

The Commonwealth Times

FREE

Project Prism to advance student learning

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An honorable transition

Students vacate
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move into GRC

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IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

NOV. 24 THROUGH NOV. 26

Monday, Nov. 24	Tuesday, Nov. 25	Wednesday, Nov. 26
As the final exams approach, you might want to visit the University Student Commons for the "Study Tips for Upcoming Finals" meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sponsor of the event is Zeta Phi Beta. For more information, call Erica R. Trice at (804) 347-3232.	Visit the Anderson Gallery for its "Faculty Focus" exhibition, which this time promises to be more diverse than ever. Nine faculty members will present solo exhibitions including sculptural furniture forms and cast urethane foam figures. For more information, call (804) 828-2522.	It's the day before Thanksgiving. You should take a trip, relax and look at the stars from the Keeble Observatory at Randolph-Macon College. Student assistants will operate the telescopes and answer questions. The event is from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and is free. For more information, call (804) 752-3210.

THE Commonwealth TIMES

ROOM 1149

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CAMPUS FORECAST



Monday
70/33



Tuesday
52/28



Wednesday
58/41



Thursday
63/33

Mayor: alien landing canceled

Elcio Berti, the mayor of Bocauiuva do Sul, Brazil, said he canceled a landing by aliens so that they would not abduct any Brazilian soccer players during the team's game against Peru. Berti said he maintains regular contact with aliens who are aiding him in building a spaceship landing pad in Bocauiuva do Sul. The mayor made the news before when he banned birth control so that the expected increase in pregnancies would also increase the town's federal funding.

No holes? No problem

A Modesto, Calif., bank robber escaped with money despite the fact that his mask lacked eye-holes. Witnesses said he lifted the mask from the bottom to see but still had to walk slowly. A detective added that as the robber hurried to leave, he walked into the door frame, knocked his hat off and hit his head. The robber was last seen driving with an accomplice.

Gameshow participants stranded in Berlin

Starting about two weeks ago, 12 Russians are now trying to make their way in Berlin with no food or money - or knowledge of German. The six men and six women are part of a new reality TV show called Golad, or Hunger. The show's audience will eliminate one person each week by voting until just the winner, who will receive a guaranteed pension of about US\$1,020 per month for life, remains after 100

days. The contestants are allowed to eat boiled pasta and potatoes and consume a vitamin drink to prevent starvation.

Wrong number for marriage

Kire Iliovski, 25, of Prilep, Macedonia, racked up a US\$15,300 phone bill calling what he thought was an agency putting people in touch with potential spouses. In fact, Iliovski spent 135 hours talking to a female sex line employee. He said he couldn't believe his phone bill when he saw it and he planned to officially complain to the phone company, Macedonian Telecommunications.

Stroke gives woman British accent

Judi Roberts, 57, of Florida, suffered a stroke while doing a crossword puzzle, and after months of physical therapy discovered she spoke with a higher-pitched British accent, unlike before. In addition, as a result of the stroke, which occurred while Roberts was completing a crossword puzzle, she lost the ability to write with her right hand and the right side of her body was temporarily paralyzed. Experts said her case is one of fewer than 20 reported worldwide since 1919.

Python swallows half of woman

Basanti Tripura, 38, of Rangamati, Bangladesh, was collecting wood when a python attacked her Tuesday. The snake crushed her with its body and swallowed her head first up to her waist. Villagers found the snake,

killed it with iron rods and sticks and retrieved Tripura's body.

Guns required for Kan. town residents

A recently passed ordinance requires residents of Geuda Springs, Kan., to own guns and ammunition to provide for their own protection. The town's population numbers 210 and has no local police force. Only those with physical and mental disabilities, adamant opposition to firearms, or those who could not afford the weapons would be exempt from the law. In addition, anyone not complying with the regulation could be fined \$10. One city councilman said the ordinance was using the U.S. Constitution to the town's advantage.

What's up? I need cash

A new swindling scheme, dubbed the "Hi, it's me" scam by media, is sweeping Japan. Perpetrators call people and identify themselves only as "me," then say they desperately need money for an emergency. Victims assume the caller is a friend or relative and immediately deposit money into a bank account the caller specifies. More than 3,800 cases of the swindle have been reported this year, with targets collectively losing nearly 2.3 billion yen, or US\$21.2 million. Many of the victims were women over the age of 40.

Cover photo by Kent Brockwell.
Spectrum cover graphic by Husayn Raza.
Sports cover photo by Pat Kane.

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News

Honor students move into new dorm

ANGELA MACK
Staff Writer

After occupying the Rhoads Hall West Wing and the nearby Radisson Hotel, VCU's honors students recently moved into Gladding Residence Center Phase III.

Amy Moody, a freshman in the art foundation program, said the lack of Internet resources at the Radisson made her stay there difficult, and called the move an inconvenience.

"My parents helped me move in, but it was a hassle already being in classes," she said.

On the other hand, Justin Valentine, a sophomore clinical lab sciences major who occupied a room in Rhoads Hall West Wing, said his move went very smoothly, adding that he likes the new Gladding III building, especially the digital thermostats.

With all the positives the residence hall offers, Katie Hollinger, a junior religious studies major, still said the quiet and seclusion make it harder to create new friendships. Hollinger's suite mate, Kimberly Sacra, a junior majoring in architectural history and interior design, said she doesn't see anyone in the halls at night.

Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services, described honors students as "a very serious population," explaining that the silent atmosphere is also present in West Grace Student Housing, which houses honors upperclassmen.

In all, Gladding III could house up to 172 students, and each suite includes single bedrooms, a private bathroom, a living room and a refrigerator.

Anne Chandler, interim director of the Honors Program, said the residence hall is

physically comfortable and promotes a community for students. For instance, students share a lounge area and kitchen on each floor.

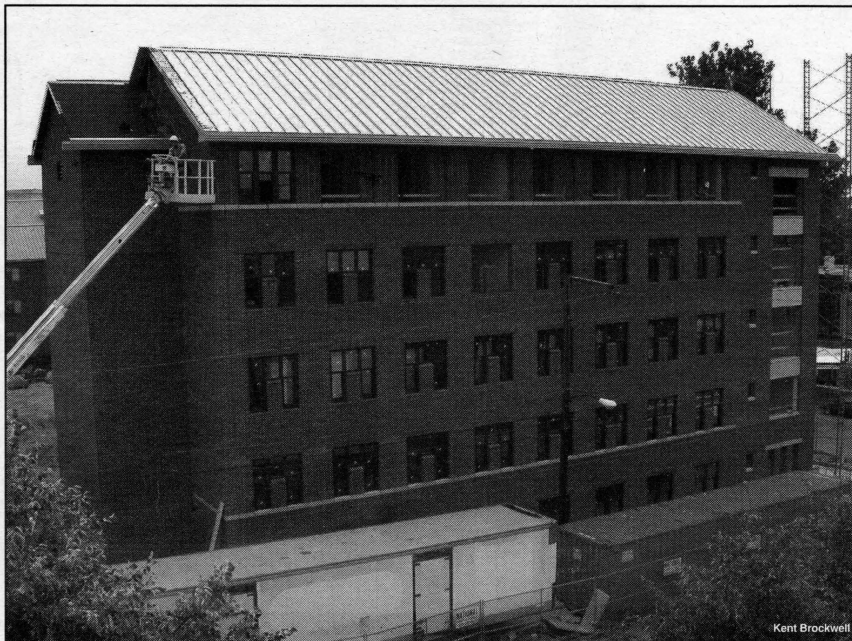
"It is very high-class, high-quality and very compatible to what students are looking for," she said. "Everyone is glad to finally have somewhere to go."

