

# THE Commonwealth TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 37  
No. 22

November 4, 2002

Monday

Bob reminds you  
the CT is

FREE

and now  
20 pages.



Bob, better than never!

The Foo Fighters  
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One"



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Lo 42

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in with the new.

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what would they say?

inOPINION

ACE  
MIGHTY  
RETURNS!

inSPECTRUM



"Give me  
liberty or  
give me  
death!"  
She chose  
death...  
Walking  
through  
history at  
St. Johns.

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## VCU student in running for City Council

NANCY RICHARDSON  
News Writer

Will Jacobs is busier than the average student at Virginia Commonwealth University. Then again, Will Jacobs is anything but average. The 22-year-old political science major is one of two candidates vying for the Second District City Council seat Nov. 5.

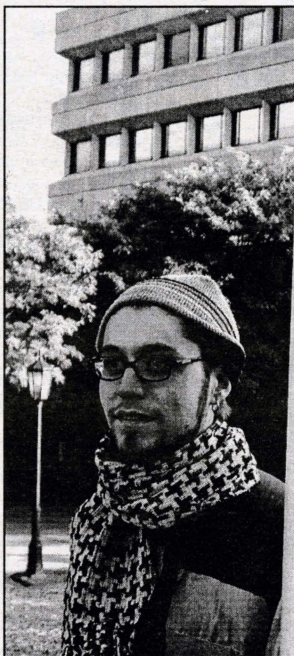
Jacobs, who was born in Leesburg, became interested in politics while at Loudoun Valley High School in Loudoun County.

"I was the new kid," he said, "and I saw posters around school advertising students running for SGA president. I decided I wanted to run, and I won."

Jacobs graduated from high school in 1998 and applied exclusively to Virginia Commonwealth University as an art major.

"I loved art, but I decided I didn't need a job to do it, so I changed my major to political science."

While at VCU, Jacobs continued his involvement in politics. After getting involved with the Student Government Association, he filled various positions including Director of Appointments Committee, Senate Affairs Director and Speaker of the SGA. Jacobs was also the Chief Patron of the legislation that removed McDonald's from the Student Commons.



A former member of the SGA, Jacobs has his eyes set on City Council.

Dan Purdy

His interest in local government spawned from the Monday night City Council broadcast on City Channel 37.

"I live in Richmond," he explained, "and after watching those broadcasts, I saw that the city had

a lot of old baggage, and many of the politicians that are held on to are not leaders in policy."

After researching City Council rules and requirements, Jacobs decided to run.

"Most people think I am too

young to run for City Council, but you only have to be 18 and have 125 registered voters sign a petition."

Jacobs is running against incumbent William J. "Bill"

JACOBS continued to Page 3

## Measures proposed for phase one of cuts

KAREN LEWIS  
Staff Writer

When students return to campus in the spring, they may find two major changes: a surcharge on their tuition bills and graduate students teaching some of their classes.

President Eugene Trani discussed these two proposals with

the Faculty Senate when VCU faced its first phase in Gov. Mark Warner's call for budget cuts.

"The cuts are awful all over the place," Trani said. "These are Draconian measures in very hard times."

Though Trani made no speech at that session, he fielded questions from the senators on issues relating to the budget crisis.

One measure proposed to save money, the use of graduate students to teach classes, would be new to some VCU departments.

But Trani said, "Now is the time to look at these issues."

The proposals received mixed reactions from faculty interviewed after the speech.

"We don't have nearly as many graduate students teaching as at

other institutions," said Robert Andrews, president of the senate, in part because VCU relies on adjunct and collateral faculty instead. "Some (graduate students) are great at teaching...but for others, for them to communicate in the classroom is difficult."

"Our choice so far would be

TRANI continued to Page 3

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# IN BRIEF

## CALENDAR

**Monday  
Nov. 4**

**Academic Success Program - Organizing Papers** at noon in the University Student Commons Forum Room. Open to VCU students, faculty and staff, this is a workshop designed to aid in organizing thoughts for papers.

**Infection Diseases Conference** from 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. in Sanger Hall room 8-036 on the MCV Campus. "Presentation of a Fascinating & Educational Case." The speaker is Thomas M. Kerkering, M.D.

**Tuesday  
Nov. 5  
Election Day**

**Diabetes & Women... Making the Link** from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Gateway Building - VCU Health System-Community Health Education Center, on the MCV Campus. Learn how to prevent or reduce complications from this rising problem. Seminars are free to the public, however seating is limited. Call 828-2432 to make a reservation

**Wednesday  
Nov. 6**

**Commuter CoffeeBREAK** from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the University Student Commons. If you live off campus, stop by and grab a free cup of coffee and a snack, learn more about Off Campus Student Services, meet off campus students and talk to representatives from co-sponsor departments.

**Thursday  
Nov. 7**

**Academic Success Program - Organizing Papers** 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 organizing thoughts for papers.

### Looking for the Cashier's Office?

**VCU's cashier's office, formerly in Founders Hall, has moved to the Financial Service Building 327 W. Main St.**

### Shootings at Washington D.C. school gang-related, Police said

A 20-year-old man found fatally shot Tuesday on a playing field at a Northwest Washington high school was slain after a confrontation with members of a Latino street gang, police and city officials said Thursday.

He suffered multiple gunshot wounds in the 2:30 p.m. attack near a track surrounding the football field of Roosevelt High School. A 16-year-old male from Maryland was also shot but survived, police said. Neither victim was attending the school.

D.C. police initially believed that the shooting stemmed from a fight at a school assembly, but sources said yesterday that turned out not to be true. Instead, a police source said yesterday, Lazo and some companions were approached on or near the field by a group believed to be members of the Vatos Locos street gang.

One arrest warrant, for a 20-year-old man, has been obtained for first-degree murder while armed, the police source said.

Theodore Tuckson, acting director of security for D.C. public schools, said authorities reviewed footage from 28 security cameras inside and outside the school, but found nothing useful. Most of the school's 821 students were at an assembly in the auditorium when the gunfire began.

D.C. Council member Adrian M. Fenty (D-Ward 4) said Lazo's death could mark the fourth time that a Latino male was killed in gang-related violence this year in the ward.

### Report: Iran detains Bin Laden's son

Iranian security forces have detained one of Osama bin Laden's sons among several hundred people suspected of links to the al-Qaeda terror network, the Financial Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper said Iran had handed bin Laden's son over to authorities in either Saudi Arabia or Pakistan.

Bin Laden has at least 23 children by several wives.

In Iran, vice-president Mohammad Ali Abtahi told The Associated Press early

Sunday that he was aware of the report, but "wouldn't confirm it unless credible information is available."

In Washington, D.C., State Department spokeswoman Anne Marks said, "We are aware of the report and are looking into it."

One of bin Laden's oldest children, Saad bin Laden, who is about 22, has emerged as an al-Qaeda leader and one of America's top two dozen targets in the network. Mohammed and Ahmed bin Laden also support their father's efforts, U.S. officials say.

The official quoted by the Financial Times did not identify the son he said was detained. He reportedly said the man was captured with a group of people suspected of having links to al-Qaeda as they fled Afghanistan.

The paper quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi as saying the group numbered about 250 and that all the suspects had been returned to their home countries. He did not identify any of them.

The anonymous official was also quoted by the newspaper as saying he believed bin Laden was dead. U.S. officials have repeatedly said they do not know if the alleged architect of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America is dead or alive.

### Man killed in Mississippi Bridge collapse

A portion of a century-old, one-lane bridge collapsed Saturday, killing at least one man, authorities said.

Divers searched until dark for what they suspect is a second car submerged in the Chickasawhay River. The search was called off after dusk because of the swiftly moving water.

The victim was lived just feet from the bridge outside of Waynesboro in southeastern Mississippi.

A witness said he heard the heavily traveled bridge collapse at about 9:15 a.m.

A new bridge is under construction and slated to open next summer about 200 yards downstream.

"Everybody in this community knew this was a dangerous situation," said Wayne County Sheriff John Stein Farrior.

Heavy trucks were banned from the bridge and the county had recently repaired it, said Wayne County Supervisor Larry Martin said. He said state inspectors went over the bridge last year and declared it secure.

"We took everything off of it but cars and pickups," Reynolds said. "We didn't think it would do anything."

**BRIEFS ARE COMPILED FROM NEWS  
SOURCES**

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# News

## TRANI continued from Page 1

for full and adjunct and collateral faculty to be teaching our classes and Ph.D. students to be doing some of that."

Alan Briceland, an honorary senator, a co-chair of the alumni and community affairs committee and a past president of the Faculty Senate, said a tenured professor with a doctorate and years of teaching experience has considerably more knowledge, both of the discipline and how to teach.

"If a grad student is new to teaching, it's pretty new and daunting," he said. "Next year you use new people again...so you're constantly rotating the inexperienced into the classroom. They're far less likely to do it well."

Briceland said, however, graduate students teach the bulk of undergraduate introductory and survey classes at some major state universities.

"What that means is that students in their formative years are taking courses...taught by someone with a minimum of knowledge and experience," he said.

In the long term, Briceland said, it could happen at VCU because it has happened at other universities.

But Alan McLeod, head of the Division of Teacher Education in the School of Education, said that VCU lacks enough doctoral students to teach the entire two years of undergraduate general studies, and usually master's degree candidates wouldn't be allowed to teach such classes.

On the other hand, he said graduate students in his division who have worked as teachers or administrators could be used to help with clinical su-

pervision of student teachers.

"It would depend on the nature of the program and people to draw upon," McLeod said. "But...I think where it can be done it can be helpful."

The second proposal, a tuition surcharge, should come before the Board of Visitors for approval in November. The University of Virginia approved a spring-semester tuition surcharge earlier this month.

