

# THE Commonwealth TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 38  
No. 1

January 13, 2003

Monday

Bob needs your questions,  
help and support.

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# FREE

## inWEATHER



P. Cloudy  
Hi 48  
Lo 24

## inNEWS

Could tenure in  
higher education  
institutions become a  
thing of the past?

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## inOPINION

That book is how much???

Columnist Terry Burton  
discusses the woes of  
textbook shopping.

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## inSPECTRUM

Let's do the time warp again!  
It's just a jump to the left...

'The Rocky Horror  
Picture Show' rocks  
Fieldens Cabaret Theatre.

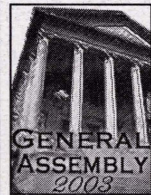
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## INSIDE

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# Warner addresses commonwealth focusing on education, budget

GEORGE TEMPLETON  
Political Writer



Virginia Democratic Gov. Mark R. Warner lauded the state's two Nobel Prize winners, VCU professor John Fenn and George Mason professor Vernon Smith, in his State of the Commonwealth address last Wednesday night and told members of the General Assembly that simply balancing the budget wasn't enough.

More must be done to streamline and reform the government he said in his 55-minute speech. The governor praised the public schools' improvement on the Standards of Learning tests - more than two-thirds of Virginia's schools qualify for full accreditation - and has proposed an extra \$65 million for public schools in the budget.

"I thought the governor was echoing some of the things that Republicans have supported for a long time," said Delegate Frank D. Hargrove, R-Hanover. "For years Democrats wanted to dump money into the schools with no accountability. Now the SOLs seem to be worthwhile and everyone wants to jump on the bandwagon."

Warner also called for changing the "21-day rule," where a person convicted of a crime has only 21 days after their trial to produce new evidence that will prove their innocence.

"I think that was appropriate and I concur," Hargrove said. "I always thought the 21-day rule was wrong. What if someone found new evidence on the 22nd day and they couldn't bring it into court? What a crime that would be."

Calling the law outdated, Warner referenced the case of Marvin Lamont Anderson, who served 15 years in prison until DNA evidence proved his innocence. The governor pardoned Anderson Aug. 21, 2002, and Sen. Benjamin Lambert, D-Richmond, has put in a claims bill for the state to reimburse Anderson for the years he spent in prison.

"I don't think there should be any limit," Lambert said. "If it takes 10 years to prove

innocence then it takes 10 years."

Last year, Warner and the General Assembly worked to close a \$3.8 billion budget shortfall. Sharp declines in fall revenue forecasts forced Warner to cut another 15 percent from all state agencies except public education and public safety in October. Virginia currently is facing a \$2.1 billion budget gap in the 2003-04 budget.

"Some may be satisfied just to balance the budget," Warner said. "Some may be satisfied just to get through these tough times. But I am not - and I hope you won't be either. While I am proud of our accomplishments, the job is not finished."

Warner also committed to reopening 12 Department of Motor Vehicle offices, using \$6 million from a settlement agreement with major Wall Street banks. The move will head off a potential budget quarrel with legislators who planned to find the money to reopen the offices.

In a response to the governor's address Delegate Jeannemarie Devolites, R-Fairfax, indicated that DMV closings had become a political football. One delegate questioned whether the \$6 million would be enough to reopen the 12 offices.

"From what I'd understood, the savings from the DMV closings were \$45 million," said Hanover's Republican Delegate Ryan T. McDougle. "What are the real numbers? Why did we move so hastily to close these offices?"

Warner also said he would not accept any budget amendments that dip into Virginia Retirement System funds, a state-



Warner pledges to reopen 12 DMV offices

Olivia Llyoyd

ment that drew harsh reaction from Republicans.

"We did an informal poll in the Appropriations Committee and not one member suggested that we should raid the VRS," said Delegate Jack S. Reid, R-Henrico. "It was political posturing."

Abortion will also be an issue where the governor and the GOP-dominated assembly may clash. In the second half of the Republican response, Sen. Stephen D. Newman of Lynchburg signaled that parental consent on abortion will be a topic of discussion this session and said that partial-birth abortion will be outlawed again this year.

"We want to give the governor an opportunity to sign this bill," he said. "but if he decides to veto it again, we will push to override that veto."

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



# IN BRIEF

## CALENDAR

### Monday, Jan. 13

**Zeta Phi Beta Interest Meeting**  
Student Commons—Forum Room  
Interest meeting for females interested in joining a sorority.  
Contact Janielle Lattimore 231-1672  
7:20-9:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 14

**NAACP-VCU Chapter Organization Meeting**  
Student Commons—Capital Ballroom C  
Contact Alethia Watford 692-4564  
7-8 p.m.

**Group discussion of "The Evidence Against Her"** by Robb Forman Dew at Barnes and Noble, Midlothian.  
7 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 15

**The United Sikh Association of VCU's Open Panel Meeting**  
Student Commons  
First panel meeting to gather ideas on enriching VCU students about Sikhism and Sikh identity  
Contact Arun Chaudhry 692-4877  
7-9 p.m.

**Richmond Renegades** take on Charlotte Checkers at the Coliseum  
Tickets: \$9 to \$17, call (804) 262-8100  
7:05 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 16

**Progressive Student Community Alliance** documentary showing  
Student Commons—Forum Room  
Contact Emily Harry 359-0733  
7-9 p.m.

**Art After Hours** at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Tickets: \$10, call (804) 340-1405  
6-9 p.m.

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### Jealous horse ruins wedding night

Juju, a jealous mare belonging to Brazilian soccer player Antunes, barged into its owner's room on his wedding night. The horse bit and kicked Antunes' wife, Mariluce, so badly that she was hospitalized. The wife insisted that the horse be put to death, but Antunes refused, saying the incident was "nothing but a jealousy fit." Antunes was sent to stay with his brother for failing to side with his wife on the issue.

### No toy guns allowed in England

England's Home Secretary, David Blunkett, said legislation will be introduced to ban anyone from carrying a replica or air weapon in a public place. This ban could cover children's toys or cigarette lighters that look like weapons. A spokesperson for the Home Office said arrests would be made at the police's discretion.

### Osbournes' wedding festivities ruined by greedy woman

An uninvited female agent from the ICM Talent Agency crashed the Osbournes' New Year's Eve nuptials, said Sharon and Ozzy's publicist. The woman allegedly stole raffle tickets to guarantee she win a \$16,000 necklace and earring set the couple was raffling off to their friends. The Osbournes are reportedly saddened by the event. The ICM agent, however, claims the allegations are false and that she won the raffle fairly.

### U.S. presence in Persian Gulf increased

Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar is preparing for a possible war with Iraq. Although the base was originally designed to hold about 300 people, as many as 1,000 military planners are on the way. U.S. Navy Seabees and Army engineers are working quickly to expand the base. Qatar is also home to the VCU College of Design Arts, a private institution established by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. In addition, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld signed a deployment order Friday that will send an additional 35,000 men and women into the Persian Gulf region, 7,000 of which was from Marine base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. This recent deployment brings the total number of U.S. troops in the region to 80,000. U.S. and British planes have dropped several bombs on Iraqi communication sites in order to protect "no-fly" zones around Iraq, which the country does not recognize.

### Protestor removed from tree

By order of a California judge, John Quigley was evicted from a 400-year-old oak tree. The tree-sitter, 42, moved into his home Nov. 1. Cynthia Harris of the Santa Clarita Oaks Conservancy said the stunt was to educate people about urban sprawl

and the rape of the urban environment. Quigley's protest was specifically targeting a developer's plan to remove the tree in order to widen a road in the area. Quigley's attorney said he will seek an emergency appeal. The developer offered to move the tree, but protesters don't think it would survive. In the meantime, a fence has been erected around the area.

