

THE Commonwealth TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 37
No. 14

October 10, 2002

Thursday

Bob answers
your questions,
page 13.



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Warner discusses state budget, possible higher education cuts

GEORGE TEMPLETON & OLIVIA LLOYD
Capital News Service

RICHMOND — In a conference call with student media representatives from Virginia's colleges and universities Tuesday, Democratic Gov. Mark R. Warner discussed the state's budget crisis and the effect the budget cuts will have on higher education and other programs.

"When I took on this job 10 months ago, and it seems like 10 years, we inherited a budget shortfall of \$3.8 billion or \$550 for every man, woman and child in Virginia," Warner said. "The state's business plan in the late '90s was similar to that of the dot-coms — and just like the dot-coms, the state went down the tubes."

After finding a way to close the \$3.8 billion gap in the 2002-03 budget passed by the General Assembly last session, state revenue estimates continued to spiral down and the governor said that another \$1.5 billion in cuts would be necessary to balance the budget.

"We thought we were out of the woods, but the economy continued to falter," Warner explained. "That along with the ongoing cost of the car tax cut and the cost of the drought has left us in this situation. When you take the budget shortfall of last winter and the shortfalls of this year, we have cut over \$5 billion."

The governor, who said he would announce his budget decisions Oct. 15, can authorize up to 15 percent in budget reduc-



Michael White/Governor's Office

Warner spoke with student media from across the state Tuesday.

tions except when the General Assembly is in session. Warner, a telecommunications executive who was elected governor in 2001, also said that the easier options to close the budget deficit have been used up and tougher decisions will have to be made.

"We may have to eliminate some agencies," the governor said. "There will be hard choices in public safety (and) mental health — and that's still underfunded — and there will have to be cuts in higher education."

Each public college has submitted a plan for budget reductions and a tuition hike may result from these plans, but Warner pointed out that going to college in Virginia is still cheaper now than in 1997.

"Each school will get cuts according to their size and the result may be larger class sizes," Warner said, adding that the number of in-state and out-of-state students each school had was another deciding factor when making cuts.

WARNER continued to Page 3

VCU chemist wins the Nobel Prize

DAVID COLES
Associate News Editor

He awoke Wednesday morning at 5:30 a.m. to a phone call from Sweden.

"My wife answered the phone and I was still asleep. So she said, 'Here's the telephone. It's Stockholm calling,'" said John Finn, a recent recipient of the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Finn, 85, a research professor in VCU's department of chemistry and an affiliate professor of chemical engineering, invented a new technique for weighing large biological molecules with a much higher



John Finn

Dave Coles

level of accuracy than was previously possible.

Chemistry laboratories around the world use this new technique to quickly and simply find proteins contained in a given sample, paving the way for new and better pharmaceuticals, according to the award committee.

In a press conference Wednesday afternoon, VCU President Eugene Trani praised Finn for his accomplishment.

"This is a great day of celebration for a brilliant scientist who has been honored

NOBEL continued to Page 5

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

IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

Thursday Oct. 10

Academic Success Program

Held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the University Student Commons Forum Room. Open to VCU students, faculty, and staff, this is a workshop designed to aid in reading for classes.

Friday Oct. 11

Alcoholics Anonymous

8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Hibbs 403. Open to all VCU students, faculty, staff and general public.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert

8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall. Comprised of VCU students and conducted by Dr. Terry Austin, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble will be playing pieces by Zdechlik, Whitaker and Rothman, among others. Tickets are \$5 or free with VCU ID. For information and tickets, call 804.828.1166

Saturday Oct. 12

Chess Club

3 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the University Student Commons Capitol Ballroom C. Weekly meeting of the VCU Chess Club. Open to all VCU students.

Sunday Oct. 13

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

2 p.m. 3 p.m. in the University Student Commons Capitol Ballroom D. Weekly meeting of the Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Open to all VCU students.

Narcotics Anonymous

8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. meeting in Hibbs 326. Open to all VCU students, faculty, staff and general public.

Monday Oct. 14

Academic Success Program

Held at noon in the University Student Commons Forum Room. Open to VCU students, faculty, and staff, this is a workshop designed to aid in reading for classes.

Bush seeks court order to reopen ports meanwhile, Longshoremen's Union agrees to return to work

After a strike cost the fragile economy as much as \$2 billion a day, President George W. Bush directed government lawyers Tuesday to go to court to seek a temporary cease-fire in a caustic 10-day labor dispute that has closed West Coast ports.

Bush said, from the Oval Office, the work stoppage is hurting truckers and rail operators who carry goods as well as farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, retailers and the American consumers.

He said goods vital to the U.S. military are being held up by the shutdown and in doing so hurting the security of the nation.

Almost simultaneously, the longshoremen's union at 29 West Coast ports agreed Tuesday to return to work under a 30-day contract extension. But it was unclear whether shipping lines were ready to accept the government-brokered deal.

Union spokesman Steve Stallone said the Bush administration proposed the 30-day extension to avoid having to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act, which imposes an 80-day cooling-off period that would force the ports to reopen.

Bush told both sides that he expected them to settle their differences before the cooling off period.

Sniper left taunting note, police say

The sniper linked to nine shootings left a taunting message for authorities outside the Bowie school where a 13-year-old boy was shot Monday morning, police sources confirmed last night.

"Dear policeman, I am God," the message said. Police said it was found on a Tarot card known as the Death card, part of a deck used in fortunetelling. It was spotted in a wooded area about 150 yards from the school entrance, where police have also found a spent shell casing and a matted area of grass that suggested that the gunman had lain in wait.

The message, first reported on WUSA-TV (Channel 9), was the first known communication from the sniper, police sources said last night.

Authorities have linked the same gun to several of the shootings, which have left six people dead and two wounded. However, despite devoting an increasing level of resources to the investigation, authorities have reported few clues.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles A. Moose lashed out at the news media for reporting on the tarot card saying that journalist had impaired police's ability to investigate.

Police received a 911 call shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday about a man with a long black bag in the woods near Friendly High School in Fort Washington. Law enforce-

ment officers from the county, FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are on the scene and have created a search perimeter, according to Diane Richardson of the county police.

Tuesday, it was reported that bullet fragments recovered from a liquor store clerk who was wounded at a shopping center in Silver Spring on Sept. 14 have been examined. But the analysis has proved inconclusive, meaning a connection cannot be made or rejected.

At least three search warrants have been executed based on hundreds of tips investigators received after the shooting Monday, according to law enforcement sources.

At the news briefings, officials divulged little information on the status of the investigation. They continued to press the public for help, and announced that a reward fund set up by Montgomery County has grown to \$237,000.

Around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday VCU came under a distributed denial of service attack. This attack caused the shut down of traffic to and from the Internet. Both NetWork Virginia and CoVAnet were affected. Limited Internet access was returned at around 4 p.m. However, the attacks have continued and VCU will experience degraded Internet access until the remaining attacking hosts are identified. VCUnet is giving this issue top priority and said it will resolve it as soon as possible.

— Compiled from a systems alert by VCU's Academic Technology.

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COMMONWEALTH TIMES COSTUME CONTEST COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK!

THE Commonwealth TIMES

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NEWS

Early lights out frustrates students

DAVID COLES
Associate News Editor

As the debt of the commonwealth stacks against its colleges and universities, VCU libraries comply with their funding cuts by shortening business hours.

"I think it's a little unrealistic to think that they can cut the hours to close at 11 (p.m.) and still meet the needs of the students," said Caroline Carneal, a junior, social work major.

Supplemental money, provided by VCU in recent years, has allowed the James Branch Cabell Library to remain open until 2 a.m., several hours beyond what its base operating budget would allow said John Ulmschneider, the executive director of VCU libraries.

With the campuswide budget reductions, the school has not been able to give any additional funds to the library, forcing the hours of operation to be reduced.

Frustrated by the hour reductions, many students have voiced concerns about why the library is closing early, wondering what can be done about it.

"One reason that enrolment is so high is because VCU can accommodate students that have full-time jobs," Carneal said, "and I think the library hours aren't going to be helpful for people who have families that they have to work around."

Although the school, faculty and librarians would like to keep the building open, the money simply does not exist, Ulmschneider said.

Facing angry students, a shrinking budget and upcoming exams, Ulmschneider said enough additional funding has been received to re-open the library until 2 a.m. starting Nov. 4, providing access for final exams and papers.

The library also hopes to provide ex-

panded hours for the exam period during the spring semester, he said.

"Internally, our own priority is to keep the building open with minimum services. Unless we get the worst possible cuts," he said, adding that there are sacrifices that must be made to expand the operating hours.

"There will be no evening references, et cetera, because we are losing staff positions and staff funding," he said. "The building will be open (and) you will be able to check out books, but you won't have some of the services such as the reference

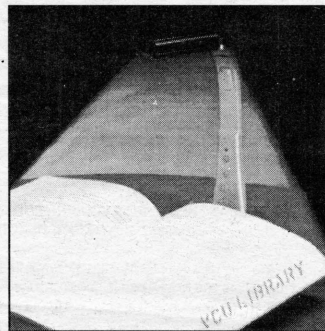


Photo Illustration: Sheena Lloyd

desk."

