

Ask Bob has escaped this week! We'll find him and tie him down for Thursday.

We promise. Really.

The Commonwealth Times

Curious about changes on campus?

Read Thursday's
issue!

News

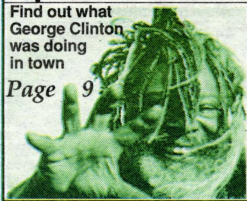
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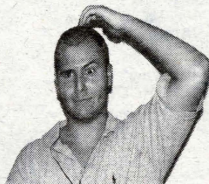
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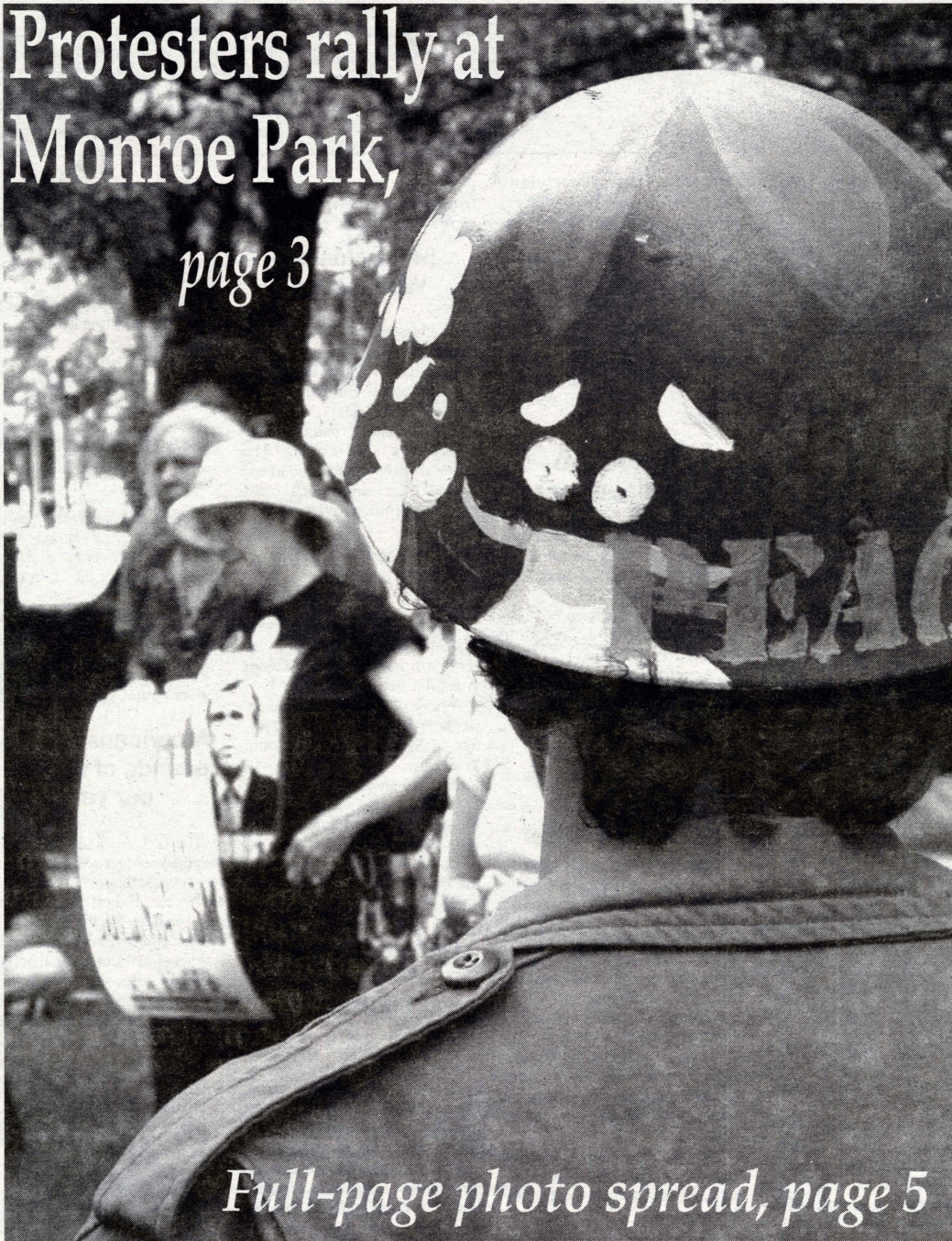
Watch your step!



Alexander Marra wonders,
where have all the floors
gone?

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IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

AUG. 25 THROUGH 27

Monday, Aug. 25	Tuesday, Aug. 26	Wednesday, Aug. 27
Meet new people and grab a bite to eat at the Back to School Carnival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Park Plaza! This event is sponsored by the Activities Programming Board. If it rains, head over to the Commonwealth Ballroom in the University Student Commons for the festivities. Contact 828-6500 for more information.	Get your morning coffee while talking to VCU Parking and Transportation officials and the VCU police at the Commuter CoffeeBRAKE in the Commons lobby! This event is sponsored by the University Student Commons and Activities and is free to all off-campus students. Contact 828-6500 for more information.	It's Open Mic in the Commonwealth Ballroom in the University Student Commons from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.! Contact 828-7550 for additional information. Break Point Game Room Tournaments begin today! Compete in chess, Magic: The Gathering, 8-ball, 9-ball, Dance Dance Revolution, and ping-pong! View the entire semester schedule on the Internet at http://www.students.vcu.edu/commons .

"Boy" loses job

The U.S. Navy expelled one of its own after he appeared on Bravo's gay romantic reality show, "Boy Meets Boy."

Michael Tiner, who went by his middle name Jason on the show, was discharged for violating the Navy's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The combat systems instructor said he knew the risk he was taking by going on the show but was comfortable enough with his sexual orientation to face the consequences.

As part of the Boy Meets Boy's twist, Tiner's sexuality was ambiguous - he could have been one of the series' heterosexual contestants - but after being rejected by the leading man, his orientation was revealed.

The 26-year-old had already alerted his commander by the time the episode aired July 29. The move to expel Tiner began immediately and became effective Aug. 19. He received an honorable discharge.

Autopsy set for priest killed in prison

An autopsy will be conducted Monday on former priest John Geoghan, the convicted child molester who died Saturday after apparently being strangled in prison.