Rhone said that although he has heard no direct comments from students about the residence hall, his staff told him that settling in a permanent location made students happy.

Although Gladding III and West Grace are on the perimeter of the campus, which might factor into the isolation and seclusion, Chandler said honors students interact with other students in classes outside of the honors program, as well as in various clubs and organizations.

"Students have a lot of opportunities and venues at VCU to get to know people with different interests and gifts," she said.

Rhone said honors students are not



Kent Brockwell

The growing number of first-year students and those who prefer living on campus contributes to a higher demand for on-campus housing. Students planned to move into GRC Phase III at the beginning of fall semester, but construction was not complete until recently.

isolated from students who reside in phases I and II of the Gladding, Residence Center because everyone enters through the main door.

"We don't want students to be separated too much. You don't want to get populations feeling like one group is better than the other," he said.

University Housing, Residence Edu-

cation, the Division of Students Affairs and the Honors Program all contributed to the decision designating Gladding III as an honors residence hall.

Rhone said each week this semester students received an update about the move-in, which he expected to be about two

GRC continued to Page 7

Grant to help students in general education

JULIE KINZER
News Writer

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Virginia Commonwealth University a five-year, 1.8-million-dollar grant to advance student learning in introductory mathematics, chemistry, and biology courses.

The grant, titled Project PRISM, for "Producing Results in Science and Mathematics," is designed to help undergraduate students struggling in general education math and science courses.

Many VCU undergraduates are required to complete two such courses to fulfill general education requirements.

Sally Hunnicutt, assistant chair of the Department of Chemistry, said the first part of the grant was installed Oct. 1, and the project will take effect next semester.

"VCU was one of many schools who applied for the grant out of (more than) 350 colleges nationwide and was awarded (it) along with 70 schools nationwide," Hunnicutt said.

Hunnicutt said she and other science and math professors were thrilled when they heard the news.

"We worked very hard on it and we had a lot of support ... We wanted this to happen for the students," Hunnicutt said.

Hunnicutt said she was speechless when she found out that VCU was approved for the grant.

"I got a call from (Sen.) George Allen's office the day I found out," she said. "I was very calm on the phone, but when I hung up I started screaming. I couldn't believe it."

The changes Project PRISM will bring include new computers as well as hiring

tutors and a campus learning director.

Brett Neely, a freshman biology major, said she thinks Project PRISM is a great idea.

"Project PRISM is really needed in the science and math departments," she said. "The classes I take there could use better equipment. There's so many incoming freshman that

would benefit from this."

Roderick McDavis, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the project will help students tremendously.

"I am always pleased when one of our academic departments receives a grant like this, especially when it helps the

students," McDavis said. "If this will help create a stronger foundation for VCU to learn more about chemistry and other sciences, then this will be a really great project."

Hunnicutt said she doesn't see how students couldn't benefit from the project.

"We can't make students who want to do better, we'll make that happen," she said. "As we go through and try different techniques, what might work in one class may not work in others, but we'll be flexible."

study, but for students who want to do better, we'll make that happen," she said. "As we go through and try different techniques, what might work in one class may not work in others, but we'll be flexible."

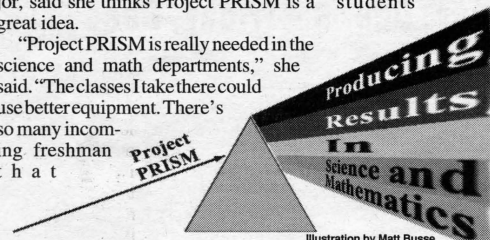
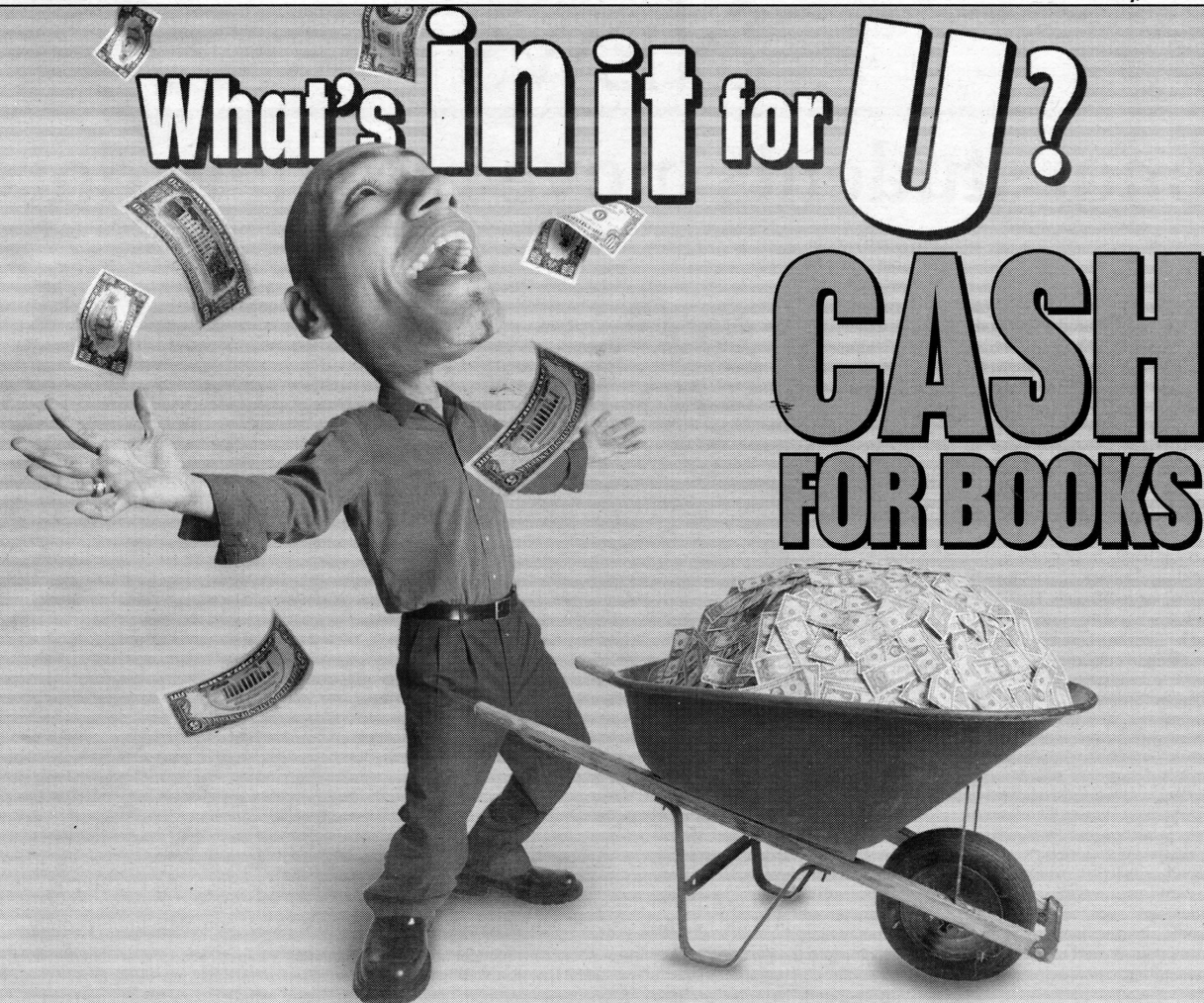
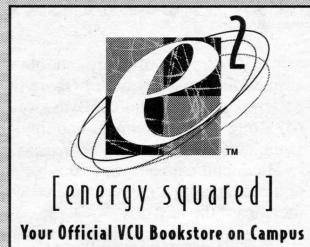


