

STRIKING PRO-LIFE IMAGES DRAW CROWD ON CAMPUS — PAGE 5

The Commonwealth Times

Free

The Independent Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University Vol. 43 No. 11 Monday, October 3, 2005

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(804) 828-1058



Students speak out about PETA

Page 3

Spectrum

Chinese anyone?
Check out the China-
America Festival of
Film and Culture

Page 12

Editorials & Letters

CT writers and a minister
respond to second major
protest in two weeks

Page 20-21

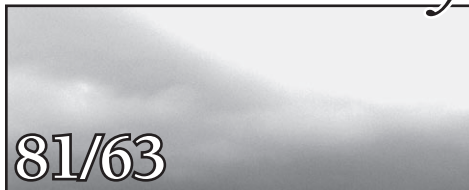
Sports

Megan Flanagan pro-
pels Rams to two wins
during weekend

Page 9

BRIEFS

Monday



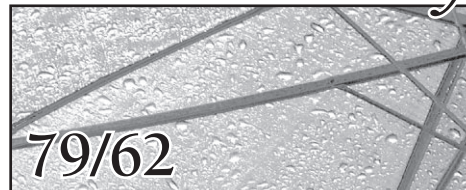
Does your GPA need a boost? Participate in the Academic Success Workshop to improve your test-taking skills. Focus on multiple choice, true-false and essays at the workshop in ENGR 101 at the Engineering Building from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday



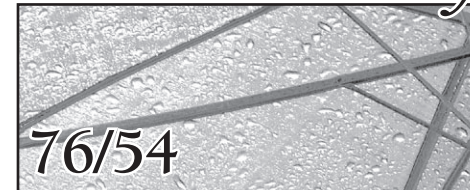
Let your inner-geek loose as the "TechKnowOverload Tour" makes a stop at the Commons Plaza from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the TKO Tour, lay your eyes on fresh technology from Sony, Audiovox, Sirius Satellite Radio, Nintendo and Gibson Guitars.

Wednesday



Don't run out of money before your next check arrives again! Noon to 1 p.m., learn how to manage the green in your wallet at "Living On The Cheap" in the Forum Room of the University Student Commons. Listen up and before long you'll be able to thrift and budget like a pro.

Thursday



Too busy partying to sharpen your research abilities? James Branch Cabell Library has all the knowledge you will need to begin working on your next huge paper. In the Library Instruction Classroom on the third floor, library staff will run through the necessities such as online databases and other resources. The session, which is from noon to 1 p.m., is open to students, staff and faculty.

IN THE NEWS

Compiled from wire reports

Suicide bombers kill 25 in Bali attacks

BALI, Indonesia—Suicide bombers wearing explosive vests targeted tourist resorts on Bali with coordinated attacks that devastated three crowded restaurants, killing at least 25 people.

Two al-Qaida-linked fugitives suspected of masterminding the 2002 nightclub bombings on the same Indonesian island may have been involved in the Saturday night attack, a top anti-terrorism official said.

Saturday's near-simultaneous blasts struck two seafood cafes in the Jimbaran beach resort and a three-story noodle and steakhouse in downtown Kuta. Kuta is the bustling tourist center of Bali where two nightclubs were bombed three years ago, also on a busy Saturday night, killing 202 people.

Maj. Gen. Ansyad Mbai said he suspected two Malaysian fugitives alleged to be key members of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group masterminded the latest attacks. The two are also accused of orchestrating the 2002 bombings which killed mostly foreigners and two other attacks in the Indonesian capital in 2003 and 2004. The latter attacks also involved suicide bombers.

Bush tells radio audience he sees progress in Iraq war effort

WASHINGTON—President Bush said Saturday he is encouraged by the increasing size and capability of the Iraqi security forces, touting progress on a key measure for when U.S. troops can come home.

The upbeat remarks in Bush's weekly radio address came two days after the top commander in Iraq said only one Iraqi battalion is ready to fight without U.S. support.