### Ricin raid in London leads to arrests

Law enforcement agencies nationwide were advised by the FBI Friday of the dangers associated with ricin. This warning came just days after six Algerian men and one Moroccan man were arrested by British anti-terrorism police. Traces of ricin and equipment that could be used to produce it were seized in the men's London flat above a pharmacy. The FBI said ricin could be used in a terrorist operation, but it hasn't been proven as an effective aerosol-based weapon. The bureau said the toxin would do the most damage when used as an injection or as a food contaminant. Failure of the respiratory and circulatory system could kill a person within 36 to 48 hours if ricin is inhaled. When injected, ricin immediately kills muscles and lymph nodes near the injection site. Organ failure and death usually follow. One of the men arrested in the ricin raid is known to have trained in an al Qaeda terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. References to ricin were found in Kabul in al Qaeda training manuals. Police have not said if there is a link between the men arrested in London and the terrorist organization.

### Democratic presidential candidates gear up for 2004 race

Only one month into 2003, Democratic candidates announce they're running for president in 2004. Some already have their staffers picked out. The early start, political activists say, is because Democrats know they'll be up against a popular wartime president. Sens. John Edwards of North Carolina and John Kerry of Massachusetts, Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean have formed presidential exploratory committees. Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman is expected to join the race and the Rev. Al Sharpton of New York says he will file papers for an exploratory committee Jan. 21. Florida Sen. Bob Graham, Delaware Sen. Joe Biden and retired Gen. Wesley Clark have been mentioned as possible candidates. Former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart said he is thinking about running for president as well. Hart ran twice in the 1980s. In 1988, Hart was the front leader but dropped out of the race after he was photographed aboard a yacht with model Donna Rice in his lap. Hart, married 44 years, told reporters he's taking a wait-and-see attitude with the Rice incident because it might not even come up.

## THE Commonwealth TIMES

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T. EDWARD TEMPLE BUILDING  
901 W. MAIN ST.  
RICHMOND, VA 23284-2010  
**STAFF**

Executive Editor  
**OLIVIA LLOYD**  
[CTimesEditor@aol.com](mailto:CTimesEditor@aol.com)

Managing Editor  
**SHARON RAMOS**  
[s2mramo@vcu.edu](mailto:s2mramo@vcu.edu)

News Editor  
**SARAH KITE**  
[Kitese@aol.com](mailto:Kitese@aol.com)

Production Chief  
**CARL T. HOLSCHER**  
[s2thols@vcu.edu](mailto:s2thols@vcu.edu)

Graphic Artist  
**SHEENA LLOYD**  
[Sheeeral1@aol.com](mailto:Sheeeral1@aol.com)

Spectrum Editor  
**CINDY CECIL**  
[cecileck@vcu.edu](mailto:cecileck@vcu.edu)

Associate Spectrum Editor  
**MELISSA LYNCH**  
[lynchmd@vcu.edu](mailto:lynchmd@vcu.edu)

Sports Editor  
**ANDREW HALE**  
[s2aehale@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:s2aehale@mail1.vcu.edu)

Associate Sports Editor  
**SEAN GULLA**  
[papaslothy@go.com](mailto:papaslothy@go.com)

Photography Editor  
**SAIDA DURKEE**  
[saidadurkee@hotmail.com](mailto:saidadurkee@hotmail.com)

OP/ED Editor  
**EMILY LIU**  
[missemilyliu@hotmail.com](mailto:missemilyliu@hotmail.com)

Proofreader  
**SADIE GIBBS**

Business Manager  
**JOHN MESSITER**  
[messiterjc@vcu.edu](mailto:messiterjc@vcu.edu)

Advertising Director  
**TYLER BLAND**  
[tylerbland19@cs.com](mailto:tylerbland19@cs.com)

Circulation Director  
**MIKE TALLEY**  
[talleymw@vcu.edu](mailto:talleymw@vcu.edu)

**ctvcu@hotmail.com**  
**(804) 828-1058**



# NEWS

## New education program to bring revenue to VCU

**REBECCA ORTIZ**

*Staff Writer*

With state financial support down, VCU's School of Education may have found a way to bring in revenue by joining business and education with a new program - School of Education Inc., said William Boshier, the school's dean.

Boshier began working on SOE Inc. soon after he became dean. His predecessor, John Oehler, originated the program's ideas with Gary Sarcozi, director of the education school's Continuing Education office. Though the program is still in development, Oehler said it is in the final stages of approval.

SOE Inc. would provide school districts with certain training opportunities, such as training for new school board members, Oehler said. The education school plans to charge for the services to bring in revenue, as well as broaden its range of services.

The program will go wherever its services are in demand, Oehler said, because schools throughout the nation having training needs could request SOE Inc.'s assistance.

Boshier said he hopes the program helps develop new bridges among school's colleagues and the people who work in professional fields, while also generating revenue.

"I want to merge the theory with the practice," Boshier said, "by maintaining a strong teacher base and impact public policy with SOE Inc."

Boshier, who has signed a 5-year contract to serve as the school's dean, plans to stay connected to VCU students. Last November, he coordinated a forum with students called "Dialogue with the Dean," which he

said might help provide the academic union between students and teachers.

In addition, Boshier said he wants to continue teaching and has developed a distance-learning program with 30-minute pre-taped instructional videotapes for students at other schools.

For the extent of his contract, Boshier identified his overall goal as dean is to make the school more valuable.

"I want to keep the focus on planning and performance of programs like SOE Inc.," Boshier said, "and continue the accountability of VCU."



**Boshier**

Saida Durkee

## Dance department chair takes time off for good cause

**DEVON MARROW**

*Staff Writer*

Martha Curtis is taking this semester off from teaching to work on a dance video based on a stage performance she co-created with VCU music director Robbie Kinter.

Curtis' project, "Deconstructed Dialogs," a piece she conceived more than a year ago, is based on dementia and the relationship between Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. It's a topic that hits close to home.

"I witnessed my father becoming ill with dementia," she said. "I watched my mother and the role (as caregiver) she took in his life, and I became interested in their mode of communication."

She said that at times their communication didn't seem to make sense, but these observations inspired the piece she's now working to develop for video.

"The deep communication (between patient and caregiver) and the deconstruction of the man - that was the seed for the piece," she said.

Chris Burnside, acting chair of the dance department during Curtis' absence, said he really supports her taking this time to focus on her own project and stay creatively active.

Curtis said she hopes that by turning the made-for-stage performance into a video, caregivers and Alzheimer's patients who normally wouldn't attend theater can watch the piece on television.

Kinter, her dance partner in the duet piece, who has known Curtis for 10 years, said he will be very active in working on the transition of the performance from stage to video, which includes lengthening the 17-minute piece to 30 minutes.

The two will work on the choreography through improvisation.

### Martha Curtis Video Dance Productions

#### 1998 *On the Tracks*

Video dance broadcast inspired by the paintings of Giorgio de Chirico

#### 1998 *Speaking of Dance:*

*Pauline Koner\**

Interviewed modern dance pioneer, Pauline Koner

#### 1995 *Chris Burnside's Fort Head*

#### 1991 *Three Dances by Martha Curtis\*\**

Selected for national broadcast on more than 70 PBS U.S. stations.

#### 1987 *Anatomy as a Master Image in Training Dancers*

\*Internationally broadcast

\*\*Nationally broadcast

Source: Martha Curtis

"(Our) work came from our bodies in dancing, not someone sitting down and planning it all," Kinter said.

Although they're not working directly with any particular Alzheimer's foundation, Kinter said they have presented the piece to caregivers and received positive feedback.

Curtis said she thinks the piece will serve as a catalyst for discussion for homebound caregivers.

"I think that this video can serve as a beacon light. It can be shown to people so they realize that they're not alone," she said. "That's what art does. It connects. Through dance and video it can be really enlightening and informing."

## Virginia delegate proposes elimination of tenure

**SHARON RAMOS**

*Managing Editor*

A Virginia delegate will present his bill to the House Education Committee today calling for the elimination of tenure for those college faculty who accept employment in higher education beginning July 1.

David B. Albo, R-Springfield, has two parts in his bill concerning higher educa-

tion. The first part proposes that the governing body of every educational institution will have additional powers to establish specific rules and regulations.

For instance, Albo wants the governing body to enforce state statutes and local ordinances and to create programs to ensure that all graduates have the technological skills necessary to compete in this century.

In his second part, the legislator calls for

tenure status for faculty to be eliminated beginning July 1.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported Jan. 12 that Albo proposed the measure after Virginia Commonwealth University laid off non-tenured art teacher Isidore Batu Siharulidzer.