The most important thing, he said, is providing access to the research materials and resources in the library, despite the loss of services.

"Students are finishing their papers and need help," Ulmschneider said. "The students want to come and work in the library because they have books, they have computers and they have other people. It's not like going to work in the student commons or in their dorm study lounges."

The Tompkins-McCaw Library, on the medical campus, has also been affected by budget cuts.

"We haven't gotten nearly the feedback that the Academic Campus has gotten for the hours of the library," said Tompkins-McCaw Director Jean Shipman. "I guess because we're a different campus. We have a lot of commuters and things like that."

Shipman said the MCV library has different issues to consider, including those of patrons involved with clinical care, which primarily use the facility in the early morning.

"On the flip side, we also have people who wish we were open 24 hours," she said.

Regardless of the reason for the cutbacks, many students still feel slighted by the earlier closing hours, including Carneal.

"I was planning on getting out of class at 6:40 tonight, and I have a huge paper due in psychology that I wanted to just hurry up and get done. And I was going to do some research, but I guess I'll have to do it some other time," she said. "I just found out the library closes at 11 (p.m.), so I don't know when I'm going to do it."

Forced to work with the budget cuts, Ulmschneider had one piece of advice for students upset by the shortfall.

"Most all students here are (of) voting age, and if they feel strongly about how higher education is supported in Virginia, they need to go to the polls and express their opinions, especially regarding the bond referendum this November," he said. There are 25,000 votes on this campus, and students are deeply affected by the Virginia government."

VCU President Eugene Trani could not be reached for comment.

NO BOND? ...

the higher education bond.

"If we don't get this passed then we are going to be hard pressed to upgrade existing buildings. The General Assembly would be hard pressed to put this before the voters again if the bond issue doesn't succeed this time. I won't start laying out plan Bs at this point."

During the conference call the governor said that proposals that could pump up the state's revenue, like rolling back the car tax cut or raising cigarette taxes, would be difficult to pass.

"It took a lot of effort to get it (the car tax cut) frozen," Warner said. "There isn't an appetite to roll it back. When a raise in cigarette taxes was suggested — there was a real aversion to that. What we need to have is an honest conversation in Virginia. This much taxes equals this much services."

million

- Construction of an addition to the Massey Cancer Center — \$10.1 million
- Renovation of the Hibbs Building — \$8.8 million
- Phase I renovation of the Sanger Research Laboratory — \$7.9 million
- Phase II construction of the School of Engineering Building — \$6.2 million
- Renovation of the Franklin Terrace — \$3.5 million
- Renovation of the Music Center — \$3.4 million

A \$119 million bond issue for Virginia's parks and open spaces will also appear on the ballot in Virginia this year. Warner was not concerned about voters picking one over the other.

"We are campaigning for both in a coordinated fashion," Warner said. "There isn't much of an organized effort against

WARNER continued from Page 1

"This is the most challenging thing I've had to grapple with as governor," he said. "Not every university can be all things to all people. My hope is that administration will find ways to minimize the long-term hurt."

Contrasting with the higher education cuts, Warner urged students to support the higher education bond referendum on the November ballot.

If approved, the bond will generate more than \$900 million in funds for building improvements in colleges and universities across the state. VCU is slated to receive \$76.8 million for eight projects:

- Phase II construction of the Medical Sciences Building — \$22.6 million
- Renovation of the West Hospital/G.B. Johnston Auditorium — \$14.3

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Women who volunteer for this study will be asked to provide information about their health behaviors and to take part in an educational program. Women who participate will attend one interactive session lasting up to two hours and will be asked to fill out two brief questionnaires.

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The study is open to women who are 18 to 24 years old, who are enrolled as students at VCU, who are able to get pregnant and who drink alcohol. Other eligibility requirements apply.

This study is under the direction of Dr. Mary Nettelman.

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News

NOBEL continued from Page 1

today and for his academic department and for Virginia Commonwealth University," he said. "The award is not only a validation of his research, but of VCU's leadership in a post-genomic era, which we have invested in with VCU life sciences."

Finn, addressing colleagues, friends and the media, said there is a lot of luck in science.

"I've always said that to be a theorist and succeed you had to be good," he said. "To succeed as an experimentalist you only had to be lucky."

Fred Hawkrige, the chair of the chemistry department, described Finn as an incredible inspiration for faculty and students.

"He is open to talking to undergraduates who walk into his office. He's accessible, he's around and he's still excited about science," he said. "The university and the department and College of Humanities and Sciences is extremely fortunate to have a colleague like John Finn."

Finn said he had an appreciation for his time with students.

"We suck the blood of the youngsters," he said. "That's what we survive on. And we hope that they can learn a little from our mistakes and go on to do what we've done."

"I've had a nice bunch of students to work with here and my faculty colleagues have been not only good friends but good scientists. And so it's been a very rewarding experience."

Finn is continuing the research, which led to his Nobel Prize with funding from the National Science Foundation.

The prize will be awarded at a ceremony in Stockholm Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of its namesake, Alfred Nobel, in 1896.

"Interestingly enough, one of the people who got the Nobel Prize in physics yesterday was in graduate school with me at Yale," he said. "He and I were good friends, and if anybody had asked anybody at Yale whether they thought either one of us would ever get the Nobel Prize, they would have been laughed out of New Haven. Figure the odds!"

Finn has numerous credits to his name, earning his B.A. in 1937 from Berea College and his Ph.D. from Yale in 1940.

After 12 years in the industry, he became a professor of aerospace and mechanical sciences in 1959, and then returned to Yale as a professor of chemical engineering and chemistry in 1967.

In 1994, he arrived at VCU as a research professor and worked steadily on the theories leading up to his Nobel Prize.

He has served as a visiting professor at four international colleges, authored one book, written more than 100 papers and has 19 patents.

In spite of his life experience, Finn was still shocked at the prize.

"Did I think that it was at all likely? No, not at all," he said. "Did I think that it was possible? Well vaguely. Do I think that it (the research) was worth the Nobel Prize? Of course."

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Principal Investigator: Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D.

SPORTS

CALENDAR

Oct. 10, Thursday

Men's Tennis - All Americans, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Oct. 11, Friday

Women's Soccer - Old Dominion, Richmond, Va. - 7 p.m.

Men's Tennis - All Americans, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Volleyball - Drexel, Philadelphia, Pa. - 7 p.m.

Club Ice Hockey - Appalachian State, SkateNation Plus - 9:30 p.m.

Oct. 12, Saturday

Field Hockey - Georgetown, Richmond, Va. - 2 p.m.

Men's Soccer - North Carolina, Richmond, Va. - 7 p.m.

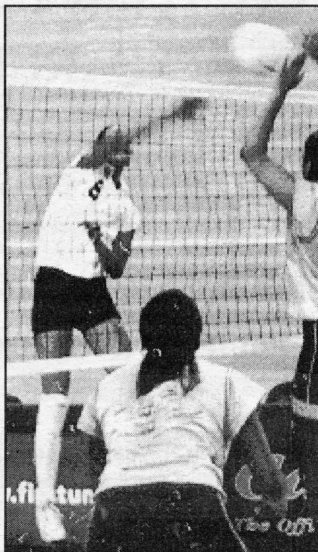
Men's Tennis - All Americans, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Volleyball - Hofstra, Hempstead, N.Y. - 5 p.m.

Club Ice Hockey - Appalachian State, SkateNation Plus - 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 13, Sunday

Field Hockey - William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va. - 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis - All Americans, Chattanooga, Tenn.



Number 8 Laureen Bidi

Andrew Hale

Bidi named CAA player of the week

ANDREW HALE
Sports Editor

Laureen Bidi received Colonial Athletic Association player of the week honors this week, marking the second time this season she has received such an award.

Bidi, who received the award for the first time Sept. 13, broke VCU's record for kills this past weekend. Bidi set the record earlier this year when she reached the 35 kill/game mark. Since setting that mark, she has tied her record twice and finally broke it with 41 during their most recent win over UNC-Wilmington Oct. 5.

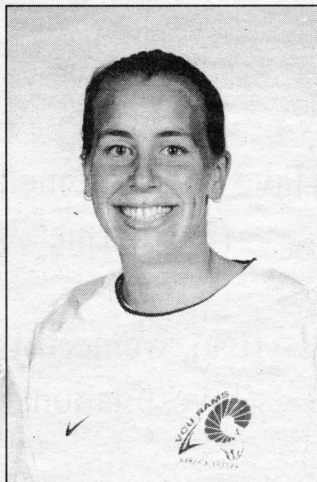
The match against UNCW, in which Bidi set the record, went a full five games, enabling her to get the kills necessary to break VCU's record.

Bidi is currently second in the NCAA national kills per game leaderboard with an average of 6.72 kills per game.

George Mason's Aline Pereira, also a CAA athlete, currently holds the first place position on the leaderboard, with an average of 6.92 kills per game.