"All Americans can have confidence in the military commanders who are leading the effort in Iraq, and in the troops under their command," Bush said. "They have made important gains in recent weeks and months. They are adapting our strategy to meet the needs on the ground, and they're helping us to bring victory in the war on terror."

The sunny presentation of the situation in Iraq is part of a renewed push by the administration to win support for the war effort from an increasingly-reluctant American public.

It conflicts with the news from Iraq and some assessments from top commanders.

Journalists concerned, puzzled over Miller case

NEW YORK—New York Times reporter Judith Miller's decision to escape jail by testifying about her conversations with a confidential source surprised some of her supporters and left journalists wondering what her choice will mean for press freedoms.

Miller spent 85 days in jail for initially refusing to tell a grand jury whom she spoke with about Valerie Plame, a covert CIA official whose identity was leaked to several reporters in 2003.

But on Thursday she was abruptly released from prison, and a day later gave a grand jury the testimony long sought by Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald.

The reason for the abrupt change: Miller said that her source, identified by the Times as Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis Libby, called her in prison and urged her to break her silence.

"This was the first time where he was saying, do it. I want you to testify," said Miller's attorney, Floyd Abrams.

Cover photo by Pat Kane.

The Commonwealth Times

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NEWS

Students, staff discuss recent exhibit

PETA's message lost in the recent exhibit's controversial advertisements

STEPHEN PRATT
News Co-Editor

People gathered in the Business School Auditorium last Wednesday evening to voice their opinions of the recent Animal Liberation exhibit. During the SGA-led forum, a four-person panel answered questions and responded to comments from the audience.

Matt Prescott, a panelist representing People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, defended the exhibit, saying animals and humans have similar feelings and emotions.

"Everybody likes to think (their) own suffering is unique," he said.

Prescott said the goal of the Animal Liberation exhibit was to expose the similar injustices humans and animals go through.

"It's all the same type of prejudice, just a different victim," he said.

The presidents of two student groups also acted as panelists for the discussion.

Alisha Ward, president of the student group Africana, said racism does not need to be exposed by PETA.

"We're not trying to sweep it under the rug," she said. "We still live that history."

Tiffany Townsend, president of Black Caucus, said there is a reason humans are not the same as animals.

"Our people have made a difference in this world," she said. "Animals have not."

Senior Jamal Batts altered a recent quote by rapper Kanye West to reflect his thoughts on PETA's exhibit.

"After seeing this protest, PETA doesn't care about black people," Batts said.

Ward said because of the images selected and their underlying racial theme, PETA's message was lost.

"No one's talking about the animals. The campaign doesn't work," she said.

Henry G. Rhone, vice provost for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, said it was refreshing to see students coming together to speak about issues in a peaceful way. Before the discussion began, Rhone read a statement from VCU President Eugene P. Trani, who was unable to attend.

"The recent display sponsored by the VCU chapter of the Students for (the) Ethical Treatment of Animals was very offensive to me personally, and offensive to me as the President of Virginia Commonwealth University.

"We are an institution which takes great pride in our diversity, and it is very unfortunate that this display was mounted on our Monroe Park Campus," Trani wrote.

Andrea Sydnor, president of Students for



Above: Alisha Ward talks during the SGA Speak Out organized to discuss the recent PETA exhibit.

the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said PETA is absolutely necessary to further the animal rights movement.

"One of the main goals of PETA, and consequently SETA, is to bring attention to the issues, not necessarily to make you believe ... in our ideals, but to let you know what is going on," she said.

A question was asked about the necessity of the police presence at the Animal Liberation exhibit as well as at last week's discussion. Rhone replied that officers were there to ensure safety.

"Police presence is there to make sure people don't get hurt, not to prevent demonstration," he said.

Eddie O'Leary, president of the Student Government Association for the Monroe Park Campus, was a panelist at the forum. He said that PETA had the legal right to put up their exhibit but that VCU students also had the right to protest.

"(PETA) came here to cause unrest," he said. "They have a right to come back, but they don't have a right to be welcome."

Below: Andrea Sydnor, President of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, discusses the importance of PETA during the SGA Speak-Out.

