

The Commonwealth Times

FREE

OutKast – thinking outside the ‘boxxx?’

*Read
Thursday’s
issue!*

‘Reading days’ canceled



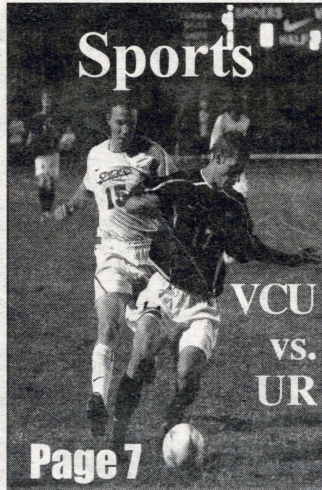
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SGA speak out**
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**VCU
welcomes a
new assistant
vice provost**

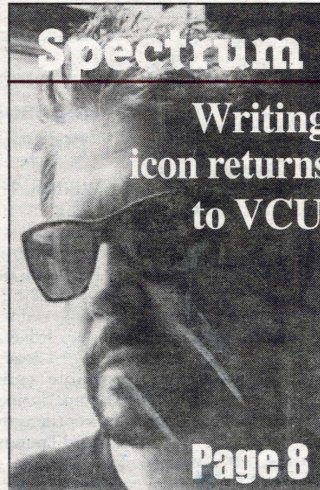
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Isabel’s dam-
age to VCU
students**

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IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

SEPT. 29 THROUGH OCT. 1

Monday, Sept. 29	Tuesday, Sept. 30	Wednesday, Oct. 1
Need your academics to be a little more successful? Attend the Academic Success Program Workshop from noon until 1 p.m. in the School of Business auditorium. Sponsored by University Counseling Services. For more information contact 828-6200.	Today there's another Academic Success Program and this one is aimed at international students! It begins at 4 p.m. in the Forum Room of the University Student Commons and is scheduled to last until 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by University Counseling Services. For more information contact 828-6200.	Listen to Dr. Scott Leischow speak about "NCT's (National Cancer Institute) Tobacco Control Research Initiatives: Advancing Cancer Control for Public Health" at the Massey Cancer Center from noon until 1 p.m. This event is open to the public. For more information, contact 628-1897.

CAMPUS FORECAST



Monday
69/48



Tuesday
69/45



Wednesday
66/41



Thursday
64/46

French deck has Rumsfeld as ace of spades

The Reseau Voltaire group in Paris has released a pack of playing cards that gives a new twist to the United States' famous deck depicting members of Saddam Hussein's now-defunct administration. The French deck portrays U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld as the ace of spades and Osama bin Laden as a joker. President Bush is the king of diamonds, the suit designated as a symbol of economic power. Thierry Meyssan, president of the group, had previously written a book, *L'Effroyable Imposture*, that accused the United States of planning the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Judge who ruled against do-not-call list is on it

The office phone number of U.S. District Judge Edward Nottingham, who ruled Thursday that the Federal Trade Commission's do-not-call list is unconstitutional, was registered on the list July 28. The do-not-call list is a registry maintained by the FTC designed to prevent telemarketers' calls. Nottingham ruled the list is an unconstitutional infringement on free speech. It is unknown whether Nottingham himself registered the office number or whether he even knew it had been registered.

Karaoke for Xbox announced

Microsoft Corp., which manufactures the Xbox gaming

console, has announced it will begin selling karaoke software for the platform. The Music Mixer package will include a microphone and software for customers to transfer music and image files to the Xbox for play-back on their TVs. Microsoft hopes the new karaoke package will broaden the Xbox's appeal to consumers.

Minister pleads guilty to robbing banks

Jerry Hayes, a 52-year-old Pentecostal minister of Hartford, Maine, pleaded guilty Thursday to robbing five banks in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was arrested in May after taking \$2,550 from a teller, who also gave him a dye pack that later exploded. Police found a .38-caliber handgun in Hayes' car at the time of his arrest. Hayes robbed the banks of more than \$10,000 altogether. He faces up to 20 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines for each of the five charges.

Man sues, claiming imprisonment in portable toilet

William Tremmel, 68, of Altoona, Pa., filed a lawsuit last month against Weeks Marine Inc., a company hired to clean up Virginia Beach. Tremmel, who is seeking \$100,000 in the lawsuit, claims a Weeks employee drove a bulldozer or front-end loader in front of a portable toilet, trapping Tremmel inside. Weeks Marine does not deny that the employee trapped Tremmel inside the toilet but claims the worker was exercising his right because

Tremmel was not an employee of the company and therefore not allowed to use the toilet.

