

The Commonwealth Times

FREE

SGA Senate discusses hot-button issues

SACS accreditation?

Emergency contraceptives?

Stipends for senators?



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plans your
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Qureshi
examines
Napster deal

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Open call for comics – submit your strips to The Commonwealth Times. Details on page 8!

IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

NOV. 13 THROUGH NOV. 15

Thursday, Nov 13	Friday, Nov. 14	Saturday, Nov. 15
The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs Cultural Cafe will feature a Native American Heritage Celebration . The event starts at 6 p.m. in the Common Ground at the University Student Commons. For more information, contact (804) 828-6672.	Come to Tinker's boutique for a Christmas Open House premiering winter clothing from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 2409 Westwood Ave. Music and catering provided. For more information, contact (804) 359-3301.	Want to help the Salvation Army while getting into the Christmas spirit? Participate in Saturday Specials from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and assist the Salvation Army in the Christmas warehouse by filling food boxes, sorting gifts and more. For more information, contact (804) 828-3648.

CAMPUS FORECAST



Thursday
58/29



Friday
51/28



Saturday
57/33



Sunday
60/36

Police use taxes to buy chocolate

Columbian President Alvaro Uribe condemned his police forces for spending public tax money to buy chocolate and sweets. Uribe said he was annoyed at the "absurd spending" by police officers at Medellin, situated in the northeastern region of the country. The money was supposed to be used on legitimate police overheads but was spent on sweets in four months. The defense minister will enforce measures to guarantee austerity and transparency over the matter, Uribe said.

Kangaroos worry locals in France

French motorists near Paris were stunned to see road signs warning them of kangaroos in the area. The roads in question surround the Rambouillet Forest outside of Paris and concerned local residents painted pictures of kangaroos on existing signs to alert motorists of the animals. The Rambouillet Forest is home to antelopes, pink flamingos, ostriches and kangaroos all from Australia.

Villagers mistake police for criminals

A Kenyan police chase ended in farce when villagers attacked the officers, thinking they were criminals. The police were chasing a car in Ruiru, northwest of Nairobi, which they thought was occupied by robbers. The driver of the car thought the police were carjackers and sped away. The chase ended in a cul-de-sac when the occupants of the car jumped out and were ordered by the armed forces to surrender. As the police

searched the car, they were attacked by villagers who saw the chase and thought the driver was being robbed.

Police dog sacked for being nice

A German police dog has been laid off after catching more rabbits than criminals. The 1-year-old German Shepherd "Falk," was "too nice to work for the police." Instead of sniffing for criminals, drugs or missing people, Falk spent most of his time running off into the woods to chase rabbits. A 39-year-old hunter, Falk Hesse, decided to take in the young police dog and retrain him as a hunting dog.

MTV star to hand her baby over to gorillas

Donna Air, a prominent MTV star in England, and her boyfriend Damian Aspinall, a zoo owner, intend to place their baby daughter in the care of a gorilla. Freya, born in September, is to be introduced to gorillas and then carried off by the female in the group at Howletts Zoo near Canterbury, Kent. Neither parents have concerns about the safety of their daughter, even though five zoo keepers were killed by animals in Howletts and its sister park, Port Lympne, since 1980.

Opera director moons audience, faces charges

An opera director in Rio de Janeiro was charged with public indecency after mooning an audience who did not like his productions. Gerald Thomas came on

stage at the end of his first performance of Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde" at Rio's Theatro Municipal to see a packed house who clearly hated the show. The show featured a woman masturbating on a sofa and scenes depicting Sigmund Freud sniffing cocaine. Thomas responded to the audience by dropping his pants. The director now faces criminal charges and a judge will have to decide if he will pay a fine or receive a prison sentence.

Woman refused entry to bar because of Burberry umbrella

Bouncers at the Filling Station, an Aberdeen pub, would not admit a woman inside the bar because she was carrying a Burberry umbrella. They said their reason for the refused entry was that Burberry has become fashionable among soccer hooligans. The woman said she looked nothing like a soccer fan and was shocked when refused the entry. The Filling Station bar has apologized but said they would continue to monitor customers sporting Burberry products.

Police now fighting with paintballs

Police in Vietnam rely on paintball guns to catch their fleeing criminals. The idea is to use red, yellow and green dyes from the gun ammunition to mark the thieves as they drive away from the crime scenes. The guns have a range of 10 meters. Street racing in Hanoi is becoming an increasing problem and police hope that paint-balling the criminals' cars may help cut the speeding, currently the main cause of preventable death in Vietnam.

THE Commonwealth TIMES

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NEWS

SGA reviews VCU accreditation plan

Emergency contraceptives, stipends also discussed at Senate meeting

JONATHAN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

During Monday's Student Government Association meeting, senators and guests heard a report on VCU's accreditation and a presentation for a bill supporting the distribution of emergency contraceptives in the Student Health Center, plus they voted to officially condemn VCU's administration for canceling the Fall Reading Days.

Jon Wergin, director of the Quality Enhancement Plan, presented an outline of VCU's plan for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation criteria.

The main theme of the plan, he said, involves student engagement and what to do to make students more involved. He cited VCU's participation in the National Survey of Student Engagement, saying the survey shows VCU students as "relatively" less engaged than other students.

With this in mind, Wergin said, the Quality Enhancement Plan is set up in a threefold way. The first part is building a

framework of expectations for study time, homework and other school-related activities. The second part assembles communities of learners like the Freshman Interest Groups that students can sign up for during registration. The third part sets up communities of practice.

After Wergin's presentation, Ashmi Doshi, director of SGA's Humans Relations Committee, offered a resolution declaring "the SGA fully supports the dispensing of emergency contraception at University Student Health Services." The Senate will vote on the resolution at its next meeting.

As the Senate proceeded to move on to other business, it passed a resolution, sponsored by Parliamentarian Ali Khan, which creates a committee to examine and possibly revise the SGA Constitution.

Sens. Daniel Plaugher and Aaron Tenenbaum of humanities and sciences and Sen. Edward O'Leary of engineering

sponsored a resolution concerning the SGA's disapproval of the VCU administration canceling the Fall Reading Days. The resolution passed, and with one senator dissenting, the SGA officially "condemns in the strongest of terms the actions of the VCU administration."

O'Leary and Tenenbaum especially cited the administration's lack of consultation with the SGA and student leaders as well as the "lack of concern for the opinions displayed by students surveyed."

The final resolution, a bill calling for the creation of a committee to evaluate SGA members, failed.

O'Leary and Tenenbaum's bill, which also provides a stipend for senators, became the source of some debate. One senator voiced concern about the bill stipulating a stipend not to exceed \$200 per semester "shall be provided" should be changed to "may be provided."

O'Leary replied that he, too, reflected on that issue, but said that's not the primary purpose of the proposal.

"This bill is not about \$200," he said. "This bill is to form a committee to evaluate the members of the SGA who are getting paid."

Tenenbaum clarified that the wording states that senators won't necessarily get anything. He pointed to the end of the

paragraph that requires stipends to be based upon evaluation and that an evaluation could lead to no pay.

After continued debate, O'Leary and Tenenbaum consented and changed the wording of the bill to strike the \$200.

Sen. LeaAnne Eaton, humanities and sciences, said when she talked to her constituents they gave her negative feedback about senators getting paid.

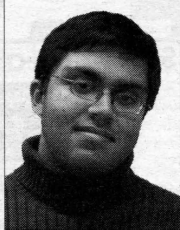
"The people we're representing don't think we should be paid," she said.

With time running out, Denise Canonizado, the assistant speaker of the Senate for SGA, made a motion that the Senate vote on the resolution at the next meeting. The motion failed and the bill died 23-17 after a secret ballot.

