

The Commonwealth Times

Free

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BRIEFS

CALENDAR

SEPT 1 THROUGH SEPT 4

Thursday, Sept. 1	Friday, Sept. 2	Saturday, Sept. 3	Sunday, Sept. 4
 <p>Come out for some late night swimming at Franklin Street Gym between 9 and 11 p.m. Aquatic activities and refreshments will be available at this party celebrating the gym's extended hours. For more information, call Karen Carden at 828-6402.</p> <p>90/63</p>	 <p>Don't miss your chance to view a diverse selection of art during Richmond's First Friday Art Walk. Visit 14 galleries along Broad Street on the first Friday of every month. Sponsored by CuratedCulture. Call 304-1554 for more information.</p> <p>90/64</p>	 <p>The volleyball team meets UNC Greensboro for the last match of the VCU Third Degree Sportswear Invitational at the Siegel Center. For more information call Shaunte Barber at 828-3440.</p> <p>86/59</p>	 <p>The men's soccer team competes off-campus at Sports Backers Stadium in the final game of the ALL-TEL/Nike Classic Tournament against Monmouth. For more information call Phil Stanton at 828-4896.</p> <p>82/57</p>

In The News...

Compiled from wire reports

Gas prices leap as supply dwindles

Gasoline prices rose nationwide Wednesday as key refineries and pipelines remained crippled by Hurricane Katrina, crimping supplies and leading to caps on the amount of fuel delivered to retailers.

October gasoline futures surged as high as \$2.92 a gallon on Nymex and settled at \$2.6145 per gallon, an increase of 14 cents. That is 35 percent higher than they were on Friday.

Even before Katrina plowed through the Gulf Coast, oil producers and refiners had been struggling to meet rising demand around the globe, particularly in the U.S. and China. Energy markets have been on edge for about two years because the amount of excess oil production capacity worldwide is only about 1.5 million barrels a day, or less than 2 percent of demand.

"The hurricane has made a bad situation worse," said oil analyst Fadel Gheit at Oppenheimer & Co. in New York.

Eight Gulf refineries remain out of service, and will be for days if not weeks, according to analysts, though most of their owners have not yet publicly announced the extent of any damage.

It could take a week to 10 days before refineries and pipelines will be able to draw power from the grid, John Zamanek, vice president of Entergy Corp. told CNBC.

Bush encourages others to help hurricane victims

President Bush pledged Wednesday to do "all in our power" to save lives and provide sustenance to uncounted victims of Hurricane Katrina but cautioned that recovery of the Gulf Coast will take years.

Flanked by senior members of his administration, Bush said more than 50 disaster medical assistance teams and more than 25 urban search and rescue teams, both from the

Federal Emergency Management Administration, are being utilized to help victims of the storm.

Bush said the Transportation Department has provided trucks to convey 5.4 million ready-to-eat meals, 13.4 million liters of water, 10,400 tarps, 3.4 million pounds of ice, 144 generators, 20 containers of prepositioned disaster supplies, 135,000 blankets and 11,000 cots.

The president said the Pentagon, as well, was contributing to the rescue and relief operations, and the administration would make road and bridge repair a priority.

Bush also said he had instructed Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman to work with refineries to "alleviate any shortage through loans."

In addition to the government's efforts, Bush encouraged private cash donations to recovery efforts.

Chavez offers oil, anti-drug efforts to U.S.

CARACAS, Venezuela - The Rev. Jesse Jackson met with President Hugo Chavez in hopes of reducing tensions between the United States and Venezuela after conservative religious broadcaster Pat Robertson called for the leftist president's assassination. Jackson urged both Venezuela and the U.S. to tone down their "hostile rhetoric," adding that good relations are in both countries' interests since Venezuela is a top supplier of U.S. oil.

"I hope that we've done something to facilitate a detente on threatening rhetoric," Jackson said. "We're not going to have an oil war."

Chavez offered the United States cheap heating oil for poor communities and said he was willing to cooperate with the United States in anti-drug efforts, a program he recently suspended saying U.S. drug agents were involved in spying.

"In spite of the differences and the tense relations that exist, we're always willing to continue working together with Mr. Bush's government in the fight against drugs," Chavez said, adding that it "cannot be a mask to carry out spying or violate a country's

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News

Katrina's wake

New Orleans reels from broken levees, looting

KATIE GANTT
Executive Editor

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, citizens from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and western Florida are trying to restore some sense of order to their disrupted lives.

Broken levees, floating corpses and looting make their attempts a difficult and painful task.

Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in the early hours of Monday, bringing 140 mph winds and devastating storm surges.

Bussing to Houston Astrodome

Bloomberg News reported Wednesday that the some 23,000 refugees, including those housed in the Louisiana Superdome earlier this week, will be bussed to the Houston Astrodome in an attempt to clear out New Orleans.

Five hundred buses provided by federal emergency officials will take refugees the 328 miles to Houston after Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco asked Texas Gov. Rick Perry for help.

It could be weeks before they are allowed to return to the New Orleans area.

While some New Orleans residents rode out the storm at the Superdome, storm surges reached 30 feet in Mississippi where 90 percent of the buildings on the coastline of Biloxi and Gulfport were demolished.

As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, Katrina's death toll reportedly reached at least 110 in Mississippi. With the fear that many more bodies will be found, Biloxi mayor A. J. Holloway said Tuesday: "This is our Tsunami."

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin told CNN Wednesday that the hurricane had killed hundreds – maybe thousands – in his city.

Looting

Because national, state and local efforts are still focused on saving lives, law officers and National Guardsmen haven't had much time to deal with looters.

According to FoxNews.com, looters around the city of New Orleans were ransacking stores in search of food, clothing and appliances, as

KATRINA continued to Page 7

Ripple effect



Tom Gehring

Gasoline prices across the country have risen sharply during the past 24 hours due to "supply disruptions from Hurricane Katrina," according to the AP. Previously, gas at the Citgo/7-11 on the corner of Cary and Thompson streets was \$2.59 per gallon for regular unleaded.

Evacuated Tulane students take refuge at Atlanta, Dallas colleges

MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) - Hundreds of bleary-eyed Tulane University students and staff members were bused to colleges in Atlanta and Dallas Wednesday as they continued their journey from their storm-ravaged campus in New Orleans.

"I'm really tired. Mentally tired," said Aninda Basu, 30, a Tulane cellular biology instructor, who was holding his 4-month-old daughter while seated on the floor of the Georgia Tech student center.

The evacuation started Saturday, just as many students were arriving at Tulane for the beginning of the school year.

"I'd just gotten there and unpacked everything," said Daniel Ahn, a 19-year-old freshman from Glenrock, N.J.

