

# The Commonwealth Times

Free

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BSU replaces officers with ministry team

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## Sports

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## Spectrum

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# WEIRD NEWS

## CALENDAR

## MARCH 3 THROUGH MARCH 5

Thursday, March 3	Friday, March 4	Saturday, March 5
Interested in learning more about the history of Virginia? Join the art history faculty for their lecture series “ <b>The Architecture of Thomas Jefferson and the Research of VCU’s Students.</b> ” Dr. Charles Brownell, a professor of art history at VCU, will lecture at the Grace Street Theater from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact James Farmer at 828-2784.	Need a break from studying? APB and UnCommonCinema present “ <b>Spanglish</b> ” from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Commons Theater. For more details call LaTonya Dunaway at 405-6297.	Join student affairs as it sponsors the <b>Madden 2005 PS2 Tournament.</b> The action takes place at the Stuart C. Siegel Center from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Contestants must register to play by Friday, March 4 and there is a \$3 entry fee. For more information or to register, call Constantine Alexakos at 827-0315.

### CAMPUS FORECAST



**Thursday**  
**44/22**



**Friday**  
**49/32**



**Saturday**  
**49/32**



**Sunday**  
**50/31**

*Compiled from wire reports*

### Veterinarian creates pig mood music

A veterinarian in Belgium has created a compact disc with boars grunting to sexually stimulate pigs. The vet said the music excites sows and makes it easier for him to artificially inseminate them. The CD is already a hit in Holland, with 400 copies sold. The vet will now release the CD in his homeland. He has also found that the louder the music plays the more excited the pigs become. One pig farmer actually placed speakers in the stable with the sows making them think the pig is living with them.

### Snake eats tail

A king snake at an aquarium in Taiwan ate its own tail. The snake, which had not eaten in 24 hours, saw his own tail’s reflection and assuming it was another snake, swallowed it. The snake recovered after undergoing emergency treatment.

### Drive-in brothels a hit

Germany has now decided to open more drive-in brothels after its first one was a success. The original brothel in Cologne has eight garage areas where clients can drive in to do their business with the women who work there.

Not wanting to discriminate, there are areas available for customers who do not have a car to also partake in the festivities. Showers and toilets are provided for the women, as well as alert sirens in case of an emergency.

### Woman advertises for grandson

A 64-year-old Chinese woman advertised in a local newspaper that she was searching for a grandson, since her son was not planning to have children. The woman said that she has enough money to support herself but is looking for a grandson to take care of as well. The woman said she wants to find a three-person family with a small child who are willing to allow her to take on the role of grandmother. After a six-month screening process, she would allow the entire family to move in with her. She has already had several responses to her request.

### Skinny as a rail

Two 15-year-old boys arrested for disturbing the peace escaped from a prison in Buenos Aires, Argentina, by sliding between the prison bars. Police said the boys were quite thin and they managed to pass through the bars at night when the guard dozed off. Prison officials said they are astonished that this could have happened and that they never thought something like

this could happen. They do admit, however, that their prisons were not built to hold teenagers.

### Student fails 39 times

A student from La Plata, Argentina, has finally graduated from a university after taking a course for 20 years. The unnamed student failed the same class 39 times consecutively before finally passing it. The university said it had never seen anything like this before and that they will enact new policies to prevent it from happening again. Although they do have tolerance with students, they said that this case was a bit much.

### No laughing matter

Prisons often offer ways for convicts to rehabilitate themselves, but one jail in England is offering something new. Winchester Jail now offers comedy courses to inmates. The jail hired comedians to teach courses for 400 prisoners. A local comedy bar chain is funding the project, which teaches convicts different means of communication.

*Front cover photo by Pat Kane.*

## The Commonwealth TIMES

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# NEWS

## Ministry team breathes new life into student group

**JENNY SMITH**

*Staff Writer*

Since the Rev. Alan Jones started ministering to the Baptist Student Union, its members have discussed selling their building on campus and created a leadership team instead of electing officers for the organization.

Seven students and Jones, who also ministers to university students at the First Baptist Church at the Boulevard and Monument intersection, established a ministry team to answer questions others have about the BSU. The team plans the group's activities and programs as well as overseeing such matters as maintaining the building.

Stephanie Smith, a ministry-team member, said the union needed the team so the organization could revive itself once again. With the group leadership, she said more members now attend services, while others show interest in joining the organization.

Jones, who visits the campus Wednesdays and Thursdays, said he wants the ministry team to do more and intends to teach its members leadership skills.

"I'm interested in developing their character of leadership," the Baptist Theological Seminary graduate said, adding that he



**Clark Norton (left) and Logan Jones play music at the Baptist Student Union.**

Pat Kane

wants the students to say: "This is my passion; this is where I want to serve."

"This is when ministry really hap-

pens."

After five more members join the group next fall, it will become a 12-person team.

Although Jones said he doesn't know how the individuals will be chosen, he suggested that he and the team most likely will collaborate on the decision.

One BSU member, Wendy Belton, a senior social work major, said she likes having a ministry team rather than a slate of officers.

"The mission of BSU seems like it's getting accomplished better," she said of the team's leadership. Nonteam members, she said, still have input into what goes on at the BSU, but the ministry-team implements its suggestions, which has made the ministry stronger.

"With the BSU being strong," Belton said, "it'll have a strong impact on VCU and on the BSU students."

Jones said the team concept becomes even more important if the organization has to move because that's when team members help decide what the organization would do should BSU lose its home. If that occurs, Smith, a psychology major, said members have talked about meeting at the Pace Center at 700 W. Franklin St., but they may need to discuss their meeting options with VCU officials.

"We're still here and we're still open," she said. "(We are a) big happy family willing to accept everyone no matter what."

## Board of Visitors discusses VCU Medical Center plans

**JACK LAVELLE**

*Staff Writer*

"Advance the Research Mission: 2005-2011," the title of the six-year plan VCU's Board of Visitors approved last Thursday, calls for increased international awareness of VCU's School of Medicine and improved standards of health care for Central Virginians.

"It will change the nature of our medical school," VCU President Eugene P. Trani told the board in urging every member to ratify the proposal.

Dr. Sheldon Retchin, vice president for VCU Health Sciences and CEO of VCU's Health System, said the medical school will rely on "good old-fashioned science" to expand its programs and reputation during a PowerPoint presentation to the board.

Thomas G. Rosenthal, chairman of the board's academic and health-affairs policy committee, said the plan scrupulously articulates an outline for financial management and a reorganization of assets and gifts.

Major goals for the School of Medicine listed in the plan include hiring more than 100 additional full-time junior and senior faculty members and obtaining more research funding from the National Institutes of Health. Renovating and constructing several buildings on the Medical Center campus also are on the agenda.

At the same meeting, E. Janet Riddick, chairwoman of the board's student affairs committee, asked that the committee's proposed legislation to double the number

of student representatives to the board be voted on at the next meeting. If approved, the board would have one student representative from each Richmond campus.

Zmarak Kahn, the Monroe Park Campus student government president, said the idea behind this change in the board's bylaws arose because the Monroe Park and the Medical Center's student government representatives know only the needs of their own constituents.