The 68-year-old was at the center of the sex abuse scandal that rocked the Roman Catholic church.

In civil lawsuits more than 130 people have claimed Geoghan sexually abused them as children in the more than three decades that he served as a priest in Boston-area parishes.

He was convicted last year of

indecent assault and battery in the first three criminal charges brought against him. Prosecutors couldn't bring charges in other cases because the statutes of limitations had expired.

Although Geoghan was kept in protective custody to shield him from the general prison population, he still had some contact with other inmates, said a Department of Corrections spokeswoman.

Ricki Lake marriage over

After nine years of marriage, talk show queen Ricki Lake and her husband Rob Sussman have filed for separation.

The couple has two boys, 6-year-old Milo and 2-year-old Owen.

According to Los Angeles court documents, Lake and Sussman filed for separation August 13.

The 34-year-old has hosted "The Ricki Lake Show" since 1993.

Three dead after bomb attack on Iraqi cleric

Terrorists have detonated a bomb outside the house of one of the most important Muslim Shiite clerics in Iraq, killing three guards.

Around 10 others, including family members, were injured.

A glass cylinder bomb was placed on the side of the home of Mohammed Saeed al-Hakim, who suffered scratches on his neck.

Al-Hakim was the leader for the armed wing of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

A member of Iraq's U.S.-

picked governing council said terrorists from the former regime were behind the attack.

Mars closest Wednesday

Wednesday will be a big night for millions of astronomers all around the world: The Red Planet will be closer to Earth than it has been in 59,619 years.

This occasion is caused by the coincidence of their orbits. The Earth's will be farthest and Mars' closest to the sun, putting the two planets 34 million miles apart.

Australia going amok

One person was killed and several others injured during the violent storms that have swept Australia's east coast.

Winds of up to 100 kilometers per hour have caused wide damage in Sydney and New South Wales.

Tens of thousands of people are without power in the New South Wales region and Canberra. Police warned motorists in Tasmania to put driving on hold until the floods in the area are under control.

Gas prices spike after power sputters

National gas average prices rose 15.53 cents in the two weeks ending Aug. 22, reaching \$1.7191 per gallon, according to a Lundberg survey of nearly 8,000 gas stations, due to power outages at refineries and the temporary shutdown of an Arizona pipeline. The price increase was the biggest recorded in the Lundberg survey's 50-year history.

The survey's editor attributed the price spike to the Aug. 14 power outage that hit parts of central and northeastern United States, interrupting production at some refineries.

The most expensive gasoline was found in Phoenix, Ariz., at \$2.1425 a gallon while the cheapest was in Charleston, S.C., at \$1.4920 a gallon, according to the survey.

Israeli attack kills four

Four members of the Palestinian militant group Hamas were killed Sunday evening due to an Israeli helicopter attack in Gaza City.

The attack occurred at approximately 9:55 p.m. when the Israelis fired at least two missiles at a vacant lot near a base housing Yasser Arafat's personal guard.

Americans eat 30 pounds of cheese per year

The U.S. Agriculture Department says Americans are eating more cheese than ever - 30 pounds each year. Experts say the primary reason for the increase is Americans' love for pizza. Pizzerias account for more than half of all cheese sales and last year they purchased \$2.5 billion worth, according to the National Association of Pizzeria Operators.

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THE Commonwealth TIMES

ROOM 1149

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NEWS

Activists rally in Monroe Park to march for peace



Kent Brockwell



Kent Brockwell

ABOVE: Protesters attending the rally applaud Dr. Ali Abed (picture below).

LEFT: The march makes its way down Main Street.

BELOW: Dr. Ali Abed addresses a crowd of activists gathered at Monroe Park.

Sunday march draws large crowd

DANTE SILVERI
Staff Writer

Sunday's mild weather and clear skies helped lure protesters to a political rally in Monroe Park in opposition to the American occupation of Iraq and the United States' support of Israel. The rally also commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 speech in Washington, D.C.

"We have a rally like this because you always have to stand up when it comes to justice," said Muna Hijazi, a recent VCU graduate.

Sponsored by a coalition of groups, including Food Not Bombs and the Richmond Independent Media Center, the rally centered around seven speakers and ended in a march down Main Street to Harrison Street, then to Franklin Street before returning to Monroe Park.

Even though they did not expect any trouble from the crowd, police were on hand. Officer Chuck Howell said he expected around 200 protesters, adding that

Sunday's gathering was "not as big as the last one."

Stephanie Depaolis, a freshman at VCU, said part of the reason why she attended was to "get people to understand that democracy starts with the little people." She also wanted to raise awareness about America's occupation of Iraq.

"I think we should focus on our own country's suffering," she said.

Standing in the bed of a pickup truck that served as the stage for the afternoon, the rally's first speaker, Ali Abed, addressed the crowd.

"You are the consciousness of this country," he said.

Abed, who returned from the West Bank last week, urged the crowd to remember what is happening in the world.

Protesters carried numerous signs and banners, including what Mills E. Godwin High School junior Meghan Resler called "free birds," wooden and cloth birds inscribed with the word "freedom." Protesters also chanted slogans such as "Bush no more in 2004," and wore T-shirts stating

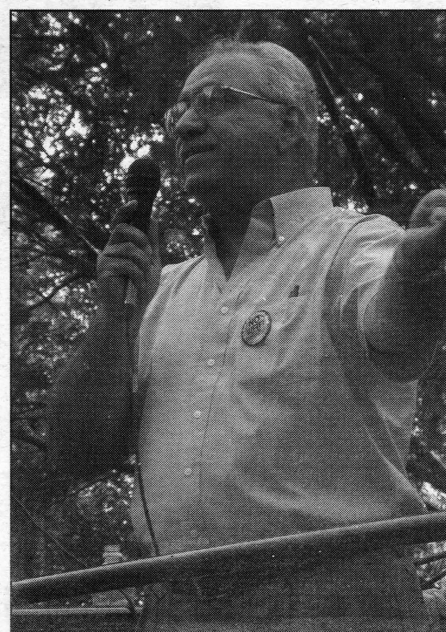
"Free Palestine." Small children playing in the late-afternoon shade wore buttons with proclamations such as "No War on Iraq."

In addition to speeches condemning American involvement in Iraq and American support of Israel, speakers brought up concerns about poverty in Richmond and America, racism both at home and abroad and crime in Richmond and other U.S. cities.