Illustration by Matt Busse



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News

Cyber-terrorism threatens developed societies

STEPHANIE HALL
Staff Writer

"Imagine how your life would change if you were to suddenly and unexpectedly lose the ability to do the things that computers make possible.

"How many of you could last long if your ATM, debit and credit cards were not working for an extended period of time?"

Keith Cummings, a VCU alumnus and author of *Opening Bell*, recently spoke at the School of Engineering Building about cyber-terrorism and how it controls individuals' daily routines.

Cummings describes cyber-terrorism as terrorism launched through electronic rather than physical means.

"Cyber-terrorism attacks are intended to shake our faith in even more wide-ranging institutions," Cummings said. "With everything from hospitals to telephone systems and nuclear power plants under computer control, our vulnerability is extensive."

Addressing an audience of about 15 people, mostly School of Engineering students, Cummings described the details surrounding cyber-terrorism.

"By using our own advanced technological society against us, Third World powers see an ability to 'level the playing field,' and therefore cyber-attacks are undoubtedly going to become more popular . . .," the author said.

"If I live in a world without ATMs and running water, I have an instant advantage if those of you who spend your whole life with these conveniences suddenly lose access to them. That's the theory of cyber-terror."

Cummings, who graduated from VCU in 1993 with a bachelor's in computer science, informed the audience that several of the computer and e-mail viruses circulating, such as the Sobig virus, a mass-mailer worm that sends large amounts of e-mail with forged sender information, are forms of cyber-terrorism also.

"(Viruses) and worms, events that most of us probably consider to be more annoyances than anything else, are genuine acts of terrorism. We fear that, at any moment, a program can launch on our computer, wreaking electronic havoc in its wake."

Relating cyber-terrorism to a recent issue, Cummings said cyber-attacks could possibly affect future election procedures if computerized systems became the primary voting method, replacing methods such as punch card ballots and voting booths.

"With the debacle in Florida . . . and California, there are calls to replace these presumably antiquated methods with modern, interconnected computerized

voting systems that would be simple to use and error-proof. Unfortunately, no such system exists."

Standing before the crowd, the author spoke about computers becoming necessary in individuals' everyday lives. For example, he mentioned General Motor's new prototype fuel-cell vehicle, which has a drive-by-wire, computer-based design.

"The pedals have been removed, with all controls being conveniently located in a steering panel that can be easily operated from either side of the car," he said.

The new computer-based vehicle is an example of how prominent computers have become. This prominence has good and bad aspects, Cummings said. The more dependent people become on computers, the more susceptible they are to cyber-attacks.

"Our open society, our encouragement of freethinking and our willingness to accept and even embrace new ideas has led to a growth of knowledge that is without precedent in all of history," he said. "Our openness and willingness to embrace technology is both our greatest strength and greatest vulnerability."

Crime Log

Nov. 20

Female student at Moseley Building on Park Avenue advised that between Nov. 17 and Nov. 19 an unknown person(s) vandalized state property valued at \$50.

Female employee at Bowe Street Deck on Bowe Street advised that on Nov. 19 an unknown person(s) falsely summoned a fire apparatus.

Like Challenges?

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Imprisoned in a stereotype Female inmates talk about life in jail

BRUNO WELSH
News Writer

"Virginia is not a forgiving state, and you can do a lot of time," was part of what speaker Sue Kennon who was formally incarcerated in the Virginia Correctional Facility for Women for 15 years, said during a Feminist Action Network forum regarding the stereotypes and myths of female prisoners.

The message of the night was to break the stereotypes of incarcerated women, show how fragile one's freedom can be and how the correctional system needs correcting.

The meeting served as a forum that FAN member Sarah Duke created, where three women presented three perspectives regarding women incarcerated in the prison system.

"I think it's about time we paid attention to this issue," Duke said. "It's one of the most marginalized stereotyped populations in our society."

The forum is part of the FAN's goal to stop stereotypes of women and combat sexism while educating the community.

Ann Booker Loper, director of clinical and school psychology at the University of Virginia's Curry school of education spoke about women and prison and what needs to be done to help them, but more specifically how the mothers in prison are affected.

Loper said when discussing women in the prison system you have to first mention that crime is not synonymous to women as it is to men. She said men commit about 70 percent of the property offenses in the US.

The latest FBI data shows that men commit 82 to 85 percent of violent offenses in this country, Loper said. She added that more women are in prison every year over the last 10 years.

Kennon said that stereotypes of women in prison are not all true, and she along with other are here to show that these views are false.

"Women, they seem to think for some reason that we're these great huge, masculine, bushy beard, eye-browed, protruding forehead people, and that we're doomed to a function in an illiterate life in poverty and that we have no initiative for ethics or morals," Kennon said.

Her own story began with her husband dying in a swimming accident that led to her eventual prescription narcotics addiction to various illegal drugs to get rid of what Kennon called an excruciating pain.

"Everybody thought I was this strong widow and 'She's coping so well,' yeah right I was an addict."

That addiction eventually had her robbing three shops in 6 days where she stole a total of \$182 with a toy gun.

"After I had done the three at the end of the week I couldn't live with myself anymore," Kennon said.

She wrote letters to her mother and father when she finally decided to end her life, but her choice way of death would be from an overdose of injectable drugs from a pharmacy in Suffolk.

Things did not go as planned for Kennon when she found herself without drugs, with a bullet wound and a 48 year prison sentence without parole under Virginia's three-time loser rule even though she had never been arrested before.

Kennon concerned with her future, her family and especially her daughter made the effort to change her life. Earning credits at a local community college she eventually graduated from Ohio University in 1993.

With help and two years of writing to whomever she could in positions of power, she helped pass a bill that made first-time offenders like her eligible for parole.

Kennon eventually made parole and expects to receive master's degree at VCU this Dec. 13, which also marks her 2nd year free.

Mary J. Atterholt, adjunct professor for the honors program and graduate program for rehabilitation and counseling at VCU, looks down on the prison system particularly for its lack of compatibility for women.