The assistant professor, Albo said, is considered one of the world's most outstanding sculptors and VCU is keeping less accom-

plished tenured professors on staff.

Siharulidze teaches sculpture in the communication arts and design program. In the article, Tyler Whitley reported that Albo's father, a businessman, helped Siharulidze leave the Republic of Georgia 10 years ago with a special artist's visa.

Tenured status means a professor cannot be dismissed, except for unusual circumstances.



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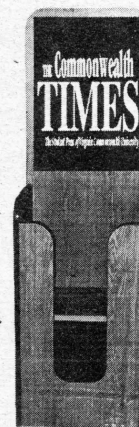
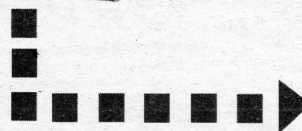
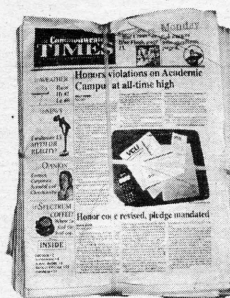
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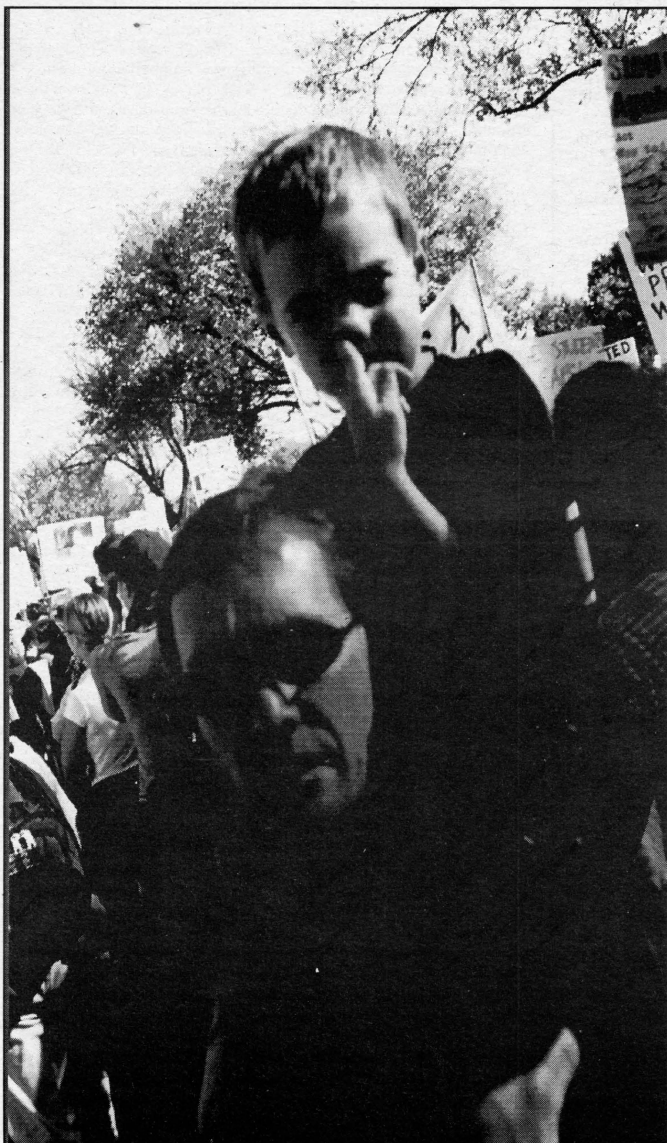
BOB KNOWS, DO YOU?

# 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.

*Caption writing, silly signs and monkeys, always monkeys!*



Create your own caption.



Taken from a Presbyterian church in Bel Air, MD. Just goes to show that everyone has a sense of humor. However, the other sign on the building was the typical "No Parking" sign. Which makes me think, was this the only sign left? Was there only one sign like this? If not, where is the other one? Is there another Thou Shalt Not Park Here sign?

Bob,

Where can I see live footage of squirrels on the Internet all day long? I love watching squirrels and I want to be able to do so in the comfort of my own home.

Where can I go to see this?

Squirrel Watcher

Well, my friend, the watcher of squirrels, leave it to the British Broadcasting Company.

Those British journalists have provided you with the answer. Squirrelcam, conveniently found at [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/mammals/webcam](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/mammals/webcam) will allow you to watch squirrels all day, everyday, from the comfort of your own home.

In addition to the live squirrel feeds, there is also archived squirrel footage for your enjoyment and entertainment.

If squirrels are not your thing, the BBC offers a wide variety of cams for your creature viewing needs.

Badgercam, Owlcam, Penguincam and Birdcam are just some of the cams you can view, though they are no longer live and offer but archived footage.

If you cannot get your fill of squirrel antic at the BBC, then take a gander at [www.scarysquirrel.com](http://www.scarysquirrel.com).

Squirrels are poised to take over the world any day now. Scarysquirrel.com will keep you updated on the rise of the Squirrel nation and keep you updated on their plans and movements. We must not let the squirrel take over!

I realize this column has drifted away from its original intent on finding a squirrel webcam, but we felt this was too important an issue to not inform you.

## Soap Box

Welcome back! Now that this always-too-short winter break is over, the spring semester can now commence.

I know that you have missed reading the Commonwealth Times over this past month, as I have missed writing for it and writing to you.

Which is why, I need your help!

For those of you familiar with Bob, you will know what to do ([ctvcu@hotmail.com](mailto:ctvcu@hotmail.com)).

For those new or transfer students, or even those who never got introduced to Bob last semester, let me tell you what I am all about.

Ask Bob is the question and answer column for the new millennium. Most people will only answer serious questions, for example, "My boyfriend has just left me after 3 months and I am heartbroken, what do I do?" You could ask this, but your response would be something like, "He was not good enough for you, and then there is the whole mole people issue at work here."

For dating advice, please consult the nearest couch, sofa or, in times of desperation, a love seat. They know what's going down and can offer the best advice anywhere, for free.

Ask Bob is for any question. Anything at all that troubles you. If you lay wide awake all night wondering why the Ramcams ([www.vcu.edu/ramcam](http://www.vcu.edu/ramcam)) were installed, Ask Bob and you will be provided with a humorous (and sometimes factual) answer.

So, as this semester begins anew and you are moving back into the dorms or moving into new apartments or even for those of you who are still in Richmond, rejoice, for now is the time for reading and writing to the Commonwealth Times, your student newspaper!

And you know what that means? It means we want to hear from you. If you feel there is more to a story than we got? Don't agree with an opinion? Then drop us a letter.

Please put Ask Bob in the subject line if it is an Ask Bob question, or the monkeys who filter our mail might accidentally delete it. If it is a question to another section or a letter to the editor, please title it as such in the subject line.



# SPORTS

## Men's Basketball 7-4 after break

**BOBBY PARKS**  
Sports Writer

The VCU Men's Basketball team played quite a few quality teams and began conference play during the winter break. After a disappointing 0-2 start, the Rams can now boast a 7-4 record overall, and 2-1 in Colonial Athletic Association conference play.

VCU first played Florida Atlantic University Dec. 5 in a rematch of last year's double-overtime thriller in Boca Raton, Florida. The Rams dominated throughout, winning 90-72. Willie Taylor had 29 points, and Emanuel Mathis, Nick George, and Domonic Jones were in double figures.

The Rams next played intra-city rival Richmond Dec. 7 before a packed house. VCU overcame a horrid start in the first half to lead throughout much of the latter part of the second half. Up by three with seconds left in regulation, Richmond's Jeff Myers nailed a three pointer to send the game into overtime. Mathis' excellent free throw shooting led the Rams to a 73-68 victory and a second straight City Championship. Jones led the Rams in scoring with 19 points and George added an amazing 15 rebounds in the win.

After taking time off for final exams, VCU traveled to play the Rebels of Ole Miss Dec. 14, losing the game 82-68. The Rams

struggled throughout and were never in serious contention in what is the Rams' most lopsided loss of the season to date. Taylor led the team with 20 points. Troy Godwin, Jones and Antoine Willie were also in double figures.

