share of laughs for the audience.

Reese Witherspoon plays Melanie Spooner/Carmichael/Perry, who runs away from her small hometown in Alabama to make something of her life. She also runs away from marriage to her high school sweetheart, Jake Perry. Seven years later she is forced to return to her estranged family and friends to break the news of her new engagement and force Jake to sign her divorce papers. Suddenly and rather predictably, Melanie is faced with a choice. Does she turn her back on her southern roots and childhood love or does she give up big city life for the smaller pleasures? In the end her big city demeanor melts under the Alabama sun, but that still leaves the question of her heart.

If country vs. city is the most noticeable theme in this movie, rampant stereotypes come in a close second. Naturally the old joke about cousins marrying cousins was there as well as many others that I'm sure you've heard before. Bologna cakes, pick up trucks as far as the eye can see, blowing up anvils and weekly Civil War reenactments...if you're from the deep south, you might be offended by some of the suggestions about southern living that this movie makes. On the other hand, having visited southern towns that aren't even on the map, I can attest that some of these suggestions aren't entirely off the mark. Either way, if the southern foibles weren't exaggerated, this wouldn't have been a true comedy.



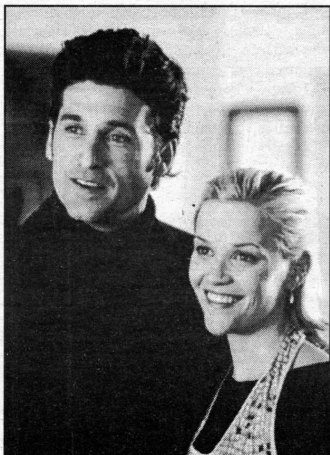
courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Joshua Lucas

One might expect the soundtrack for a movie called "Sweet Home Alabama" to be almost unbearably country. However, the songs were well chosen and universally pleasing. Wardrobe too, outdid itself. Melanie, who found fame in New York as a fashion designer, sports her own unique designs throughout the movie. Interestingly, Melanie's attire, accent and attitude become more and more southern as the movie goes on; a subtle yet effective reminder that you really can't take the honky-tonk out of the girl.

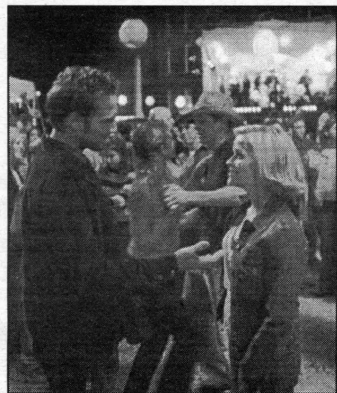
Once you've made it past the Deep South stereotypes, and the ones about big city politics, and learn to laugh at both, there is nothing left but to kick back and enjoy. As always, Witherspoon sparkles on screen. Josh Lucas, who plays Jake, is impressively convincing as a good ol' southern boy, and as the middle school girls sitting beside me commented, he has blue eyes you could swim in.

Whether you're a Yankee or a Confederate or more likely somewhere in between, "Sweet Home Alabama" is a sweet deal.



courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Patrick Dempsey plays Reese Witherspoon's New York fiance.



courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Witherspoon chews the fat with her Alabama husband Joshua Lucas

Festival of India



Jessica Sims

This past weekend's festival drew a diverse crowd to the Richmond Coliseum. The two-day event featured Indian cuisine, dancing, crafts and clothing.