"That can certainly help keep some of the instructional people here," Andrews said, "and the main sense for his (Trani's) focus has been to do everything we can to preserve our instruction."

Nonetheless, Briceland said that the surcharge and using graduate students as teachers might affect students negatively.

"Students will pay more money and have less experienced teachers in their classes," he said, but students will benefit from the surcharge in ways they might not readily appreciate.

"The surcharge will provide a little more money for things that money has to be spent on" such as library hours, adjuncts to teach and frogs in biology class, Briceland said, noting that "it adds to the university's spot of plenty, which is desperately constrained in the present situation."

McLeod said the surcharge would be used to offset the cost of instruction, which tuition doesn't cover.

"But I would hope there would be an increase in financial aid to offset" the tuition increase.

**VCU President Eugene Trani discussed tuition bills and graduate student teaching with the Faculty Senate**

Holly Hobbs

## JACOBS continued from Page 1

Pantele, who was appointed to the council in 2001 and is a corporate attorney at Butler, Williams, Pantele and Skilling, P.C., in Richmond. When asked about his young and motivated opponent, Pantele said, "On one level, I prefer that he got his experience running against someone else, but I don't mind complimenting his ambition."

"It has been helpful to have someone to talk to about certain issues, and it gives him an inside look at local government and the interests in the Second District."

Though Jacobs' name was added to the City Council ballot mid-June, he did not begin formally campaigning until late September, after a 16-day trip he took to Spain with his grandmother.

"My grandmother trained horses and did horse choreography and videography for the World Equestrian Competition, which is the equivalent to horse Olympics, and I acted as a translator," he said. "It was a great learning experience; I literally spoke almost no English for three weeks."

Upon his return, though, Jacobs went to work.

"I was fired up about the race after my trip. I am doing things a little differently, though," he explained. "I don't accept money, because I don't think it should be a big part of the campaigning process."

Instead of using traditional campaigning methods, which cost thousands of dollars and don't give citizens a direct link to their government officials, Jacobs has opted for a different method of communication.

"Basically, I have been going door to door talking with the constituents," he said. "It's been a great experience, because even if people don't think they'll vote for me, they appreciate what I am doing...we all want our neighborhood to be better."

Since Jacobs is a student at VCU, he has also made it a personal endeavor to motivate students to get involved with local government.

"I have visited some classes because I want students to understand that they are a large part of the community, and they are affected by many of the issues that the City Council faces," he said. "Half of the student population isn't even registered to vote, and they should be."

"I want to make sure the stu-

dent voice is heard, and the issues that affect students at VCU are addressed."

The issues, including parking and plans for Monroe Park, is what Jacobs is all about.

"I don't have a party affiliation, and I don't think I ever will," he said. "It's more important to focus on the issues, what candidates stand for and what they want changed."

If elected, Jacobs will encourage students and residents in the Second District to give back to the city.

"I would like to make volunteering and community service a requirement to graduate in Richmond City Schools," he said, "and I would like to see VCU become more and more a part of the community that surrounds it."

The Second District includes several wonderful and beautiful communities according to Jacobs, including The Fan and some surrounding areas.

"Residents in these areas want the same things as the students at VCU; we all want more parking and clean, beautiful communities."

When asked of his confidence level in the upcoming election, Jacobs responded, "It hasn't been done this way before, and I can't give myself less than 50/50 odds. Just in running, though, I have helped provide a good forum for things to get talked about, and I think my opponent appreciates it."

Other members of City Council also appreciate Jacobs' willingness to participate in local government. Mayor Rudy McCollum, Jr., encourages "everyone at VCU to get involved, as future leaders and participants of government in Richmond City."

Getting involved helps citizens to better understand what is going on in the City Council," he said.

If not elected to City Council, Jacobs plans

to return to VCU and continue his involvement in politics.

"I have a few long-term goals. I would like to become fluent in Spanish and learn French, so I can apply myself internationally," he said, adding that French and English are the two languages that are internationally accepted at the United Nations.

"I am looking into attending the four-year graduate- and law-school program at the University of Richmond," he said.

"Other than that, I plan to continue living in Virginia and trying to make everyone's life a little better."



Dan Purdy

**Leading the way to City Council**



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### The Richmond Kaplan Center is hosting a Graduate School Admissions Event

Albert Chen, Kaplan's Director of Graduate Programs, has been invited to discuss the complexities of graduate school admissions.

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**Event will be held Tuesday, 11/5/02 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**at UR, Jepson Hall, Room 118. Register through Kaplan at 1-800-KAP-TEST or [www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com).**

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# NEWS

## Old buildings help define VCU's campuses

**ARLON STAYWELL**  
Staff Writer

Question: With the flurry of new building on campus, what will happen to the older buildings on West Franklin Street?

Answer: Probably join the rest of these old buildings that already are nationally recognized as a museum of architecture.

"VCU's two decades of rapid growth in close proximity to these urban treasures presents intriguing challenges to architects and planners," states the text in a brochure produced by a group titled VCU's Friends of the Library.

That group not only supports and advances the Academic and Medical libraries through building resources and collections, but it also sponsors a series of lectures to provide more information to the public about the libraries and the surrounding area.

At its last lecture, Mary Broughton, VCU's director of planning and design, and Charles Brownell, a VCU professor of art history who has co-authored and co-edited books on architectural history, discussed "VCU Architecture Speaks."

"Some campuses have walls, gates or landscape features that define their edges, but this isn't really appropriate for VCU," said Broughton, while comparing VCU to other campuses. "After all we are not an academic enclave. Our edges are open and permeable much like our attitude toward the surrounding community. We are part of it but subtly distinct."

She told the audience that Richmond and VCU "are so closely entwined that for a long time people never knew they were on one of our two campuses. But over the past seven years we've established an identity through the subtle use of landscape elements to distinguish campus from city."

During the duo's lecture, Brownell described the important role students have played in researching the history of some of these oldest buildings on the 800 and 900 blocks of West Franklin Street.

"Just 10 years ago these buildings couldn't give many lessons," he said, adding that they began to appear in nationally circulated books, such as the one that contained an illustration of Millhiser House. "It's one of our most important buildings and in this book it's identified merely as 'Richmond, Late 19th Century.' At the time of this book, or the early 1990s, almost no one had studied VCU's buildings except the undergrad interior design students."

Brownell said his graduate students extracted all kinds of information from the West Campus buildings, which included basic dating, attribution to architects and a culmination of ideas.

Houses on West Franklin have lessons with local, national and international interest, he said, such as one discovered by Stephanie Jacobs, now visual resources manager for the Virginia Historical Society, who learned that the Blanchard-White House was designed by Richmond architect Albert L.

West.

Brownell further chronicled the connection of Ginter House to a nationally renowned architect made by his former students.

First, he said, Dale Wheary, director of museum operations at the Maymont Foundation — and the speaker's former student — discovered the building had been designed by a Washington architect named Harvey Page.

After Wheary's discovery, Brownell said, Martin Wachadlo, a University of Virginia graduate student, found an 1888 journal titled "Building" that showed William Winthrop Kent as a partner of Page's in the design.

Then, another student named Linda George further determined that Kent was a specialist in ornaments, the speaker said, showing a slide of a book by Kent dated 1888 on wrought iron that was a special acquisition by special collections at the James Branch Cabell Library.

"Kent had spent half a century teaching Americans about crafts with his publications," Brownell said, "but he started off as an ornamentalist working in very office of the nationally renowned H.H. Richardson himself."

Describing Millhiser House as a house having a lesson with international interest, he noted the 16th Century "S" scroll Dutch Gable, the "S" scroll arch from 13th Century France, the asymmetry and several other features he said were the architect's attempt at a composition.

"I don't think he quite carried it off," Brownell said. "(But) Richmond would be a poorer place without this example of the freestyle architecture."

For instance, Thomas U. Walter's Old First Baptist Church and Thomas Stewart's Egyptian building on VCU's Medical College of Virginia campus were parts — if only remnants — of the classical tradition.

The buildings on West Franklin, Brownell said, were built as that classical tradition came to a close.

"We lost the old certainties of the classical tradition. In place of those old certainties, however, we gained something better," he said. "We learned to recognize that virtually all peoples around the globe are artistic, and in recognizing this and becoming open to inspiration from all these sources we gain a world of art: In the early 21st Century that is a cosmopolitan inheritance from the 19th Century."

Broughton said harmonizing VCU's past architecture with the present has been a task since 1992.

"We have discovered," she said "that the most essential principle in construction of a coherent urban environment is to re-establish a symbiotic relationship among buildings, landscape and public space just as (Italian Renaissance architect) Palladio did in his houses."

Source for this: VCU Friends of the Library document

## Happy Birthday President Trani!

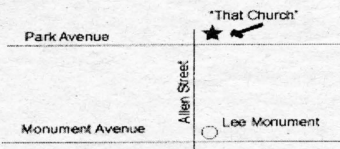


Holly Hobbs

Students from VCU's Commonwealth Singers surprised President Eugene Trani, Nov. 1, with an a cappella version of "Happy Birthday."

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# ADS

## McCowen Profile

Sources: Sara Moss McCowen, associate professor, Dept of Biology, 210 Life Sciences Bldg, rm 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. ... major, 6432 Primrose Pl, Richmond, VA 232...

## McCowen Profile

Sara Moss McCowen, associate professor in the ... Distinguished Service Award for 2002. This honor recognizes ... professor ... exemplify superior service to the community and/or the university. This service ... of participation in activities over and beyond normally assigned duties, unique ... to the university, or a long-standing pattern of superior service.

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

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

... excellent promoter of biology, esp ... visiting trips ...

... one of the reasons she got the award, because she ... a great

... colleague Carolyn Conway, associate professor for biology.

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BOB KNOWS, DO YOU?