Jen Lawhorne, who works with Food Not Bombs, summed up the message at the end of the rally.

"It feels like things are getting shaky," she said.

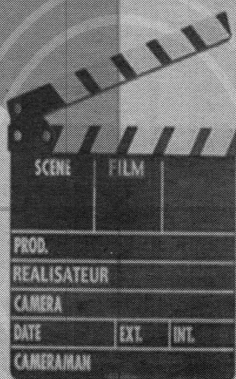
News Co-Editor Tanja Zlatkovic contributed to this article.



Kent Brockwell

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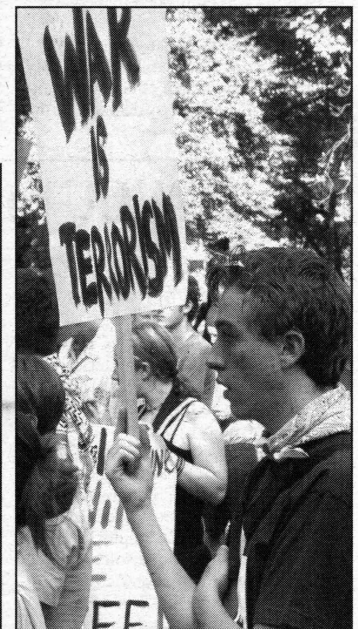
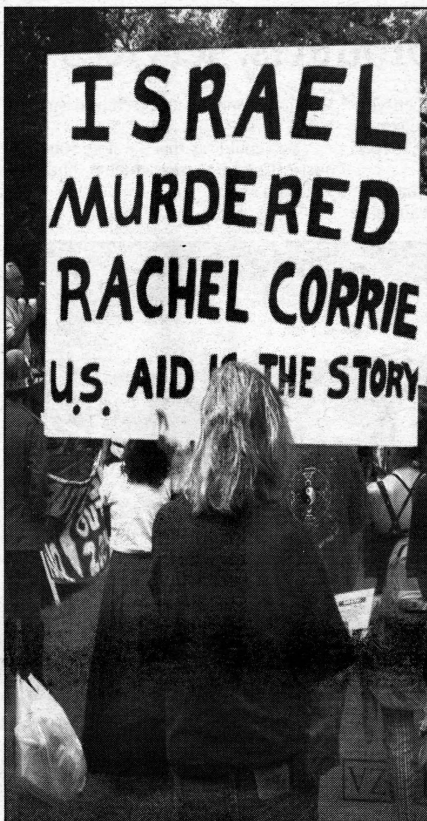
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NEWS



ANTI-WAR ACTION AND ACTIVISM



All
photos
by
Kent
Brockwell
Photo
Editor



NEWS

Three windows replaced, cause of damage remains unknown *Traffic halted on Main Street while glass removed*

MATT BUSSE
News Co-Editor

Three windows on the east side of the walkway connecting Oliver Hall to the School of Business building were found damaged Friday morning, but university officials and police said they don't know exactly what caused the damage or when it occurred. VCU facilities management crews arrived early that afternoon to knock the fractured glass out of the windows and clean up the mess.

Brian Ohlinger, associate vice president for facilities management, said those windows consisted of two plates of glass with a sheet of film between them, and while the outer panes of each window had been damaged the rest remained intact.

Facilities management officials discovered two to three dime-sized holes in each plate of glass. Ohlinger speculated that a vandal with rocks or a pellet rifle could have broken the window but added that there was not enough evidence to be sure.

"Nothing was embedded in the glass," he said.

Carlton Edwards, deputy chief of VCU police, agreed that vandals could possibly be to blame but said that police were simply considering it property damage for the time being.

"Somebody might have shot a BB," he said, "but that's just speculation. There's no evidence that somebody actually broke it."

Ohlinger said the windows will cost \$5,000 to \$7,000 to replace and will take two to three weeks for the glass to be specially made.

VCU police and facilities management officials began marking off the area around 1:20 p.m. with yellow tape and orange plastic cones. By 1:45 p.m. all pedestrian traffic was directed away from the scene.

At approximately 2:10 p.m. police stopped traffic on Main Street while workers laid blue tarp across the road and on cars to catch the shards that would fall from the windows. The workers then used hammers to knock out the glass from the inside of the building. By 2:25 p.m. nearly all the glass had been removed from the windows and swept off the roads. Traffic began moving through the left lane again.

Some drivers and pedestrians appeared unhappy with the situation. Janice Williams, a passenger on a Kids-N-Us Child Care Center bus, said she thought it would have been better to stop traffic at an intersection instead of on Main Street just before the skywalk.

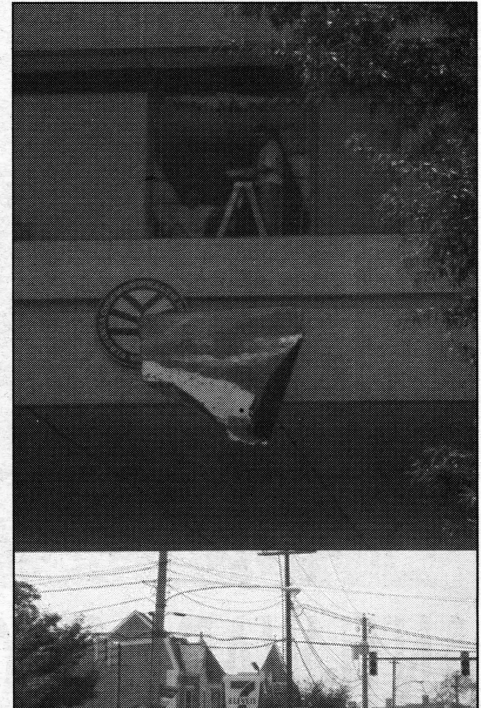
"It would have been common sense to

block the road off at a turn so people could make detours," she said. "VCU wasn't thinking on this one."

Ohlinger said the windows could have been damaged Thursday night or even two months ago. Because the window blinds were shut on the inside and the glass was a dark smoky color, it would be difficult to notice the damage.

A VCU professor was sitting at a computer next to one of the shattered windows when he noticed the damaged glass. He called the Facilities Management Department around 10:30 a.m., Ohlinger said.