The administration, he said, has argued that the SGA presidents of the two campuses should meet to discuss issues, but one president is not accountable to the other. Therefore, an underrepresented campus cannot guarantee that its concerns would be reported to the board.

One plan would allow students from each campus to elect a representative to the board. Another would automatically endorse the two SGA presidents as representatives.

As it is now, the provost's office compiles a list of eligible students from which the board chooses a delegate. According to the student affairs committee proposal, that process provides an administrative filter that decides who can represent the students.

"Would I want the faculty representative (to the Board of Visitors) to have to go through the students?" asked Kahn illustrating his point. "No. I think they should be elected by the faculty."

The board meets again on May 20, when the members are expected to discuss the proposed student-representation amendment.

### 2005 VCU Board of Visitors

**The Honorable Ralph "Bill" L. Axselle Jr.**  
**Mr. David G. Baldacci**  
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**Dr. J. Alfred Broaddus Jr.**  
**Dr. John C. Doswell II**  
**Mr. Brian K. Jackson**  
**The Honorable Anne J. G. Rhodes**  
**Ms. E. Janet Riddick**  
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**Mr. Thomas G. Rosenthal**  
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# NEWS

## SGA fills fifth justice position

**JULIE KINZER**  
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Roach said she wants to explore life and seek new opportunities every day, which is why she wanted to be a part of the Student Government Association. President Zmarak Khan told the Senate Feb. 14 that he had full confidence in Roach when he appointed her the fifth justice to serve on the judicial branch. The Senate confirmed the appointment at that meeting.

"I was personally very impressed with her," Khan told the senators. "She'll make a good member of the team that we already have."

Because Roach said she previously had never served in a government position, the senators questioned whether she could handle being in the judicial branch.

"The position and opportunity (are) what drove me to the SGA. It was really interesting to me when I heard about the position," Roach told the Senate. "I'm really excited to take part in the SGA at VCU and I feel this position really fits me."

Five justices serve on the judicial branch, but last fall only four justices served.

"The Senate (last fall) had rejected my fifth appointee to the judicial branch," Khan said. "As such, we had (a) vacancy on the board."

When interviewing Roach for the position, some senators questioned her limited experience in government, while others said they had complete faith in her.

*"Once approved, judges serve as long as they are students. Therefore, they may not be removed and their term never ends. We have to make sure that whomever we pick is the right person for the job."*

— Zmarak Khan

"Why do you have the sudden urge to join the SGA and a new leadership role after not having a lot of experience?" Sen. Arman Amiri asked.

Roach responded by telling the senators that she wanted "to explore every opportunity in the SGA and is more than willing to play catch-up."

Justice Lindsey Bryant described Roach as an asset to the SGA who would make a great justice.

Since Roach, and other justices remain in office until they graduate from VCU, Khan and others said they wanted to be sure that the person they selected would have good intentions.

"I understand that the Senate takes its job of confirmation very seriously," Khan said. "Once approved, judges serve as long as they are students. Therefore, they may not be

removed and their term never ends. We have to make sure that whomever we pick is the right person for the job.

"I hope that Elizabeth and other justices will help mature into these new positions. It is up to Elizabeth and the rest of the four justices to make sure that we establish (a) strong foundation for those who will be replacing them."

Following the meeting, Roach said she understood that the Senate had to ask her tough and personal questions but some questions surprised her.

"I'm glad for the opportunity that SGA has given me," Roach said. "Some of the questions they were saying . . . took me off-guard. Some weren't about the SGA, but I understand it's part of the process."

A Richmond native who transferred from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to VCU last fall, Roach said she returned home to her roots because she was unhappy at Tech.

"I felt almost like I was at summer camp there," Roach said. "It didn't feel like part of the real world to me, and I liked what VCU had to offer."

As a criminal-justice major, Roach said she plans to attend law school.

"I'm really excited to take part in the SGA," Roach said. "Not being here my freshman year I feel like I missed some opportunities. But I believe students can expect from me fair and thoughtful decisions, and that's what I aim to do."

Twenty-eight senators approved the appointment while three objected, and one abstained.

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# NEWS

## What exactly do forensic scientists do? *TV gives students wrong impression of profession*

**BLAKE ELLETT**  
Staff Writer

Lab rats. That's the term William Eggleston uses to describe forensic scientists.

"Forensic scientists are problem-solvers," he said. "(They are) lab rats."

And he should know — Eggleston, a biology professor who directs the Forensic Science Program at VCU, now oversees more than 500 students.

That's a 485 percent jump — a high jump — from the 15 majors the program started with almost four years ago.

Why so much interest in forensic sciences?

Eggleston said television shows have played a major role concerning people's interest in the field, but students who became interested in it because of these shows could be in for a surprise.

"There are things in the show that are quite inaccurate, though it would be great if they were (accurate)," he said. "Although some of the instrumentation is accurate, the television shows blend the jobs of four or five people, and it's hard to tell where one job stops and another starts."

Kari Magner, vice president of VCU's Forensic Science Student Club, said students enrolling in forensic science classes as a result of their interest in these shows tend to be disappointed once they begin attending class.

"Their bubbles are busted when they learn that the same person doesn't retrieve evidence, run tests, question witnesses and arrest suspects," she said.

When Eggleston and the forensic-science faculty visit high-school and college fairs looking for prospective students

they find themselves having to explain exactly what forensic science is and exactly what forensic science is not.

"There are always a few families who get up, and we direct them over to the criminal justice table," Eggleston said.

Because of his interest in forensic science Chris Olson, now a criminal justice major, found himself having to choose between the two fields.

Would it be forensic science or criminal justice?

"I think it came down to whether I wanted to be in the lab or in the field," he said, "and being in the field interested me more."

Interest may also be increasing because of the growing popularity of such female mystery writers as Sandra Brown and Patricia Cornwell, whose main character is based on Virginia's chief medical examiner, a female.

What once may have been considered a male job only now could be changing, especially at VCU. Eggleston said 85 percent of the forensic science students are female while the other 15 percent is male.

Magner offered her reasoning for why more women enroll than men.

"I could say it is because men are more likely to be interested in law enforcement. Therefore, (men) are more likely to take the criminal justice path," she said. "Some people are discouraged by the amount of science classes required."

Students apply for one of two separate tracks for a degree in forensic science, but each requires 30 or more core credit hours of chemistry and biology as well as lab time.

"That is the basis of forensics," Magner said. "Science is what allows us to draw conclusions about what happened at a scene and who was involved."

## CRIME LOG



### Feb. 10

- Female advised that an unknown person damaged personal property at the Cary Street Deck.
- Female advised that unknown persons removed property from its location in the A.D. Williams building.

### Feb. 11

- Female advised that unknown persons removed personal property from its location at Johnson Hall.

### Feb. 16

- Male patient at North Hospital advised that an unknown person removed property from its location.

### Feb. 17

- Male juvenile arrested for trespassing at the Cabell Library.

### Feb. 20

- Female arrested for drunk in public at 1100 block of W. Main St.
- Male advised that an unknown person cut and removed university property from its location at the Larrick Center.

