

THE Commonwealth TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 38
No. 2

January 16, 2003

Thursday

3-D Pong and a wintery
wonderland.

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P. Cloudy

Hi 34

Lo 25

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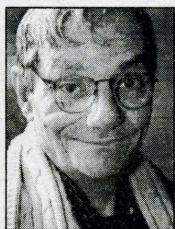
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MCVH reluctant to vaccinate staff

SARAH KITE
News Editor

President George W. Bush's plan to vaccinate roughly 500,000 frontline healthcare workers against smallpox hasn't set well with some hospitals across the country. Some, including VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, have chosen not to administer the serum to its staff.

Smallpox vaccinations were discontinued in the United States in 1972. Although smallpox is thought to be eradicated from the world, the government feels there is some risk of its return. The president's mass vaccination plan, announced in October, is in response to a potential biological terrorist attack by Iraq.

After healthcare workers are vaccinated, the plan calls for police, paramedics, firefighters and then the general public to receive it.

MCVH's decision not to vaccinate its staff right away was made based on the serious side effects of the vaccine.

Dr. Richard P. Wenzel, chairman of the department of internal medicine for VCU Health Systems, said that the vaccine is a live virus with many potential risks. Patients would not be injected with smallpox, but with a virus in the pox family such as cowpox.

The vaccine, he said, could kill one to three people per million who receive it and 12 per million could suffer an inflammation of the brain. Wenzel, who was recently interviewed by National



Mark Mitchell

SMALLPOX continued to Page 5

Vaccine risks too high for MCVH staff, Wenzel said

Libraries charge for loan services

SHARON RAMOS
Managing Editor

VCU libraries wants to make it clear to faculty, staff and students using the interlibrary loan service that the new service fee does not apply to all loans.

John Ulmschneider, executive director of the library, said in some cases, if the

institutions don't charge, the user will not be charged with a fee. However, there is a catch; the fee depends on what discipline users request.

"Whether or not you end up with a charge or (the) loan you request is free (from an institution) will often depend what discipline you're in," Ulmschneider said. "More often, some working with

sciences, technology or medicine will often be charged with the fee, less often with humanities."

Last year, \$40,000 was spent for interlibrary loan services, but figures show 70 percent of humanities disciplines' loans are free.

Beginning Jan. 13, VCU Libraries

LOAN continued to Page 5

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

IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

Friday, Jan. 17

Snow Globe Photos

Students can have their pictures taken and put inside snow globes Student Commons
7-11 p.m. Contact Genita Jones
828-7550

Rough N Rowdy Brawl

Step in the ring and fight for up to a \$5,000 cash prize.
The Richmond Coliseum. at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets \$12, at the door \$14, ringside \$18
Call (800) 59-PUNCH

Saturday, Jan. 18

O'Brienstein's Irish-Jewish Deli Grand Opening

17th Street Market Place
1 p.m. to 2 a.m.
648-6271

Sunday, Jan. 19

Lady Rams vs. Hofstra
Siegel Center
2-4 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Phi Sigma Pi Informational Night

Student Commons, Capital Ballroom A.
6-8 p.m.
Contact Kacey Marrow
852-3751

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Feeling Fine with Fitness

Gateway, Community Health Education Center- MCV campus
4-5 p.m.
Contact Patricia Hammond
628-2429

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visit: www.vcu.edu/recycling

Telephone system at Texas A&M University hacked

At least five of Texas A&M's 25,000 phone lines were broken into by hackers in Saudi Arabia. The intruders left voice mail messages that allowed them to charge international calls to the school. Lane Stephenson, university spokesman, said it is unclear as of yet how many calls were made. According to the Bryan-College Station Eagle newspaper, the message said, "Hello," when the line was picked up. After a pause, which was long enough for an operator to ask, "Will you accept the charges?" the message said, "yes." Once the call was connected, the hackers could call anywhere they pleased. Stephenson said the hackers guessed the voice mail passwords because the users set their phone numbers as their passwords. He said everyone has since been told to change their passwords.

Bee Gees member Maurice Gibb dies at 53

Maurice Gibb, a member of the famous disco group the Bee Gees, died Sunday morning in a Miami hospital at the age of 53. The singer suffered a fatal heart attack while he was in the hospital for emergency surgery on an intestinal blockage. Fellow band members Robin and Barry, along with Gibb's wife and children, were present at the time of death. Friend David Most said the tragedy shocked him because everyone thought Gibb was getting better. The band was very popular in the 1970s, partly in thanks to their contribution to the film "Saturday Night Fever," starring John Travolta.

Book seen on "Boston Public" causes trouble in Missouri

Shannon Schumacher wanted to teach her Missouri students not to use a racial epithet. However, the book, "Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word," by Randall Kennedy, a Harvard law professor and former Rhodes scholar, angered some parents. Jennings School District Superintendent Terry Stewart said Schumacher had good intentions when she thought it would be helpful for students to understand the many uses of the word. While the material incorporate jokes, prose and poetry, he said, it also contains offensive language. Last year, the book was featured on Fox's television show "Boston Public" in a similar classroom situation. Parents of Schumacher's students were very upset and sent the material to the local media, which drew even more attention to the issue. Schumacher and Stewart have

talked to parents of the involved students and apologized to both parents and teachers. The second-year teacher will not be disciplined.

Botulism kills rare spoonbills

Since Dec. 9, botulism has killed 71 black-faced spoonbills in Taiwan, more than seven percent of the world's population of the 969 birds, according to BirdLife International. A water-soluble toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* causes botulism. Scientists think unseasonably warm temperatures helped the bacteria survive. Small islands off the west coast of the Korean peninsula and China are primary breeding sites of the rare birds. Seventeen birds have recovered so far.

AOL Time Warner chairman resigns

Steve Case, AOL Time Warner chairman, announced his resignation from the company Sunday. Case said the recent merger of AOL and Time Warner had been a disappointment and management changes made it easier for him to depart. His decision to leave came on the second anniversary of the company's merger, which created the world's largest media company. Case was under harsh criticism for not delivering promises to shareholders. He is not the first to leave AOL Time Warner since its merger. Chairman and Chief Executive Gerald Levin and AOL President Bob Pittman also resigned. A spokesman for the company said a replacement for Case has not been named and the decision would be up to the board. Case will remain a member of AOL Time Warner's board of directors and will continue as co-chair of its strategy committee.

Disney to open amusement park in Hong Kong

Executives from the U.S.-based Walt Disney company and senior figures from Hong Kong's government recently took part in a ceremony to mark the start of construction on the first Disneyland theme park in China. Traditional Chinese lion dancers and actors dressed as Walt Disney's cartoon characters took part in the ceremony as well. The project, scheduled for completion in 2006, is under criticism from opposition and environmentalists, who say it will damage breeding grounds for fish. Hong Kong's Government will pump more than \$3 billion into the park, but there is hope that it will attract millions of visitors to help revive Hong Kong's struggling economy.