# ASK BOB

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

Dear Bob,

Somehow you have discovered my identity. Obviously you are a smart person, so answer me this. Why do some channels show Christmas specials on Halloween?

J. Hart

Well, this is very simple. Halloween has been actually moved to mid-July and Christmas now extends from October 15 through January 1. This change was officially made last year in a bill called the Xmas-4-Ever Act where it stated that Christmas would extend for the last three months of the year.

This bill went mostly unnoticed except in malls, department stores and the media. The malls keep putting Christmas decorations out in the middle of October and have done so for years now, inching ever closer to the entire takeover of the year by Christmas. Pretty soon, this holiday will encompass 360 days of the year, leaving room only for Christmas Eve, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving (the biggest Christmas shopping day of the year), Halloween (there is far too much pressure from the candy lobbyists here to do away with it, at least until 2006), and of course, Valentine's Day.

Just wait until next year, when the Christmas specials will begin in August. That will really throw people for a loop. Christmas in August just doesn't seem right.

Speaking of these "specials" what makes them so special? I have seen all of them at one time or another and there seems to be very little that is special. We have a snowman, a reindeer with a red nose, a big fat guy in a red suit and of course, Charlie Brown (because Charlie Brown should be included in all major holidays).

In addition to weeding out all other holidays that do not have the huge consumer price tag associated with them, Christmas will now be incorporated into other holidays. Some of the most notable changes that the primary proponent of the bill mentioned in our brief phone interview were that New Years Eve would now become "More Christmas Than You Can Shake a Stick At," Valentine's Day will now become "Christmas, only with more pink than green" and Thanksgiving will now become "That Day Before the Biggest Shopping Day, Before Old Christmas."

The distinction will now be made between Christmas and Old Christmas because Christmas now lasts most of the

year.

Next year, when you start seeing people with Christmas lights up in August, remember you heard it here first. Bob is the first to report about this clever scheme perpetrated by the major corporations of the U.S.

What holidays and national traditions will be next to go? Will the British try to invade and take over the country?

Is the blatant theft or "borrowing" of British Comedy finally starting to anger the "Mother Country"? First it was Month Python, which we shall all one day live by as it will become the national religion when Bob is elected president.

## Bob loves the Internet (and so should you)

Bob is an insomniac and late at night, I find weird sites around the Internet. In the ongoing quest for late night amusement, I will now share with you some of the best for the week:

1. [www.Scarysquirrel.org](http://www.Scarysquirrel.org)  
(Squirrels, and they're scary!)
2. [www.kisrael.com/features/ gb.html](http://www.kisrael.com/features/ gb.html)  
(Games played entirely with the form submission button)
3. [www.serve.com/apg/ workshop/640x480Test](http://www.serve.com/apg/ workshop/640x480Test)  
(Is 640x480 really the current standard web resolution? See for yourself!)

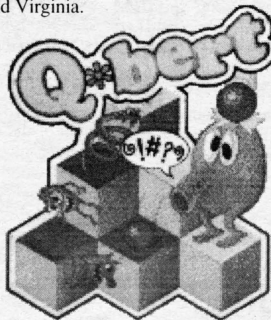
When asked about VCU's recent budget crisis and the blatant lack of snow, respected political analyst and senior meteorologist, Q\*bert, was quoted as saying, "@!#?@." Would you care to elaborate on this?

Mike Stormo, A.P.T.

Q\*bert was only trying to make the point that snow and budget cuts go hand in hand. You see, if the snow comes down from the great sky, where the snow gods live, then the great land of Richmond will turn white, and this means icy roads and frolicking school children.

I remember when the federal government closed down for a few weeks off and on because they needed to save money. I would like to suggest this course of action to save money for VCU.

Q\*bert was merely trying to point out the value of closing expensive things to save money. If it worked for the federal government, then it should work for VCU and Virginia.



## Pigs need love, too!

### PIG SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to all the rain we have received recently, the OINK has asked that we keep the pigs in mind. Please keep your pigs dry when it is so wet outside, pigs can only stand a certain amount of moisture.

So next time it rains, please invite your pigs inside with you to sit on the couch, drink a few cold brews and enjoy the game with you, at least until dinner time.



Brought to you by the CKPD Commission to Keep Pigs Dry

## Soap Box VOTE BOB FOR PRESIDENT

Yes, my fellow students, Bob is running for president. My first plan is to start with the Student Government Association and then extend my reign into Governor, then President of the United States. With Bat Boy, Pixel Man and Mike Stormo by my side, we will rise to power and stand tall and proud as the elected leaders of the SGA then the United States.

The SGA elections are in March and when you look around and realize that the current leaders of the SGA are both ineffective at communicating to the VCU community, (how many people can name even ONE person) and seem reluctant at best to respond to any inquiries about their activities or requests to get more involved, even though they clearly make the claim that both of these tasks are possible at their official web site.

So remember, when the SGA is busy copying their heads onto the bodies of rams, sheep or other barnyard creatures as their form of "advertising" think about Bob who has brought you so many laughs and good times. Think about Bob, who will go to any length to get you the amusement and laughter you deserve as college students. Bob openly challenges any and all members of the SGA to a debate anytime anywhere. Do not think your positions are safe my friends, Bob is on the campaign trail and I intend to become the first popularly elected SGA President the university has seen in a long time.

I will be visible, I will make my positions known and I will do all of this while still being entertaining.

Bob would also like to take this time to endorse Moose Anderson. Come on, please do not tell me you do not know who Moose Anderson is. More will be revealed when the time is right. In the meantime, keep an eye out for the SGA. Can you find them?

**Bob is the work of fiction. Answers are made up and not based on fact. Bob's views do not represent those of the Commonwealth Times.**



# SPORTS

## Doles tallies 28 in pre-season scrimmage

Men's Basketball had another pre-season scrimmage over the weekend. Michael Doles led both sides in points with 28, making 10-12 shots from the field and all six of his free-throw chances. Dole also came up with five rebounds during the game.

Willie Taylor was the second highest scorer with 17 points, which included three three-pointers. Antoine Willie had 15 points; Troy Godwin had 13 and led the game with nine rebounds. Kevin Moore, Mark Adams and Julian Capel each had 10 points, with Adams grabbing a game-high nine assists.

Men's Basketball has its first exhibition game Nov. 9 at the Siegel Center against the Latvia Select team at 7:30 p.m.

## Austgulen named to pre-season first team



Austgulen

The league office made the announcement Oct. 31.

Media representatives selected the team during CAA Basketball Media Day Oct. 29.

Women's Basketball showed

Women's Basketball's Kristine Austgulen was named to the All-Colonial Athletic Conference women's basketball pre-season first team.

up in sixth place overall in the CAA pre-season poll, with Old Dominion coming in first, George Mason coming in second and UNC-Wilmington receiving a third place vote. If Old Dominion finishes first again this year it would be their 12th CAA title in a row.

The Rams start their season this year Nov. 16 in an exhibition game against Virginia Union at the Siegel Center at 5 p.m.

## Cross Country competes in CAA Championships



Stucki

VCU Cross Country took part in the Colonial Athletic Association Cross Country Championships, which were

held in Centreville, Va., Saturday with the men's team finishing fourth in the CAA and the women's team tying for fifth. Men's Cross Country finished with 110 points earning them the fourth place finish. William & Mary earned the CAA title, coming in first. James Madison came in second, followed by Delaware in third place.

James Madison finished first in the CAA for the women's teams; William & Mary came in second, Towson came in third, with George Mason coming in fourth. VCU tied with Hofstra for fifth place with 139 points.

On the individual level, Pius

Stucki had the fastest finish for VCU. Stucki placed seventh with a time of 25:01.22. David Flueckiger was the next finisher for the Rams, coming in at 20th with a time of 26:02.14. Ahmed Qureshi finished out the top three for VCU with a 36th place finish (27:19.13). The men's combined time was 2:13:29.66 and their average was 26:41.94.

Priscilla Wallace was the top finisher for the women. She earned a 19th place finish with a time of 23:21.37. Finishing 30th and 31st were Rams Rachel Taft (24:01.41) and Emily Thompson (24:03.27), to finish up the top three finishers for VCU. The women's combined time was 2:00:54.63 and their average was 24:10.93.

## Women's Soccer loses to N.C. State 2-3

Women's Soccer lost to North Carolina State in the last five minutes of Saturdays game. Lindsey Underwood had two goals for N.C. State including the last-minute game winner. Jen Parsons had both of VCU's goals. The Rams are now 12-6-1 overall, losing their fifth game in their last six outings. N.C. State is now 10-7-1.

Annik Schmidt scored the first goal of the game for N.C. State just 16 minutes into the game. Underwood scored the second goal roughly seven minutes later to put the Wolfpack up 2-0.

In the 23rd minute, Parsons scored the first goal for the Rams on a pass from Sandra Anger to put the goal differential at one. In minute 68, Parsons received a

pass from Leah Robinson and beat N.C. State goalkeeper Gretchen Lear to tie the game.

Underwood scored on a header off of Lauren Bendahan with only 4:38 left on the clock to put N.C. State ahead of the Rams by one goal. VCU was unable to get off



Parsons

Brandie Malizia replaced Lloyd in the 26th minute, and recorded three saves the rest of the game. Lear made four saves for N.C. State. VCU outshot N.C. State 12-11.

Colonial Athletic Association Championships begin Tuesday for Women's Soccer. Locations and times will be announced once league play is finished.

## Men's Soccer has 1-1 weekend, first home loss

Men's Soccer defeated William & Mary 3-2 in their most recent outing Saturday night. The victory led VCU to an 11-4-1 overall record (5-1-1 CAA). William & Mary fell to a 9-6-1 overall record with the loss. William & Mary is also 5-1-1 in the Colonial Athletic Association conference.