All three windows were part of a mathematics computer laboratory. Currently the window frames are filled with a type of wooden board.



Workers knock out damaged glass

Kent Brockwell

Online@VCU connects students to computer products, services

LERON LEWIS
Special Correspondent

Books for fall semester at VCU: \$332. Room and board for two semesters: \$412. One semester riding GRTC: \$50. Having a store on campus to buy discounted computer equipment: priceless.

Online@VCU offers a variety of products and services at an affordable cost to members of the VCU community and is located in the University Student Commons on the Academic Campus.

"We have hardware and software. We provide our own Internet service and also make repairs to computers," online@VCU manager Allan Brooks said.

But the question still remains: How cheap is online@VCU in comparison to major electronic chains such as Best Buy and Circuit City?

"What makes online@VCU so special is that we have discounts that can save you up to \$300 to \$400," said online@VCU salesperson Jawed Sabbah.

Members of the VCU community, including its students, faculty, staff and departments can receive discounted prices on computer hardware, software and Internet service as well as computer repairs and upgrades at online@VCU. The store also sells both Dell and Apple com-

puters.

Even though the store's technology service center is factory-authorized to perform work on Dell and Apple computers, it also works on other makes and models. Students receive an educational discount rate of \$35 per hour for computer upgrades and repairs.

"It's cheaper to come here than (to go to another computer store)," Brooks said.

The store also sells items such as laptop carriers, Web page design programs, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Pagemaker.

Students have found online@VCU a useful and informative tool. Even if it does not have what students need, its employees may be of some assistance.

"I went in there and they didn't have the cord I needed for my laptop," said sophomore Walt Goree. "But they told me where I could find it and how much I should pay for it."

Goree is not the only one who praises the store's credibility. Other students agree the store provides assistance for computer problems that may come up.

"They were really helpful," said Kenya Johnston, a senior at VCU. "When I went in they didn't have the cord that I needed, but they told me when to come back and they would have it."

Online@VCU also provides its own Internet service.

"You save a lot of money when you shop here," Sabbah said. "Where else can you find Internet access for only \$9.75 (per month)?"

The store offers a variety of Internet service plans and packages that include

additional options and technical support seven days a week.

"You could say that the store was very cost-efficient to my student budget," Johnston said.



Online@VCU in the University Student Commons

Kent Brockwell

NEWS

Rhoads Hall addition completion set for fall 2005

KENT BROCKWELL
Staff Writer

Rhoads Hall residents soon may be seeing double with VCU's plans to build another high-rise dormitory adjacent to the Rhoads building at 710 W. Franklin St.

Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services, said the new 600-bed addition should be finished in two years. The new tower will replace the lower building at Rhoads Hall, which Rhone referred to as "the west wing."

"We are well into the planning stage," he said. "We hope we can open it by the fall of 2005."

The proposed building will differ slightly from Rhoads Hall, he said. The tower contains 600 beds and each floor shares a large common bathroom. Rooms in the new tower will be separated into quadrants and each grouping will share a single bathroom.



Mary, 19, a business major and Rhoads Hall resident who asked that her last name not be published, said a new building would be great but she foresees the same problems for the new building that now plague the Rhoads tower.

"I live on the 17th floor," she said. "The elevators are always a problem."

Ryan Semonich, 19, a marketing major who is also a Rhoads Hall resident, expressed concern that construction of a new building would raise the price of room and board.

Although Rhone did not comment on the proposed cost for the new building, he said funding for dormitory construction comes from student boarding fees.

"The rents are scaled to pay for construction costs," Rhone said, "and to pay for bonds and debt (incurred during construction) to cover the expense of the building as well as the operational costs. No state dollars go to housing. That is the policy of the state of Virginia."

Semonich also predicted complications between the construction project and the tenants.

"It will probably be harder to study

because of the noise," he said.

Rhone, who said he foresees some complications between the construction area and the residents, predicted problems would be minimal.

"There is likely to be some noise," he said. "But it will be confined to normal working hours like 7 or 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon."

The vice provost also predicted complications with both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, saying residents probably will have to enter and exit the building through the same door and will have to avoid a protected construction site.

"It is a very tight location," he said. "There might be slower traffic on Franklin Street near the dormitory."

College life requires work, preparation

TRACEY COX
Staff Writer

Some first-year college students seem unaware of the strict demands they face when beginning their careers in higher education.

Mia Dodson, a junior transfer student and psychology major at VCU, said she initially worried about being "swallowed up" when she came to the university but adjusted to the transition.

"Often we concoct an image of what we hope furthering our education is all about but the fantasy is nothing of the reality," Dodson said.

Jon Steingass, director of undergraduate academic advising for the College of Humanities and Sciences said, "Many incoming first-year students are unprepared to handle the academic rigor of college courses because they have not fully developed their study (skills) and self-management skills."

"Based on our data, some students are not academically successful because educational goals are not congruent with academic strength. Inappropriate course selection and poor scheduling, failure to adjust to the increased expectations of the university environment and other activities such as jobs and social (lives) take priority over academics," he said.

VCU admissions counselors recommend high school students take college preparation courses and visit colleges of their choice.

"A sound approach to helping first-year students develop study and self-management skills is through the course Introduction to the University 101, academic advising sessions and workshops strategically offered throughout the freshman year," Steingass said.

Admissions counselors said students must read to stay informed, contact departments with questions and explore the college Web site.

Susan Passmore, assistant director in the office of undergraduate admissions, said, "First-year students should take advantage of the Student Testing Advising Registration process and all it has to offer."

"Through STAR, freshmen can choose to be in an interest group with students of the same major and have up to three classes in common, which helps students to connect."

Dodson said, "College is full of opportunities if you look for them. It helps a lot to go to lecture, communicate with your professors and use the library but most of all relax and enjoy your education."

A Very Special Thanks

The 11 special correspondents for the first two issues of The Commonwealth Times are a special group of high school seniors who were on campus in late July to participate in a special journalism workshop in the School of Mass Communications. The seniors, specially selected by a team of professional journalists, spent a week in the statewide High School Editors' Workshop sponsored by the Virginia Press Association, the Virginia High School League and VCU.