### Feb. 21

- Female employee at Main Hospital advised that unknown persons removed her personal property from its unsecured location.

### Feb. 22

- Female employee advised that an unknown person vandalized and removed personal property valued at \$375 from her vehicle in the parking deck at Ryland and Grace streets.
- Female arrested for trespassing at the Gateway Building.

### Feb. 23

- Male arrested with tools used for burglary in his possession in Monroe Park.
- Female arrested for obtaining drugs by fraud, deceit or forgery at the Ambulatory Care Center.

### Feb. 24

- A known person damaged state property at North Hospital.
- Two females were arrested for assault at the S Deck.

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# SPORTS

For a while, it looked like the Colonial Athletic Association had two tickets to the NCAA tournament. But after Old Dominion's late-season lapse (two losses in their last four games) the CAA tournament goes back to being an all-or-nothing affair. VCU helped its chances for a repeat of last year's championship run by stunning UNC Wilmington and earning a first-round bye. The Rams may have also received a gift from the bracketologists. Every team on the Rams' road to the CAA title—Delaware, Towson, and George Mason—is riding a losing streak, except the Seahawks. So what about the rest of the bracket?



#8 James Madison



#9 William & Mary

**Friday, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Season series:** split 1-1  
**Fast stat:** W&M forward Corey Cofield dropped 24 points and grabbed eight boards in the Tribes 80-54 blowout of the Dukes on Feb. 16

Call it a play-in game — because it's a game both teams should be happy to play in. The two teams combined for six conference wins, or a little more than a third of the 15 won by Old Dominion, which will be waiting to pound on either the Dukes or the Tribe on Saturday.



#1 Old Dominion



#4 Drexel



#5 Hofstra

**Saturday, 2:30 p.m.**  
**Season Series:** Drexel won both games  
**Fast stat:** Dragon's guard Phil Goss has hit at least one 3-pointer in his past 47 games. Goss is a 43-percent shooter from beyond the arc and has 300 for his career.

The Dragons are looking for better luck as a fourth seed than they had last season as a two-seed when they were upset by UNCW. Drexel is riding a four-game winning streak, but they haven't beaten a team with a better final record than theirs since they fled the Siegel Center with a win at the buzzer. Hofstra, however, has won 10 of its past 12, including Ws over ODU, VCU and UNCW. Trouble? Quite possibly.



#7 Delaware



#2 VCU



#10 Towson

**Friday, 8 p.m.**  
**Season series:** split 1-1  
**Fast Stat:** Delaware forward Harding Nana, who is third in the conference with 17.7 points per game, has only reached that mark once in the Blue Hens past six games.

The only thing worse than Blue Hens' four-game losing streak is the 12-game skid the Tigers are currently riding. The Tigers have averaged 53.4 points per game in about a month and a half worth of losses. By the way, Delaware's last win just happened to be a 66-55 win over Towson on Feb. 12.



#3 UNCW



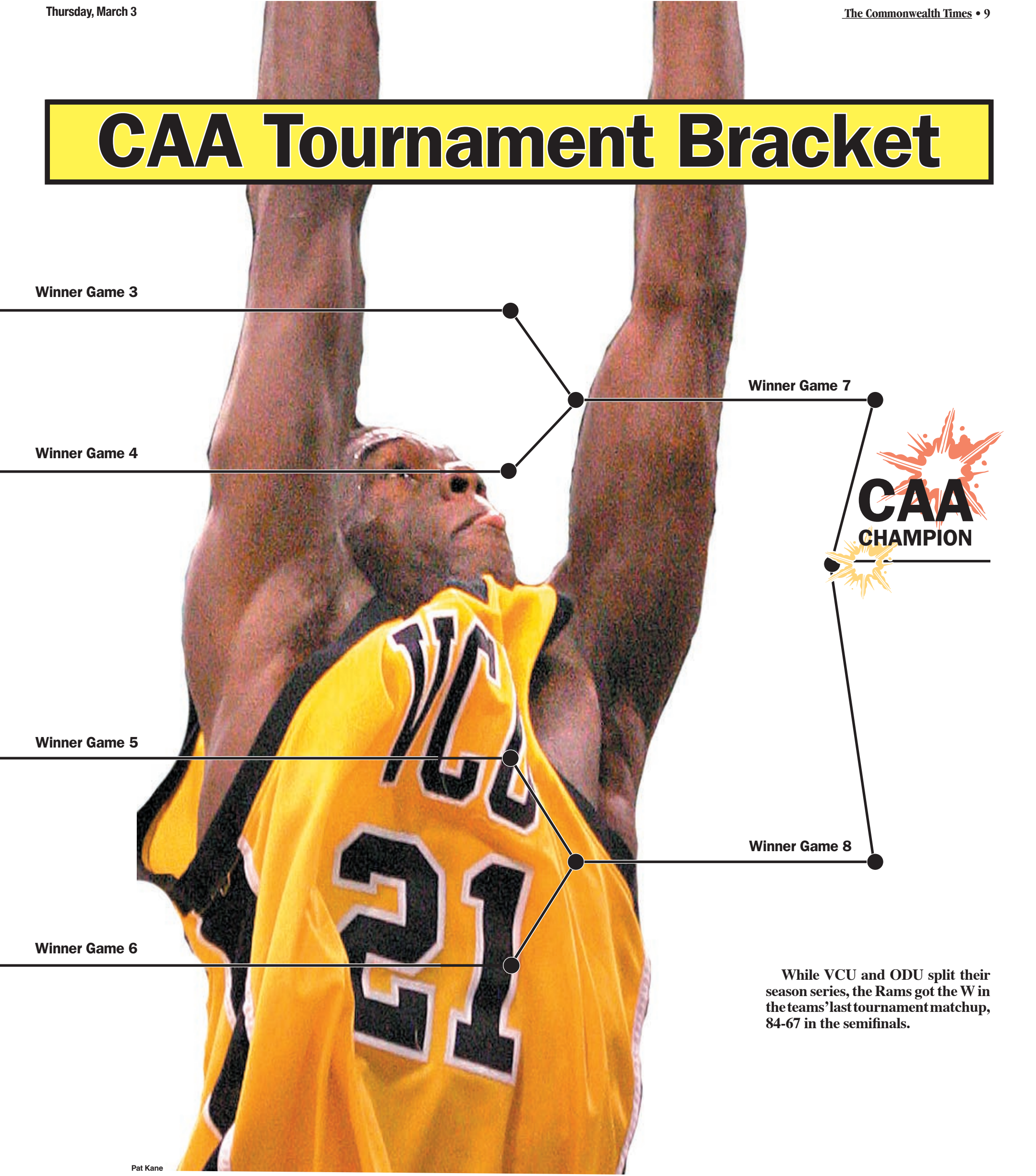
#6 George Mason

**Saturday, 8:30 p.m.**  
**Season series:** split 1-1  
**Fast stat:** The Seahawks have won three of the past five CAA championships

It's hard to say UNCW won't be looking to beat George Mason by a billion after letting a 19-point lead and No. 2-seed slip away last weekend. And while the Patriots do have weapons (guards Tony Skinn and Lamar Butler are in the top 10 in the CAA, averaging 16 and 15.6 points per game respectively), the Seahawks have made a habit of disarming teams, allowing just 64.4 points per CAA game, the second-lowest clip in the league.