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ROOM 1149

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

Executive Editor

OLIVIA LLOYD

CTimesEditor@aol.com

Managing Editor

SHARON RAMOS

s2mrramo@vcu.edu

News Editor

SARAH KITE

Kiteese@aol.com

Production Chief

CARL T. HOLSCHER

s2cthols@vcu.edu

Graphic Artist

SHEENA LLOYD

Sheera11@aol.com

Spectrum Editor

CINDY CECIL

cecilck@vcu.edu

Associate Spectrum Editor

MELISSA LYNCH

lynchmd@vcu.edu

Sports Editor

ANDREW HALE

s2aehale@mail1.vcu.edu

Associate Sports Editor

SEAN GULLA

papaslothy@go.com

Photography Editor

SAIDA DURKEE

saidadurkee@hotmail.com

OP/ED Editor

EMILY LIU

missemilyliu@hotmail.com

Proofreader

SADIE GIBBS

Business Manager

JOHN MESSITER

messiterjc@vcu.edu

Advertising Director

TYLER BLAND

tylerbland19@cs.com

Circulation Director

MIKE TALLEY

talleymw@vcu.edu

ctvcu@hotmail.com
(804) 828-1058

NEWS

Football team will not touch down anytime soon

Support, gender equity keep possibility of a VCU team at bay

ARLON STAYWELL

Staff Writer

Of all the construction the VCU campus, none involves a football stadium nor will any of it anytime soon, because VCU has no football team.

It's not the number of students, as many colleges and universities enrolling a similar number of students sponsor successful football programs. The University of Virginia, for instance, has a football program and the number of students at that university is about 87 percent of that of VCU. UVa's tuition is only about 22 percent higher.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, with 35 percent more students than VCU and 12 percent higher tuition has a football program. It might have been champions in 2000 except for losing the Sugar Bowl to Florida State University.

In an unofficial poll from The Commonwealth Times, several students responded that they thought a football program at VCU was a good idea.

"It would be fun," said Aaron Lyle, a junior and a political science major. "It would be something to do."

Andrew Chau, a junior finance major, said, "Football is like the best sport. People don't seem as interested in other sports."

Tom Shupe, VCU's associate athletic director for external affairs, said funding a football team at VCU would be difficult.

"Competitive, intercollegiate football at all levels is very expensive," he said. "Any prudent budgeting must include income sources from private contributions, radio/television rights fees, ticket sales, seat licensing, student fees,

corporate support, retail trade agreements, alumni programs, etc."

He cautioned that media support in Virginia for amateur athletics generally and intercollegiate athletics in particular is inconsistent.

"Historically, statewide media have provided as much, if not more, coverage of North Carolina basketball and Redskins football than any in-state college team," Shupe said. "Virginia Tech and UVa have each expanded their football stadiums despite not selling out home games on a regular basis."

Nonetheless, Louise M. Dudley, the assistant vice president for university relations at the University of Virginia, cited that one advantage is that football brings in revenue that would benefit other sports.

"While it does provide funding for other sports because it's all male and because there is such a large number of players, it makes it harder to maintain gender equity," she said.

Dudley was referring to the gender equity required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that state:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

To have a football team, a female sports program has to be maintained in a consistent with the men and women sports programs, so that both genders find it fair and equitable. It's not impossible, Dudley said, but it is difficult.

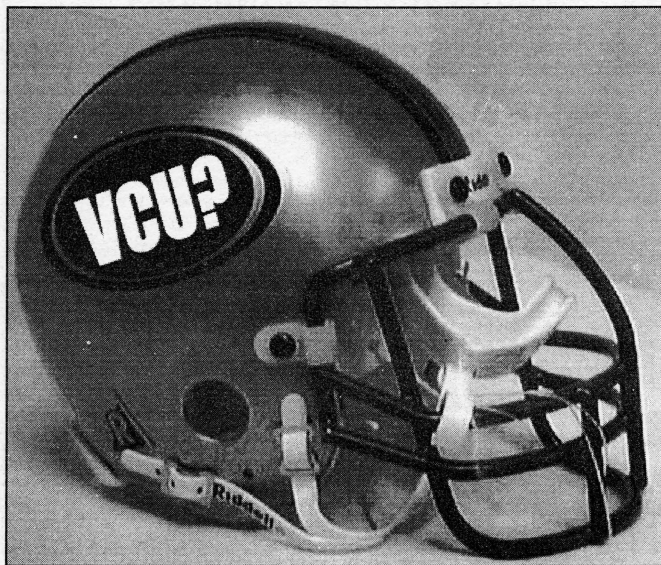


Photo illustration: Sheena Lloyd

VCU CRIME LOG

Sometime between Friday, Dec. 13 and Monday, Dec. 16

Personal property valued at \$50 stolen from MCV Main Hospital.

Thursday, Jan. 2

\$20 stolen from a female employee at MCV North Hospital.

Friday, Jan. 3

Male arrested on the 1200 block of Moore Street for possession of heroin.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

Male arrested on the 100 block of S. Laurel Street for possession of cocaine.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Personal property valued at \$135 stolen from MCV Main Hospital.

Thursday, Jan. 9

Male arrested on South Randolph Street for driving under the influence.

Male arrested on the 700 block of West Cary Street for being drunk in public.

Female arrested for possession of cocaine and driving with a suspended license.

Friday, Jan. 10

Property valued at \$140 stolen from the 1200 block of East Marshall Street.

Damage to State Gateway Building estimated at \$2,500.

Sunday, Jan. 12

Male assaulted at MCV North Hospital.

Male arrested at West Main Street 7-11 for trespassing.

Monday, Jan. 13

Personal property valued at \$60 stolen from the Business Building.

Male arrested on West Franklin Street for possession of a concealed firearm.

VCU InSight

Paid advertisement

"Helping to expose the greater Richmond area to some of the terrific things going on at the university." - Judy VanSlyke Turk, director, VCU School of Mass Communications

VCU InSight features VCU students, faculty and alumni

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News

SMALLPOX continued from Page 1

Public Radio about the smallpox virus, said others could experience a progressive infection such as gangrene at the injection site.

The side effects are significantly increased in patients with eczema, a skin disorder, or a weakened immune system.

"(Today) we have a whole new epidemic known as HIV," Wenzel said, adding that the HIV virus was not as prevalent during the smallpox vaccination era.

To complicate matters there are a large number of Americans who don't even know they have HIV and would be at risk if given the vaccine. Pregnant women, people on steroids and cancer patients also should not receive the vaccine, he said, nor should they come in contact with anyone who has.

"Because it's a live virus, it's therefore transmissible," Wenzel said.

Thus a vaccinated doctor could come in contact with a high-risk patient and pass the virus along.

Americans born before 1972 were inoculated against smallpox and there has been some debate about whether the injection would still be effective in those patients today.

All studies done on the vaccine's effectiveness took place while smallpox was still present in society, Wenzel said. Some studies show that vaccinated people have lower mortality rates.

Results, he said, might have been because of subsequent exposure to the virus. This means a vaccinated patient could have come in contact with the virus and therefore boosted his or her immunity.