The correspondents and schools they represented:

Donna Eversole of Thomas Dale HS
Caroline Friedman of Annandale HS
Kate Heubach of Harrison HS
Allison Horton of Jeb Stuart HS
Aria V. Hughes of Woodbridge HS
Kristina Hyatt of Tabb HS
Rebecca Landau of Middlesex HS
LeRon Lewis of Massaponax HS
Helen Sim of McLean HS
Maria Tchijov of The Potomac School
John Whittet of Douglas Freeman HS

Next Thursday's edition will feature stories written by six other correspondents attending the editors' workshop.

—Devon Marrow,
Executive Editor



The building in the foreground will be razed to make the addition.

SPORTS

Women's soccer warms up for season opener

Exhibition game a loss

TYLER COOPER

Sports Editor

Georgetown University's women's soccer team sneaked two extra goals past the Rams' netminder to win 4-2 at Thursday night's exhibition game at the Sports Backers Stadium.

The Rams started the game strong with a 1-0 lead in the first period when junior Jen Parsons connected with a feed by senior Genevieve Tremblay.

The Hoyas evened the score late in the period when senior Jesse Beers-Altman

scored from a rebound shot originating from sophomore teammate Shara McNeill.

During the second period the Hoyas goaltender took down sophomore Sandra Anger, allowing VCU a penalty kick. Senior Leah Robinson used the opportunity to kick one past Georgetown, and take control of the game with a 2-1 lead.

Georgetown then evened the score in the 62nd minute of game play when freshman Chrissy Skogen scored off a cross by senior Courtney Shaub. They went on to take a 3-2 lead when sophomore McNeill beat the Rams' goaltender Miranda Northcutt.

With only 4:18 remaining in the game

the Hoyas widened their lead. McNeill headed a corner kick home and won the game with a 4-2 lead over the Rams.

VCU's season opener versus the Richmond Spiders will be played 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30 at the Sports Backers Stadium.

The game will be broadcast on the VCU athletics Web site, www.vcurams.vcu.edu.



The Commonwealth Times is seeking sports writers and an associate sports editor for the 2003 school year.

Contact Tyler Cooper for an interview: coopertt@vcu.edu

Upcoming Sports Events

Friday, Aug. 29

Volleyball

High Point Invitational
vs. Appalachian State, 3 p.m.
vs. Georgia State, 7 p.m.
High Point, N.C.

Men's Soccer

VCU Nike/Alltel Classic
vs. West Virginia, 8 p.m.
Sports Backers Stadium

Saturday, Aug. 30

Field Hockey

vs. St. Louis 1:00 p.m.
Boone, N.C..

Volleyball

vs. High Point, 11 a.m.
vs. Georgia Southern, 3 p.m.
High Point, N.C.

Women's Soccer

vs. Richmond, 7 p.m.
Sports Backers Stadium

Sunday, Aug. 31

Field Hockey

vs. Appalachian State, 1 p.m.
Boone, N.C.

Men's Soccer

VCU Nike/Alltel Classic
vs. Clemson, 3:30 p.m.
Sports Backers Stadium

For more information contact the VCU Sports line: 828-7000. VCU sporting events are free to students with a valid VCU student ID.

VCU men's soccer scores high in Division 1 preseason poll

TYLER COOPER

Sports Editor

The VCU men's soccer team returned to last season's form after tying A-league team The Richmond Kickers in an exhibition game that kicked off the fall season.

The Rams are defending their Colonial Athletic Association championship title this season and have earned a 22nd place ranking on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Adidas preseason Division 1 poll.

The Rams finished the 2003 season with a 7-1-1 record during conference play, and won their first CAA tournament since



1997.

During the upcoming season the Rams will square off against four teams listed in the NSCAA/Adidas poll. On Sept. 18, No. 2 ranked Maryland will battle VCU at the Sports Backers Stadium. VCU will also contend with No. 9 ranked Clemson, No. 14 Virginia Spiders, and No. 19 North

Carolina during conference play.

The season opener kicks off on Friday, Aug. 29, when the Rams host the sixth annual Nike/Alltel Soccer Classic versus West Virginia at the Sports Backers Stadium.


On Sunday, Aug. 31, the Rams will take on Clemson to top off the tournament.

Final score: 1-1.

We want to hear from you!



Send your comments and letters to ctvcu@hotmail.com.

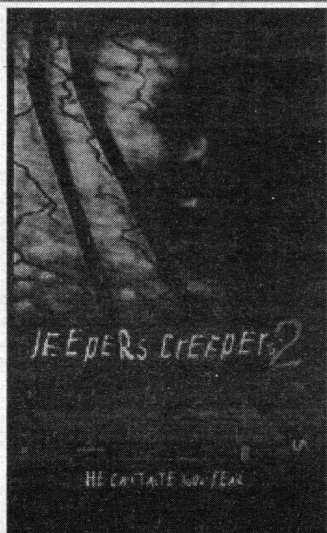


Spectrum

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OPENS IN THEATRES AUG. 29



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Spectrum

George Clinton funks up Richmond

MELISSA LYNCH
Spectrum Editor

"We're gonna party like it's 1979," George Clinton said at Saturday's concert on Brown's Island.

Clinton, who performed with the P-Funk All-Stars, created that atmosphere by turning each song into a 15- to 20-minute jam session while preaching to the audience about various non-sensical topics between songs.

He is the mastermind behind the funk bands Parliament and Funkadelic. Members from both bands, as well as some new members, were playing with him.

The elaborate Mothership that I was looking forward to was not present Saturday night. In its place was a helium balloon that slightly resembled a UFO.

Aside from that let down the show was great. It was the most bizarre concert that I have attended but it was extremely entertaining.

The stage overflowed at times with about 15 people singing and playing instruments at once. However, there was hardly a moment that I watched anyone but the orange-haired man in the center of the stage.

Clinton was amazing. His energy, particularly for a 62-year-old, outshined the younger members of his ensemble.

The one person who could steal attention from Clinton was a guitarist wearing a diaper. His guitar solos were lengthy and at times overdone, but his ensemble had 'entertainment value' written all over it.

Sir Nose, who Clinton described as "devoid of funk," was another interesting character.

After a few fast-paced songs, which

added up to an hour and 45 minutes, Clinton brought the energy down with some mellow songs like "Free your mind and your a-s will follow."

The concert had an amazingly diverse audience. It was

interesting that Clinton could connect with teenagers and 30-year-olds as well as people closer to his age. That is one reason his career has spanned five decades, his first major hit was in 1967, and shows no sign of slowing.