SGA's Senate meets alternate Mondays. VCU students can attend the meetings with one set for 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, in the Forum Room of the University Student Commons.



Sen. Aaron Tenenbaum



Parliamentarian Ali Khan

Schwarz dispels myths about 1619 and slavery

STEPHANIE HALL
Staff Writer

"What does 1619 mean for the history of slavery in North America?"

"What does 1619 mean for the Atlantic World?"

Philip J. Schwarz, professor of history and this year's Elske v. P. Smith Distinguished Lecturer, answered these questions when he recently spoke for nearly an hour discussing several myths surrounding the 1619 encounters among Africans and Europeans in Virginia.

"It cannot be called the historical beginning of slavery in English North America," Schwarz said. "... slavery's beginning in Virginia is either completely unrecognizable or initially only a very slow evolution-

ary process."

As an expert of slavery concerning the social and political history of colonial America, Schwarz dedicated his lecture to the late Susan E. Kennedy, the 1999-2000 Elske v. P. Smith Distinguished Lecturer. Kennedy served as chairperson of VCU's history department for six years.

Talking to an audience of about 35 people consisting mostly of teachers in the history department, Schwarz described the importance of the 1619 event.

"Lerone Bennet, who marked the 1619 event as Before the Mayflower, (said) 'For in the context of meaning in America, it can be said without exaggeration that no ship ever (came to) an American port with a more important cargo. In the hold of that ship ... was the whole gorgeous panorama of black America.'"

Emphasizing on the broad aspects of the 1619 event, Schwarz identified the 1619 arrival as one that "can no longer be related solely to the slave trade or to the curse of slavery because it can now more clearly be seen as also a dramatic change in the lives



Signs offer instructions for pedestrians navigating through the University Student Commons as Phase 3 construction continues.

SCHWARZ continued to Page 7

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NEWS

Advertising, journalism degrees for Qatar?

Decision on programs carry December deadline if students are to enter in fall 2004

TANJA ZLATKOVIC
News Co-Editor

When Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and his wife, Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser bin Abdullah al-Misned, of Qatar, decided to follow the dream of social and educational reform in their country, they looked to establish academic partnerships with high-quality institutions in Europe and the United States.

It might be curious for many that VCU was the first institution to branch out to Doha, the capital of Qatar. When the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development approached VCU's administration in 1997 with a proposal for a future partnership, the administration agreed to offer art courses – not a degree – on the Middle East campus.

Four years later, in 2001, VCU's School of the Arts became the first four-year American university to offer Bachelor of Arts degrees to graduates of the all-woman student body of 120.

A second plan is in the developing stages. The Qatar education foundation expressed interest in an undergraduate program in advertising and journalism and a graduate program in advertising, an equivalent to VCU's Ad Center.

"They have expressed the interest (in the programs) and they asked us to develop proposals," said Judyth Turk, director of the Department of Mass Communications. "But that does not necessarily mean that we are going to Qatar."

The reason for the uncertainty, Turk said, is that the proposal is still in review, and no final decisions have yet been made. If the program is to welcome its first students in the fall 2004 semester, all decisions have to be finalized by December of this year.

"We are not pushing by any means," Turk said. "We would be happy to even wait a year."

The degrees in art and the potential degree in journalism and advertising are equivalent to those granted in Richmond.

Current students can already seek majors in communication arts and design, fashion design and merchandising or interior design.

"The real interest is that we're doing two important things," said Richard Toscan, dean of the VCU School of the Arts and vice provost for Qatar. "(We are) providing professional design education for women in the Arabian Gulf region and helping to develop a design industry in Qatar."

And yet, VCU in Richmond also benefits from the new campus. The Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, the project's sponsor, backed by the country's reserves on natural gas pays for all the bills in Qatar and generates additional revenue for the main campus in the United States.

"They (Qatar) generate \$1.5 million in



The VCU School of the Arts in Qatar

management fees that comes back to VCU," Toscan said. One third of that money goes to the university, he said, and the rest goes to the school of the arts.

"Because of the budget cuts, the money really is just enough to keep this place running," Toscan said. "It practically all goes to just keeping the lights on."

Nevertheless, he added, the additional revenue enabled the renovation of some classrooms as well as the creation of the Art Foundation Building situated adjacent to the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

The idea to academically cooperate on a global scale originated when Sheikha Mozah decided to encourage women to have careers. She then looked for a professional school in the United States, Toscan said. Sheikha Mozah invited VCU because of its ranking in the U.S. News & World Report's annual survey, which then ranked 19th in the visual arts program and 5th in sculpture. Today, Toscan said, VCU's sculpture program ranks first nationwide.

Eugene Trani, president of VCU, recalls that once VCU was invited to expand to Qatar and a proposal for the academic partnership was finalized, it had to seek approval from several university and government levels before the establishment of the second campus. Some of those levels included the university council and faculty senate, Board of Visitors, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Virginia State Legislature.

"The proposal was approved unani-

mously" at all levels, Trani said.

Then, with 36 students enrolled, VCU started offering classes in 1998 under direction of Paul Petrie, currently a professor of interior design.

The curriculum on the Middle East campus mirrors the curriculum in Richmond, where general education courses, such as mathematics, English, social and natural sciences are a must and with an upper division almost identical to the courses offered on VCU's Academic Campus. All classes are taught in English, enabling 31 VCU faculty members from Richmond to move to Qatar and continue teaching in the different part of the world.

"In the six years there (Qatar), we had only two faculty members who didn't like it and came home," Toscan said. "Faculty very rarely come back to the U.S. once they are there. They tend to like it and tend to stay."

Trani said the U.S. government also supported the decision to establish a campus in the Middle East because of the region's importance to current foreign policy.

"Our government has encouraged us to stay in Qatar," he said. "This is an important thing not only for the institution but also for the American government and their relations with a moderate Arab state."



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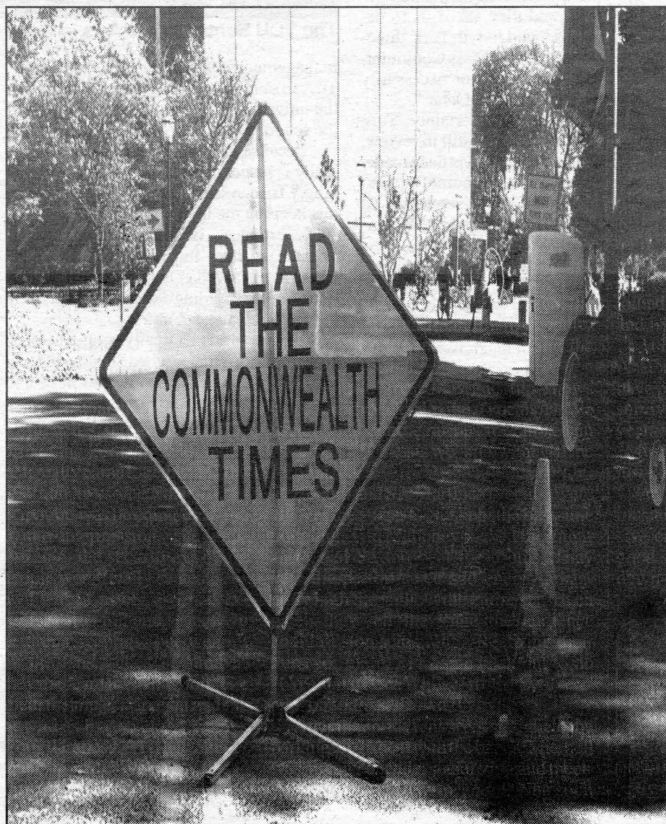
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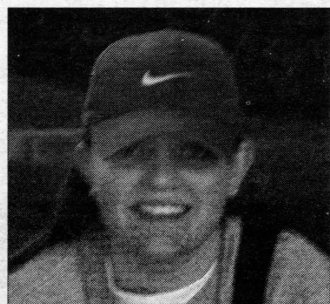


NEWS

CT Hits the Streets

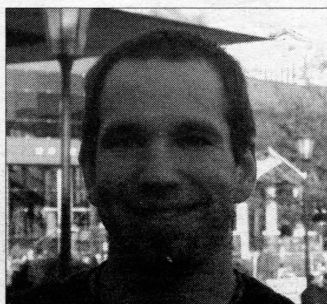
What do you think about Pennsylvania State University's recent deal with Napster to use student technology fees to pay for students to download and listen to music?