Pat Kane Photos





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NEWS

Anti-abortion campaign grabs students' attention

ALEX WOOLRIDGE
News Co-Editor

Some students' jaws dropped. Others expressed approval. And some tried to rush by without getting caught in the ruckus.

Certainly, all of the students who caught a glimpse of the signs across campus took notice.

Last Thursday, anti-abortion protesters with signs displaying an aborted fetus converged on VCU's Monroe Park Campus.

Organized by Life & Liberty Ministries, the protest came less than a week after the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals brought their Animal Liberation Project to campus. The exhibit, which compared African-American slavery to animal abuse, led to racial conflict on campus.

Thursday's tension reached a boiling point just before 1 p.m. as Billy Joe Grace boosted the controversial image above his head, while a group of nearly 30 students gathered. For more than 20 minutes, Grace spoke through a megaphone to the crowd, which surrounded him on the sidewalk in front of Oliver Hall.

Across Main Street, Ben Murch of Life & Liberty Ministries looked on while he calmly leaned on a sign bearing the same picture.

"We're here to expose the awful truth of what abortion really is. ... We as a nation need to turn from the sin of abortion—the sin of murder—from dishonoring God's law," Murch said. "We need to repent."

The organization's protest at VCU began more than an hour earlier when they held similar signs in front of Shafer Court Dining Center. According to the Life & Liberty Ministries' Web site, the display was part of their weeklong effort to reach Virginia universities.

Founded in 1994, Life & Liberty Ministries has taken their tour across Virginia each year since 1997. This year, the group's 2005 Face The Truth Virginia Campus Tour has made stops at James Madison University, Old Dominion University and the University of Virginia.

As the crowd along Main Street grew, Grace sparked a dialogue with the students. At times, chants such as "We support the right to abort" arose from the displeased group, drowning out Grace's words.

"I can have a conscience without believing in God," shouted Ross Plunkett, a freshman, replying to Grace's assertion that abortions are acts against God.

Plunkett argued that it was the organization's execution, not their message, that provoked confrontation.

"They're holding a picture of a dead

fetus," Plunkett said in frustration. "Think about little kids driving by."

A more vocal member of the crowd named Laura grew more enraged as Grace spoke, challenging his Bible-citing logic with roars for women's rights. After almost 20 minutes of heated discussion with the group, around 1:15 p.m. Grace gave in to shouts asking him to leave.

After the crowd began to disperse, Laura, the mohawked 20-something-year-old in most fervent disagreement with Grace, continued to dispute the anti-abortion message and addressed the use of the powerful image.

"Most women make an educated decision about what they do long before that point," she said of the photograph, which showed a mostly developed, aborted fetus. "There are people who feel like they can't be responsible for the life of another."

Life & Liberty Ministries' Richmond protest also stretched beyond the sidewalks of VCU: area residents described sightings of the "truth truck"—a vehicle featuring a mutilated fetus—that the organization brings to protest sites.

Although Plunkett had a milder reaction to the protest than others, he too questioned the demonstration's effectiveness.

"It doesn't do anything for either side. It makes everyone look bad," he said.

Grace said along with the protests, he also heard positive responses. Almost an hour after the volatile scene had nearly erupted, he tried to explain the tour's intent.

"To raise awareness about abortion and show them what it looks like, for one," Grace said. "To show that we are accountable for our sin."




Brendon Grimm

Above: VCU student Rebekah Beavon holds a sign in protest to the pro-life activists at Shafer Court.

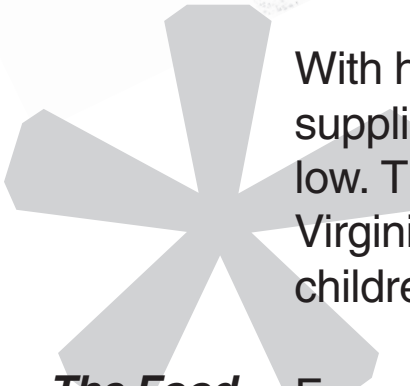


Tom Gehring

Left: An abortion protester argues with a crowd by the T. Edward Temple Building.