VCU returned home Dec. 19 to play 2002 NCAA participant Hampton for statewide bragging rights. The hotly contested game ended triumphantly for the Rams, where the team prevailed 90-85. Taylor scored a Siegel Center high of 38 points in the effort. George had 11 rebounds.

The Horned Frogs of Texas Christian University came to the Siegel Center Dec. 21 to play the Rams. VCU put in another solid performance to take a 91-78 win. Mathis led all VCU scorers with 20 points. Four other Rams were in double figures.

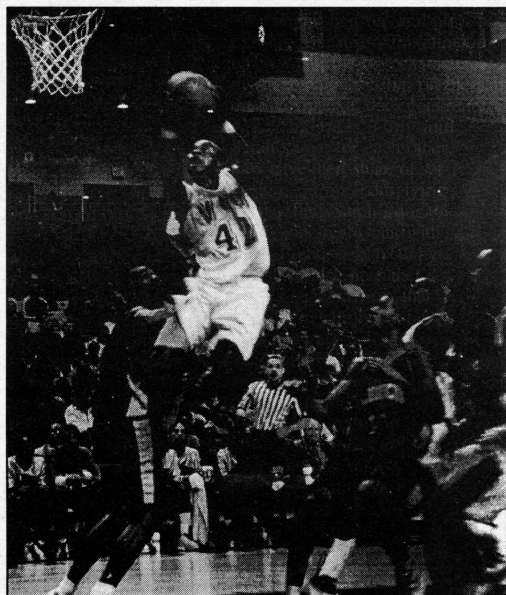
VCU kicked off their CAA season Jan. 2 against the Hofstra Pride, prevailing 71-62. Jones had a stellar night with 28 points. Godwin had 13 rebounds.

VCU next played the Monarchs of ODU Jan. 4 for their second conference game. VCU put together great spurts to prevail 73-64. Jones led all VCU scorers with 19 points.

The Rams hosted Drexel Jan. 8, in a game that saw 12 ties and 19 lead changes. Drexel edged VCU 74-73 to snap a seven-game home-winning streak. Godwin led all scorers with 21 points.

Taylor, Willie and George were in double-figures. Godwin, in addition, grabbed 10 rebounds.

VCU returns to the road Jan. 15 against George Mason. The Rams' next home game comes Jan. 22 against James Madison.



Antoine Willie

Don Razniewski

## Lady Rams bring home two wins over break

**ANDREW HALE**  
Sports Editor

VCU Women's Basketball returns to school this spring semester with a 3-8 overall record, finishing up their round of winter break match-ups with a 69-45 loss to Delaware. Maria Giovannetti earned a career-high 15 points and a career-high nine rebounds. Cyndi Wilks also had 15 points for the Rams in the game against Delaware.

Dec. 6 the Rams fell to Charlotte in a close 66-62 game. Kristine Austgulen earned a double-double with 12 rebounds and 18 points. Wilks also finished in the double digits with 17 points for VCU. Alicia Abernathy led Charlotte with 16 points.

VCU faced cross-town rival Richmond Dec. 15 but lost 51-79. Lisa Troyan led the Rams with 11 points. Austgulen led VCU in rebounds with 8. Richmond took the early lead, scoring 9 points before VCU could get on the scoreboard. Ebony Tanner led the Spiders with 20 points and seven rebounds.

Dec. 18 the Rams lost to Marquette. Three players for VCU earned double-digit points, but VCU was still unable to earn the at-home victory. Marquette won 74-63. Wilks had 19 points for VCU. Austgulen had a double-double, with 17 points and 18 rebounds. Candice Phelps also had 11 points for the Rams. Kelly Schwerman led Marquette with 17 points.

The Rams snapped a five-game losing streak Dec. 20 against Lehigh. Austgulen led the VCU team with a career-high of 29 points. She also earned

another double-double with 12 rebounds. Kalia Mancell contributed 15 points to the Rams total. Wilks earned a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Dec. 28 women's basketball lost to Campbell 55-73. Three VCU players had points in the double digits during the game. Phelps and Wilks had 14 points and Tala Hadavi had 12. Both Dasha Green and Amber Graham had 11 points for Campbell.

Dec. 30 the Rams post another at home win with a 84-68 win against Mount St. Mary's. Austgulen and Wilks both had 21 points for VCU. Austgulen had a double-double with her 21 point total and 12 rebounds. Phelps also contributed 16 points to the Rams' tally. Four players had double-digit points for Mount St. Mary's. Myriam Baccouche led the team with 21 points. Adrienne Harris had 16 points. Beth Foster had 13 and Samira Rashid had 10.

The Rams fell to North Carolina-Wilmington 78-51 Jan. 5 in their first conference game of the season. Austgulen led the Rams with 18 points. Four players scored in the double digits for the Seahawks. Shannon Presswood led UNCW with 16 points. Cherie Lea had 12 points, Jennifer Kapper had 11 and Rachael Friesen-Norwood had 10.

VCU Women's Basketball looks to add a win to their record when they face William & Mary at home Jan. 16 at the Siegel Center. Game time is 7 p.m.

## CALENDAR

**Monday,**  
Jan. 13

**Tuesday,**  
Jan. 14

**Wednesday,**  
Jan. 15

**Thursday,**  
Jan. 16

**Friday,**  
Jan. 17

**Saturday,**  
Jan. 18

**Sunday,**  
Jan. 19

**Men's Basketball**  
George Mason,  
Fairfax, Va.  
7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
William & Mary,  
Williamsburg, Va.  
7 p.m.

**Men's Basketball**  
William & Mary,  
Williamsburg, Va.  
- 7:00 p.m.

**Track & Field**  
Navy Invitational,  
Annapolis, Md.  
7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
Hofstra,  
Hampstead, N.Y.  
2 p.m.



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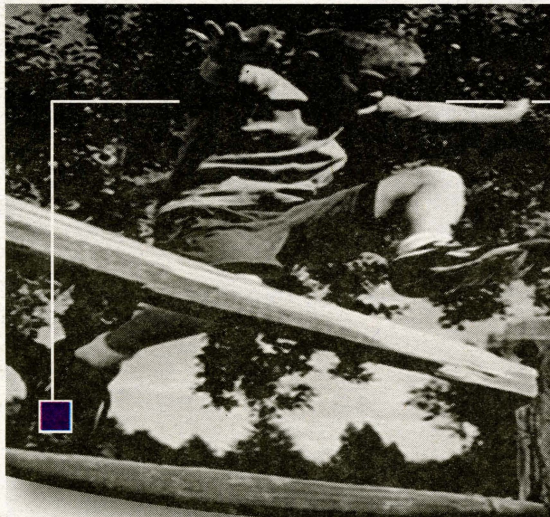
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*of Eastern Carolina*





Courtesy of the Valentine Museum

## Valentine Museum's award-winning costume display is a must see for the fashion conscious

**CINDY CECIL**  
Spectrum Editor

We all know that Richmond is loaded with history. The first things that come to mind are perhaps Civil War history or the fact that Edgar Allan Poe called Richmond "home." However, certain parts of Richmond's history are often overlooked. The Valentine Museum, located on East Clay Street, is ever dedicated to illuminating every aspect of our past. Most recently they have chosen to highlight the golden age of department stores in Richmond. Aptly called "Fifty Years of Fashion," the authentic display is something to be seen.

Fifty years ago, shopping in depart-

ment stores was far more than a quick stop in and out to grab specific items. It was an event. Famous Richmond department stores such as Thalhimers, Montaldo's and Miller & Rhoads offered far more than typical merchandise too. They offered an experience. The authentic costumes as well as original furniture allow the viewer to firmly grasp just how important department stores were in the early to mid 1900s.

One of the events that the exhibit stresses is the fashion show lunch that frequently took place in department stores. Through the use of photographs, original menus, dresses, furniture and flatware actually used in the lunches, the exhibit illustrates the way that the shows

were set up. In addition to all of this, you can get information about performers that entertained at the lunches.

"Made for you by Sara Sue," was a slogan heard quite often between 1930 and 1970, when Sara Sue designer hats were the thing to have. A part of the exhibit is dedicated to the importance of this designer and her work. The hats themselves are something to see. They range from small and sleek to extravagantly feathered and flowered. None of them are anything you're likely to see outside of a thrift shop.