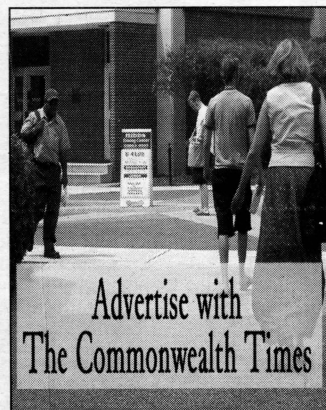
"The prison system is set up by men for men," Atterholt said.

Atterholt works with incarcerated and formally incarcerated women facing integration into society and to help them manage for themselves despite the felon title that now follows them, Atterholt said.

While working with several organizations, she helps provide free health care for formally incarcerated women. Among other things, the organizations help women who do not have an identification cash checks and also helps them find jobs.

Mary Anne Knobloch, vocational evaluator at the Virginia Correctional Facility for Women was in the audience and said that the inefficiency of prisons leads to financial problems.

"The older the [prison] population gets, the more expensive it gets [to keep them]."



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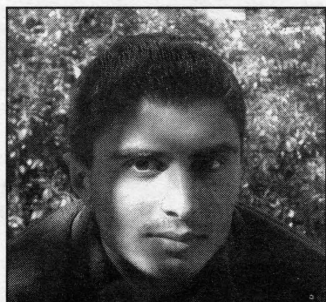
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NEWS

CT Hits the Streets

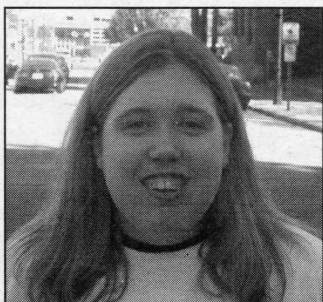
Thanksgiving is Nov. 27. What are you thankful for?

MATT BUSSE
News Co-Editor



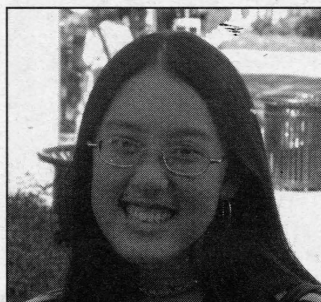
Rakesh Patel
sophomore, business

Good health, my family, doing well in school.



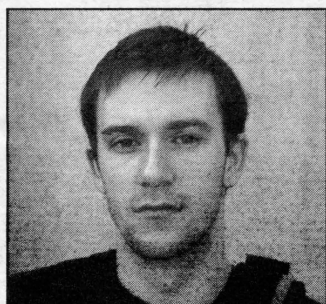
Shelly Seat
first-year, undeclared

I'm thankful for my friends and my family. I'm thankful for waking up every morning. I'm thankful for the simple things in life. I'm thankful for the person that I am.



Bettina Do
sophomore, financial technology

I'm thankful for those troops that were just deployed for Iraq. They're fighting for us.



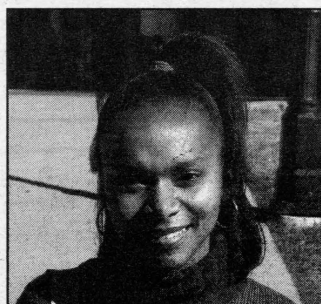
Eric Weinraub
senior, religious studies

My roommate, who's not crazy. My new track bike. Health. And the weather.



JoAnna Quiambo
sophomore, international studies

I am thankful for my family and for good health.



Jamie Mack
junior, biology

I'm thankful for my mother and her will to raise me as a single parent.

GRC continued from Page 3

weeks behind schedule.

Contractors finished later than originally expected, resulting in the university withholding the final payment to contractors to subtract costs for additional living arrangements and a moving company provided to students.

"Part of the contract with the construction company was that if (it was) not finished by the date we were supposed to open, (the company) would have to bear the cost of the hotel expense as well as moving the students," Rhone said, adding that Gladding III's late completion has not caused any problems with other on-campus construction.

Broad and Belvidere Student Apartments, which houses 412 upperclassmen, finished on-schedule and students moved in as planned. Construction on the University Student Commons Phase III and the Shafer Court Dining Center continue to proceed on-schedule as well.

Rhoads Hall II, a 17-story residence hall providing 640 new beds to freshmen, will soon replace the Rhoads Hall West Wing. After this construction, Rhone said, Rhoads Hall I and II, Johnson Hall and Gladding II will house freshmen. West Broad Apartments, Gladding I and Broad and Belvidere Student Apartments will house upperclassmen. Honors students will continue occupying Gladding III and West Grace Student Housing.

The increase in freshmen who want to live on campus, Rhone said, and the number of upperclassmen who enjoy the on-campus living experience contribute to the university's need for more housing.

"The magic number of beds for students - we really don't know what that magic number is," Rhone said. "We're trying to catch up."

About 4,000 students currently reside in university housing, he said, and VCU aims at increasing this number to 6,000.

"The demand for housing was such that we needed more space regardless of the designation (honors or non-honors) of students," Rhone said. "If we're going to have a very serious honors program, then we can dedicate more space (to honors students)."

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

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SPORTS

Rams narrowly escape Gael win

PAT KANE

Associate Sports Editor

Despite stepping up the pressure in the second half, the Iona Gaels fell short in Friday's season-opening contest, the Rams winning 65-61.

"They're explosive," VCU head coach Jeff Capel said of Iona; "They can put a lot of points up quick." Iona has yet to beat VCU in Richmond, although they won a 1998 contest in Hawaii.

In the energetic first half, VCU took a quick 4-0 lead with Troy Godwin and Alexander Harper's shots. Iona responded and closed the score 6-6 with Guard DeShaun Williams' layup at 16:23 but was shut down while VCU poured in seven points, concluded with a clean dunk by Michael Doles.

VCU had 17 points before Gael forward Kiril Wachsmann made a two-pointer at 12:33, starting a rally that erased the Rams' lead to 21-20. The Rams pushed ahead to 27-20 starting with two out of four free throw shots by Nick George at 9:20 and 8:38.

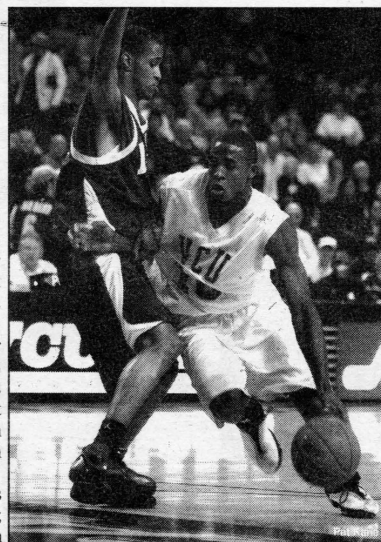
Scoring was even in the last five minutes, the standout being Iona's Steve Smith with jump shots at 4:58 and 4:40. The half ended 33-27 in favor of VCU. Williams led the Gaels with 10 points and five rebounds; VCU's George and

Doles had four rebounds each, while Doles matched Williams at 10 points.