But Tulane officials ordered students to evacuate. For those unable to stay with family or friends, the university hired 12 coach buses to take students and staff to Jackson State University in Mississippi.

Close to 700 of Tulane's nearly 13,000 students chose that option. Many thought the storm would blow over with minimal damage, and they would be back on campus in three or four days.

"Most students didn't take it very seriously," said Guergana Gougoumanova, 29, a French literature doctoral student.

But then the magnitude of the storm

became clear. Much of New Orleans was flooded. Tulane officials said classes would be postponed until at least late September.

On Monday, Jackson State suffered power outages, darkening the wood-floored gymnasium where the Tulane students were staying. On Tuesday, the gym's bathrooms went out of service.

Tulane officials then decided to move the students to Atlanta and Dallas, the two of the closest metropolitan areas not hit by the storm. Atlanta's Georgia Tech and Dallas's Southern Methodist University agreed to host the students.

Around 275 students headed to Atlanta. About another 140 went to Dallas, includ-

ing the entire Tulane football team and its coaches and training staff.

The team will share practice facilities with Southern Methodist for the foreseeable future, Tulane associate athletic director John Sudsbury said. The two Conference USA schools play each other Sept. 24. Sunday's game between Tulane and Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss., was rescheduled to the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Sudsbury wouldn't guess how long it will be before the team can return to its home facilities.

"We have to wait until the university

TULANE continued to Page 7

NEWS

In with the new

VCU ID cards for students, staff

HARVEY HALL

CT Reporter

VCU is getting a new look – in the area of student ID's, that is.

New VCUCards are being given out instead of the yellow swipe cards that students currently use.

VCUCard director Sam Kennedy said in the past, the university used a 26-bit format proximity card, which has a limit of 6,535 proximity numbers.

"We hit the limit last year and we ran out of those card numbers," he said.

What does this mean for cardholders?

The new cards will have to be ordered and people will have to get new cards. For some students, it may be a hassle, but Patti Murdock, assistant director for VCUCard, said the office is trying to lessen the blow.

"Our main concerns are the new students, people in the parking decks and building access," she said. "We can replace lost cards."

Kennedy said the new cards are 35-bit format proximity, which can hold up to a million numbers, making them more accessible than the current cards.

"The current card has a magnetic stripe on

the back that wears out over time," Kennedy said. "But with the new prox card, there is really no need for swiping out of anything. Just wave it in the sensors and you have access."

The new readers will be equipped for many of the buildings on campus, like James Branch Cabell Library and the housing facilities. Murdock said the new card was first introduced in the Student Testing Advising Registration program, or STAR.

"Our first step was to take care of the freshmen, who were issued new cards during the STAR sessions," she said. "Then we issued it out to any new people for the new buildings."

VCUCard assured students that the current cards could still be used along with the new cards, except at the parking decks on campus.

"Most of the school is equipped with systems that can handle both the current cards and the new cards," Kennedy said. "But parking worked with their vendors to see if they can handle both formats, and the system could not."

In mid-July, the VCUCard office ordered and preprinted cards for parking subscribers.

Currently the new card is in demand for some students, and the orders are coming in faster than the card office can fill them.

Showing a stack of student applications for cards, Kennedy said, "These are students who want the new cards and haven't gotten them yet. Nothing has changed in the past few days."

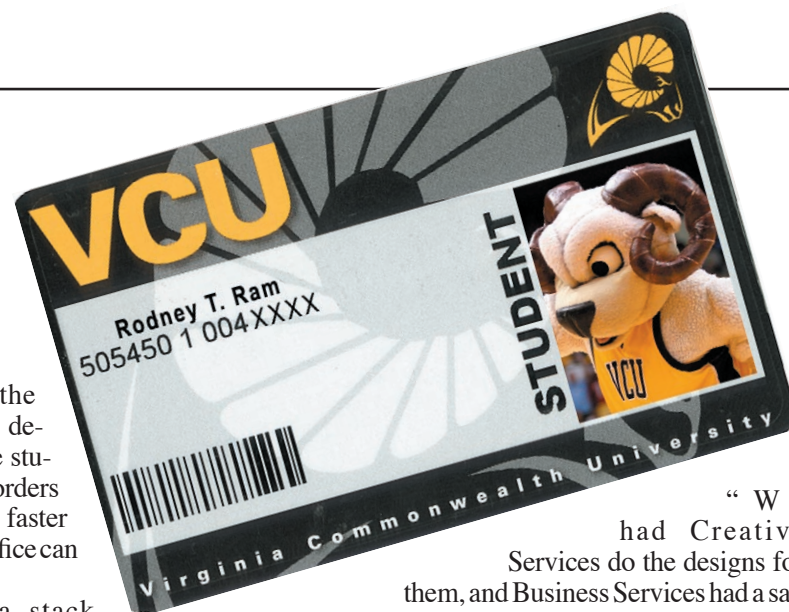
Murdock said the demand for the new cards is understandable.

"I haven't really heard a lot of complaints about the new card," she said. "In the past few days, we've had a lot of people wanting a new card. One day, we had 798 cards. Another day it was about 400."

Dennis Wymer, a senior art education major, doesn't seem to be worried about the new changes.

"It's nothing really to be complaining about," he said. "If my old one doesn't work, then at least I have a new one."

Murdock and Kennedy said a lot of work has been put into designing these new cards.



"We had Creative Services do the designs for them, and Business Services had a say as well," Murdock said. "Housing was very involved and we (VCUCard) wanted to get a feel for these departments."

Kennedy said, "We want to make sure we take care of the people who need the cards. We had an advisory group of representatives from (University Police), Business Services, Creative Services and Housing. The housing office served as the representative of student affairs."

The VCUCard office said it hopes the new cards will reflect the spirit of VCU.

"We had a one-style card for everybody," Murdock said. "We wanted to create a card that would make our lives a whole lot easier as far as training new students."

The VCUCard office is in the process of moving from its current location in the University Student Commons to the Technology Administration Building on the corner of Pine and Broad streets, where it will open Sept. 12.

Nursing shortage 'already here,' management a problem

AMANDA L DES ROCHES

Staff Reporter

While local administrators attribute the state and national nursing shortage to poor planning, high dropout rates, faculty shortage and the lack of standardization, one registered nurse attributes the shortage to poor health care management.

"They have no concept of nurse retention," Kim Lushbaugh, a registered emergency room nurse, said of the upper management division of a local hospital. "They're not doing anything to make us want to stay there."

Married with two children, Lushbaugh said she needed a flexible schedule to balance her family life with work.