TANJA ZLATKOVIC
News Co-Editor



Sarah Krikbridge
graduate student, math
education

I don't see a problem with Napster. Students are poor as it is and making them pay for something like music is ridiculous.



Robbie King
junior, undeclared

I don't think it's mandatory. The money shouldn't come out of the fee. If students had the option of paying for it, then it would be a good idea.



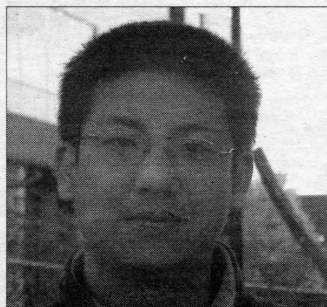
Lauren Cannon
first-year, political science

I think it should be the student's choice whether to pay for the fee or not. Some people might not want to download and listen to the music.



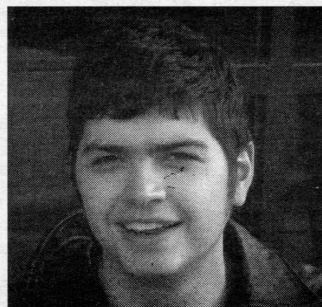
Marcus James
first-year, criminal justice

I don't think it's a good idea because some students may not want to download music but they still have to pay the fee. Some parents may not want to pay for music downloads either.



Jihang Wang
graduate student, chemistry

I don't agree with paying the money because I don't want to download music at school. If I want to hear music, I'll download it at home.



Jonathan Trowsell
sophomore, accounting

The deal doesn't make a lot of sense. I don't see music as a significant part of study unless you are a music major.

SCHWARZ continued from Page 3

of the Africans involved And the 1619 event fits into a much larger context than just the Old Dominion, the South or the United States."

Standing before his audience, the distinguished lecturer tried to clarify one of the most profound myths surrounding the 1619 event, which implies that the year marks the iconic beginning of slavery in Virginia.

"The 1619 event did not make Virginia slavery possible; it only showed that it was possible," Schwarz said.

Before Schwarz began his message recounting the history of slavery in Virginia, Stephen D. Gottfredson, dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, recognized the lecturer and the importance of the award.

"The award recognizes professors at the university who've made outstanding contributions to teaching and scholarship," Gottfredson said, listing some of Schwarz's published works.

Schwarz, who came to VCU in 1972, said he received the award last spring but waited until this fall to deliver this particular message.

The award honors former dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, Elske v. P. Smith, who retired in 1992.

Crime Log

Nov. 12

Female at Main Hospital on East Marshall Street advised on Nov. 11 an unknown person(s) removed personal property valued at \$90 from an unsecured location.

Female student on South Cherry Street advised that on Nov. 8 an unknown person(s) sexually assaulted her.

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Jeffrey Qureshi and Michael Dickinson address Pennsylvania State University's deal with Napster and the music-sharing controversy, Page 14.

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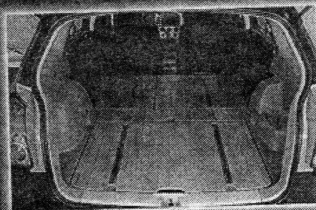


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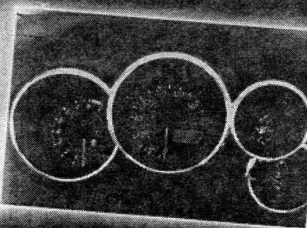
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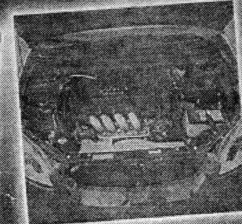
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NEWS

VCU graduate opens print shop

MATT BUSSE
News Co-Editor

In 1993, Ric Withers graduated from VCU. Now, in 2003, he's returned to the area to set up shop.

Withers, along with friend and business partner Charles Aiken, has opened Wythken APC, situated at 911 W. Grace St. The store offers copying, faxing and printing services, including custom graphics and large format printing, such as posters and floor graphics.

Withers, who graduated from VCU with a bachelor's in English, said one of the main reasons he chose the Grace Street location for Wythken APC is because of the art school's presence.

"The thing that's special about VCU is you have this vibrant art community, this great art school," he said.

Withers said he and Aiken plan to build a business from which faculty and students alike would benefit, adding that Wythken APC isn't targeted solely at art students.

"Everyone has papers to do, presenta-

tions to make," he said.

Withers said he first became interested in the printing industry while serving as editorial editor of the Commonwealth Times during the fall 1990 and spring 1991 semesters and assisting in the production of the newspaper.

"I got involved with the folks doing layout on the Macintoshes and shooting halftone pictures with the halftone cameras," he said.

Withers graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1998 with a master's in graphics arts systems. His work experience includes being vice president of business development for Ollé, an online training services provider.

While working for Las Vegas-based Ollé, he frequently flew back and forth between the company and his Richmond home, causing him to miss his wife, Christina, and 3-month-old son Nate, Withers said.

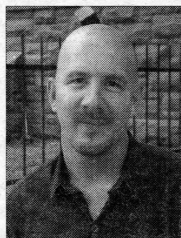
"I was spending a lot of time on an airplane," he said.

Aiken said the two had discussed starting a printing business for about five years.

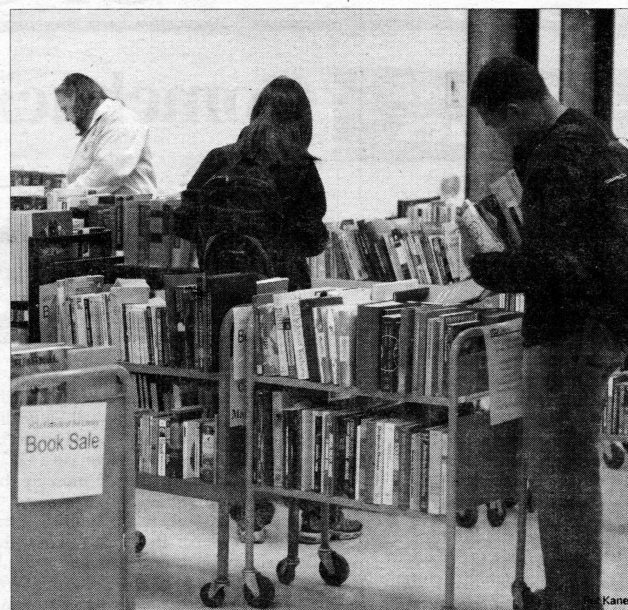
Their differing personalities and ways of approaching problems made them excellent complements for a business environment, Aiken said.

"He teaches me and I teach him," he said.

"He thinks like a printer ... I think like a consumer."