Bear-attack victim binds wounds with duct tape

Bill Murphy, 54, was hunting moose and sheep on a remote Alaskan trail when a mother bear, accompanied by her cub, attacked him. The bear pinned Murphy, seized his right shoulder in her jaw and shook him violently. After a while, the bear got up and Murphy went to shoot her - but the bear had broken his rifle. He wrapped duct tape around his shoulder and cloth around his thigh, then rode an all-terrain vehicle 15 miles to his pickup truck before driving half an hour to a hospital.

Microchip reunites pet with owner

Chris Inglis' black cat, Ted, was reunited with his owner after 10 years apart. In the early 1990s, Ted had been implanted with a microchip designed to identify pets' owners should they become separated. Someone found Ted and took him to the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA in California, where employees scanned the microchip and contacted Inglis, despite the fact that the microchip's information was outdated.

Coverphoto by Kent Brockwell.

Sports teaser photo by Pat Kane.

Spectrum cover photo by VCU Libraries.

THE Commonwealth TIMES

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NEWS

Student government to fight 'reading day' cancellation

TANJA ZLATKOVIC
News Co-Editor

The VCU administration confirmed Friday that the "reading days" on Oct. 16 and 17 will be canceled because of the lost instructional days during Hurricane Isabel. The Academic Campus Student Government Association has made it their primary goal to reverse that decision.

"This is an issue that needs to go straight to the administration," said Daniel Tanner, SGA chief of staff. "If this is something that we feel we can reverse, we have to act as soon as possible."

According to an SGA survey of 1,303 undergraduate students, which represents approximately one-tenth of the undergraduate population at VCU, 93 percent opposed or strongly opposed the cancellation of the fall semester "reading days."

"The (SGA) president has received hundreds and hundreds of e-mails from students who don't agree with the VCU decision," Tanner said. "This outcry shows that this is something the student body wants corrected."

Even though the cancellation might cause some unanticipated problems for students who have already made alternative arrangements, Roderick McDavis, provost and vice president for student affairs, said it is important to make up as much of the lost instructional time as possible.

"If you made plans to be off-campus, we hope that you will either be able to cancel those plans, or if not, I suggest that you speak

directly with your faculty members to see if some flexibility can be accommodated for your individual situations," he wrote Friday in an e-mail to students informing them about the decision to cancel the "reading days."

Although instruction time is important, Tanner said, the SGA's concern is that other universities in Virginia have fewer instructional days and still do not have to compen-

sate for canceled classes.

With 66 days of class during the fall semester, University of Virginia's students have a shorter semester than VCU students, who attend school 72 days during the fall. Additionally, UVA also has reading days in October, which were not canceled even though the school was closed for two days during the hurricane.

"If we have to be in school for a certain

period of time," Tanner asked, "why is an institution like UVA allowed to have a shorter semester, miss days during the hurricane and still not be affected?" He added that without the break in the fall, students at VCU will attend classes for three months without any days off.

A second concern Tanner addressed is that last semester, VCU was closed for snow days without any compensation of lost instructional time. Inclement weather days are incorporated into the schedule and the hurricane should fall into that category, he argued.

Finally, Tanner said, the VCU administration did not communicate the plans to cancel the "reading days" to the student body until the decision was already made.

"We should have been the first ones to know," he said.

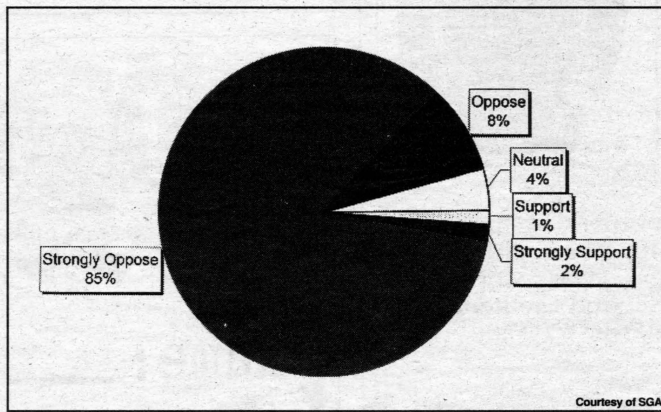
While many students oppose VCU's decision on the "reading days," some said they don't have a problem with the administration's decision.

Matt Laird, first-year student, said he does not oppose the cancellation of the "reading days."

"If that is all they are taking away, that will be fine," he said.

Amy Packett, first-year student, disagrees. She was disappointed about the decision to cancel the "reading days," she said, because she planned to use that time and catch up on school work.