"It's a fight all the time with flexibility," she said. "I actually took a package with no benefits and less pay because that meant I was not obligated or locked into any contracts with the hospital."

Part- and full-time nurses at local hospitals receive benefits and are paid about \$4 more per hour than Lushbaugh, but they are locked in a schedule set by the hospital and rarely can change their schedule.

"I'm what you call a PRN (practical registered nurse), which just means I am an hourly worker," Lushbaugh said. "It's less money and no benefits, but it works for me."

According to the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, much attention has been given to nurse retention and the turnover rates in hospitals.

"We want to keep nurses happy," said Barbara Brown, VHHA vice president. "We are in a people field. You need people to take care of people."

While most registered nurses find themselves tasked

with more responsibility than ever before, Lushbaugh said the responsibility also leads to more disgruntled employee relations.

"A lot of good nurses leave because of silly, silly stuff," she said. "Stuff that management could have worked on. In my personal experience I see a mass exodus every 14 to 18 months where you have a number of nurses who are so fed up with being picked at and put down that they just up and leave."

Lushbaugh said she believes ER nurses to be the most stressed.

"I really believe we have the highest patient-to-nurse ratios," she said. "The public needs to be aware, however, that they're contributing to the lack of care and timeliness."

Lushbaugh said every patient that checks into the ER is viewed as an emergency.

"The majority of them are not actual emergencies, though. People need to be educated on what they should do. If your knee has been bothering you for a month, call your doctor. If you can't get through, call the on-call doctor. Don't run to the ER."

"You create longer waits, and people who are sitting at home having chest pains and shortness of breath who could be having a stroke will decide not to come in because they don't want to deal with the wait."

Jack Elcoate, a nurse technician at CJW Medical Center, said he has seen his fair share of high turnovers among nurses.

"Nurses are literally pulled in so many different directions at once," he said. "They're pressured by doctors, by patients and by administration."

Elcoate said it is not only acute care nurses that are overstressed, but also nurses working in assisted living, retirement and nursing homes.

"I have worked in a nursing home before," he said. "There were 30 patients to one nurse. That definitely takes a toll on you. We have the longest generation in the history of this country entering retirement age, and we're also seeing younger and younger people with health problems."

Second of a two-part nursing series

Elcoate cited long waiting lists for nursing schools as one of the biggest factors contributing to the nursing shortage.

"With the influx of patients and limited amount of space and schools, it's very hard," he said. "I know they can't just hand out nursing licenses. It's all about retaining the nursing staff they've got."

Joanne K. Henry, director of VCU's Community Nursing Organization, said health systems are well aware of the issue of high nurse turnover.

"Beyond schools, the employers of nurses can develop programs to encourage nurse retention," she said. "We need to look at the work environment."

Lushbaugh said the average citizen who may need medical attention now or later should prepare themselves for longer visits at the waiting room, limited availability of appointments and possibly fewer medical facilities state and nationwide.

Elcoate agrees and said people should be aware of the issue now.

"There is no future nursing shortage," he said. "It's already here."

NEWS

Largest freshman class in VCU history

Administrators working to ensure student retention

ALEX WOOLRIDGE
Co-Spectrum Editor

Anyone on campus for the first day of classes could see that VCU is growing, but last Thursday the board of visitors heard the official words as the university announced its largest enrollment ever.

At the board meeting, which functioned almost like a State of the University address, President Eugene P. Trani announced that VCU will have 29,225 students for the 2005-06 academic year. A massive freshman class of about 3,500, also a VCU record, helped boost the university to its high mark.

With nearly all aspects of enrollment heading in a positive direction, officials expressed optimism regarding the university's future.

"We have close to 12,000 applications from freshmen and that is always a good

sign," said Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs. "More students know about VCU and they want to come to VCU, and I think more students are making VCU their first choice."

"Those numbers really suggest that VCU is in the right place in terms of competing with other institutions, and obviously our reputation among students is improving."

Consider these statistics on freshman alone: 1996's freshman class—1,500—was less than half the size of this year's class. Meanwhile, the university received 11,702 freshmen applications this year, an increase of nearly 7,000 since 1996. Two statistics also show increased selectivity in admissions, with a 68 percent acceptance rate (down from 74 percent last year) and an average freshmen SAT score of 1075 (up from 1002 in 1996).

Trani later proclaimed the diversity of the freshmen, calling them "the most diverse freshmen class in all of Virginia" with non-white students making 38 percent of entering freshmen.

VCU also boasts the highest number of Virginians, with two large groups of around 900 freshmen coming from northern Virginia and the Richmond-metro area.

Trani announced that the total number of undergraduate applications also rose to 15,350, a 15 percent increase from last year.

Brian Ohlinger, associate vice president of facilities management, told the board of two upcoming construction projects—a new business school and the second phase of the engineering school—designed to keep healthy growth from becoming an unmanageable explosion of students.

While the retention rate from freshman to sophomore years did rise to 80 percent, Trani still addressed retention and the five-year graduation rate as areas that will require ongoing attention.

"...Student retention, that's what all of this is about," Trani said. "Students coming in to a big university in a metropolitan area can quickly get lost in the process if they don't know there's a part of the element they can grab a hold of."

In addition to focusing on students' academic standing, Rhone and other university officials are working to ensure that students stay on course for their careers while enjoying college life.

"We want to improve advising for all of our students early so that they really can get off on the right track," Rhone said. "It's

also important that students feel [they are] a part of VCU, that they like the school of their choice and that they feel involved."

One factor relating to retention could be students' financial status, which Trani spoke about in front of the board. Trani cited statistics that 70 percent of students work full- or part-time jobs and asserted that the per capita income for families is much lower at VCU than other state institutions. Instead of concentrating on financial hardship, the board of visitors went on to talk about a possible long-term solution: increased state funding.

Paul Timmreck, senior vice president of finance and administration, gave a presentation on the effects of the General Assembly's Higher Education Restructuring Act. Based on the university's financial, academic and enrollment plans, the General Assembly will provide general funds to VCU and the state's other universities.

Timmreck used three funding scenarios to illustrate funding's impact; in the first, VCU would receive additional general funds from the state and in the second it would receive no general funds. The most realistic option is the third, where the

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RETENTION *continued from Page 5*

General Assembly provides an amount of funds somewhere between the other two scenarios. If this funding comes through, Timmreck says the money will go "to the heart of the institution."

"It's all for instruction, for students to be able to get the classes they need to stay on schedule for graduation," Timmreck said. "It also means, quite frankly, the more money you get from the state the lower the increase in tuition, and that's good news for students and parents."

Aside from the possibility of lowering tuition increases, Stephen Gottfredson, provost and vice president of student affairs, spoke to the board about future improvements at VCU.