Ric Withers



The VCU Friends of the Library book sale continues today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second floor of the James Branch Cabell Library. Hardback books cost \$2, paperbacks and comics \$1 and journals are 50 cents.

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Upcoming Sports Events

Thursday, Nov. 13

The Rowdy Rams sports club meets 7 p.m. in the Forum Room at the University Student Commons

Friday, Nov. 14

Men's soccer

CAA semifinals

vs. James Madison University, 5:30 p.m.

Sports Backers Stadium

Women's basketball (exhibition)
vs. Virginia Union University, 5 p.m.

Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center

Men's basketball (exhibition)
vs. Virginia Union University, 7:30 p.m.

Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center

Volleyball

vs. UNC-Wilmington, 7 p.m.
Wilmington, N.C.

Men's hockey

vs. Clemson University
SkateNation, Glen Allen, Va.

Saturday, Nov. 15

Volleyball

vs. The College of William & Mary, 7 p.m.
Williamsburg, Va.

Men's and women's cross country
NCAA regionals
Greenville, N.C.

Sunday, Nov. 16

Men's soccer

CAA championships, 1 p.m.
Both teams TBD
Sports Backers Stadium

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

Comebacks, injuries fill week 10

CORY CARLINO
Sports Writer



Week ten is done and it's time for some surprises. The San Diego Chargers, who before this week only had one win, benched starting quarterback Drew Brees. In his place they put 41-year-old Doug Flutie.

During the game against the heavily favored Minnesota Vikings, all Flutie did was run for two touchdowns and throw for two more, helping the Chargers to a 42-28 win. The 42 points are the most by the Chargers since 1993.

But that may not be the surprise of the week. The Super Bowl Champions, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, are now 4-5 following a second loss to the division rival Carolina Panthers. The Panthers were playing without leading-NFC rusher Stephen Davis and went on to beat the defending champs 27-24.

The other team that played in the Super Bowl last year also lost in a 27-24 game and is not having a very good season either. The Oakland Raiders fell to 2-7 following a loss to the New York Jets. The Raiders played with third-string quarterback Rick Mirer with both Rich Gannon out a few more weeks and Marques Tuiasosopo out the remainder of the season. The Cincinnati Bengals have the same overall record as the defending champs, 4-5, but last Sunday they had two things the Buccaneers didn't. The Bengals had a 34-27 win over the Houston Texans and they had a running back rush for the second most rushing attempts in NFL history. It was back-up running back Rudi Johnson who ran for 43 attempts, 182 yards, and two touchdowns.

The Bengals are still in contention for a AFC North lead the Baltimore Ravens (5-4) currently possess. The Ravens lost a

close 33-22 game to the St. Louis Rams. However, the Ravens lost way more than that as starting quarterback Kyle Boiler is out for the season with a knee injury.

Kansas City Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said in an ESPN interview, "We're going to get beat—it is just a matter of when." Well, "when" wasn't this Sunday as the Chiefs moved to 9-0 overall with a 41-20 win over the Cleveland Browns. In the Chiefs' seven remaining games they play only two teams with winning records.

The only team to go undefeated in a season in NFL history is the 1973 Miami Dolphins team. The current Dolphins team is 5-4 and allow 13.8 points per game, the lowest average in the NFL. No one told the Tennessee Titans, though, who racked up 31 points in a victory against the Dolphins. The Titans are 7-2 and have scored more than 30 points in their last six games.



SPORTS IN BRIEF

From news sources

Team Concept best Rams in exhibition

Despite a game-high 23 points from guard Cyndy Wilks the VCU women's basketball team began its 2003-04 schedule with a 79-68 loss to Team Concept in an exhibition contest Tuesday night at the Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

Maria Giovannetti added 14 points for the Rams in the loss, while classmate Lauren Hogan nearly had a double-double, as the junior forward compiled nine points and a game-best 14 rebounds.

Thandeka Massimini paced Team Concept with 18 points and nine rebounds

while shooting seven-of-nine from the field and Deanna Jackson recorded 11 points and nine boards to help the visitors come away with a win.

VCU opened the game with a 14-6 run and led throughout most of the first half against a well-stocked Team Concept squad, which featured six players with WNBA experience. Team Concept used some solid free-throw shooting late in the opening period to crawl back into the game, then ended the half with a 6-1 run to take a 37-34 advantage into intermission.

Team Concept opened its lead to 52-44 with 12:55 left to play, but the Rams fought back and cut their deficit to a single point with just over eight minutes remaining when consecutive layups by junior

Meagan Evans and Giovannetti put the score at 59-58. Team Concept then embarked on a 12-4 run over the next four minutes to go up 71-62 with 4:10 left, and held VCU off the rest of the way.

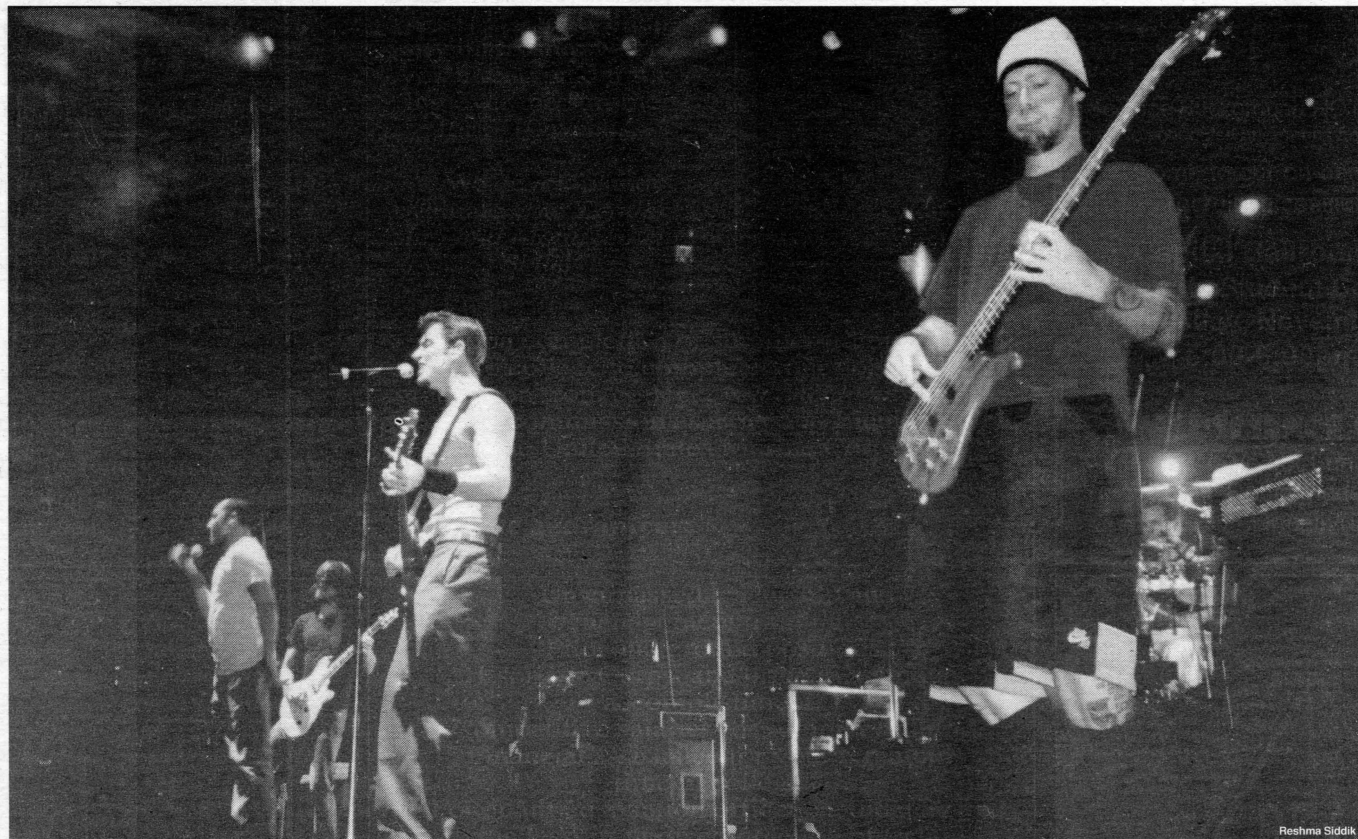
Michele Cosel also contributed 10 points off the bench for the Rams, who shot 54.2 percent as a team during the first half but made just eight of 34 field goal attempts following the break.