With the help of Bidi, VCU Volleyball looks to go 12-5 overall as they face Drexel next Friday, Oct. 11 in Philadelphia at 7 p.m.

Impenetrable force Lloyd receives CAA Player of the Week



Courtesy of Sports Information

Chrissy Lloyd

ANDREW HALE
Sports Editor

VCU Women's Soccer's goalkeeper Chrissy Lloyd was named Colonial Athletic Association's

Women's Soccer Player of the Week after earning three consecutive shutouts for the Rams. Oct. 1, VCU beat James Madison 2-0. Oct. 4, Lloyd made five saves that ultimately led to a VCU 5-0 victory over Towson. Most recently, Virginia Commonwealth played Delaware to a 0-0 tie, a game in which Lloyd secured another four saves. Lloyd sports a 0.52 goals against average which is currently the best in the Colonial Athletic Association.

The opposition has failed to score on Lloyd lately. She has not given up a goal in the last 295 minutes she has played. Lloyd is the second women's soccer athlete to receive the CAA's Player of the Week award. Jen Parsons also received the honor Sept. 16.

Lloyd and a strong team have worked hard to have the leading conference record of 3-0-1. Soccer Buzz magazine ranked the team eighth place in the Mid-Atlantic Region rankings this week, and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America gives the team a 10th place rank.

BRIEFS

Women's soccer's seven-game winning streak comes to an end with their recent meeting with Colonial Athletic Association opponents University of Delaware. The two teams fought hard to secure the win but the game ended in a 0-0 tie. This was the first time this year that the 10-1-1 Rams were unable to score in a game. The Blue Hens are now 2-0-1 in conference games (6-3-1 overall).

Delaware outshot Virginia Commonwealth 12-8 but were unable to score on Ram's goalkeeper Chrissy Lloyd. Lloyd tallied four saves for Virginia Commonwealth to hold Delaware scoreless. Lindsey Shover played in net for Delaware and made three stops for the Blue Hens.

Women's soccer plays Old Dominion University next Friday at 7 p.m. here at Sports Backers Stadium.

Men's basketball Head Coach Jeff Capel will speak at the Business Building Auditorium Thursday night at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship.

The recent success of VCU Volleyball has landed the team a fifth place conference ranking.

1. George Mason
2. Hofstra
3. James Madison
4. Towson
5. Virginia Commonwealth
6. Delaware
7. Drexel
8. UNC-Wilmington
9. William & Mary

Women's soccer was given first place out of ten teams in the most recent CAA ranking.

1. Virginia Commonwealth
2. James Madison
3. Delaware
4. William & Mary
5. Hofstra
6. UNC-Wilmington
7. George Mason
8. Old Dominion
9. Drexel
10. Towson

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Not only is *Depo-Provera* 99.7% effective, but you need just one shot on time every 3 months to stay pregnancy-protected. So, unlike the Pill, *Depo-Provera* isn't your every day birth control.

Remember, *Depo-Provera* doesn't protect you from HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Some women using *Depo-Provera* experience side effects. The most common are irregular periods or spotting.

Many women stop having periods altogether after a few months and some may experience a slight weight gain. You shouldn't use *Depo-Provera* if you could be pregnant, if you have had any unexplained periods, or if you have a history of breast cancer, blood clots, stroke, or liver disease. When using *Depo-Provera*, there may be a possible decrease in bone density. Ask your health care professional about prescription *Depo-Provera*.

See what *Depo-Provera* is all about.
Call toll free 1-866-519-DEPO or
visit **Depo-Provera.com**.



Birth control you think about just 4 x a year.

Please see important product information on adjacent page.

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9/02

Depo-Provera® Contraceptive Injection

mexdroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension

DEPO-PROVERA: Contraceptive Injection
(mexdroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension, USP)

This product is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against HIV infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

What is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is a form of birth control that is given at an intramuscular injection (a shot) in the buttock or upper arm once every 3 months (13 weeks). To continue your contraceptive protection, you must return for your next injection promptly at the end of 3 months (13 weeks). DEPO-PROVERA contains mexdroxyprogesterone acetate, a chemical similar to (but not the same as) the natural hormone progesterone, which is produced by your ovaries during the second half of your menstrual cycle. DEPO-PROVERA acts by preventing your egg cells from ovulating. If an egg is not released from the ovaries during your menstrual cycle, it cannot become fertilized by sperm and result in pregnancy. DEPO-PROVERA also causes changes in the lining of your uterus that make it less likely for pregnancy to occur.

How effective is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?
The efficacy of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection depends on following the recommended usage schedule exactly (see "How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?"). To make sure you are not pregnant when you first get DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection, your first injection must be given **ONLY** during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period. **ONLY** within the first 5 days after childbirth if not breast-feeding and if exclusively breast-feeding. **ONLY** at the sixth week after childbirth. It is a long-term, reversible contraceptive when administered at 3 months (13 weeks) intervals. DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is over 99% effective, making it one of the most reliable methods of birth control available. This means that the average annual pregnancy rate is less than one for every 100 women who use DEPO-PROVERA. The effectiveness of most contraceptive methods depends in part on how reliably each woman uses the method. The effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA depends only on the patient returning every 3 months (13 weeks) for her next injection. Your health-care provider will help you compare DEPO-PROVERA with other contraceptive methods and give you the information you need in order to decide which contraceptive method is the right choice for you.

The following table shows the percent of women who got pregnant while using different kinds of contraceptive methods. It gives both the lowest expected rate of pregnancy (the rate expected in women who use each method exactly as it should be used) and the typical rate of pregnancy (which includes women who became pregnant because they forgot to use their birth control or because they did not follow the directions exactly).

Percent of Women Experiencing an Accidental Pregnancy
in the First Year of Continuous Use

Method	Lowest Expected	Typical
DEPO-PROVERA	0.1%	0.1%
Injections (other)	0.2%	0.2%
Female sterilization	0.1%	0.1%
Male sterilization	0.1%	0.1%
Oral contraceptives (pill)	0.1%	0.1%
Condom	0.1%	0.1%
Diaphragm only	0.1%	0.1%
R.I.T.	0.1%	0.1%
Rhythm	0.1%	0.1%
Cup or IUD	0.1%	0.1%
Cervical cap (with spermicide)	0.1%	0.1%
Diaphragm (with spermicide)	0.1%	0.1%
Cervical cap	0.1%	0.1%
Withdrawal	0.1%	0.1%
Female sterilization	0.1%	0.1%
Spermicide alone	0.1%	0.1%
Vaginal sponge	0.1%	0.1%
Vaginal sponge with spermicide	0.1%	0.1%
Vaginal diaphragm	0.1%	0.1%
Non-sterilized	0.1%	0.1%

Source: *Medical and Clinical Studies, DEPO-PROVERA, Inc.*

Who should not use DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

Not all women should use DEPO-PROVERA. You should not use DEPO-PROVERA if you have any of the following conditions:
• you think you might be pregnant
• you have any vaginal bleeding without a known reason

Birth control you think about just 4 x a year.

- if you have had cancer of the breast
- if you have had a stroke
- if you have or have had blood clots (phlebitis) in your legs
- if you have problems with your liver or liver disease
- if you are allergic to DEPO-PROVERA (mexdroxyprogesterone acetate) or any of its other ingredients

What other things should I consider before using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

You will have a physical examination before your doctor prescribes DEPO-PROVERA. It is important to tell your health-care provider if you have any of the following:

- a family history of breast cancer
- an abnormal mammogram (breast x-ray), fibrocystic breast disease, breast nodules or lumps, or bleeding from your nipples
- kidney disease
- irregular or scanty menstrual periods
- high blood pressure
- migraine headaches
- seizures
- epilepsy (convulsions or seizures)
- diabetes or a family history of diabetes
- a history of depression
- you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medication

This product is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against transmission of HIV (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, genital herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, and syphilis.

What if I want to become pregnant after using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

Because DEPO-PROVERA is a long-acting birth control method, it takes some time after your last injection for it to effect to wear off. Based on the results from a large study done in the United States for women who stop using DEPO-PROVERA in order to become pregnant, it is expected that about half of those who become pregnant will do so in about 10 months after their last injection, about two thirds of those who become pregnant will do so in about 12 months, about 83% of those who become pregnant will do so in about 15 months and about 93% of those who become pregnant will do so in about 18 months after their last injection. The length of time you use DEPO-PROVERA has no effect on how long it takes you to become pregnant after you stop using it.

What are the risks of using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

The side effect reported most frequently by women who use DEPO-PROVERA for contraception is a change in their normal menstrual cycle. During the first year of using DEPO-PROVERA, you might have one or more of the following changes: irregular or unpredictable bleeding or spotting, an increase or decrease in menstrual bleeding or no bleeding at all. Unusually heavy or continuous bleeding, however, is not a usual effect of DEPO-PROVERA, and if this happens, you should see your health-care provider right away. With continued use of DEPO-PROVERA, bleeding usually decreases, and many women stop having periods completely. In clinical studies of DEPO-PROVERA, 55% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding (amenorrhea) after 1 year of use, and 68% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding after 2 years of use. The reason that your periods stop is because DEPO-PROVERA causes a resting state in your ovaries. When your ovaries do not release an egg monthly, the regular monthly growth of the lining of your uterus does not occur, and therefore, the bleeding that comes with your normal menstruation does not take place. When you stop using DEPO-PROVERA, your menstrual period will usually, in time, return to its normal cycle.