# CAA Tournament Bracket



Winner Game 3

Winner Game 4

Winner Game 5

Winner Game 6

Winner Game 7

Winner Game 8



While VCU and ODU split their season series, the Rams got the W in the teams' last tournament matchup, 84-67 in the semifinals.

Pat Kane

## SPORTS

# The rewards of recovery

## *Evans' love for game grows after absence*

**JULIAN BENBOW**  
Sports Editor

The first pitch of the season was on the way and Kwan Evans didn't feel even the slightest jitter.

His parents, Tonya and Rudy Evans, watched from the stands at Petersburg Sports Complex as Harold

Mozingo brought the heat to Saint Joseph's Jereme Scott. From the outfield, Evans felt nothing — no apprehension, no reservations, no nerves.

The redshirt freshman had spent the past nine months working his way back after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament and both meniscus in his right knee.

There was no need for nerves in his first game since the injury, Evans said, "I knew I was back."

The jitters didn't bubble up until his first at bat of the season, which came with all the pressures of a scoreless tie with runners on second and third. With adrenaline rushing, he looked back at the umpire and called time. He had to gather himself. It wasn't like it was the first time he had ever faced a pitcher, it was just the first time in nine months.

He stepped back in the box, and slapped the next pitch up the middle for a base hit that allowed teammate Trai Harris to trot home from second and also gave VCU its first run of the season.

It was at that point, Evans said, "I can die now."

That base hit was the culmination of the months of sleepless nights, anxiety attacks, medication, rehabilitation and weight training that went into Evans' comeback. The Kwan Evans that left the field that day having gone 2 for 4 with 3 runs scored and an RBI was more appreciative of the game he had just played than the he had ever been before.

"Not to many people get to play ball," Evans said. "And not too many people come back from the injury I came back from."

In VCU's nine games this season, Evans is hitting .391 (second on the team) with six RBI and seven runs scored. For going 4 for 8 with a double, two runs scored and five RBI over the weekend as the Rams (6-3) dominated Sacred

Heart, Evans was named Rookie of the Week by the Colonial Athletic Association.

Evans was on his way to making that kind of impact as a true freshman last season, cracking the starting lineup after three games, but

a mishap — a simple slip up during rundown drills in a Monday practice — robbed him of the ability to play the game he had been playing since he was 5-years-old.

He said he could hear his knee when it popped. The sound of the crack bounced off the empty seats at the Diamond and resonated throughout the field. He had never been injured before in his life, but he had seen gruesome pictures in one of his health classes. So he knew how bad it was even before the doctor showed him the MRI.

At that point, he said head coach Paul Keyes told him, "The hard part is over."

Evans was already a gym rat, lifting weights whenever he could sneak in a few minutes. Now he just had to push himself five days a week to get back on the field.

"That work ethic," Evans said, "would fit right into my rehab. I didn't look at it as coming back from an injury. I looked at it as making myself stronger for next season."

He worked closely with VCU strength and conditioning coach Tim Kontos, who had been through his share of surgeries.

"He was able to relate to what I was going through," Evans said of Kontos. "He was able to see the fire in my eyes to get back."

They set goals. Doctors expected at least a year's worth of rehab before Evans would make it back on the field. Evans had a different time frame in mind.

"I wanted to be ready to go on February 12, 2004," Evans said. "I didn't want to get back in 12 months. I didn't want to do what everyone else does. I didn't want to be average."

The set lofty goals, like lifting plates — 45-pound plates — and plenty of them.

So in those nine months, Evans went from being able to lift nothing to being able to do assisted squats. From there he moved to regular squats. Then, he tacked on about 135 pounds to those regular squats.

And when the pains from the surgery crept up on him, when tendonitis tried to slow his progress, he kept digging.

He couldn't be broken by something so small, he thought. It wasn't in his genes.

His father, Rudy, fought wars on a larger scale, serving in the armed forces until 1992. He fought personal battles with kidney failure, a kidney transplant and several surgeries gone wrong. Rudy fought for his livelihood, going through dialysis three days a week and finding time to enjoy life when he could.

"I've seen my dad fight every day," Kwan said. "I know I can't quit because I see what you do every day."

When all the work was done, when Evans was back to squatting 400 pounds, when his right leg was almost as strong as his left leg again, when he used them to sprint to the outfield, Evans couldn't have asked for anything more than having his parents in the bleachers to watch.

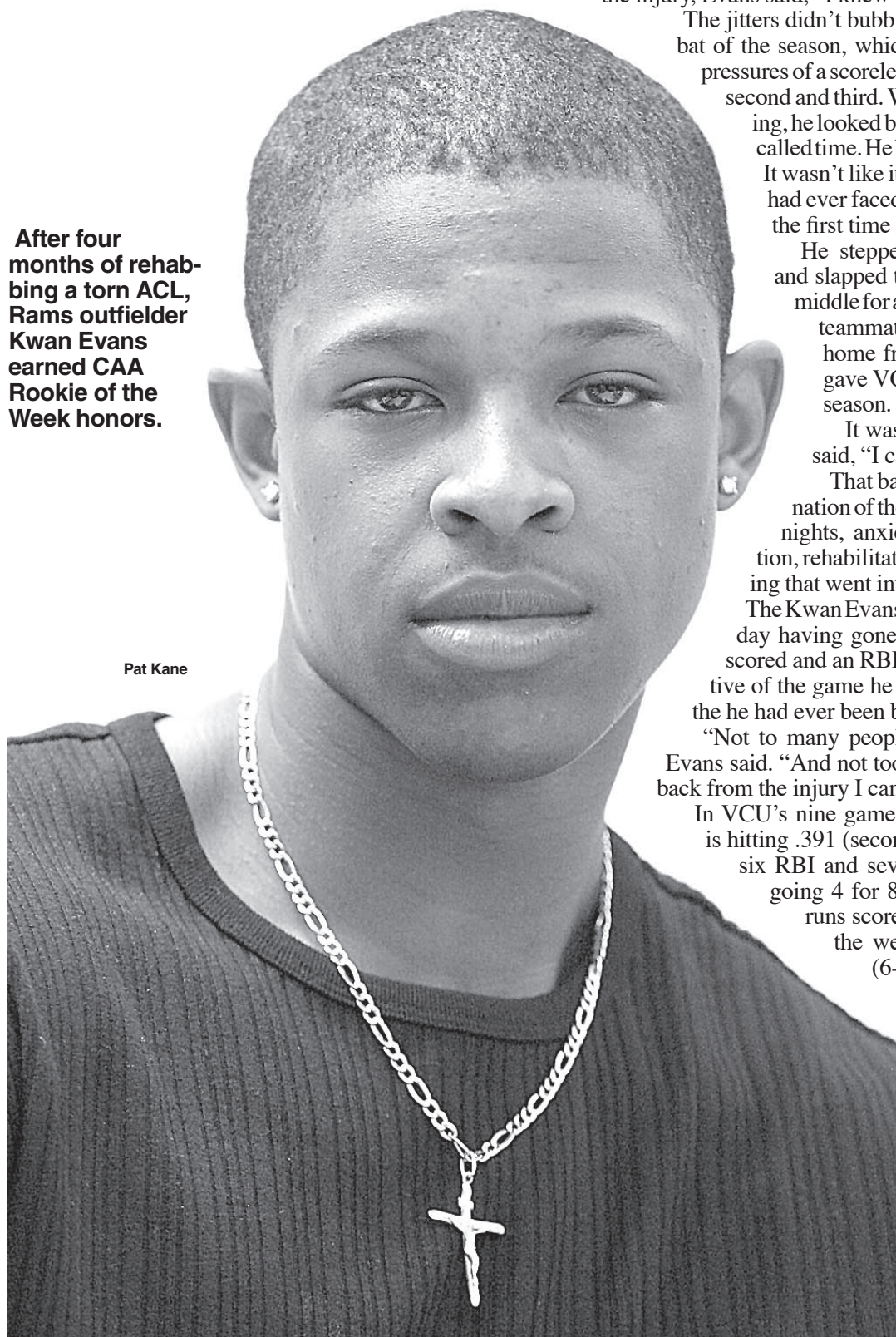
Baseball hadn't been the same for Rudy, not even watching on TV. He told his son, "I didn't know how much this meant to me until you got injured."