Although studies suggest that the vaccination could protect some people for more than a decade, Wenzel said the hospital wouldn't rely on that information.

"We wouldn't bank on it at all during an outbreak," he said.

Nonetheless, Wenzel cites three things that could arise to make MCVH officials feel comfortable administering the vaccine to their staff:

- if a case of smallpox appeared anywhere in the world,
- if someone were to find a vial of the smallpox virus anywhere in the world or
- if the U.S. government

reported that there was an imminent or dangerous risk of an outbreak.

"That would mean probably one of our enemies released it," Wenzel said.

To his knowledge, Wenzel said, there is no smallpox research at

MCVH. Most of the testing, he said, takes place at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the event of an outbreak MCVH could be called upon to vaccinate the general public. In that situation, he said, the hospital would work closely with the state health department.

A number of hospitals have delayed their decision to vaccinate their staff, including Vanderbilt and Grady.

VCU President Eugene P. Trani said he is encouraged by hospitals that are taking the same position as MCVH. In concurrence with Wenzel, he said a major concern is the vaccine's health implications.

Other area hospitals are working through the immunization question.

Jody Challen, director of public relations and marketing for Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital, said the hospital is still developing its smallpox vaccination policy.

Shanna Rowe, a junior studying criminal justice, doesn't agree with MCVH's decision.

"If I were in their shoes I would definitely want to get vaccinated," she said.

Rowe, however, thinks the risks for the general public are too high to warrant a mass vaccination.

Smallpox

Facts

- Last case seen 25 years ago.
- The virus has killed close to 500 million people worldwide during the 20th century.

Symptoms

- The viral infection has a one to two week incubation period before symptoms occur.
- Within two to three days patients experience flu-like symptoms.
- The pox, which are bubblelike sores, appear first on the wrists and hands and remain for duration of the illness (approximately two to three weeks).
- The pox can spread to other parts of the body.

LOAN continued from Page 1

implemented the new service fee for interlibrary loan borrowing. Institution such as museums, private libraries or another university charge VCU for borrowing a book, journal, article, dissertation or patent.

Charges from institutions range from \$6 to \$30, but VCU will only charge users a flat fee of \$5.

"The user will not pay the full fee," Ulmschneider said.

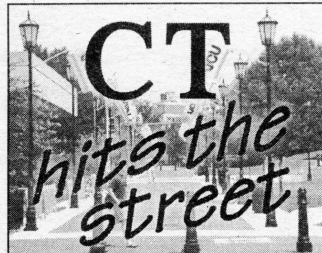
VCU Libraries has yet to receive complaints about the fees despite previous scrutiny from VCU faculty, Ulmschneider said. He does, however, expect criticism from VCU staff and students.

"I think it's pretty ridiculous to charge when it was free just last semester," said Meghan Prichard, a political science major. "By charging, it discourages students not to use the service."

Ulmschneider said VCU implemented the fees for two reasons:

- To keep VCU practices in-line with top research universities.
- To offset recent budget reductions

In addition, the fees will preserve library budget funds for future book and journal purchases.



How has the remodeling of the University Student Commons affected you?

"I think it's inconvenient for other students. They should have done it over the summer time when students aren't so busy."

-Keah Bridges, 20, forensic science

"It's a little crowded, but it'll look nice when it is finished."

-Lind Hairfield, 55, programs support technician in Administrative Technology

"It's a waste of money."

-Olatunde Akinfolajimi, 25, chemistry

"It's crowded. It should be a place where we can have a break, but it's not. There's too much noise."

-Hamad Alqadhi, 18, pre-dentistry

"It's getting crowded and there are too many people standing around."

-Kim Nguyen, 22, nuclear medicine technology

"The limited food variety sucks because Chick-fil-a is gone."

-Afaq Khan, 18, political science

"In the evening, I used to go to the Commons Café to eat and hang out with friends, but lately there is less of an on-campus community."

-Aaron Tenenbaum, 19, history,

"I think it's nice and it definitely needs some remodeling."

-Lakeisha Harris, 19, psychology

"I miss my Chick-fil-a, but I am looking forward to what they are doing. Progress comes at a cost."

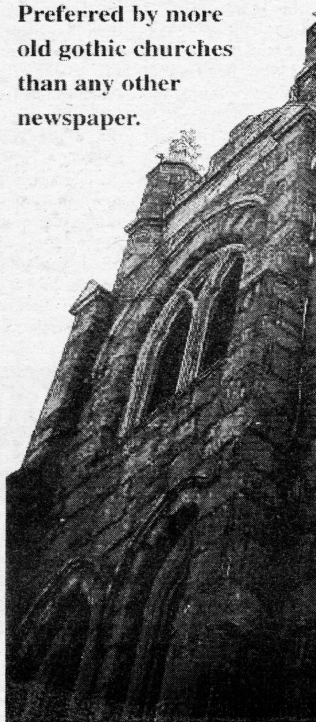
-Lisa Beard-Sledd, 40, radiation sciences

"It's just a bother and a hassle."

-Matthew Early, 19, psychology and religious studies

-Compiled by Priyanka Guha

The Commonwealth Times.
Preferred by more
old gothic churches
than any other
newspaper.



SPORTS

AFTER THE WHISTLE

SEAN GULLA

Associate Sports Editor



Ah, the NFL playoffs; the best of times and the worst of times. If you've read my column before then you know I am a die-hard Giants fan. That's right, my heart bleeds Giants blue, and two weekends ago, my big blue heart was broken. Don't feel too bad for me, though. It was great that the Giants made the playoffs after pretty much everyone counted them out as the regular season was winding down. And things are looking good for the future.

This was a breakout year for Kerry Collins and Amani Toomer. Collins set a Giants record for most passing yardage and all Toomer did was catch 82 balls for 1,343 yards and eight touchdowns. Tiki Barber had another great year, racking up 1,984 yards rushing and receiving. Of course, I can't mention the Giants' success without mentioning Giants rookie tight end Jeremy Shockey. Shockey lived up to the preseason hype by contributing 74 catches for 894 yards and two touchdowns. He is also the only rookie going to the Pro Bowl this year. So things aren't all bad for me and my fellow Giants fans.

But I won't lie. The loss hurts quite a bit; it was nearly a week before I could talk

about it, but now the healing process has begun. After all, I've had my heart broken a few times in recent years. There was that playoff game so long ago in which the Giants played the Vikings and were winning with only minutes to go when the Vikes scored, recovered an onside kick, and then scored again to win the game. I don't think I need to mention the Ravens-Giants Superbowl in which Trent Dilfer became the worst quarterback to ever win a Superbowl in NFL history. So this last playoff defeat is simply another painful postseason stumble on the way to Superbowl greatness.

I guess the thing that hurts the most is that this latest loss is all my fault. You see, I made a phone call to my friend Jim while the Giants were winning 38-14. At that point, it looked like the game was out of reach for the 49ers. Collins was hitting Toomer and Shockey all over the field, and Barber was getting it done on the ground. So I called Jim, who, just like me, bleeds Giants blue. I left a message on his cell phone. "Hey Jim, this is awesome," I said. "Big Blue all the way! You can't stop our boys!"