The Rams left the locker room with a message imprinted by head coach Jeff Capel: the first five minutes will be crucial. Doles listened well, succeeding with a layup only ten seconds into play. Domic Jones waited another 39 seconds before his jump shot widened the gap to 37-27. Gael's foul trouble was an asset to the Rams, who made four of five free throws offered. Gael waited until 15:05 to score again, with Steve Burtt making a free throw for 43-28. Gael struck under the ten minute mark, outscoring the Rams 9-3 including a three-pointer by Williams for a 52-46 score at 7:44. Again the Gaels outshot the Rams from 3:16 on, taking 11 points while VCU scraped four free throws, leaving them up 61-58 at a minute and a half. VCU's Jones made two free throws at 1:02, but Burtt sent up a last-ditch three-pointer with 30 seconds on the clock for 63-61.

A foul spelled the end of Gael's chances when Harper sunk two; Godwin missed another two with five seconds left, but the Rams finished up 65-61. VCU's Jones

led with 18 points, while Doles pushed his career high from 15 to 17. Harper and Godwin each had seven rebounds. Iona's Smith had 16 points, while Williams had 15 points and 11 rebounds.



Dominic Jones (10) rushes past a Gael defender Friday night.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

From news sources

Women's basketball nets opening day win

Senior guard Cyndy Wilks poured in 31 points to lead VCU to a 62-43 triumph over North Carolina A&T in the 2003-04 women's basketball season opener for both teams Friday at the Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

Wilks shot nine of 16 from the floor and sank 11 of 12 free throw attempts to help give Rams' rookie head coach Beth Cunningham her first career victory, while center Kristina Cesnaviciute Gibbons added nine points and a career-high 10 rebounds in the win.

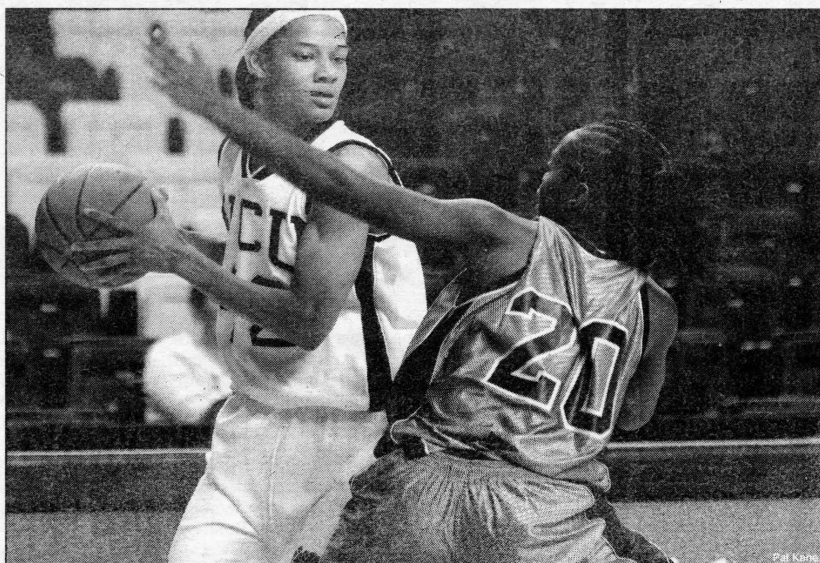
VCU closed out the first half with an 11-2 run, with the final six points coming on made foul shots by Wilks, to erase a one-point Lady Aggie lead as VCU held a 28-20 advantage at the break. The Rams maintained an eight-point cushion through the early stages of the final stanza before embarking on an 11-0 spurt to go up 45-26 with 13:38 left to play. VCU never trailed by less than 17

points thereafter and led by as many as 26 during the course of the second half.

Wilks, who netted 21 points after intermission, finished just four shy of a Rams' single-game record, while VCU connected on 19 of 22 attempts from the charity stripe for the night.

North Carolina A&T shot just 22.6 percent as a team and did not have a player score in double-figures. Shareka Glover and Yanube Sherman topped the Lady Aggies with nine points in the loss.

-Courtesy of Sports Information



VCU's Lauren Hogan (42) eyes guard Tenisha McCarthur (22) at the VCU-NC A&T game Friday.

Upcoming Sports Events

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Women's basketball
vs. Liberty University, 7 p.m.
Lynchburg, Va.

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

Wednesday, Nov. 26

Men's soccer
vs. Virginia Tech, 7 p.m.
NCAA Division I playoffs
Sports Backers Stadium

Sunday, Nov. 29

Men's basketball
vs. Hampton University, 7 p.m.
Hampton, Va.

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

Spectrum



PRESENTS

VICTORIA'S

SECRET

THE 2003 FASHION SHOW

The Sexiest Night on television.



Photo Illustration: Husayn Raza

Lingerie fashion show bold, feminine

RESHMA SIDDIK
Spectrum Writer

Victoria's Secret's annual fashion show, which aired last Wednesday on CBS, was a display of sex, underwear and well-known musical performers.

Supermodels Naomi Campbell, Karolina Kurkova, Giselle Bündchen and Tyra Banks steamed up the stage as they showed off the year's most anticipated line of lingerie. The show started off with an angel mysteriously flying in, then went right into the catwalk parade.

There was a great deal of thigh-high

boots on the runway. If it wasn't thigh-high boots they were wearing, then it was thigh-high stockings. The lingerie was intricately designed, with lovely ornamentation and sexy cuts. Derrières were playing peek-a-boo the whole time. Every item was unique and feminine. And of course, the women were wearing huge wings, which were just as interesting to look at as the lingerie. The most intriguing piece in the show was a red bra worth \$11 million.

The show was not all about the women — there were performances too. They had dancers — in lingerie of course — that

performed entertaining numbers. There were a few surprises too — one of them was Sting. He came out of nowhere and sang his heart out. Sting helped Bündchen get dressed, which Bündchen was very happy about. She was boldly hitting on him. Mary J. Blige also performed, alongside surprise guest Eve. Blige later did a duet with Sting.

These performances were great, very powerful and moving. The stars weren't only on stage. Pharrell Williams was in the front row right next to P. Diddy. Denzel Washington was also in the audience.

The models were actually quite ner-

vous about the show. Backstage shots showed the models fretting about what would happen. However, when they got on stage they blew the audience away.

The runway show was fabulous — better than expected. There was great music, great performers, gorgeous lingerie and the models were amazing. The stage setup was well done, with special effects and giant backdrops of females wearing lingerie.

Victoria's Secret strives to top itself year after year with this annual spectacle. They certainly outdid themselves this time.

Spectrum

WHILE
You Were Out

WWE SmackDown!

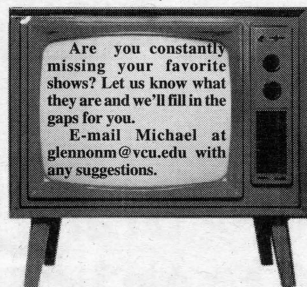
Shannon Moore vs. Matt Morgan: Morgan wins by pin.

Chris Benoit vs. Nathan Jones: Brock Lesnar encourages Jones from ringside. Benoit makes Jones submit, then is attacked by Lesnar. Hardcore Holly then comes out from the crowd to attack Lesnar. Heyman has Holly arrested and indefinitely suspended.

Kane gives a eulogy for the Undertaker in which he says his brother was already dead and a fraud since he ceased to be "a monster."