Evans knew once he finally took the field.

"I could have gone 0 for 17 with 17 strikeouts," Evans said, "but me playing put them on Cloud 9."

**After four months of rehabing a torn ACL, Rams outfielder Kwan Evans earned CAA Rookie of the Week honors.**

Pat Kane



# Spectrum

## And the Oscar goes to... HOLLYWOOD

SUZANNE HOYLE  
*Spectrum Writer*

Where else would you find a place where people are actually paid to wear expensive jewelry and designer gowns?

A case in point was at last Sunday's 77th Academy Awards, where celebrities lined the red carpet at the Kodak Theatre.

Joan and Melissa Rivers, Star Jones and Kathy Griffith interviewed celebrities and Oscar nominees as they walked the red carpet. Deciding which annoying interviewer to watch proved a difficult task.

On E! Entertainment, Star Jones talked about herself much of the time while Kathy Griffith pretended to talk to celebrities on her cell phone. You could definitely fast forward through Griffith's grueling stints and not miss a thing. On the TV Guide Channel, Joan Rivers, well, was Joan Rivers.

Celebrities walked down the red carpet, exhibiting elegance and class. Cate Blanchett, poised and refined, wore a yellow Valentino gown.

Academy Awards host Chris Rock toned down his foul mouth for the televised event. His comedy included unnecessary digs at movie stars like Jude Law, Tobey Maguire and Tim Robbins. Although he provided a few funny moments, Rock lacked the magic and talent that previous Oscar hosts Steve Martin and Billy Crystal had.

This year the Academy Awards tried a new approach to presenting, lining up on stage nominees for the less popular categories before announcing the winner. The new approach seemed to save time and lessen the redundancy.

The composed Morgan Freeman deservingly accepted his award for Best Supporting Actor in "Million Dollar Baby." This was his fourth nomination and first win.

Hilary Swank and Jamie Foxx left the greatest impression with their acceptance speeches.

Swank, accepting her Best Actress award for "Million Dollar Baby," graciously said, "I don't know what I did in this life to deserve all this. I'm just a girl from a trailer

park who had a dream."

The evening's leading favorite, Jamie Foxx, gave an acceptance speech similar to the one he gave at the Golden Globes. His speech about his grandmother was moving.

"My grandmother's name is Estelle Marie Talley. And she's not here tonight...she still talks to me now. Only now she talks to me in my dreams. I can't wait to go to sleep tonight because we have a lot to talk about," said Foxx.

Over the years the Academy Awards seems to recognize more indie films such as "Million Dollar Baby," "Sideways," "In America," "Lost In Translation" and "Adaptation." Although I appreciate these artsy films, I still enjoy the occasional blockbuster movie. I just hope the Academy Awards does not eventually stop recognizing the blockbusters altogether.

Although this was another breakthrough year with Chris Rock hosting, nominees being placed on stage and having five black actor nominees in leading categories, it was still only a blasé night with few magical moments.

Oscar winners have been working on new projects and can be seen in upcoming films. Jamie Foxx will appear in two military movies: "Stealth" with Jessica Biel and Sam Shepard and "Jarhead" with Jake Gyllenhaal and Chris Cooper.

Hilary Swank's new movie "The Black Dahlia," with Josh Hartnett and Scarlett Johansson, is scheduled to be released this year. Swank is also currently filming a courtroom drama in South Africa called "Red Dust."

Morgan Freeman will appear in the upcoming movie "Batman Begins" where he plays Lucius Fox. He will also appear in "Unleashed" costarring Jet Li.

Cate Blanchett has two upcoming films: "Golden Age" and "Little Fish."

According to reports, Clint Eastwood plans to partner with Steven Spielberg to direct a war epic based upon Iwo Jima called "Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima."

### 'Do you know Oscar?' answers

SUZANNE HOYLE  
*Spectrum Writer*

Who is the only actress nominated this year to have won an Oscar in the past?

**Hilary Swank for "Boys Don't Cry"**

Who was the 72-year-old actor to do three one-armed push-ups in 1992 when he accepted his award for Best Supporting Actor?

**Jack Palance**

How many Oscar nominations has Morgan Freeman received (including

this year)?  
**Four – "Street Smart," "Driving Miss Daisy," "The Shawshank Redemption," & "Million Dollar Baby"**

Which person has more Oscar nominations than any one else in academy history?

**Walt Disney - with 59 Academy Award nominations**

Who was the first black woman to win an Oscar for Best Actress?  
**Halle Berry – "Monster's Ball"**

Who was the first black man to win an Oscar for Best Actor?  
**Sidney Poitier – "Lilies of the Field"**

What year did the Academy Awards air without a host?  
**1989**

## GroupMODA aims high with two-day fashion show

JOANNAH NWOKEABIA  
*Spectrum Editor*

Imagine the scene. Hundreds of fashion enthusiasts, trendsetters and onlookers cram into one room hoping to view the latest ready-to-wear threads. It happens every year at groupMODA's fashion show.

In fact so many people turn out, said Erryn Claxton, groupMODA vice president, that the venue quickly reaches capacity, forcing her organization to turn away crowds of them.

To address this problem, VCU's only completely student-run fashion organization is this year stretching out its popular fashion show over two days to accommodate all who want to come.

Claxton said that extending the show also adds to its suspense because guests may or may not see the same designers on both days.

Expect to see "things that haven't been seen before on the runway," Claxton said. This year's theme, 'heavy rotation,' hints

at the fashion show's soundtrack.

Taryn Laster, groupMODA's sponsor coordinator, said that the show also serves to highlight VCU fashion design students who do not get enough recognition through the school.