First in his presentation on VCU's Strategic Plan was VCU's "front door," an organizational structure for academic and students support services. Another addition VCU hopes to make is an honors college, a single building which would be home to honors services

and classes. The first structure's purpose would be convenience, while the honors college would be aimed at recruiting "high-end" students.

In other business, the board of visitors welcomed two new members on August 25: Lillian Lambert, president of LilCo Enterprises, Inc., and Stuart C. Siegel, chairman of the board of S&K Famous Brands, Inc. and namesake of VCU's Siegel Center.

Ashley Bacon Ward, member of several student organizations including the Black Political Science Association, was nominated by Trani and approved by the board of visitors to serve as a student representative on the board.

In addition, the board welcomed incoming Dean of Medicine Jerome F. Strauss, who has a doctorate in molecular biology and has co-authored more than 250 scientific publications. Strauss will officially begin as dean September 15.

"We have close to 12,000 applications from freshmen and that is always a good sign. Those numbers really suggest that VCU is in the right place in terms of competing with other institutions, and obviously our reputation among students is improving."

— Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs

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KATRINA continued from Page 3

well as firearms.

"We're multitasking right now," New Orleans Police Capt. Marlon Defillo told Fox News, explaining that everyone's efforts center on "rescue, recovery, stabilization of looting. We're trying to feed the hungry."

Although New Orleans' French Quarter did not receive the worst impact of the flooding, its stores are now taking the brunt of the looting, forcing authorities to declare a state of martial law for the first time since World War II.

New Orleans Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson talked with Fox News about the looting problem.

"The looting is out of control," she said. "We're using exhausted, scarce police to control looting when they should be used for search and rescue while we still have people on rooftops."

Levee breaks

Believing that the worst of the flood damage was history Tuesday, citizens of New Orleans were later dismayed when

two levees in Lake Pontchartrain collapsed filling the city with water.

CNN.com reported Wednesday that rising flood waters overwhelmed the pumping stations that would normally keep the city dry and that roughly 80 percent of the city became flooded once the levees broke—up to 20 feet or more in some areas.

While the Army Corps of Engineers continues its work to repair the broken levees, no one is sure when they will be able to repair the damage so the holes can be blocked.

The group has used rock, sandbags, barges, helicopters and cranes to assist with patching the holes in the levees.

Another major problem officials are facing at all levels is that some of the Black Hawk helicopters that were scheduled to help patch the levees had to be diverted to rescue more people from rooftops and attics.

Reuters reported that should Lake Pontchartrain's water level return to normal within 36 hours the water in New Orleans would slowly drain away.

Compiled from wire reports

"The looting is out of control. We're using exhausted, scarce police to control looting when they should be used for search and rescue while we still have people on rooftops."

— Jackie Clarkson, New Orleans Councilwoman

TULANE continued from Page 3

can assess the situation in New Orleans," Sudsbury said. "We just don't know."

Other Green Wave athletes will be staying at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In the meantime, Georgia Tech and Southern Methodist were providing rooms, food, telephones, computer access and free airport shuttle services to the Tulane students and staff.

In Dallas, Tulane freshman Katie Trippe of Oceanside, Calif., said Wednesday was the first time many students had been able to read about Katrina's aftermath.

"We all turned on the TV and clicked on the Internet to see what was going on. We did not know it was that serious," she said. "I was like 'Are you kidding me? We were just there a few days ago.'"

Trippe, 18, eventually managed to book a flight home. She didn't know when she'd be returning to Tulane. "I'll go home and wait it out," she said.

By Wednesday, most of the students who could go home decided to do so. "My shuttle leaves in five minutes," said Jennie Liang, 18, a freshman from Queens, N.Y. who initially turned down her parent's suggestion to return home with them.

But dozens of international students at Georgia Tech had no family or friends to stay with in the United States. Georgia Tech officials were negotiating with a nearby apartment complex to secure about 40 units

for the students, said Rich Steele, director of the university's student center.

Some students said they're concerned that the fall semester will be canceled. Tulane spokesman Mike Strecker said no date has been set for the start of classes. "We have to wait until things stabilize. But our goal is to have a semester," he said.

Meanwhile, other New Orleans colleges were taking their own steps to deal with the storm. For example, about 250 students from New Orleans' Dillard University were staying in the field house at Centenary College in Shreveport, La., this week.

"What we're seeing are some colleges and universities that are becoming almost refugee camps," said Terry Hartle, senior vice president at the American Council on Education.

Hartle said his organization was already receiving reports of students at schools in the path of the hurricane attempting to transfer, concerned their current schools could remain closed for a semester or more.

Hartle said the council was urging the federal government to take steps to make it easier for students to transfer their financial aid to other schools on short notice, a step it has taken after previous disasters, including the Northridge earthquake in California and Hurricane Andrew in Florida.

"Tulane definitely is where I wanted to go and now it's all up in the air," Trippe said.

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SPORTS

Jansson's goal helps Rams earn tie

Goalie Niman aggressive against Hokie shooters

WESTON REEVES
Associate Sports Editor

After two full periods of play and double overtime extinguished, Virginia Commonwealth University managed a 1-1 tie against Virginia Tech Sunday Aug. 28 at Virginia Tech Soccer Stadium.

Despite trailing the Hokies by a goal almost the entire second half of their regular season opener, the Rams were able to avoid defeat after freshman Pernilla Jansson (Enebyberg, Sweden) scored

with 1:38 left in regulation. She headed the ball past Tech goalie Mallory Soldner after receiving a well placed pass by senior Hedda Gardsjord (Oslo, Norway).

Virginia Tech put pressure on the Rams early and outshot VCU 4-1 in the first half. Tech sophomore Ashley Stinson was a dominant offensive presence throughout, but made her mark when she scored the first goal of the game. With 33 seconds left in the first half, Stinson tipped in a corner pass from teammate Shannon Poach.

VCU found it tough in the first half to get involved on offense due to the stingy play by Hokie defenders Mary Elizabeth Newton and Lindsay Alexander. Jansson gave credit to her opponents, saying Virginia Tech was more difficult than American University, whom the Rams scored eight goals on in an exhibition game Aug. 20.

"The first half wasn't that good. (Virginia Tech) outplayed us," she said. "We were struggling. We picked it up in the second half, though."

Until Jansson's goal, the pace of the two teams throughout the second half was even, with each trading off flurries of offensive activity. Shooting was matched at five in the second half, but in the end what made VCU stand out was the strong play by goalie Emily Niman (Pittsburg, Pa.).