Jamie Noble vs. Tajiri: Sakoda and Akio are banned from ringside by the referee. Nidia walks out with the assistance of a cane, which distracts Noble and allows Tajiri to pin him.

Los Guerreros vs. Charlie Haas and Shelton Benjamin: Eddie Guerrero pins Charlie Haas. After the match, Shelton Benjamin attacks Chavo Guerrero, Jr.



Dobson invokes teen spirit



Phil Mucci

Dobson is looking to follow in Avril's footsteps.

ALEX WOOLRIDGE
Spectrum Writer

It's about time someone did it.

If there was one niche in the music market waiting to be exploited, it is the heavy metal Avril Lavigne and Fefe Dobson may have hit the bull's-eye with "Take Me Away." Dobson is a spunky, up-and-coming singer whose mall-carpool pop melodies are played on guitars that sound more like Jared Leto's 30 Seconds To Mars than, say, Chumbawamba.

The Canadian singer wrote many of her songs years ago on piano, but reworked them into full-band rock tunes with the help of musicians like Jack Daly, a bassist known for his work with Lenny Kravitz.

Currently, Dobson is trying to break onto the scene with her colorful songs that she said are greatly influenced by the grunge of the '90s.

"[Nirvana's] music came from Kurt

Cobain's mind, heart, and soul, and there's a lot of pain in his singing. You can feel it, and go on that journey with him," Dobson said on her Web site, www.islandrecords.com/fefedobson/index_new.las. "When you're young you don't think 'This person is going to change your life.' But when you start recording your own songs, it comes back and reminds you."

There's something completely junior-high girl power sleepover about her approach, but it's the marriage of contradicting sounds and lyrics that make songs like her single "Take Me Away" such guilty pleasures.

You won't see her first album on www.shortlistofmusic.com's best of 2004 list, but her songs will be bouncing through your head while you brush your teeth in no time. Dobson and Nirvana may not have a lot of musical ground in common, but like Cobain back in 1991, this girl is going to be the next big thing.

Happenings

Monday, Nov. 24

With a cover of Radiohead's "Morning Bell" you know this isn't your father's jazz. **Devil's Workshop Big Band** plays Bogart's every Monday at 9 p.m. 203 N. Lombardy St. 353-9280.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

"**Frankenstein Lives!**" is a snapshot of Mary Shelley at age 18. Tickets are \$5. Tuesday through Friday performances are at 11 a.m., Saturday and Sunday performances are at 3 p.m. 2500 W. Broad St. 864-1400.

Get a jump on holiday shopping with the **Holiday Gift Gallery** at the Hand Workshop Art Center. These crafts and art pieces are chosen by a selective jury. It will continue through Dec. 23: Tuesday through Friday noon to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 1812 W. Main St. 353-0094.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

Enjoy the talents of local comedians with **9:55 Comedy Night** at Chuggers. It begins at 9 p.m. 900 W. Franklin St. 353-8191.

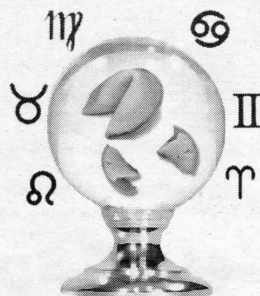
Did you miss the VCU Idol tryouts? No worries, you can share your vocal range with the crowd at **Beefeaters Karaoke** is at 9 p.m. 11800 Hull Street Rd. 744-9541.

Thursday, Nov. 27

BWP plays *Sine Irish Pub* and Restaurant at 9 p.m. No cover charge. 1327 E. Cary St. 649-7767.

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

Zodiac Cookies



Zodiac Cookies

Sagittarius: Any time you're feeling a little too old, play some video games. There's nothing better for making you feel immature.

Capricorn: If you're down to the bone, rethink your diet.

Aquarius: You look sharp. Be careful not to put people's eyes out.

Pisces: There's something in the air at work recently. If it starts smelling any stronger, call the gas company.

Aries: You're jumping for joy, which is silly because joy can be found on the ground.

Taurus: You may be behind in one or two things. That's not so horrible, it means bad news reaches you last.

Gemini: You begin to get matters back in hand this week. Make sure your hand's strong enough.

Cancer: Everything is new this week. Let's hope it's all new and improved.

Leo: You're unheard of, not in the sense that you're unprecedented, but that no one can hear you.

Virgo: If things aren't looking better, clean your glasses.

Libra: Keep a stiff upper lip and a good stiff drink handy.

Scorpio: A bird in the hand is worth plenty at the pet shop.

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(Up to 25 words)

Time period for ads: _____

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Program consultant: To provide Girl Scout program to girls not served by traditional troops. \$8.00 - \$10.00/hour, 4-8 hours/week. Send resume to: Girl Scout Council, Attn: Annette Cousins, P.O. Box 548, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

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Relax from classes and get a start in holiday shopping with an all day New York shopping trip on Saturday, December 6, 2003. Cost is \$55 per person due ASAP. Contact Autumn @ (804) 873-2626.

Student edited anthology seeks literary and artistic submissions with a feminist slant. Questions? Want to help with editing/layout? E-mail us: anthologyfeminist@hotmail.com!

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Comics

TLTR By Andrew Babb

Have a happy thanksgiving!

And beware the turkey ninjas!

Turkey ninjas?



That's right!
Why do you think you've
never seen a Japanese turkey?
It's because they don't want
to be seen!



He's on to us!

Kill them both!
Quickly!



You're the biggest moron
I've ever seen...



Curls

By Carolyn Belefski



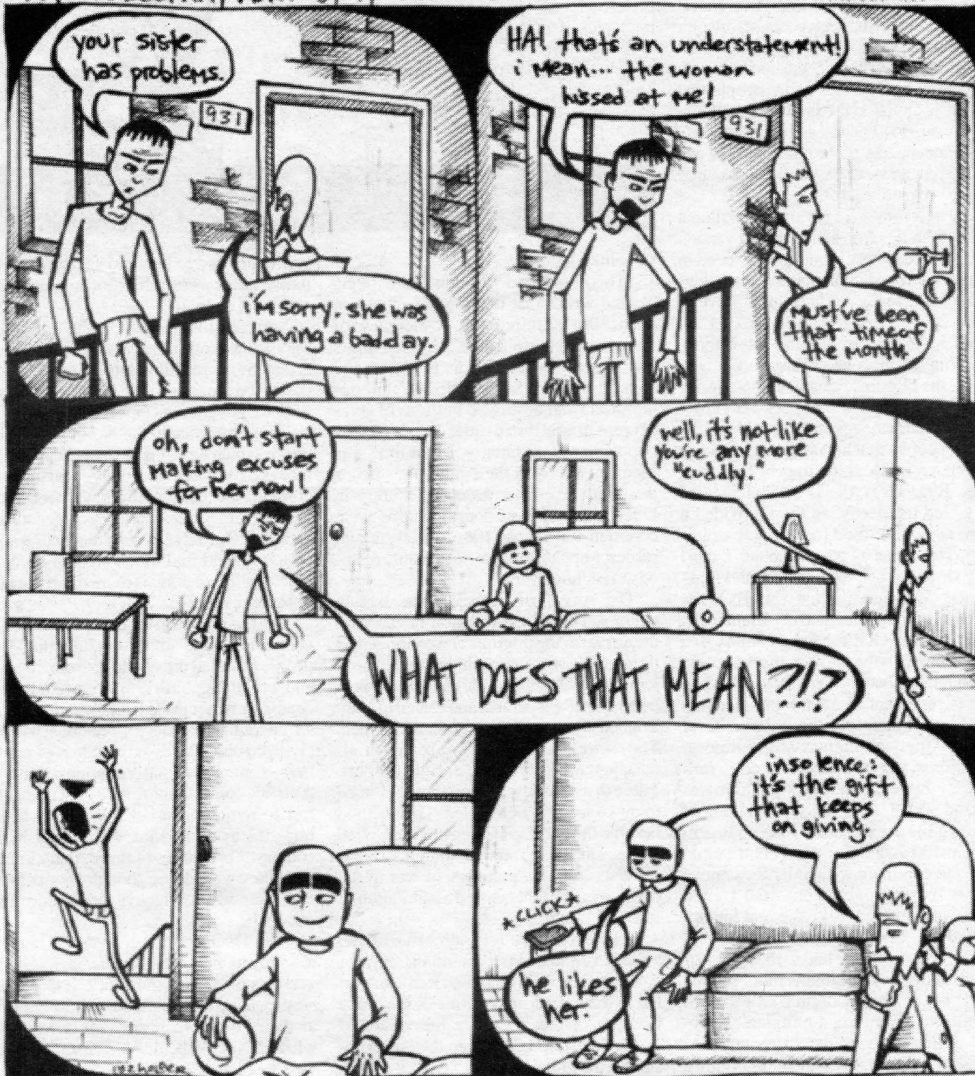
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By Lyz Holder

