

The Commonwealth Times

FREE

African Burial Ground sheds new light on slavery

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Editorials & Letters



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Local band VCR takes on traditional rock music. Details on Page 12.

IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

NOV. 20 THROUGH NOV. 22

Thursday, Nov. 20	Friday, Nov. 21	Sunday, Nov. 22
<p>Drink for a good cause! Join the folks at Capital Ale House for their "Community Chest Night," raising money and awareness for disabilities. Capital Ale House will donate \$1 per beer sold to the Hanover Arc. The fun begins at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Head over to the 1708 Gallery at 319 West Broad St. for the Moveable Feast, when VCU MFA graduates will read their original work. Kathy Davis will read poetry while Jim Panos will read fiction. The event begins at 6 p.m. Contact (804) 643-7829 for more information.</p>	<p>Join VCU's Student Government Association and the Fan District Association for the Fan Alley Clean Up Day from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cleanup begins at the SunTrust parking lot on Allen Avenue and Broad Street and ends at Meadow Park. Coffee and doughnuts will be served and lunch will be served at Meadow Park. Contact Chris Busse at bussecw@vcu.edu for more information.</p>

CAMPUS FORECAST



Thursday
63/40



Friday
66/46



Saturday
68/48



Sunday
68/51

U.Va. reporters dismissed over plagiarism

The student newspaper of the University of Virginia dismissed two reporters after discovering instances of plagiarism. Movie and music reviews apparently contained "ideas, phrases and even complete sentences and paragraphs from outside sources" according to a Nov. 5 editorial in the newspaper. Much of the material was taken from Web sites. In addition, an article about low-rise jeans copied material from the Web site Slate.com.

Petrarch to be exhumed

A team headed by Padua University anatomy professor Vito Terribile Wiel Marin opened the marble tomb of famed Italian poet Petrarch. The bones will remain inside the tomb for another week as experts confer on how to move and preserve them. Marin's team hopes to study Petrarch's physical features and learn other information about his life. Petrarch died in 1374 and is considered by some to be the father of humanism.

Swedes' IKEA devotion ranks high

Swedes trust furniture giant IKEA more than they trust their government, media or trade unions, according to a survey commissioned by MediaAkademien. IKEA, which also makes Swedish meatballs and has outlets in 22 countries, earned "a lot or quite a lot" of trust from 66 percent of the population. By contrast, 47 percent of respondents expressed that level of trust in their parliament.

Only schools and universities received a higher rating - 84 percent said they trusted them as much.

China announces DVD alternative

China will begin marketing a new alternative to DVDs - EVDs, or enhanced versatile disc. The disc is designed to play and record high-quality images for high-definition televisions. The new EVD would also mean Chinese producers would not have to pay licensing fees to those who hold patents on the DVD format. China manufactures about 60 percent of the world's DVD players.

Art is yummy?

British performance artist Mark McGowan made the news in September when he pushed a nut through London with his nose for 11 days to protest student debt. Now the 37-year-old has done something else with his nose - he stuck French fries up his nostrils as well as wrapped sausages around his head, all while sitting in a bath of baked beans. The artist said Monday he would sit in the bath, featured in a London art gallery, for the following two weeks to express support for the traditional English breakfast, which features the same food used in McGowan's art.

Deadly vodka-drinking contest

One man is dead and five others are in intensive care after a Russian vodka-drinking competition, in which the winner drank three half-liter bottles in 30 to 40 minutes. He apparently hired a taxi to drive him home but died 20 minutes later. The director of the store organizing the contest, who

had offered 10 liters of vodka as a prize to anyone who could drink the most in the shortest time, has been charged with manslaughter.

Concessions worker sold beer in used cups

John Angelus Keene, 68, was charged with felony grand theft after he apparently sold beer in used plastic cups at a recent Tampa Bay Buccaneers football game. The volunteer concessions stand worker could have made \$1,080 in sales. Food service workers alerted police to Keene's activities after noticing that not all of the beer he sold was being reported to the company. Keene had apparently signed a voucher for the sales even as he told police he planned to hand in the money.

Orgy scandal ensnares hundreds

Hundreds of Japanese tourists, pimps, nightclub managers, prostitutes and hotel workers along with employees of a Japanese-funded company have been charged in connection with a widespread sex scandal in southern China. Those involved could face up to 10 years in jail if convicted. Specifics about the incident are unclear, but Japanese construction company employees believed to have been involved denied allegations of an orgy at the hotel.

Cover graphic by
Husayn Raza.
Spectrum cover photo
by Kent Brockwell.

THE Commonwealth TIMES

ROOM 1149

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News

More growth for university?

New campus planned as student population rises

JONATHAN ROBBINS

Staff Writer

Imagine standing in the School of Engineering Building. It's a spring day. Birds fly past the window as you look across Belvidere Street to take in the view ... of the School of Engineering Building?

That's part of the plan Eugene Trani, VCU's president, presented in a slide show on the proposed Monroe Campus at Thursday's Board of Visitors meeting.

The Monroe Campus plans, if implemented, mean the School of Engineering is going to get bigger.

The plans call for developing a 10.8-acre area bordered by Belvidere, Main and Canal streets into an extension of the current Academic Campus. Phases 2 and 3 of the School of Engineering, a new School of Business and two residential centers are slated for construction on the land, some of which VCU already possesses, Trani said during his presentation.

Growth is not an unknown concept to the university. This semester marks the fifth consecutive increase in first-year student enrollment – 3,326 first-year students for a total of 26,677 students at VCU, according to the Fall 2003 Undergraduate Admissions and Enrollment Census II report.

The average SAT scores for first-year students also increased for the seventh year in a row, from 1050 last year to 1066, according to the census.

"We're marching toward that elusive score of 1100 that the board wanted," Trani said.

The number of out-of-state first-year students rose from 269 last year to 343 this year, the census reported.

Roderick McDavis, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said he thinks that the number will continue increasing.

"I think we're going to see an increase in the number of out-of-state students who come to VCU. Many students are looking at us on the Internet (and) they're seeing good things," he said.

This growth in the number of out-of-state students is a step toward the university's goal of 2,000 additional out-of-state students that Trani outlined as part of his presidential priorities for 2001 to 2007.

"We're clearly going for more non-Virginian undergraduates," he said. "With 3,000 Virginia graduates – we believe that's a good number."

Both Trani and McDavis expressed the desire to increase the number of doctoral students.

"We've got to enhance the number of doctoral programs," Trani said, "and the

number of doctors."

McDavis said he thinks the school is in a position to do just that.

"I believe that we are well-positioned – with the new addition of an array of life sciences programs, the knowledge is spreading around the country of our School of Engineering. I think we're going to see a big boost in the number of doctoral students in all our programs this year," he said.

The president stressed the importance of solid architectural foundations throughout his presentation on the Monroe Campus proposal, which included guidelines for building in an urban environment, and cited the area where Oliver Hall, the School of Business Building and the University Student Commons converge as an example of what not to do.