She made nine saves in 110 minutes of play, allowing only Stinson's goal. Numerous times throughout the game

Niman challenged Hokie shooters aggressively, charging from the goal to prevent would-be shots. About 20 minutes into the first half, she stopped a potential scoring chance by jumping into a mass of players to grab the ball out of the air and protect the goal.

VCU's only goal tied the score at one and sent the game into its first 10-minute overtime period. Virginia Tech's defense continued its dominant play, limiting the Rams to only one shot. Heading into the second and final 10-minute overtime period, VCU managed two shots while preventing Virginia Tech from attempting any. No scoring took place in either overtime periods, ending the game in a tie.

After struggling on the road in their

2004 campaign, VCU fared well in their first game of the season. The Rams were 4-7 in away games last year, contrasting their 11-0 record at Sports Backer Stadium.

After winning the Colonial Athletic Association title and advancing to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament last year, Niman said the Rams are expected to repeat as conference champions. However, because of their success last season, she said the schedule is going to be much more difficult this year as they play higher ranked teams.

"Tech put a lot of pressure on us," she said after the game. "This season our out of conference competition is going to be much harder."

Upcoming Sports EVENTS

Men's Soccer

Fri. Sept. 2: VCU vs. North Carolina at Sports Backers Stadium 8 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 4: VCU vs. Monmouth at Sports Backers Stadium 3:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Nike Tribe Invitational at Williamsburg, Va. **Fri. Sept. 2-Sun. Sept. 4**

Fri. Sept. 2: VCU vs. Dartmouth 4:30 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 4: VCU vs. Clemson noon

Volleyball

VCU Third Degree Sportswear Invitational at Richmond, Va., **Fri. Sept. 2 - Sat. Sept. 3**

Fri. Sept. 2: VCU vs. Radford 4:30 p.m.

Sat. Sept. 3: VCU vs. East Tennessee State 5:30 p.m.

Field Hockey

Sun. Sept. 4: VCU at Rutgers 1 p.m.

Cross Country

Sat. Sept. 3: VCU at Richmond TBA

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



Pat Kane Photos

Above: VCU's Hedda Gardsjord (13) fakes American's Irene Karistinos (4).

Right: Pernilla Jansson (9) fires in a shot from the corner.



SPORTS

VCU Football Still Undefeated

PHILIP BOGENBERGER
Sports Editor

You may have seen someone on campus with a shirt that says “VCU Football, Still Undefeated” and wondered why you’ve never gone to see one of the games or why you have not had a football player in one of your classes.

Well, the reason the Rams have not been beaten in football is because VCU does not have a football team.

Why doesn’t VCU have a team? The school is big enough to support one. Based upon last year’s enrollment statistics VCU has the second most students among universities in Virginia, topping the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, which have National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I perennial top-25 teams.

Football creates a lot of revenue for those universities and brings the school community together every Saturday during the fall.

VCU could always use some extra money and it would only increase the unity of the school community.

However, a football program costs a lot

of money to start and maintain. It requires more players, more staff and more equipment. The cost of building a stadium for a team to play in would cost millions of dollars alone.

But let’s forget about the stadium issue for a minute. Who cares that we do not have a football stadium? Just imagine tailgating before a VCU football game. Food, soda, beer (for people 21 and up of course) and chants of “let’s go Rams.” It would be exciting.

Until the game begins that is. Because it usually takes a few years before a new football team is competitive.

Do you really want to be watching the Rams get trounced on a cold November day? Not really.

Another reason why a football team at this moment is not a plausible idea is because of Title IX, which states that equality of opportunity in athletics will be guaranteed by the university based upon student body interest, geographic influence, budget restraints and gender ratio.

That means if VCU were to add football to its athletic program they would also have to spend an equal amount of money

on a women’s sport or they would have to subtract a men’s sport or two.

Sure more athletics would be cool, but is it feasible? Probably not.

Would you be willing to trade the men’s soccer team, which is currently nationally ranked, or the baseball team, which has won three of the past four conference championships, for a football team that would be lousy for at least the first few years?

I know some people are such die-hard football fans that they would do anything to have a football team here, but I would rather watch one of the nation’s best soccer teams than suffer through a lousy football game, especially after my buzz has worn off.

I enjoy it when the Rams win games and conference championships. I also enjoy being able to say to people, “VCU football, still undefeated.”

“I think that there should definitely be a football team here. I think it could bring the VCU community even closer together than it is now.”

Adrienne Van Lear
Sophomore

What do you think?...

After last year’s disappointing season, how do you think Joe Gibbs and the Washington Redskins will fare in 2005? After three preseason games already completed, do you agree with Patrick Ramsey as the starter?

Please email responses to bogenbergepj@vcu.edu or reevesws@vcu.edu including your name, class level and a phone number.

SPORTS BRIEFS

VCU To Host Golf Tournament

VCU will host the Mattaponi Springs Collegiate Shootout in Ruther Glen, Va., Oct. 2-4.

Returning first team All-Colonial Athletic Conference player Jens Fahrbring (Sollentuna, Sweden) and Manuel Relancio (Corrientes, Italy), a second team All-CAA selection from last season, lead the Rams against the 14 team field.

The Rams open their fall season prior to the tournament with a match against Mid Pines Intercollegiate Pinehurst, N.C. on Sept. 11.

Artega returns to the diamond

Former VCU standout Josh Artega makes his return to The Diamond, but this time for the Richmond Braves. The Rams play their home games at the same stadium as the Braves, the Triple-A affiliate for Atlanta.

New shell gives crew club a facelift

The VCU Crew Club will dedicate a newly acquired 8 racing shell Sept. 1. at 2 p.m. in front of the University Student Commons and Activities building. The club, which is student led and coached by Dan LeBlanc, will race in a brand new shell for the first time in the club’s existence.

Hey did you know . . .



The VCU women’s soccer team is ranked fifth in the Mid-Atlantic Region preseason poll, the highest the Rams have been ranked in the region. For the first time VCU received votes for the National Top-30 poll.

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Spectrum

Thursday, September 1, 2005

Thursday, Sept. 1

Bogart's Caravan

Enjoy the dulcet tones of bluegrass? Then head on down to Bogart's for some finger pickin' good music from Caravan. 9 p.m. \$5 cover. For information call (804) 353-9280.

Nanci Raygun Richmatic

Nanci Raygun hosts some of the brightest and smartest in local hip-hop. Starting 10 p.m. Every Thursday. \$3.

Friday, Sept. 2

GALLERY5 "All Mixed Up"

From 7 p.m. – 2 a.m. come see the "multimedia event of the year." "All Mixed Up" features work from over 40 visual artists and live music from VCR, Hortus, and Red Canasta. For information visit www.gallery5arts.com or call (804) 644-0005.