VCU will again tune up for the upcoming 2003-04 regular season when the Rams host crosstown foe Virginia Union in a pre-season matchup Friday at the ALLTEL Pavilion. The game, set for a 5 p.m. start, will be the first of a home doubleheader with the VCU men's team, which will also take on Virginia Union University beginning at 7:30 p.m.



Spectrum

311 brings the house 'down'



Reshma Siddik

RESHMA SIDDIK
Spectrum Writer

The energy of a live show can be truly amazing. Alien Ant Farm and 311, which performed Nov. 6 at the Stuart C. Siegel Center's Alltel Pavillion, had enough energy and love for performing to make the show an unforgettable experience.

311 launched a tour this summer for the release of its newest album, "Evolver." The band followed it up with a fall tour to attend all the places it missed during the summer — Richmond was one of them.

Alien Ant Farm kicked off the show abruptly. People were still scrambling around when they came on, but this did not affect the band.

Lead singer Dryden Mitchell was all over the place. He definitely gave the show all he had. It's nice to hear good music, but it's even better to see the band getting into the show — it adds to the energy of the show. The highlight of the bands set was a

beautiful acoustic session, showing AAF's softer side.

Seats were still filling up while AAF was performing. The floor crowd wasn't moving too much, but they were definitely listening. One thing that did get the crowd going was Mitchell's shout-outs to 311. AAF performed the last song with much enthusiasm. It really came together and the band pulled off an awesome finale.

The anticipation was building up as the show went into intermission. The audience was buzzing, the security was tight and most people were finally seated.

The crowd wasn't as big as I had expected. The floor was full and seats were used in the arena sections, but weren't filled. What the fans lacked in number, however, they made up for in passion. The lights dimmed, the music came on and the crowd went wild as five shadowy figures appeared from darkness. 311 had finally taken stage.

These guys know how to put on an

awesome show. The energy was high, the crowd was enthusiastic and there was unity present — both within the band and the crowd.

"We have great fans and fun shows here," said Nick Hexum (vocals). "We usually pull out the rarities for our sets in Richmond because we know they'll be recognized."

Hexum and SA Martinez (vocals) were all over the stage, P-Nut kept the bass-line booming, Tim Mahoney rocked the guitar and Chad Sexton beat the drums. They kept the performance and energy amazingly high throughout the entire set. Even when they left the stage the audience couldn't stop screaming. Realizing their thirst for more, 311 came back out to do "Creatures (For a While)" from "Evolver," and, of course, "Down."

After the show, fans went straight to the parking lot to meet with the bands. Mitchell was already outside, socializing and meeting with fans. Hexum and P-Nut soon

joined in, their interactions with fans warm and friendly.

311 has become good friends with Alien Ant Farm, which is no surprise. Both bands have pulled through some hard times. 311 survived a devastating fire to their tour RV years ago after the release of its first album, "Music," while AAF's tour bus crashed just last year.

All in all, it was a great time. Amazing musicians, awesome music and a responsive crowd are the key components to a good show. To top it off, these bands are down-to-earth and care about their fans.

311 will continue touring in the spring after its fall tour is over. It will also be having "311 Day" on March 11 in New Orleans, where people fly from all over America to come see the band.

Spectrum

Jennings strips down his music

MELISSA LYNCH
Spectrum Editor

Singer and songwriter Mason Jennings said he likes the independence of being a solo artist.

"I guess that's the reason I kind of think of my work as an author's work," he said. "I like the social aspect of life, but creatively, I like being independent."

He tours with drummer Brian McLeod and bassist Chris Morrissey, but he has total control of the music.

"I like control because it allows me to change directions when I want to," he said. Jennings recently finished his fourth full-length CD, "Use Your Voice," which will be released in February. He said he has grown a great deal as an artist since his self-titled debut in 1998.

"I've learned how to use the studio more," Jennings said. "I feel that I can make a better recording now and I've become a better singer."

"Use Your Voice" is quieter than his other records, he said.

"It's really, really raw," he said. "(There is) just guitar, bass and drums the whole way through."

Jennings began Architect Records approximately three years ago. He said that while it is important to him, it doesn't take a great deal of time away from his music.

"My job is more to steer the direction of the record label," he said. "(The direction of Architect Records is) to put out my music and hopefully in the future work with other artists."

At age 14, Jennings began playing guitar and recorded music into a boom box. As

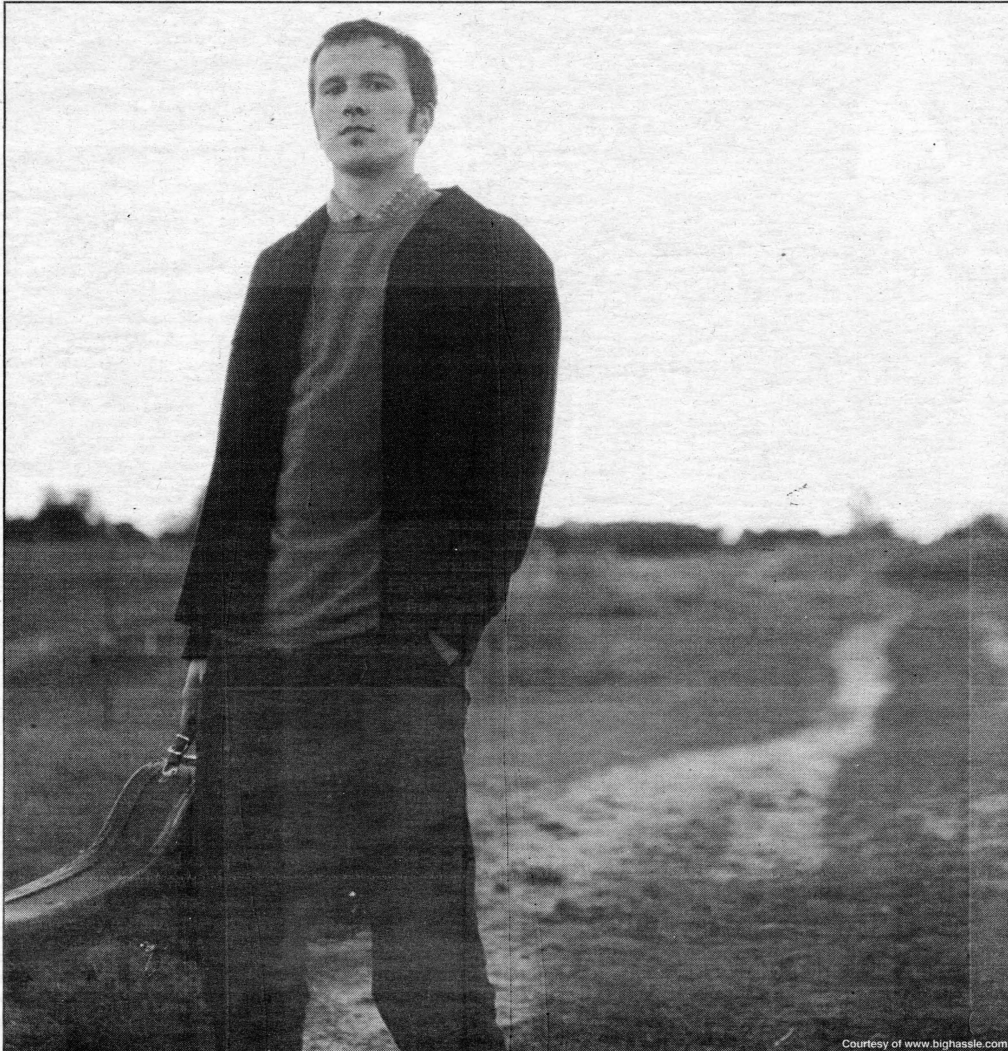
a child he was influenced by Billie Holiday, Neil Young and Johnny Cash.