"I signed a petition to keep from losing our fall break," she said. "You need a break to study."



Students' responses to the question posed by the Student Government Association: "What are your feelings toward using reading days (fall break) to make up for the missing days due to inclement weather?"

Hampton to fill assistant vice provost position

JONATHAN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

As Salt Lake City prepared for the 2002 Winter Olympics, Mark Hampton didn't like the way things were going in the city. So he worked his way up the ladder at a community radio station until he earned his own show.

Now he's VCU's assistant vice provost for institutional research, evaluation and planning.

"The kind of institution that VCU is - is the kind of institution I most wanted to work with," Hampton said. "It's an urban university - very diverse student body. It's a university that 40 years ago didn't really exist as it exists now. So it's had to, in many ways, invent itself around a very strong medical program, a very strong arts program, the professional institute — and that's a very interesting phenomenon. But comes with it: a very interesting set of challenges."

Though Hampton produced his own radio show, that's not his only experience that helps him meet the challenges at VCU. He also brings his 10 years of experience with people at the University of Utah at Salt Lake City. At various

points in his career there he served as a student researcher, as an instructor of mathematics and as the director of institutional analysis. In addition, when he served as that school's manager of budget operations and information he worked with a \$1 billion university budget.

Roderick McDavis, VCU's provost and vice president for academic affairs, said he didn't know Hampton personally, but he did know of him before VCU hired the former Utah resident.

"Everything that I had heard about him was positive," McDavis said. "So when he submitted his application for the position I was thrilled."

Hampton said after being at Utah for 10 years he decided it was time for a change. Thus he began considering a position with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, which was advertising for an institutional-effectiveness director.

That office gave him the chance to work with the community colleges and the universities in the commonwealth.

While working at SCHEV Hampton became interested in VCU.

The first challenge he listed - and McDavis echoed - concerned VCU's retention and graduation rates. Hampton

wants to improve those rates and analyze the problem of why students start at VCU and then leave. He also wants to determine why it takes students so long to graduate because he suggests "this institution could do better."

Furthermore Hampton plans to study the most effective way to turn VCU into a more data-driven university, which ranks high on the higher administrations list.

"His role as a leader in this area," McDavis said, "will be to work with the academic units, will be to work with the vice presidents, the deans, the vice provost. He will work with all of those offices based on the requests that those offices have in the way of providing data."

But Hampton says that's what makes his job interesting. Providing the administrators and president with the information they need becomes important, he said, because poor quality information leads to poorly made decisions.

"All research is useless if it can't be translated into action," he said.

Still, Hampton sees students as the most important part of any university.

"(In) everything we do that impacts the students," he said, "we need to question whether we're doing the right thing."

Crime Log

Sept. 24

Male at Sanger Hall on East Marshall Street advised that an unknown person removed personal property valued at \$550 from an unsecured location.

Female at MCV Daycare Center on North 10th Street advised that an unknown person removed state property valued at \$1,600 from an unsecured location.

Sept. 25

Female at Gateway Building on East Marshall Street advised that an unknown person removed personal property valued at \$125 from an unsecured location.

Known person arrested on West Franklin Street for disorderly conduct.

Sept. 26

Male at Franklin Street Gym on West Franklin Street advised that between Sept. 16 and Sept. 17 an unknown person removed personal property valued at \$150 from an unsecured location.

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NEWS

VCU 101 classes receive health education

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Correspondent

Paper snowball fights and a game of Jeopardy aren't what you typically may find in a speech, but Linda Hancock isn't your typical speaker.

Hancock, the assistant director of health promotions for University Student Health Services, said she spoke to nearly 40 VCU 101 classes about student health services in spring 2003. On this particular day in April, she spoke to Tish Colvin's class.



Linda Hancock

"It's free if you're a full time student," Hancock told the students, stressing the benefits of Student Health Services. "You're already paying for it. And no, you can't come back after you've graduated."

In nearly an hour, she covered topics concerning drugs and alcohol and explained some common misconceptions about these.

When it came time for the snowball fight, Hancock handed each student a questionnaire while asking them their major.

The questionnaire queried their personal habits with drugs, alcohol, religion and sexual activity as well as their usage estimates of those habits for other students.

After assuring the students the optional survey was anonymous and confidential, she told them to take their surveys in their hands and make them into balls for a snowball fight.

"Throw at least three snowballs," Hancock said. "This is probably the most fun you're going to have in class at college."

It wasn't all fun and games though. Students learned about each other's thoughts and reactions to the questions. Hancock told them the statistical data while reviewing each question aloud.