Little did I know that I was at that very moment putting the dreaded playoff jinx on the very team I love so dearly. The complexion of the game began to change and I sat helpless as victory began to slip away. Garcia to Owens-touchdown. Two-point conversion. Garcia scrambles-touchdown. Two-point conversion. Niners field goal is good. Garcia to Streets-touchdown. Niners lead 39-38. I

can't believe this is happening. And so football fans around the nation found themselves glued to their televisions as Giants' kicker Matt Bryant lined up for a 40-yard kick to win the game. And then the unthinkable happened. I was so sure the Giants had a date with destiny this year, but apparently destiny ordered the lobster and the Giants left their wallet at home on the dresser. The refs blew the call at the end of the game, which, by the way, seems to be a continuing trend (Steelers fans I sympathize) and now Big Blue is done and my heart is broken. At least until next year, anyway. I'll be fine by the draft and chomping at the bit by the time the preseason games start.

I realize that by ranting about the Giants in my bi-weekly soapbox, I've probably irritated fans of many other NFL teams who may have read this, but the point is that the playoffs (win or lose) are what make the NFL so much fun. Everyone wants their favorite team to do well, and that is what make the playoffs so exciting. The Giants-Niners game (with the exception of the officiating) was one of the best games I've ever seen. Now I'm cheering on the Eagles, whom I picked to win the Superbowl this year in an earlier column. But if the Eagles don't win, I won't be too disappointed. I have only one true love anyway, and I've got the feeling next season might be the year.

Women's Basketball up-ends CAA opponent JMU

ANDREW HALE

Sports Editor

VCU Women's Basketball snapped a two-game losing streak at the ALLTEL Pavilion last Sunday. The 68-61 victory came against the now 6-6 (1-2 CAA) James Madison University Dukes. Senior Kristine Austgulen earned 34 points on the evening, tying a Colonial Athletic Association season-high and setting a new personal career-high. Austgulen also led the team with 11 rebounds. With the win, VCU's record moves up to 4-8 (1-2 CAA).

The only other player to reach double-digit points was junior guard Cyndy Wilks, who went four for seven and made three of five free throws. Wilks also had seven rebounds for VCU.

The Rams finished up the first half trailing by one (32-31) but started the second half with a 7-0 run and then kept the lead for the remainder of the game. JMU came close to taking the lead with around 12 minutes remain-

ing but would not get any closer to VCU's lead than two points.

JMU shot for 23 percent in the second half, dropping from 46 percent in the first. VCU shot 50 percent from the field for the game, while JMU shot 33 percent. The Rams also led in rebounds, totaling 41 to the Dukes' 26.

Women's basketball faces Hofstra Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at the Siegel Center.



Kristine Austgulen

Both tennis teams receive top 25 rank

Both Men and Women's tennis have reached the Omni Hotels Collegiate Tennis Rankings, voted on by the ITA National Ranking Committee. Results from the fall season are used to consider this ranking.

The men's team reached 16th place out of 25 with 2,037 team points. The women's team received a 25th place ranking with 1,170 points. Individually, senior Florian Marquardt was ranked 41st place with 683 points.

Junior Pedro Nieto also received an 80th place ranking with 268 points. The only female tennis player from VCU to receive a ranking was junior Barbora Zahnova who received a 96th place ranking with 84 points.

The two teams will open up play this season as hosts of the VCU 4-1 Invitational at the Thalhimer Tennis Center in Richmond. The men's team is set to start competition Jan. 24 with the women's team starting Jan. 31.

CALENDAR

Thursday, Jan. 16	Friday, Jan. 17	Saturday, Jan. 18	Sunday, Jan. 19	Monday, Jan. 20	Tuesday, Jan. 21	Wednesday, Jan. 22
Women's Basketball - William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va. 7 p.m.		Men's Basketball William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va. 7 p.m. Track & Field Navy Invitational, Annapolis, Md. 7 p.m.	Women's Basketball - Hofstra, Richmond, Va. 2 p.m.			Men's Basketball James Madison, Richmond, Va. 7:30 p.m.



BOB KNOWS, DO YOU?

ASK BOB



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

No questions, no answers... instead, links, comics and soap boxes

Where have all the readers gone?

It seems that once again, there are no readers at VCU. The Commonwealth Times sits unread in its hard, cold box. The paper gets lonely when it is not read. Do you want your newspaper to be lonely?

Some people may think this is a waste of space and effort, to write utter nonsense and silliness in a college newspaper. Look at Dave Barry, he does the same thing and is read extensively all over the country.

One day, maybe I will get syndicated, as Bob perhaps, or writing under my name, whatever that may be.

Please help me out and send in your questions, it is very hard to answer questions and provide amusement and humor if there is nothing to answer.

Urgent Bat Boy news!

Bat Boy is on the run! Earlier this week, Bat Boy (of Weekly World News fame) led police on a chase. This is very uncharacteristic of Bat boy as he is a law-biding citizen and close friend to Bob.

Pixel Man was very distraught when he heard the news and is worried about the well-being of our good friend. So, I ask you if you have seen or heard anything from Bat Boy, please let us know immediately at ctvcu@hotmail.com.

Also, my good friend Moose Anderson will be making a run at becoming the next SGA president, so please look for his signs and learn about what he stands for. I think he can do a lot of good for this school.

Remember, vote Moose in March.

Link of the Day!

Are you a video game buff? Do you remember Pong? Frogger? Space Invaders?

You do? Good! If not, you should. Well, you poor deprived children, I have found something truly amazing (and totally addicting)...

3-D Pong!

homepage.ntlworld.com/fetchfido/games/3d_pong/3d_pong.htm

Once you start, you can't stop...

Soap Box

The rise and fall of the snowy domain...

It seems that Mother Nature and Father Winter were having a little party last night. Things were going well. The elements were all sitting around the dinner table, munching happily. The evening was turning out even nicer than was expected.

However, things took a turn for the worst after dark. You see, the fire went out, and fire (one of the elements) was of course, blamed for this, seeing as how he was fire and should have tended to his kin.

Well, now that the cold had set in, ice and Father Winter were happy as elemental clams at the turn of events. Fire and Mother Nature, both warmer creatures, were not.

This is when the ruckus broke out and the snow began. It started slow, a snide comment here, a glare there, but soon the ill feeling boiled over and the fight was on!