William & Mary struck first

11 minutes into the game when Doug Henry crossed to Carlos Garcia, who put a header past the Ram's Saul Montero who played in net. The Rams struck back just after halftime when McColm Cephas scored on the Tribe's net minder Trevor Upton.

Halfway through the second William & Mary came back to take the lead again when Garcia passed to Graham Albert and Albert sent the ball into the net on the opposite side.

Cristian Neagu scored for the Rams with less than two minutes left in the game to bring the score even again and send the game into overtime. Less than three minutes into overtime Cephas scored again, earning the game-winner and securing the victory for VCU.

Montero made two saves for the Rams while Upton had seven for the Tribe. VCU outshot W&M 26-7 for the evening.

Friday, the Rams faced 9-6-1 (6-1-1 CAA) Old Dominion and lost in overtime 0-1. It was the Ram's first home loss of the season and breaks the team's seven game unbeaten streak.

Attila Vendegh scored on Montero off of a penalty kick with less than two minutes left in the second overtime. Vendegh currently leads the CAA with 14 goals.

Despite VCU's number of shots they were unable to secure the victory. The Rams outshot the Monarchs 17-13.

Men's Soccer face Towson next Friday at Towson at 2 p.m.

## CALENDAR

Monday, Nov. 4	Tuesday, Nov. 5	Wednesday, Nov. 6	Thursday, Nov. 7	Friday, Nov. 8	Saturday, Nov. 9	Sunday, Nov. 10
Basketball fans get ready! The season starts soon. Men's Basketball has an exhibition game Nov. 9. Women's Basketball has an exhibition game Nov. 16. Check the calendar for more information.	Field Hockey - Delaware, Richmond, Va. - 3 p.m. Volleyball - William & Mary, Richmond, Va. - 7 p.m.		Women's Soccer - CAA Tournament, Virginia Beach, Va.	Field Hockey - CAA Tournament, Location and time TBA Men's Soccer - Towson, Towson, Md. - 2 p.m. Women's Soccer - CAA Tournament, Virginia Beach, Va. Volleyball - UNC-Wilmington, Richmond, Va. - 7 p.m.	Men's Basketball - Latvia Select (exhibition), Richmond, Va. - 7:30 p.m. Women's Cross Country - University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. Field Hockey - CAA Tournament, Location and time TBA Women's Soccer - CAA Tournament, Virginia Beach, Va.	Field Hockey - CAA Tournament, Location and time TBA Men's Soccer - Delaware, Newark, Del. - 1 p.m. Women's Soccer - CAA Tournament, Virginia Beach, Va.



## ADS

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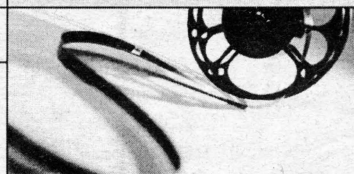
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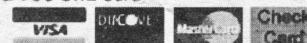
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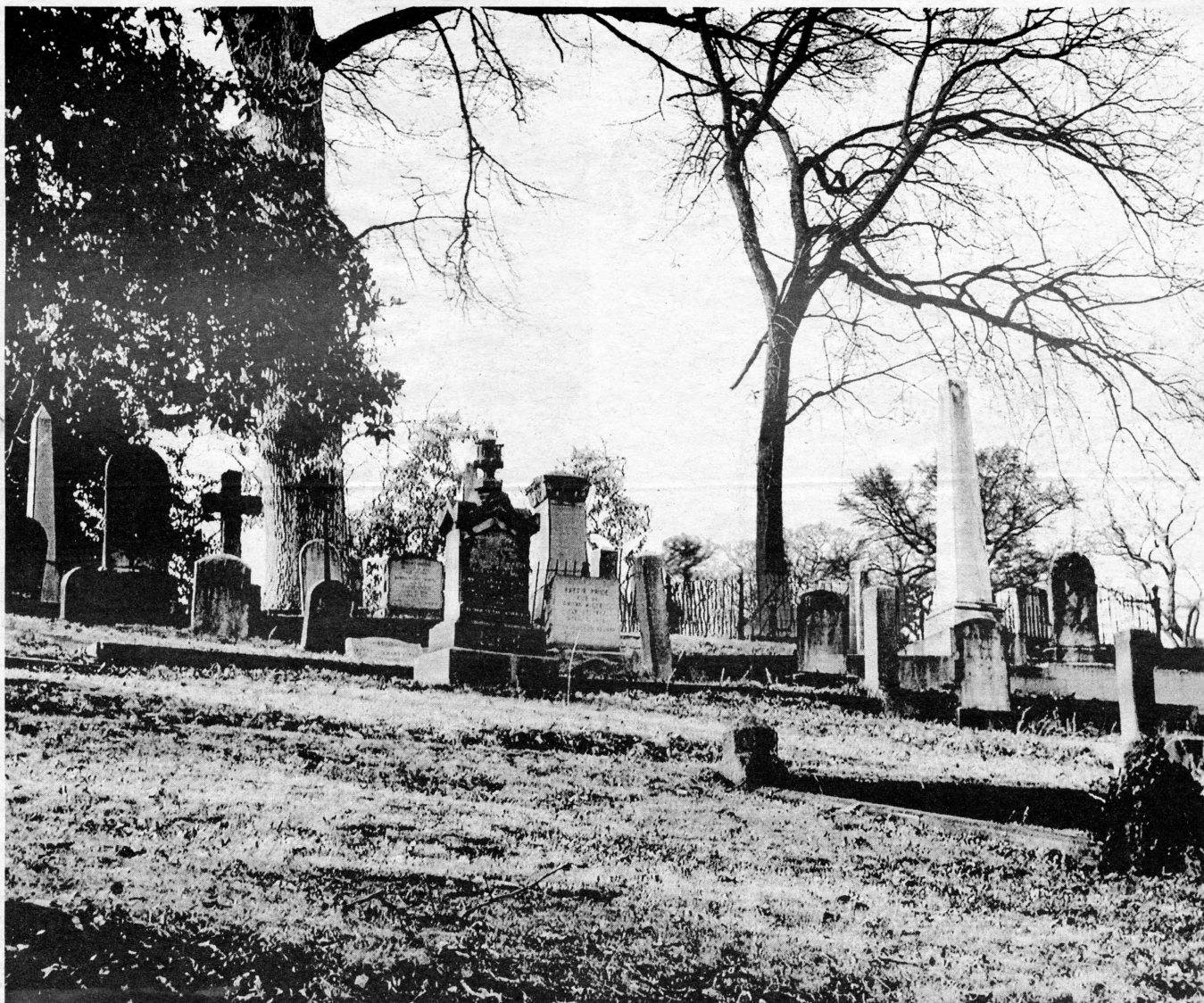


Photo illustration: Shaena Lloyd

## The Souls of St. John's reborn on tour

**BETHANY SHAFFER**

*Associate Spectrum Editor*

Last Saturday afternoon several groups of Richmonders were treated to something that they can usually just admire from the sidewalks of Church Hill: the historic cemetery at St. John's Church.

St. John's Episcopal Church, which was originally under the guise of the Church of England, was the site of the first public cemetery in Richmond. The home of gravestones so old one cannot even read the epithets, St. John's Church is located at 2401 E. Broad St. in the breathtaking Church Hill neighborhood. The church and cemetery's mere presence in this city reminds one of Richmond's historical significance to this state and this country. Not only is St. John's the reason Church Hill is called

Church Hill, but it is also the place where Patrick Henry delivered one of the most famous speeches in American history, the speech in which he vehemently declared "Give me liberty or give me death!" Needless to say, having the opportunity to go on a guided tour of this, not only fascinating, but also beautiful Richmond landmark was truly an honor, as well as a learning experience for all that participated.

Being led down a red brick path with red, yellow and brown leaves crunching beneath our feet, my tour group and I inspected the crumbling limestone memorials of Richmond's earliest citizens and were given history lessons via costumed characters' dramatic monologues.

The first character we encountered was a typical, 18th-century woman

donning a bonnet and carrying a basket of flowers who gave enlightened us on the ways and lives of 18th-century women in Virginia. Among the things she mentioned were the fact that attending church was the center of a woman's social life in the 1700s and that a lot of women married at the tender age of fifteen, and died around age twenty. Her stories of the women's gatherings after church conjured up images of Richmond villagers milling about, socializing, visiting graves of loved ones recently buried, all on the very soil we were standing on.

Next we learned a few facts about the church and graveyard, such as the fact that the original parish house was once raided by Indians and to this day has special barriers in case of another attack, and that right across the street from the

church stands the house of a woman named Elmira who was being courted by Edgar Allen Poe when he died. We were also shown a monument to a man who was the chaplain of the Confederate troops.

Along the trail we were stopped by an elderly man dressed in complete colonial garb, wig, stockings, buckle-shoes and all, who went by the name of George Wythe. Wythe, we were all interested to discover, was an attorney who, among other things, sat on the board of directors at the law school of the College of William & Mary. He was also appointed colonial attorney general, served in the House of Burgesses, attended the Continental Congress and signed the "Declaration of Independence."

Another gentleman we were intro-

*SOULS continued to Page 13*

# SPECTRUM

*SOULS continued from Page 12*

duced to on the tour had actually heard Patrick Henry deliver his speech at St. John's. The really funny thing is, though, that since the church was so crowded with people on that day that many stood outside, straining their ears to hear and craning their necks to see. This gentleman was one of those rubbernecks, and he apparently loved what he heard so much and felt so honored that he had been there to hear that incredible speech that he requested to be buried right outside beneath the window, right where he had stood. He got his wish, however that was only one impressive thing on the list of this man's life events. He was also appointed Marshall of Virginia and was close, personal friends with George Washington.