Use of DEPO-PROVERA may be associated with a decrease in the amount of mineral stored in your bones. This could increase your risk of developing bone fractures. The rate of bone mineral loss is greatest in the early years of DEPO-PROVERA use, but after that, it begins to resemble the normal rate of age-related bone mineral loss.

Studies of women who have used different forms of contraception found that women who used DEPO-PROVERA for contraception had no increased overall risk of developing cancer of the breast, ovary, uterus, cervix, or liver. However, women under 35 years of age whose first exposure to DEPO-PROVERA was within the previous 4 to 5 years may have a slightly increased risk of developing breast cancer similar to that seen with oral contraceptives. You should discuss this with your health-care provider.

Unintended Pregnancy

Because DEPO-PROVERA is such an effective contraceptive method, the risk of accidental pregnancy for women who get their shots regularly (every 3 months [13 weeks]), is very low. While there have been reports of an increased risk of low birth weight and neonatal infant death or other health problems in infants conceived close to the time of injection, such pregnancies are uncommon. If you think you may have become pregnant while using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, see your health-care provider as soon as possible.

Allergic Reactions
Some women using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection have reported severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions known as anaphylaxis and anaphylactoid reactions. Symptoms include the sudden onset of hives or swelling and itching of the skin, breathing difficulties, and a drop in blood pressure.

Other Risks

Women who use hormone-based contraceptives may have an increased risk of blood clots or strokes. Although the risk of a contraceptive method (like there is a possibility that you might get a stroke) to develop outside of the uterus (ectopic pregnancy). While these events are rare, you should tell your health-care provider if you have any of the problems listed in the next section.

What symptoms may signal problems while using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

Call your health-care provider immediately if any of these problems occur following an injection of DEPO-PROVERA:

- sharp chest pain, coughing up of blood, or sudden shortness of breath (indicating a possible clot in the lung)
- sudden severe headache or vomiting, dizziness, or fainting, problems with your eyesight or speech, weakness, or numbness in an arm or leg (indicating a possible stroke)
- severe pain or tenderness in the lower abdominal area
- sudden pain or swelling in the calf (indicating a possible clot in the leg)
- unusually heavy vaginal bleeding
- severe pain or tenderness in the lower abdominal area
- persistent pain, pain, or bleeding at the injection site

What are the possible side effects of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

(Weight Gain)

You may experience a weight gain while you are using DEPO-PROVERA. About two thirds of the women who used DEPO-PROVERA in clinical trials reported a weight gain of about 5 pounds during the first year of use. You may continue to gain weight after the first year. Women in one large study who used DEPO-PROVERA for 2 years gained an average total of 8.1 pounds; over those 2 years or approximately 4 pounds per year. Women who continued for 4 years gained an average total of 13.4 pounds over those 4 years or approximately 3.5 pounds per year. Women who continued for 6 years gained an average total of 16.5 pounds over those 6 years or approximately 2.75 pounds per year.

Other Side Effects

In a clinical study of over 3,000 women who used DEPO-PROVERA for up to 7 years, some women reported the following effects that may or may not have been related to their use of DEPO-PROVERA: irregular menstrual bleeding, amenorrhea, headache, nervousness, abdominal cramps, dizziness, weakness or fatigue, decreased sexual desire, leg cramps, nausea, vaginal discharge or irritation, breast swelling and tenderness, bloating, swelling of the hands or feet, backache, depression, insomnia, acne, pelvic pain, no hair growth or excessive hair loss, rash, hot flashes, and joint pain. Other problems were reported by very few of the women in the clinical trials, but some of these could be serious. These include convulsions, jaundice, urinary tract infections, allergic reactions, fainting, paralysis, osteoporosis, loss of return to fertility deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, breast cancer, or cervical cancer. If these or any other problems occur during your use of DEPO-PROVERA, discuss them with your health-care provider.

Should any precautions be followed during use of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

During the time you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, you may skip a period, or your periods may stop completely. If you have been receiving your DEPO-PROVERA injections regularly every 3 months (13 weeks), then you are probably not pregnant. However, if you think that you may be pregnant, see your health-care provider.

What precautions should be followed during use of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

If you are scheduled for any laboratory tests, tell your health-care provider that you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception. Certain blood tests are affected by hormones such as DEPO-PROVERA.

Drug Interactions

Cytidine (amphotericin) is an anticancer drug that may significantly decrease the effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA if the two drugs are given during the same time.

Laboratory Test Interactions

Although DEPO-PROVERA can be passed to the nursing infant in the breast milk, no harmful effects have been found in these children. DEPO-PROVERA does not prevent the breasts from producing milk, so it can be used by nursing mothers. However, to measure the amount of DEPO-PROVERA that is passed to the infant in the first weeks after birth, you should wait until 6 weeks after childbirth before giving your infant DEPO-PROVERA for contraception.

How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

The recommended dose of DEPO-PROVERA is 150 mg every 3 months (13 weeks) given in a single intramuscular injection in the buttock or upper arm. To make sure that you are not pregnant at the time of the first injection, it is essential that the injection be given **ONLY** during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period. If used following the delivery of a child, the first injection of DEPO-PROVERA **MUST** be given within 5 days after childbirth if you are not breast-feeding or 6 weeks after childbirth if you are exclusively breast-feeding. If you wait longer than 3 months (13 weeks) between injections or longer than 6 weeks after delivery, your health-care provider should determine that you are not pregnant before giving you your injection of DEPO-PROVERA.

What should I do if I miss an injection?

Call your health-care provider if you miss an injection. If you miss an injection, you should get your next injection as soon as possible. If you miss an injection, you should get your next injection as soon as possible.

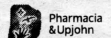
What should I do if I have a problem with my injection?

Call your health-care provider if you have a problem with your injection. If you have a problem with your injection, you should get your next injection as soon as possible.

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Call your health-care provider if you have a problem with your injection. If you have a problem with your injection, you should get your next injection as soon as possible.

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Thursday, October 10 (10 p.m.)

Man Mountain Jr.

Presents

Friday, October 11 (9:30 p.m.)

Aaron Binder

Saturday, October 12 (9:30 p.m.)

Emme St. James

Sunday, October 13 (8:00 p.m.)

Boots of Leather

SUNDAY BRUNCH

October 13 (11a.m. - 3p.m.)

\$10 Brunch & the Band

Mark Ingraham

(go down the alley and enter
through the back door)

Monday, October 14 (10:00 p.m.)

Devil's Workshop

Routine nightlife be gone: First Friday's art walk offers an alternative to routine

BETHANY SHAFFER

Associate Spectrum Editor

Do you ever get tired of spending your Friday nights doing the same old things? Do you often find that your wallet is suffering as a result of overpriced cover charges and movie tickets? Do you feel that your life is a little culturally and intellectually bankrupt? Well then join your fellow classmates, professors and Richmonders in the next "First Fridays Art Walk On and Off Broad."

On the first Friday of each month from 7-9 p.m., nine Richmond art galleries on and around Broad Street play host to hundreds of visitors. The galleries open the exhibitions of the artists whose work will be on display throughout that same month. And the event is truly an event, for not only is there modern and thought-provoking art to keep one busy; there are also refreshments and an eclectic gathering of people at each gallery along the stop. And the bonus: it's all free! Well, except for the alcohol.

This event, which has been going on for several years now in Richmond, has experienced a boom in attendance over the past six months, resulting in a higher level of organization and cooperation among the galleries involved. There are now brochures and a website with information about the monthly event, and even a First Friday shuttle carrying people to and from the various galleries. Sponsors for the Walk include *Punchline*, GRTC, B103, and www.ArtZites.com. This past Friday night was an especially fine representation of the Art Walk at its best. Art forms ranging from photography and film to painting and printmaking were represented, as were styles ranging from landscapes both urban and pastoral to contemporary thematic series compositions. There was something for everybody along East Broad Street, for surely even the most aesthetically oblivious would have identified with or been struck by at least one of the many creditable pieces.

One of these exhibits, which received much hype in the days preceding its opening, was Matt Lively's "Super-Mom: cells and production studies from the animated film." Lively's show, which opened at Artspace Gallery and runs through the 27th of this month, includes oil and alkyd painting on canvas, paper and plexiglass as well as animated cells from his new short film, "Super-Mom." "Super-Mom," whose title character is a red water bottle wearing a cape and fishnet stockings, is the story of a hard-working single mother who must save her children from some evil forces. Unfortunately I cannot say much more about this film for I have not seen it. I could only gather what I could from the Artspace show. However, anyone who has seen or will see the show, which includes pieces that cost up to \$8,500, will most likely be intrigued enough to wish they could see the



Dan Purdy

film.

