

The Commonwealth Times

Free

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Battle tested

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IN BRIEF

CALENDAR OCT. 4 THROUGH OCT. 6		
Monday, Oct. 4	Tuesday, Oct. 5	Wednesday, Oct. 6
Need to work on your note-taking skills? This week's Academic Success Workshop is all about how to take great notes. The workshop meets from noon to 1 p.m. in the Commons Theater of the University Student Commons. Call Darlene Pantaleo at 828-6200 for more information.	While sexually transmitted diseases aren't a fun topic they're a necessary one. Housing and Residence Education is sponsoring a presentation about STD's today in Richmond Salon IV of the University Student Commons from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Call Tiffany Townsend at 692-4723 for more information.	Immerse yourself in Filipino culture at the Filipino-American Culture Festival today from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The festival is in Virginia ballrooms A and B of the Commons. Call Daniel Daroy at 630-5853 for more information.


CAMPUS FORECAST




Monday
70/50



Tuesday
70/52



Wednesday
72/53



Thursday
71/52

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www.vcu.edu/recycling

Compiled from wire reports

Risk with cats and rats

Authorities in Atascadero, Mexico have posted ads in Mexican newspapers asking people to donate their cats to help the town fight a rat infestation. The authorities want to give at least 700 cats to local families to kill off 500,000 rats invading the city. A spokesman for the town's mayor said officials already attempted using poison and traps but only succeeded in killing all the local cats. Emilia de Leon, a member of Mexico's Animal Protection Society, voiced concerns about the policy and warned that if the cats were not castrated the rat plague would become a cat plague.

Civic duties

A shortage in funds has a mayor of a Romanian town working out of his car. The town of Libertatea was built without any buildings for city officials. Since neither the new mayor nor the councilors have the money to rent a space, Viorel Crasmaru, the mayor, decided to use his own car as office space. Crasmaru has kept a fairly positive attitude about the ordeal and said using his car as his office means he is always where the people need him. He also said it helps him keep an eye on council finances since the town treasurer uses the passenger's seat. Crasmaru said he hopes the town can set up a mayoral office in a school before the onset of winter because it would cost too much to heat his car.

Finger painting genius

A 4-year-old girl from Binghamton, N.Y. is making waves in the New York art scene and drawing comparisons to Jackson Pollock and Wassily Kandinsky. Marla Olmstead started painting just before she was 2 years old because her father Mark, an amateur artist, needed something to keep her occupied while he worked. Olmstead uses brushes, spatulas, her fingers and even ketchup bottles to create her work. Anthony Brunelli, a gallery owner, said of 10 pieces about to go on show six were already sold and that the remaining four could fetch between \$8-10,000. Olmstead has already sold about 25 paintings, raising \$40,000. Brunelli said he has a list of people, some from as far away as Japan, wanting first pick of any of Olmstead's upcoming work.

Honor Code violation?

An entire school staff in eastern India was fired after officials discovered the workers hadn't actually worked for 23 years. The 11 employees, including eight teachers, at Rajendra Memorial High School in West Champaran never showed up except twice a year on occasions of national importance. The stay-at-home staff was only discovered after Subhash Sharma, chairman of the Bihar School Examination Board, carried out a snap inspection. The inspection team found three men who claimed to be teachers at the school since February of 1981. The men said the principal resides 20 miles from the school and that they contacted him at the beginning of every month by phone for their salary.

So much for implants

A Japanese man claims he has invented a cell phone ring tone that can help women's breasts grow. Hideto Tomabeche's Rockmelon tone registered more than 10,000 downloads in the first week alone. Tomabeche claims his ring tone has sounds that can make the brain and body move subconsciously and likens the subliminal tone to a type of positive brainwashing. One customer reported that her bust size grew from 34 inches to 35 within a week. Tomabeche said he's planning other ring tones to help people quit smoking, combat baldness and attract a partner.

Freedom Song

Ten Kenyan prisoners broke out of a police cell by singing hymns and chanting prayers to muffle the sound of their escape. The singing prisoners sawed through the iron bars of the cell window before exiting to freedom in Machakos, Kenya. Charles Mathenge, chief of Machakos police, denied the allegations that the prisoners sang during their escape, claiming that some of the guards would have heard something. However, several inmates in neighboring cells reported being woken up by the hymns.

Cover photo by Pat Kane.
Spectrum cover teaser by Pat Kane.

The Commonwealth TIMES

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NEWS

Two deans settle in at VCU

KAREN BOLIPATA

Staff Writer

Where can I move next semester?

What are the punishments for plagiarism?

How do I get a seat on the student government?

Students can find the answers to these questions, and others, at the offices of two administrators who oversee student needs.

This past summer Reuban B. Rodriguez became the dean of student affairs for the Monroe Park Campus, and Geoffrey H. Young became the associate dean of student affairs for the VCU Medical Center.

"Hopefully," Rodriguez said, "once I get my foot in as to what the students and the culture are like, then I can integrate some of the ideas I've experienced in the past 20 years working in the field."

Young, whose office is housed in Bear Hall on VCU's Medical Center campus, said his plans include working closer with the MCV student government, where he is an adviser, and encouraging more interdisciplinary interaction for social events and student service.

"(I want to) continue to learn about all the facets of student affairs at an institution like VCU and to try to come up with ways to enhance (the) overall student experi-

ence," he said.

With both deans coming from different backgrounds – Rodriguez hails from New Orleans, while Young originally lived in Brooklyn, N.Y. – the two identify what attracted them to VCU.

Diversity.

Rodriguez uses the term to refer to the students, the staff, the faculty and the VCU community.



Geoffrey Young

"The integration of the greater Richmond community being an urban institution and really the growth that the campus has experienced...made VCU a very dynamic place to be," he said.

Young said having the opportunity of working with both graduate and undergraduate students attracted him to VCU, which is a change from

his previous work.

"It's nice to be a part of a large institution that has undergraduate as well as professional and graduate students," he said. "It's the best of both worlds."

Rodriguez, whose office is housed in Sitterding House on Floyd Avenue, serves the dual role not only as the dean, but also as the associate vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services.

"Being new," Rodriguez said, "I have to first meet a lot of students, which I've started to do both individually, and also meeting students from various student

organizations, going to events (and) going to speak at VCU 101 classes."

As associate vice provost, his duties involve various administrative responsibilities that include working with the staffs in housing and residence education, multicultural student affairs and recreational sports. He also serves as an adviser to the Student Government Association on the Monroe Park Campus.

Before coming to VCU, Young said he served primarily as a dean for the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, one of eight schools under the umbrella of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

As the medical school's assistant dean for student affairs, he worked with graduate students.

"I was responsible for multiple things – career rules, rules and procedures, educational programs educating students about various residences and specialties advocating and providing general counseling," Young said.

At VCU, Young and Rodriguez will work with such administrators as Henry G. Rhone, the vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services, to provide services for students.

Michael P. Webb, a second-year dental student who serves as treasurer for MCV's SGA, prepares the budget for the student government. He said Young attends the group's meetings and is a resource for the officers.

"Overall the school administration and faculty are very helpful," he said.

Although Rodriguez and Young now specialize in student affairs, they had different starts to their careers.

As an undergraduate at Emory University, Rodriguez said he received a "world class" education as the university grew and added new facilities. The dean said he enjoyed the university setting where he met people interested in learning inside and outside the classroom.

"It really started my career in student affairs," Rodriguez said. "I was involved in different activities and also was able to receive mentorship from people who were working in professional positions related to what I was doing."

Unlike Rodriguez, Young earned his bachelor's degree before he decided to pursue a career in student affairs.

"My background was clinical psychology," he said.

After graduating from Hampton University with a psychology degree, he earned a doctorate in clinical psychology at Ohio State University in Athens. He first worked as a clinical psychologist and later as the primary on-campus mental-health provider for the New Jersey medical school.

"(I) really enjoyed working with the population of young adults," Young said.

Rodriguez, a member of the committee that selected Young, said he remains impressed with Young's efforts.

"He's very open and available – particularly to students and to other folks as well," Rodriguez said. "I'm confident that we've made the right decision in bringing him here to VCU."

Cracking down on off-campus crime

VICTORIA WARD

News Writer

When Emily Saunders' car was ruined by shaving cream while parked off-campus, she made two calls.

"I reported the vandalism to campus police and city police," the VCU student said. "The campus police told me to call the city police so I did. They took down all the info on my car and what was wrong with it."

As the student population at VCU increases each year, so do its concerns with the surrounding community.

To address those concerns, the Division of Student Affairs is implementing more rigid oversight of off-campus behavior. According to updated policies in the VCU Rules and Procedures, a VCU student who commits a crime off campus may face temporary academic separation for up to two years or indefinite dismissal from the school in addition to possible imprisonment

by the jurisdiction of the arrest.

At the beginning of the fall semester, Reuban Rodriguez, VCU's associate vice provost and dean of student affairs, announced amendments to the rules and procedures, confirmed in the spring meeting among members of the Board of Visitors.

The amendments address "possible university judicial action related to off-campus behavior of students," according to Rodriguez's August e-mail.

One section of the amendment, which deals with student rights and prohibited conduct, cites that if a student commits a crime off campus that student may face additional penalties imposed by the University Hearing Board.

This judicial extension coincides with

the expansion of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, the office that administers resolutions of conflict concerning VCU students.

Mary Blair, the interim director for judicial affairs, works with Rodriguez and Geoffrey Young, the Medical Center campus' associate dean of student affairs. Blair serves as the point person who processes the reports and complaints that are presented to the Department of Student Affairs and potentially to the Provost's Office toward disciplinary action.

Blair clarified that a criminal act of a VCU student in an on-campus or off-campus incident "would be reported to the VCU police. If it was outside the residence hall, chances are it would still be reported

to the VCU police."

Arrest reports of students are sent from the VCU police directly to her office.

"I work very closely with the police department, so that anything that goes through the police, I handle it," Blair said.

Chief Willie B. Fuller of the VCU police said the department receives arrest reports of VCU students from other localities and alerts the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

Blair said it doesn't take long for her office to be notified of a student offense.

"If something happened the last night, I get the report by 8:30 the next morning," she said. "I send a letter to the student that I 'have been informed by the VCU police that you have been involved in a police incident. Please contact my office to set up an appointment.' At that point, I talk to the student, usually within a two- to three-week period of time."

LYING continued to Page 5

VCU's Rules and Procedures can be found in the Policies section of the 2004-2005 VCU Resource Guide, which is available at the Department of Student Affairs (901 Floyd Avenue) or at [://www.students.vcu.edu/rg](http://www.students.vcu.edu/rg).

NEWS

CT hits the streets

- Q1.** Which country do you fear the most with terrorist activity?
Q2. How useful do you think the terrorism alert color scale is?
Q3. How do you think potential terrorists should be profiled?

MICHAEL THORNTON AND ALEX WOOLRIDGE

Staff Writers



Tin Myint, 21, junior, engineering

Q1. North Korea. I think it is the most unpredictable country. It's just that we don't have any source in it so we can't do anything in it.

Q2. None whatsoever. It keeps on going up and down. It's just getting used to it everyday. No one's like 'so it's orange, so it's red.' I don't think a student here is really worried about it. Big corporations might watch out for it but here I don't think it matters anymore.

Q3. I think it's racism. I don't think we should detain anybody. We shouldn't profile at all. I don't think profiling is a good way to choose terrorists.



Ashley Sigmon, 19, first-year, English

Q1. I guess North Korea. Afghanistan's pretty much OK for now. I would say Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia seems to be where everyone's coming from.

Q2. Not at all.

Q3. I sympathize with the people. I understand that certain groups of people are innocent but at the same time Swedes aren't bombing us. I mean, no offense -- that sounds awful. ... It can be taken to extremes to where it's just wrong, but I mean, if someone fits the description of a criminal



Joe Thomas, 21, junior, history

Q1. I'd say right now after the war I'd have to say Iran. I mean there are still threats in Iraq but I think Iran is the biggest threat now that we've gone through Iraq.

Q2. I think as useful as something like that can be, as long as we're predicting stuff and trying to stop it. ... When we stop the attacks or they don't happen, people will become desensitized to any system we have.

Q3. I think there has to be something other than race to make us stop someone. But I don't think that we should let our fear of racism stop us from protecting from terrorism. But I think it has to be something other than racism.



Erin Mitchell, 19, sophomore, music

Q1. No comment.

Q2. I think it's somewhat useful because it keeps people on the alert for people that are doing unusual activities but then again it has a tendency to make people paranoid and not necessarily have any reason.

Q3. I'd classify it as racism definitely. My dad had a friend that wasn't Middle Eastern -- he was Canadian but he looked Middle Eastern -- and he was stopped at every airport. So I think it's definitely racism. I think that it would be a good idea to have a more secure system. Like to be able to have criminal records available, ... to have a mark, like an identification you know? I think that would be a better system, but it's definitely racial profiling to me.



Eliece Smith, 19, sophomore, English

Q1. I fear Afghanistan because Osama bin Laden's crazy and they can't find him.

Q2. I think it's useful in scaring us. They should have a scale on how close they are to finding bin Laden.

Q3. I think you need to protect this country by whatever means necessary. ... I don't think it's racism.



Justin Frashure, 21, senior, English

Q1. I'm scared of the Canadians personally. I think they're right north and we don't really look to them as a terrorist nation but I think we need to not let them out of our sight. There was that whole thing last summer with the power going out, I think that was the Canadians.

Q2. I don't feel that it's a significant thing because as far as I know it's pretty much stayed within two colors. So it hasn't really gotten to the point where it's like we're not expecting an attack. But ever since 9-11 we've been right there so I feel as though it's useless.

Q3. I think racial profiling is wrong in any way and I mean you should just look for suspicious people. I think people that are looking like they have something to hide ... as Dr. Phil once said, 'People who don't have anything to hide don't

Do you use smokeless tobacco (dip/snuff)?

You may be eligible to earn up to \$500 for completing a research study.

Men and women who use smokeless tobacco and are between the ages of 18-50 are needed to participate in a four week study.

Call 827-3562
Monday – Friday
9am – 4pm

for more detailed information
The study will be conducted in McGuire Hall
on VCU's Medical Campus
Principal Investigator:
Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D.

NEWS

LYING *continued from Page 3*

The penalties that may be imposed by VCU do not replace judicial action by the jurisdiction where the offense took place.

The university and its police department fall under Richmond's jurisdiction; therefore, a criminal offense within its boundaries would still be processed through the Richmond courts system.

Blair explained that when an incident occurs off-campus she first asks a student for the court date to notify the student of

what will happen to them in the case of a guilty verdict. If the student is found guilty then the provost's office is notified and the provost decides what action to take.

“I am kind of a tracker,” she said. “I put a note in my calendar of the court date. I tell the student that they need to let me know the outcome of the court. Have the charges been dismissed? If they are found guilty, then I will send the information to Rodriguez who then determines (whether)

to send it up to the provost.”

The VCU University Hearing Board then may review the student. If a criminal arrest is made then that perpetrator may face charges by Richmond and VCU, as well as civil charges by the victim.

According to the new policy, such criminal violations as property damage (including graffiti), underage drinking and disorderly conduct off-campus can result in penalties ranging from censure to separation or dismissal from the university.

Blair pointed out that relatively minor conflicts between students can be resolved

informally through the Office of Student Affairs.

“Any student under the university rules and procedures can file a complaint—formal or informal – against another student or against another faculty or against a staff worker.”

While misdemeanor offenses may result in mediation and censure, Rodriguez emphasized that violent incidents are most likely reviewed formally by the provost, because of the intimidating nature of one party against another.

Festival of India
Greater Richmond Convention Center
403 North Third Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Admission to the festival is free.

Saturday, October 9th
11 am - 9 pm
Sunday, October 10th
12 pm - 8 pm

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ਫਲਸਤੀਨੀਆ ਭੀ ਆਰੀਬ
A little piece of India in America



SPORTS

Upcoming Sports
EVENTS

NCAA

Monday, Oct. 4

Rowdy Rams Meeting, 7 p.m.

In its second meeting of the year, the group will discuss plans for future road trips including a trip to Maryland to see VCU's men's soccer team battle the top-ranked Terps.

Tuesday Oct. 5

Women's Soccer at Liberty

The Rams get a break from their conference schedule with a trip to Lynchburg to face the Flames, whose two-game winning streak puts them at 3-5-0 on the season.

Friday, Oct. 8

Field Hockey at Drexel, 7:30 p.m.

After splitting the first two games off its CAA schedule (2-1 win over Towson in OT, 4-0 loss to Delaware), VCU goes to Philadelphia to face the bottom-feeding Dragons, who have lost six straight games by a combined score of 18-4.

Volleyball vs. Delaware, 8 p.m.

The team hasn't won since beating Norfolk state 3-0 on Oct. 22. Since then, the Rams have taken four straight 3-0 losses, three of which came to CAA rivals James Madison, George Mason and Towson.

Men's Soccer at James Madison, 7 p.m.

After lighting Old Dominion up for three goals, the most it's allowed all season, VCU takes a six-game unbeaten streak to Harrisonburg to face a Dukes team that hasn't lost a game since Nov. 14 2003 — to VCU. The Rams will have to figure out how to stop JMU's Kurt Morsink from scoring. The sophomore has seven goals this season and three in his past three games.

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

Rams 'survive' first two CAA games

JULIAN BENBOW
Sports Editor

New Mexico head coach Jeremy Fishbein said earlier this season that VCU's men's soccer team had better get used to being pushed around.

His team bullied the Rams for more than 95 minutes, and won 2-1. The only way to deal with the Rams' speed, he said, is to take advantage of their lack of size and aggressiveness.

It's been six games, and the Rams are still dealing with it.

They battled from behind on Friday, scoring a pair of second-half goals to beat William & Mary 2-1 on Friday. Two days later, they held on to beat Old Dominion 3-1 on Sunday, even with Monarchs tugging at their jerseys and shoving them to the grass.

"We're a tough team," said goalkeeper and team captain Saul Montero. "We're going to do what we need to do to win. We'd rather just play, but we'll crash and all that if we have to."

But at a price.

Overcoming a one-goal deficit in the final 30 minutes of Friday night's game against the Tribe had the Rams reeling coming in to Sunday's game with Old Dominion.

"Both teams were tired today," said Rams head coach Tim O'Sullivan after beating Old Dominion. "We expended a lot of energy Friday night. You know this is a bit costly for us."

In the 90 minutes of banging with the Monarchs (0-2-0 CAA, 5-3-1) four Rams hit the sidelines with injuries. Ricardo Opoku outran two ODU defenders and scored his second goal of the season, but tweaked his knee.

Ricardo Valverde twisted his knee, too, when he planted it the wrong way in the second half. Junior Veit Schaidinger took an elbow to the head and, just three minutes into the second half, midfielder Stephen Shirley left the field with a concussion after colliding with a Monarchs defender on a 50/50.

Shirley, who earlier in the game assisted Gonzalo Segares' third goal of the season, laid on the grass for about five minutes after being knocked unconscious.

"It was very tough to play two very good teams and two physically strong teams back to back," O'Sullivan said. "That's what I really don't like about this conference setup."

Still, O'Sullivan said, the team "found a way to survive."

VCU never trailed Old Dominion on Sunday. The team took the lead early on Segares' goal. Junior Mike Aust made it 2-0 in the 42nd minute, weaving through two ODU defenders firing a shot from about 16 yards out.

After the break early in the second half for Shirley, Old Dominion's David Horst scored the Monarchs' only goal of the game.

A ball that Montero had probably scooped up a million times before for the Rams slipped right through his hands and found its way to the back of the net. It was the ninth goal Montero allowed this season.

"Overconfidence," Montero said, explaining how he misjudged the ball's funny hop. "I wasn't set, and it just hit my left arm and went in."

With the Rams clinging to a two-goal lead in the second half, Montero redeemed himself by blocking a penalty kick by ODU's leading scorer Kevon Harris for his 22nd save of the season.

"I don't think that's a mistake on Saul. I mean, Saul, shoot, he saved a penalty. He made some really good saves. You have to write that one off and move on."

After fighting to get past through their first weekend of CAA play, the Rams have to prepare for their first road trip on their conference schedule — at James Madison (2-0-0, 9-0-1) on Friday, then at George Mason (2-0-0, 6-3-1) on Sunday.

O'Sullivan said that earlier in the season his team wasn't prepared to do the "dirty work" needed to win games. But after pushing and shoving all season, he said he's seen the team's mentality change. Players like Saul Montero, who returned the shoves of several Monarch defenders, are ready for the rough games.

"If the game turns that way then we're ready to do it," Montero said. "We're not bowing to anyone."



Despite letting one goal sneak by, keeper Saul Montero stopped two of ODU's shots, including a penalty kick in the second half.

Pat Kane

SPORTS

Rams remain unbeaten in CAA play

NICHOLAS ARNOLD*Staff Writer*

Sophomore striker Solfrid Andersen scored two goals and added an assist as the VCU Women's soccer team trounced conference rival UNC-Wilmington 4-0 on Saturday evening at Sports Backers Stadium.

The Rams remained unbeaten at home this season, winning their past twelve at Sports Backers Stadium since last October. The win kept VCU in first place in the Colonial Athletic Association going into the toughest stretch of their schedule so far this year.

Andersen put her first goal into the net just 13 minutes into the game. Taking a nicely served ball from midfielder Leigh Anthony, Andersen utilized the offensive abilities of her head instead of her feet, playing the ball into the corner of the net with a quick flick.

The Rams never looked back in this high scoring game, continuing to attack the Seahawks weak defense. Just one minute and ten seconds later, freshman midfielder Shelley Lyle put in one of her two goals of the match.

Taking a pass in the 18-yard box from Andersen, Lyle outwitted UNCW goalkeeper Rachael Wilson and slipped it under her hands into the right corner of the net. It was the quickest combination of goals VCU has scored all season.

Before the end of the half the Rams added 14 more shots and one more goal by Andersen. The prolific scorer received a perfect pass from forward Jen Parsons and was left alone with the goalkeeper.

Advantage Andersen.

Wilson didn't have a chance as Andersen notched her 10th goal of the season.

After halftime, VCU still controlled the tempo of the game, continuing the dominance on offense while pressuring and

attacking the Seahawks' scoring-minded midfielders and forwards.

The defense, solidified by captain Jennifer Woodie, allowed only three shots before halftime and six after. The defense completely shut down the CAA's leading scorer, Kristine Mengle, holding her without a shot the entire contest.

Aggravated and unhappy about losing in Richmond, the Seahawks started playing more physically. UNCW defender Whitney Andringa picked up a yellow card in the 52nd minute.

Less than four minutes later, Andringa received her second yellow card and automatic red card, dismissing her from the rest of the game.

The Rams had no problem adding another goal with the one-man advantage. Lyle, continuing a trend of quality freshman play on the Rams, fired a shot from twenty yards in the 64th minute.

The shot went high, lofting over Wilson's head, before bending back into the net. VCU's defense didn't let up the rest of the way.

Two freshman goalkeepers, Lauren Hardison and Emily Niman, shared the shutout for the Rams, Hardison playing almost 70 minutes in the goalkeeper's box while Niman guarded the last 20 minutes of the game.

Andersen totaled five points in all for the contest, and took over the position of the CAA's leading scorer with her two goals, tying her with Mengle. Parsons' assist pulled her up to second in the conference in that category.

The Rams travel to Liberty on Tuesday before returning to Sports Backers on Saturday to try to extend their home-unbeaten streak against Longwood College. After these two games, VCU plays four consecutive road games against the CAA's elite, including James Madison and Towson.



Pat Kane

Sophomore Solfrid Andersen lit up UNC Wilmington for her ninth and 10th goals of the season.

Delaware drops field hockey to 1-1 in CAA

LORI EDWARDS*Staff Writer*

More than 60 fans filled the stands at Cary Street Field Sunday afternoon, as the Rams fell to Delaware 4-0.

While fan participation and fervor remains consistent this season, the Rams watched a steady six-game home winning streak slide out of sight.

Delaware, ranked No. 15 in the latest STX/NFCA Division I Coaches' Poll proved to be a demanding team with both defensive and offensive, scoring twice in each half and blocking all seven of the

Rams attempted goals.

The Rams, despite changing their formation three times in order to keep the field covered, just couldn't catch up.

Now 8-3 for the season, the Rams plan to figure out where their mistakes lie and how to secure a win in Friday's game, when they travel to Pennsylvania to Colonial Athletic Association rival Drexel.

While she feels the team entered the field in full confidence, their efforts didn't produce the best results.

"The team needs to be held accountable and responsible," said Behrens about Sunday's loss.

Describing their usual practices and game performances as "high tempo," Behrens felt the team "stood, watched and reacted instead of performing."

"A lot of people worked hard, but not together like it needed to be," said senior Casey Smith.

With 11 minutes left in the game, freshman stunner Carlot Verloop put forth an aggressive effort as she slid for the ball before it went out of bounds, getting it to the goal but blocked by Delaware's imposing defensive lineup.

"At times they stayed lower and out hustled us," said Smith about Delaware's

performance.

Sophomore Ashley Cadwallader whipped up and down the field, hitting the ground several times, only to find her offensive goal attempts shot down.

Among other aspects of their performance, Behrens will make sure the Rams regain their ability to "demand the ball."

Now 1-1 in league play, the Rams will continue training and preparing this week, as they look to future matches and humbly accept defeat.

Said Behrens, "Today wasn't our best outing individually or collectively, thus the outcome."

Spectrum

The Nile: Not just a river

Nile restaurant brings flavor of Ethiopia to VCU

BY ALEXANDER MARRA
Staff Writer

Eat with your hands, make a mess, and nobody will laugh at you! Try some of the most exotic food you've probably ever had at Richmond's only Ethiopian restaurant, the Nile Ethiopian Restaurant and Cafe. You'll soon find out you have taste buds you never knew existed. You'll eat delicious cuisine that has roots spanning back centuries, although it's just hit the River City two months ago.

I talked at length with Getanek Wondemaghe, owner of the Nile, who came to Richmond from Ethiopia by way of Washington, D.C. The real Capital City is actually home to the largest contingent of Ethiopian restaurants in the nation. Richmond had zero so Getanek Wondemaghe and Girmachew Tesfaye

decided to graciously provide Virginia's Capital city with a taste of their Old Country.

You can be sure that you will get an authentic meal presented in true Ethiopian fashion. It is up to you if you wish to engage in gusha and go the full 10 yards. Gusha is an Ethiopian tradition where friends and even strangers who are eating together, feed each other (remember, it is with the hands so don't worry, no one will stab you in the eye with a fork).

Traditional Ethiopian music fills the air as you enter the stylishly furnished rooms. The rooms are decorated with beautiful art and have black ceilings. The atmosphere provides for a romantic date on late nights. In addition, the restaurant is equipped with a full-service bar for students over 21.

Wondemaghe told me all about his

plans to bring in berchumas, or small traditional stools which are used by rural Ethiopians when eating. Usually the tables are replaced with mesobes, or baskets, but as of now there are no plans to bring in the baskets.

VCU has a strong Ethiopian community, which has been exposed through the Ethiopian Student Union on campus. The Nile has already sponsored some of its events.

A few tips on dining etiquette:

- It is rude to sing at the table.
- It is also rude to stand up. (Excusing yourself is not advised either, stay put and finish what's on the plate.)
- Diners are served smorgasbord style, a little bit of this, a little bit of that, all on one giant plate lined with the Ethiopian staple, enjera, or sponge

bread. Enjera is a spongy flat perforated bread that comes in large slices and is an excellent (and necessary) complement to the Ethiopian diet. Use this bread to dip and scoop up the various foods you sample.

My dining companions and I enjoyed a lentil mix, some lamb, some chicken and various vegetables, including spinach and carrots. The lamb, chicken and lentils were all served with the enjera.

The Nile's only been open for two months, but already dozens of "thank yous" have poured in from Richmond's Ethiopian community, Wondemaghe said.

I'm not Ethiopian, but I give him a thank you, too.