Finally, on our last stop as the sun set down over the city, our tour group received some glamour in the form of Elizabeth Poe. Standing next to her elegantly sculpted and engraved monument and dressed in a glamorous, silk gown, the actress mother of Richmond's most famous native delivered a dramatic account of her life, as well as a brief, but loving message to her famously talented son, Edgar. At the end of her charming narrative, Mrs. Poe motioned us towards the other side of the monument to read an eloquent engraving of what Edgar wrote about his mother many years after her death.

All in all, the tour was successful, though I must admit I was personally hoping for something a little creepier, maybe something at night with ghost stories or something, but Halloween was officially over. Although, something eerie was definitely in the air as one saw these characters speaking in first person about people who were buried right beneath your feet.

It would be nice to see more events like this put on by the city, since Richmond is simply brimming with history and culture. It was great to see a lot of little kids at the tour with their parents, and looking like they were having a good time, for not only is it good to know about history, but it's important to know about what your city has to offer, especially when your city is Richmond, Virginia.

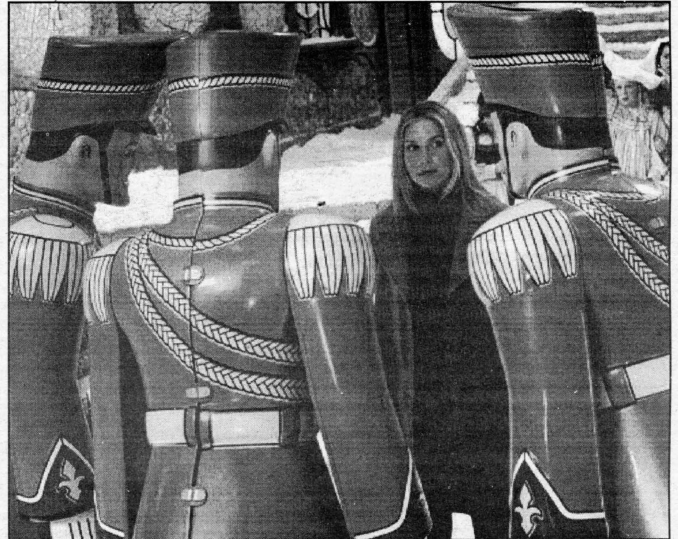
## The Santa Clause 2 ushers in the holiday season in theaters

**CINDY CECIL**  
*Spectrum Writer*

On Dasher, on Dancer, on Comet and Chet...yes Chet, but this new addition to the reindeer team wasn't the only change made in the sequel to the ever popular movie, *The Santa Clause*. As we all know jolly old St. Nick would not be complete without his cookie-baking better half, Mrs. Claus. In *The Santa Clause 2*, however, Santa begins the movie as a bachelor, which creates the problem that sets the movie's plot into motion, that of a 300-lb. man with a long, white beard who needs to find a woman before Christmas.

I must admit that for the first fifteen minutes of the movie I thought I'd made a huge mistake in purchasing a ticket. But, as I soon realized, the dull opening jokes and the onslaught of overly cutesy scenes should not fool one, for the rest of the movie is excellent. Fortunately the entire original cast was back, which to me can really make or break a movie—just look at Hannibal.

The movie begins with the overly annoying, know-it-all elf, Curtis, played by Breslin Curtis, breaking the news to Santa that there is "another clause," to being Santa Claus, that of the "Mrs." clause. Thankfully the drawn-out conversation about clauses marks the last of the dull-witted, pun punctuated scenes. From there, the movie becomes semi-hilarious as Curtis suggests that they make a toy clone of Santa to run the North Pole while the real Santa is off



Courtesy of IMDb.com

Prospective Mrs. Claus Carol (Elizabeth Mitchell) is mobbed by toy soldiers.

finding a wife. Santa isn't too hot on this idea, but, to complicate matters, he soon finds out that his son, Charlie, has gotten himself on the naughty list this Christmas. So, out of sheer desperation, Santa allows himself to be cloned and ends up with a particularly plastic-looking counterpart. The ever-comical David Krumholtz, who was back as Bernard, bends over backwards to convince everyone that Santa just got a new look, so that none of the other elves will catch on to the trouble afoot.

In the meantime the real Santa takes Comet and sets off for Earth with ten units of magic to his name to find a wife and save his son. If you're wondering what kind of woman would go for Santa Claus, put your mind at ease, for the "desantafication" process reeks havoc on his Santa-like qualities resulting in a thin, brown-haired by the time he finds a wife. One of the first encounters Santa has with an Earth woman is with a character played by Molly

Shannon, who makes a musical appearance as candidate number one and keeps the audience in stitches.

Back in the North Pole, the toy Santa has become a dictator with an army of huge toy soldiers that he uses to enforce his laws. He insists on giving all the children around the world lumps of coal for Christmas and effectively turns the toyshop into a sweatshop. Despite the grave situation, however, toy Santa is absolutely hilarious—Tim Allen at his best.

Along with the rest of the original cast, Judge Reinhold is back as the therapy-spewing Neil, Santa's ex-wife's husband, and adds generously to the comic side of the movie, offering a loan of tacky sweaters and free, sob therapy.

Unlike many sequels, *The Santa Clause 2* doesn't rely on old jokes from the first movie. It stands on its own two feet by introducing new characters, most notably a male tooth fairy, and establishing its own plot, separate from, yet still related to its prequel.

*The Santa Clause 2* has all the elements of a family movie, troubled kids, true love, magic, but it also provides laughs anyone can enjoy. Small children and adults alike can watch and laugh as the Christmas spirit seeps in, and while there is an awful lot of those gushy, sentimental moments, they don't drag down what is sure to be an oft-watched Christmas classic.



Courtesy of IMDb.com

Tim Allen de-Santafies with Comet, and his son's step-sister, Lucy (Liliana Mumy)



## SPECTRUM

## Theater VCU presents "The Rivals"

**JOHN WHITE**  
Spectrum Writer

If you're in the mood for a ripping good comedy from merry ol' England, then tally-ho to Theater VCU's new production of the classic R.B. Sheridan comedy "The Rivals."

This famous Restoration comedy (for non-English majors, Restoration refers to 18th century English literature composed after the monarchy was restored under Charles II) is a likely precursor to television's "Three's Company." The entire play is propelled by mistaken identity, and if characters were renamed Jack, Janet, Chrissy or Mr. Roper, audiences would wonder if they were watching a live presentation of Nick-at-Night or classical English theater.

"The Rivals" revolves around the gallant but scheming Capt. Jack Absolute who hides his real identity to win the hand of Lydia Languish. He does this by posing as a penniless man named Beverly, and Lydia, a hopeless romantic, falls in love with his alter ego.

However, Lydia is under the thumb of her domineering aunt Mrs. Malaprop who wants her to marry for money. Lydia also has two other suitors, or rivals, for her affection, yet she remains true to Beverly who, incidentally, is really Capt. Jack.

Jack also has familial problems as he is being badgered by his father Sir Anthony Absolute

who wants his son to straighten up and fly right, marry a wealthy girl and do as his father commands him to do.

Needless to say, complications follow complications. A host of other characters bring further confusion only to be sorted out in the last 5 minutes of the play. Hence, another similarity between the play and "Three's Company."

Though the plot is slight (or at least recognizable), the play is rich with satiric characters that give insight into the conventions of 18th century society, and how little has changed in the last two hundred or so years. The success of "The Rivals" rests chiefly on the shoulders of its cast who pulled through last Saturday to give the audience a rib-ticking evening.

Top honors go to the hilarious Lorri Lindberg as Mrs. Malaprop and Barry Bell as Sir Anthony Absolute. These veteran actors were most at home with the style necessary for Restoration style comedy, and they set a high standard for other cast members.

Lindberg had all the pretentious condescension necessary for her role. Her timing was impeccable as she ran about the stage spouting venomous put-downs while trying to control the future of her niece. As "she-dragons" go, Lindberg was perfect, and she delivered her lines with the potent mix of deadly duplicitous sweetness.

Not to be upstaged, Barry Bell delivered a rich characterization as the ill-tempered Sir Absolute.

In the role, Bell was an inspired bully, cajoling and threatening his way to comedic heights.

Clifton Duncan as Capt. Jack also turned in a strong performance. Duncan had all the necessary charm to play the mischievous roué who spins a web of deceit. As the object of his affection, Kathryn Facemire was less successful as Lydia. She was too bratty and stiff at times to be completely convincing. She seemed self-conscious, never quite settling down into her role to be effective.

In the second love story, Adanna Onyedike as Julia and C. Sean Piereman as Faulkland had some terrific moments. Onyedike was appealing as the compassionate, down to earth Julia who is hampered with a neurotic suitor. Piereman was credible as the socially handicapped Faulkland, turning a largely thankless role into a sympathetic character.

Special notice must be paid to Tori Ulrich as the double-dealing maid Lucy. Ulrich is a natural, rubber-faced comedian. Her character pretends to be dimwitted, but she is really a wily little thing who is undermining all the other characters. Ulrich's treachery was hysterical, and she is a major highlight in the cast.