Students played Health Jeopardy in teams to test their health knowledge. Hancock asked questions such as, "What are three symptoms of alcohol poisoning?" One question - "Is marijuana addictive?" - was met with speculation and guessing. Several students who answered volunteered they weren't sure.

"Marijuana is addictive, (but) not as addictive as some other things like crack though," said Hancock.

Having dealt with drugs through research and with patients, Hancock shed some light on problems with drug - prevention programs.

Hancock condemned such drug preven-

tion programs as "D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)" and "Just Say No!," saying "D.A.R.E." increased knowledge but research showed it also increased drug use. A few students admitted to becoming interested in using drugs by the prevention program's descriptions of highs.

"The best way to get a teenager to do anything is to tell them not to," Hancock said after her speech. "So 'Just Say No!' is one of the dumbest programs ever created." Instead, she suggested an alternative program name - "Just do what you want."

While Hancock was taking questions, a student described bad experiences with some prescribed contraceptives. After listening Hancock replied, "That usually has good results with patients."

This led Hancock to warn students against getting information from "ns of 1." An "n of 1" she explained, occurs when a person makes a decision based upon one person they know rather than facts. She said this leads to "really skewed data."

For example, Hancock said, if a woman chose not to take birth-control pills because her roommate threw up when she took them, that would be an "n of 1" because, "A minority of women have nausea (while) on birth control pills."

Harold Branch, a first-year undeclared student, spoke following Hancock's pre-

sentation, saying the only thing he knew about the Student Health Services office before Hancock talked to his class was that it was next to the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

Another student, Jennifer Snow, also attended one of Hancock's "Love and Liquor" sessions last fall. While Snow said she too was surprised about Student Health Services doctors being legitimate, she remembers more from her earlier session.

"I remembered most (of) the stuff about statisticswise, how many students don't go out (and party.) It's kind of opened my eyes a little bit," she said.

Having worked with college students for nearly 20 years, how does Hancock relate to college students?

"I like the fact that they don't just buy things hook, line and sinker. They question everything," she said. "So, I relate to them in that skeptical kind of thing."

Hancock said she estimated that University Student Health Services representatives would speak to nearly 1000 student in 50 to 60 VCU 101 classes this semester. She said that she personally talks to approximately half the classes while Katie Vatalaro, health educator, and Courtney Bickett, nurse practitioner, speak to the other half.

News Co-Editor Matt Busse contributed to this article.

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SPORTS

Upcoming Sports Events

Friday, Oct. 3

Men's Soccer
vs. Delaware, 7 p.m.
Sports Backers Stadium

Women's Soccer
vs. Hofstra, 7 p.m.
Hempstead, N.Y.

Volleyball
vs. George Mason, 7 p.m.
Alltel Pavilion at Stuart C. Siegel Center

Field Hockey
vs. Towson, 7 p.m.
Towson, Md.

Saturday, Oct. 4

Men's Rugby
vs. Hampden-Sydney, 1 p.m.
Leigh Street Field

Volleyball
vs. Towson, 7 p.m.
Alltel Pavilion at Stuart C. Siegel Center

Men's and Women's Cross Country
East Carolina Invitational
Greenville, N.C.

Sunday, Oct. 5

Men's Soccer
vs. Towson, 1 p.m.
Sports Backers Stadium

Women's Soccer
vs. Drexel, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Field Hockey
vs. Delaware, 1 p.m.
Newark, Del.

For more information contact the VCU sports line: (804) 828-7000. VCU sporting events are free to students with a valid student ID.

The National Hockey League came to the Richmond Coliseum on Sunday night. Learn more about the game between the Nashville Predators and the Atlanta Thrashers in Thursday's edition of the Commonwealth Times.

Rams catch Spiders in own web

PAT KANE
Associate Sports Editor

The VCU Rams beat the University of Richmond Spiders 2-0 Saturday night, establishing their dominance in Richmond's 2003 soccer food chain. The game, played at the University of Richmond's First Market Stadium on their tree-strewn campus, brought the Rams closer to parity in the 29 matches played to date between the schools. Senior Matthew Delicate powered the seventh minute of the second half, landing a penalty kick after one second and assisting senior McColm Cephas' score 44 seconds later. The Rams are now 5-3 going into Friday's first Colonial Athletic Association conference game against Delaware. VCU's win leaves the Spiders 3-4-1 for the season.