"It just seemed like they were telling the truth," he said. "It seemed like the songs were the most important things to them."

Jennings said in the future he wants to concentrate on keeping his music simple. He is looking forward to the release of "Use Your Voice."

"I try to keep it stripped down. Honest, simple," he said. "... I just want to try and make better and better songs. Musically, just see what happens, what inspires me."

**Mason Jennings will play
Starr Hill in Charlottesville
Sunday. 709 W. Main St.
434-977-0017**



Courtesy of www.bighassle.com

Mason Jennings' fourth full-length CD, "Use Your Voice," is slated for release in February.

Happenings

Thursday, Nov. 14

The Uptown Gallery hosts a **new exhibit** featuring Pat Angevine, Bill Kinsey and 30 co-op members of the gallery. The exhibit is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. It runs through Jan. 10. 1305 W. Main St. 353-8343.

St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral will hold a **Mini Greek Festival** featuring Greek food, crafts and music. 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday. 30 Malvern Ave. 353-3687.

The Filippio Mazzei Italian-American Cultural Society screens "**The Godfather**" in the University Student Commons underground at 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 15

The VCU Fine Arts Building holds its **graduate students' open house** Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The crafts, painting and printmaking, sculpture and extended media studios will also be open on Friday only. 1000 W. Broad St.

Joshua Krueger holds "**Almost Real**," an art show and reception, at High's Café from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. 10 S. Thompson St. 355-8804.

Saturday, Nov. 16

Novelist and critic **Samuel R. Delaney** read his recent work in the University Student Commons at 1 p.m.

The Mary Anne Reynolds Chamber Concert Series presents pianist **Stephen Hough** at the W. E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students.

Sunday, Nov. 17

Robert Morgan, author of "Gap Creek," reads and signs copies at 2 p.m. at Fountain Bookstore 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

Spectrum

Cheap thrills: Ballin' on a budget

MORGAN D. COPELAND
Spectrum Writer

Whether you're a tad bit frugal or have a little change to spend, hopefully I have something for you to fill your weekend with.

That's right, the weekend of Nov. 14 and 15 should have some action to go along with all of the studying, especially with the semester winding down and patience declining with it.

For those with no transportation who are pretty much stuck around campus, I have something for you — especially because it is free with your student identification card. The play "Kabuki Macbeth" will be playing at 7:30 p.m. at the Raymond Hodges Theatre on Nov. 13 through 15. The play is a mixture of Kabuki theater and Shakespeare's play "Macbeth."

For this event you could either dress

up — after all, it is the theatre — or you could go casual. "Kabuki Macbeth" is a nice idea for your Friday or Saturday event and there is still time to go downtown to a club afterwards.

If you're not in a theater mood you may want to try Bottoms Up Pizza (1814 E. Main St.). Depending on the time you choose to go there might be a wait, but you can make reservations (I would recommend this if you are taking a date). Bottoms Up Pizza has a wide range of prices. For instance, a large one-topping pizza is around \$15.39 add a non-alcoholic drink or two and you're spending a little over

\$20. Specialty pizzas can start out at \$20.50 with \$3.10 per additional topping on a large pizza. Even though they are a pizza place, you can get burgers for a little less than \$7. Plus, you can stay and enjoy some jazz every Friday and Saturday night.

For those out there who think life is a joke, a little comedy is in order. In Shockoe Slip, Matt's Village Pub and Comedy Club at 109 S. 12th St. will be hosting comedians. Dan Alan from New York is opening for Bob Batch, who has appeared on Comedy Central, Showtime and ESPN. They will be showcasing their talents at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday and at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Saturday. The appetizers are between \$4 and \$8: wings, fries, chips and drinks — that sort of thing. The entertainment won't put too much of a damper in your pocket, but you still need transportation to get there.

This is your mission if you choose to accept it. Go out and have some fun. Leave Sunday for your day of rest.

Did you try Morgan's date? Did you have any fun? E-mail ctvcu@hotmail.com and let us know!

WHILE You Were Out

WWE Raw

Lita is interrupted by Triple H, Batista and Randy Orton. They are in turn interrupted by Steve Austin. Triple H refuses to leave the ring, so Austin gets security to escort Triple H from the ring.

Rob Van Dam vs. Christian: RVD wins by pin.

La Résistance vs. The Hurricane and Rosey: Rob Conway pins The Hurricane.

Lita and Terri vs. Molly Holly and Gail Kim: Holly uses the ropes for leverage in pinning Lita.

Shawn Michaels vs. Randy Orton: Michaels wins by pin.

The Dudley Boyz vs. Scott Steiner and Mark Henry: Steiner attacks with a chair, disqualifying Steiner and Henry.

Chris Jericho asks Trish Stratus out on a date after the show. Stratus agrees.

Booker T receives a note that simply says "I still remember."

Chris Jericho vs. Booker T: Booker T wins by pin.

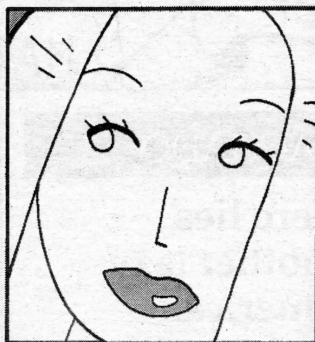
Batista vs. Goldberg: Triple H attacks Goldberg, disqualifying Batista.

Aliases

Sloane now works as a double agent for the CIA and The Covenant. After working a mission together, Sloane offers Sydney a clue as to who her alias, Julia Thorn, may be. Sark holds a gun to Lauren's head and offers her photoevidence of Sydney being Thorn. As Lauren closes her investigation of Thorn, she discovers Vaughn knew that Sydney is Thorn. Vaughn calls Sydney while she's on a mission and tells her to flee the country. He tells her the NSC will be looking to arrest her. Sydney looks to make her disappearance in Rome. While she's there, she uses the clue Sloane gave her and finds herself in Thorne's apartment. The Italian police arrest her.

Curls

By Carolyn Belefski



Zodiac Cookies



Zodiac Cookies

Scorpio: Flash a smile or two this week — not so much for you as for others — dental hygienists, for example.

Sagittarius: Hiding under the sheets instead of facing the day leaves you an easy target for bedbugs.

Capricorn: If you want people to stop taking credit for your work, start doing shoddy work.

Aquarius: Time management becomes important this week. Your leisure activities should take more than a few seconds.

Pisces: Cross your t's and dot your i's this week. Consider capitalizing those i's as well — unless you're Ziggy.

Aries: The world is round and doesn't sit on anything. That means wherever you go, you're on top of the world from one perspective or another.

Taurus: Listen to the voice in your head. If it keeps saying the same thing over and over, it's not imaginative enough to be worth following.