He relates so well with younger people because he is

constantly working with them. Saturday night he brought a young female rapper onstage to jam with him. He has also worked with artists like OutKast and Missy Elliott.

While the audience loved Clinton, they were not as pleased with the opening act, DJ Kool. Having to stall for two and a half hours until Clinton arrived must have been difficult, but he did not handle the pressure well.

When he was not talking about his Pepsi commercial appearances, DJ Kool was playing the same songs repeatedly.

The audience responded well to his song, "Let me clear my throat," but he cut it off before the song could finish.

By the two-hour mark audience members were hostilely yelling for him to get off the stage.

Thankfully, the pseudo-Mothership landed and Clinton funk'd Brown's Island up.



George Clinton turned this motha out.

Marcy Guiragossian

Zodiac Cookies



Zodiac Cookies

Virgo: If someone asks you for directions this week, stop and help out. You'll need that karma once you get lost going to graduate school.

Libra: Charming as you are, you have the ability to make people eat out of the palm of your hand. Be sure to wash it first.

Scorpio: You may be fooled into thinking some dumb writer is a grand oracle of some description.

Sagittarius: It's not always the bad guys who wear black. Sometimes it's also Johnny Cash wannabes.

Capricorn: Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you can take Ibuprofen.

Aquarius: Running around in circles is only frustrating if you don't think about all the exercise you're getting.

Pisces: Your favorite TV show in syndication will be an episode you've already seen, but at least it's a good one.

Aries: Try the NASCAR philosophy today: don't be afraid to give those in your way a little bump, but always be sure to thank all the sponsors who have helped you along the way.

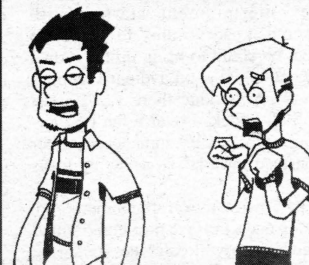
Taurus: Don't try and cut every corner with your upcoming assignment. They'll find out when you turn in a round piece of paper.

Gemini: Victory is yours. Don't be afraid to celebrate, but avoid gloating.

Cancer: News may come from afar. I didn't say it was good news.

Leo: For those wanting to curl up in a ball and die, look at the example of the cat: they curl up into a ball, sure, but they just sleep and generally wake up in a better mood.

Say What?!



Caption Contest

Can you think of a clever caption for this cartoon? E-mail it to ctveu@hotmail.com with the subject line Caption Contest by Tuesday Sept. 2. Include your name and phone number in the entry.

Spectrum

Virginia rockers... ...sink or swim?



Copper Sails played well, but failed to conduct crowd electricity.

Brad Wells

MICHAEL GLENNON
Associate Spectrum Editor

Alley Katz featured the musical talents of central Virginia's Supercomp and Copper Sails Friday night, as well as Virginia Beach's Lucky Town. The show itself was much better than the low crowd turnout and comatose reaction might lead one to believe.

The entertainment started with Supercomp. Lead vocalist Josh Scolaro did what he could to bring up the crowd energy and had a good audience rapport, but no one was quite there yet. Bassist Bryan Stell knocked over a fan (the air-circulation type, not the audience-member type) onstage but didn't stop playing, to his credit.

Lucky Town came on after Supercomp. The group had a more pop-oriented sound than Supercomp, with catchiness being the order of the day. Evidence of this can be found in the group's song "Better," which borrows from the equally catchy Led Zepelin song "Ramble On." It's enough that one notices it straight away, but not so much as to be the same song at all.

The band had put some thought into their look and some effort into their stage movements and interactions. However,

vocalist Courtney Criswell looked a little postured and it took her a few songs to look natural on stage. This may have been partially due to a photographer taking shots from various angles, as she occasionally posed for him during songs. It didn't take away from the show that much, though, and Criswell did look immediately at home behind her guitar, whose sparkle-covered front caused some fun reflecting light effects. During the last number, the photographer stood behind the railing of the mezzanine and flailed his arms, trying to get the crowd below to move around a little. One or two took notice, but all in all the audience was more into listening than dancing.

Copper Sails rounded out the show. Their opening piece featured some show, with lighting tricks centered around the drummer. It's not a bad idea, but with a stage that small and close to the audience it doesn't come off as well as it might.

The technical problems continued for the band throughout the show, as guitarist and vocalist Jonathan Crawley had problems with his monitor. Additionally, the group had one or two bad feedback moments.

Despite these things, Copper Sails had an impressive sound. It was full without being over-the-top, Creed-style full. This could be heard particularly in the group's

fourth song of the night, "Sink or Swim."

Certainly their music itself is more imaginative than many rock groups. Songs like "Loud and Clear" and "Rid of You" featured interesting chord progressions, the latter showed that bassist and vocalist Boomer Muth isn't afraid to use his falsetto voice. That's a good thing, by the way. "Silo," earlier in their set, was a highly charged piece in 7/8ths time, something like a waltz with a hiccup.

Still, the crowd never got too excited. Muth said he hoped to get the crowd's energy up by playing something they knew. To this end, Copper Sails played the Pink Floyd song "Run Like Hell." Unfortunately, 1979 may have been too long ago for this crowd to remember. Copper Sails didn't have any of the elaborate voice effects or other trademarks of Pink Floyd, but this cover proves the song works well on its own merits.

These three groups have all the potential in the world. Given time, any one of them could break into a long-term contract. One could almost say that Copper Sails, in particular, is ready for prime time. They've artfully managed to walk the fine line between refined and slick, and hopefully will continue to do so.

WHILE You Were Out

WWE Smackdown!

Kurt Angle promises to get his revenge against Brock Lesnar and asks for not a match, but a fight against Lesnar and Vince McMahon. McMahon responds by saying this business is about what he wants, and adds that if Angle touches Lesnar or McMahon tonight, McMahon will fire Angle. McMahon announces Angle's opponent for the night, the Big Show. Angle immediately attacks the Big Show and security pulls him away backstage.

Backstage, McMahon adds a stipulation to the Angle vs. Big Show match: It's a falls-count-anywhere street fight.

Rey Mysterio vs. Matt Hardy: Billy Kidman is banned from ringside after the referee sees him threatening Shannon Moore. Moore later tries to interfere, but Zack Gowen evens the odds by hitting Hardy with a cane. Mysterio wins by pin.