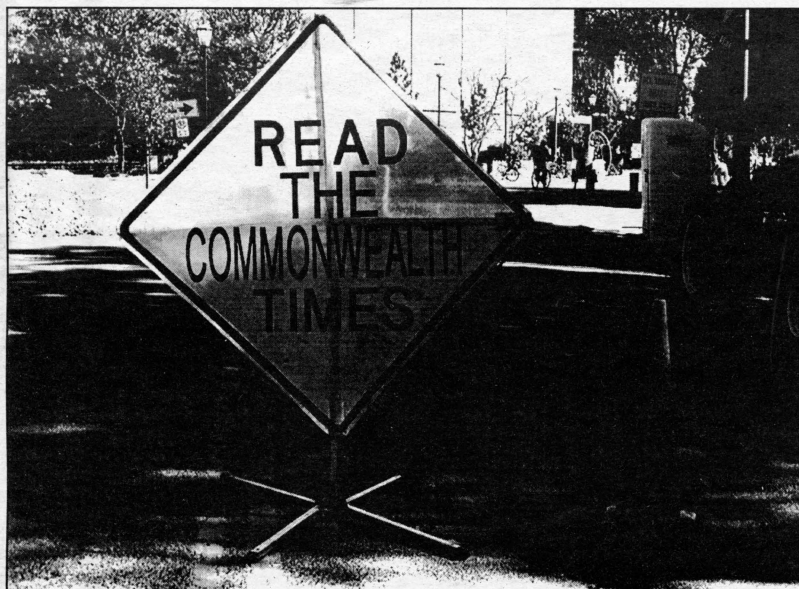
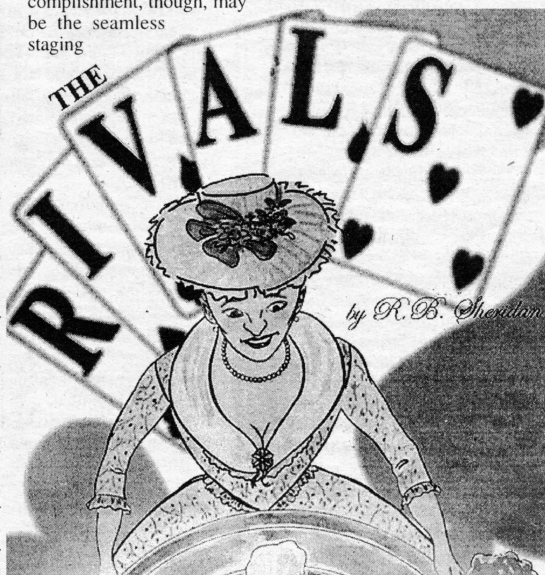
The talents of set designer Ron Kellar and costume designer Vanessa Leuck add immeasurably to the production. Kellar created a colorful, multi-purpose

set that resembles a lithograph from a picture book. Leuck provided a lot of eye candy with the period costumes. Women are dressed in the requisite corset and bustle, men in the knee britches and stockings appropriate for the era. Just watching the characters walk around in these confections of feathers and fabrics is a lot of fun.

Director Karen Kessler does a great job with the large cast. All of the performers look well rehearsed to meet the challenges of their roles. Kessler's biggest accomplishment, though, may be the seamless staging

of the play. There is a lot of traffic on stage as characters make simultaneous entrances and exits, and set changes are done in full view of the audience. Kessler prevents a pile up, and there are no awkward pauses to complain of. The play progresses without a hitch.

"The Rivals" is playing at VCU's Raymond Hodge Theater in the Singleton Center of the Performing Arts. Performances continue Nov. 6, 7, 8, 9, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for VCU students with a valid ID.



## Halloween Crossword Answers

## Across:

- 6 Ladder
- 9 Comedy
- 10 Legend
- 11 Candy snatcher
- 13 Sacks
- 15 Seance
- 18 Poe
- 21 Gala
- 22 Bitemark
- 23 Mask
- 24 Makeup

## Down:

- 1 Narc
- 2 Freddy
- 3 Hamlet
- 4 Fang
- 5 Moon
- 7 Demonic
- 8 Accent
- 11 Cask
- 12 Heads
- 14 Skeleton
- 16 Cider
- 17 Macbeth
- 18 Pranks
- 19 Autumn
- 20 Pagan

## SPECTRUM

## You can't fight the Foo

MELISSA LYNCH  
Spectrum Writer

Dave Grohl, Taylor Hawkins, Nate Mendel, and recent addition Chris Shiflett, the four of who make up The Foo Fighters, have just released their fourth CD entitled "One By One." The title is meant to poke fun at the fact that their line-up of members is always changing.

Peaking at the first track, "One by One" levels off at merely "good" with the middle of the CD, and picks back up with the last song.

There is no doubt why "All My Life" was the first single on this CD to be released. It has the rough around the edges appeal that has always attracted people to the Foo Fighters. As well as being the fastest song, it also has the most "pure rock" feel to it. The peaks and valleys of Grohl's whispers compared to his outright screams barely allow the listener a moment to relax before the song finally combusts at the end.

"Disenchanted Lullaby" is about two imperfect people coming together in marriage. The verses are lilting and the chorus is powerful. "I may be scattered / a little shattered. / What does it matter? / No one has a fit like I do. / I'm the only one that fits you," screams Grohl amid lines that speak of wedding rings.

"Overdrive" has definite single potential because it is fun, poppy and can be appreciated and understood by a wide range of people. It is basically about two people who are "on the mend," and the guy invites this girl to "leave behind this vacant town tonight and let it turn to rust."

The heavy metal rift from the last song

"Come Back" surprisingly meshes well with Grohl's raspy, melodic voice. "Come Back" is similar to "All My Life" in that it is more aggressive and harder than the rest of the CD. With lyrics like "dead on the inside I've got nothing to prove / keep me alive and give me something to loose," the Foo Fighters finished off their album with a bang.

The lyrics of each song on "One by One" are unique as well as meaningful and even poetic. "I can be your liar / I can be your bearer of bad news / sick and uninspired by the diamonds in your fire burning like a flame inside of you," comes from the song "Tired of You" and illustrates the lyrical prowess of the Foo Fighters. The creative imagery in lines like, "In too deep she's spilling over me," from "Have It All" is also noteworthy.

One criticism of the album, however, is the repetition in certain songs, which starts to wear thin after a bit. In "Burn Away" the line "burn away" is repeated enough times to make me want to skip to the next song and the "ohhh's" after every other line in "Low" also become annoying. The extensive repetition also makes some of the songs fairly long and I find it hard to pay attention throughout the entire song.

This CD is more than meaningless fun, the lyrics and music are well written as well as it being enjoyable overall. An extra incentive for purchasing the CD is the bonus DVD that is included with it. The DVD includes the "All My Life" video, "Walking A Line" video, audio of "The One" from the "Orange County" Soundtrack, backstage antics, and an extensive photo gallery with one of the most amusing pictures of Dave Grohl smiling by a stand that says "Oriental Foo."



Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters

Courtesy of FooFighters.com

## Happenings

Monday, Nov. 4

**Bogart's.** Special Ed and the Shortbus Bluegrass Band. \$5. 10 p.m.  
203 N. Lombardy St., 353-9280.

**Chopstix.** "Render" feat with Eric and Matt B. Drum n' Bass night. 10 p.m. \$3.  
3129 W. Cary St., 358-7027.

**Holy Chow.** Cass McCombs, We are Childhood Equals, Silent Type, Kate Rears. 10 p.m.  
309 N. Laurel St., 225-7103.

**James River High.** Get down with this fiddle fusion of classical, jazz, country and more at the Fiddle Music "Barrage," at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$15 at the door.  
3700 James River Road, Midlothian, 378-2420.

Tuesday, Nov. 5

**Landmark Theater.** 8 p.m. curtain call for the opening of the musical "Les Misérables." Tickets are \$25-\$50 and are available through Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)). Playing through Sunday. Evening performances begin at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; matinees at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; closing performance at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.  
6 N. Laurel St., 646-4213.



Les Misérables

**18th and Main Café.** Weekly Latin Night. 10 p.m. Free salsa, merengue and bachata lessons from 8-9 p.m.

**Babe's.** Country Line Dancing, sponsored by MCC Church. Lessons from 8-9 p.m., dancing from 9-11 p.m.  
3166 W. Cary St., 359-9330.

**Sticky Rice.** Nard's Karaoke. \$2 at the door. Craziness begins at 10 p.m.  
2232 W. Main St., 358-7870.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

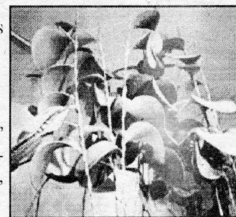
**Alley Katz.** B-Sides, SXXMXXM, Conshafter, 6pm, All Ages. Stick around for the 10 p.m. show with Daycare Swindlers, Toxic Narcotic, Two Man Advantage. Must be 18 to enter late show.  
10 Walnut Alley, 643-2816.

**J.SARGENT REYNOLDS** - 1st Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival feat. The Latin Cats.  
700 E. Main St., 371-3000.

**Catch 22.** "Greek Dance Night Feat" 9 p.m.  
1718 E. Main St., 343-1560.

**VCU's Raymond Hodges Theater.** Come out and support your theater department at VCU Theater's production of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's "The Rivals," runs through the 9th at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free with VCU ID.  
922 Park Ave., 828-1514.

**Reynolds Gallery.** "Fictions in Wonderland," including mixed media, sculpture and photography by Sally Mann, E. V. Day, Alyson Shotz, Roxy Paine and Christopher Chiappa. Runs through Dec. 14.  
1514 W. Main St., 355-6553.