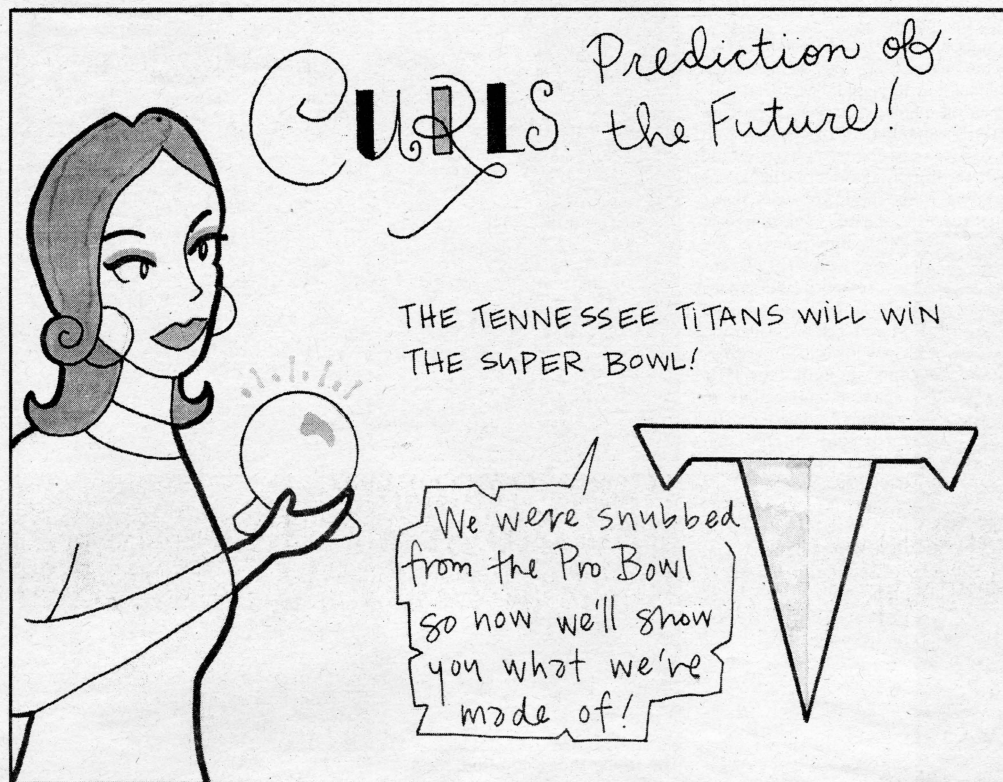
The snow fell, at first, softly... As the evening wore on and the sides were being drawn for quite a ruckus, the snow picked up, and fell faster, harder and more plentifully.

This, in turn, caused all the little children at VCU to rejoice (those who were not in bed already, with visions of classes stomping in their heads). We watched the snow fall with that ever-glowing face and the question on everyone's tongue was of course, "Do you think we'll get enough to close school?"

Well, as you are reading this today, that did not occur, as the snow tapered off around 2:30 a.m., as the Weather Channel had been threatening for the past hour. Score one for them.

Just remember, when Mother Nature and Father Winter get together for anything, sparks can fly, snow can fall and the entire world can tremble before their wills!

Just don't invite Father Time... then things could really get ugly!



Cowlyn Beliefs

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.

Comedian Steve Moore discusses HIV, Roseanne and his new show

MELISSA LYNCH

Associate Spectrum Editor

Steve Moore has an air about him that is friendly, open and makes everyone around him feel welcome. It is no wonder why he makes such a great bartender at Fieldens.

But beyond his great personality, he is candid about himself and his HIV in a lighthearted way, and that is what will make his upcoming one man show, "Steve Moore Unplugged," unique.

To get up on stage, reveal that he has HIV and dare to deal with it in a stand-up routine is definitely a rarity, if not unheard of, but Moore has been doing it now for eight years. "I think [HIV] is really important to talk about and nobody talks about it," Moore said. However, his audiences have not always been respectful of him as he speaks to them about his HIV. "One time I told the audience that I had HIV and asked if they knew what that meant and a guy said, 'It means you're going to die.' And I said, 'And you're not?' Jesus Christ, party of three!"

Unfazed when asked if audience members have ever walked out mid-show he replies, "Probably, I would guess they have."

Moore attended VCU as a drama major in the 1970s, but he didn't decide that he wanted to become a comedian until he started working at The Comedy Store as a piano player. "I started being funny at the piano and people responded," Moore said. From there he became a warm-up comedian for the shows "Roseanne," "Designing Women," and "The Dolly

Parton Show." "[Roseanne's] crazy. She fired me five times, but she always hired me back. When I first met her she was sleeping on other people's couches," he said. But Moore said that working with Dolly Parton was one of his better memories of Hollywood.

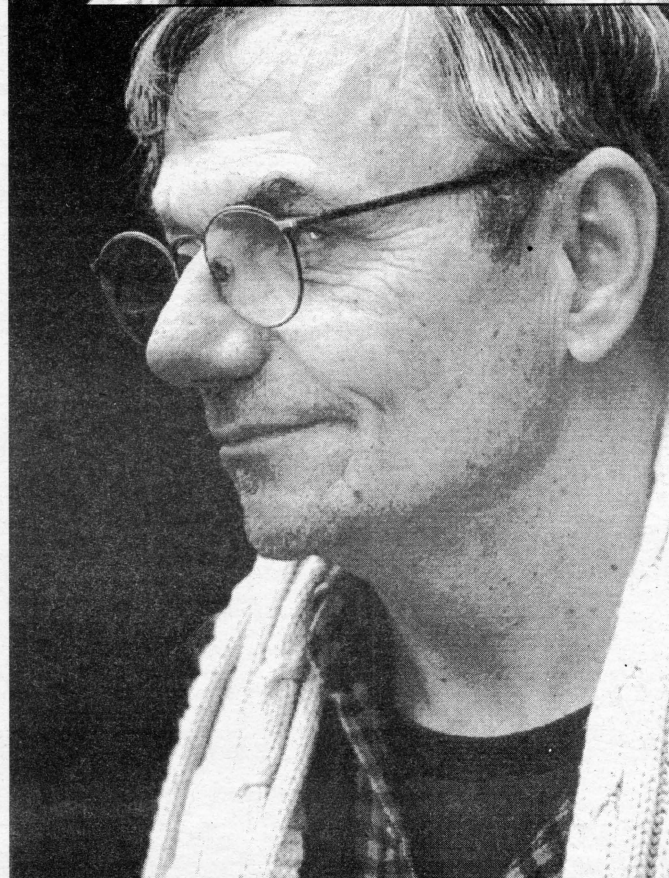
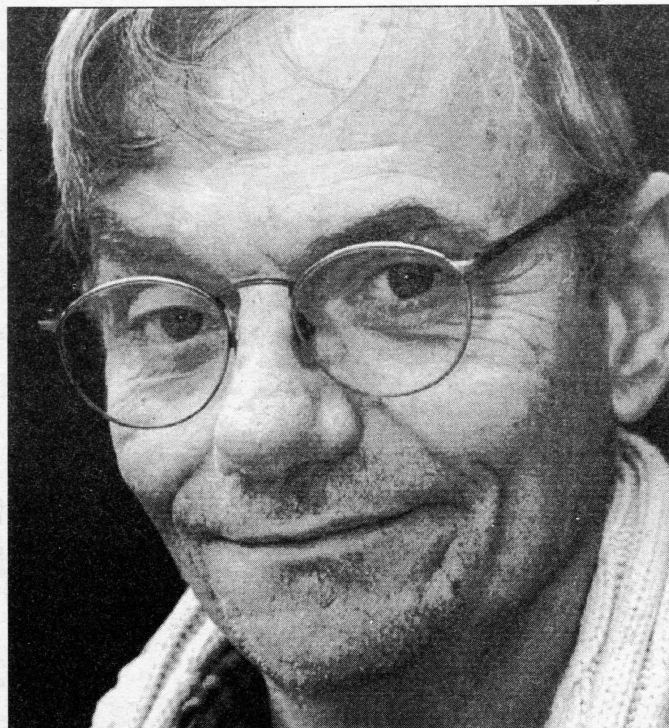
Surprisingly though, if given a chance, Steve Moore would not choose to go back to Hollywood. "I would go if someone offered me a job, but it was crowded and dirty and competitive. And they ask you to leave when you turn forty."