One of the most impressive displays held "special occasion dresses." This grand presentation includes ensembles for an entire wedding party. It also houses

prom dresses and other various types of evening wear. The differences between evening fashion from fifty years ago and what is considered eveningwear now is quite astounding.

The majority of the displays are focused on women's fashion and what you might see at one of the department store fashions shows. However, one case is dedicated to youth fashion. It shows outfits from 1950-1960, when youth fashion was very important because of the Baby Boom.

Advertising for department stores was huge in the mid 1900s. Fashion art and fashion advertising were both occupa-

*MUSEUM continued to Page 10*



# SPECTRUM

## MUSEUM *continued from Page 9*

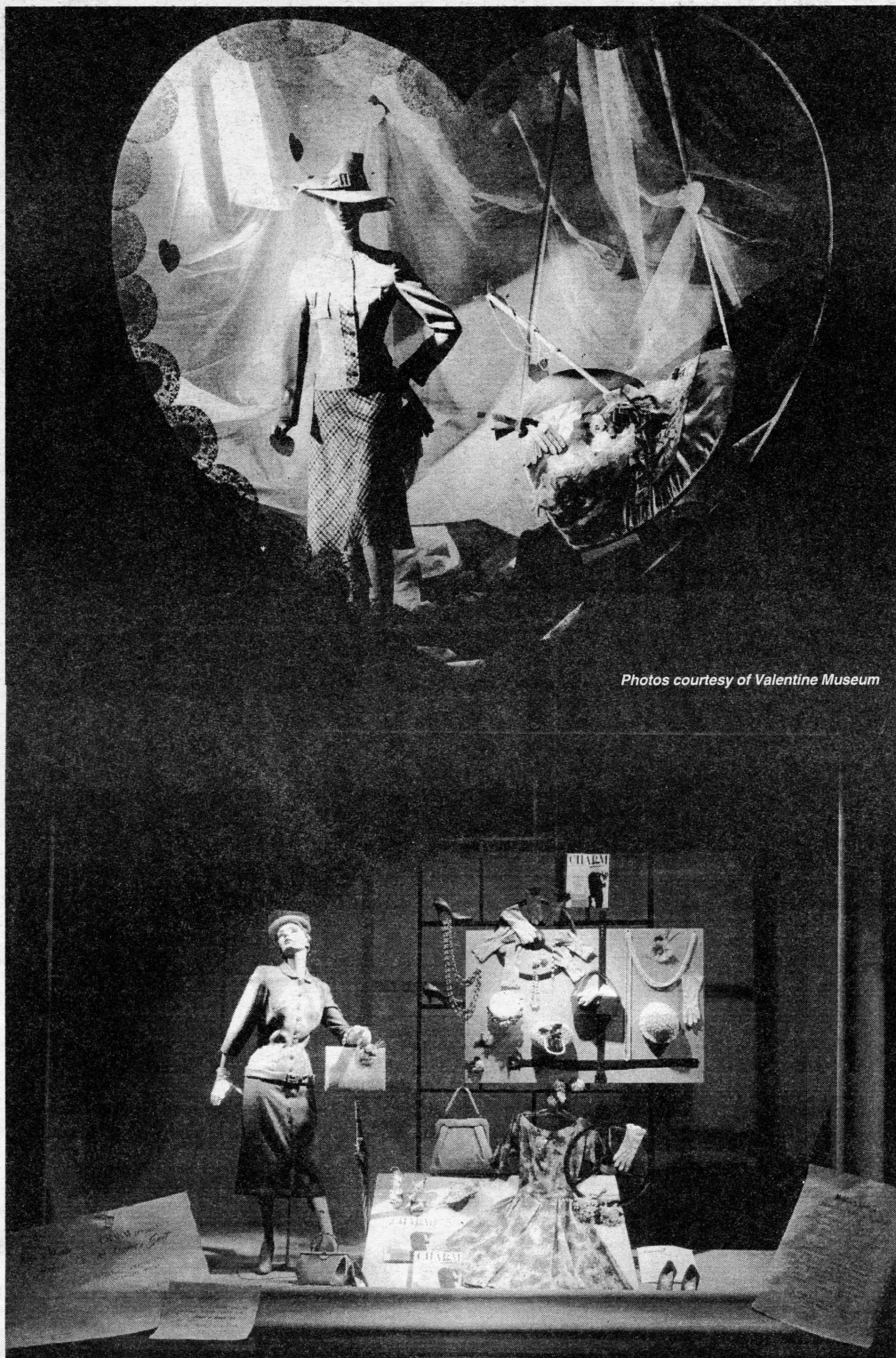
tions that woman were free to go into at the time, and many students from VCU (then called Richmond Professional Institute) went to work for Thalhimers and Miller & Rhoads. The exhibit hits on the importance of this factor. Photographs, including one of a window display that paralleled medieval fashion and the fashion of the 1940s, emphasize the great amounts of time, effort and creativity that were put into store window displays. At the time, many woman and some men were hired as window dressers, and that was their only responsibility because displays changed so often. Windows were redecorated for every season, every holiday and, of course, every sale.

A second exhibit runs parallel to the department store exhibit, it focuses on the role of African-Americans in the department store scene. This exhibit is made up entirely of photographs that show scenes of peaceful protests taking place in front of Thalhimers, stores that African-Americans were able to open due to their experience in working with department stores, and many other related scenes. It highlights a woman who bought all her children clothing from a department store during a time when Richmond was still highly segregated and many African-Americans were allowed to shop there.

In short, The Valentine Museum's "Fifty Years of Fashion" Exhibit takes you back to a time when, as Emily Seibert, the museum's director of public relations put it, mothers dressed in their best dresses and white gloves, and fathers took the family to the department store for a day full of experiencing a store that was as much about atmosphere as it was about merchandise. It is put together in such a way that between the beautiful costumes and imagination-enhancing photographs, viewers feel pulled into a different time. For this reason, the exhibit is certainly fully deserving of the Richard Martin Award for excellence in exhibition of costumes that Colleen Callahan, the curator of costumes and textiles, received recently. Though the displays are universally appealing, I strongly suggest that all fashion and even advertising majors travel down and take a look at the display. Experience fifty years of fashion in fifteen minutes at The Valentine Museum.

### The Valentine Museum

1015 East Clay St.  
Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday noon - 5 p.m.  
Monday - Closed.



*Photos courtesy of Valentine Museum*



## SPECTRUM

# 'Just Married': a great light romantic comedy

MELISSA LYNCH

Associate Spectrum Editor

Just Married stars Ashton Kutcher, from "That 70's Show" and "Dude Where's My Car," and Brittany Murphy, from "8 Mile" and "Riding in Cars With Boys," as a young couple trying to deal with an eventful honeymoon. Both actors make the film adorable, hilarious, and pure fun to watch.

Kutcher plays Tom Leezak, a radio traffic reporter, whose ambition is to become a sports journalist.

Tom meets Murphy's character Sarah McNerny, who is a writer trying to break out of the mold that her rich family has placed her in, when he throws a football and it accidentally hits her in the nose. Kutcher and Murphy have great chemistry that is even more obvious now that they are open about their on- and off screen relationship. Because of this attraction to each other, when the two characters consummate their relationship on the same day that they meet it, does not seem forced.

To balance Tom and Sarah's love for each other, they have their share of setbacks. From Tom lying about killing Sarah's dog to Sarah's one-night stand with Peter Prentiss, played by Christian Kane, her father's rich right hand man that her father wants her to be with, they are not without their share of problems. And as soon as their honeymoon begins, a disaster domino effect is started. On their wedding night they were both too tired to have sex, and Sarah is upset about this and the fact that her parents will now know that she is

not a virgin. Her crying fit is understandable but not done very well. It is very exaggerated and turns into a time for her to whine. The transitions between comedic scenes and serious scenes in "Just Married" are a little rusty.

Besides those transition scenes, the movie is executed well and the comedy in particular is great. The scene where Tom chases Peter with a poker while in his white boxer shorts is a standout. It is hilarious and ridiculous to see Kutcher chasing him in a mock one-sided duel that ends with a few broken hotel items and a trip to jail for Tom and Sarah. The character of Peter is also well done in that he is selfish and greedy but not entirely evil. For instance, even after Tom attempts to murder him he puts up bail for both Tom and Sarah. Sarah's neurotic, wealthy family is also a plus for the movie.