Reynolds Gallery



## ADS

# Like making people laugh?

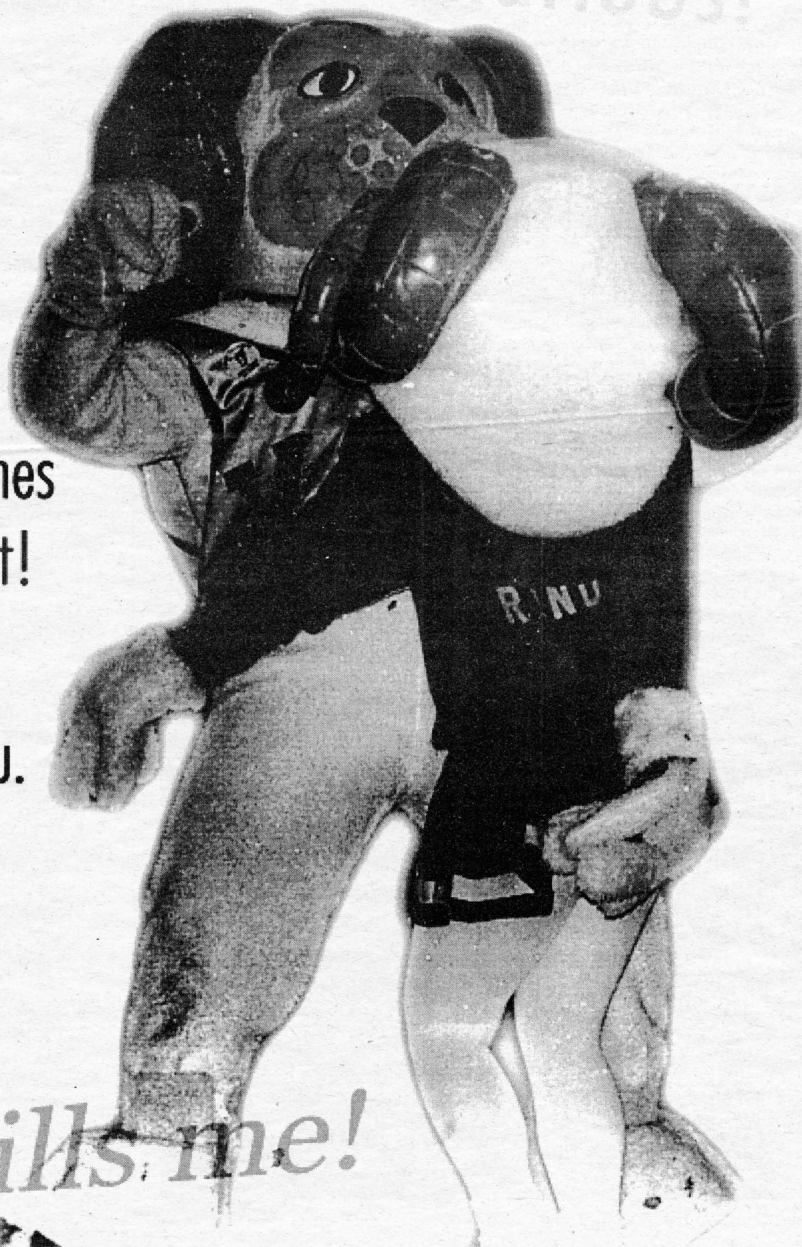
*funny stuff!*

*that's hilarious!*

*HA!*

The Commonwealth Times  
is looking for cartoonist!

Contact Mike Talley  
at [Talleymw@vcu.edu](mailto:Talleymw@vcu.edu).



*that kills me!*

# Letters to the Editor

## Protesting MTV is not the answer

Don't get me wrong, I'm not too big on MTV, and protesters/protesting is good when the protesting is for a good cause, but, is MTV really an evil that must be dealt with by writing on signs?

Hi, I'm the kid with the "PROTEST THE PROTESTORS" (please note the correct misspelling) sign that you so kindly acknowledged in "Curls." But, I'm not here to defend myself, I just want to put out some arguments toward those who were really out there to protest, one sign at a time. That is, if I can remember them all...

"MTV ruins indie rock!" and "Ban corporate rock!" I had to put these two together, mainly due to indie rock being purposely against things like MTV and major corporations, and that with out corporations, with their evil corporate rock, it would be very hard for musicians to actually get their music out there to the world. Most musicians do actually want to reach a wide audience, and signing themselves to a record label can do that for them.

"MTV doesn't have the right to decide what good music is!" This one was the longest and therefore least appealing one out there. Well, the thing is, they don't. We do. Believe it or not, we even decide if they stay in business or not. But that's getting off the subject a bit. Every piece of music that is shown is decided on by looking at charts ranking the music by sales. Who buys this crap then? Teenie boppers. Also,

TRL's broadcasting is based solely on the population's votes. Who votes for this crap? Teenie boppers, each 20 times.

"Where's the music?" Got me there, I guess they decided that they'd move it to M2?

"MTV degrades women!" and "MTV creates sexual stereotypes!" Yep! But so does FOX, and I don't see you out there whenever they're broadcasting live news. Seriously, have you ever seen "Temptation Island"??

Well, those are the only ones that really mattered, the other ones really didn't make sense and took away from the whole movement. In the end, these people should know that they can just hit a single button to turn off MTV, they also shouldn't go and support MTV by part taking in the festivities at free shows, such as dancing or singing karaoke in some contest. They could even try supporting their favorite bands by going and posting flyers for them instead wasting their time with signs that they'll throw away. Hell, they could even plot a conspiracy against MTV and become rock stars and cut destroy the very foundations of the station by making your own politically correct music station.

One last thing, I would like to point out the things MTV does right, like the "Fight for Your Right" programs and all the other programs that do things like inform about gay rights and fund AIDS organizations. Hey, wait... Don't people shake signs around for things like AIDS and gay rights? Hmm... What kind of horrible company would support

those people? I guess MTV's going to Hell...

Casey Brian Canady

## Getting The Facts Straight

It is true that if one was to look up a list of religions it would include Judaism, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism etc. So then what exactly is religion? Webster's dictionary defines it as a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs and practices.

The "10 things" referred to in the article is the 10 commandments of the Bible (Exodus 20:1-17). These commandments served as a standard of living for his people. God being all knowing and ever present knew and still knows that humans are unable to live by this standard perfectly. In fact the Gospel of Matthew says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt 5:27-28). If Christianity is viewed as a religious standard to live up to than I can understand the frustration! It is not God's intent for any man, woman or child to earn perfection, earn goodness, or even earn heaven. As the frustration in the article so clearly expresses this is an impossible feat. OK, then two major questions have been produced.

1. Why did God create a law if

he knows we cannot achieve it?

2. If God loves me then why does it appear as though he has set me up for failure?

Here is the answer. God is completely holy and perfect in every way. In order for us to know him then there must be a standard of holiness. The solution to the problem is the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross a little over 2,000 years ago. The Bible teaches in the four gospels that Jesus Christ (God's Son), who was God living on earth, lived a sinless life and then out of a decision of love chose to die in our place. When he rose from the dead the Bible teaches that he conquered all sin and death. Therefore when Christians refer to themselves as "born-again" believers they are saying that they recognize their sin and their need for the sacrifice of Jesus. They are saying that they receive Jesus Christ into their hearts as the holiness and perfection they cannot achieve on their own. With this confession the Christian bases all of his or her assurance of living eternally in heaven, and knowing God as a personal friend on earth on the fact that Jesus Christ has made a way for them.

I am not making the claim that Christians themselves are perfect.

Only God living inside of them is perfect. This is why Christians still make mistakes. Fortunately salvation (living with the assurance of an eternity in heaven) is not based on what one does. It is based on receiving the free gift of God made possible through his son. The contradictions seen in Christianity are based on not having the whole truth. The same is

true in life. When one draws a conclusion without knowing the whole truth the conclusion they draw is inaccurate.

As far as your statement on the Wicca belief you state that they do not believe in any absolute good, or any absolute evil - that neither good nor evil can exist without the other. Assuming what you have stated is true then if the core belief of Wicca is centered on the use of positive thought, positive action and love of nature... Then wouldn't it also be true that Wicca embraces the negative thought, the negative action and the hate of nature? Also the belief that there is no absolute is a contradiction within itself. If there is no absolute, then we know for sure that there is at least the one absolute that "there are no absolutes." It is impossible to make a statement about absolutes without proving they exist.

I am not trying to "bash" anyone. I am simply expressing the truth.

It is important that the truth is expressed. An honest look at life reveals many absolutes. Everyone has been born. Everyone will eventually die. Winter is cold. Summer is hot. Night is dark. Day is light. The list goes on.

The absolute of God is stated in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave his only son so that who so ever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." We all have the freedom to choose what to believe in our hearts. It is important to make a fully informed decision based on absolute truth.

Courtney Smith

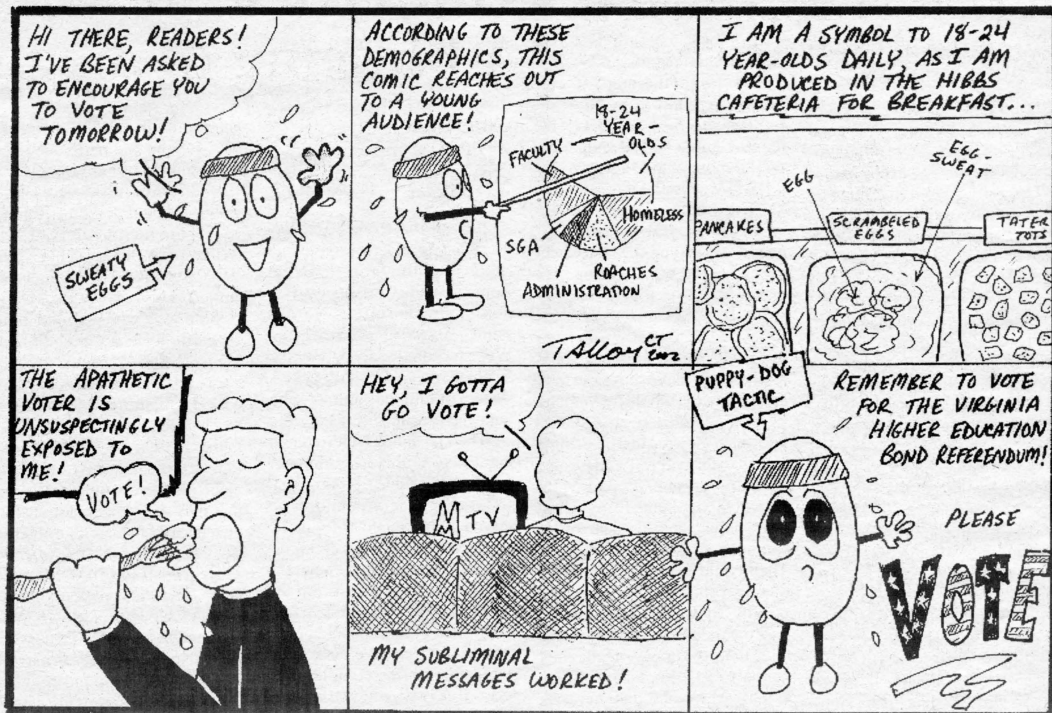


By Carolyn Belefski





# OP/ED



By MIKE TALLEY

## Eminem: The great rock superstar

ALEXANDER M. MARRA  
OP/ED Writer



This has been troubling me for quite some time now. Ever since this Detroit-born blonde began his career in the music industry, I've been annoyed with how society views him. I will admit; I am a fan of his. I think, as far as rap goes, he is up there with the best. His talent and perseverance make him nearly untouchable in regards to his lyrics and his creativity is also admirable. He is America's favorite artist for another reason though. It is because of his race.