The Commonwealth Times and VCU Society of Professional Journalists' Fall Food Drive 2005



With hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaging the Gulf Coast, food supplies throughout the nation's food banks are running critically low. Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and the Central Virginia Food Bank's shelves are bare. Thousands of Richmond children rely on the Food Bank for their daily nutritional needs.

The Food Bank especially needs donations of canned fish, peanut butter, canned chicken and ham, canned fruits and vegetables, both hot and cold cereals, pasta, rice and spaghetti sauce.

From **Monday, Oct. 3, through the end of the month**, The Commonwealth Times and VCU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists will be accepting donations of non-perishable food for the Central Virginia Food Bank.

We will be accepting donations in **two locations** on the VCU Monroe Park Campus. The Student Media Center at **817 W. Broad St.** will accept donations every weekday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and there will also be drop-off box in front of **Room 1149** in the T. Edward Temple Building at **901 W. Main St.**

The Commonwealth Times is also offering **free ad space** to registered student organizations who donate **150 lbs. of usable food** to the Central Virginia Food Bank. Bring a certified receipt to the Student Media Center at 817 W. Broad St. to apply for your **free, quarter-page ad**. Limit one advertisement per registered organization, normal requirements apply.

Call Katie or Tom at 828-1058 for more information.

SPORTS

Upcoming Sports EVENTS

Field Hockey

Fri. Oct. 7: at Old Dominion, 6 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 9: vs. Drexel, 1 p.m.

Golf

Sun. Oct. 2 - Tues. Oct. 4: Mattaponi Springs Shootout in Richmond, Va
Sun. Oct. 9 - Tues. Oct. 11: Xavier International in Cincinnati, Oh.

Men's Soccer

Fri. Oct. 7: at UNC Wilmington, 7 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 9: at Georgia State, 1 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Fri. Oct. 7: vs. UNC Wilmington, 7 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 9: vs. Georgia State, 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Thurs. Oct. 6 - Mon. Oct. 10 at ITA All-American in Tulsa, Okla.

Women's Tennis

Thurs. Oct. 6 - Mon. Oct. 10: at ITA All-American in California

Volleyball

Fri. Oct. 7: at Georgia State, 7 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 9: UNC Wilmington, 2 p.m.

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

Volleyball ends losing streaks with sweeps

DESIREE RAUGHT
Sports Writer

The volleyball game ended last Friday night with the Rams making a clean sweep against James Madison University, defeating the Dukes for the first time since 1995.

"We're back!" exclaimed Renata Salvatori (Londrina, Brazil), who contributed 14 kills for the Rams, who ended an 18-match losing streak to the Dukes.

The Rams (3-4 CAA, 9-8) ended a 12-match losing streak to George Mason University the following day with a 3-0 triumph.

"It was really great to beat this quality of a team," head coach James Finley said after the game against the Dukes. "It was quite an accomplishment."

Finley commended Griselle Lopez Pereira (Caguas, Puerto Rico), whose ball control and leadership greatly contributed to the first home-win for the Rams after three consecutive losses.

Highlights of the match included Elisa Kuehnel's (Dresden, Germany) dive to save the ball in the first game, which the Rams won 30-27, and Lopez Pereira's back flip attempt to retrieve a ball hit nearly five feet out of bounds.

"These girls play hard, man," VCU student Mike Thomasen said.

The Rams led on the scoreboard for most of the second game. JMU took the lead for the first time 25-24, but Kuehnel blocked a spike and the Rams went on to take the game 30-26.

The first point of the third game went to JMU, but the Rams quickly took the lead.

Ana Luiza Bernardes de Borja (Florianopolis, Brazil) registered several kills in the third game and the Rams went on to a 30-26 victory.

"That girl comes with the thunder," said Thomas Izzo, a VCU senior.