"We want to make the student body and public aware of what the fashion students here are trying to do. I don't think they get enough praise."

The show features lines from student designers, local designers and clothing stores. Since the group's first fashion show in the spring of 2001, the show has grown, attracting sponsors such as Betsy Johnson, Arden B., Exile, Up Against the Wall, Wet Seal and Sephora. Claxton won't reveal designers taking part in the show this weekend because she said she wants that to remain a surprise. If you want to know you'll have to go.

The groupMODA fashion show takes place 8-10 p.m., March 5 and 7-9 p.m., March 6 in the Commons. Admission is free and open to the public.

H

### Thursday, March 3

Poet Dean Young reads from his works as part of Visiting Writers Series. Young's books of poems include "Elegy on Toy Piano," "Skid," "First Course in Turbulence," "Strike Anywhere," "Design with X" and "Beloved Infidel." 8 p.m. Free. Business Auditorium.

### Frids, March 4

African Student Union hosts its pre-fashion show dance party 9 p.m.-1 a.m. in the Commonwealth Ballrooms. Groove to the sounds of reggae, African and hip-hop music. Free to VCU students with valid ID. Non-students must be guests of VCU students.

### Saturday, March 5

Watch Uncommon Cinema's encore of "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" 9 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Free to VCU students with valid ID. Two-guest limit per card 828-4554.

### Sunday, March 6

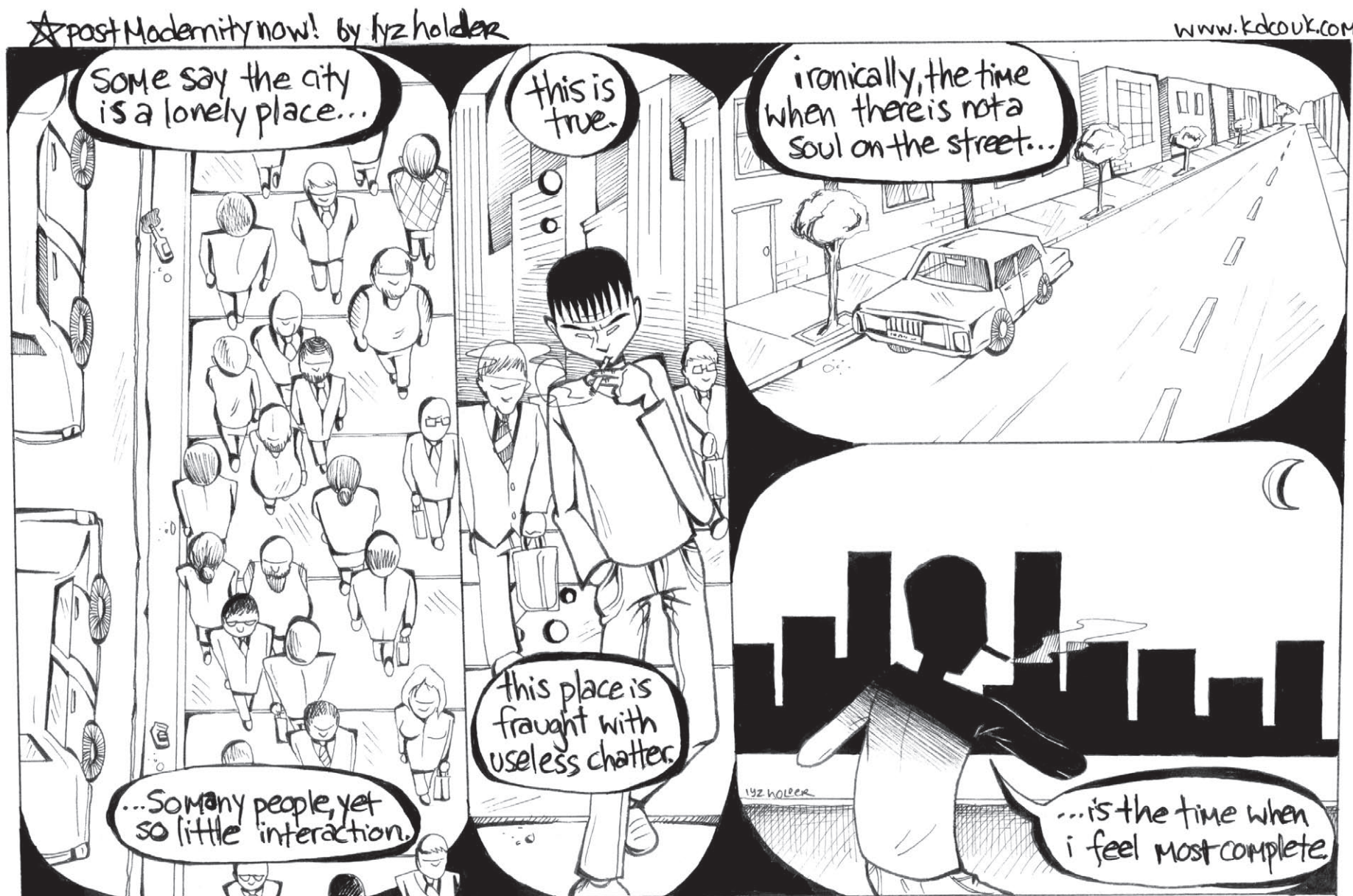
Jackie Frost plays at Bogart's. Listen to a blend of americana, bluegrass, and folk music. \$7. 203 N. Lombardy St. 353-9280.



# COMICS

Post Modernity Now

Lyz Holder



## Can you fill these shoes?



The Commonwealth Times is accepting applications for the executive and managing editor positions for the fall 2005 semester.

This is an elected position and includes two weeks paid training. Applicants must campaign and present a platform before the April election.

If interested, contact Jonathan Robbins at 828-1058, e-mail [CTEditor03@yahoo.com](mailto:CTEditor03@yahoo.com) or stop by Temple Room 1149 for an application.



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# EDITORIALS & LETTERS

## From the SGA: Thanks for the love

On Feb. 23, the Student Government Association hosted a charity event for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault called "Where is the Love?" The response from the student body was very much appreciated, and SGA would like to thank all participants for their help.