The most exciting piece in Lively's show, in my opinion, is the gargantuan oil painting on canvas entitled "Final Scene." "Final Scene," with measurements most likely in the 20ft x 15ft range, portrays Super-Mom hugging one of her children in the extreme foreground of the painting

with three silver blimps flying away from them in the background. As absurd as the 'image of a caped, stockinged water bottle embracing a human child sounds, the painting has the ability to truly evoke emotion and identify with the viewer.

Also showing through the month of October at Artspace in the gallery's Sky-

light Gallery, is David Naugle's "Souled Out: gentrification of a southeast Atlanta neighborhood." Through a series of intimate, natural photographs, Naugle offers a portrait of his own neighborhood in Atlanta as it and its resident's experience both

SPECTRUM

Galleries continued from Page 9

positive and negative change.

Across from Artspace at the Three Miles Gallery photographer Ethan Feinsod opened his exhibition, "Foreign Landscapes." Within the old Tarrant Drug Company, art lovers (and critics) oooooed and ahhhed over Feinsod's collection while snacking on hard candy and chocolate offered by the gallery.

The collection, made up of 16 prints, includes both the vivid clarity of C-prints as well as toned silver gelatin prints. Panoramic shots, the ends of which curved like a convex lens, of French building facades ("Paris") and subway platforms ("Chatelet") are among those lucid C-print photographs. The gelatin prints include several up-close shots of a heavy, coiled metal chain on a white background. Since the chains are the only subject of the photographs and are presented much larger than we normally see them, they immediately transform into something else, distorting the image the viewer thinks they see before them.

Feinsod has obvious talent, as well as a gift for choosing styles and subjects that will immediately engage the viewer. His work will be on display at the Three Miles Gallery throughout the month of October and should definitely not be missed.

A member of VCU's esteemed faculty offered his talents to October's Art Walk. David Bremer, associate professor of photography, opened his black and white show "Silent Reflections" at the Visual Art Studio on Friday night. In relating Bremer's style (in this show) to one who was not on hand to enjoy it himself one may refer to the work of renowned photographer Ansel Adams.

Bremer's bucolic images do not rely on color, for what they express amounts to much more than just the beauty found in nature. These pictures of still, silent ponds amid dead, leafless trees evoke ideas and emotions of loneliness, abandonment and death. One may even presume that from Bremer's choice of no color his desire is to take the focus off of nature and put it on certain kinds of feelings people receive when looking at nature. Despite the melancholy inspired by these images, however, they are still very beautiful and admirable in their beauty. Bremer is most likely aware of the fact that whatever emotions are evoked from art derived from nature, they will never overshadow the aesthetic power one always finds in the natural world.

"Silent Reflections" is on display until Nov. 30.

Of course, many other exhibitions opened this past Friday night, which I unfortunately do not have time to discuss here. However, the work is still up and will be at least until the end of this month, and as you now know, there is always next month!

For more information regarding the local art scene or the First Fridays Art Walk

log on to www.firstfridayrichmond.com or www.artzites.com. If you would like to sponsor or participate in the events please email Cynthia Newton at cnewton@att.net.

Galleries currently participating in the Art Walk:

STARCH Modern Home, 105 E. Main St., 344-3334

Richmond Public Library, 101 E. Franklin St., 646-4256

Abattoir Fine Arts, 210 E. Grace St., 643-7118

Elegba Folklore Society, 101 E. Broad St., 644-3900

Artspace, 6 E. Broad St., 782-8672

Three Miles Gallery, 1 W. Broad St., 677-1151

Visual Art Studio, 208 W. Broad St., 644-1368

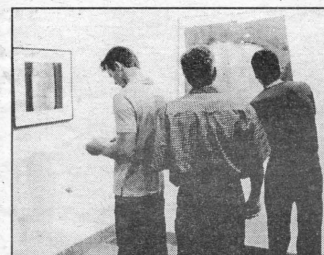
Corporate Museum & Frame, 301 W. Broad St., 643-6858

1708 Gallery, 319 W. Broad St., 643-1708



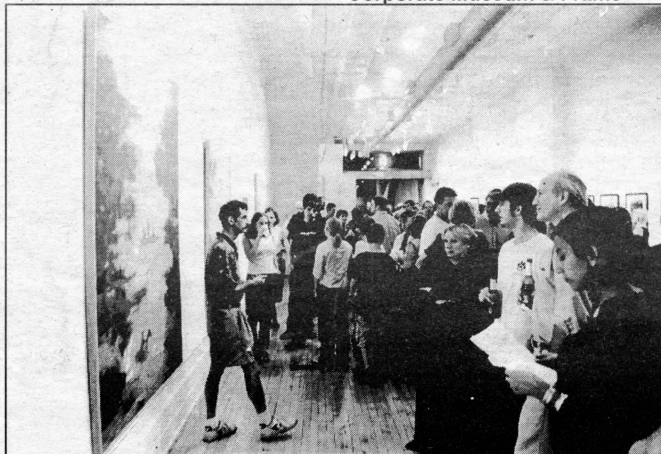
Three Miles Gallery

Dan Purdy



Dan Purdy

Corporate Museum & Frame



Dan Purdy

1708 Gallery



Dan Purdy

Visual Art Studio

SPECTRUM

MOVIE REVIEW

Red Dragon fires up audiences

CINDY CECIL
Spectrum Writer

Hello Will. Doesn't exactly have the same ring to it as the famous line "Hello Clarice," does it? Well, it's very rare that sequels and prequels ever measure up to the original, but I can promise that Red Dragon will erase the disgrace that "Hannibal" added to the "Silence of the Lambs" legacy. While "Hannibal" seemed to rely on nothing more than blood and gore (so much so that I fell asleep in the theater from sheer boredom), the mistake was corrected in "Red Dragon," which more resembles "Silence of the Lambs" in style.

In this movie, we follow special agent Will Graham, played by the always fabulous Edward Norton ("Fight Club"), first in his quest to catch Hannibal and then his quest to catch "The Tooth Fairy."

As the movie opens, we see Dr. Lecter and his rich society friends sitting down to a meal of Lord knows who. After dinner, Graham arrives to seek the advice of Lecter, the top forensic psychiatrist in the nation, on a killer he's trying to catch. Almost comically, Graham admits to Lecter that he thinks the killer is eating his victims. This seals his fate, and after a bit of a skirmish, Hannibal the Cannibal is safely behind bars (and high security glass), and Graham leaves the FBI to take himself and his family to Florida. Then the opening credits role.

Years pass, and one day force commander Jack Crawford, played by Harvey Keitel travels down to Florida seeking the help and eventually the return of agent Graham. A mad man is on the loose killing families, and the rest of the FBI is powerless to stop him. Therefore, conveniently enough, a tanner, blonder agent Graham is

forced to return out of a sense of duty. Subsequently, Crawford suggests that Graham seek the advice of his would be murderer, "Hannibal." This is when the movie really begins.

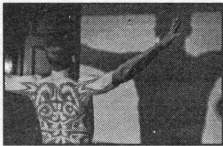
Anthony Hopkins, whose performance in Hannibal, due mostly to the script he was given, was a bit flat and predictable, was back in full force. His return to the subtle and spooky role was far more effective than multiple shots of him biting people's faces off. While the chemistry between

Hopkins and Norton is not as strong as it was between Hopkins and Foster, the scenes where the two converse are still enticing. Furthermore, their

alternating shows of high respect and detestation for each other add to the compelling complication of the movie. Unlike "Silence of the Lambs," Hannibal actually plays the devil's advocate by contacting the serial killer. So, while giving shady hints to Graham to help him catch "The Tooth Fairy," he is helping the killer in ways I won't mention. Hopkins' role in the movie is actually not a large one as the movie's true focus is on the role of Will Graham, but the scenes he is in are extremely effective, especially his last scene which will make you want to run home and watch "Silence of Lambs."

This brings me to my description of "The Tooth Fairy," himself. Francis Dolarhyde is his real name in the movie, and he is excellently portrayed by Ralph Fiennes, who you might remember from The English Patient. As a boy, he was subjected to cruelty day in and day out, and thus his self esteem is not what it should be. He isn't unattractive, but he believes himself to be hideous and thus breaks every mirror he comes in contact with. Naturally, when he does get a girlfriend, she's blind. Francis struggles with his two sides, (the nice normal man he wants to be and his evil counterpart, the Red Dragon) and with the help of his girlfriend, Reba McClane, played by Emily Watson, he almost succeeds. But, of course, it wouldn't be a thriller if it happened that way.

The acting is superb, and the plot is so full of tantalizing twists and turns from beginning to end, that Red Dragon will have you at the edge of your seat for its full 2 hours and 15 minutes. Just don't repeat my mistake and sit next to one of those ladies who shouts directions at the actors every time they're in trouble.