"Take a look at the Oliver Hall, the Business Building and the Commons ... distinctly different architecturally designed buildings. And where they sit, whether they come to the grid or not, it's like the architects refused to acknowledge anybody else was there, and it looks awful," he said.

The Central Belting Building, a historic building given to VCU, will remain on the plot of land, and, after getting renovated, could become home to VCU's Adcenter.

"That's the kind of left-brain, over-the-top space that they prefer," Trani said.

While the Central Belting Building remains, there is talk of removing the Canal Street entrance ramp to the Downtown Expressway.

"Very few people have ever used it and (most) don't use it on a regular basis," Trani said. "To access that, you've got to be going north on Belvidere, and most people enter the Downtown Expressway if they're coming up Canal. Most people coming north on Belvidere will take a left on Cumberland," to reach the expressway.

The project's estimated cost is \$218.5 million, with VCU asking for \$30 million from the state, according to a report on the Monroe Campus proposal. \$10 million of that has already been appropriated for Phase 2 of the School of Engineering.

Trani said that VCU never received any money for land acquisition in the past. For this project, the university is only asking the state for \$2.5 million to buy land, which VCU will match if granted.

"When God created (Virginia) Tech, UVA, William and Mary and George Mason (University) thousands of acres were needed – God was generous. When God created VCU, she and VCU engaged in hand-to-hand combat, square foot by square foot," he said.

N.Y. cemetery reveals slavery's true history

TANJA ZLATKOVIC

News Co-Editor

An archeological finding in New York City might provide the evidence that slavery was not concentrated in the American South but was spread across the entire country – despite what most history textbooks suggest.

During his Wednesday lecture titled "New York's African Burial Ground and the Struggle for Human Rights," Michael Blakey, director of the Institute for Historical Biology at the College of William and Mary, spoke to nearly 150 students about the challenges of the African Burial Ground's discovery near the City Hall in Lower Manhattan.

The five and a half acre cemetery, found in 1991, was created in the 18th century for nearly all Africans who were enslaved in New York at the time. With an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 burials, the cemetery represents 20 percent of the New York colonial population, Blakey said.

"This changes the thought of the slave division between the South and the free North," Blakey said. "Slavery was indeed

in all 13 (American) colonies."

Although some questions about the origin and the large number of people buried at the cemetery still remain unanswered, one of the main challenges Blakey addressed was the neglect among archeologists to examine African findings while truly reflecting the culture and habits of the African people.

Most of the historical data, Blakey said, is slim and tends to describe the slaves as property. The cemetery, he added, provides evidence of human-rights abuses, which underline the inequality-based mindset of America's past.

For example, "There is only one documented record of what the slaves ate," Blakey said.

That document, written by freed slave John Jae, describes the dilemma of a society that on one hand practiced Christian values but on the other enslaved human beings.

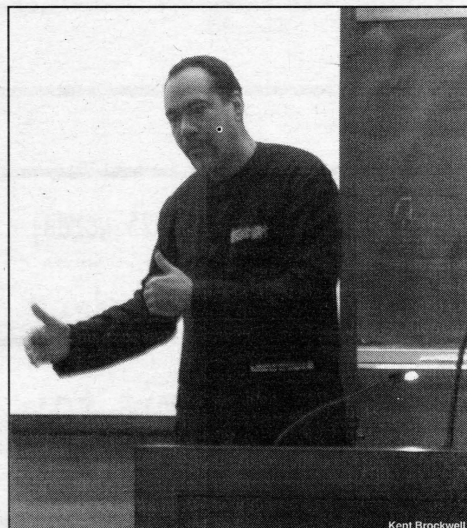
"They (slaves) were human labor," Blakey said. "They were useful. They had hands and minds like other humans. But slavery was justified and represented as a Christian charity because it allowed Afri-

can souls to be saved."

Yet imposing Christian values upon the enslaved was not always successful – often it had quite the opposite effect, Blakey said. In his writing, Jae described his hatred toward Christian believers, whom he often associated with his slaveholders.

"My indignation was so increased on my entering the place of worship that the form of my visage was changed," Jae wrote.

The brutality the New York slaves faced is also embodied in the corpses found in the cemetery. The skull of a 20-year-old woman, for example, collapsed inward in the



Kent Brockwell

CEMETERY continued
to Page 5

Michael Blakey explains different perspectives on analyzing data about the African Burial Ground.

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NEWS

CEMETERY continued from Page 3

region of her face. Injuries to her spine indicate that a bullet penetrated her back. Her wrist was also ruptured.

"Here is a woman who died as a result of a struggle with a person or persons who had firearms," Blakey said, while pointing out a picture of the woman's remains on a slide.

Although the discovery of this cemetery was "quite a surprise to the archeologists," the site was initially found because of a planned construction of the Foley Square federal building on the cemetery's soil, Blakey said.

As the federal law mandates, he added, every new building site requires archeological examination. The initial stages of that examination led to the discovery of the African Burial Ground. What then began as an ambitious project to study the remains of slaves, turned into disagreements among researchers and the U.S. General Services Administration, the main overseer of the federally funded research project, Blakey said.

Although today the office building occupies part of the burial site, the majority of the soil African Burial Ground is a national landmark.

Michael Tomlin, treasurer of the Alexandrian Society of VCU's Department of History, which sponsored Blakey's lecture, said that the Society chose to invite Blakey to VCU because they wanted a speaker who would appeal to the diverse student population.

"I think Dr. Blakey demonstrated that

today," he said. "You can look at a burial ground from many points of view. From the American perspective it is important for us to know our history."

Michael Blakey is the National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of anthropology and American studies at the College of William and Mary. He has taught at Spelman College, the Universita di Roma-La Sapienza, Columbia University, and Brown University. Blakey earned his bachelor's degree at Howard University and the master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from York College, CUNY in 1995. His publications concern paleopathology, historical demography, race and racism, biocultural anthropology and the history and philosophy of science. His work is found in leading journals that include "Annual Review of Anthropology," "American Anthropologist," "American Journal of Physical Anthropology," "Current Anthropology" and "Critique of Anthropology." Blakey is now revising and completing comprehensive reports on the collective research of scholars involved in the African Burial Ground Project.

—Source:
College of William and Mary

Associate dean offers graduate school advice

LISA STEWART
Correspondent

"Graduate school focuses on what a person wants to specifically study, and it is very important to choose a school with a curriculum you are interested in," said Sherry Sandkam, associate dean of the School of Graduate Studies, who recently spent about an hour answering students' questions about graduate school.

"Every school is different in terms of the application process," she said. "At VCU we really look at the personal statement because it is your opportunity to talk about yourself."

Sandkam said her main focus for the evening was to answer students' questions. She told them the most important aspect of applying to graduate school is knowing which school is best for you. The associate dean emphasized the admission process that includes standardized tests or Graduate Record Examinations, as well as transcripts, deadlines, financial aid information and applications.

"There are scholarships, fellowships, loans and work-study programs you can (apply for)," said Sandkam, who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Longwood College, now called Longwood University. "You just have to submit them prior to the deadlines."

Sue Paleo, a criminal justice major who attended the meeting, said she wanted to

find out the basics on how to get into graduate school.