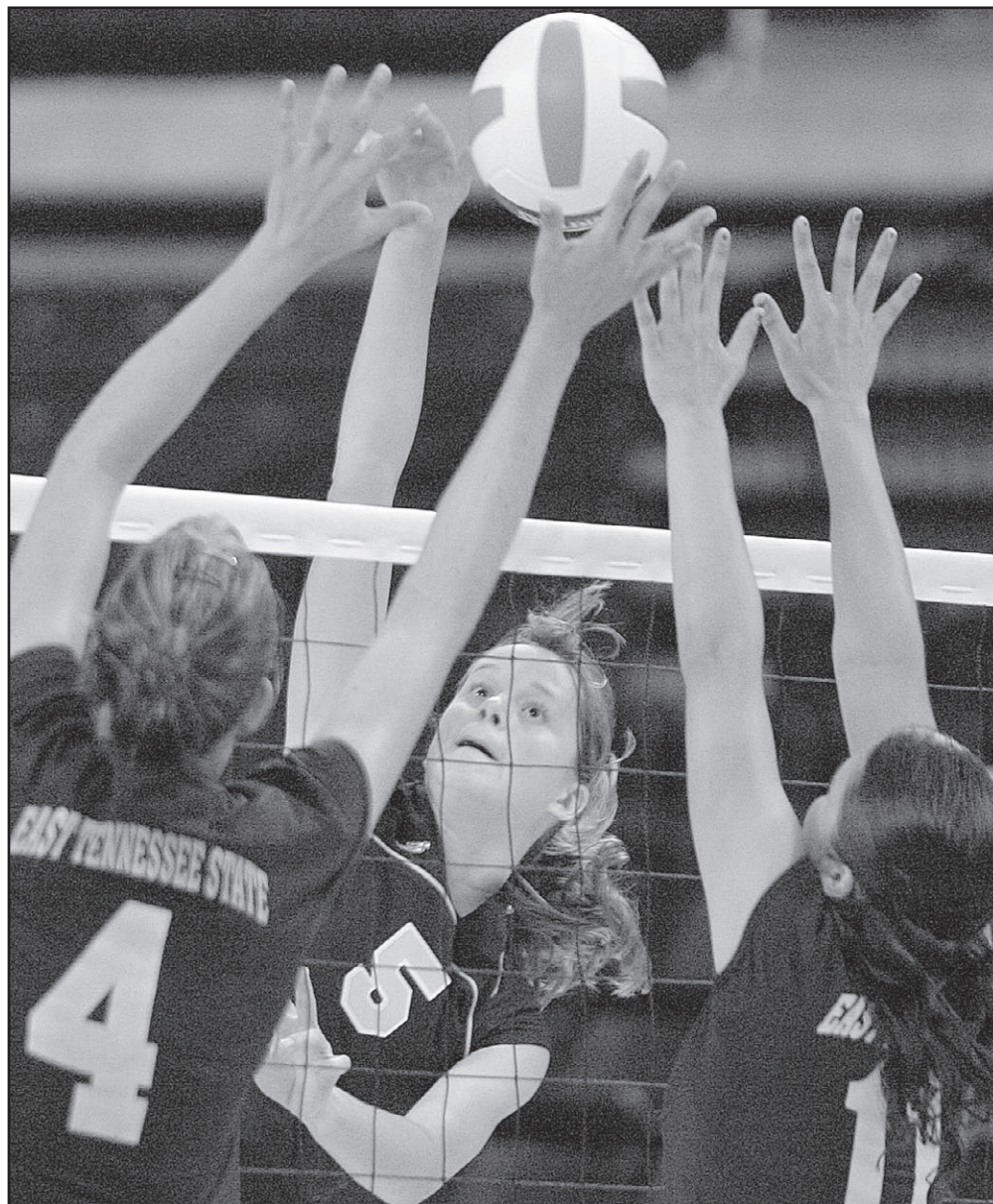
Junior Melissa Peterson (Ganado, Ariz.) scored the winning point, putting an end to JMU's 17-match victory over the Rams.

"I think we are coming together as a team more," Lopez Pereira said. "Our chemistry's working."

The Rams have made a turnaround under first-year coach James Finley, recording more victories this season than last year.