EAR CANDY: New Music Releases Oct. 1

ANTIPOP CONSORTIUM "Ghostlaws" Warp
ANVIL BITCH "Rise To Offend" New Renaissance
CASSIUS "Au Reve" Astralwerks
MILES DAVIS "Complete Miles Davis At Montreux 1973-1991" Columbia-Legacy Jazz
EE "For 100 We Try Harder" Asian Man
ANTON FIG "Figments" Planula
FLAMING STARS "Sunset And Void" Alternative Tentacles
FLOETRY "Floetic" DreamWorks
GLOBAL THREAT "What The F*** Will Change?" Punkcore
HERBIE HANCOCK "The Herbie Hancock Box" Columbia Legacy Jazz
I AM SPOONBENDER "Shown Actual Size" Gold Standard Lab
JAZZ JUNE "Better Off Without Air" Initial
KARATE "Some Boots" Southern
RILO KILEY "Execution Of All Things" Saddle Creek
LESS THAN JAKE "Pezcore" Fueled By Ramen
MIGUEL MIGS "Colorful You" Astralwerks
MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR "Joy To The World" Sony Classical-Legacy
JIM NABORS "Christmas" Columbia-Legacy
NEGATIVLAND "Deathsentences" Seeland
BILL RICCHINI "Ordinary Time" Megaforce-Transdreamer
HEROINE SHEIKS "Siamese Pipe" Rubric
SMALL BROWN BIKE/CASKET LOTTERY "Split" Second Nature
SQUAREPUSHER "Do You Know Squarepusher" Warp
THIEVERY CORPORATION "The Richest Man In Babylon" ESL
JENNY TOOMEY "Tempting" Misra
UNSEEN "Complete Singles Collection 1994-2000" Punkcore
VARIOUS ARTISTS "Black Flag Tribute-Black On Black" Initial
VARIOUS ARTISTS "Christmas All Over The World" Sony Classical-Legacy
VARIOUS ARTISTS "History Of Garage And Frat Bands In Memphis, Vol. 2" Shangri-La
VARIOUS ARTISTS "Six Weeks Omnibus Vol. 2" Six Weeks
VARIOUS ARTISTS "Ultimate Classical Christmas" Sony Classical-Legacy
STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN "Essential Stevie Ray Vaughan" Epic-Legacy
VOIDS "Kill A Generation" A-F
WAXWING "Nobody Can Take What Everybody Owns" Second Nature
WE ACEDIAS "Pre Acediasts" Troubleman Unlimited
WEATHER REPORT "Live And Unreleased" Columbia Legacy Jazz

Courtesy of www.cmj.com



ASK BOB



IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT BOB KNOWS, E-MAIL HIM AT CTVCU@HOTMAIL.COM, USE "ASK BOB" AS THE SUBJECT.

Urinal policies and etiquette, deep dark parking secrets and bums

Your Bobness,

I must confess that despite your earlier responses, I remain truly perplexed. Why has VCU Parking Security chosen to illegally make the handicap parking spaces their home when a perfectly good VCU parking deck is right across Broad Street? Also, to whom does one report this crime when VCU Parking commit it themselves?

Mike Stormo, A.P.T.

Mike,

To better answer your question and get an answer straight from the proverbial horse's mouth, please refer to the news story that is running in the paper today. This should explain things.

However, in light of recent (and renewed) events and more and more vehicles parking in these spaces, Bob has another answer. Maybe there are about four to six members of the staff of VCU Parking who are handicapped in some way.

Stay with me here. How many times have you actually seen a VCU Parking employee walk? I have seen it many times, but the ones who park in the handicapped spaces do not even try. No limp, no hobble, nothing. They are also visually acute as well as aurally, as they communicate just fine between themselves in plain English. They also seem to have mastered the written word as well. Unless those clipboards they carry around are just for show.

Bob is not saying that all of VCU Parking has a handicap of some kind, it just seems that a small handful does. Though no one can find out what exactly it is.

Mike also raises another interesting point: there is an **entire six-story parking deck** directly across the street from the West Broad Apartments. Why not park there?

This is a very interesting question indeed. It seems that police cars (the ones with flashy blue lights) are able to park there. There is anywhere from six to 12 cars there at any given time, day or night.

Perhaps the VCU Parking trucks are intimidated by the blue lights. Perhaps the trucks are inferior to the cars, and this is some sort of vehicular hazing. When asked, the trucks remained silent. Bob feels they were pressured since one started to say something, then tried to cover it up with a cough as he saw a VCU Parking employee approaching.

Could this be just another instance of VCU doing as they please without regard for things like "the law"? Could VCU Parking really harbor some deep, dark handicap (Lazy eyes, Narcolepsy)? Or is it simple laziness that causes them to be unable to resist parking illegally?

As far as who to report this crime to, Bob suggests calling your local police station and inform them there are many cars parked illegally. See what happens. It is worth a shot.

Bob,

You said you were working on a few things for next week, and you mention "What is the correct etiquette for urinal cell phone usage?" Well, recently I was given a speech by one of my male friends, about the etiquette used in the men's bathroom. Such as, no talking and which urinal to use. Why do men have such stuffy rules about their bathroom? And why is there no talking?

Woman flat out confused about why men have odd bathroom etiquette

Initially this was to be an answer to a question about how polite, ethical or decent it is to continue to chat on a cell phone, while doing one's "business." (This event has been witnessed by many members of the public and CT staff and has confused us all.)