VCU kept the Richmond's defense busy with fourteen shots, led by Delicate's five and McColm's four; senior Randy Ugarte managed two. Six Spider players could only muster one shot each in response. The Spiders seemed uneasy with their lineup, making five substitutions to the Rams' two. Richmond's Andre Townsend received the game's only yellow card with 11 minutes on the clock. Spider Mike Nwaneri earned a shut-out during a Sept. 20 game against Fairfield

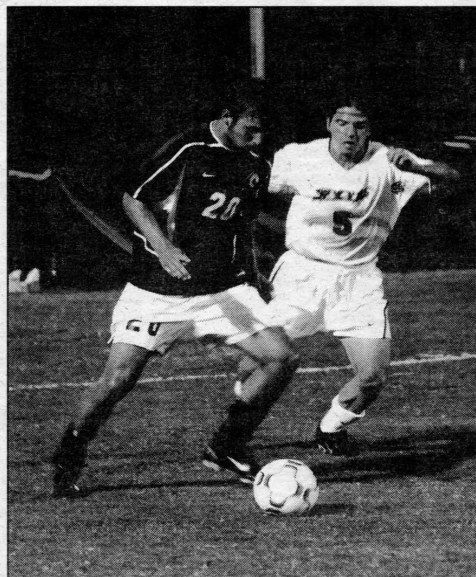
but the Rams slipped by twice on Saturday.

A near-capacity crowd turned out to enjoy the Spiders' third home game of the season. Some Richmond students brought cookware to bang on and early in the game chanted, "V-C-Who?" The referees became a popular heckling target and a small group of students entertained themselves by antagonizing everyone on and around the field.

They called VCU's long-haired Randy Ugarte "Milli Vanilli" and demanded, "Give me your Grammy, you didn't team it!" Even the boys and girls on ball duty didn't escape the scathing criticisms.

The latest VCU-Richmond match puts VCU in the enviable position of having won five of the last six matches with Richmond; the sixth match

ended in a tie. With one more win, the Rams will even out the long-running Richmond rivalry at 14-14-2.



VCU's Stephen Shirley (20) tussles with Richmond's Eric Dutt (5)

Pat Kane

SPORTS IN BRIEF

From news sources

Women's soccer leaves American scoreless with win

The American University Eagles played the Rams Wednesday night at Sports Backers Stadium. The Rams came fresh off a win last week against Liberty.

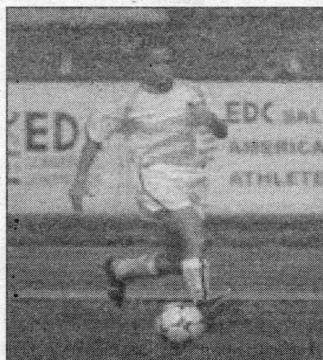
The first half was scoreless; numerous shots were taken, but to no avail. VCU took six shots while American fired off two.

VCU made more shots during the second half, but didn't get one past the Eagles' goalkeeper until the 61st minute. Hedda Gardsjord, a sophomore, broke away from the Eagles and shot, but it was blocked. The rebound was recovered by Gardsjord, who fed the ball to Catherine Duchesne. Duchesne shot and scored and moved the Rams 1-0 over American.

The Rams kept up the offensive pressure, taking seven more shots during the period. The strategy paid off when Duchesne assisted in a goal by Jen Parsons with 15:28 left on the clock.

The Rams went on to win 2-0, recording their second consecutive shut-out win.

Parsons scored her sixth goal of the season, while Chrissy Lloyd earned her 13th career shut out.



Sports Information

Volleyball drops N.C. A&T

On Tuesday evening the Rams took on North Carolina A&T at the Alltel Pavilion at the Siegel Center.

VCU dominated all three matches, winning 30-17, 30-23 and 36-34.

Junior Lindi Sheppard racked up her 500th assist of the year. Laura Connel, VCU senior, earned her ninth double-double of the season with 17 kills and 10 digs.

Wake Forest defeats Ram's field hockey

The Colonial Athletic Association's No. 1 ranked team, the Wake Forest Demon Deacons, proved to be too much for VCU. The Rams' season record moved to three wins and four losses after a 8-0 home victory for Wake Forest.

VCU goaltenders Abby Stiles and Becca Leuzzi made 10 saves combined for the day.

Defending national champions, the Demon Deacons won their sixth consecutive game, remaining undefeated for the season. Wake Forest freshman Lauren Crandall earned a hat trick during the game.

Spectrum

Robbins takes life one sentence at a time



Courtesy of VCU Libraries

MELISSA LYNCH
Spectrum Editor

"I'm like Wolfman Jack, I'm everywhere," Tom Robbins, internationally-known author and VCU alumnus, said.

Robbins, who has written seven novels, including "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," as well as articles for *Esquire*, *Playboy* and *Life* magazines, will deliver the keynote address at the James River Writers Festival in October. He said he's not willing to slow down.