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EDITORIALS & LETTERS

We annually celebrate genocide

SAM MCKINNEY
Op/Ed Writer

It must be an interesting time of the year to be directly descended from the native inhabitants of what is now the United States of America. Thanksgiving has been celebrated officially in this country for 104 years. The first Thanksgiving is thought of as a time of fellowship between the first white settlers, the Puritans, and the natives of what was to become New England, the Wampanoag.

School children in this country learn of the hardships faced by their pilgrim ancestors. Leaving England because of their religious beliefs and bravely seeking shelter in the New World, the settlers were helped along by the friendly people that already populated the land. The real history of the first Thanksgiving, like the real genocidal history of the relations between the natives and settlers, has been obscured by 400 years of rhetoric.

The pilgrims were puritanical, political revolutionaries who believed their version of a perfect society would not succeed in England and so sought to build their "Kingdom of Heaven" — a la Book of Revelation — in the New World in 1620. They cared little for the original inhabitants, believing them to be untrustworthy heathens; the pilgrims remained non-aggressive only while their numbers were few.

The Wampanoags probably did not like white people much due to their earlier encounters with slave traders and their guns. Regardless, their customs dictated they feed the needy, so they provided a large amount of food to their new neighbors. There was by most accounts a short time of peace between natives and newcomers. Moments like that would become much less frequent. In 1623 Mather the Elder praised God for the smallpox that would nearly wipe the Wampanoags out. As Manifest Destiny arrived from foreign shores, sentiments like that would increase.

Most scholars put the population of North American natives at the time of Columbus' arrival between 8 and 18 million. By the year 1900 the population was around 300,000. Possibly, 99 percent of the original inhabitants of the continent died in 400 years! For nearly half of that time the continent was under the control of a domestic government — the United States of America. Like the real history behind the first Thanksgiving, the real history this country's had in the deaths of millions of people remains hidden. This is not by an active, organized effort to misinform so much as a completely inactive desire to learn the extremely unpleasant truth — the United States is guilty



BY MIKE TALLEY

of genocide.

In his book titled "Adolph Hitler," John Toland writes that the infamous German chancellor admired the "efficiency of America's extermination — by starvation and uneven combat." This is not a good sign. The United States killed off millions of buffalo and destroyed millions of acres of crops in an effort to cause the indigenous population to go hungry. More time was spent in war with the Native Americans than with any other group or country in U.S. history. Direct confrontations were common for almost 100 years. War and resource depletion were not the only methods used, however.

The American genocide was largely cultural. Forced assimilation began with the arrival of the pilgrims and continued on through the years as a solution to the problem of the natives. The children were taken away from their parents and forced to learn English and how to be a proper Christian. They were not allowed to speak their original languages or wear their original cloths. Those that refused to assimilate were forced to move west or were killed. This method became the unofficial policy of the United States. During his administration Thomas Jefferson told his secretary of war to destroy any tribe that resisted assimilation or forced relocation.

Relocation actually became the official policy in 1830 under the administration of Andrew Jackson. The Indian Removal Act led to the forced march west of the "Five Civilized Tribes." During the winter of 1838, over 4,000 Cherokee died of exposure on the "Trail of Tears." For cultures as

spiritually tied to the land as many of the native tribes were, relocation amounted to a cultural genocide.

Some historians excuse the policy of relocation as one of necessity. Their belief is that the encroaching settlers would have destroyed the eastern tribes. However, had the U.S. government enforced its own past policies, specifically the Northwest Ordinance, which states that no more land would be taken without the native inhabitants consent, the land would have been protected from settlement. It is, of course, idealistic and naïve to wish that reality and rhetoric could find time to match one another. Sadly, rhetoric is more often used to obscure reality.

Most important to the case of America's genocide is the understanding that the people that died did not do so from disease and a tumbling birth rate alone. And their deaths were not the inevitable outcome of an uncivilized society's relations with a civilized one. The disturbing loss of numbers among the native population of America came about from a concerted effort to remove resistance that may have impeded the expansion of a newly born country. The leaders of this country knew what they were doing, though I doubt they could know how effective they would ultimately be.

With Thanksgiving upon us it is important not to propagate elementary school versions of American history. It is necessary for all Americans to look more closely at their collective history to understand what we should be thankful for and what we should not forget.

THE Commonwealth TIMES

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

Please send letters to CEditor03@yahoo.com. Mailing address: P.O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building.

OP/ED

Give thanks for friends, "Family Guy"

LISA CHUN

Op/Ed Writer

Thanksgiving has finally arrived. What am I thankful for this year? I will be devoting this week's article to my good friend Liz and why we should be most thankful for our friends. It's fitting for an Op/Ed piece because I have some strong feelings about my friendships and I am sure you can relate on some level or another.

Liz is really quite a rare specialty of a human being. Not many friends can keep you up-to-date on good dead baby jokes. Not many friends can be Jewish and at the same time know that when their friends greet them by saying "Hey lousy Jew," that it's just a joke. Not many people will sing songs from "The Simpsons" with you at random times in public without a whit of embarrassment. Not many people can deal with all of my whining and then resist trying to murder me. Not many people use one of their arms to keep themselves up in hard times and then use the other to help their friends stay standing. Not many people will stay up until 2 a.m. to watch "Family Guy" with you. Not many people can understand and appreciate my true kindness and then appreciate my horrific dead Mormon jokes at the same time. Not many people treat their friends out to dinner and truly believe they are not owed anything in return.