Five years ago, Moore was the subject of an HBO documentary titled "Drop Dead Gorgeous," which included his stand-up along with scenes about his life and interviews from his parents. His new show is filled with some of his old material from stand-up shows like the one on the documentary and plenty of brand new material. "I'm doing all of the material that didn't get on TV." Along with that, there will be new jokes; I spied him scrawling some of them as I came down from "The Rocky Horror Show" since he was the door greeter/ ticket seller that night.

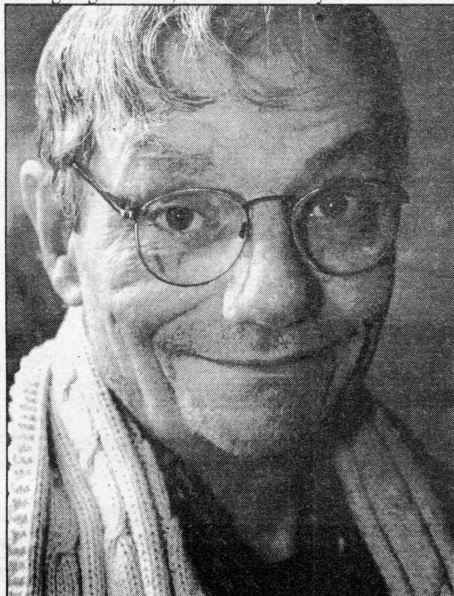
Since his career hit a dry patch after his documentary, many people have told him that they thought he was dead.

But this show will set the rumors to rest and let the public know just how well Steve Moore is doing. "I keep setting goals for myself and that's what keeps me going. If [the show] goes well, then I will take it to New York." One thing that keeps him going is the people with HIV who enjoy seeing a courageous and witty person like Moore get on stage and crack jokes like, "My parents thought that HIV meant Homosexuals in Virginia." "I do it mostly for [people with HIV], and if other people enjoy it, then that is great."

Steve Moore will perform his one-man comedy show beginning today, Jan. 16, and during the weekends until Feb. 1 at Fieldens. Call 359-1963 for tickets.



The many faces of Steve Moore



All photos by Chris Hancock

SPECTRUM

The truth about the 50-million-dollar lie

CINDY CECIL

Spectrum Editor

Evan Marriot's got looks, charm and a ton of money. Oh wait, scratch the money, but the looks and charm are still there. Will that be enough for the twenty ladies who were tricked into traveling to "his" mansion in the French countryside? Um... how about no!

FOX's latest reality show, "Joe Millionaire," has quite possibly sunken to lowest level of reality shows (excusing of course FOX's 2000 mistake, "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire"). Didn't they learn their lesson? Of course not. Why? Because this show is getting viewers, although none of the viewers seem to be from VCU. Out of ten VCU students surveyed, only one admits to watching the show.

Freshman Emily Hansard felt particularly strong about not watching this or any reality show. "I think these types of (reality) shows are a cheap way to make ratings

He was flown to France, painstakingly quizzed on wines, dancing, horsemanship and every manner of skill that would accompany a huge fortune. Then this lonely bachelor looking for love flew in twenty lucky ladies, all of whom believed that they were on their way to compete for their prince charming and fairy tale, I'll-never-have-to-work-another-day-in-my-life-ending. In the closing stages of the show, when he makes his choice it's going to come down to the age-old dilemma of love versus money.

The plan seems simple enough, but is it ethical? On the one hand, any woman greedy enough to enter a contest for 50 million dollars, (oh yeah, and a husband) deserves to be publicly humiliated. On the other hand: who are we to judge? What gives networks the right to exploit people's weaknesses under false pretenses?

"I think the girls are exploiting themselves by being on the show. Who cares if

Anthony Katchusky, a senior psychology major said.

Senior theater major, Rachael Miller shared her own bleak view of reality shows. "Ever since the first few reality shows hit the air, I was pretty sure that they were just another indication of the dreadful decline of this nation and the onset of the inevitable fall of humanity as a whole," Miller said. "I think that all of these people deserve what's coming to them and I hope it ruins their lives."

"If you are going to go on a reality show you better just be prepared because it's all just exploitation to make more money, which is the American Dream."

One student believed the show had potential. "I think in the end it will be funny to see who was in it for the money," Lynn Weaver, an education major said.

Weaver did mention that she also felt going on a show to get married was wrong, but it's nice to see that she isn't entirely boycotting the occasional enjoyment of substandard yet sometimes entertaining reality television.

In a quest to turn the tables, I asked the same students I surveyed what they would do if they made their own reality show and their income depended on the show's success. A whopping 90 percent said that they would never lower themselves to make a reality show. 10 percent of the group (perhaps the most honest set) said that making money would be their main concern. Interestingly no one said that they would make an ethical reality show. Perhaps it is an impossible feat.

MTV's "Real World" started it all and now reality shows have grown both in number and in outrageousness. Many television genres had a Golden Age. The game show era was so expansive that it has recently warranted its own television network. Perhaps one day their will be a reality show network, but it would seem that if that day comes about, very few students from VCU will be tuning in.



Photo illustration: Sheena Lloyd

go up. I have not watched any of these sorts of shows. I will not submit myself to watching women throw themselves at a man," Hansard said.

The women on this show are indeed throwing themselves at this seemingly rich bachelor. We won't fool ourselves into believing that this doesn't happen on most of the other numerous reality shows that air, but this is the first time that it has happened under false pretense. For those who are out of the reality show loop here is the break down. FOX's latest "brilliant" idea was to pluck a handsome construction worker out of his \$19,000 yearly salary life and convince him to pose as a recipient of a \$50 million inheritance. We won't get into IQ requirements for this individual because it's quite clear that there were none. They found their man in Evan Marriot of Virginia Beach.

they are being misled because they're idiots anyway," Emily Darrell, a junior English major said.

English major Meredith Dean, a junior, agrees with Darrell that the women shouldn't have any sympathy from the show's watchers. "They know what they're getting into [as far as the type of show]. They're choosing to be exploited," Dean said.