"No one knows what's going on," she said. "College is easy to get into, but graduate school is another story." Because she wants to do something with criminal profiling, Paleo said she wanted more information on graduate school.

In all, an estimated 50 students of all ages and backgrounds attended the speech sponsored by the University Career Center.

"I came today because I am considering graduate school, but don't know where to start," said Stephanie Whitehead, an English major, who explained that she completed her bachelor's but wants to go back and get her master's. "I hope to learn some tips on the Graduate Record Examinations and how to apply."

Referring to the GRE, Sandkam, who has completed her doctoral externship, distributed a packet with all the information on test-taking.

"You can take the tests anytime," she said. "You'll get an unofficial score, but you can take it again if you want. Just make sure the scores come with the application."

Since Sandkam evaluates the graduate school applications, she offered tips based on how she evaluates them.

"Make sure you take practice tests and submit a personal statement that allows you to talk about yourself," she said. "Don't reject yourself — let someone else do it."

Government communications field requires flexibility

AMANDA DANIELS
Correspondent

When entering the government communications field always be flexible, be open to innovative skills and ideas, do not be afraid to turn to people for help and do not "burn your bridges."

This was the advice four government communicators gave to students and others attending a seminar on campus titled "Career Paths in Public Sector Communications."

"Every agency at every level of the government deals with issues," said Andy Farmer, the education resources manager of the State Corporation Commission. Other panelists included Susan C. Schaar, clerk of the Virginia Senate; Ross Richardson, promotions and publicity manager of Jamestown 2007; and Bob Spieldenner, director of public affairs for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Each panelist focused on his or her particular field of the public sector, but all gave similar advice on working with the public through the government.

"You can't burn (your) bridges,"

Spieldenner said about his work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, otherwise known as FEMA, during Hurricane Isabel.

Spieldenner told the audience that the biggest problem he faced during the crisis was not the hundreds of thousands of people without power or water or the nonstop calls from the local, state and national media. Instead, he said it was the dispute between his department and FEMA.

"There was finger-pointing going on between the state and FEMA," Spieldenner said. "Although the storm was over, it doesn't mean the crisis is over."

The public affairs director said the state still needs FEMA's help, and although the relationship between the state and FEMA is still rough, his staff continues to work through it.

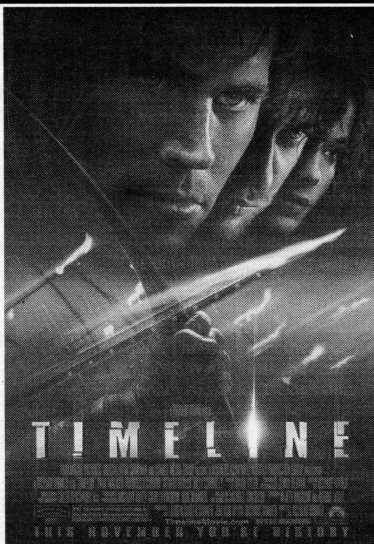
Still, Spieldenner said when he became overwhelmed, he turned to his good friend Farmer for some extra help. Even though Farmer does not work with emergency management, he had enough experience to go "headfirst" into a massive crisis such as

FLEXIBILITY continued to Page 7



Despite the chilly temperatures and brisk winds, construction continued on the Shafer Court Dining Center last week.

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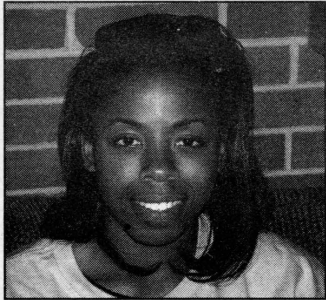
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NEWS

CT Hits the Streets

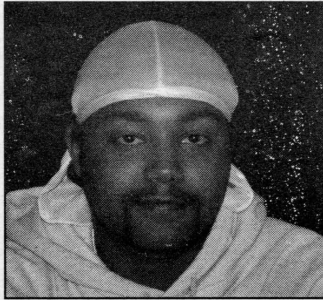
What do you think about VCU's change to refer to its academic medical center as VCU Medical Center as opposed to Medical College of Virginia?

TANJA ZLATKOVIC
News Co-Editor



Shannell Jones
biology, junior

It's a good idea. That way you can affiliate the medical school with VCU.



Brandon Watkins
bio-medical engineering,
sophomore

There is no point in a name change if the school is going to have the same role.



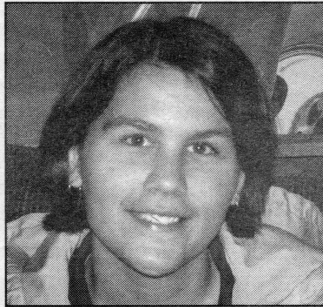
James Loveluck
biology, junior

If it clears up the confusion (about what college the medical school is affiliated with) I guess it's a good change.



Kim Le
political science, junior

Either way. We know that MCV belongs to us but at the same time the name would give VCU more recognition.



Lisa Crissman
nursing, junior

I think the change is good so that people know the accomplishments of our medical college. It could also attract more people to come to VCU.



Flanna Sheridan
German, senior

I've been here for four years and I've been on the Medical Campus once. I almost think it's a totally different college. Either way, I am not really affected by the change.

FLEXIBILITY continued from Page 5

that one, he said.

In this industry, Farmer said, "you have to be flexible and adapt to any setting or situation."

The Virginia Government Communicators sponsored the seminar for the School of Business.

Describing how he utilizes communication resources to educate the public about energy choice, Farmer showed the audience samples of his work in advertising and public relations through radio and television commercials he did for the State Corporation Commission.

Like Farmer, Richardson told how he uses his public relations skills to lead the way for Jamestown 2007, saying he now is planning the famous Jamestown 2007 gala scheduled 2006 to 2008.

Sharing some experiences, Richardson related to the students that when they enter the workforce "it is a different set of skills, rules and information."

Schaar said she agreed with Richardson's philosophy on the workforce. Schaar said she works an everyday, every-hour job as clerk of the Virginia Senate.

"There is no such thing as a normal day in the Senate," she said, adding that she takes whatever is thrown her way and deals with it the best she can.

Schaar identified three rules she thinks people need to know to succeed in a job like hers.

"You need to like people, be flexible and have a sense of humor," she said.

"No matter what you do, don't make it all work," she added, explaining that people should find other activities besides work to fill their time.

All panelists said they agreed with Schaar's advice.

Crime Log

Nov. 15

Male arrested at Children's Pavilion on East Marshall Street for trespassing and possession of a controlled substance.

Male arrested at Virginia ABC Store on West Broad Street for petit larceny.