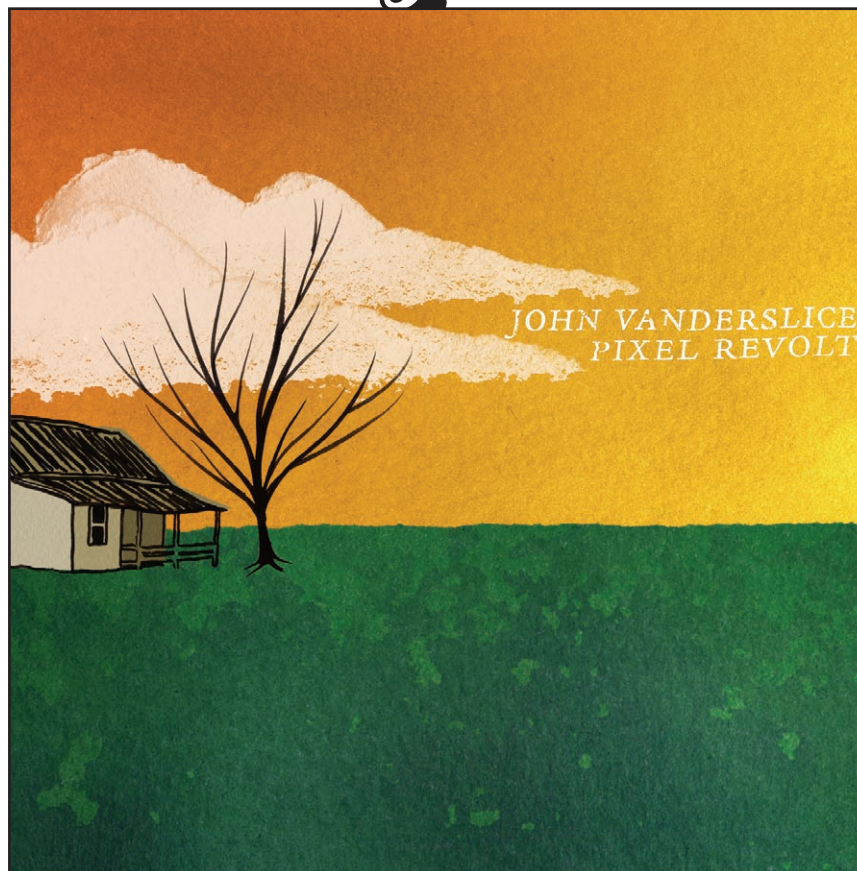
First Friday Art Walk

Art is in the air tonight. Journey downtown to peruse openings and exhibits in 14 art galleries. 7-10 p.m. (804) 304-1554

IN YOUR EAR



Reviews from VCU's online radio station



Pixel Revolt cover art

John Vanderslice – 'Pixel Revolt'

STEVE BROWN

John Vanderslice might not be a familiar name to many, but with a listen to Vanderslice's new album "Pixel Revolt" you might just want to add him to your Myspace friend's list.

Vanderslice definitely isn't new to the music game. "Pixel Revolt" is actually his fifth solo album, and possibly his best yet. Vanderslice has a gift for writing music. Each of the 14 tracks on "Pixel



'Pixel Revolt'
Rating 4 of 5

Revolt" is its own short story. The songs go through many emotions as he tells the stories of different characters going through times of death, sadness, remorse and confusion.

One of the best things about the album is the emotion shown through Vanderslice's vocals. When he sings, you know exactly what the character in the song is going through. He creates a scene

"PIXEL REVOLT" continued to Page 13



Jack's Mannequin 'Everything in Transit'

STEVE BROWN

Something Corporate front man, Andrew McMahon wanted to do something a little different. "Jack's Mannequin" is McMahon's new side project, even though there really isn't much different. The vocals are still the same style, the piano is still there, but the biggest similarity between the two bands is that they are both really good.



'Everything in Transit'
Rating 4 of 5

The songs vary from pop-punk sing-a-longs to slow, mellow, piano-driven tracks. There are songs you can dance to, songs to fall asleep to and songs you will want to just sit back and absorb.

If you like Something Corporate, you will love Jack's Mannequin.

R.I.Y.L.: Something Corporate, The Beach Boys and Fountains of Wayne

And The Ram Says... Rating Key



Time better
spent dead.



Can't. Contain.
Hate.



Meh.



Quality of life
has improved.



I wanna be on
you.

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Sin City

Sept. 2: 9 p.m.
Sept. 3: 7 p.m.

House of Wax

Sept 1: 9 p.m. Get
your hands set in wax!
Admission \$1.
Sept 2: 7 p.m.
Sept.3: 9 p.m.

Reviews on Page 13

Spectrum

“PIXEL REVOLT” *continued from Page 12*

that makes it more like you are being read a book than listening to an album.

The music backing Vander-slice’s strong vocal performance adds a very unique touch to the album. With instruments including a cello, box-harp, wurlitzer, vibraphone, timpani and a glockenspiel “Pixel Revolt” delivers a sound that is unlike any other.

R.I.Y.L.: Decemberists, Elliott Smith, and Jeff Mangum

JAMES APPLEBACH
Staff Writer

‘Sin City’

An epic tale redefining good versus evil, Sin City delivers action, suspense and humor through vigilante justice not meant for the weak of heart.

Based on the graphic novel series of the same name by Frank Miller, the film shows the struggle of four main characters against the hell that is the place they call home.

As the story progresses the audience sees each character’s story intertwining to form a complex web of themes, motifs and morals in a highly entertaining way.

The film boasts an all-star and well-cast ensemble featuring Bruce Willis, Mickey

Rourke, Clive Owen, Benicio Del Toro, Josh Hartnett and Jessica Alba.

‘House of Wax’

A classic thriller involving a sleepy Louisiana town and car trouble, the “House of Wax” is sure to provide some chills as well as some laughs. It is loosely based on a 1953 horror classic of the same name, which originally showed in 3-D.

“House of Wax” stars Paris Hilton, Elisha Cuthbert and Brian Van Holt. Sept. 1, it can be seen at 9 p.m. with the additional excitement of making a wax mold of your hands. Admission is \$1. However, if you’d prefer to see it free you can catch it on Friday and Saturday as well.

Friday, Sept. 2

Café Gutenberg

Jessica L. Fenton, Chris & Aurore and In the Red

Listen to live music acts Jessica L. Fenton, Chris & Aurore and In the Red jam in the café’s intimate upstairs lounge at 1700 East Main St. 8:30 p.m. Free. (804) 497-5000.