Bob will try to explain this and the "rules of urinal usage" as laid forth by our forefather's forefather's fathers. (They are old!)

The no talking rule comes from a very basic need for men to concentrate intensely while using a urinal, as the risk of spraying one's self is great and should be avoided at all costs (especially if one is wearing a suit or any form of dress clothing).

Talking will only serve to ruin concentration, and honestly, what is there to talk about while you urinate? (You cell phone urinators are exempt from this!)

GUY1: So, how are you today?

GUY2: Fine.

GUY1: So... you come here often?

GUY2: Not really, this is the first time I have ever used this particular urinal.

GUY1: Ah, I see. So what are you up to?

GUY2: Uuhh... isn't that blatantly obvious?

See what Bob means?

Now, onto the second part of the question; urinal usage. There is a very strategic rule to urinal usage, as best explained by Humorist Dave Barry, of the Miami Herald. However, due to copyright law, Bob will not repeat this explanation, but will try to create one of his own.

Basically, there is a very simple concept called "Stay away from me!" This simple concept takes shape in the form of musical urinals. (No, the urinals do not sing nor do they dance around chairs when music is played.)

There are two very important ideas to keep in mind. One is the all important "Buffer Zone" between guys. This refers to the overall space between GUY1 and GUY2. Second is the personal space issue. How would you like someone standing right next to you as you use the restroom? You would not like it one bit. Bob rests his case. If you are still perplexed by this, please visit "The Urinal Game" at www.flasharcade.com/game.cgi?urinal for a full interactive understanding of these very important concepts.

Hello Bob,

Why do bums ask college students for money? Like we have any to give away! Good luck all knowing Bob

The number one Holly

Holly,

For this, Bob must delve deep into Murphy's Laws and come up with No. 364 which clearly states, "Bums will forever be bums because they will never achieve the point of realizing they are asking the wrong people for money. When a bum realizes he or she is asking the wrong type of person for money, the bum has at that moment risen to the rank of lower class and will continue to climb the social ladder, and leave their bumly beginnings behind."

Murphy was a smart man, and very specific too. (Murphy had a lot of free time.)

So you see, this law makes it impossible for bums to rise in the ranks, because they are continually asking college students for money.

Here is what Bob proposes. Ask a bum for money. Take one of your many outfits, put it on, roll around in the dirt, then walk along Grace Street (this is preferable, though Broad and Franklin are also suitable alternatives).

Ask the first bum you see for money, or perhaps grab a stack of Commonwealth Times newspapers and ask a bum to buy one from you. Heck, even trade them a CT for a Hard Times, paper for paper, straight-up even trade.

See how many times you are asked for money after that.

If this fails at first attempt, please feel free to ask the same bum for money many times during the same day. Follow them around and pester them for a dollar for some food.

If the bum withstands this treatment, then give the bum some money, for they have truly earned it.

Bob feels that no one should just give away money. (Unless your name is Bill Gates and you wish to give money to Bob, this is the preferred course of action.)

If bums work for the money or entertain you in some way (like putting up with the twist of fate you have brought forth) only then do they deserved your money.

Soap Box

COMING UP

Bob PROMISES he will get to the bottom of the Quadrangle. Bob has been very busy lately and has not had enough time to serve the CT reading public to his full potential. And, far be it for Bob to let his public down.

Bob is also working on a few excellent questions, including why the sky is blue instead of purple, whatever happened to the guy who used to draw the funny VCU Parking comics and a most intriguing question: Why does VCU still use Netscape 4. it really does not matter because it is already 4-years-out-of-date and Internet Explorer 6 brand-new-browser-that-works.

Bob will do his best to uncover these intriguing mysteries and more in the coming weeks.

This week, Bob has had very little on his mind, other than trying to capture the Sand Man to gain the powers of sleep. (Isn't insomnia fun?)

So, Bob is offering a reward for the capture of the Sand Man, alive and unharmed! If you, or anyone you know, can tell Bob where the Sand Man's secret lair is, Bob will handsomely reward you with gifts unmatched by any the world has ever seen!

Next up, SPAM! Not the kind you eat, but the kind that clogs your e-mail boxes daily. Bob, for example has over 300 new messages awaiting him at Hotmail. (Hotmail, taken from the Latin *Hottus Mailius* meaning to smother with messages.)

Bob is offered products to enlarge his breasts (this is just ridiculous), get out of debt, get a loan, or even a college diploma (if it is that easy, why is Bob still at VCU.)