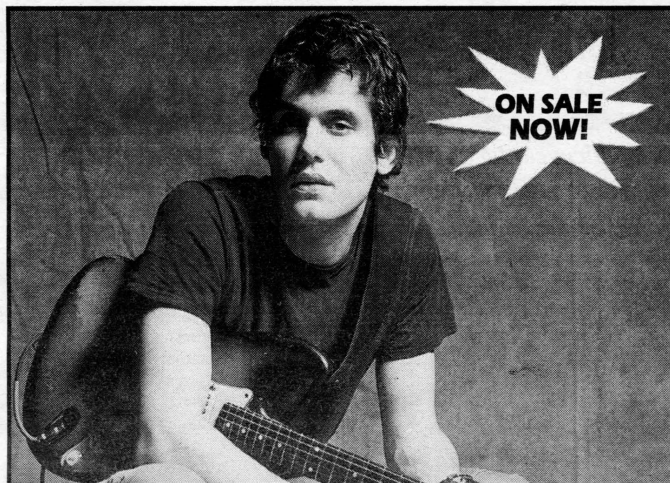
Female student at Gladding Residence Center on West Main Street advised on Nov. 1 of harassment and threats by a known person.

Female student at Broad and Belvidere Dormitory on West Broad Street advised that between Nov. 8 and Nov. 9 an unknown person(s) damaged state property valued at \$250.

Nov. 16

Female employee at Larrick Center on East 8th Street advised that on Nov. 14 an unknown person(s) damaged state property.

Want to know how students feel about an issue? Send your questions to CT Hits the Streets at ctvcu@hotmail.com.



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SPORTS

Upcoming Sports Events

Friday, Nov. 21

Women's basketball
vs. North Carolina A&T
State University, 5 p.m.
Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart
C. Siegel Center

Men's basketball
vs. Iona College, 7:30 p.m.
Alltel Pavilion at the
Stuart C. Siegel Center

Doping allegations taint week 11

CORY CARLINO
Sports Writer

In news off the field, four Oakland Raiders players tested positive for the steroid THG. When the tests were originally administered the performance-enhancing steroid was not on the league's list of banned substances. The NFL has not confirmed the allegations.

This past weekend the top-scoring team was the Cleveland Browns with a 44-6 win over the Arizona Cardinals. The Kansas City Chiefs lost to the Cincinnati Bengals, who have a .500 record for the season.

The Chiefs were 9-0 and on a roll but that didn't stop the Bengals' wide receiver Chad Johnson from promising the Cincinnati fans a victory. It wasn't Chad Johnson but his teammate, Peter Warrick, that had two touchdowns and over 200 total yards.

The Bengals are now tied with the Baltimore Ravens for the lead in their division. The Bengals have won three of their last four games and three victories were against division leaders.

The Minnesota Vikings lost their last four games. Pro bowl quarterback Daunte Culpepper threw three interceptions and three fumbles in the Viking's 18-28 loss to the Oakland Raiders.



The San Diego

Chargers have had many losses this season but for the second time this season they were coming off a win. Unfortunately for them, an 8-37 loss to the Denver Broncos snapped their winning streak. Broncos' tightend Shannon Sharpe had three touchdowns, which is three times

more than the Chargers.

It was a homecoming celebration for runningback Stephen Davis as the Carolina Panthers played the Washington Redskins. During the game, Davis fumbled on his first possession but in the end he scored the final touchdown to lead the Panthers to a 20-17 victory.

The Redskins let Davis go in the off-season because he didn't fit into the offense. Well, Sunday he didn't have a problem running over their defense.

The Super Bowl Champions Tampa Bay Buccaneers lost yet again, this time to the Green Bay Packers. Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre threw for a low 92 yards in the team's 20-13 victory. The Buccaneers are four games behind the division-leading Panthers and the hopes of a Super Bowl repeat are being quelled by their 4-6 record.



SPORTS IN BRIEF

From news sources

NCAA playoff update

The VCU men's soccer team received a No. 9 seed in the 2003 NCAA College Cup. The Rams earned a first-round bye and will entertain the winner of the Nov. 21 Clemson-Virginia Tech matchup to be played 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at VCU's Sports Backers Stadium.

A two-time Colonial Athletic Association champion, VCU earned the conference's automatic bid by defeating James Madison 3-0 on Friday and George Mason 2-0 on Sunday at Sports Backers Stadium. The Rams extended their home record to 10-0 this season.

Under head coach Tim O'Sullivan, the Rams are in the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season and the fifth time in the past seven years. VCU was a #8-seed a season ago but lost on penalty kicks to Furman in the second round.

VCU is 16-4 and has won 13 of its past 14 games. The Rams were victorious in eight of nine CAA contests.

Information courtesy of Sports Information.



McCollm Cephas (9) in last Sunday's CAA tournament finals.

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

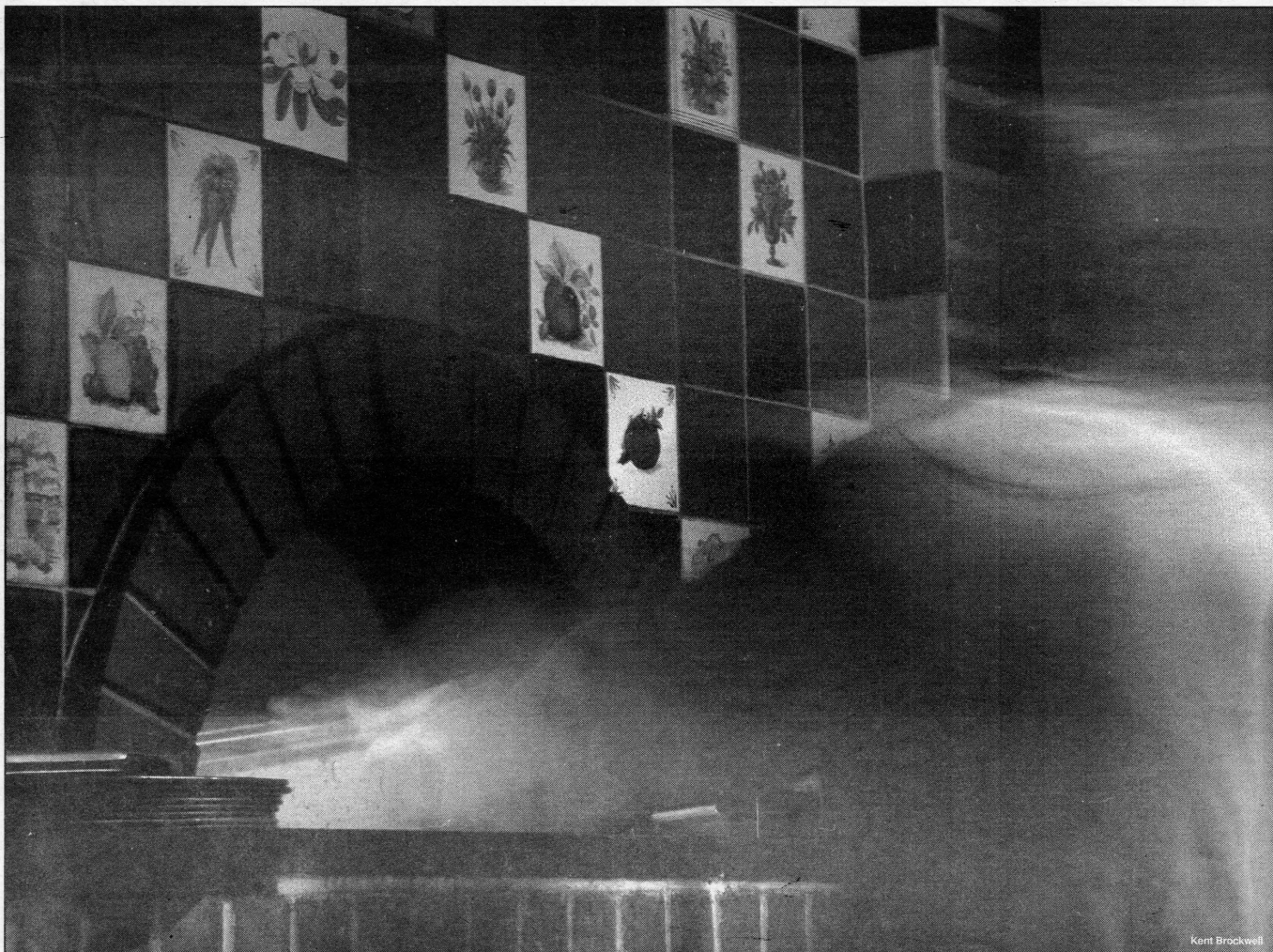
The Commonwealth Times is looking for sports writers.