With the support from students, faculty and staff, we were able to raise \$1,000 to go to this great cause. All monetary donations were directed to the YWCA center for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

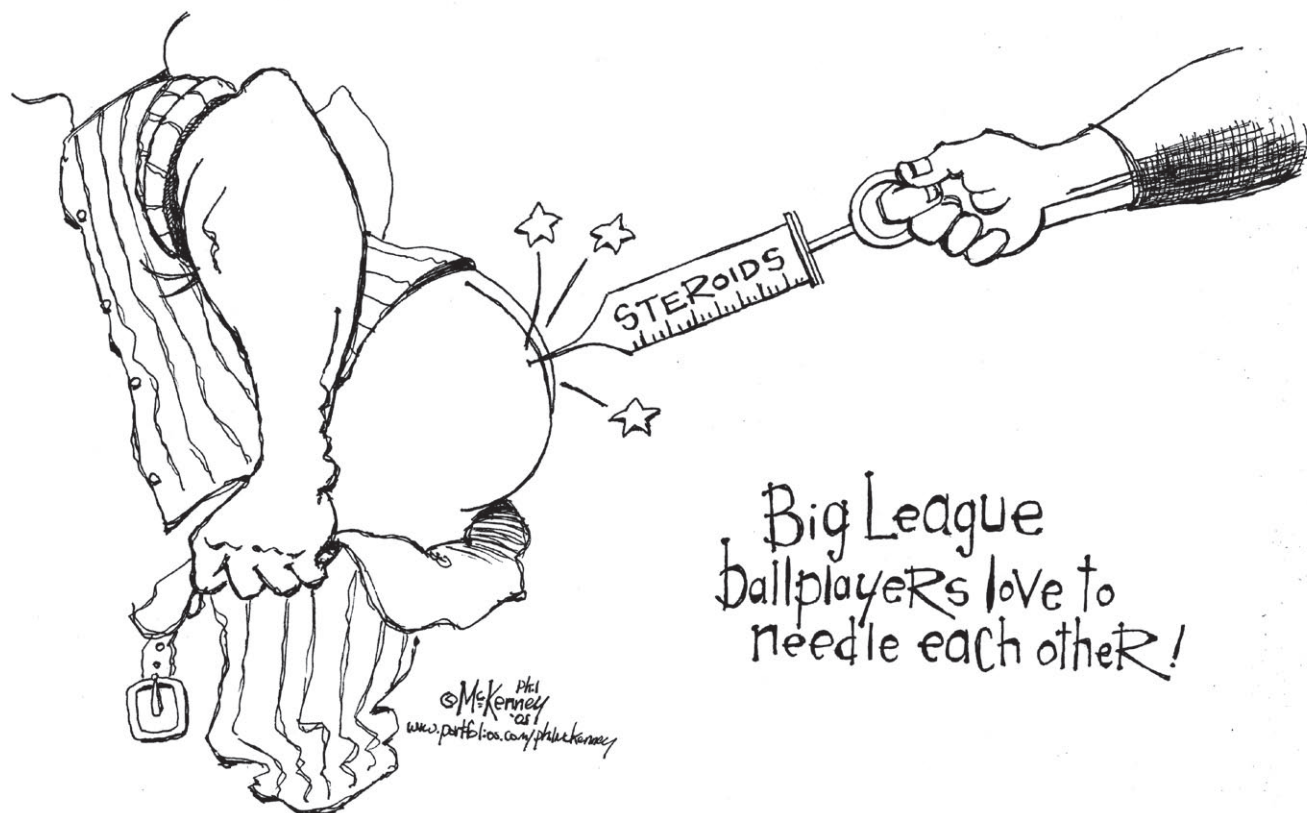
The Student Government Association would like to thank VCU for their commitment not only to the community, but also to the university itself. SGA counted on this charity to bring students and faculty together to support a great cause, and hopefully this effort can be repeated in the future.

We cooperated with other student organizations including the VCU Young Democrats, the Muslim and Kuwaiti student associations, the Therapeutic Recreation Club, Sexual Assault and Violence Education and Services (SAVES) and the VCU Police. SGA would like to thank these organizations, Century Florist who donated 300 flowers to be sold on Valentine's Day, and TY and Imago Dei for their wonderful performances.

Thanks, everyone!

**Mariam Hashim**

Deputy Assistant for Development  
Monroe Park Campus SGA



Editorial Cartoon | By Phil McKenney

## Your Turn Letters to the Editor



### Teach for Virginia

To the Editor:

I do not work for a large corporation or make millions of dollars. I spend my days discussing the alphabet and numbers. But I think I have one of the most important jobs in the world. I am a teacher.

I wake up early, work late and have a hard time not thinking about my classroom – even in the summer. I look forward to seeing my children solve a problem or “get” something for the first time. And they simply count on me to be in the classroom every day.

The Teach in Virginia program is looking for others who want to join me. Teach in Virginia is a non-profit organization created in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education to recruit non-licensed, potential teachers and licensed teachers to teach high-need subjects throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Teach for Virginia began recruiting a few months ago and is currently recruiting teachers for the 2005-2006 school year. The Teach in Virginia program continues to look for highly qualified, motivated individuals. It is a selective program that is seeking those who want to:

- Make a difference.
- Inspire students to academic excellence.
- Challenge themselves.
- Confront educational issues head-on.
- Assume leadership roles within their

schools and division.

- Make a greater impact.

The program needs high achievers and critical thinkers who want to use their subject knowledge to ensure the academic achievement of the students who need them the most.

As an educator, I implore you to use your skills to provide an opportunity for all children throughout the state to succeed. For more information on the Teach in Virginia program or to apply online, please visit [www.teachin-virginia.org](http://www.teachin-virginia.org).

Signed,  
**Paige Tucker**

### Law and order

Greetings,

On Feb. 22 (approximately 10:15 p.m.) I was at the Main Hospital visiting a friend. I stepped out into the lobby area facing Marshall Street when several VCU police officers stepped in and approached an elderly black woman whom I had seen on various occasions sitting quietly in the warmth.

The officers knew the woman by name, and one officer in particular – a white female – young-looking enough to be her granddaughter, spoke to the woman in a tone that harkened back to Jim Crow time: “Why are you in my hospital?”

Her next sentence was, “Didn’t I tell you next time I see you I’m taking you to jail?” I was shocked at this sight, yet yielded my tongue, allowing the officers to perform “their duty.”

Handcuffed, the homeless woman was led

out into the open lobby of the hospital like some common criminal.

My questions to the faculty, student body and the dedicated police force is this: What public service was provided here? Is the campus any safer? Is it justified for a young woman to speak to a woman more than twice her age in a manner reminiscent of plantation days simply because she’s homeless?

Signed,  
**D. Lynn**

### Editor's Note:

Seeking a response to the allegations in this letter *The Commonwealth Times* met with Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services, and deputy chiefs Tina Buck and Carlton Edwards from the VCU Police Department. In response to the allegations of officer misconduct, Edwards said an investigation would follow. “Anytime a complaint comes in – no matter how minor it may be, or quite large – we’re going to investigate it ... we have an internal affairs department. When we have a complaint, it goes through that process.” Buck concurred with Edwards, saying, “We’re like any other police department – when a complaint is lodged we go through a thorough internal investigation.” Rhone said that the situation will be followed up. “This is not something that is ignored ... The police are adept at handling complaints that come from the public ... there are a number of factors that could have impacted the encounter and I think we need to look at this from multiple perspectives.” Rhone further said: “I think the readers want to be reassured the police are working for the benefit of the VCU community.”

## The Commonwealth TIMES

*The independent student press of  
Virginia Commonwealth University*

**DEVON MARROW**  
*Executive Editor*

**OMAR YACOUBI**  
*Editor of the Editorial Pages*

**WRITERS**  
*Michael Dickinson • Lyz Holder*

Opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Commonwealth Times* or VCU. Unsigned editorials represent the institutional opinion of *The Commonwealth Times*.