Gemini: Things can always be worse. That sounds encouraging, but really — you should be prepared.

Cancer: You have a chance this week. Just make sure it isn't "go to jail, go directly to jail."

Leo: Dance like no one is watching. That is to say, don't bother dancing because there's no one to impress.

Virgo: Your lucky love horoscope match is: someone who can't remember what his or her sign means, or even what it is.

Libra: Honor the chain letter you receive by sending 10 copies back to whomever gave it to you.

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 glennnm@vcu.edu with any suggestions.

OP/ED

Penn State - Napster deal lacks value, and ethics

JEFFREY QURESHI

Member of the Editorial Board

On Thursday, Nov. 6, Pennsylvania State University announced an agreement with Napster, an online digital music provider.

Using student information technology funds, the University will offer access to Napster's Premium Service, which includes 40 Internet broadcast radio stations, an online magazine, message boards, and audio file streaming along with tethered downloads.

Napster 2.0, the reincarnated version of the original audio file sharing, offers approximately 500,000 song titles for download. Each encoded audio file contains a tether in the form of Digital Rights Management (DRM) code that limits reproduction to four computers.

DRM programming causes these files to cease working upon passage of a set time period. Students can purchase rights to downloaded songs for 99 cents and then burn them to a CD.

Napster, which is now a Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) pimp under Roxio ownership, returned on Oct. 29. Roxio is best known for distributing CD burning software. Sony and Universal Music Group are backing Napster's return, thus sealing the unholy alliance between distributed audio and the music industry.

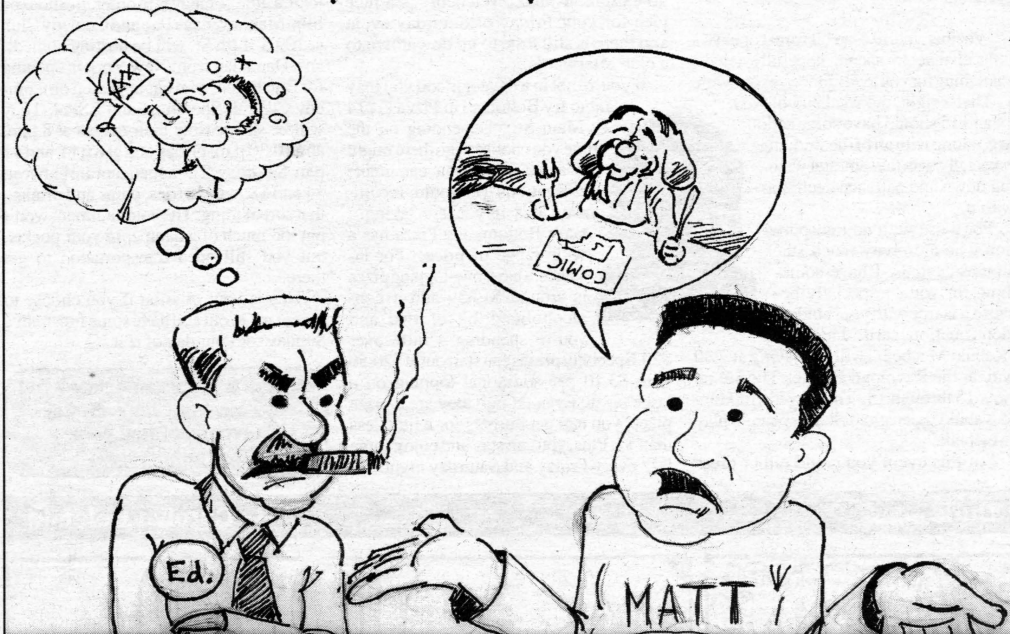
The deal raises concerns. First, Napster 2.0 works on Microsoft's Windows platform. A beta version of Napster for Apple Macintoshes is supposedly under development.

For now, only Penn State students using Windows will be able to tap into the university's program. There will be no opting out for Macintosh users, despite the fact their information technology funds are paying for a service they cannot use.

Nor will there be an opt out solution for students who do not use downloaded compressed audio. Additionally, nothing announced will prevent file-swapping users of Kazaa and other peer-to-peer network clients from practicing their trade.

Even worse, conflict of interest allegations taint the deal. An RIAA attorney, Barry Robinson, is also a Penn State trustee. Robinson claims he learned of the agreement a mere 36 hours before it was released.

Matt Explains why theres no comic



BY MATT MACHADO

Robinson and Penn State President Graham Spanier serve on the Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities, along with RIAA President Cary Sherman. The committee researches possible solutions to the legal implications of audio-file swapping.

It seems far-fetched that Penn State would seek a Napster deal without input from Robinson and Spanier. In fact, Spanier announced in September that he was working on a solution to the collegiate file-swapping dilemma.

Not only does the questionable agreement unfairly burden students, the deal implicitly endorses DRM as the technology of choice in a feeble attempt to curb free music downloads, thereby boosting inflated entertainment industry earnings. It should come as no surprise that Bill Gates and Microsoft are developing and promoting DRM code.

Eventually, only DRM encoded audio files will be playable on the ubiquitous Windows platform. Presumably, Media Player will act as a gatekeeper, preventing playback of generational copies, unless users pay up. One can imagine that Apple will also follow suit, lest Microsoft cease development of Macintosh Office software.

Where there is money, there is Microsoft.

Here lies another lazy American

ALEXANDER MARRA

Op/Ed Writer

Hollywood Cemetery, early afternoon. Birds chirping. Crickets doing the same. A light sweet autumn breeze caresses your face as you gently walk the soft pavement path. The air is so fresh it fills your lungs with life. Roses in the distance send their amorous aroma your way. A few golden leaves brush their thin crisp bodies on yours as they float through space. You are at such peace. Feeling at one with nature, you close your eyes and breathe in deeply as you mosey along, letting your steps pat out a calming andante rhythm into bliss ...

"HAAHHHNNK!!!" A loud blaring noise wakes you from your mystical experience. Opening your eyes with curiosity, you find yourself face to face with a hulking hot grill of a 2000 Lincoln Navigator. "Watch where you're going ya crazy hippie," the driver says. With that, the beast of a vehicle roars by spewing nasty fumes into the once clean air, as the obnoxiously screaming engine

CEMETERY, continued to page 15

THE Commonwealth
TIMES

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Executive Editor

PATRICK RYAN

Op/Ed Editor

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The opinion section of The Commonwealth Times is a forum open to the public. Virginia Commonwealth University students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit letters and columns expressing their opinions and concerns. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Commonwealth Times or VCU. Editorials represent the institutional opinion of the Commonwealth Times.

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

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OP/ED

CEMETERY, continued from page 14

smothers the melodies sung by the birds, ultimately dismantling the harmony that once was.

The scene pictured above is just a clipping, a mere slit of perspective at this unfortunate situation wrought upon us by this car-obsessed country. After that driver in the Navigator nearly runs you over during your little promenade, 20 others zoom by in a matter of minutes. You can't escape them. They are like those cockroaches filing out of your Fan apartment's bathtub drainpipe.

You almost can't blame them, though (not the cockroaches). Boxed in at the office all day, cooped up in that capitalistic machine 20 stories high, I too would get antsy. These guys are entitled to get out a little and leave that bland corporate environment. And 5 o'clock is still too far off even with its promising happy hour at the Capital Ale House. Besides, those cemetery streets with their winding twists and turns provide a priceless place around which to trace your VW Beetle or the Mini Cooper.