Both images courtesy of IMDB.com

Ralph Fiennes fists the Red Dragon (left)
Mary Louise Parker and Tyler Patrick Jones
portray Graham's endangered family (right)



Courtesy of IMDB.com

Lecter (Hopkins) toys with
Special Agent Will Graham
(Norton).

Happenings

Thursday, Oct. 10

Canal Club. 2 Skinnee J's. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Tickets available at Plan 9; \$15.

1545 E. Cary St. at the corner of 17th and Dock Sts., 643-CLUB.

Chopstix. DJ Thread presents the Wax Museum. DJ's should bring 10 minutes on CD to show off their skills. There will also be an MC Showcase with Spark DaMoto Vada with Illatungs. For more information contact djthread@attbi.com or log on to spreadbycontact.com. Always 18 & up, from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 3129 W. Cary St.

Virginia Museum of Fine Art. "Celebrating Art Nouveau: The Kreuzer Collection" including 484 pieces of exquisitely crafted jewelry from the Art Nouveau period runs until Jan. 19, 2003. For more information log on to www.vmfa.state.va.us. 2800 Grove St., 340-1400.

Friday, Oct. 11

Alley Katz. St. Diablo with 420 Monks.

Doors open at 10 p.m.

10 Walnut Alley, 643-2816.

Brazier Fine Art. Virginia artist Maggie Siner opens her new show "Recent Painting: RED" which runs through Oct. 30. Gallery hours are as follows: Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 12 p.m.-4 p.m. 359-2787



Floating Folk Festival

Grace Street Theater. VCU Dance Alumni Concert including performances by alumni Starr Foster and Laura Schandelmeyer begins at 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat. night. Tickets are \$15. 828-2020.

Matt's Village Pub and Comedy Club. Come down Fri. or Sat. night, have a beer and see if comedians Darryl Rhoads and Glen Jensen can get a laugh or two out of you. Shows are at 9 p.m. on Fri. and at 8 and 11 p.m. on Sat.

VCU Student Art Space. Enjoy the complex and abstract artwork of VCU student Dawn Shinholser at the closing reception of her show "ONE," between 6 and 8 p.m.

Student Art Space, VCU Student Commons.

Saturday, Oct. 12

Canal Club. Enjoy the music of local acoustic musicians, known collectively as the Floating Folk Festival, at the release their third compilation CD. Doors open at 8 p.m.

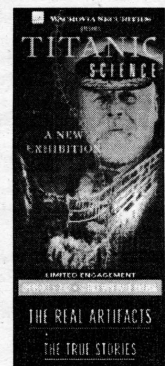
1545 E. Cary St. at the corner of Dock and 17th Sts., 643-CLUB.

Terror Trail. Get ready for Halloween by getting spooked out at Richmond's annual Terror Trail, an unguided, unlit tour through the woods that includes ghosts, goblins and gore!!!! The journey begins at 11615 King William Rd., tickets are \$13. Fri. and Sat. from 7-11 p.m. and Sun.-Thu. from 7-10 p.m. Runs until Oct. 27.

Sunday, Oct. 13

Science Museum of Virginia. Have fun and learn at the exhibit "Titanic Science" and its companion IMAX film. Museum hours are as follows: Mon.-Thu. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are \$6.50 for the IMAX film only, \$13.50 for the exhibit only and \$16.50 for both. Log on to www.smv.org or call 864-1400 for more information.

2500 W. Broad St., 864-1400.



Titanic Science

SPECTRUM

Theatre VCU starts season off with a bang

MELISSA LYNCH
Spectrum Writer

On the front of the program for Theatre VCU it states, "we invite you to question; we dare you to risk—diverse, dynamic and on the leading edge of professionalism." With "The Boys Next Door," Theatre VCU held true to this statement, and the outcome is an entertaining and thought provoking play. To watch the actors perform, one had to come reminding oneself that they were not professionals.

Their body carriage, mannerisms, and way of speaking was true to the characters and it was difficult to distinguish fiction from reality.

"The Boys Next Door" is a play about four men, Norman Bulanski (played by Aaron Elick Robertson), Arnold Wiggins (played by Matthew Ellis), Lucien P. Smith (played by Aaron Holland), and Barry Klemper (played by Austin Corbet), with different mental handicaps struggling to live by themselves and dealing with the trickery and prejudices of the general public. Throughout the course of the play they are assisted by their social worker, Jack

Palmer (played by Bryant Pugh). Although it may not sound like it, this play was a riot. Each character was delightfully lovable and eccentric, and one finds oneself rooting them all on throughout the play.

One of the most delightful and endearing scenes of the play was between Norman and his girlfriend Sheila (played by Tanya Wineland). Norman and Sheila were at a dance at the center and they began to dance when they suddenly shifted from dancing as two mentally retarded people into moving swiftly and gracefully and then they shifted back into dancing as two mentally retarded people. Scenes such as this one highlighted the fact that these characters are really no different than anyone else. Robertson and Wineland were adorable dancing together as well as when they kissed. Following the kiss, Norman ran to the window shouting, "free donuts," and chucking donuts to Sheila in a gesture of love.

While Lucien was in court, because the state wanted to take him off of social security, there was a pause where every other character stopped and Lucien was the only one speaking or moving. He began, "I stand before you a man in

an uncomfortable suit," and went through a gut wrenching speech about how difficult it is for him to live his life.

For that one brief moment the audience got to see what Lucien would say if he had the words, and the way that Holland performed that scene was truly remarkable because it felt as if he was speaking to each audience member individually.

Ellis had many memorable parts in the play as well. During the dance scenes, he wants to ask this girl to dance but he won't and his excuse is that she has a tic. His imitation of this ticking girl is unforgettable. As is his outrage at the fact that maxi pads are only stocked in the girls bathroom.

Barry's love for golf and many schemes to improve his golf-lesson-teaching business make him a great character.

However, he is slightly different from the other three "boys," in that he is a schizophrenic and not mentally retarded. Many of his troubles stem from his father (played by Aaron Anderson), who pays him a visit in a scene that is troubling and powerful. Proof that Corbet and Anderson made that gut wrenching scene feel amazingly real, was the utter silence of the audience for the next few scenes.

Jack Palmer burns out over the course of the play and is forced with the choice of leaving these people that he loves or choosing a different career path. Jack has the most asides to the audience, so it is through his eyes that the characters unfold to the audience. Pugh made Jack likable and easy to relate to, without watering down any of the issues that he was dealing with.

Melanie Mitchell (who played Mrs. Fremus, Mrs. Warren, and Clara) and Thomas J. Simmons (Mr. Hedges, Mr. Corbin and Senator Clarke) were both integral to the play. Mitchell's most amusing character was Mrs. Fremus, a hearing impaired elderly lady who served as somewhat of a mentor to Barry.

And Simmons was great as Arthur's boss on the receiving end of his tirade on the gender bias of maxi-pads.

"The Boys Next Door" will make you laugh while making you re-evaluate your outlook on life. And with this amazing cast there is no better time to see it then right now.

"The Boys Next Door" will be playing through October 12 at the W. E. Singleton Center for Performing Arts.

Dance alums perform for reunion concert

JOHN WHITE
Spectrum Writer

VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography is having a reunion celebration this weekend as former students come back to perform at their alma mater.

The Alumni Reunion Concert is a unique experience for the dance department. Ten former students, who are now all professional dancers and choreographers, will present new works this weekend at the Grace Street Theater.

Starr Foster, Laura Schandelmeier and Reginald Crump are just a few names on the program. This is the first alumni concert that the dance department has organized in ten years.

Kathy Leshner, a VCU alumna and organizer for the event, said, its purpose is for alumni to reconnect with each other while networking with current undergrads.

"Everyone is really excited about it," Leshner said. "I spoke to one of our alumni who said he was really excited to see what current dance majors are doing now."

Returning grads will be happy to know that the dance department celebrated its 20 anniversary last year and was named one of the top 25 programs to watch by Dance Magazine.

Current undergrads may see this weekend as an opportunity to ask questions about the dance world beyond VCU and make important professional contacts.

Dance major Candace Walters said she already feels a connection with alumni who have been in and out of studios this past week taking classes.

"It's inspirational for me to see graduates come back and to see their work," she said.

Walters also feels that she is meeting the right people who can help her land a job when the time comes.

"I know I could call alumni and ask them questions just based on the fact that we came from the same department," she said.

Performances will be held this Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Grace Street Theater. Tickets are \$15. Admission is free for students with valid VCU ID.

COMPLIMENTARY MOVIE PASSES!



YOU AND A GUEST ARE INVITED TO A
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Stop by the Commonwealth Times office in the Temple Building,
room 1149 to pick up your complimentary pass for two.

ABANDON

One pass per person. While supplies last. No purchase necessary.

OPENS IN THEATRES OCTOBER 18TH



BOB KNOWS, DO YOU?

ASK BOB



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

Jesus spamming and who is Bob?

From : "Jesus"
 <Jesus6326780@spln.net>
 To : ctvcu@hotmail.com
 Subject : Ctvu Island Giveway -
 Register Now!