Bob looks through the ridiculous senders and subject lines; names like **Brazilla, Naked Fonts and FREE SEX 4 U** and this is in the past three days!

Anyway, enough griping about the common problem, here is what Bob wants to know...

Has anyone ever bought anything from one of these spammers?

Have you ever replied to their e-mails or gone to their web sites in search of the keys to happiness?

If you, or one of your friends have, possibly in a fit of drunken or caffeinated silliness, **Bob wants to know about it!**

Please tell Bob your tale of spamming fun. If Bob receives any, Bob will respond to them in his next column. And oh yeah... **NO PORN STORIES!**

GET RICH QUICK

Bob is a poor college student, just like everyone else, so this week, Bob brings you a get rich quick scheme. Hey, it can't hurt.

Make \$231 a month for reading e-mails! To qualify, go to:

<http://www.123signups.com/mlmd/>

(Bob does not endorse this method of getting rich quick, as it is just as viable an option as bank robbery or fraud. But go ahead and try your luck.)

OP/ED

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In Virginia today there is a new battle for the freedom and liberty of everyone. This battle is not being fought on battlefields nor is it being fought in a courtroom. It's being fought right here in the hallowed halls of higher education facilities throughout the state.

At the axis of this argument is ours truly, VCU. With the current state budget crisis, where the state of Virginia has no money to pay for anything because former Gov. Jim Gilmore gave it all back to the people as part of his no car tax scheme, layoffs and budget cuts are imminent.

Recently, though, VCU has come under fire for having too many in-state students. Out-of-state students can be charged more and therefore pay more money to the university, which is relative to the freedom and liberty of everyone. In order to be anything in the future one is going to need a college degree, more specifically, an affordable college degree. VCU provides a cheap quality Virginia education to Virginia students.

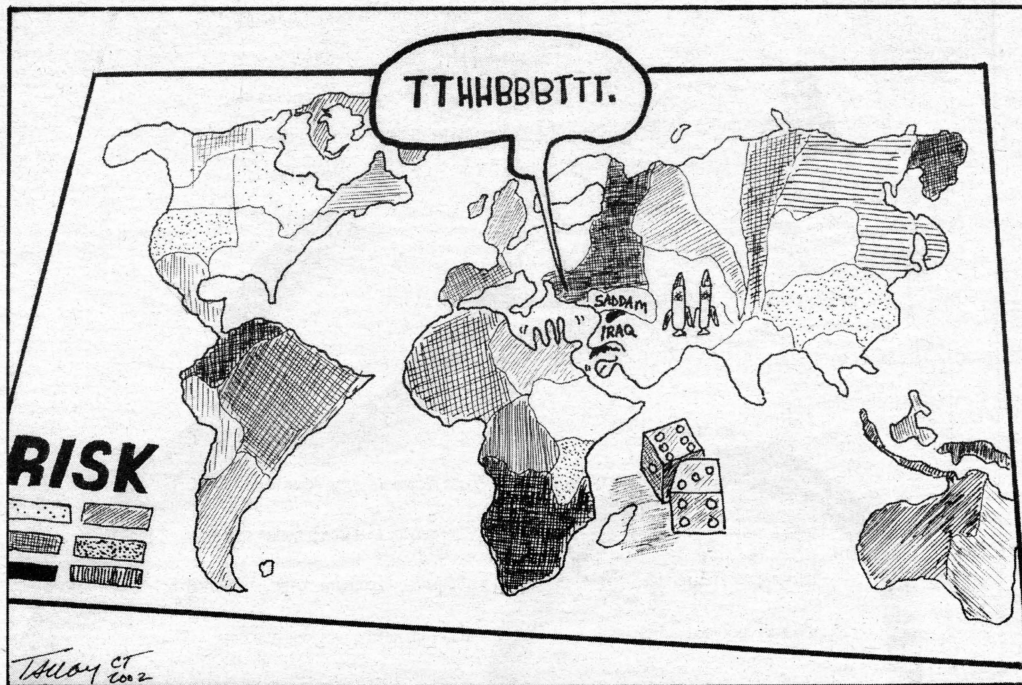
While VCU may never be thought of as highly as UVA, VCU does more for the education of everyday students and people than any university in Virginia. While some Virginia schools have become elitist for the upper class and upper class alone, VCU has opened its doors to all types.