But we students at VCU also need a midday release from the stresses of college life. At Hollywood Cemetery, your mind can finally relax for some time. Class just let out and you need a break from writing down everything the professor says until

your hand violently shrivels up into a disgusting contorted form. You also need a break from VCU's bustling mess of loud fraternity boys, sorority girls and all the hyperactive first-year students. Although we are blessed with an exciting urban setting for our fine institution, we all need to get away from the concrete jungle once in a while.

When in Hollywood Cemetery, you're at Richmond's prize possession, the best cemetery outside Arlington, one of the most beautiful gardens of tombstones in the world. This well-kept secret is Oregon Hill's best feature — besides 821 Café. It boasts the most gorgeous vista of the immense downtown skyline this side of the river.

Nothing but you, the nearby James River, thousands of proud dead Southerners and of course ... 50 lousy yuppies speeding around in their Saabs and SUVs. The aroma of the giant pines and magnolias blended with the fresh green grasses mixes nicely with oily diesel and carbon monoxide.

You left VCU with it's thousands of chain smokers. Yes, Student Health, 3 out of 10 is a lot. You left Main and Floyd streets with their supped up college kid-owned Chevy Cavaliers and the hideous exhaust they emit. Gone are the ugly God-knows-

what stench of the Hibbs building. Forgotten is the noisy construction of the new dining facility, the new University Student Commons addition, GRC Phase 3, Rhodes Phase 2, that abyss that was once Hardee's and ... ad infinitum.

The reason you specifically walked those blocks through this VCU adjacent neighborhood was to rid yourself of these unsettling conditions. Granted, the stroll was a nice one. All those neat white picket fences in front of dozens of dilapidated row houses with their overgrown lawns and drunken residents made for a splendid little hike.

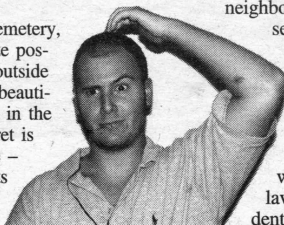
The city doesn't want it this way people. Hollywood Cemetery provides ample parking room for all. Not everyone can live near this great sanctuary and this is known. Spaces galore are located right beyond the black iron fence at the front of the graveyard. Come leave your BMW or Lexus at the gate — sorry, no valet — and enjoy the scenery by experiencing it first hand. How much better it can be when you are not sitting in an automobile peering out through tinted windows and instead enveloped by the forest of giant oaks and the rolling hills

covered with tombstones and the greenest grass outside Ireland.

I know this is a world of cars we live in. We drive everywhere and prefer to leave the comforts of our cloth or leather interior as little as possible. I've seen people pull out of their garage only to retrieve the mail and drive back in. This is the land of drive-thru fast-food joints and drive-thru ATMs. I predict the day of drive-thru Wal-Marts is not too far off. We take it to be natural law that we should drive anywhere and everywhere our car can fit. But certainly there are a few places you just should not be allowed to drive.

It is not good practice to take your car for a spin on the sidewalk for example. And as much as you may want to cruise down Pennsylvania Avenue and make obscene gestures at our president, this is also forbidden. Hollywood Cemetery should be in the same category of these few no-car zones. For now the nice folks who run Hollywood are obliging to the many rednecks' requests to drive down there on weekly visits in a pick-up, cab packed full of flowers to place on Jefferson Davis' burial site. This one exception was all they had in mind.

And so to the yuppies out there, I just have the following to leave you with: Look, I'm asking nicely. If there is no compliance to my reasonable requests, other means of coercion will have to be utilized. You know, this is a cemetery.



The music companies, not the fans, do the real leeching

MICHAEL DICKINSON
Op/Ed Writer

It's an act many — if not most — of us have committed and it borders on being criminal. What is it? Trading music over the Internet? I think not. The act I have in mind is a little more sinister than that. I'm referring to the experience of being ripped off when we buy a single CD at a music store.

Large music and record companies have successfully orchestrated a public relations campaign to get the conventional media to label Internet song trading as being "music piracy." Supposedly, those who download songs are ripping off the big music companies. Artists like Metallica moan and groan that those who download music are cutting into their profits.

Yet these people, who make more in one show or year of record sales than the common American police officer or teacher — far more important jobs — feel the need to call out the common music fan and their children as thieves. How dare they.

The majority of profit from a CD does not go to the artist. The artists get a couple of dollars off each CD that sells but the majority of the money goes to the record label. That's why Tommy Mottolas and Clive Davis, both rich record label owners, are spearheading the effort to get Congress involved to outlaw the trade of music on the Internet.

After the record label gets its hefty cut of the purchase price, songwriters, producers and agents get theirs. By the time the money filters back to the band the profit has diminished to a few million dollars, which is not that much when divided among the 4 or 5

member band.

That is ultimately what the musicians are misinformed and belligerent about. They don't comprehend how the record companies can get rich, and then not pass the huge profits along to them.

How do we benefit from being a fan? I don't think we do. Someone like Madonna gets on the news and runs her mouth about how the fans are cheating her by trading songs. When Madonna is not complaining she's promoting her CD and wants us all to run out and spend \$20 on her CD. But when we see her in a mall and ask her to sign an autograph or to take a photograph, she wants to spew profanity. This trend of artists not caring about the fans continues on. In the song titled "The Way I Am," Eminem writes that he is thankful for his fans, but doesn't owe them anything. I disagree. I think all

artists do owe their fans. I think fans are outraged because they don't feel an intimate connection to the musician.

If the music artists expect the fans to spend \$20 a CD and \$50 a concert, then I think those same artist should make an honest effort to be accessible and sign autographs. Snoop Doggy Dogg, who has gone from representing gangstarap and Compton, Calif. to heading a comedy show on MTV, has said publicly he won't sign autographs. Other than giving artists your money, how do you benefit from being a loyal fan?

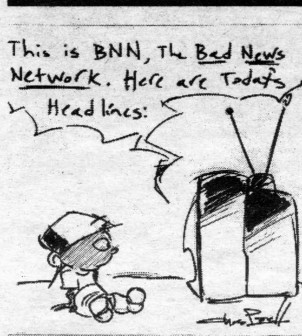
That's why I applaud groups like Good Charlotte. While in Richmond the band members stayed outside and signed autographs for everyone who was willing to wait. Instead, far too often the fans make someone famous by supporting them, buying their CD and going to their concert, only

to see the artist lease a leer jet and hire a 7-foot-tall bodyguards to keep the fans away because the artist has to hurry up to the hotel to meet some groupies. Many music artists have forgotten where they came from.

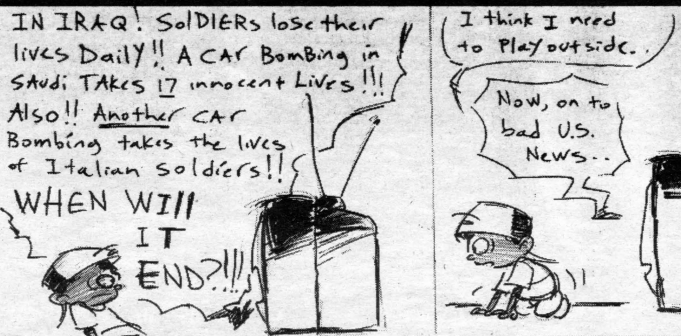
Consumers are the key factor in this. Consumers will buy what they want when they want it. For so long record companies have had the upper hand in technology. Now with the plethora of computers the consumers have the advantage and the record companies want to cry foul.

I remember several times when I was young mowing lawns to save up money to buy a CD. When I got it I felt ripped off, because it only had one good song and the rest was filler. I felt cheated and felt the record company and artist had lied to me. I hope now the record companies understand the feeling.

Cul de Sac



By Chris Powell



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