They include an effeminate photographer brother, an incredibly preppy brother, a sister determined to persuade Sarah not to marry Tom, a jaded workaholic father, and a supportive but quirky mother. And they all refer to Sarah as "Pee Wee" (which wears thin after a bit).

Murphy and Kutcher add fresh faces and talent to a story of perfect love tested by marriage and outsiders. The loving yet competitive spirit of Tom and Sarah's relationship makes for great entertainment. But even if romantic comedies are not your forte, you can sit back and enjoy the comic stylings of Ashton Kutcher and still have a wonderful time. "Just Married" is in theaters now.



Photo illustration: Sheena Lloyd

## Happenings

Monday, Jan. 13

## Karaoke

Penny Lane Pub & Restaurant  
207 N. 7th St.  
(804) 780-1682  
9 p.m., free

## Mae and Keepsake

Alley Katz  
10 Walnut Alley Avenue  
(804) 643-2816  
6 p.m., all ages

Tuesday, Jan. 14

## ComedySportz

Comedy Alley  
7115 A Staples Mill Rd.  
(804) 266-9377  
Tickets: \$9-\$10  
7:30 and 10 p.m.

## Razzles Richmond Shag Club

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Wednesday, Jan. 15

## Starry Nights Dance Party

Barksdale Theater  
1601 Willow Lawn Rd.  
(804) 282-2620

## Ground Zero

Spinning DJs  
Bogart's  
203 N Lombardy St.  
(804) 353-9280  
10 p.m., tickets \$3

## Life and Times of Elizabeth I

Agecroft Hall  
4305 Sulgrave Rd.  
(804) 353-4241  
Lunch and tour  
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$15

Thursday, Jan. 16

## All Media Show

Shockoe Bottom Arts Center  
2201 E. Grace St.  
(804) 643-7959  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Vintage Furniture Auction

Community Ideas Stations  
23 Sesame St.  
(804) 320-8440  
7 p.m. to midnight



## SPECTRUM

# J-Lo's new CD, 'This is Me...Then' reminds us why she's real

**CINDY CECIL**  
Spectrum Editor

Don't be fooled by the rocks that she's got. She's still, she's still Jenny from the block. Oops, well it seems we all have some Jenny fever now that her hit single, "Jenny from the Block" is monopolizing the airwaves. And her smashing performance with L.L. Cool J in "All I Have" reinforces our belief that J-Lo will always sound fabulous with any male artist she chooses to perform with. Unfortunately, these two wonderful songs are not necessarily representative of her new cd, "This is Me...Then."

"I'm real/I thought I told you." She did tell us. In fact, "Jenny from the Block" is the second major song in a campaign to grind it into our minds that there is absolutely nothing fake about this artist. Actually, she restates it in so many different ways that it makes me wonder if you can be too real. All of that aside, it's difficult not to like this song. It has an excellent beat, J-Lo flair and is well performed. Unfortunately, it also has the ability to become rooted in your head and stay there for hours. Look for it on track seven.

To some it may seem mushy, but I thought it was nice that she has a song called "Dear Ben" on her cd. Of course, that was only until I heard the song. It has a good sound; but I expected something sweet. Rather, like most songs today, it focuses more on the physical aspects of their relationship. Enough said. Interestingly, the photos on the "Dear Ben" page of the cd insert are almost all of J-Lo getting out of bed looking tousled.

Track two, "Loving You," is very J-Lo. It reminds me of her earlier work - not fast, but danceable. The chorus is excellent and the entire song is one you could jam to while driving down the highway or sitting at a spotlight. Come on, everyone does it.

The opening of "I'm Glad" sounds suspiciously like something Eminem either has used or would use, but I couldn't place it. Other than that, the song isn't a stand out on the cd.

"The One" is the fourth track and the fourth song so far about loving someone.

Could this be Ben's influence? Either way, the theme does get a little old. Unfortunately, there is no break from this topic until "Jenny from the Block," but she more than makes up for it with good lyrics and, as always, an appealing rhythm.

With "Again," Lopez gets back on track with the love songs. This one has a distinctive piano opening and is one of the best songs on the cd. The background music sets the mood, and her lyrics are actually romantic and girlie instead of "Dear Ben" style. Maybe this song was comprised of all the nice things she forgot to say in that song. I like to think so.

"You Belong to Me" is a fresh change because it's actually a cover of the 1978

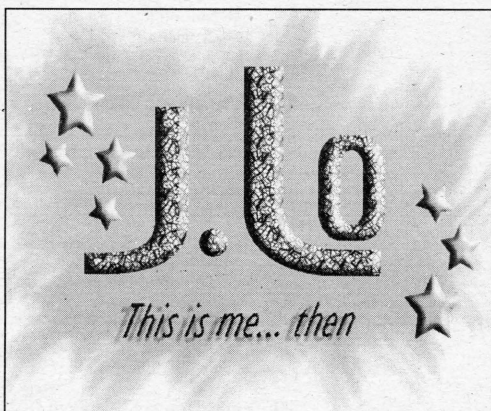


Photo illustration: Si'eena Lloyd

song written by Carly Simon and Michael McDonald. It has a very retro sound (obviously) and J-Lo's backup girls add to the feeling. Jennifer gives the song an updated twist and the mix of old and new renders the result pleasing.

"Baby I Love You," which is actually listed as "Baby I <3 You," isn't something I would have accredited to Lopez if I didn't know better. It has a slight blues sound to it and is utterly unremarkable, much like the preceding track, "I've Been Thinking," which really isn't worth mentioning.

What good rap/r&bcd is complete without a remix? J-Lo did it up right by finishing off her cd with "The One: Version Two." Her cd definitely reflects her happiness about her current situation. And who wouldn't be happy with a string of successful movies, a new CD and a relationship with Ben Affleck? Fortunately, despite all of her recent success, this triple threat isn't resting on her laurels. Her newest cd, "This is Me...Then" is a pleasure to hear.

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## SPECTRUM

## U-God calls

**TYLER BLAND**  
Spectrum Writer

God called The Commonwealth Times the other day, U-God that is. U-God, one of the founding members of the Wu-Tang Clan, called the other day to let VCU know of his new album titled "Super Nigga." With Wu-Tang under his belt and another previous solo effort, U-God is out to strip himself of the past and create a new beginning.

"My hands were more in this project," said U-God.

Unlike RZA, also a co-founder of Wu-Tang, who has several solo projects, U-God said, "this album is not gonna sound like Bobby Digital, (RZA's alter ego/ project name). This has got a street flavor, but it is different, none of that dark and gloomy s---."

U-God's first solo album, "Golden Arms Redemption" did not fare too well when it hit the music stores, but U-God promises that his new album "is on fire," he says that his song writing on "Super Nigga" has grown. He has amassed a group of talent and guest appearances on "Super Nigga" from fellow rappers Leather Face, Deck, Hellraiser and DJ Homicide.

While not giving too much information about his album coming out, his upcoming tour or even the release date for "Super Nigga," he assures that "this is gonna have people wanting more." And thus as mysteriously as U-God had called VCU, he mysteriously leaves us all waiting for his 19 brand new cuts all under one title: "Super Nigga."



Courtesy of Landspeed Records

# Let's do the time warp again, 'Rocky Horror' hits Fieldens

**MELISSA LYNCH**  
Associate Spectrum Editor

Young Blood Productions presentation of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" this past weekend was amazing. Since I was a "Rocky Horror" virgin, I had nothing to compare it to, but I can only assume that the cast, the play itself, and the intimate stage setting combined were what made the show such a spectacle.

The amount of audience participation was incredible. It was as if they were a character themselves and their goal was to trip up an actor, which happened quite a few times. They knew the lines better than the performers, and it was interesting to see the creative phrases they would shout to heckle the actors. But the actors could handle it. They were professional and created a banter with the audience that was indescribable. The audience members would congratulate each other on particularly funny or odd comebacks to lines that someone had said, and by the end of the play, the barrier between performer and audience member was very blurry.