### Add Your Voice

The opinion section of *The Commonwealth Times* is open to the public. Please send letters to [CTeditor03@yahoo.com](mailto:CTeditor03@yahoo.com), mailing address: P.O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23238-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building. 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.

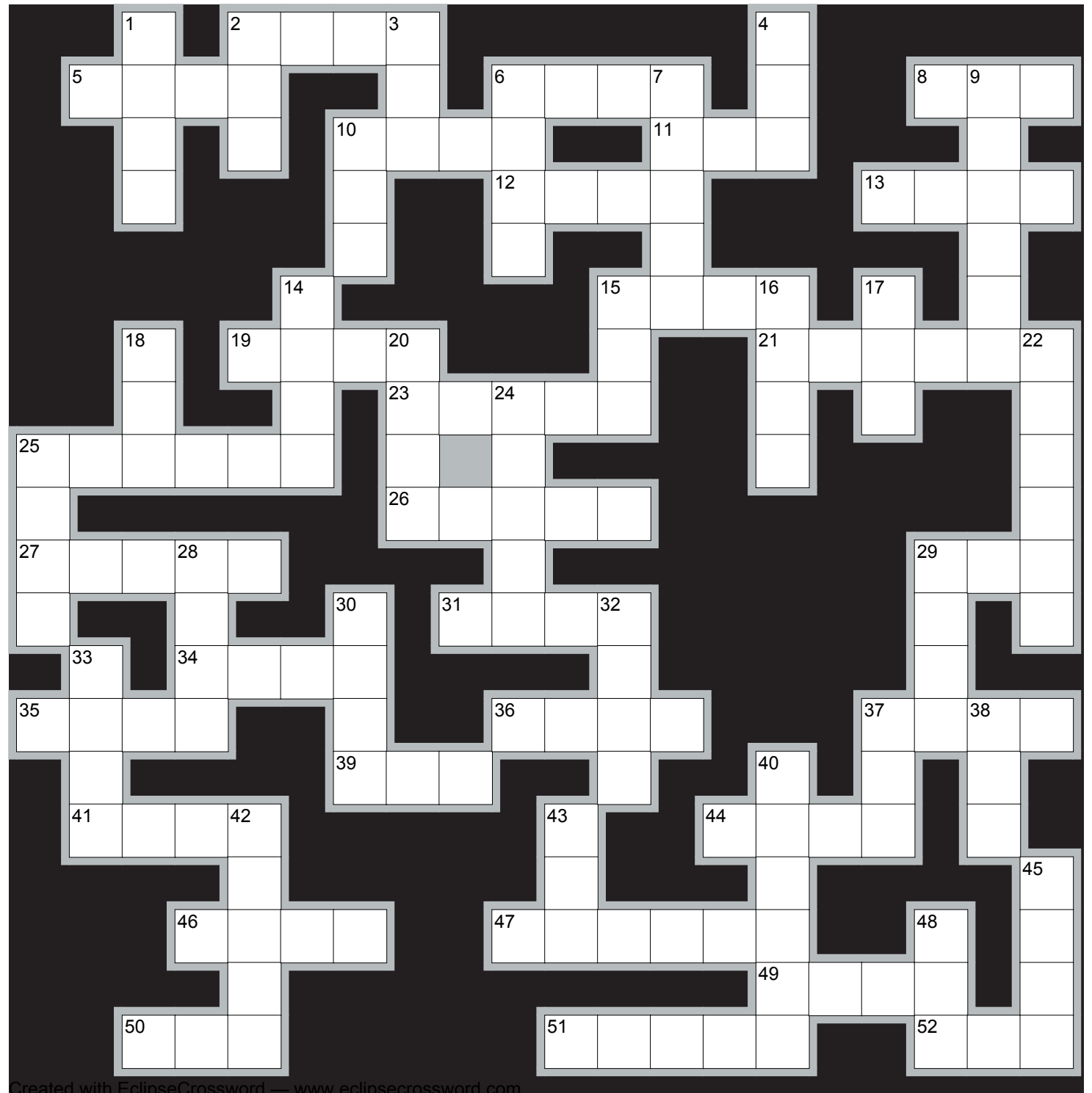
# COMMONWEALTH TIMES CROSSWORD: A THROUGH M

## Across

2. Mature female horse.
5. A soft drink, not soda, coke.
6. Bulldogs have large ones.
8. I like the cut of this paper's \_\_\_\_.
10. A spiritual teacher.
11. Vine.
12. a sorrowful sound.
13. Opposite of first.
15. Wolf cry.
19. Solid.
21. Starting a fire.
23. Picture, likeness.
25. To mean to.
26. Popular pant color.
27. A hiding place for treasure! Yaaar!
29. A type of evergreen.
31. Indecent.
34. Burden
35. A male deer.
36. Past tense of do.
37. Seaweed.
39. A measure of work. Not a newton.
41. Cavity, pit.
44. \_\_\_\_ mower.
46. cheat, swindle
47. wandering, astray.
49. Something lent.
50. Extra-sonic aircraft.
51. Bars set over an opening.
52. Hoover, water.

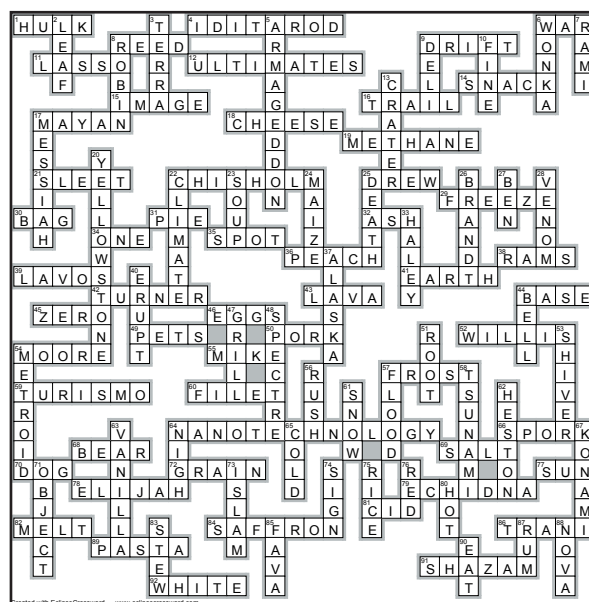
## Down

1. Jupiter.
2. Angry, insane.
3. A fast-running bird.
4. Low island, reef.
6. Spring, leap.
7. Jargon
9. "Your mother dresses you funny!"
10. Bang! Bang!
14. To tie together, like with a rope.
15. An instrument for digging.
16. Big cat.
17. A large african antelope.
18. to perform
20. Moo juice.
22. Steep slope.
24. Proverb
25. Twelve in a foot.
28. Large, strong, possibly green.
29. "We'll keep this info on \_\_\_\_, just in case."
30. Corner, border.
32. A vietnamese currency.
33. To suddenly flow
37. A relative.
38. Fall behind.
40. Above a fireplace.
42. To be.
43. To be wrong, human, usually both.
45. What freshmen leave in.
48. The last part.



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

## Answers to Feb. 28 puzzle



## Too Late to Run

Andrew Babb