Saturday, Sept. 3

Bogart’s

Sambaiosis

Brazilian jazz from Sambaiosis. \$7 cover. 9 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 4

Babes

Drag Show

Boys will be b... er, girls, and girls will be g... um, boys. The first Sunday of every month Babes host a drag show. 8 p.m. \$5.

Monday, Sept. 5

Karaoke

It’s Labor Day and school’s closed. Laugh it up as local comedians take to the state at 9:55 Club’s Comedy Night. Begins 9 p.m. at Easy Street restaurant, 2401 W. Main St. Free. (804) 355-1198.

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Recruitment Schedule



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8/30

Panhellenic Sorority Preview
7pm Commons Commonwealth Ballroom

9/1

Becoming a Greek Woman
7pm Commons Commonwealth Ballroom

9/8-9/11

Sorority Recruitment

To register go to: www.geocities.com/vcucpc
Contact VP of Recruitment, Jenny Crowder at:
crowderjl@vcu.edu

Spectrum

Weird News

Zoo puts humans on display

The London Zoo's newest exhibit, which features eight humans wearing little more than fig leaves, intends to show our basic nature. The zoo selected its eight participants out of several dozen entrants in an Internet competition. A London Zoo spokesperson has said that the intention is to "highlight the spread of man as a plague species and to communicate man's place in the planet's ecosystem." While living on display, the near-nude humans will try to stay entertained by games and music.

Husband for sale

A woman from Brussels has become so tired of spending time with her husband that she put him up for hire on e-Bay. Rather than leave her husband alone while she goes shopping, 21-year-old Nadia Manfroid wants to keep her mate busy. Her husband, 28-year-old Denis Manfroid, has reportedly embraced the auction, saying he will do anything and everything short of having sex with another woman.

Storage of frozen body OK'd by Russian police

Police have told a Chinese man that he can continue to store his friend's corpse in a freezer. The man, Xiao Li Bei, told police that the man they discovered in his warehouse had died

of natural causes two years ago. Li Bei commented that he thought it would be easier to store the body himself to avoid filling out paperwork. Since the warehouse is in the Russian town of Novosibirsk where such storage is permitted, the man will be allowed to store the body until new evidence emerges.

Friendship pays

Friends of a nine-year-old former orphan are finding out why it pays to play nice. After his adoption five years ago, the orphan named only as Axel by the Bulgarian media began saving his Christmas and birthday money to give back to his old friends. The orphan, who was adopted by the family of a wealthy banker in Luxemburg, gave his former playmates £6,000 worth of presents. The director of the orphanage at which Axel stayed has attested to his massive savings, telling the press that he only accepted money for gifts, which he promptly put in the bank.

"Super" sight to behold

Serbian authorities are on the lookout for a real-life superhero after citizens reported seeing a cloaked figure flying above their houses. While police are refusing to comment, hundreds of residents in Ljubovija claim to have seen the cloaked figure flying above buildings. Many described the figure as though her were using "an invisible engine on his back" and said that the figure even changed directions while in mid-air.

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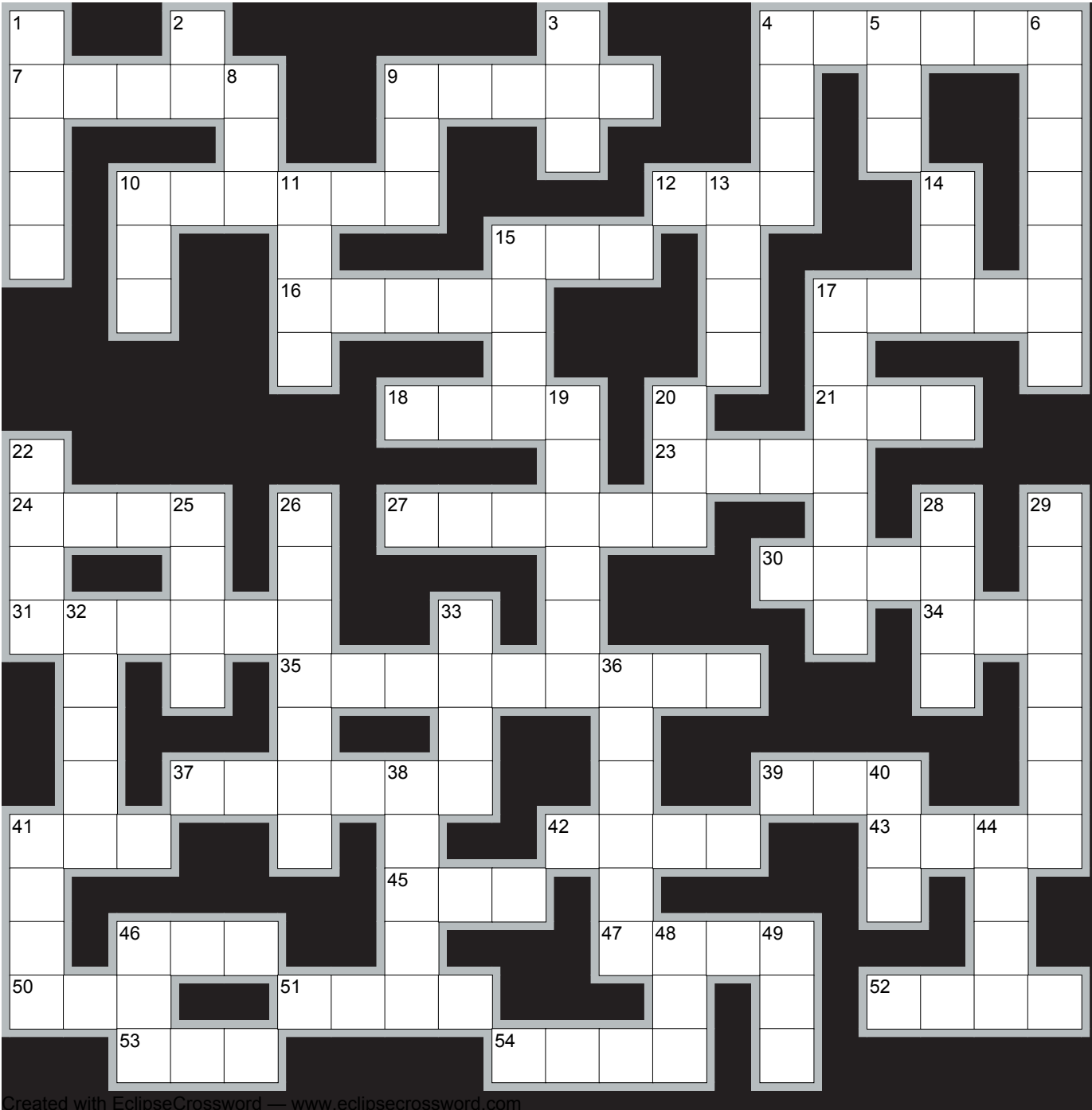
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THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 4. Package
- 7. Reasoning.
- 9. The hero of “Six-String Samurai.”
- 10. Lingo.
- 12. The demon weed, wacky-tobaccy, MJ.
- 15. Hoover, water.
- 16. One of the original Black Panthers.
- 17. Djinn
- 18. House
- 21. Frozen water (not powdery).
- 23. A foretelling of the future.
- 24. You surf these.
- 27. The hungry horseman.
- 30. Fully grown, ready for harvest.
- 31. A poison or pollutant.
- 34. To be wrong, human, usually both.
- 35. When standard medicines grow ineffective trying to fight a disease, that disease has become _____.
- 37. A term for something that has a definite end.
- 39. Love interest, boyfriend or girlfriend
- 41. Extra-sonic aircraft.
- 42. Spiteful, average.
- 43. To microwave.
- 45. Bang! Bang!
- 46. Quantity
- 47. Noisy.
- 50. A measure of work. Not a newton.
- 51. Speck.
- 52. Snow transportation.
- 53. The last part.
- 54. Not a starfish, but a sea _____.