You see, Eminem, or Slim Shady as I prefer to call him, is a rapper. He spits out rhymes to a beat kept in time by a machine. The vocals and rhythm are accompanied by a simple three- or four-note melody also created and played by a machine. Marshall

Mathers plays no instrument and there is no human drummer. There is only rap. And this rap it is not sang, it is spoken with a typical rapper's arrogance and sometimes yelled with Eminem's patented high-pitched trailer trash drawl.

And so it is very clear that this angry 28-year-old is not your next Dave Mathews or even your next Kurt Cobain. Why then is he played alongside these folks on the same radio station? Why is he not played alongside his peers like Tupac and Nas? Why is he played all over Richmond on XL-102 and Y-101? Why not on 106.5? It is because of his European Ancestry.

I remember when I was looking for his second album in a music store. I was baffled as to why I couldn't find it. "I guess he is even more popular than the store imagined. I guess they ran out," I said as I was rummaging through CD after CD in the hip-hop section under "E." "Oh, he must be under "S" for Slim Shady." After continuing my fruit-

less search for another five minutes I decided to ask for assistance. "Eminem? What were you doing looking for him over there? He's under rock."

OK folks, I for one know what rock is. And Eminem is definitely not rock. I know the rock world has been taken over with many rock/rap guys and gals who confuse us as to what genre they should be categorized in. I know about Linkin Park and P.O.D. I know about Cypress Hill. In fact, the latter boasted two versions of the same song in different formats, rap and rock, to appeal to all music heads. Eminem, however, is not on any borderline. He is not Fred Durst and I don't think he wants to be. He should be properly labeled as rap and to do otherwise, is an injustice to him and to all those who respect contemporary music.

Why is this confusion happening? It is because the world hasn't seen a truly successful light-skinned rapper before. But this would not be a problem if people

understood one very important underlying principle. Rock is not "the white people's music," and rap is not "a black thing." In fact, rap and rock music were both invented by blacks. Eminem noted this as he made a reference to Elvis Presley in his hit song from "The Eminem Show." And let us not forget that the best rocker of all time, the best guitarist, was Jimi Hendrix, who was black. So, if you want to put a color to music, then all modern-American tunes would be black. This, of course, should not be done and instead music, whether rock or rap, should consist of artists of any ethnicity.

Music is colorblind. Don't be fooled by these radio stations that perpetrate this atrocity. Call up Y-101 and let them know that what they are doing is racist. Tell them that Eminem is not a friend of theirs because, as Eminem says, "he looks like them." Tell them that their station is not "white music" but rather rock, and so needs to play rock.

THE Commonwealth  
TIMES

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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

## A Word of Inspiration to Conquer the Apathy

KELEISHA DIXON

OP/ED  
Writer

In the Oct. 28, edition of The Commonwealth Times, one of my fellow writers touched on an issue that some VCU students can relate to – the issue of eating-in and our need to improve the cafeteria policy. I can sympathize with my fellow writer. I applaud his initiative by taking action about an issue that was bothering him. I wondered about the noticeable pounds those homeless people were gaining while continuing to ask my fellow students and I for money that we don't and never did have (every blessed day). Now I don't have to feel as sorry for them as I used to.

This leads me to my next point. On this campus I notice that people are showing apathy, indifference, toward some events and other happenings going on around here. What ever happened to the days when students took action about everything and anything no matter how small? When people join specific organizations to make a difference and actually did. Nowadays, you cannot even get so much as a yawn or blink from someone without them groaning and moaning. Is it me or have we lost our motivation to get up and go?

There is so much going on around campus that students

can participate in. For one, students who don't like the food can give their meals to the homeless. One can also make some kind of project out of it, which can also include giving shelter, and teaching job skills of the new millennium to them or taking part in a march against the possible war in Iraq, or joining an organization that's of some interest to all of you. Still, even all this seems like too much effort to some.

I can understand this indifference sometimes. I am having midterm blues myself. Every assignment the professors ask me to do feels like my teeth are being pulled.

Moreover, I am trying to get involved in activities on and around campus, further occupying the limited time in my day. I don't want to miss anything because these are the best years of my life. I am trying to enjoy life before I have to settle down with children, pay bills and do the other things that women are supposed to do once they get married. I have no great responsibilities at this time, so I am trying to get rid of my laziness and get up and do things since I have the chance.

I think some people should follow my lead and get involved; not necessarily do the things I suggested, but do something. Don't miss out on enjoying life by being apathetic! Make a difference, create something, discover something, plan something and just get up and go!

## Words of a homeless man: A blessing in disguise

ANGELA MACK

OP/ED Writer



We all know about homelessness and poverty, we hear about it on the news and have learned about it by studying the Great Depression in history class. I must say that when I began my freshman year at VCU I had the opportunity to get a firsthand observation of what homelessness was all about.

When I came to the STAR program the summer before my freshman year, there was no visibility of bums, at least not around campus. The atmosphere was beautiful, the sun was shining, and everything seemed to be in order. Little did I know that once the semester started I would become a victim to the constant begging of money and hungry stares from these poverty-stricken individuals. They were on the corners near the bookstore selling newspapers, which they called Hard Times, and some of them were even sleeping in the Commons Underground. Monroe Park was literally the epitome of homelessness because each park bench served as a bed to these individuals.

On my way to class, someone asking for money so that they

could buy something to eat would always approach me. This up-close and personal confrontation really made me uneasy, I'm sure many of you felt the same. I thought to myself, how could anyone accept the lifestyle of living on the streets? Was it really that hard to find a job? Where were the families of these individuals, or did they have any at all?

I just couldn't understand how someone could become homeless and not do anything about it. A tension began to build up inside me against these people. I felt that they were just lazy and had given up on life. They were trying to take the easy way out by making people feel sympathetic toward them by providing them with a few dollars of their hard-earned money. I refused to feel sorry for them and I actually began to laugh at them as they stood on the corner holding a sign that read – "I will work for food."

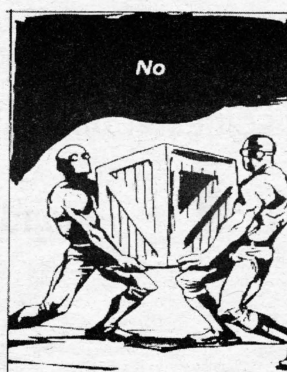
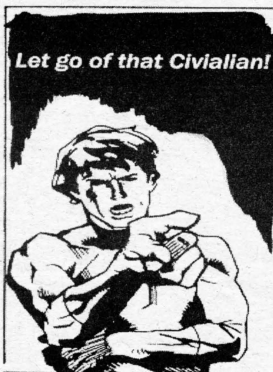
It wasn't until last week, when I actually took the time to stop and talk to one of the individuals, that I realized my feelings toward them were absolutely wrong. The homeless man started off by asking me for just 45 cents, which I could not give to him because I didn't have anything on me except for a few pennies. He told me to keep the pennies because I might need them, which I found awkward. But I conversed with him nonetheless. He had been

married for 25 years and his wife had suffered from high blood pressure before she died. He was once a devoted member of a Baptist church. He talked to me about God and how even though he had no home here on earth, one day he wouldn't be homeless anymore (referring to Heaven). He encouraged me to praise God no matter what was going on in my life and one day I would be blessed.

After about 15 minutes, I told him that it was nice talking to him and advised him to stay out of the road so that he wouldn't get hit by a car or a bus, and he replied with a courteous "Yes, ma'am." I had a warm feeling inside as I drove home and realized that his words actually did encourage me to never give up and always put my trust in God.

I no longer feel like it is an act of charity to give to the homeless, whether it is some loose change or just a little of your time. But instead I feel that you are blessing them and will receive an even bigger blessing in return. I have learned that just because a person is homeless doesn't mean that they are worthless or just a menace to society. They are actually examples that teach us to never take life for granted. Ironically, they are themselves blessings in disguise!

Got an opinion? The CT is looking for Op/Ed writers. Contact 828-1058 or [missefamilyliu@hotmail.com](mailto:missefamilyliu@hotmail.com)



ACE MIGHTY

DUC NGUYEN AND JOE CARABEO



# Attention Students!



## 2003 Spring Semester Parking Decals

will be sold via the VCU PARKING WEBSITE

<http://www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark>

(Students are required to have a VCUCARD or VCUCARD number to purchase parking decals.)

beginning

**Monday, November 18, 2002**

Spring semester decals will not be sold from the Parking Office  
locations until :

**Monday, December 2, 2002**

For more information call the Parking Office at 828-8726, Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm.