

VCU STUDENT DIES IN IRAQ CONFLICT — PAGE 3

# The Commonwealth Times

Free

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## Curious collection

Archive houses everything  
from comics to Coltrane  
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### Sports

Looking for energy, three Rams have career games in 75-71 win over Old Dominion./ **Page 6**



### Spectrum

'An art'ful experience:  
Art after hours brings  
poetry, culture to  
Richmonders./ **Page 7**

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Lyz Holder on the dangers  
of 'safe' art./ **Page 11**



# IN BRIEF

## CALENDAR

## JAN. 31 THROUGH FEB. 2

Monday, Jan. 31	Tuesday, Feb. 1	Wednesday, Feb. 2
Enjoy science? Then come to the <b>Infectious Diseases Conference</b> in Sanger Hall room 8-036 from 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Call Julie Rhodes at 828-9711 for more information.	If you like poetry, then head out to <b>Poetry Jam</b> at Tropical Soul Café starting at 9 p.m. Cover cost \$5, call 771-1605 for more information.	Come enjoy some java as the Office of International Education sponsors the <b>International Student Coffee Hour</b> in the University Student Commons' Commonwealth Ballroom B from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Call 828-9502 if you wish to participate and have special needs.

### CAMPUS FORECAST



**Monday**  
**40/21**



**Tuesday**  
**42/24**



**Wednesday**  
**48/29**



**Thursday**  
**51/31**

### Yellow Snow

Richard Kral was driving along the Slovak Tatra Mountains when an avalanche swept him and his car away, trapping him under several feet of snow. Kral considered digging himself out, but soon realized that as he dug the snow would fill his car. While pondering the problem over one of the 60 beers he brought with him, Kral realized he could dig through the snow, and then urinate on it to melt it so it wouldn't fill his car. Four days later, a rescue team found Kral drunk and staggering along a mountain road. Kral said digging out was hard work, and that his kidneys and liver hurt, but that he was glad to be alive.

### Insomniac

Song Shikuan, a resident of the Henan province in China, claims that he hasn't gotten a night's sleep since he turned 20 years old— amazing considering he is now 71. Before 20, Song said he used to get at most two hours of sleep a night, but now he claims he only takes a nap lasting a few minutes. The local hospital where he works as a cleaner is treating him, but has not yet been able to find the cause of his insomnia.

### Tailor-made jimi hats company

A Taiwanese has introduced a new service to the world – custom-made condoms. SakuNet International makes 55 different sizes of condoms – ranging from 3 inches to 9.4 inches – while the most common size sold in Taiwan is 4.2 inches long and 1.9 inches in diameter, the company said. Company manager Huang Wanting said that ill-fitting condoms

can often break or slip off, adding to the risk of pregnancy, but with SakuNet's service all men have to do is log on to the company's Web site, print out a measurement card and order the required size. To avoid embarrassment the cards have no measurements on them, just serial numbers. So far the company has sold 60,000 condoms of various sizes, he said.

### Falling down drunk

A 30-year-old man identified only as Oleg went to a friends party in Moscow and decided to drink a bottle of vodka. Feeling woozy, Oleg stepped out onto the balcony to get some fresh air and clear his head, but friends said as he stepped onto the balcony he lost his balance and fell 40 feet to the ground and bounced. The fall must have cleared his head, because afterward he stood up, walked back up to the party and continued drinking as if nothing had happened.

### Dirty mouth

Swedish scientists announced that during an average open-mouthed, or French, kiss over 400,000 parasites and 250 types of bacteria – as well as .7 grams of protein, .45 grams of fat and .19 grams of other organic substances – are exchanged. The study was done as part of an effort to promote better oral hygiene in Sweden. Swedish pharmacies taking part in the oral hygiene campaign are also looking for a couple to break the world record in kissing on Valentine's Day. The current record is held by Louisa Almedovar and Rich Langely, from New Jersey, who kissed for 30 hours, 59 minutes and 17 seconds in 2001.

### From hard up to lock up

A robber in Ohio was arrested recently following his request for a date – from a woman he just helped rob. Police said the 25-year-old was one of three men who robbed a pizza delivery woman in New Castle by ordering a pizza to a home, surrounding her and taking her cash and the two pizzas. Later, the man called her cell phone to apologize and ask for a date. The 18-year-old victim turned down his offer, but gave the phone number to the police.

### Imagine hearing that go off in class

People who enjoy Jenna Jameson pornographic movies can now hear the woman's moans every time their phone rings. Jameson and Wicked Wireless are now offering what they call moan tones – recordings of Jameson moaning – for \$2.50 to use as cell phone ringers. Users can also pay \$2.99 to get a naked picture of Jameson for their cell phone wall paper.

### 'Joining the free world'

Iraqis vote in the first free election in a half century amid explosions and attacks. **Turn to page 5 for details.**

*Front cover photo and Spectrum teaser by Pat Kane.*

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# NEWS

## ‘We have all the neat stuff’

*Special Collections and Archives highlights history through art*

**HARVEY HALL**  
Staff Writer

VCU’s James Branch Cabell Library has a history as rich and diverse as the city of Richmond itself.

The library reserves a section on the fourth floor for special historical artifacts and documents that can be observed or used by students.

This section, known as the Special Collections and Archives, features the best of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as it pertains to the university and to Central Virginia.

Ray Bonis, assistant archivist, explained what is housed in the special collections section.

“We try to collect stuff and materials that other institutions in Richmond weren’t collecting,” Bonis said. “We have records mostly – or organizations – from the 20<sup>th</sup> century documenting Richmond’s development.”

“We have a large collection of everything from Style Magazine,” he said, “and the Richmond Free-Press to lots of alternative newspapers that have existed in Richmond over the years.”

John Ulmschneider, the University Librarian in charge of special collections at the James Branch Cabell Library on the Monroe Park Campus and the Tompkins-McCaw Library on the MCV Campus, said special collections contains many interesting artifacts.

“The special collections represent unique items,” Ulmschneider said.

One thing that makes this historical collection different is its comic book col-

lection. Ulmschneider said this collection was a big draw to students in the field of fine arts.

“These comic book collections are used by students in the creative arts, students who are in graphic design and those who want to be writers or novelists,” he said.

Although a comic book collection may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Special Collections and Archives, Bonis points out that there is more than one way to look at the comic strips in the collection.

“These cartoons can be approached two different ways,” Bonis said. “One is in looking at these cartoons from 60-plus years ago, they give you another way of looking at American history.”

“Another thing is just from the perspective of art,” he said. “We have a number of art students that come into special collections.”

Not only does this collection have the typical comic books with superheroes, but it also features political and editorial cartoons from the past, including a display of presidential cartoons from over the years. Last November, some of the works were displayed during the presidential elections.

“We thought that it was timely,” Bonis said. “We showed some of the books and collections that have editorial cartoons, as well as displays that had ‘Mad’ magazine and things.”

The archives also feature books on art exhibitions and sculptures. Ulmschneider said the exhibition collection is one of the most important in the archives.

“Whenever there’s an art exhibit in the United States, a catalog is published for that exhibition, Ulmschneider said. “We have one of the leading collections of such catalogs in the country. They’re very important for our School of the Arts.”

There are also books that may appeal to other majors on the VCU campus.

“We have a lot of books in art and history,” Bonis said. “Another significant thing is the collections of architectural history in Virginia.”

The Cabell Library also includes another piece of architectural history in the archives: a representation of James Branch Cabell’s study and ante room including some original furniture and some of Cabell’s works. In observing these rooms, students get a history lesson on the works of Cabell.

“James Branch Cabell was a prominent Richmond writer in the 20<sup>th</sup> century,” Ulmschneider said. “He wrote over 40 books and was a well known American writer in the 1920s, ‘30s and ‘40s.”

Bonis briefly explained how the library on the Monroe Park Campus came to be called the James Branch Cabell library.

“When they created MCV and VCU, the state said that VCU had to build a library. As they were planning the library,” he said, “they asked Cabell’s wife if they could name the library after him.”

“They also asked if they could get his personal library. It was 2,000 volumes of his work. We also managed to get his personal manuscripts and papers as well.”

Ulmschneider said renovation plans are in the works for this historic room.

“We’re in the middle of a capital cam-

paign,” he said. “A fundraising campaign that we hope will generate enough funds for us to complete renovation of the room. We’re going to improve the lighting and expand the ante room.”

This expanded space, he said, will be used as a study area for students and a meeting place for faculty and visitors.

“When I came here, this room was treated more like a museum piece,” Ulmschneider said. “We’re making more use of it now.”

“I think that’s what James Branch Cabell would have wanted – highlight the room, expand it and making it useful to the students.”

In all, Bonis said the archives have a special purpose for students, as well as the university.

“Today, most libraries tend to have the same old things,” he said. “What makes this library unique is the stuff that tends to be up here, like the comic collection, book art collection, manuscripts of Richmond civic groups and politics.”

“That’s what’s so interesting about working up here,” he said. “We have all the neat stuff.”

Special Collections and Archives also strives to maintain VCU’s commitment to diversity in the VCU community.

“We have things that say something about us,” Ulmschneider said. “Our focus on 20<sup>th</sup> century history and the history of other documented communities is consistent with VCU’s commitment to its community and its diversity.”

“That is the spirit we are trying to embody in our special collections.”

## Engineering student dies in Iraq ambush

**KATIE GANTT**  
News Co-Editor

A 20-year-old engineering student was killed in Iraq during an ambush Wednesday. Lance Cpl. Karl Linn and his Marine platoon were in Iraq’s Anbar province when the ambush killed Linn and three others in his company. Four others were injured according to an Associated Press article.

VCU President Eugene P. Trani released a statement last Friday to inform the VCU community of the loss and to express sympathy to Linn’s family.

“The entire VCU community is saddened by his death,” Trani said in the statement, “and extends our heartfelt sympathies to his parents, and his brother.

“We also want to express our appreciation and pride in this young man, only 20 years old, who so honorably and bravely served our country.”

Linn, who graduated from James River High School in 2002, came to VCU to major in the School of Engineering’s mechanical engineering program.

Before enrolling at VCU, he joined the Marine Corp Reserve on a delayed-entry status, allowing him to attend classes at VCU while getting his basic training on the weekends.

In January, Linn set up a Web site that gave details of his whereabouts and what he was doing. The Web site, which he last updated on Jan. 16 only had two entries.

The site also included photographs of Linn’s time

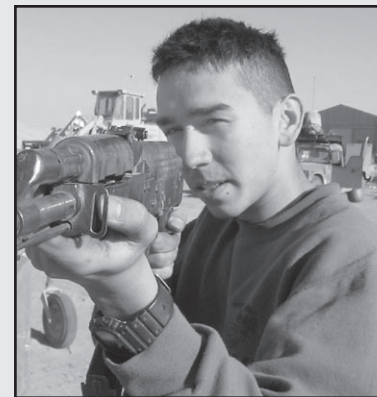


Photo courtesy of [www.karl.linn.net](http://www.karl.linn.net)

**Lance Cpl. Karl Linn**

spent in Iraq. Many of the pictures show the different weapons that Linn was working with, but there are three photos of Linn himself.

To read Karl Linn’s words for yourself, you can visit Linn’s Web site at [www.karl.linn.net](http://www.karl.linn.net).



# NEWS

## CT hits the streets

*Q: Do you plan to attend graduate school? Why or why not?*



**Brigitte Bond,**  
sophomore, art  
history

Yes, because it's necessary in my field of study to do independent research to find a job.



**Christine Fraser,**  
first-year, pre-  
physical therapy

Yes, because you can't really get a good job if you don't go to grad school – too much competition.



**Brian Ugalde,**  
junior, illustra-  
tion

No, I'm just not planning to.



**Dave Wan,**  
sophomore, il-  
lustration

No, I guess money restrictions.



**Samantha Monts,**  
first-year, pre-physi-  
cal therapy

Yes, so that I can become a physical therapist so I can work with sports teams.



**Steve Hauer,**  
first-year, busi-  
ness

Yes, because I want to be rich.

## Dean, director offer grad school pointers

**JONATHAN ROBBINS**  
*News Co-Editor*

As the graduation date gets ever closer for seniors and juniors, some students are wondering about what will inevitably follow. For some students dissatisfied with



Pat Kane

**F. Douglass Boudinot is the dean of graduate studies.**

their major or looking to earn a little more graduate school is an option, but before deciding where to go – or whether to go at all – students should take some things into consideration, VCU administrators say.

Mark Schaefermeyer, director of graduate recruitment and admissions, said students deciding to attend graduate school should make sure they're doing it for the right reasons.

"I think you should go to graduate school not because there's nothing else to do," he said, "but because you're looking for deeper knowledge."

Other, less philosophical aspects of the experience need to be factored in as well.

Schaefermeyer said students interested in graduate school need to examine things like cost, geographic location and the faculty at the school.

F. Douglas Boudinot, dean of graduate studies, echoed Schaefermeyer's comments, and said students need to examine the program their interested in at different universities.

"Graduate programs at different universities with the same name may offer different course work and areas of study."

For example, a program that focuses on human genetics at one university may emphasize the mapping out of the human genome while a program with the same

name at another university might focus on gene therapy.

Another area students might want to examine is a university's number of assistantships—programs that allow graduate students to work as teaching or research assistants in exchange for a lower tuition or a stipend.

Schaefermeyer said the assistantships he got during his years in graduate school were invaluable.

"I wouldn't have been able to get through without assistantships," he said.

However, some students might decide that after four or more years doing undergraduate studies it's time to get out into the working world. Boudinot suggests that even they take the Graduate Record Examination – more commonly known as the GRE.

"The GRE is good for five years after you take it – so if you get out and find a job, and after two years you decide you want a change you can still use your GRE scores to apply for grad schools."

He also suggested that students interested in graduate school start looking during the fall of their junior year, since that's when many schools are hosting graduate school exhibitions and since applications are usually due either late in the fall or very early in the spring.

## CRIME LOG



**Jan. 26**

- Male arrested for driving under the influence on the 1800 block of W. Main St.

- Male arrested for driving on a suspended license on the 800 block of W. Franklin St.

- Male arrested for possession of a controlled substance at N. Harrison and W. Grace streets.

- Male arrested for assaulting a police officer, obstruction of justice and resisting arrest on the 400 block of N. 12<sup>th</sup> St.

- Two males arrested for possession of an open container of alcohol at Belvidere and Cumberland streets.

**Jan. 27**

- Male arrested for driving under the influence at Belvidere and Cary streets.

# STATE & NATION

## In Iraq, long lines, much joy and violence and uncertainty

**SALLY BUZBEE**

*Associated Press Writer*

BAGHDAD — Iraqis embraced democracy in large numbers Sunday, standing in long lines to vote in defiance of mortar attacks, suicide bombers and boycott calls. Pushed in wheelchairs or carts if they couldn't walk, the elderly, the young and women in veils cast ballots in Iraq's first free election in a half-century.

"We broke a barrier of fear," said Mijm Towirish, an election official.

Uncertain Sunni turnout, a string of insurgent attacks that killed 44 and the crash of a British military plane drove home that chaos in Iraq isn't over yet.

Yet the mere fact the vote went off seemed to ricochet instantly around a world hoping for Arab democracy and fearing Islamic extremism.

"I am doing this because I love my country, and I love the sons of my nation," said Shamal Hekeib, 53, who walked with his wife 20 minutes to a polling station near his Baghdad home.

"We are Arabs, we are not scared and we are not cowards," Hekeib said.

With helicopters flying low and gunfire close by, at least 200 voters stood calmly in line at midday outside one polling station in the heart of Baghdad. Inside, the tight security included at least four body searches, and a ban on lighters, cell phone batteries, cigarette packs and even pens.

The feeling was sometimes festive. One election volunteer escorted a blind man back to his home after he cast his vote. A woman too frail to walk by herself arrived on a cart pushed by a young relative. Entire families showed up in their finest clothes.

But for the country's minority Sunni Arabs, who held a privileged position under Saddam Hussein, the day was not as welcome.

No more than 400 people voted in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, and in the heavily Sunni northern Baghdad neighborhood of Azamiyah, where Saddam made his last known public appearance in early April 2003, the four polling places never even opened.

Iraqi election officials said it might take 10 days to determine the vote's winner and said they had no firm estimate of turnout among the 14 million eligible voters. The ticket endorsed by the Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani was the pre-voting favorite. Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's slate was also considered strong.

"The world is hearing the voice of freedom from

the center of the Middle East," said President Bush, who called the election a success. He promised the United States would continue training Iraqi soldiers, hoping they can soon secure a country America invaded nearly two years ago to topple Saddam.

Iraqis, the U.S. president said, had "firmly rejected the anti-democratic ideology" of terrorists.

The vote to elect a 275-National Assembly and 18 provincial legislatures was only the first step on Iraq's road to self-rule and stability. Once results are in, it could take weeks of backroom deals before a prime minister and government are picked by the new assembly.

If that government proves successful by drawing in the minority Sunni Arabs who partly shunned the election, the country could stabilize, hastening the day when 150,000 U.S. troops can go home.

On Sunday, coalition soldiers raced through Baghdad's streets in Humvees and tried to coax people to vote with loudspeakers in Ramadi, a Sunni city where anti-U.S. attacks are frequent. Iraqi police served as guards at most polling stations and U.S. troops had strict orders to stay away unless Iraqi security forces called for help.

At the Louisiana National Guard headquarters near Baghdad, nervous U.S. officers paced the halls, muttering, "So far, so good," after the first 30 minutes of polling passed without attacks.

But the violence soon broke out.

While a driving ban seemed to discourage car bombs, the insurgents improvised, strapping on belts of explosives to launch their suicide missions.

At least 44 died in the suicide and mortar attacks on polling stations, including nine suicide bombers. The al-Qaida affiliate led by Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for at least four attacks. Most attacks were in Baghdad, but one of the deadliest came in Hillah to the south, when a bomber got onto a minibus carrying voters and detonated his explosives, killing himself and at least four others.

In another reminder of the dangers that persist in Iraq, a British C-130 Hercules transport plane crashed north of Baghdad. The wreckage was strewn over a large area. No cause was given, but Britain's Press Association, quoting military sources, said as many as 15 British troops were believed to have died. Elsewhere, one U.S. serviceman died in fighting in the Sunni stronghold of Anbar province west of Baghdad.

Despite the string of attacks and mortars that boomed first in the morning and then after dark, a people steeled to violence by years of war, sanctions,

the brutality of Saddam's regime and U.S. military occupation were not deterred from the polls.

In the so-called "triangle of death" south of Baghdad, a whiskery, stooped Abed Hunni walked an hour with his wife to reach a polling site in Musayyib. "God is generous to give us this day," he said.

And in heavily Shiite areas in the far south and mostly Kurdish regions in the north, some saw the vote as settling a score with the former dictator, Saddam.

"Now I feel that Saddam is really gone," said Fatima Ibrahim, smiling as she headed home after voting in Irbil. She was 14 and a bride of just three months when her husband, father and brother were rounded up in a campaign of ethnic cleansing under Saddam. None have ever been found.

Many cities in the Sunni triangle north and west of the capital, particularly Fallujah, Ramadi and Beiji, were virtually empty of voters also.

A low Sunni turnout, if that turns out to be the case, could undermine the new government that will emerge from the vote and worsen tensions among the country's ethnic, religious and cultural groups.

Adnan Pachachi, a Sunni elder statesman and candidate for the National Assembly, said he believes the best hope for harmony lies in giving Sunnis a significant role in drafting the country's new constitution.

"The main thing, I think, is we should really have a constitution written by representatives of all segments of Iraq's population," Pachachi said. "I think it would improve the security situation."

Across the largely authoritarian-ruled Arab world, where dislike and distrust of U.S. power and American intentions dominates the public debate, some dismissed the poll as a U.S.-orchestrated sham. Others hoped it might prove a catalyst for a region-wide democratic push.

Iraq's elections are a "good omen for getting rid of dictatorship," said Yemeni political science student Fathi al-Uraiqi.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak — sure to win his own country's much-less-democratic vote later this year — telephoned Allawi to congratulate him on the smooth election, saying he hoped it would "open the way for the restoration of calm and stability" in Iraq.

*Associated Press writers Bassem Mroue, Hamza Hendawi, Sameer N. Yacoub and Jason Keyser contributed to this report.*



## SPORTS

Upcoming Sports  
EVENTS

## Men's basketball

**Jan. 31:** VCU at James Madison in Harrisonburg, Va. at 7 p.m.

**Feb. 2:** VCU at Hofstra in Hempstead, N.Y. at 7:00 p.m.

**Feb. 5:** VCU vs. Towson (Homecoming) at the Stuart C. Siegel Center at 5 p.m.

## Women's basketball

**Feb. 3:** vs. Old Dominion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center at 7 p.m.

**Feb. 6:** VCU vs. Drexel at the Stuart C. Siegel Center at 2 p.m.

**Feb. 11:** VCU vs. Towson at the Stuart C. Siegel Center at 7 p.m.

## Men's tennis

**Feb. 1:** VCU vs. Louisiana-Lafayette at the Thalhimer Tennis Center at 4 p.m.

**Feb. 11:** VCU at Wake Forest in Winston-Salem, N.C. at 5 p.m.

**Feb. 12:** VCU at Minnesota in Winston-Salem, N.C. at 2 p.m.

## Women's tennis

**Feb. 4-6:** VCU 4-1 Invitational at the Thalhimer Tennis Center, all day

**Feb. 13:** VCU vs. Old Dominion at the Thalhimer Tennis Center 11 a.m.

**Feb. 19:** VCU at Penn in Philadelphia, Pa.

## Men's track and field

**Feb 4-5:** Carolina Classic in Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Feb. 5:** George Mason in Fairfax

**Feb. 11-12:** Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

## Women's track and field

**Feb. 5:** North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Feb. 11-12:** Virginia Tech in Blacksburg

**Feb. 19:** George Mason in Fairfax, Va.

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

## Rejected!

*Rams hand Monarchs first CAA loss; 10th straight in series*

**JULIAN BENBOW**  
*Sports Editor*

Junior forward Nick George said he hears it all the time—the uncertainty, the skepticism surrounding VCU's men's basketball team.

Last Wednesday's loss to James Madison at home did nothing to quiet the rumblings, especially considering the team had undefeated Old Dominion to deal with just three days later.

Head coach Jeff Capel questioned his team's energy and effort in the past two games. He even questioned his ability to get his guys up for games, saying that in the days between the James Madison game and the ODU game, he needed to figure out something.

Whatever he came up with, he'd better bottle it.

Nick George scored a career-high 27 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Senior Michael Doles dropped a career-high seven dimes to go with his 13 points and sophomore B.A. Walker pulled down a career-high eight rebounds and scored 16 points as the Rams handed the Colonial Athletic Association-leading Monarchs their first conference loss of the season on Saturday, 75-71 in front of 7,080 fans at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

"We constantly hear the doubt all the time," George said. "So to knock off one of the big dogs feels good."

The suspicion formed around a team that not only lost to James Madison but had to rally for a win in overtime on the road against league-worst, William & Mary, which still hasn't won a conference game, getting waxed by George Mason on Saturday, 95-62.

The worry came from a Monarchs team that had won seven straight, and was starting to get recognition in national polls.

Capel said he could hear it all from callers on his television show Thursday night. He had been hearing that the loss to the Dukes took some of the luster off of this rivalry game, which hasn't been much of a rivalry since Capel took over in 2002 (The Rams have won all six games).

"You lose a game," he said, "and it's like the sky is falling."

The team has had to answer to comparisons to last season's NCAA tournament team all year, facing overwhelming scrutiny over a stretch of road losses to start the season plus questions of whether they could make it by as a team that primarily relied on the jump shot.

"It takes time," said George, who was all over the court, hitting 10 of 14 from the field, 3 of 5 from three-point land and 4 of 6 from the stripe. "It's a little bit of a different team this year. We've got to get used to each other."

George worked the two-on-one with Doles late in the second half, throwing down a two-handed flush off Doles' feed. Free throws by Jesse Pellot-Rosa and Doles put the Rams up by 11.

"If you don't bring your 'A' game tonight," Doles said, "you don't need to play college basketball."

The Rams had won the previous nine games with ODU, but that streak appeared to be in jeopardy after starting the game by giving up an 18-5 run. Monarchs junior forward Alex Loughton scored four of his 12 points in the first three minutes of the game. Calvin Roland, Sam Faulk, and Derrick Reid—who returned to the lineup after a shoulder injury and scored six points in 10 minutes—kep the 6-foot-9 forward quiet otherwise despite reaching his scoring average, and recording his sixth double-double of the season.

In the first half, Roland, a 6-foot-10 junior college transfer, threw one of Loughton's shots to the baseline by the VCU cheerleaders. Loughton managed buckets from the free-throw line and a tip-in at the end of the first half, but he was held scoreless for almost the first 15 minutes of the second half.

Junior guard Isaiah Hunter led the Monarchs with 19 points, including a pair of late threes that cut the Rams lead to three points



Pat Kane

## Junior Calvin Roland swats ODU's Alex Loughton in VCU's 75-71 win.

with 23 seconds left.

Hunter took a handoff, pumped and pulled a trey from about 21 feet out to make the score 74-71.

The Rams missed nine free throws in the final two minutes, but the one B.A. Walker knocked down at the :20 mark, gave VCU enough to hold on.

Kiah Thomas sparked the Monarchs in the first half with 9 points. He finished with 16 points and six rebounds.

"All the Xs and Os is important but only to a certain point," said Thomas, who hit a three-point play with just over a minute left as the Monarchs tried to rally. "Every time we play VCU it basically comes down to having that fight."

Monarchs coach Blaine Taylor said, "When they play well, (VCU is) quite a good team."

But he said the loss had less to do with what VCU did, compared to what his team didn't.

"We eased up a little defensively, and they got some open looks," he said. "When we got that lead, if we could've put the clamps on them ..."

He said Capel's decision to go to a 1-3-1 zone had nothing to do with making a change because they were down. He said it was simply because the Rams couldn't guard them man-to-man.

"This will be a very tight league race," Taylor said. "There's a lot of basketball to be played."

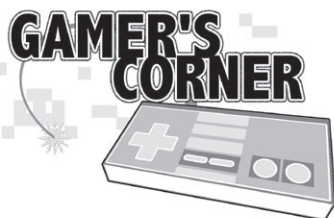


# Spectrum

## 'The Punisher' brings vengeance to PS2/X-BOX

**LOUIE CORBO**  
*Spectrum Writer*

"The Punisher" lets you take control of Marvel Comics character Frank Castle, a Vietnam vet whose family was killed in a mob hit. Outraged by criminals killing his loved ones, he hunts them down and kills them. To understand his character you have to understand his motive — revenge. He's not looking to pro-



tect other families from suffering the same fate; he just wants to kill. His character is perfect for the video game world, where violence is the norm. In fact, this makes the game one of the more sadistic ones released in recent years.

The game is far from perfect; there are some technical glitches. My biggest complaint is that with all the dialogue in the game, none of the characters' lips move. It becomes distracting and makes the game look cheap. Another problem is that running around and shooting feels clunky and taking cover behind walls is hard because you can really press up against anything. Plus small objects seem both glued to the table and immune to bullets.

The Punisher is rated "M" for mature, and it earns the rating. The language is quite vulgar and the violence is rampant. However, it's nice to see the production team didn't wimp out and make a more family-friendly "Punisher." I just wish they showed the same level of commitment with some of the more technical aspects of the game. Overall, I give this game three of five "Louies." It's a must-play for "Punisher" fans, but not for anyone else.

**"The Punisher"**  
**Rated M**  
★★★  
(out of five)



Pat Kane

## Discover Art After Hours

The band DC3 provided entertainment at The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Thursday.

**SUZANNE HOYLE**  
*Spectrum Writer*

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts opens its doors to the public every week, offering Richmonders an alternative place to go to enjoy an evening of socializing and festivities.

For only \$10, it offers a variety of festivities where there is food and wine to be tasted, music to be heard, and poetry and art to be appreciated.

Last Thursday, Marble Hall was filled with music from the band DC3 who played upbeat blues with a touch of funk. Tables lined the room, providing wine and food. Last week's wine selection featured three German wines. Cheese and fruit plates and gourmet pizza were available to tease the palate.

Another section within the hall included an exhibit containing artwork from various local artists. One photograph was taken by former VCU photography student Jeff Cooke. Guests were encouraged to place bids on the various works through a silent auction.

The 30-minute poetry reading was held downstairs in Evans Court by Susan Hankla. She is a creative writing teacher at the

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the University of Richmond. Her poetry has been published *The Sun* and *The Michigan Review*. Susan read prose and poetry that talked about lilacs and reminisced about school memories.

The night's festivities also included an art tour called "Mamma Mia!" which focused on celebrating motherhood with images of famous and not-so-famous women. Patti Kruszewski, a volunteer at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, said this is one of the best events to attend.

"This is a great place to meet people," Kruszewski said.

Last week's "Art Moment" focused on a 12th Century Indian bronze titled "Siva Nataraja, Lord of the Dance." Joseph M. Dye III, the museum's Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art, hosted the exhibit. A member of the museum, Sharyn Lowry, claims the "Art Moment" to be her favorite happening.

Lowry attended the weekly events last year and has a pass again for this year. She is part of a singles group and tries to bring members along with her when she can.

"I discover things here that I wouldn't find on my own," Lowry said.

**Art After Hours**  
**The Virginia Museum**  
**of Fine Arts**  
**Every Thursday from**  
**6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**through Feb. 24, \$10**  
**admission, food and**  
**beverages separate,**  
**340-1405**

## Happenings

Jan. 31 through Feb. 2

### Monday, Jan. 31

VCU's Spring Bowling League hosts a **Free Bowling Party** at AMF Lanes, 6540 W. Broad St. VCU students, faculty and staff bowl two games for free. For more information call Constantine at 827-0315.

### Tuesday, Feb. 1

**MC Chris** (aka MC Pee Pants Of AdultSwim), **Luggage**, and **The Gaskets** hit Nanci Raygun Tuesday Feb. 1 at 10 p.m. 18+. \$8 presale/\$10 door (available at Plan 9). 929 W. Grace St. 354-6250. <http://www.thegaskets.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/audrahammer/hesh.html>

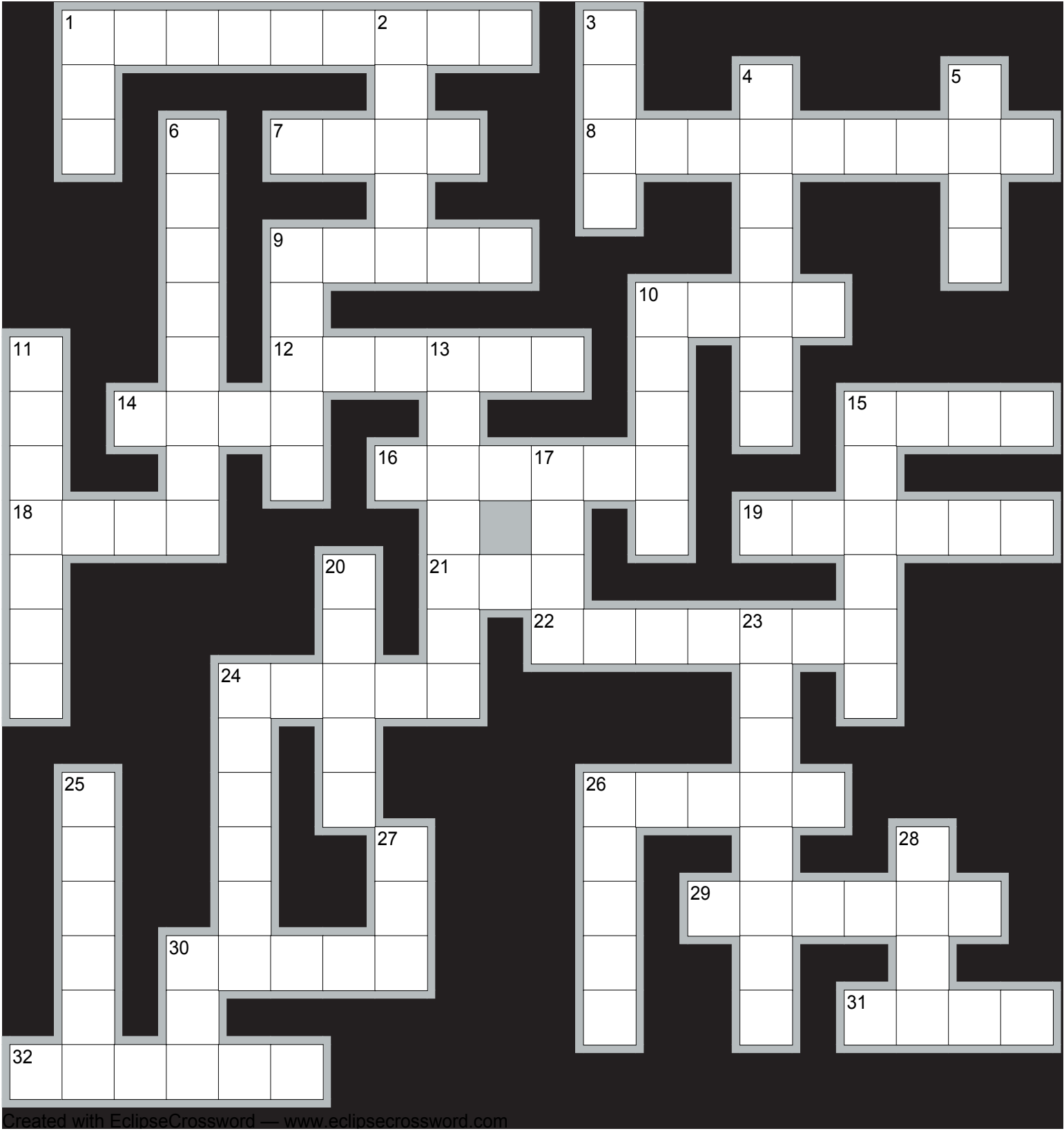
### Wednesday, Feb. 2

**"Unconstitutional: The War on Civil Liberties,"** a film by director Robert Greenwald will be shown in the Commons Theatre at 6:30 p.m. Panel discussion will follow the film. The event is FREE and sponsored by the ACLU.



# Spectrum

## CT CROSSWORD WINTRY MIX EDITION



Created with EclipseCrossword — [www.eclipsecrossword.com](http://www.eclipsecrossword.com)

### Across

1. Snow-related disaster.
7. Frozen water (powdery).
8. Southern ice cap
9. Sometimes crushed with ice and flavoring for a cold treat.
10. Device affixed to a truck to push snow out of the way.
12. Ice formed like a stalactite.
14. A round, spherical object sometimes made out of snow.
15. Spread on roads to melt ice.
16. Most Northern state.

18. Not warm.
19. Winter sport.
21. Frozen water (not powdery).
22. Dry ice is frozen carbon \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Snow versions of this apparel sometimes look like large tennis rackets.
26. Color of snow.
29. Northern ice cap.
30. Accumulation of snow.
31. Water's freezing temperature (Celsius).
32. Rhymes with rigid.

### Down

1. Ice \_\_\_\_.
2. Snow and ice sometimes force schools to \_\_\_\_.
3. Large mammal that hibernates through the winter.
4. Hairy elephant.
5. Causes drifts, makes it feel colder than it actually is.
6. Severe snow storm.
9. Cold sensation.
10. On or around the pole.
11. Large, slow-moving chunk of

- ice.
13. Temperature scale.
15. Tremble
17. Snow transportation.
20. A deposit of ice formed when water condenses below freezing.
23. Famous Alaskan sled race.
24. Opposite winter.
25. Coldest season.
26. Substance that freezes into ice, snow.
27. During winter chocolate is sometimes served this way.
28. Something that heats things up.
30. Sometimes they pull a sled.

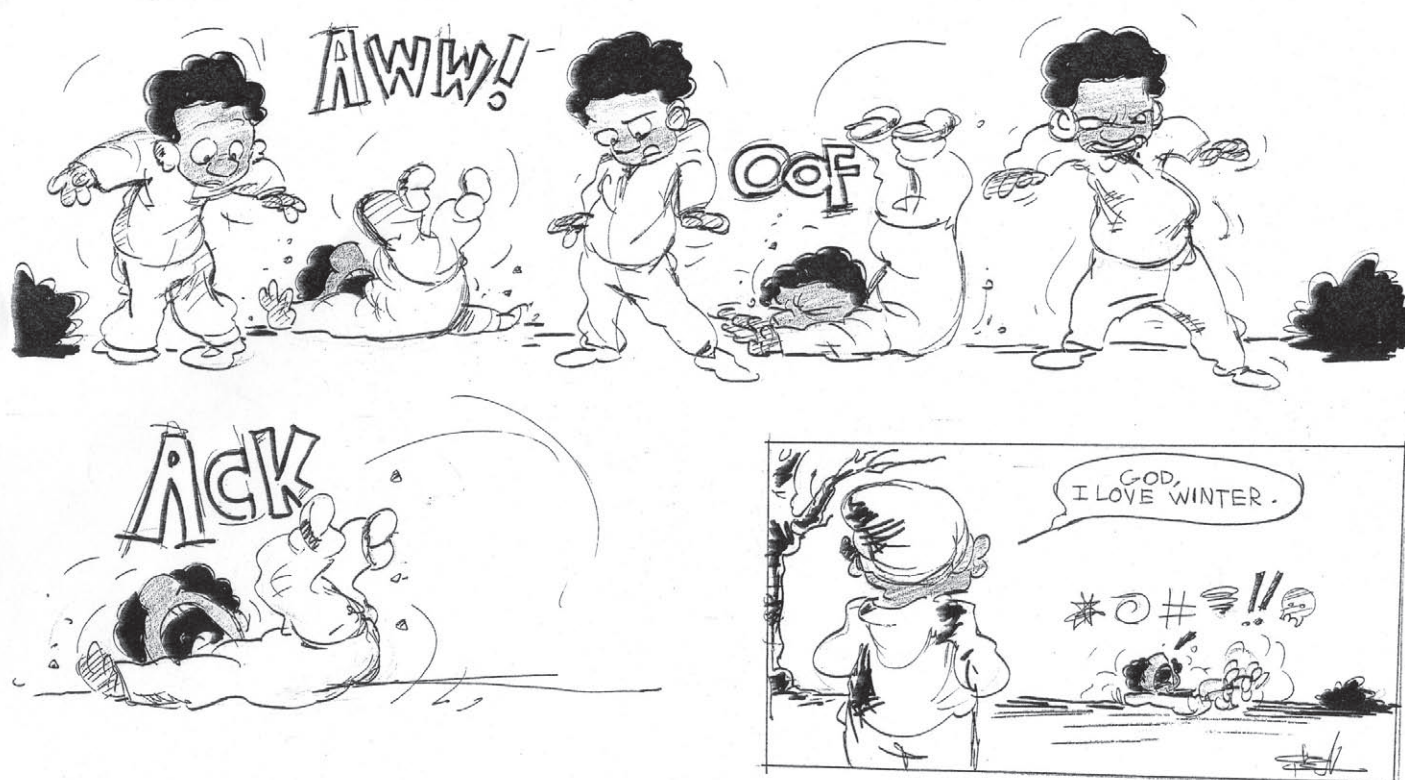




# COMICS

## Cul-de-sac

Chris Powell



## Germak plays Espresso

**MARCUS HUDGINS**  
Associate Spectrum Editor

Rolling Stone called his music tasteful and first rate. With a review like that, maybe this guy is worth checking out. Right?

Right. Andy Germak lived up to all the complimentary things written about him and then some with his performance at Shockoe Espresso on a cold, icy winter Saturday.

A stripped-down acoustic set complete with harmonica drew up images of Bob Dylan. Upon arrival, a cover of Bad Company's "Just What I Needed" played in the background, indicating something different in store. Tight playing coupled with pitch-perfect intonation makes Germak's live set worth the death-defying drive under treacherous conditions. His original material is every bit as sound.

A closer look at the artist reveals a passion for his craft originating in college and honed as an adult. His influences include Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Richard Buckner and Nick Drake.

According to Napster and Germak's own Web site, his passion for acoustic music began several years ago when he was a psychology student at the University of Michigan. He frequented Ann Arbor coffeehouses performing late-night sets of original songs while developing his unique sound. Having lived and traveled through the United States and Europe by 22 years old, his writing remains refreshingly diverse and has always reflected his unparalleled observations of the dynamic world in which we live.

After moving to New York City in 1997, Germak has captivated many audiences with his intriguing performance style. Armed with an acoustic guitar and distinctly powerful voice, he has taken center stage and filled every corner of the city with swirling energy. He has been featured as a showcase artist at prestigious New York City venues such as Catch a Rising Star and the Fast Folk Cafe. Most recently, Germak has become a regular participant at Jack Hardy's legendary Monday Night Songwriter Workshop.

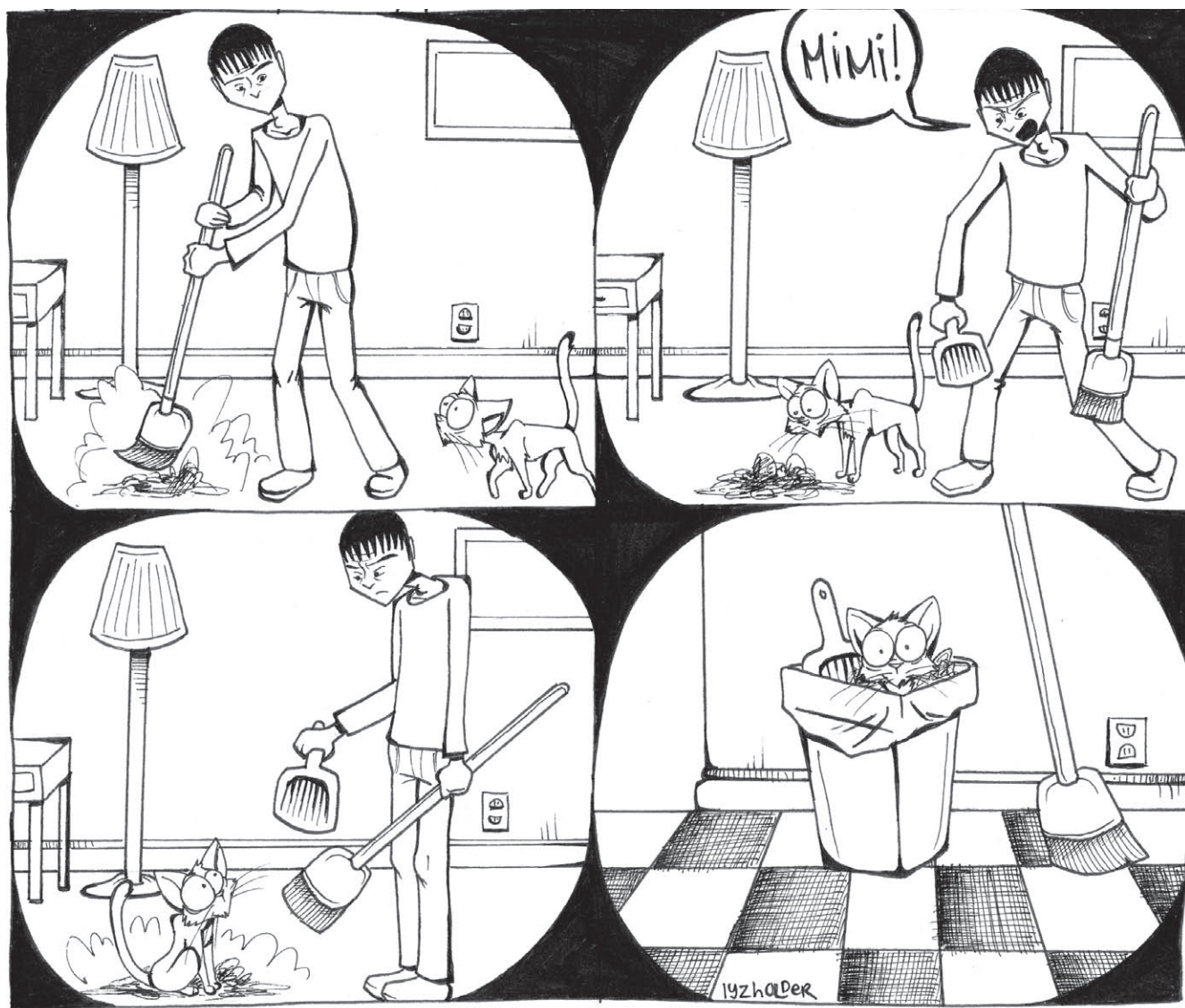
In recognition of his poignant lyrics from an unreleased work titled "January," the Association of Songwriters and Lyricists in the 1998 National Lyric Competition chose Germak as a semi-finalist. And in August 1999, "You Lied to Me," a track from his debut EP, was selected and nationally released as part of a Roxbox Music new artist compilation.

Recently, a fan in Richmond compared one of Germak's performances to an abstract painting full of stunning imagery, color, and contrast.

"With each composition, his views on the complexity of human relationships and the passions of the mind and heart make for compelling listening and especially re-listening, through which one realizes his capacity for salvaging bits of color in some of life's most obscure corners."

## Post Modernity Now!

Lyz Holder





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# EDITORIALS & LETTERS

## The art of self-expression

LYZ HOLDER

This new semester brings me to that eventful time in my college career where the prospect of being unleashed into the real world seems more and more at hand. Everywhere around me I see art students who are realizing the oncoming reality of the working world, and I see them freaking out.

No, I don't mean they are freaking out in the sense that they feel like the world is collapsing on them, or that they worry about landing a job once they graduate. This kind of freaking out affects their art and diminishes the capacity of self-expression to the "safe" and conventional traditions of "good" art, in hopes to appease the taste of others. In other words, the kind of art that is bland and shallow.

It is important to know how to draw, but being able to draw a pretty picture is only half of it. The art students who devote their time to the academia and technical foundations of art can make beautiful art, but this art is not unique. The art students who also pushes themselves and their content beyond what is expected, even if it is not popular, is making a true statement about who they are as an artist.

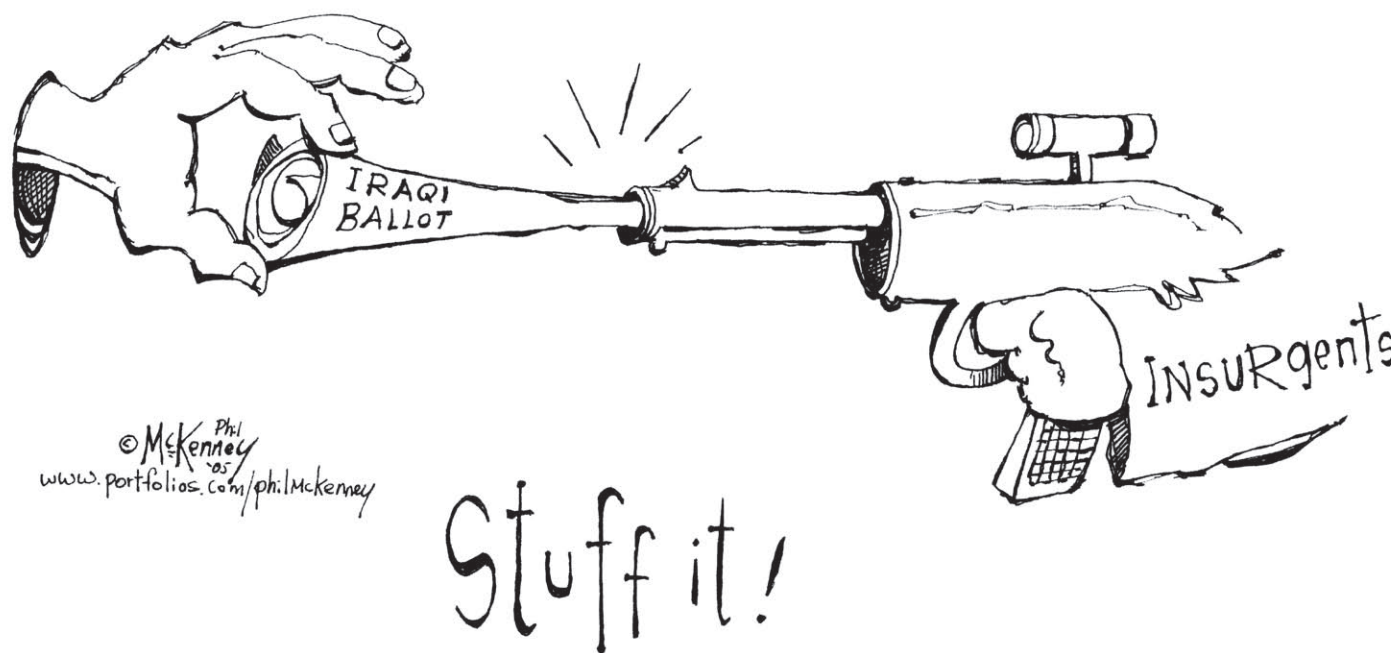
I do not fancy myself an art critic. Nor do I have the correct answer to what art is, much less "good" art. However, there is something to be said about art that comes honestly from the artist, as opposed to art that comes from what the artist believes others would want it to be. My instructors continually tell us that the purpose of these last years at college is to find out our own voice in the art world.

In essence, this time is to figure out what we are about and to find our niche in the world. True, once we art majors are unleashed into the world, most of us who find artistically inclined jobs will more than likely have to work for someone else who will tell us what to draw, sculpt, paint, etc. There are always rules to these kinds of things.

In general, the public takes art at face value. This is especially true in entertainment. It is easy to make entertainment. It is harder to make art.

I am not claiming that art needs any deeper meaning. The Dada movement proved that. Universally known, however, is that art is expression. It has been found also that true expression from the artist yields the best art.

I am surprised at the number of people I meet who do make conventional art because it is safe and popular. They can continue to make art that way if they so wish. But "safe" art never gave us a Picasso.



BY PHIL MCKENNEY

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In the past I have regarded the newspaper, The Commonwealth Times, as a guide for those students needing information on our fabulous Virginia Commonwealth University. As a beacon of light for the students of VCU, I assumed that it would encourage its readers, as well as guide them to the topics and information that are relatively important to them.

My digression is influenced by the recent report by The Commonwealth times on the newly founded dorm. I do not argue that it is a worthy topic. I would not dare insist that it is not worthy, but I do believe that a priority check should be announced as well as understood.

I am a student of VCU, and I believe that I, as well as everyone else here, have a hardship when dealing with how to pay for school. Whether or not a student is paying for school on his or her own, it is still a hardship that can be relatively, if not persistently frustrating. One of the most aggravating issues with this college as well as many others is buying textbooks. In fact, it can be a rather expensive problem.

With this in mind, I read an editorial written by the Student Government Association's president Jan. 24 which spoke of a Web site designed by the students, for the students, in order to buy and sell text books. I read this today of all days, and now that I have read it, I am entirely motivated to write to

The Commonwealth Times because I lost approximately \$250.

I sincerely believe that if this article, or editorial, were on the first page, then I clearly would have taken notes and saved money! If this newspaper were interested in the well-being of VCU students, then it would clearly be saving the first page for something that is a bit more plausible, compared to a new dorm.

My issue with this newspaper is that instead of advertising something that can save the students money, which I feel is in the greater good for the students, the newspaper advertises a dorm; a dorm with problems. Once again, as a source of guidance, it troubles me that instead of promoting a source of help for the students, the newspaper does something else.

I miss the newspaper that I once looked to for help, and I hope that this note motivates if not inspires better management of the one and only beacon of my boring and expensive day.

Sincerely,

Justin Greene

*Editor's reply: Thank you for voicing your concern about our paper's coverage of campus developments. We understand textbook prices present a significant challenge to students everywhere. President Khan's letter took precedence over other editorial material prepared for that day, and it was in fact referenced on our front page. We hope you will continue to choose The Commonwealth Times as your source for campus news and information.*

## The Commonwealth TIMES

**DEVON MARROW**  
Executive Editor

**OMAR YACOUBI**  
Editor of the Editorial Pages

### WRITERS

David Canavan • Lisa Chun  
Michael Dickinson • Lyz Holder  
Alexander Marra • Thomas A. Nickle

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

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

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