Take a walk down Shafer Court any day and you will see a litany of different types of people. White, black, Asian, Russian, Spanish and more, all types are represented. Now take a walk at UVA and you will see only white. There college profile looks like something straight out of "Village of the Damned," everyone looks alike, sounds alike and thinks alike. The minorities you see at UVA are on the football field and the basketball court.

Segregation still exists today, but not as the old white and black we think of. These days segregation exists because of the class structure. At VCU you will see students from all walks of life, students who went to inner city high schools, disadvantaged students who grew up poor.

The founding fathers of Virginia, people like Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and James Madison were a bunch of poor raggamuffins who believed with a passion that the common everyday person who makes 8 dollars an hour has the same rights as the million dollar king.

Michael Dickinson
1st Year Graduate Student
Urban Studies and Planning



BY MIKE TALLEY

Motorola: Keeps on motoring past Richmond

JEFFREY Z. QURESHI
Ex-Officio Member of Editorial Board

On Sept. 26, 2002, Motorola gave notice to local governments and the Commonwealth that it will not build a chip manufacturing plant in Goochland County, as once planned.

According to a Richmond Times-Dispatch article dated Sept. 27, 2002, the project would have created 5,000 high tech new jobs. Alas, there will be none.

Motorola has vacillated on this project since announced in 1995. At the time, Motorola was hyped as the catalyst that would turn Richmond into a technology center. And to some extent, it has.

The Infineon Technology chip facility in Hanover County was originally a joint venture between Motorola and Siemens. According to the Times-Dispatch, the plant has 1,750 employees. Motorola can be credited for this plant and the jobs it created.

Additionally, the company helped start Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Engineering. According to the Times-Dispatch, Motorola contributed equipment worth millions of dollars to launch the engineering program. The company promises they are committed to VCU and will likely donate more devices as Motorola downsizes its semiconductor chip manufacturing plants.

The Times-Dispatch reports that the deal fell apart because of the decreased demand for

chips as well as the economic downturn that is related to Clintonomics and events last year. I disagree. The chip market was strong until 1998. The original deal was inked in 1995. The company delayed construction twice, as the Commonwealth sped development of Route 288.

Between 1995 and 1998, Motorola could have had the operation functioning. Additionally, had the plant been functioning, it is likely it would have the latest manufacturing techniques such as 0.18 to 0.13 micron process and silicon-on-insulator. These recent chip technologies would have justified keeping the plant open as Motorola closes others.

One cannot ignore the impact this will have on VCU's School of Engineering. Students no longer have an expectation promised by Motorola, namely, a state of the art manufacturing plant to work at. Was that not the purpose of Motorola aiding VCU in founding the engineering school? It seems to follow that a company needs a number of electrical engineers to support a high tech semiconductor plant. VCU was to provide those employees. For some students, an expectation is now a dream.

Motorola has bumbled along these past few years. Perhaps the company was right in killing the project now instead of dragging Richmond through the mud.

Final scores: Motorola 10, Richmond and surrounding counties, -1, VCU engineering students, -10.

THE Commonwealth TIMES

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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.

Please send letters to CTimesEditor@aol.com. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building.

McCowen Profile

Sources: Sara Moss McCowen, associate professor, Dept of Biology, 210 Life Sciences Bldg., room 323, 828-1562; Carolyn M. Conway, associate professor Dept of Biology, 210 Life Sciences Bldg., 828-1562; Joseph P. Chinnici, associate professor Dept of Biology, 210 Life Sciences Bldg., 828-1562; Mario K. [unclear] major, 6432 Primrose Pl, Richmond, VA 2322.

McCowen Profile

Sara Moss McCowen, associate professor in the

receives Distinguished Service Award for 2002. This honor recognizes professors who exemplify superior service to the community and/or the university. This service includes participation in activities over and beyond normally assigned duties, unique contributions to the university, or a long-standing pattern of superior service.

"I was very pleased when I found out about the award. There are so many others in the school that deserve it, so I was pleased to be the one selected," said McCowen.

McCowen earned this honor for her outstanding contributions to both in and out of state recruitment for the Department of Biology at the university.

an excellent promoter of biology, especially during her sabbatical trip to

one of the reasons she got the award, because she is such a great

colleague Carolyn Conway, associate professor for biology.

The Commonwealth Times
is currently seeking reporters to
cover news and events on VCU's MCV
campus.

If interested, contact Olivia Lloyd
at 828-1058 or CTimesEditor@AOL.com.

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