The basketball season is in full swing and we need people to help us cover all of VCU's games.

Show your support by promoting your team and supporting the community by contributing to the school newspaper.

Contact Tyler Cooper at cooperTT@vcu.edu for more information.

Spectrum



Kent Brockwell

Underground Inn's cuisine sparkles

LU DUONG
Spectrum Writer

Sven Shine Inn is a restaurant in historic uptown that one could casually walk by multiple times without notice. Situated in a calm and lightly-traveled block, the only self-promotion is a wooden stand on the sidewalk that features a menu. Follow the steps that lead downstairs underneath a Laundromat aptly named, *The Lost Sock*.

Because the owner, Mitchell Lambers, is preparing a major interior renovation to include a full-service bar and updated décor (costing more than \$20,000) comfort, at the moment, is not part of the equation at the Inn. The walls are painted in erratic, subtle colors as large comical characters adorn the walls.

A pinball machine and an arcade Pac-Man game rest in a corner. The dining room contains rickety furniture, while eclectic memorabilia decorate the walls. Above the counter-top dining bar there is a picture of former president Jimmy Carter.

The menu, unlike the restaurant's peculiar ornamentation, achieves delightful results. All is forgiven as the drab surroundings become lost in Lambers' imaginative world.

One slight problem for the owner and chef is that very few people are aware of this jewel beneath the street. Two patrons in the near-empty restaurant one night were recently overheard moaning slightly with each bite of their respective dishes. "No one knows about this place," one said. "I'm surprised, but if they did, the wait for

the food would be longer though."

Patrons respond to Lambers' cuisine with genuine curiosity and love.

The baby free-range New Zealand lamb with homemade spinach tagliatelle pasta, lightly covered in a Mediterranean cracked olive, sun dried tomato sauce and sprinkled with feta offers a warm reprieve from the blistering cold outside. The execution and arrangement of spices and herbs with the lamb is refined, subtle and without distortion. The sharp pasta sauce accompanies the adjoining tagliatelle noodles nicely, however it proves a touch too thin. If the correction is made, and the sauce is made more viscous and dense the interwoven tastes may provide Lambers with his first signature dish.

Have I mentioned the price is \$12? Elsewhere, a dish of lamb can be expected to cost \$24 on average. By far, this is the best steal in town.

With six other main entrees on the menu (three are \$10), it's important to note that Lambers' ingredients are daringly fresh. He grew the striking herbs in his dishes.

Other dishes include grilled veal coated with vanilla, eggplant, green granny smith apples and leeks; North Atlantic salmon, black tiger shrimp salad with spring mix and napa cabbage with honey mango aged balsamic dressing — both are \$12.

The focus of the restaurant, however, is not on the entrees, but the \$40,000 exposed

INN continued to Page 11

Spectrum

Cheap Thrills: Get culture, keep the change

MORGAN COPELAND
Spectrum Writer

On the weekend of Nov. 21 through 23 we are going to be cultured, exposing ourselves to different foods and ways of entertainment.

This weekend an Irish spectacle of dancing and singing will be at the theater. Riverdance will be available Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. This one is for the people who have a little bit more money to spend. Tickets start at \$36 and go up to \$65.

At the middle of the price range spectrum, roughly \$7 for admission, is The Children's Museum of Richmond's "Our Community, Our World in Celebration." The museum is allowing patrons to explore the tastes of Jewish, Hindu, Christian, African-American, Chinese and Islamic holidays. The event is from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. If you are interested in these holidays and festivals, check it out.

VCU's Grace Street Festival celebrates

the new School of World Studies in the College of Humanities and Sciences. There will be different cultural performances throughout the event. Along with the free festival there will be free parking available at the new Ukrops, 500 N. Harrison St. The focus is to open people up to different cultures with educational exhibits. On Sunday Nov. 23, from noon to 5 p.m. the VCU Grace Street Festival is on the 900 block of West Grace Street. The event times will begin at 12:30, 1:15, 2, 2:45, 3:30 and 4:15 p.m.

For those new to Grace Street there are many Asian restaurants such as Panda Garden, Eastern Express and Tokyo Restaurant. Also check out the African House, African Bazaar, Vito's, and Ipanema Cafe. You have five hours to engulf yourself in culture for free. If you wanted to see anything in particular, visit the School of World Studies at www.has.vcu.edu/wld.

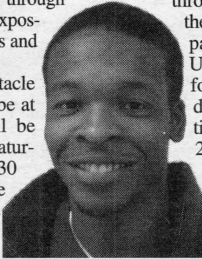
The Grace Street Theater will be showing three international films this weekend. "Quitting" won Best Picture at the Bangkok

Film Festival and is about Jia Hongsheng, a rising Chinese movie star of the 1990s, whose career was derailed by drug problems and mental illness. It will be showing at noon.

"The Last Kiss," which is about good and bad lovers, the struggles they go through to stay together and what ultimately tears them apart, will be showing at 2 p.m. There is a mixture of comedy, betrayal and some scary truth in the relationship between Giulia and Carlo, her boyfriend with cold feet. Giulia is pregnant and Carlo is thinking of marriage, but a friend's quarrels with his wife make Carlo apprehensive about the wedding.

"Russian Ark," about a filmmaker and his cynical accomplice, will be showing at 4 p.m. They travel through the 1700s back to contemporary time discussing their past tiffs and problems with each others views. The interesting thing about this film is that it is told through the filmmaker's eyes. Each of these films has subtitles.

Hopefully these are some cheap thrills that can open you up to different cultures without putting a serious dent in your pocket, unless you want it to.



INN continued from Page 10

brick wood oven imported from Italy, and the delectable pizzas that come from it. Suffice to say, it puts Papa Johns and Pizza Hut to shame.

A recent pizza special (11" inch) included salmon, cream cheese, and fennel.