(BOB NOTE: This is not really a question, this simply troubles Bob to no end...)

Bob is greatly disturbed by this recent e-mail. It seems the savior and Lord Jesus is now trying to sell dream vacations to Florida, the Eastern and Western United States as well as Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean.

How could this be? Jesus died, was resurrected and then ascended into Heaven, only to return to earth and spam us about dream vacations. What has happened to cause the fall of this once-great icon?

Could it be that Jesus is just having a bad day? Was he down on his luck and just looking for a little bit of extra cash?

Things are starting to look that way. With the recent budget crisis in Virginia, it seems that Jesus was also hit by an unfortunate bit of luck and now is spamming people about vacations.

If Jesus is now a spammer, what role is Lucifer playing in all this? And what of God? What does he have to say on the subject?

Bob needed to go straight to the source on this one. Bob went to "God's Home Page." This is God's first statement to us all:

I am God and this is my homepage. I am the creator of Life, the Universe and everything. However, I am **not** responsible for Micro\$oft Windows, your slow bandwidth and Netscape's *BLINK* tag. (Courtesy of www.netstore.de/~god/)

On further investigation, Bob was unable to get God to comment on Jesus' latest money-making scheme. God did, however, have these truths to clarify.

1. My son's name was not *Jesus* but rather *Zaphod Beeblebrox*.

2. There is neither a hell nor a heaven. It's called planet Earth for you this time.

3. Unfortunately life doesn't really end with death and there is no paradise waiting for you. If you didn't discover the real paradise for yourself until then, you just will have to try again. Sorry in advance for any inconveniences this will cause to you.

4. The weather forecast for tomorrow isn't true at all.

God wanted to make sure everyone knew of another travesty. It seems God has been trying to get *God.com* for a couple of years. However, it is taken and not being used for anything. The owner of *God.com* is Jonathan Groves (jgroves@gritty.com). God would like his domain back, and he is not too pleased about not having it, so please help God get *God.com* (it will make God happier).

Bob,
 I come to you on behalf of your loving and faithful readers. Who is this "Bob" that hides behind the print? Why don't you show your face? Pleeese Bob. We love you, we need to see you! I anticipate reading the next edition of the Commonwealth Times only to read your bright and witty insights to our everyday issues. Here's my issue- I need to put a name to a face. Please?

A most loyal and faithful Bob lover,
 Audra

Audra,

This is a fine question and you have tapped into the E.S.P.N. (Extra Sensory Perception Network) to ask this question because it came to Bob before the latest copy of the paper hit the streets or even was printed. This is an impressive feat, and Bob is sure there is a fascinating story behind it. That is, unless you are a secret double agent. Audra if that is your real name.

But enough conspiracy theory, that is better left to Weekly World News. It seems that Bob's longtime associate and friend Bat Boy is missing! (Readers: If you have any idea where Bat Boy is, please contact the Pentagon, Weekly World News, or the CT immediately. This is very important, as he may be in grave danger.)

Enough distractions, onto the question answering.

Audra, Bob's identity is a closely guarded secret because anonymity is key if Bob is to keep up his work uncovering secret organizations responsible for the injustices found on campus and nearby. The activities of N.o.S.L.U.R.P. (Nation of Slurpee Looting Underground Raiding Persons) have been on a sharp increase lately. Bob is keeping a close eye on these developments in the battle for Slurpee access for all in all of Richmond's 7-11s.

If Bob were to reveal his identity now, it might jeopardize all of the work to this point. Remaining anonymous is imperative, though Bob will answer specific questions about himself. So, if anything in particular has you troubled, curious, or if you just feel like putting Bob to a challenge, send them on in!

1. Rubber dome over Israel funded by the U.S. (nothing gets in, nothing gets out. All weapons would just bounce off, actively discouraging any future fighting.)

2. Invisible dome over Iraq. (Does everyone remember electric fencing for dogs that zaps them if they cross the boundary? Well this is a modified version to include ultra-strong

Soap Box

(BOB NOTE: Beware the next passage is not funny, silly, humorous or to be taken lightly. If you are unable to comprehend a serious topic at this moment, please skip down to Bob's Solution for World Peace and continue there, revisiting the next passages when you are ready.)

Bob was reading an article in Newsweek yesterday, while lounging on his bed, letting the icy breezes wash over him like so many fall days. The article was all about teens coping (and not coping) with depression and that help is available if you need it. Along with this, The Central Virginia Clothesline Project was up on campus. This project is about empowering and strengthening female survivors of rape, molestation, and other abuse from when they were children.

This is a very worthy project that should be paid more attention to. Today, in this culture we live in with increased stress and pressure to succeed and increased forces telling us to fit in and be "normal" and not try to be different, there is an overlooked trend. This trend is towards depression and suicides. Another thing overlooked is the child abuse problem. These are two issues that are completely combatable and curable, if discussed and not pushed under the carpet of the nation.

Bob fights for things that are right and good, right? From the beginning, Bob was all about getting problems out into the world and discussing them in an open forum, visible to all who can read and are motivated enough to pick up a newspaper.

Granted, Bob is here for humor as well. Bob wants to make you smile and laugh and have a good time. Bob will continue to work toward this goal. However, Bob is also strongly against trying to ignore problems that exist and hoping they will just "go away."

Bob feels it is just as important to laugh and smile as it is to think about things going on all around you. Bob is not an activist, Bob is a writer and a humorist. Bob just wants to help spread information and amuse people.

If you had the chance to stop by the Clothesline Project (that was set up on the Business Building lawn you were rewarded with information and friendliness). If you want to help out, please talk to the people there. They are very helpful and friendly and will not bite you.

If you are in need of help and do not want to go talk to them in public, there is a phone number you can call on campus. 828-2085 will get you the VCU Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Victims Services. There are people there who can help you out and talk with you and work with you on getting the help you need.

Similarly, there are a huge number of online resources.

Bob knows of one that has been around for a few years, www.teenadviceonline.org. This site offers and extensive chat room and e-mail help to any question you can possibly think of from depression and family problems to school issues and anything else. Similarly, if you type "Teen Help" into a search engine you will be confronted with more information than you ever thought existed on getting help.

Please also keep in mind that there are services offered on campus through the counseling center.

What Bob is trying to say is that if you are suffering, get help. You are not the victim of crimes committed against you. Your coming forward can assure the person or persons who hurt you will never be able to do so again because it will land them behind bars.

Bob takes these issues very seriously because I have seen friends beaten by parents, boyfriends, girlfriends and others and they thought they were the cause. They did not realize they were the victim of these attacks.

You are not the victim of your own abuse. Cutting and burning yourself will only lead to more pain. Talking can and will help. There are people out there who want to help you.

Bob loves his readers and wants to help them out.

If you have any questions about anything Bob has said please feel free to send them, and remember to put ASK BOB as the subject line to assure a speedy response (and so they will not get filtered out by Hotmail).

Bob wonders how many of you by that entire thing looking for the silver lining, the punch line, and the joke that would make you feel good again. Bob is sorry. There is none.

Bob will not disappoint you who come seeking Bob out for their humor and weekly laugh. Bob proudly presents:

Bob's Solutions for World Peace

plexi-glass. If anyone tries to invade or attack, the dome activates, trapping everyone inside).

3. **Afghani-Disney!** (What better way to assure Afghanistan never tries to attack anyone than to stick a beacon for family fun there. Bob gives Disney about two years until it has total control over the country.)

4. **Ivory Coast gets Prozac in the water**

supply. (Everyone will be nice and mellow. No highs or lows, no problems).

5. **India and Pakistan** (They get a package deal. For India, they get Barry Manilow and Barbara Streisand opening for the Teletubbies. Of course the Teletubbies are a band now! And for Pakistan, they get Neil Diamond opening for Barney.)

OP/ED

A last word on parking – Fight the system!

EMILY LIU
Op/Ed Editor

On a final note regarding the parking situation we have here at VCU, I would like to remind students that there is action we can each take to fight the system. It is regrettable that we so often neglect to put to use the rights that we are so fortunately granted here in America. Perhaps it is apathy that drives our current parking system? And although the state of parking in downtown Richmond is rather atrocious, it is our right to contest ill-begotten parking tickets.

It is indeed appalling that we should find ourselves in a daily dilemma just to make it to classes, simply because the city of Richmond has decided that their financial needs are greater than the need of college students to be educated in VCU classrooms.

The bureaucracy of the traffic court system in Richmond is horrendous, however the labyrinth of paperwork involved in a single parking violation is what the city depends upon in order to reap the financial benefits of ludicrous parking regulations. The actual procedure is: 1) First, you must dial the number printed in faint ink and in miniscule font on the back of the parking ticket you receive, 2) The operator of that phone line will give you an address downtown which you must visit in order to declare that you would like to contest the ticket and to obtain a court date, 3) You must remember to provide proof of your current address, otherwise you will find yourself having to take another trip downtown.