Chemistry major Ankush Khanna, a senior, had a little more compassion for the unfortunate contestants. "It's unethical to tell them he's a millionaire. Of course this is probably the most publicized sociology experiment where we can see how a person is affected by the existence of money or lack of it," Khanna said.

Some VCU students expressed disdain for the show. "This show shows no reality at all. It's trash and I don't watch it,"

Happenings

**Thursday
January 16**

"Steve Moore Unplugged"
Fieldens.
8 p.m., \$12

"Women ROCK: Mary Stewart"
University of Richmond's Marsh Gallery. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Friday
January 17**

Latin Unity Night
Ay Carumba Lounge.
9 p.m. to 2 a.m., free

The Second Annual Rough N Rowdy Brawl
The Richmond Colliseum
7:30 p.m., \$12 to \$18

**Saturday
January 18**

"Festival of New American Plays"
Firehouse Theater
355-2001
4 p.m., \$15

**Sunday
January 19**

Drag Show
Babe's
8p.m., \$5.

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**Is your band playing a show?
Are you showing off your art at a local gallery?
Do you have an event to announce?**

**Send it to Cindy Cecil
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SPECTRUM

Pets and skateboarders add to the Osbournes' antics this season

MELISSA LYNCH

Associate Spectrum Editor

Returning from a small break of the season over Christmas, "The Osbournes" does not disappoint with "Meow Means No!!" But the real stars of this episode weren't even in the family, technically. Although father Ozzy, mother Sharon, who is dealing with colon cancer, Kelly and Jack were great the return of Dill and the pet dramas were the most entertaining.

As Jack tells Ozzy that Dill will be staying with them once again, Ozzy stumbles back with a look of disbelief and annoyance on his face. Father knows best, but not even Ozzy could predict the madness that would ensue with Dill staying at the "Castle of Darkness." Watching the nappy-headed oddball spout his theories about Iraq and America to a group of eye-rolling blonde girls and a confused-looking guy with a sweatband was hilarious.

"I think it's completely great in Kuwait if they can get KFC from American culture and have a great time that's awesome too," he proclaims.

This scene was followed by a wrestling match between Dill and Jack that was even funnier. Jack's butt was shining through his underwear nearly the whole time that they were slapping and kicking each other.

The instrumental music played during their battle added to the humor. And they finished off their tussle by both peeing in the yard.

During the episode, Kelly was dealing with having hired her friend Sarah to be in

her band even though she was a terrible drummer. Sarah had a bad attitude, could barely play the drums and was basically hired because she was friends with Kelly and needed to pay off her debt (which she did with a ten thousand dollar check from "the family"). Finally, Kelly's manager convinced Sharon to let her go and find a new drummer, who appears in Kelly's "Shut Up" video. But Sarah also contributed to the video; she clicked the slate.

A new addition to the Osbourne family this episode is an extremely horny, small dog with white curly hair named Arthur. This dog went around the house humping every animal on sight. And Arthur was not ashamed to cross species lines while pleasing himself either. Poor Gus, a male cat, was forcefully sodomized by the new Osbourne.

"He was crying, crying. My poor baby, look at him. Look, you can tell he's been sexually abused," Sharon said.

Dill, Jack and Rob (who the Osbournes took in when his mother died of colon cancer) were equally



Photo illustration: Sheena Lloyd

amused by Jack's dog Lola's natural ability on a skateboard.

This episode was refreshing and funny because it did not entirely center around Kelly and her new singing career.

Instead, catching up with old favorites and being introduced to crazy new animals were great ideas. Dill has definitely become a staple of the show, and it is always fun to watch his interactions with Jack and the family. And one can only guess who Arthur's next victim will be.

"The Osbournes" airs on MTV at 10:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Pure gold: Stars to battle for Golden Globes

CINDY CECIL

Spectrum Editor

And the winner is...Yes, it's that time again. The nominations are in, and the 60TH annual Golden Globe Awards are scheduled to air Sunday, Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. It promises to be an entertaining show with presenters including Madonna, Elton John, Sharon Stone, Harrison Ford, Sarah Jessica Parker, Halle Berry, Beyonce Knowles, Robin Williams and oh yes, Brad Pitt.

Speaking of nominations, after looking over the list, I wondered if there would have been any if the cutoff to submit them had been just a month earlier. Many of the motion picture nominations involved such recently released movies as "Gangs of New York," "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and "Catch Me if You Can."

The Paramount/Miramax film "The Hours" shows up an impressive seven times on the nominee list. Its nominations include one for best motion picture in drama and two in the best actress in a drama category. Leonardo DiCaprio seems

to have found the lime light once again with a nomination for best actor in a drama for "Catch Me if You Can." This film, along with his other recent film, "Gangs of New York," racked up a total of six nominations. Five of these are accredited to "Gangs of New York." "The Lord of the Rings: Two Towers" was nominated for best motion picture in drama and best director for a motion picture. "About Schmidt" did quite well, bringing in a total of five nominations including one for best motion picture in drama.

Enough drama; let's look at the films that gave us the giggles this year. It's been a good year for "Chicago," as almost everyone involved in the movie gained a nomination, including best actor, best actress, best supporting actor and actress, best director and best screenplay. Naturally, it's up for best motion picture in comedy. "Adaptation" was close behind with six nominations.

So there are the big nominees for the motion picture part of the show, but let us

not forget to pay tribute to television. In recent years, HBO has emerged as a major leader in TV series for both drama and comedy. Many people subscribe to HBO just to see "The Sopranos" or "Sex in the City." The rampant popularity of these shows and others on HBO is evident in the results for TV series nominations. In total, "The Sopranos" and "Six Feet Under," both HBO shows, are up for six awards in the dramatic series category. NBC's political series "The West Wing" is also holding its own with three nominations.

For the light of heart and those who like to laugh, "Friends" and "Will and Grace" brought in three nominations each. As always, it's nice to see an old favorite, FOX's long-running hit series, "The Simpsons," is up for the award for best comedy series.

Amid all of the fun and excitement, we cannot forget one of the most important traditions of the Golden Globe Awards; the presentation of the Cecil B. DeMille Award. Look for Gene Hackman to be honored this year.

Clear your schedule for Sunday night and tune into NBC to watch your favorite celebrities take home the gold.