Lambers' execution of multiple odd pairings proved remarkably adept. The dough was baked to a crackling thin crisp — not overdone, not underdone, but perfect. A thin layer of homemade marinara sauce added a moderately tangy accent, followed by a thin layer of fresh mozzarella. Lambers enhances the richness of the mozzarella with precise, individual dollops of cream cheese placed strategically throughout, and ample chunks of northern Atlantic salmon lined neatly alongside it. With each bite, the assertive salmon flavor creates a sharp contrast to the rich dairy decadence. The sprinkled fennel accompanied it well.

On a following visit, Lambers' latest special pizza concoction was banana and shitake mushroom's. Weird? Very. Tasty? Absolutely. The oven had brought out the sliced banana's rich sweetness along with the moist and fleshy shitake mushrooms' distinctive flavor.

The handmade personal pizzas are \$7.75 along with a selection of over 30 various meats, cheeses and vegetables.

It is quite clear Lambers enjoys nurturing his diners (during one meal, he asked us three times if everything was alright); his food is an extension of his innovative vision. His cuisine isn't five star, or four star, or even three star. It would be unfair to categorize Sven Shine Inn, because the restaurant isn't about ratings or guides. It's about good food that's unique, for a good price.



Sven Shine Inn is at 1319 W. Main St. Call 358-0646 for more information.

Happenings

Thursday, Nov. 20

The Washington D. C. band **Q and Not U** will play The Nanci Raygun with A New Dawn Fades and Forget Cassettes. Its most recent CD, *Different Damages*, is making indie-rock lovers squeal with delight. The show is at 5 p.m. 929 W. Grace St. 353-4263.

Suzanne Fortin's monotypes, titled **"Rock, Scissor, Paper,"** will be on display at Chop Suey Books. 1317 W. Cary St. 497-4705.

Friday, Nov. 21

Bobcat Goldthwait, the man best known as a smart aleck bunny — Mr. Floppy on "Unhappily Ever After," is performing at The Funny Bone. Friday at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Saturday at 7:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m. and 11:45 p.m., Sunday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18. 11800 W. Broad St. 521-8900.

Saturday, Nov. 22

Good ol' **Toby "Should Have Been a Cowboy" Keith** plays the Richmond Coliseum. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$36.75 to \$44.75 and are available through Ticketmaster. 601 E. Leigh St. 780-4970.

The **Bromoil** exhibit, which features prints that combine lithographic inks and photography, will be on display at Studio 111 from Nov 7 - Nov 28th. The gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday 12pm to 6pm. For more information on the OPA, Studio 111 or directions to the studio please email us at _O_P_A_@excite.com

Sunday, Nov. 23

Ladies look out, **John Mayer** is coming to the Richmond Coliseum. The show is at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are available through Ticketmaster. 601 E. Leigh St. 780-4970.

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

Spectrum



VCR (clockwise from left): Mya Anital, Casey Tomlin, Christian Newby, Steve Smith, Chad Middleton

VCR plugs into a different sound

MELISSA LYNCH
Spectrum Editor

VCR has three keyboardists and no guitarist. To say that the band has shattered the rock 'n' roll mold is putting it mildly.

VCU students Chad Middleton, Mya Victoria Anital, Casey Tomlin along with Steve Smith and Christian Newby make up the band that's causing a stir around Richmond.

Middleton, a senior film major, said the band recently reached the point where things are coming together for them.

"We've just now started to get into what we're going to do," he said. "Our roles are sort of determined ... before it was kind of loose and, like I said, we didn't know who was going to do what at first. We were just trying something just for fun ... It seemed to be working nicely so we were like, 'let's do this for real.'"

VCR performed at The Nanci Raygun Wednesday and played at Alley Katz with

Strike Anywhere earlier in the year.

"I guess we exclusively try to do shows we think will have a good turnout, shows that we think will be a good time with bands we enjoy," Middleton said.

VCR was reluctant to play The Nanci Raygun, Middleton said.

"We've actually sort of avoided playing The Nanci Raygun because it's got kind of an odd feeling to it for probably most of us," he said. "If we don't like the feel of a place or don't think it sounds too good or anything it's hard to get stoked about playing there. But someone gave us the show and it was kind of too good to pass up."

Middleton was reluctant to pigeonhole VCR's musical sound.

"I just want to say it's rock music and not try to clutter it's meaning with a bunch of weird terms," he said. "We have this really electronic synth sound I guess. But we structure our songs just like rock songs or pop songs."

As a band VCR consciously made the

decision not to include a guitarist because they wanted to set themselves apart from other rock bands, Middleton said.

"Almost all of us were sort of bored, not with hearing guitar music, but sort of bored that that was so common," he said. "It's unheard of to have a rock band without a guitarist so I guess we sort of wanted to do that just for the gesture of doing it."

"There's just a feeling you're going to naturally embody when you have a guitar and to remove that feeling we thought would be interesting."

Middleton is trying to balance playing shows and promoting the band with school and it can be exhausting.

"We burn ourselves at both ends basically," he said.

The band members have shipped their self-titled demo to radio stations, done interviews with publications like Style Weekly and put a song on www.mp3.com. They also maintain their website, www.scaredofvcr.com, and are planning

to record an EP, which will be put out by Perpetual Motion Machine, in the near future.

Middleton said he is ready to see where VCR will take him. He wants to graduate from VCU so that he can spend more time on the band.

"We're looking to be done with school so that we can maybe tour or just put everything into the band," he said. "I would really like to see it do well enough in the near future where I could make a living off of it, even if it's not a very significant living."

**Find out more about
VCR at
www.scaredofvcr.com.**

Spectrum

Here to stay 'For Never & Ever'

TAMMY PHAM
Spectrum Writer

With their latest CD it is obvious that Kill Hannah is trying to make some bold statements. "For Never & Ever" shows music listeners that Kill Hannah is here and they're here to stay—even though this is hardly the band's first attempt at making a name for itself.

The group, which emerged from a town right outside Chicago, is said to be inspired by the Smashing Pumpkins, another influential Illinois-based band. Although Kill Hannah has previously released two other albums, this is the band's first successful effort at really breaking into the psyche of its listeners with lead singer Mat Devine's tortured and often addictive lyrics. Cannon-like drums and perfectly timed power chords seem to transport listeners into the world according to Kill Hannah.

From the squealing guitars on the opening track, "They Can't Save Us Now," it is obvious that listeners are hearing something that finally breaks the mold of the all-too-familiar Orange County drivel that has strangled the dials of radios across the nation. The strong and meaningful vocals on this album will instantly appeal to the generation that swears their parents just don't understand. A personal favorite, "Kennedy," deals with a fascination with all things glamorous, as well as all things tragic.