Nile Ethiopian Restaurant & Café

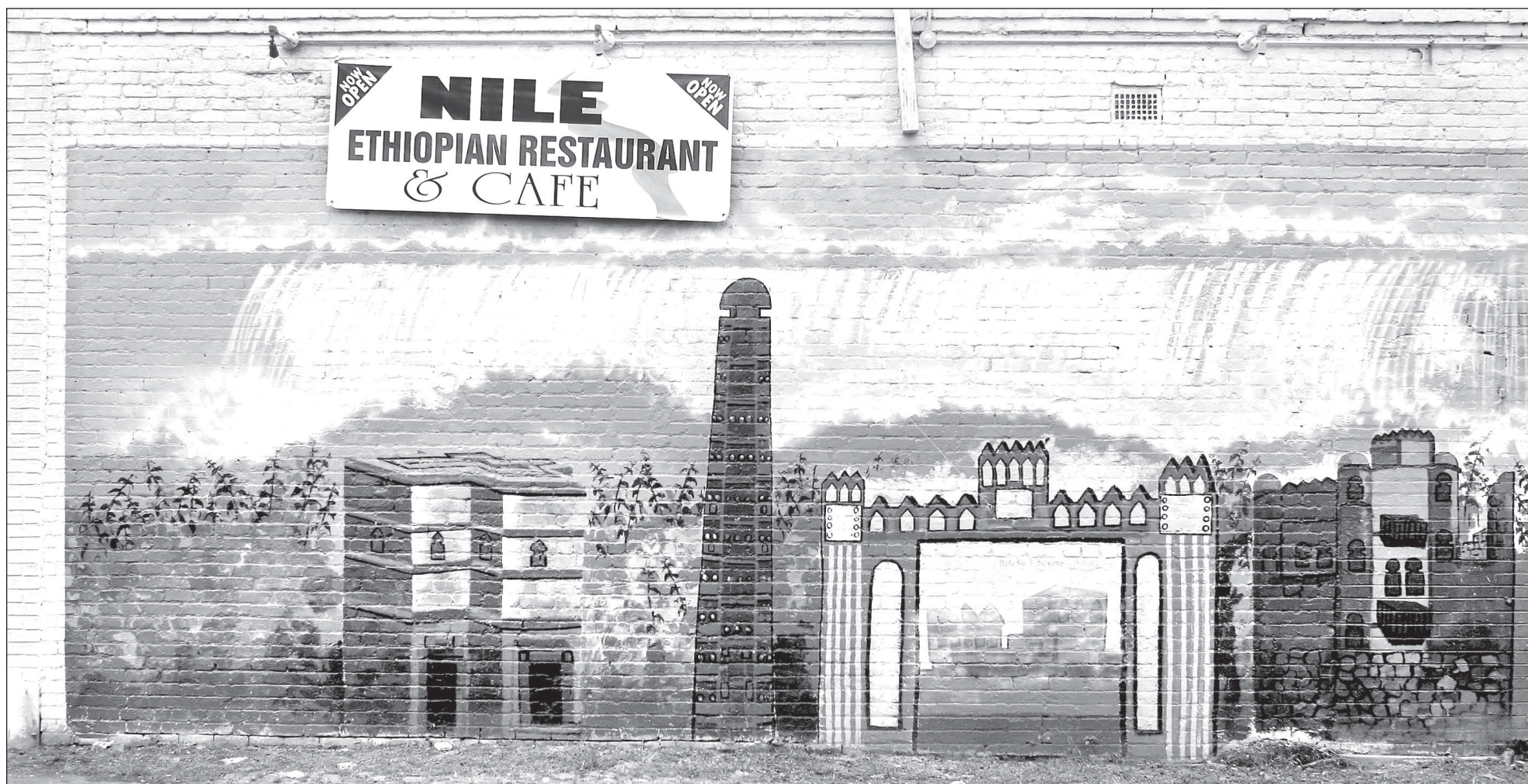
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Richmond, VA 23220
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Cost: \$14 for the first person
\$10 each additional diner



The Nile Cafe dining room.

Pat Kane



Along with its delicious cuisine, the Nile gives passers-by a colorful mural at which to look.

Pat Kane

Spectrum

Store exchanges 'Threadz' for cash, credit

JESSICA BENTON
Spectrum Writer

Ladies, look around your home. Are there tons or even a few items of clothing that you don't wear anymore?

Well make room for those winter sweaters and head to local swap shop, Threadz to relieve your closet of that unwanted clothing.

Swap shops are a great alternative to the traditional thrift store operation.

"Women can bring in items of clothing that are no longer desired," said Threadz owner Shannon Edmonds. "I'll take inventory and they then have the option of cash or in-store credit for what they've brought me."

Edmonds said she opened the shop to help women "find a good bargain and cater to the vintage or trendy styles of women in Richmond," also claiming "that since you bought your clothes, you should get something for them instead of just giving them away."

It has only been recently opened to the public, but she has been there for the past year collecting items for sale within the shop. Though the shop is small it definitely offers a variety of

styles for people, trendy items and even some blasts from the past cover the coat hangers in the store.

Stacks of fashion magazines sit in corners waiting to aid those looking for the newest trends.

Framed articles offer various fashion tidbits that relate to store items, such as the "How to wear flowers in your hair" article in the jewelry case with the hair-flowers.

Previous experience in retail, Edmonds said, taught her how to assess the items that people bring in.

Some swap shop businesses in Richmond only accept clothes that are in season, in

mint condition or higher end name brands. There are also specifications as to the condition of clothes if you'd like to get your money back.

Threadz is not as complicated as other stores, Edmonds said, adding that the clothes should be "gently used, without rips, holes, stains, etc."

So if you're running low on cash and have some shoes, shirts, pants, or anything else clothing-related that you don't want, take them to Threadz.

It's a deal and at least you'll win back some of your hard-earned wardrobe money.