Being around young people helps him stay young, he said. "You don't want to start writing like an old fogey," he said over the phone from Washington state. "... (Young people) are so bright and honest it encourages me despite what I see on the news."

Working with young people to improve their writing, such as at the writing festival, is one thing Robbins said he enjoys.

"You cannot teach anyone to write," he said, but you can "help them to focus it," if they have talent. Robbins worries that young writers are more concerned with finding a publisher than improving their writing. Instead of asking him how

to get a publisher, they should ask him, "How can I get better?" he said.

Robbins was born in North Carolina, but he grew up around Richmond. "Richmond as a whole was too conservative for my tastes," he said.

However, after being at Washington and Lee University for two years, he said he enjoyed being at VCU, which was Richmond Professional Institute at the time. "It was a formative time in my life," he said. "I learned a lot (at RPI)."

He mentioned more than once that Miles Woods' aesthetics class influenced him. In addition, he got a great deal out of many classes at RPI. While at RPI, he majored in journalism and worked on the student newspaper, *The Postscript*. He wrote a column called "A Walk on the Wild Side," which focused on the arts at RPI.

Robbins had no problem with the transition from journalistic writing to literary writing, he said. "A lot of my journalism was not particularly journalistic to begin with ..."

"It was always kind of a battle for me to stick to the facts," he said. He would rather write about truths.

In 1999, Robbins donated boxes of

handwritten manuscripts to VCU's James Branch Cabell Library.

"VCU asked and I thought, well, if somebody wants them, that's the place they ought to be," Robbins said.

The amount of concentration and focus it takes for Robbins to write a novel is exhausting, he said. He sets a goal for himself of writing two pages a day when he's in the middle of a book.

"I feel like I've spent eight hours wrestling with Xena, warrior princess," after writing for a day, he said.

Robbins' meticulous method of writing is unique. "I do go sentence by sentence, and I do try never to leave a sentence until it's as good as I can make it ..." he said. "I write so slowly that I'm editing as I'm going along."

He also writes every novel longhand without using a computer. He could never imagine himself using a computer to write, he said. "Trying to write meaningful fiction and read meaningful fiction on a computer is like dining out at McDonald's," he said.

Using a "slower, more painstaking approach" would always be his method, he said. If he ever did use a computer to write, he said it would change his writing

style. "It flows from my brain ..." he said. "I just like to watch my ink soak into the wood pulp."

Robbins is trying to put together a collection of short writings and articles he has written. He is also coming to Richmond next week for the James River Writer's Festival and a fundraiser to benefit the James Branch Cabell Library.

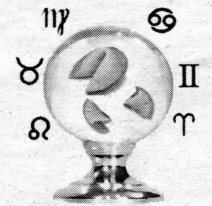
Robbins said he has tried to slow down before and has even said he would not write another novel, but then he wrote his latest novel, "Villa Incognito."

"I would like to think that I could stop writing," he said.

Sunday, Oct. 5, Robbins will speak at the James Branch Cabell Library. Proceeds will benefit the James Branch Cabell Campaign for the VCU Libraries. Tickets are \$75. Call 827-1163 to order.

Spectrum

Zodiac Cookies



Zodiac Cookies

Libra: The sky isn't falling. In fact, you're inexplicably rushing toward the sky.
Scorpio: Look before you leap. Actually, maybe just look.
Sagittarius: Don't bite the hand that feeds you. It's not significantly tastier than the actual food.
Capricorn: You're going to die. Eventually. Unless you're a vampire.
Aquarius: You are charming and well-liked. Get lost and give the rest of us a chance.
Pisces: Inner peace is, at best, a temporary condition. To achieve it, accidentally forget all of your due dates this semester.
Aries: You're fighting mad this week. I don't know who "mad" is or what he ever did to you, but good luck.
Taurus: Your voting for "Spectrum" in the Commonwealth Times' favorite-section poll will grant you good luck.
Gemini: Burning a candle at both ends makes it very difficult to handle, creating a fire hazard.
Cancer: Remember, a zodiac sign isn't something to be taken literally, especially if you're stuck with Cancer.
Leo: Those headaches may be the result of those experiments the government did to you in your sleep, or they may be stress. Either way, take aspirin.
Virgo: Beware of geeks bearing headless chickens.

WHILE You Were Out

WWE SmackDown!

Kurt Angle interrupts Vince McMahon as Vince tries to present the WWE Championship title to Brock Lesnar. After attacking John Cena, Angle goes backstage to find Lesnar. Cena catches up to Angle and attacks him from behind.