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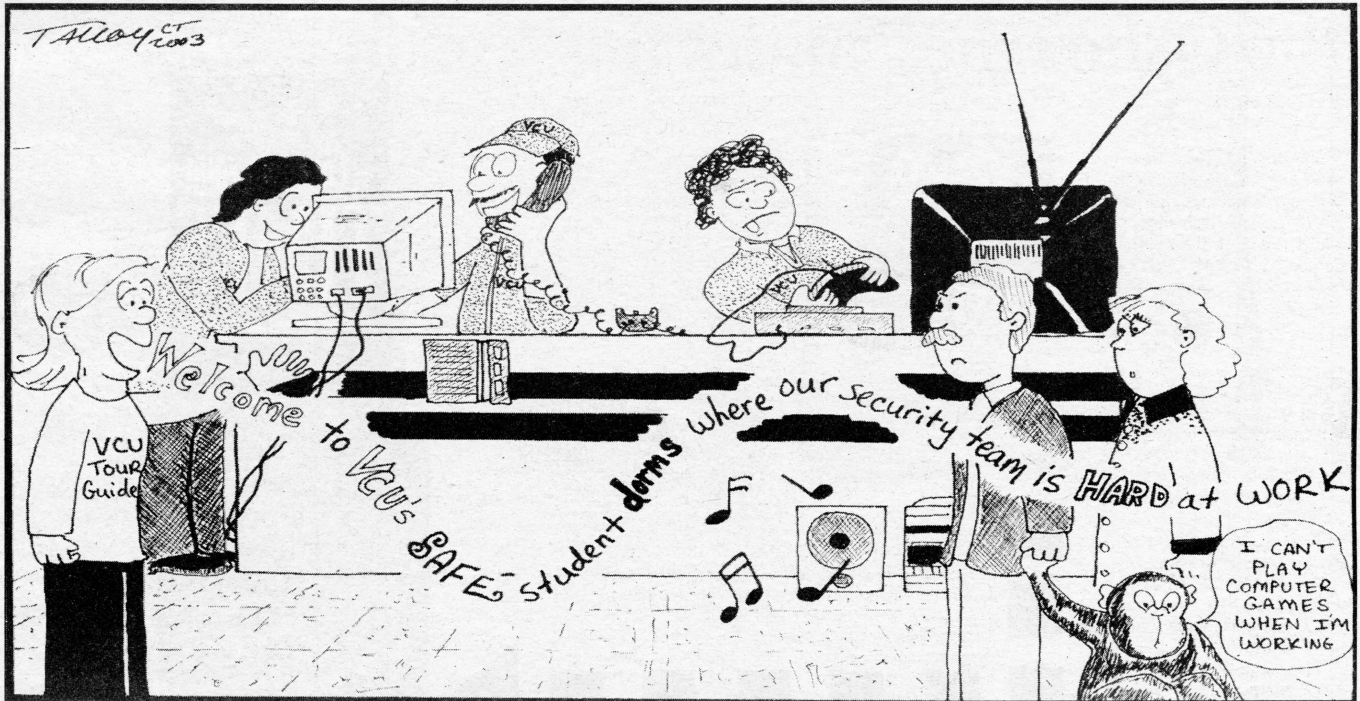
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OP/ED



BY MIKE TALLEY

The great divide: weapons and medicine

EMILY LIU
Op/Ed Editor

As I return to the City of Richmond from a long-lasting winter break and begin to settle back into the routine of daily life, I've finally gotten the opportunity to turn on the television again to update myself on the world around me. Much to my disappointment, our world seems both unstable and insecure to an even greater extent than it had been merely weeks ago. The uncertainty of our future as a nation amid the raging politics is enough to cause stress-induced ulcers in listeners alone. We've only barely begun to engage ourselves with our mission in the Middle East. Now we've added North Korea to our "to do" list—just one placement above the back-and-forth political catfights between the Democrats and Republicans, the only two parties in our country that have any real say, about necessary reform to boost our rapidly deteriorating economy.



In a look at the local news, it appears increasingly evident each day that the violence in Richmond alone has already reached a level of unmanageability. At

some point, the negativity that is thrown at us via television and other media resources is almost more than any one individual may bear or ever want to bear. We see tragedy constantly, but by now we've only become all too accustomed to it in our lives. We hardly flinch at the gruesome sight of a crime scene on television. Decades ago people were still shocked by the loss of human life. Today we seem only concerned with the *possible* loss of human life in our future, as we implement more ideas or "brilliant solutions" that carry with it that very possibility. We are left with little time to reflect upon the lives that have *already* lost in this social, societal, global, and political struggle.

But the fact of the matter is that with every loss of life, there is a body bag. There is a casket, there is an entire family in anguish and agony, and there are so many memories waiting to be told—enough to produce scars of its own on the soul. And yet we as a nation still seem so eager to move forward and set global standards, when our society hasn't even begun to set standards for itself. Were such standards already set, they would certainly not allow for the plethora of violence and hatred that plagues our people and our cities every day. The bloodshed is incredible at the end

of each day, and that doesn't even stir us?

Just how cold and cruel have we become as a people? Dare we call ourselves "barbaric" now that we have guns and advanced weaponry? Unfortunately the technological leaps we've made in the weaponry department throughout the decades nowhere near parallels the medical advancements we've made to cure those injuries and wounds produced by these weapons or even basic weapons alone. Nor have social advancements kept up with that of weapons, for we clearly haven't become civil enough not to physically hurt or harm one another. Yet at this point, our government continues drafting plans day-and-night to discharge and destroy.

It, too, has been numbed to the tragedy of loss. It remains that loss will never cease to exist, but become a constant reminder of the value of life when the time comes that we each choose to see it, or when the time comes that it chooses to visit us on its own.

As we look into our future, it is a wonder how this fury in our society was ever unleashed and whether we may ever embrace some sort of harmony and unity again—socially, racially, politically or even environmentally.

THE Commonwealth TIMES

OLIVIA LLOYD
Executive Editor

EMILY LIU
Op/Ed Editor

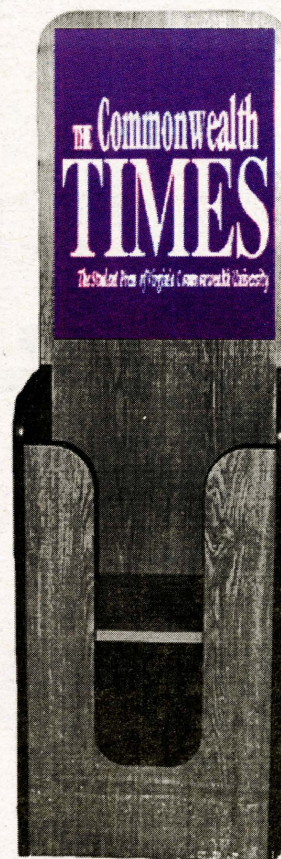
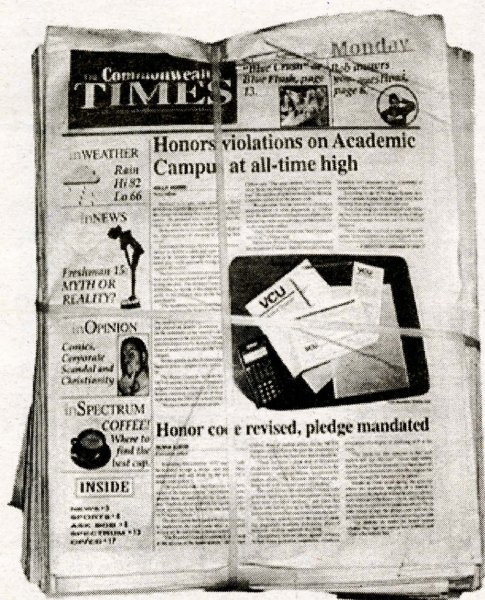
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