Threadz
1 1/2 S Stafford Ave
358-6124



The swap shop offers women a clothing alternative to consignment and thrift stores.

Pat Kane

Happenings

Oct. 4 through Oct. 6

Monday, Oct. 4

Easy Street 9:55 Club Comedy Night. The 9:55 Club brings local comedians to the stage to make you laugh. 9 p.m. Free. 2401 W. Main St. Fan 355-1198

Tuesday, Oct. 5

"The Producers." Broadway Under the Stars brings this musical about a Hitler flop. By Mel Brooks. Landmark Theater, 6 N Laurel St. 780-0200. Through Oct. 10.

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Tony Furtado. Furtado plays Alley Katz with Southside Funk Brother and Southside Funk Brothers. Ages 18 and up. 8 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 10 Walnut Alley. 643-2816.

Steve Martin play comes to VCU

Imagine if Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso met at a bar during the brink of the 20th Century. Well, imagine no more. This play by Steve Martin will be at VCU from Oct. 6-9 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 10 at 2:30 p.m. "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" is directed by Barry Bell and produced by David Leong. Join the VCU Department of Theatre's finest 11 actors and Martin's peculiar, funny and wistful riff on the connotation of genius, the foundation of innovative stimulation and the irony of fame.

Crossword answers

The answers to last week's crossword puzzle will appear in Thursday's CT.

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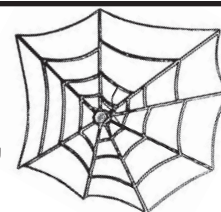
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EDITORIALS & LETTERS

Why Kerry Won

Debate highlights differences between candidates

BY OMAR YACOUBI
Op/Ed Writer

In their sparring match Thursday night, George Bush and John Kerry had a chance to prove to voters that they had the right vision for leading the United States through the War on Terror. Neither candidate was completely specific in laying out their plans, but in polls taken after the debate, most voters gave the edge to Kerry.

The reason: Reality bites.

During the debate the facts were on Kerry's side – and it showed. While Bush stuck to his usual idealism and rhetoric, Kerry pointed out real examples of where Bush had failed and where he could do better, making Bush's plaintive attempts at repeating campaign-trail slogans sound out of place. The debate revealed how Bush's limited rhetorical style was as ineffective in persuading American voters as it was with world opinion when we needed to invade Iraq.

Bush also had difficulty keeping his patience during the debate, as he isn't used to having his viewpoint challenged. The president has had fewer press conferences than any of his predecessors, and most of them were carefully planned using questions provided him in advance. The same petulance Bush showed during the debate has in the past been directed at members of the media who asked hard questions.

Voters finally got a chance on Thursday to meet the president that had been leading them all this time from a distance, from behind scripted speeches and media appearances.

The question, though, is how they will react.

Republican political adviser Karl Rove said that in Bush, Americans saw "a plain-spoken man committed to winning the war on terror." But during the debate, Bush looked almost silly trying to describe the role of commander in chief, especially when compared to John Kerry, who came across as an articulate statesman.

To limit Kerry's momentum following the debate, Bush has gone on the attack, criticizing Kerry's comments that pre-emptive military action from the United States must pass a "global test" of understanding.



BY PHIL MCKENNEY

He accused Kerry of subjecting the U.S. military to "veto power from countries like France."

But a "global test" is just another way of saying the world needed to understand what we were doing. Just like American voters on Thursday needed to know more from Bush about Iraq than that "it's hard work," the world needs to be able to hear from a president who can articulate the case for war.

If you remember Bush's speech to the United Nations two weeks ago, its main criticism from media pundits and international observers was its lack of realism. The speech failed to recognize the real problems the United States was facing in its largely unilateral effort to bring stability to Iraq.

The speech and its lukewarm reception serve as a stark reminder that our president is supposed to be more than just our commander in chief, but our chief diplomat as well. Not only do we rely on our president to defend our interests, but to communicate them to the world so that we aren't unnecessarily ostracized for our decisions.

Our allies are called our allies for a

reason: we share common interests. If Saddam's Iraq was a threat to America's national security and world stability as Bush claimed, the president should have had no problem convincing our allies that this was the case. It worked for the first Gulf War; it worked for the Cuban Missile Crisis; there's no reason why it can't work today.

As it stands, Kerry has erased President Bush's earlier perceived advantage when it comes to foreign policy and national security. He articulated the reasons the president hasn't done everything he could to make the case for war and secure the nation's borders, while the presi-

dent offered no new information.

If Kerry can make the same powerful arguments for his domestic agenda in the remaining two debates, he may well seal his victory come Nov. 2 – and we will have a new occupant in the White House next year. For this reason, the remaining debates hold equally high stakes for the incumbent and the challenger.

I don't know about you, but I'll be watching.

Remaining Presidential Debates
Friday, Oct. 8
Wednesday, Oct. 13
Vice-Presidential Debate
Tuesday, Oct. 5

All debates are scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. and are televised nationally.

The Commonwealth
TIMES

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