Los Guerreros vs. Matt Hardy and Shannon Moore: Eddie Guerrero pins Moore. After the match, Hardy attacks Eddie. Charlie Haas also attacks Eddie.

A-train calls out Chris Benoit and attacks him with a chair.

Rey Mysterio vs. Tajiri: Tajiri uses mist to defeat Mysterio, making Tajiri the new Cruiserweight champion.

Basham Brothers vs. Jamie Noble and Billy Gunn: Gunn is injured, so Jamie Noble has hired Bradshaw to replace him. Bradshaw delivers a Clothesline from Hell and is about to end the match when Shanequa attacks Bradshaw, disqualifying the Basham Brothers.

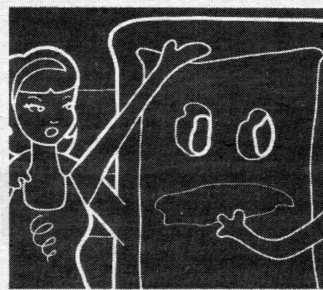
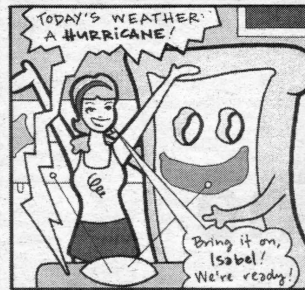
Charlie Haas vs. Eddie Guerrero: Before the match, the Big Show rams Eddie's head into a ring post. Eddie wins after tricking Haas into hitting Eddie's title belt.

Vince presents the WWE Championship title to Lesnar. The Undertaker rides to the ring and says he respects the title but not Lesnar. Stephanie McMahon walks to the ring and verifies that Lesnar's opponent at No Mercy will be the Undertaker. Vince makes the first father-daughter match in WWE history for No Mercy: Vince McMahon vs. Stephanie McMahon.

Are you constantly missing your favorite shows? Let us know what they are and we'll fill in the gaps for you.

E-mail Michael at glenonm@vcu.edu with any suggestions.

CURLS



BY CAROLYN BELEFSKI

Happenings

Monday, Sept. 29

Today and tomorrow will be your last chances to see the **September Arts Exhibits** at the Richmond Public Library downtown. Exhibits feature work from Jan Van Amburgh, Anna Evdokimova, Linda Shields and Jim Dongieux. 101 E. Main St. 646-4256

Tuesday, Sept. 30

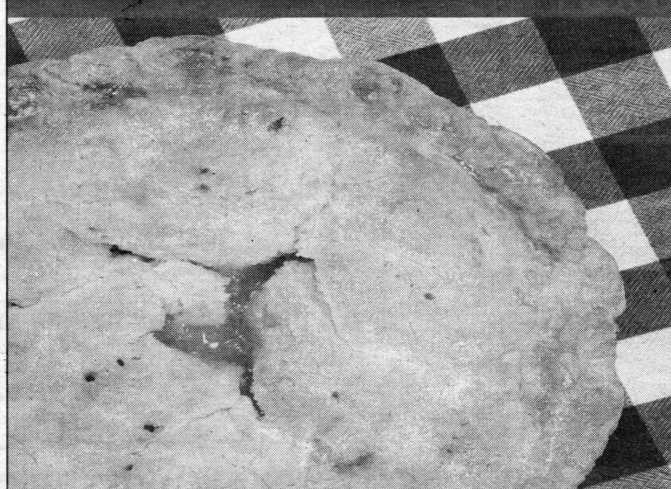
Karen Gammon shows an exhibition of portraits titled "**Companions**" at the Richmond SPCA Tuesdays through Sundays until November 21. 2519 Hermitage Rd. 643-6785

Wednesday, Oct. 1

Elaine Neil Orr will sign copies of her book "**Gods of Noonday: A White Girl's African Life**" at Fountain Bookstore at 6:30 p.m. 1312 E. Cary St. 788-1594

Got something going on? Have the inside track on some hot info? E-mail Melissa at lynchmd@vcu.edu

There's nothing funny about sex with pies.



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OP/ED

Gone with the wind

TERRY BURTON
Op/Ed Writer

As the chorus to the song "Big Yellow Taxi" goes, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." Thanks to Hurricane Isabel, VCU students have recently received two opportunities to realize the truth of this statement.

The first and most obvious realization came with the loss of power and/or water for many students for several days. The second loss for VCU students is that of the Reading Days, previously scheduled for Oct. 16 and 17.