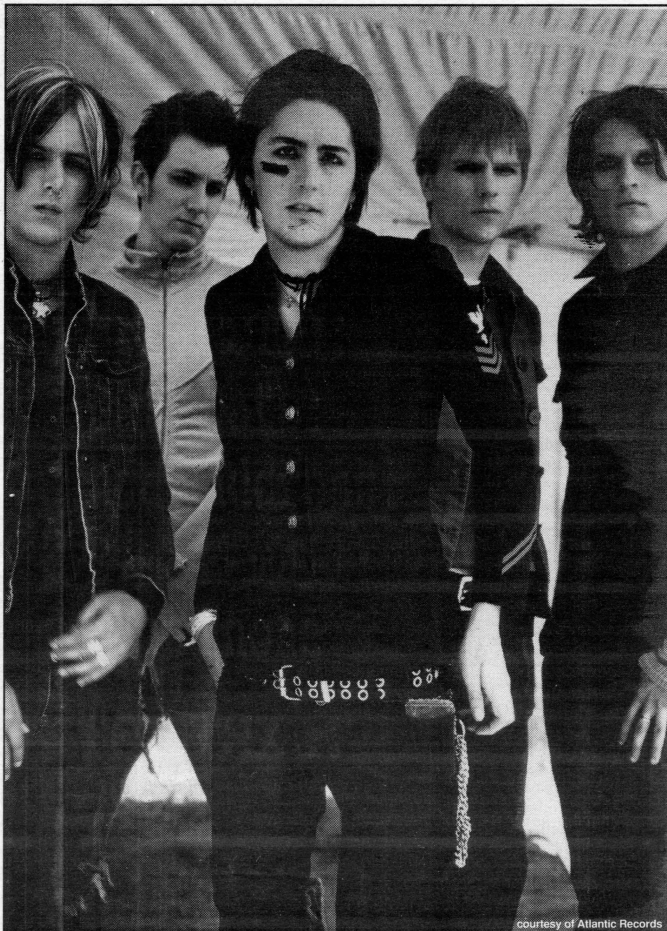
"Raining All The Time" and "10 More Minutes With You," are songs that resemble the layout of an anthem, evoking the desire to pound one's fist methodically in the air.

Fans of bands like the Smashing Pumpkins will appreciate the intricate variety of songs on "For Never & Ever," from popular energetic tracks to slower, almost ballad-like songs. Kill Hannah's sound can be defined as pop-rock with hints of The Cure and David Bowie-inspired '80s glam.

This album is a must-have for 2003, especially for those who need a little rebellion in their lives. The unique instrumentals and powerful lyrics prove Kill Hannah's commitment to longevity in an entertainment industry that is in need of a band like theirs.

Kill Hannah
"For Never & Ever"

★★★★
(out of five)



Kill Hannah's "For Never & Ever" proves that the band has something to say.

WHILE You Were Out

WWE Raw

Booker T vs. Mark Henry: Booker T puts his feet on the ropes to gain leverage while pinning Henry.

Test frees his property, Scott Steiner, for their upcoming tag match.

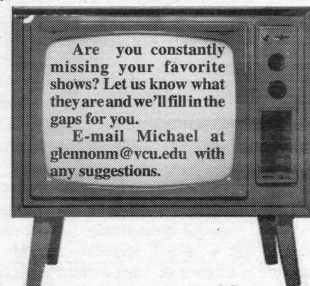
Chris Jericho lets Lita know Matt Hardy is returning to RAW. Matt takes Lita's hand, drops to one knee and is interrupted by Molly Holly, who says she resents the attention Lita gets despite Holly's retaining her women's championship title.

The Dudley Boyz vs. Test and Scott Steiner: D-Von Dudley pins Test after Stacy Keibler refuses to help Test cheat.

Matt Hardy and Lita vs. Eric Bischoff and Molly Holly: Hardy avoids being tagged in by Lita, allowing Bischoff to pin Lita. As a result, Bischoff is allowed to fire Lita. Hardy says he and Lita's relationship is over.

Val Venis vs. Rico: Val Venis wins by pin.

Christian tells Lita he got her her job back. They leave the arena together.



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.

Zodiac Cookies

Scorpio: There's no such thing as a free lunch, but there is such a thing as a lunch that you're willing to pay for.

Sagittarius: Keep your wits about you. What good would they do you in your other pants pocket, anyway?

Capricorn: Don't let a smile be your umbrella. Acid rain will do a number on your enamel.

Aquarius: Sleep is for the weak. But hey, if being weak means you get to sleep, can't we all go for that?

Pisces: You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear, but you can make a sow's ear purse with almost no work at all.

Aries: You feel unfairly singled out. That's right, you.

Taurus: You expect others have ulterior motives. What's your twisted motive in thinking that?

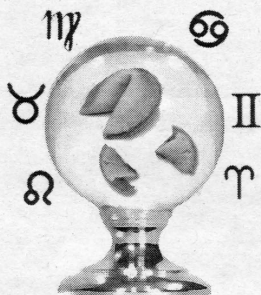
Gemini: The more things change, the less the change matters.

Cancer: If you've lasted long enough to be reading a college paper at your own college, nothing here can bring you down.

Leo: Conspiracy theorists take note: The government is compiling a database of paranoid screwballs.

Virgo: You hide your light under a bushel, but all that does is make for one overheated bushel.

Libra: Don't bother running for cover. The cover will still be there if you stroll casually.



Zodiac Cookies

EDITORIALS & LETTERS

Renaming MCV serves a good purpose

PATRICK RYAN
Op/Ed Editor

The top part of the front page of the Nov. 9 issue of the Richmond Times-Dispatch addressed the name of VCU's hospitals, clinics and health sciences schools. Some people believe it should carry the old name of Medical College of Virginia while others, including VCU's President Eugene Trani, say the institution should be named the VCU Medical Center.

To pass judgment on this naming issue I sought precedent. I found it in a book written by Robert Pirsig titled "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance," which a New York Times review called "profoundly important ... full of insights into our most perplexing contemporary dilemmas."

The book is essentially a factual account of a chunk of Pirsig's life. At one time Pirsig taught English at a college in Montana. While he taught at the college, the Montana legislature "passed a law fining the college eight thousand dollars for every student who failed, virtually an order to pass every student."