McMahon gives Lesnar his opponent for the night: Zach Gowen. Lesnar promises to break Gowen's leg.

Billy Gunn and Jamie Noble vs. the Basham Brothers: Doug Basham pins Noble, although Danny Basham was the legal man.

Brock Lesnar vs. Zach Gowen: Lesnar tosses Gowen around before disqualifying himself by using a steel chair.

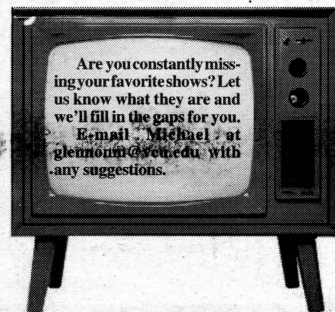
John Cena and A-Train vs. Orlando Jordan and the Undertaker: A-Train hits Undertaker in the ribs with a chain, allowing Cena to give Undertaker a roll-up pin.

After the match, Sable tells A-Train she wants to personally thank him for helping McMahon, and that she'll be waiting for him at a penthouse.

Eddie Guerrero and Rhyno vs. Tajiri and Chris Benoit: Rhyno pins Tajiri after using the Gore. After the match, Eddie Guerrero hits Rhyno with his Title belt.

Kurt Angle vs. the Big Show, falls count anywhere street fight: Angle ambushes the Big Show as the Big Show's introduction starts. Kurt Angle eventually Angleslams the Big Show through a table and pins him.

After the match, Brock Lesnar walks out to the entryway and stares down Angle.



Spectrum

The Mars Volta breaks concept-album stigma

ALEX WOOLRIDGE
Spectrum Writer

The Mars Volta is At The Drive-In after reconstructive surgery. Not the barely noticeable nose job kind, it's the all-out, cut-everything-off-and-start-from-the-ground-up approach that Cher got.

There are only two members of ATDI present on "De-Loused In the Comatorium," and things have radically changed since those punk rock-filled days.

It's easy to get a bit skeptical when the words "experimental" and "concept album" appear in every review of an album, but creativity and skill work hand in hand enough to ease the fears brought on by the terrifying amount of praise this album has received.

On "De-Loused," magical riffs spill out of nowhere meanwhile Jon Theodore pounds away on the drums with the kind of energy that can only be achieved by a cocaine addict after six cans of Red Bull.

While at least half of the tracks leave an impression of insanity and disregard for conventional song structures, every explosion of sound is too calculated to be passed off as a noisy temper tantrum.

The Mars Volta set out to inject artist Julio Venegas' suffering into the sound and lyrics on this album, and that idea works out with fascinating and even eerie results.

"Roulette Dares (This is the Haunt)" pummels you with deafening, fidgety guitars and then snores off into a light slumber. The sudden shyness lasts through the following instrumental song, which changes the pace drastically after the bursting, desperate sounds that littered the second and third tracks.

Instability becomes a theme on "De-Loused;" at times this dual afro-powered post-punk prog-rocking band's decisions

seem almost as neurotic and random as Perry Farrell's wardrobe. However, any hopes of a more traditional direction brought on by the calm "Tira me a Las Arañas" are ripped to shreds by "Drunkship of Lanterns," which is as ferocious as it is trippy.

Cedric Bixler Zavala's vocal approach fits this project extremely well, representing the desperation and suffering of Venegas, who committed suicide after a lengthy physical deterioration.

I was never a fan of At the Drive-In, but Zavala's voice seems like it wouldn't work as well in a musical atmosphere aside from the macabre one created by guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez and company on "De-Loused." His voice fits the songs on the record so well that it would seem weird accompanied by any other sound.

The glue that holds together the tormented fantasy world presented by The Mars Volta may be producer Rick Rubin, who has a healthy track record of overseeing discs that become lightning rods for attention and acclaim. Rubin's past is

loaded with genre-crossing, landmark albums including Johnny Cash's "American IV: The Man Comes Around," Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Blood Sugar Sex Magik," and true rap classics "King of Rock" and "It Takes A Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back" by Run-D.M.C. and Public Enemy respectively. Not to mention each System Of A Down CD, and plenty of records by The Cult and Danzig.

Luckily for The Mars Volta, they got Rick Rubin in his legendary form, not the one that produced albums by Eagle-Eye Cherry and Lil' Kim.

There are downsides to "De-Loused" also, but they hardly bring down the album as a whole. Certainly, some of the eclectic songs aren't fully effective or technically brilliant, but everything still serves to create the unique environment of the record. It would be foolish to rip the record because a moment or two isn't flawlessly clean.

With "De-Loused in the Comatorium" The Mars Volta had to avoid being labeled as either too artsy or disconnected musi-

cally and somehow they created a sound that's ideal for what they were trying to accomplish. They achieved this without alienating a new audience or disappointing their At The Drive-In fans. The slower songs work just as well as the heavier ones, and not much is overdramatic or created without a healthy helping of passion.

The Mars Volta "De-Loused in the Comatorium"

Final Score:

★★★★
(out of 5)

Happenings

Monday Aug. 25

Brad Spivey and the Honky Tonk Experience play Poe's Pub at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5. 2706 E. Main St. 648-2120