DOWN

- 1. Extreme, excessive.
- 2. “Wassup?”
- 3. Plus, join.
- 4. The fur of an animal.
- 5. Tear
- 6. The “Dragon” in a dragon and phoenix dish.
- 8. Mode of transportation
- 9. Peter Parker’s Uncle.
- 10. Mandible
- 11. To suddenly flow
- 13. Not closed.
- 14. Follower of a sport.
- 15. Meat market.
- 17. Working hard.
- 19. Poison, pollution.
- 20. An instrument for digging.
- 22. Something you can do in the water.
- 25. Free, rest, quiet.
- 26. Link’s favorite time-traveling instrument.
- 28. Mr. Fantastic’s first name.
- 29. The type of matter involved in an Ice-9 Type Transition.
- 32. Created by creators who wanted to own their creations.
- 33. Name of the first hydrogen bomb.
- 36. Formerly known as “West Broad Student Apartments.”
- 38. Good, excellent
- 40. How many punches did it take Batman to knock Guy Gardner out?
- 41. Jupiter.
- 44. Cattle.
- 46. Ice ____.
- 48. Used to row, row, row a boat.
- 49. Sometimes they pull a sled.

Answers from Aug. 29 edition



EDITORIALS & LETTERS

Dude, where's my e-mail?

Summer changes not necessarily welcome

DANIELLE MOSS
Op/Ed Writer

Once upon a time, a few semesters ago, there was an e-mail system that was used by students, faculty and staff all over campus. The email system was not that great, but it was not that bad either. It served its purpose as a multiple user server and served it well. Everyone was able to log on and check their mail whenever they needed to, and regular maintenance helped prevent problems as much as possible.

User-friendly options allowed everyone to go easily to their mailboxes and make changes when needed. The best part of the mail system was that you could link your school account to an outside e-mail address like Hotmail or Yahoo. That way, you could check not only your personal email but also your school e-mail at the same time.

Aside from the huge crash of the Mail 2 server that knocked out most of the faculty and students accounts one semester, not much was really wrong with the system. Everyone was happy and content.

This, sadly, is not the case this semester. At some point during the summer semester, someone thought it would be a good idea to change the e-mail system to a Lotus-based system. This system, in my opinion, is horrible compared to the other system. It's not user friendly in the least, and the tutorial for the system that came with the first e-mail is not very helpful either.

But wait, I forgot to mention that before I got to the tutorial in the introductory e-mail, I had to sit in front of my computer for over 5 minutes trying to figure out how to open the e-mail in the first place. This is after I finally set up the Welcome Page as you are first directed to by clicking on a link and trying to figure out what was going on there as well.

I haven't been back to the Welcome Page even after several trial-and-error attempts to get the system to start at my inbox screen. And I still have not been able to find a way to link my Hotmail address to VCU e-mail yet. My guess is the process is either not there or it's hidden in some place that I have not thought to look in yet (Editor's note: It's not there).

But the real fun was just waiting to happen once the semester started. For the past four days, I haven't been able to access my e-mail easily because my password wouldn't work



Editorial Cartoon | by Andrew Babb

at the login page.

When I did reach my e-mail account, I couldn't read any of my e-mails because the links to the e-mails would not work. When they did work, I had a second window of white sitting on-screen that would never load.

I actually let it sit for 20 minutes before it showed me a message saying the window would not open because of Lotus system errors. The other half of the time it was not working on its own or – while being accessed through Blackboard – would bring me a delightful show of blinking blue and brown screens as it tried to load the page over and over (and over) again.

All of these wonderful things ultimately lead me to ask some similar questions that are probably running through the minds of many others on campus. Why did the e-mail system change? Do the people that were in charge of changing the system know how un-user friendly it really is? Why didn't they ask the users of the old system (a.k.a. the students, faculty and staff) if they wanted to have the old system replaced before they actually replaced it?

Oh well, I guess this is yet another decision we have no say toward while here at VCU.

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VCU E-mail Tip:

• Use your own e-mail software instead of VCU Mail Anywhere.

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Your Turn

Letters to the Editor



Cover issues

I am appalled at the recent cover story concerning the murder investigation on VCU's Campus. It was in poor taste to put the story on the first page, especially at a time when VCU is welcoming its freshmen class.

Instead of relying on scare tactics to sell papers, the paper should have reported on the more positive developments at VCU such as the opening of Brandt Hall and new student events.

Although personal safety is a relevant issue, inciting unwarranted fear – especially on the first day of class – is just plain wrong. In fact, the murder occurred over a month ago and did not even involve a VCU student!

There have not been any student murders in recent memory, making VCU one of the safest Virginia schools for students. The newspaper should make an effort to put stories in their full context, taking into account all that has happened, the good and the bad.

— Jessica Lee

Editor's reply: The Commonwealth Times' news department recognizes that the coverage could be seen as a scare tactic. There was no intent whatsoever on our part to incite fear of any kind, we simply want people to be aware of their surroundings and to be safe on campus. We do cover many positive developments at VCU (including the photograph that was run about the opening of Brandt Hall), but as news people we also recognize that sometimes the message isn't received as intended. The Commonwealth Times will continue to cover events – both good and bad – and we hope that you will continue to read our newspaper.

The Commonwealth Times

The independent student press of
Virginia Commonwealth University

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We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should be no longer than one single-spaced typed page, must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.



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