The cast was amazing. Clyde Berry captured the ballsy Frank N Furter with precision. From his Speedo g-string ensembles to his hisses at the cast and audience, he embodied the character that has become a classic. Even his high kicks in platforms were well executed, and from the fact that he was comfortable fondling nearly every cast member, it appeared that this man had no inhibitions, which is a critical part of his character. Brad Majors, played by Chris Belcher, and Janet Weiss, played by Emily Orton, were also well done as the cartoonishly naive couple who happens upon Frank N Furter's lair. Brad, donning his trademark glasses, was every bit of the "pervert" bottled inside a good boy. His hilariously bland relationship with Janet and his kinky escapades with Frank were great, as was his appearance in bustier and panties toward the end of the play. Orton is an extremely talented singer and, along with Berry, heightened the performance of every other actor while she was on stage. She was the performer best at not paying attention to heckling from the audience, while Berry was the best at working with it. Belcher slipped up a few times, particularly on a drawn out solo that the people had great distaste for, but it endeared him to the audience.

Jacob Jennings, as "Rocky Horror," is a talented singer/dancer/actor and has potential to do amazing things with his career. Rocky is a living blow-up doll, created by Frank explicitly for sexual conquest. However, he rebel's against Frank's unbending will and falls into Janet's arms. His relationship with Janet helped him become more comfortable and allowed his confidence to grow. Rocky changed greatly

throughout the play, and Jennings did a great job throughout those changes.

The trio of Magenta played by Aimee Spencer, Columbia played by Rachel Saunders, and Riff Raff played by Seth Garrett were outrageous and fun to watch. Their sing and dance numbers were dead on, and the banter between each and Frank showed a great deal about their characters. Spencer embodied the slinky, sultry Magenta in her every word and movement. Saunders was also an amazing Columbia with her squeaky voice and boppy mannerisms. The makeup department made these ladies look spectacular in their garish makeup; Columbia's was complete with orange lines over her eyebrows. Costumes were also perfectly fitted to each character. While Magenta donned a lace top and long black skirt, Columbia looked comfortable in her Daisy Duke shorts and long pop princess hair. Garrett's hair was also quite interesting, since he wore a long, white matted wig. But beyond his odd wig, he had a powerhouse voice and a commanding stage presence.

With so many dynamic characters and actors on stage, it is a wonder that the lesser parts could stand a chance for being memorable, but they were. Travis Everett played

Eddie and Dr. Scott and had some great moments singing "Hot Patootie" and dancing with Columbia, but the most outrageous moment was while he was playing Dr. Scott, when the audience got to see his panties and garters under his blanket. Rob Floyd played the MC and the Phantom, and he did everything from devirginizing the Rocky Horror newbies to playing Brad's car as it got a flat tire.

The set was a spectacle in itself. An eye-popping painting of Frank N Furter licking a Coke bottle with neon colors and a checkered background was at the center of the stage. The Coke can colors of red and white were painted on nearly everything, and a board with an abundance of Coke cups in rows was beneath the painting. Even more interesting is that the painting opens up to reveal a projector in which the audience and characters can spy into bedrooms around the castle.

The play was directed and narrated by Sirc Michaels, and by the audience's reaction at the end, doing the "time warp" throughout the play, it was obvious that he had done his job well.

Next performing at Fieldens will be Steve Moore Jan. 16 thru Feb. 1 at 8pm. Call 359-1963 for tickets.

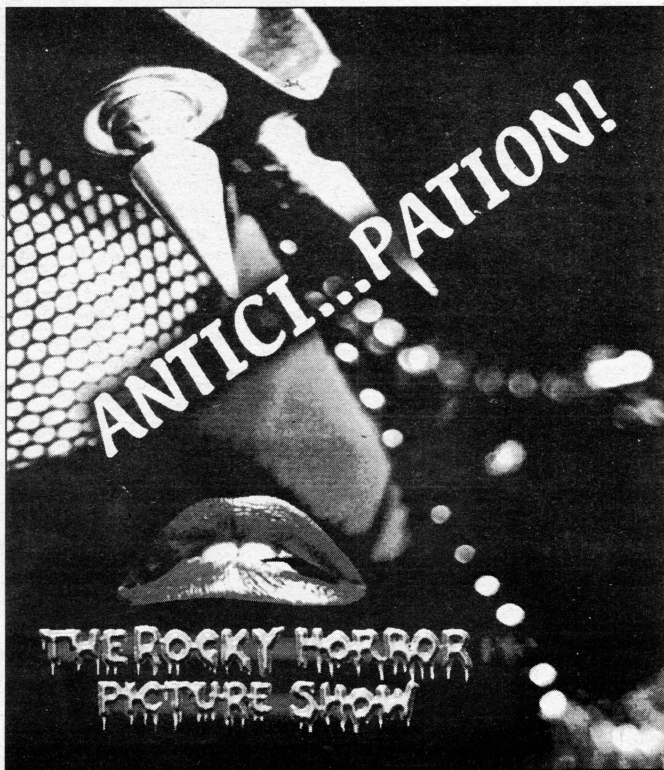


Photo illustration: Sheena Lloyd



# OP/ED

## Worth the paper it's printed on?

**TERRY BURTON**  
OP/ED Writer

Ah, it's that time of year again. Winter break has come to a close, and now we're free to turn our well-rested minds and hard-earned cash, to school. I'm reminded of an old "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strip by Bill Watterson, in which young Susie Derkins is nattering on excitedly about the upcoming school year and having new clothes, supplies and books to look forward to. Calvin, on the other hand, looks less than enthused. And personally, I don't blame him.

While there is some excitement surrounding the start of a new semester of classes and the anticipation of whatever challenges those classes will bring, those far simpler days when the school provided our textbooks for us are long behind us.

As college students we are faced now with long lines and ridiculous prices for our books and other supplies. Granted, even a freshman entering their second semester is prepared for the loss of an arm and a leg in order to get what he or she needs for classes, but that doesn't make it any easier.

While we may be able to avoid being charged a little extra for supplies such as pens and paper by purchasing them at stores that aren't owned or specifically affiliated with VCU, the major cause of gripes this time of year is one that we can't get around as easily — namely schoolbooks. Now, don't get me wrong. I'm a hardcore capitalist and I understand that in addition to being an institution of higher learning, VCU is also a business. As such, its goal is to make as much money as it can, while minimizing expenditures. So realistically speaking, it's not surprising that when they can, they make us purchase new editions of texts instead of used ones.

What is puzzling however is, given how we all learned the value of paper last semester in particular, how can books lose all of their value in the span of a few months? For example, I was required for Statistics 210 last semester to buy a new edition of the supplement, instead of borrowing or buying an old one; when buyback time came around, I was informed that the school and I both valued the book equally, which is to say there was no value to it.

Now, I know statistics is a fast-paced world full of changes, but surely not enough to make a new book completely worthless. In other cases, we may be required to purchase a new edition of a book for the fact that it includes a password for a companion Web site. I understand



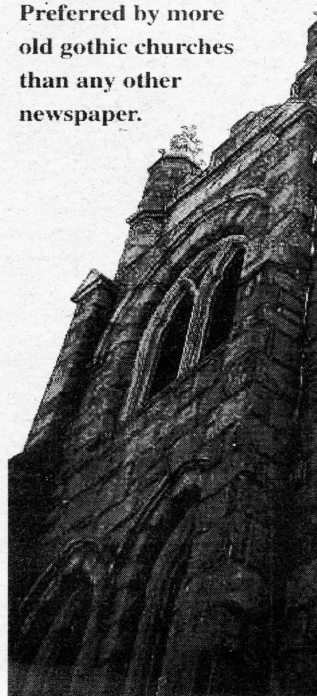
BY MIKE TALLEY

stand that the university has certain technology guidelines, and it expects a level of computer proficiency of its students and that such Web sites are designed to help us to develop that proficiency further. However, there is probably another and more cost-effective way for students to develop computer skills and scholastic knowledge at the same time. After all, our forerunners were able to make due with the knowledge off paper alone, I'm sure we could as well.