Tuesday Aug. 26

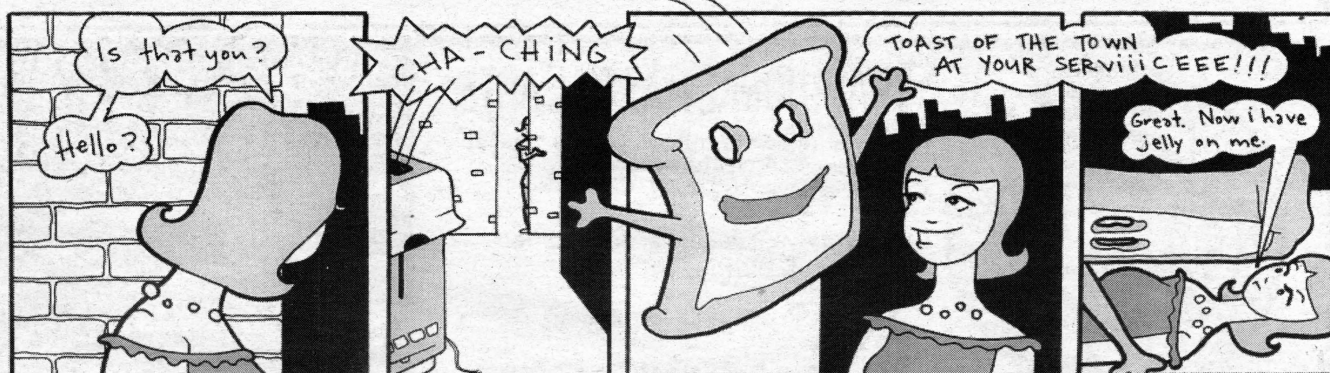
The Cultural Art Center at Glen Allen's current exhibit, "**The Imagined Image**," will be up through Oct. 2. "The Imagined Image" features work from Mark Bryant, Jennifer Cox, Anna Golden, Freya Grand and Wolfgang Jasper. 2880 Mountain Rd. 261-6200

Wednesday Aug. 27

Astronomer Ken Wilson presents a **Beginner's Guide to Mars** at the Science Museum of Virginia at 8 p.m. Following the guide is a Mars Watch with the Richmond Astronomical Society at 9 p.m. Both programs are free. 2500 W. Broad St. 864-1407

Blue Oyster Cult plays Innsbrook After Hours at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at Plan 9 and at the gate. 4901 Lake Brook Drive 217-8801

By Carolyn Belefski



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OP/ED

Where Have All the Floors Gone?

ALEXANDER MARRA

Op/Ed Writer

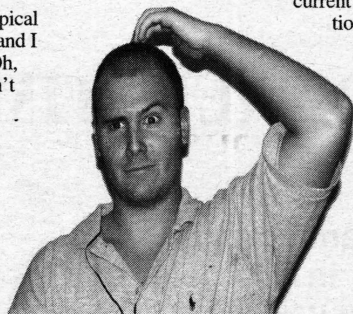
We are all familiar with VCU's infamous construction schemes. We've fought them, protested, spoke out against the budget and its strange mechanics. We've all said phrases like, "How can they build these monstrocities when we can't even get into a class?" We complain that we don't need a new addition to the University Student Commons (what is going to be in that thing anyways?), or we are annoyed that we have to wear a hard hat on the way to class. But, folks, we've had it easy up until now. The nuisances were so minor compared to the atrocity I found myself in on the first day of school. Yes Virginia, I am talking about VCU's School of Business Building.

We have no floors! And the construction smell that accompanies this eyesore is even worse. How can I concentrate on the Ancient Greeks when I am getting high off turpentine and asbestos? These rooms are beyond uncomfortable; they are hazardous.

I remember giving tours to all the prospective students this past summer. They would ask what a typical classroom was like and I would tell them. "Oh, you know, they aren't much different than your high school ones...four walls, a ceiling and a floor with a bunch of desks." I lied.

There are no floors. But how was I to know that VCU thinks it is okay to begin a construction project only to finish half a year later?

Yes, yes, the power and prestige lie in the heart of our strong academic programs. But the classroom is the home of our academic programs. It is the shell that contains them, it is the body of our academic soul, and it is in dire need of a makeover...but not during the academic year!



These rooms are beyond uncomfortable, they are hazardous.

is exactly what VCU has done and it is unacceptable. For now, we can only chip in and buy one of those dorm rugs that guy was selling outside. As for the rancid unhealthy stench, I can only recommend gas masks.

BUSH CONTEMPLATES THE CALIFORNIA RECALL...



BY MIKE TALLEY

I'm all for the renovation of our buildings. I'm sure you can tell by my disappointment in their current dispicable conditions. But I am not asking too much by wishing that the renovations take place, say, in the summer, or during Christmas break, anywhere but during my Monday morning class! And hasn't your mother ever told you never to start a project only to leave it unfinished? That

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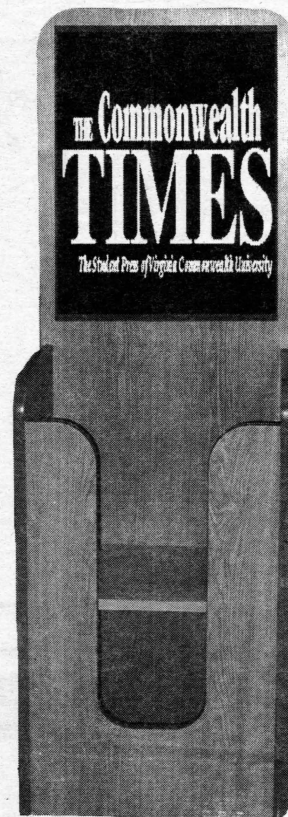
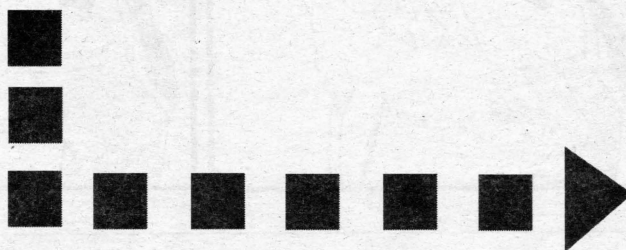
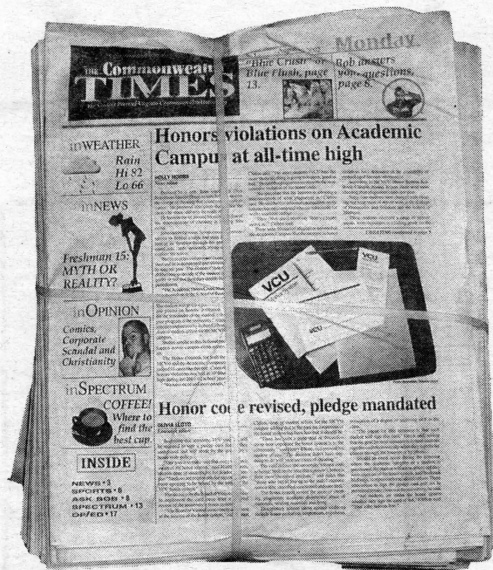
WRITERS

Alexander Marra

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

Please send letters to CTEditor03@yahoo.com. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building.



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