These three steps must be done within 15 days of receiving the parking ticket. The court date you are given will typically be months from the time that you received the ticket, giving the city of Richmond the advantage of you forgetting to actually show up in court (which will cause you to have to pay an extra fee on top of your original parking ticket). Finally, if you make it to court on the date you are supposed to (at the time you're supposed to, granted parking is even available near traffic court), the process of speaking before the judge is relatively simple and consumes only 15 minutes of your time.

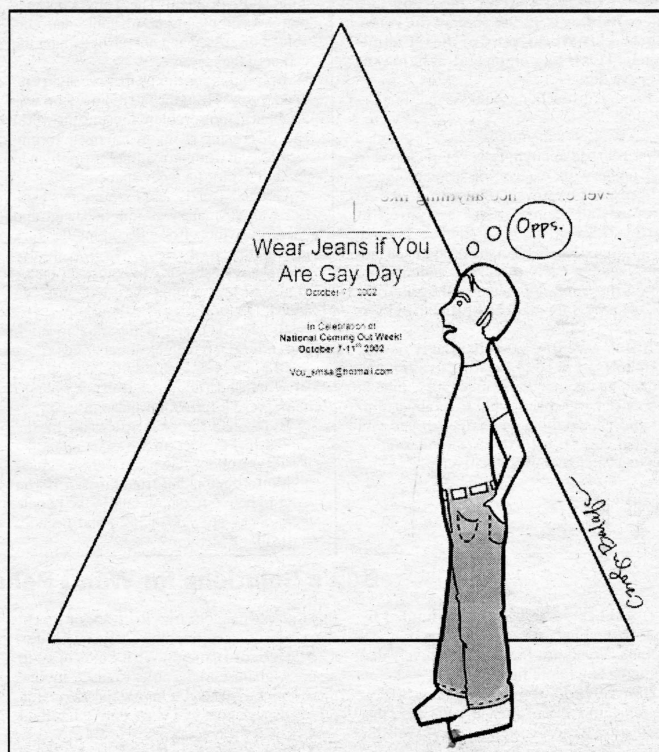
I have personally visited Richmond's traffic court for a prior offense to contest a parking ticket that I did not believe I deserved. My plea to the judge was successful. I was alleviated of a \$100 parking fine. Furthermore, I plan to exercise my rights yet again for the \$60 parking ticket I just received (unfairly). At this point, it is the only action I can take and the only defense option I am left with by the city. However as long as meter maids have decided to exercise their vicious right to distribute parking tickets, I will choose to retaliate by exercising the rights I have been given.

When you accept a ticket, you are admitting guilt. And the bottom line is that in America, we know that we are not guilty until we are proven so. As I walk in the courtroom, I challenge the courtroom to tell me that my education takes lesser precedence over being stripped of the little cash I have remaining in my pocket to make Ramen for dinner each night.

For if we do not take the time to bring ourselves to court and fight the system, then we should not complain against the actions that we have ourselves failed to take.



BY MIKE TALLEY



THE Commonwealth TIMES

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Executive Editor

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Op/Ed Editor

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We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.

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OP/ED

The Yankees are out? Great! Now the real Playoffs can begin

AMUL MADAN
OP/ED Writer

I was surfing the Internet last Friday night and came across something truly astonishing. No, it was better than astonishing – it was unbelievable. The Anaheim Angels, a wild card team in this year's Major League Baseball playoffs, had officially dismantled a dynasty that had been dominant since the late '90s. That dynasty, the New York Yankees dynasty, caused many Yankee-haters anguish each fall as we saw the Yankees go home three straight times as World Series champions (thankfully, a fourth was prevented by the duo of Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson last year). You see, my fellow readers that love baseball, the Angels dismantled the Yankees dynasty by somehow beating them in the American League Division Series and thus moved themselves on to their first American League Championship Series since 1986.

Shhh! Anyone hear that? It's silence coming out of Yankee fans everywhere. No more big budget and cocky baseball team to stope everyone else in the Majors from winning the biggest prize of them all and while the Angel victory proved this (that even the underdogs can thwart the giant at the top), it proves something far greater. It proves that the real playoffs can begin. Tuesday evening, the ALCS begins, pitting the Angels against the (almost contracted) Minnesota Twins. Wednesday night, the NLCS begins with the St. Louis Cardinals taking on the (unlikely) San Francisco Giants for one-way ticket to the World Series.

How did Barry Bonds and the Giants make it to the NLCS? They somehow

dismantled another historic team (the Atlanta Braves) in Game 5 (which took place Monday night). St. Louis knocked off the defending champion Diamondbacks to advance to the NLCS. Here now are my picks (for recreational purposes only, of course) for who will advance to the 2002 World Series this year and who will win it all.

In the American League Championship Series: Minnesota over Anaheim in six games – why the Twins? Well, its because they fought off contraction and a lack of support from Bud Selig and Carl Poland (the Twins owner who wants to sell the team) to get to this level. Besides, this team reminds me of the movie "Major League."

In the National League Championship Series: Ooo, this a tough one, but I'm going to go with the following prediction: San Francisco OR St. Louis in 7 games – Why both teams? Well, that answer is certainly obvious: both are deserving of moving on and it's extremely hard to pick just one. In San

Fran, Barry Bonds has wanted a World Series ring for awhile now – it's what will complete him as a Hall of Famer. On the other hand, the Cards have gone through so much this year. First the death of Jack Buck (their beloved announcer) and then the death of Darryl Kile soon after that makes them the sentimental favorite. As per World Series predictions, all I'm going to say is it's a tossup, something that hasn't been experienced since 1997, the last time the Yankees lost in the playoffs. No matter who wins the World Series, I can guarantee you this loyal readers: this year's playoffs have shaped up to be the best ever. Enjoy them, for we may never experience anything like this again.

Put out the torch in New Jersey

JEFFREY Z. QURESHI
Ex-Officio Member of Editorial Board

Background:

On Sept. 30, former Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), resigned from the U.S. Senate. Torricelli, also known as "The Torch" was up for re-election and facing fierce competition from Republican candidate Doug Forrester.

"The Torch" certainly had a fire lit under his behind after ethics allegations became unethical contributions. The Christian Science Monitor reported Oct. 2, that Torricelli apologized for receiving an expensive Rolex timepiece, as well as Italian suits from David Chang. In return, the former senator assisted the businessman with some entrepreneurial issues.

This certainly did not bode well for "The Torch," particularly since ethics and campaign finance reform have become hot issues. According to The Christian Science Monitor, the Senate ethics committee reprimanded him, but in all honesty, his true punishment came from his constituents.

The Washington Post reported Oct. 1, that Torricelli led his re-election bid as late as June. However, by September, Forrester had taken the lead. The allegations of ethical improprieties became actual indiscretions when a federal judge found there was credible evidence that "The Torch" had illegally accepted Chang's gifts.

Knowing that the Democrats' slim Senate majority was at stake, influential liberals talked the former senator into withdrawing from the race with the hope that a New Jersey state court would allow another Democrat to run in November.

The Law:

Under New Jersey law, a candidate

cannot be replaced within 51 days of an election. Republicans raised this argument at a hearing in the New Jersey Supreme Court Oct. 2. Amazingly, that court rejected the law and allowed former U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg's name to be placed on the November ballot.

The judicial system's duty is to interpret law, not to change it or reject it, unless it violates either state or national constitutions. The instant case is a classic example of legal realism, the school of thought based on the premise that judges can make law regardless of what the common law of legislation mandates. The only place for legal realism is in equity where fairness is at issue.

Here, it is unfair to allow the Democrats to substitute a former senator in place of another who resigned under a cloak of deceit and dishonesty. Equity is meant to prevent unjust benefits to a party. Apparently, the New Jersey Supreme Court disagrees.

The United States Supreme Court:

On Monday, Oct. 7, The U.S. Supreme Court denied a Republican appeal of the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision. According to an Oct. 08, Washington Post article, the U.S. Supreme Court's rejection consisted of one sentence.

Why would the highest court of the land refuse to hear this legitimate appeal? One can only speculate. However, under legal theory, the Supreme Court can refuse to hear a case if it was decided on independent state grounds. Here, the issue was unique to New Jersey. That state's supreme court made its decision and therefore, independent state grounds exist.

However, the truth lies elsewhere. Simply stated, it is inconceivable the U.S. Supreme Court wanted to interfere with this election in light of the 2000 presidential decision. The facts are different. In 2000, the votes had been cast and decisive action was required. Here, there is a chance that Forrester may win. Although it does not appear he will.

According to the Oct. 7, Washington Post article, *supra*, the substituted Democrat, Lautenberg led Forrester 49 percent to 45 percent. This data is based on a Quinnipiac University poll taken last week. That same study indicated that 54 percent of New Jersey voters believed it was unfair to allow the substitution.

It is shocking. Voter ignorance or simple stupidity must be at an all-time high. Though a majority of those polled felt it was unfair to put Lautenberg on the ballot, they still support him.

Solution:

Ban Florida and New Jersey citizens from voting in anything.

ACE MIGHTY



ART, DUC NGUYEN, WRITTEN JOE CARABEO



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