I know that not all my readers appreciate "Family Guy" at 2 a.m., dead baby/Mormon jokes or random singing but I know you understand what great friendships are like. So let us all find common ground this Thanksgiving and give thanks to our friends. They deal with our crap in ways that no one else can, and that is something that always goes without gratitude.

Let us be thankful for those who are there for us whenever we need them. Let us be thankful for friends who make our lives better just by a good joke. Let us be thankful for those who have enough faith in us so that they will yank us up from our depression and then tell us to get over our stupid crap. Let us be thankful for those who let you print papers off their computers and will offer to lend you their Diablo game.

I think that throughout the year people place their gratitude on the crap they don't need - their great clothes, their DVD burners, their vacations to Cancun and other stupid things. Of course, this is not the holiday to be thankful for all of that stuff. This is the holiday to be thankful for the important things, like people who make up for our stupid material things ... or lack thereof. And I hope we all take a moment this Thanksgiving to give thanks to the special matters in life. Thank you "Family Guy", thank you Liz - you guys are the greatest.

Americans deserve dignity, not discrimination

MICHAEL DICKINSON

Op/Ed Writer

Usually when I sit down to write an editorial I try to think of a topic that's controversial and present a view of that topic that makes as many people uncomfortable as possible. This article breaks new ground, as the tables have been turned and I am the one who was initially uncomfortable writing about it.

Being that my main two loves in life are sports and politics, this summer I received a copy of the book titled "Going the Other Way," written by former major league baseball player Bill Bean. Bean had a star-studded career, first at Loyola Marymount University and then as a pinch hitter with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Oakland A's and San Diego Padres. The thing I didn't know before reading the book was that Bean is gay.

After reading page after page I didn't realize how the professional sports culture in America seeks to suppress any indication of homosexuality in sports figures. Two years ago, when rumors of being gay swamped New York Mets star catcher Mike Piazza, the ownership of the Mets and major league baseball was so concerned over it that they mandated Piazza hold a press conference to deny it.

The ESPN show "Playmakers" dealt with this topic as well. In the show, fictional characters portray some versions of events that have really happened. One particular episode titled "The Outing" shows how one

player went from being an all-pro receiver, loved by his teammates, to someone everyone ignored because of his sexual orientation. He was eventually run off the team.

It is the whole idea of discrimination from a group of people directed against another group - heterosexuals toward homosexuals in this case - that the issue of gay rights in this country is much deeper than the simple example of sports. It splinters into everything.

That was clear, as the twin topics of gay rights and gay marriages have dominated the political sections of the news stations the last few weeks. A few days ago Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore and State Del. Robert Marshall, R-Prince William, were quoted in the Richmond Times-Dispatch as saying they are both going to initiate proceedings to examine laws and make sure homosexuals never get the right to marry in Virginia.

I don't understand what inspires Marshall's hate for homosexuals. For so long in this country we have fought hard to give discriminated groups equal opportunity. Our citizens and soldiers have died for such causes. In the history of the United States we have had a civil war over the issue of slavery and got into World War II over the German persecution of the Jews. Standing up for the discriminated is supposed to be what we are all about.

That is not happening now in our country. The United States is not permitting its citizens the basic human right of being

treated with dignity. The current Republican administration, both in the White House with President Bush and in the Senate with Senator Rick Santorum, R-Pennsylvania, are committed against extending the rights of homosexuals and will thwart any effort to do so.

Why did I decide to write about this topic? Well, the more I thought about it in every opinion piece I have ever wrote I stand up for the little person, the person who is being discriminated against.

I don't care if someone is black, white, Hispanic, Asian, male, female, poor, rich, gay or straight. The bottom line is that if they can agree with me that everyone deserves basic human rights and that no one race, religion or sexual orientation is better than the other than I can support them no matter what walk of life they are from or choose to pursue.

All too often today, we do not see that politicians act as exclusionists. If you are not exactly like them they don't care about you. Look at the track record of aforementioned Marshall. From his past legislation he has shown to be committed against women's rights, gay rights, civil rights and anti-religion rights. So if you are not a rich, white male who is straight and overly religious then Marshall has proven not to be a friend of you.

Hate and discrimination get to me. If this society could cast aside its differences - disarm the contempt some of us have for each other - we could do great things.

I now pronounce you what and what...?

TERRY BURTON

Op/Ed Writer

The Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." When these words were written they were basically ideals, not a reality. At the time rights were allotted to a select group of individuals - basically only white males who were landowners. Now 227 years later we have inched ever closer to the ideals espoused at the time of our nation's birth.

The most recent move toward true equality for all Americans came this past Tuesday when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled "same-sex couples have a right to civil marriages under the nation's oldest state constitution, declaring that 'the right to marry means little if it does not include the right to marry the person of one's choice,'" according to an article on www.washingtonpost.com. The effect of this ruling has sparked debate and controversy across the nation. As noted by Washington Post Staff Writer David Von Drehle, "critics of the ruling predicted it will drive same-sex marriages to the center ring of next year's presidential election and will add momentum to an effort, now simmering in Con-

gress, to amend the U.S. constitution to forbid these unions," according to an article on www.washingtonpost.com.

One might wonder why a decision made in Massachusetts has stirred national controversy. The answer is that marriages performed in one state are expected to be legally honored in every other state. Religious and political conservatives see the Massachusetts ruling as opening the door in other states to same-sex marriages. It is not the religious angle that I will address in this article because in our country we do have freedom of religion, and should certain religious denominations choose not to support such marriages, it is well within their rights. However, marriage is a legal institution and not a religious one. Though the ceremony may be religious, it is recognized by the government and a whole range of rights, from hospital visitation to estate rights, come along with that legal recognition.

Yet Congress is considering an amendment to the Constitution to deny these rights to an entire group of individuals based solely on their sexual orientation. "President Bush denounced the ruling and vowed to 'do what is legally necessary to defend the sanctity of marriage' though he did not specifically call on congress to bring the proposed amendment to a vote," according to an article on www.washingtonpost.com. For Bush marriage is "a sacred institution between a man and a woman" and "[Tuesday's] decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court violates this important principle". That

Bush's view is influenced by his religious beliefs is his right. However, as President his duty is to all citizens of this nation, not just those who share his opinion. Gays and Lesbians' taxes go to support the same government that heterosexuals' taxes do; for Congress to alter the most fundamental document of our nation to discriminate against them would be akin to "taxation without representation", one of the chief complaints of the framers of the constitution.

Furthermore, in a society that espouses the idea that discrimination is not only wrong, but illegal as well, amending the constitution to legalize a form of discrimination sets a dangerous precedent. I am reminded of a poem in which the narrator observes different categories of people being taken away, and fails to speak up in their defense because he did not belong to their group. When those in power finally came for the narrator, there was no one left to speak up for him. Legalized discrimination is a slippery slope that is best avoided as it can lead to the collapse of freedom as we know it. Nazi Germany is a perfect example of legalized discrimination taken to an extreme. Because it was such an extreme many people would say that it could not happen here. I would like to remind those individuals of the internment camps for Japanese Americans set up by the U.S. government during World War II. If Bush and Congress want to defend the institution of marriage, they should do so for all American citizens. To do otherwise is to invite the unthinkable.



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