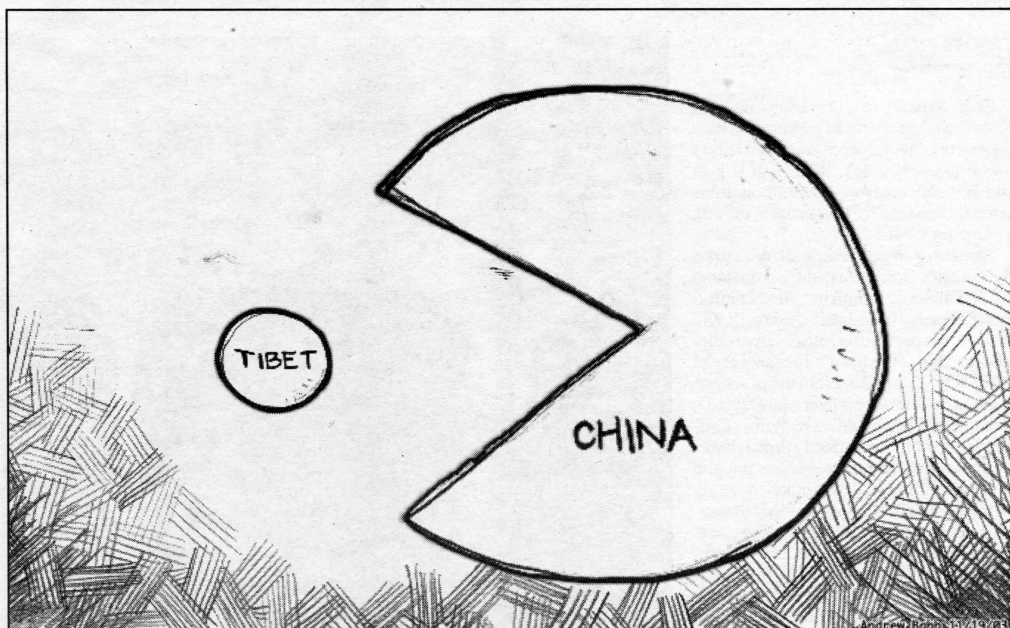
Recognizing the accreditation requirements had been broken, Pirsig sought to have the school officially lose its accreditation. The students, angered at Pirsig for this, wanted to know why. To explain, Pirsig told the students about a Catholic church that had been converted into a bar. Numerous people complained about the convergence of the church.

However, Pirsig writes, the "priest who had been delegated to respond to the criticism had sounded quite irritated about the whole thing. To him it had revealed an incredible ignorance of what a church really was. Did they think that bricks and boards and glass constituted a church? Or the shape of the roof? Here, posing as piety was an example of the very materialism the church opposed ... The beer sign resided over a bar, not a church, and those who couldn't tell the difference were simply revealing something about themselves."

According to the Times-Dispatch article, VCU medical student Thomas Boro said the alumni "provide a substantial amount of money to the school. A lot of them may not give as much because their school is gone."

If the alumni do not donate as generously because the name of the school has changed, that merely reveals something about their character and not the quality of the university. It has nothing to do with the name of the school.

It is still the same school. It hasn't gone anywhere. If Harvard University changed its name tomorrow to Johnbo College, the quality of classes and instruction would be exactly the same as they were the day before. Nothing but the name would change. Problems occur when people see the university as



BY ANDREW BABB

a set of buildings, titles, parking lots and stadiums. None of these things are the university. The university is the professors and students.

Trani will not be hurt if alumni withhold donations they otherwise would have given. The students will suffer.

Dr. Francis H. McMullan, a 1951 Medical College of Virginia graduate, said "Dr. Trani has no interest in maintaining things of practical and historical interest," according to the Times-Dispatch article.

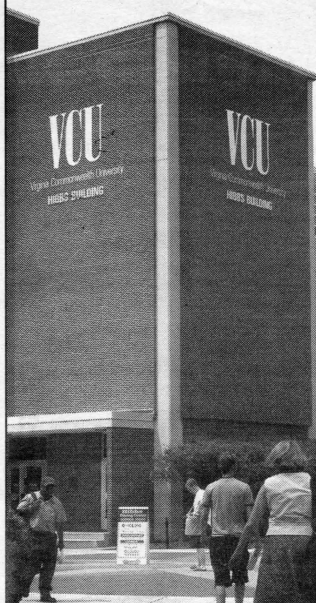
Trani has a reason for wanting the name change. A good deal of confusion has occurred because people in the media have associated the Medical Campus with the University of Virginia. To cut down on the confusion, Trani has placed VCU in the name. That sounds fairly practical.

As far as the "historical interest" argument, I may be able to offer some insight. History used to be my major and is now my minor. I can tell you that learning history has nothing to do with the past. It has everything to do with the future.

If Trani, a historian, believes the university will be best served by changing the name of the Medical Campus to VCU Medical Center, I have to believe he knows what he is doing. As president, his interests are rooted in making the university better. The quaintness of history does not carry the value the practicality of a less confusing name does.

So the university has a new name. And that's it. I hope the VCU medical students at the VCU Medical Center are fine with the change. Of course, they're probably too busy studying important things to really care about minor details like a name.

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OP/ED

A former doormat asks: What's the point of being nice?

SEAN VAN DAMME
Op/Ed Writer

That old saying that nice guys finish last is true. Now, I'm sure there is somebody saying that I'm wrong, that this is just the ranting of a guy that failed and finished last, or who isn't actually a nice guy.

Well, I was a nice guy once - a very nice person indeed. I would always hold doors open and give of myself in the charitable way - not any sick way that I'm sure somebody came up with. I was a good guy. You could talk to me about anything and get a real opinion. I didn't see the world as a lost cause. I thought all people were nice.

Then I got screwed over and over and over by the people that run all over nice guys. The smart people who think, "Why do anything when I can get that nice little pushover to do it for me?" And for a while, I would bend to their will, but then I had an epiphany. Nice guys do finish last at all things, and in this stage of our lives, that is wholly and totally true.

Many women say that they want to find that nice guy, so why then do they date scum? Simple. Because that sounds good, and by the time that they are willing to honor this saying, it is too late to find a nice guy. Because you know what happens after years of being walked all over? They either become foul cynics like me, they try to become the people that they were walked over by or they just go crazy. That's when we have to worry about them.

The thing is that once you change from a nice guy to one of those three things, it is nearly impossible to go back. While the essence of the nice guy might still be inside of you, it will never be able to fully surface because it is preserved as a weakness, as something that will get you nowhere.

Is there a way to stop all the nice guys from turning into jerks? Unless we retool the whole of our society, the answer is probably not. We look down on them as the nice people that we must walk over to

get to our goals. In fact, we know that we will never get anywhere without them because they are the only ones that still care about everybody else.

You might notice that I called this column The Cynic's Corner. That is because I am one of those people that turned from a very nice guy into a cynic. I look back and wonder what in the name of God was wrong with me? Why did I let people

do that? I now probably have the worst possible outlook on life because of it.

I once saw goodness in all people, because I was looking at the world through the glasses of a nice guy. Now I don't see people as good - I see them as lying, conniving scum or as stupid people not worthy of my time.

I wish the world were full of nice guys because it would mean that society was

going in the right direction. But it is not full of nice guys. It is full of the very people that push them down and make us all stop caring about being nice and kind.

So just remember that in theory it is good to be the nice guy but in practice you will get the shaft at every possible moment. But if you can hold on and persevere, and not change into one of the three aforementioned people, then in the short run you might finish first, but in the long run nice guys finish last.

CYNIC'S CORNER

Post Modernity Now

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By Lyz Holder

www.kdcouk.com



Cul de Sac

By Chris Powell



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Purchase your spring semester decal online

Student parking decals may be purchased via the VCU Parking Web site:
<http://www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark> beginning **Thursday, November 13, 2003 at 8 a.m.**

Spring semester decals also may be purchased from either parking office location (1111 W. Broad St. or 1000 E. Clay St.) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning **Monday, December 1, 2003.**

Online purchase options are available only to students with valid VCU identification cards. Assignments will be made based on availability.

For more information, please call customer service at (804) 828-8726.

2004 Spring Semester
Decal

VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University

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