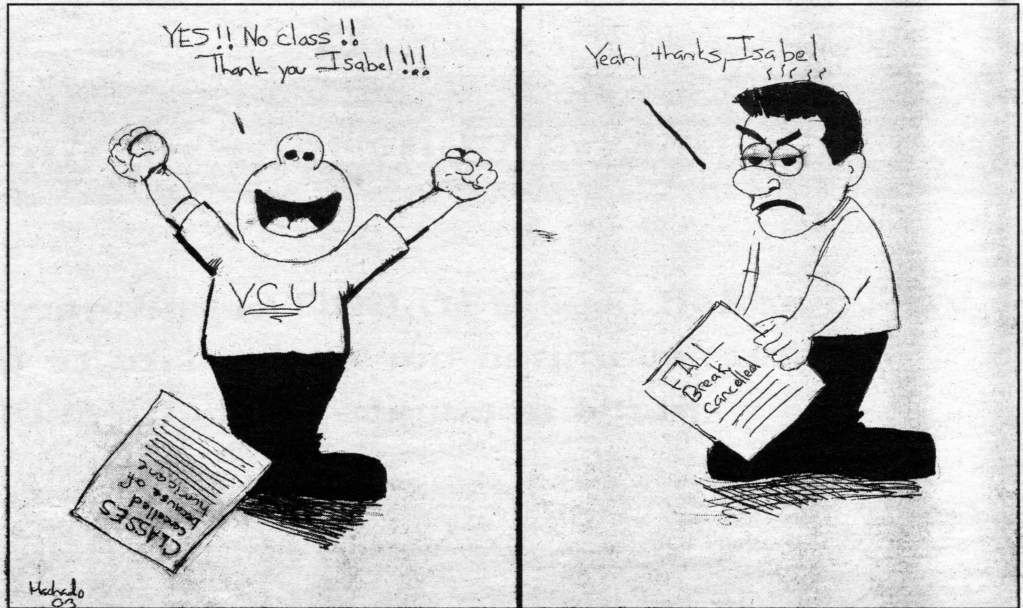
Dominion Virginia Power has restored power to approximately 75 percent of the affected areas according to their Web site, www.dom.com; 25 percent of the affected areas may remain in the dark until as late as Oct. 3. You may wonder why that other 25 percent is important, especially since it seems that many of the students on or around campus have had service restored.

Aside from the fact that no one enjoys the feeling of being powerless, VCU is home to a large population of commuter students. These students may have to deal with the same assignments as the rest of us without the advantage of working on them at home if computers are needed or if the work would lead late into the evening. This means added stress and burden for these individuals who did nothing to deserve it in the first place.

Aside from the problems of having to find locations to do work where there is light, and the issue of living off non-perishable foods until refrigeration is once again available to them, it's just not fun to sit around in the dark while other people have power. I, personally, never realized how much I took electricity for granted until I found myself glaring at the houses across the street that had power these past few nights, while I sat in my darkened apartment trying to study by flashlight.

Even if you discount the inconvenience to other students in having to find somewhere lit to work, there is further complication in these areas still without power. Streetlights may not be working which makes travel, especially later at night, more dangerous. Even in areas where the power has been largely restored there are spots where the lights don't work. This creates a hazard for those wishing to go out anywhere. Of course, knowing Richmond drivers, I can't say that it's that much safer when the streetlights are working.

Perhaps more pertinent to most VCU students is the second loss we've experienced thanks to Hurricane Isabel, namely our fall break, or Reading Days.



BY MATT MACHADO

From a certain perspective, I can understand why the administration canceled them. On a more visceral student level I don't believe that this was the proper course of action.

Most students who've been here longer than the first-year class may remember the frustration that set in this time of year when other schools in the state had fall breaks while we resolutely trudged along until December. If your memory's really good you might even remember campaigning SGA representatives promising to work towards getting a fall break on the calendar at VCU and, like myself, you may have been happy for the two days that appeared on the calendar this fall as Reading Days.

The administration's unilateral decision to revoke those days undermines the idea that we as students have a voice and are capable of making our concerns known to those in power.

The students at VCU are adults, just like those running the administration, and yet in not even asking our opinion on the cancellation they show that they do not view us as equals, but rather as children whose voices can be ignored or silenced.

This is not the case. Each one of us has a voice and we can make ourselves heard. If you don't approve of the administration's actions, or even if you do, you can write to individuals in the administration, such as VCU President Eugene P. Trani, and make your views known. I know that feelings are running high on this issue and I personally think the administration has made a mistake in canceling the hard-won reading days.

However, if you do decide to make your views known and your voice heard, please be sure to demonstrate the maturity that the administration doesn't believe we have. Let's prove them wrong.

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