Realistically speaking, unless we're specifically assigned to use the companion Web sites and submit information from them, how many of us actually use them? Perhaps with this being the 21st century, requiring us to use the companion sites is a step toward eliminating the use of printed books all together. They could charge more for electronic books anyway...though I'd prefer to see a step toward the flying cars the future promised, before we eliminate the printed page.

I realize that I have been unable to offer any possible solutions to expensive books, but then, I am but a simple psychology major and business really isn't my field. Perhaps some business major will one day find a solution that balances the business needs of a university with the limited funds of the everyday college student.

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# OP/ED

## Winter break plans prove to be beneficial

During winter break, while some students go home to work and see old friends,



there are some who make other plans. Some take trips with their friends or family (or in some cases, both) while others stay on campus to take classes during a semester that is known as the winter intercession. Some do this to alleviate the pressures of a heavy spring semester course load, take a class that they will have to take eventually before they graduate or they choose this option because they need to retake a class.

I know that there are some students who are probably wondering: "Why take a class during the winter? Isn't that overdoing it as per studying?" To those who think that, I respond with the following: Taking a class in the winter intercession is beneficial; a student can get a par-

ticular class they need to graduate out of the way. Plus, there aren't a lot of students taking courses during the intercession, so the costs are only limited to tuition, not tuition and fees.

I did, in fact, take an intercession class and found it to be a lot of fun (no, really). The class I took, Tai Chi (also known as Tai Jee Chuan), was quite a unique class. The atmosphere was relaxed, unlike during regular semesters, which was conducive to learning a new martial art. I would like to bring up an issue that my classmates and I often discussed: Tai Chi is a martial art and not a dance class. Whoever decided that Tai Chi should be a dance class should realize that it is far from it. At any rate, throughout the intercession I discovered that intercession classes aren't for just anyone — they are for serious students who want to get ahead. Yes, I realize that there are serious students that go to VCU — but I am referring to those that don't want to stop studying. It sounds geeky and nerdy, I know, but can you blame those that took intercession classes? After all, they only want to get ahead, or get a particular class out of the way, or repeat a class, or...

## Will the construction daunt our motivation?

EMILY LIU  
Op/Ed Editor

Though many of us are returning from the sight of some wonderful wintry vacations, the VCU campus still has little to offer for an attractive view. The construction that was only recently begun remains in virtually every path of the campus, with barely any room for the migration of students to their opening classes. We can merely hope that these new building projects will lead to a big payoff semesters down the road. For now, students are forced to wind their way through the labyrinth of wired fences and demolition — that is seemingly far from any completion.

Aside from the difficulty of the on-campus roads that make pedestrian crossing even more dangerous for the herds of students that will litter the narrow pathways this semester, construction within buildings such as the library, offer little comfort to students seeking the tranquility and the familiarity of untouched VCU

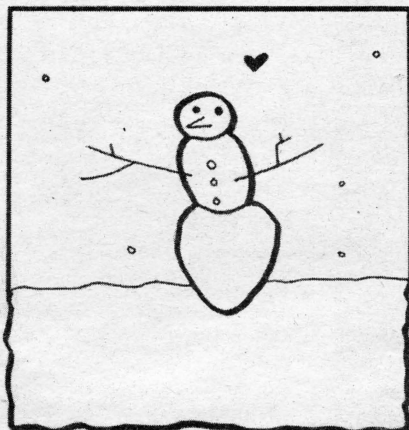
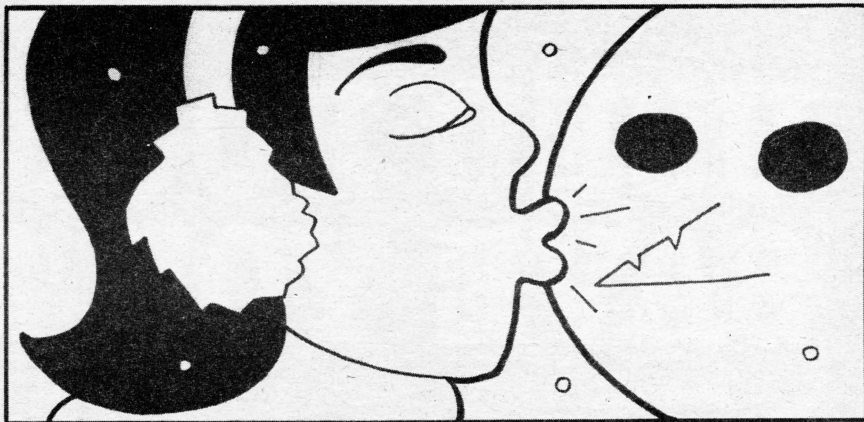
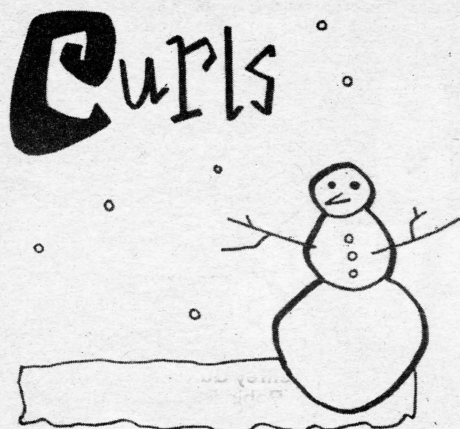


buildings.

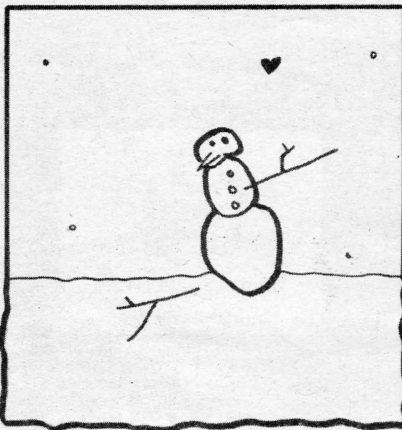
Notwithstanding is the problem of parking that has only been worsened by the recent construction. It is a wonder if the VCU campus is even student-friendly at all? Unfortunately, we can only imagine what impression the torn campus will leave upon visitors to this university. Perhaps this is an issue VCU should have considered before allowing the construction to take place during a time of increased tuition rates and many student service cutbacks.

With these conditions, VCU may have to rely upon the loyalty of its students to breed a satisfied population this semester. And with sufficient self-inspired enthusiasm from each of us, the hope may last us through the start of 2003. For is it untrue that we are all here in this city, on this campus, ultimately for one reason — that is, our education?

VCU may provide us the education that we not only deserve, but that we have each earned and sacrificed in many ways for, and by doing so it will have fulfilled its primary duty to us — its body, its students.



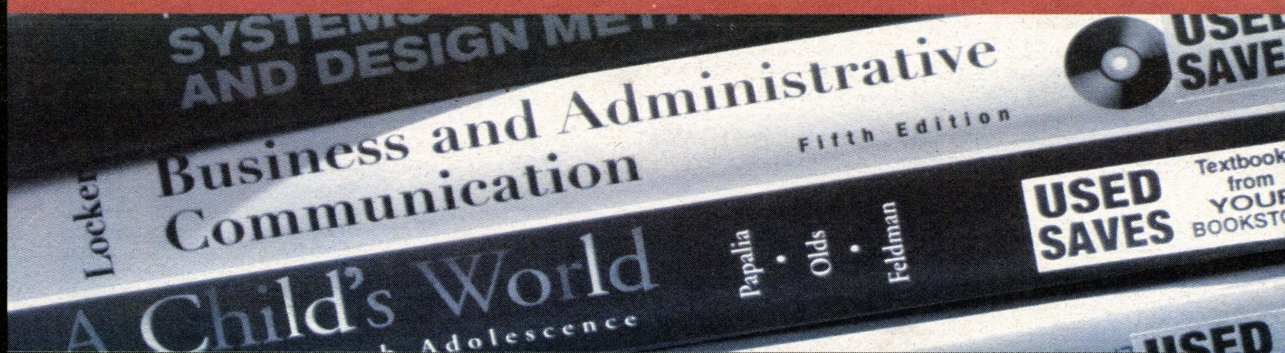
THANK YOU PROFESSOR MEGGS.



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