"I coach by building relationships," Finley said.

Trust and bonding, he said, are qualities he values in athletes. The Rams displayed that against the Dukes.



VCU's Ana Luiza de Borja led the Rams with 11 kills against GMU. Pat Kane

"These girls put it into their hearts," assistant coach Amanda Olivas added.

The Rams had support from fans and friends.

Janice Busic, an instructor of the Department of Math and Applied Mathematics, was there to support one of her students, Ludmila Francescato (Friburgo, Brazil).

"She performs as well in the classroom as on the court," Busic said. "She's an excellent student."

Meghan Boyle, a former VCU volleyball player, said, "(The Dukes) were

our biggest rivals."

She said she was extremely proud of the Rams for bringing the victory home.

The Rams brought home their second straight win with a 30-23, 30-25, 30-19 win against the Patriots on Sunday.

Setter Cat Juson (Long Beach, CA) said the Rams' philosophy is to "just look forward to the next ball. Go for the next point."

The Rams look forward to scoring the next point at Georgia State University Oct. 7.

What do you think?

What are your favorite VCU sports to attend?

E-mail your responses to reevesws@vcu.edu or bogenbergepj@vcu.edu. Include your name, class level and phone number.

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L11. Moo Goo Gai Pan	4.25
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L14. General Tso's Chicken	4.50
L15. Chicken with Garlic Sauce	4.25
L16. Chicken with Eggplant	4.25
L17. Lo Mein in Any Style	4.25
L17a. Chicken with Asparagus	4.50
BEEF	
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L20. Spicy Mala Beef	4.50
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L22. Hunan Beef	4.50
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C 5. Ma Po Tofu	5.50
PORK	
C 6. Boneless Spareribs or Spareribs	6.50
C 7. Sweet & Sour Chicken or Pork	5.75
C 8. Roast Pork with Broccoli	5.75
C 9. Spicy Mala Roast Pork	5.75
C 10. Roast Pork with Garlic Sauce	5.75
CHICKEN	
C11. Moo Goo Gai Pan	6.25
C12. Chicken with Broccoli	6.25
C13. Hunan Chicken	6.25
C14. General Tso's Chicken	6.75
C15. Chicken with Garlic Sauce	6.25
C16. Chicken with Eggplant	6.25
C17. Lo Mein in Any Style	6.25
C17a. Chicken with Asparagus	6.75
BEEF	
C18. Pepper Steak	6.25
C19. Beef with Broccoli	6.25
C20. Spicy Mala Beef	6.50
C21. Hot & Spicy Beef	6.50
C22. Hunan Beef	6.50
C23. Egg Foo Young Any Style	6.25
SEAFOOD	
C24. Shrimp with Broccoli	6.50
C25. Shrimp with Lobster Sauce	6.50
C26. Shrimp with Mixed Vegetable	6.50
C27. Chow Mein in Any Style	6.50
C28. Hot & Spicy Shrimp	6.50
C29. Spicy Mala Shrimp	6.50
C29a. Shrimp with Asparagus	7.25
SPECIAL	
C30. Triple Crown	7.25
C31. Four Seasons	7.25
C32. Beef & Shrimp with Hunan Sauce	7.25
C33. Triple Delight	7.25
C34. Spicy Mala Trio	7.25
C35. Bar-B-Q Chicken	7.25

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SPORTS

Flanagan scores two game-winners during the weekend

WESTON REEVES
Associate Sports Editor

Megan Flanagan shined under the bright lights at Sports Backers Stadium Friday night, displaying a dominant performance by defeating George Mason 2-0.

The first half featured an offensive flurry by the Rams as they outshot the Patriots 8-3.

Co-head coach Chris Brown said having a quick start in the conference was huge because the competition for first place is so tight.

"Last year was decided, well we ended up tying with Hofstra, but the (top) six teams were decided by like two points," he said. "Obviously at home we need to take care of business and I think we did."

Flanagan tallied another game-winner during the weekend, scoring an overtime goal to lift the Rams to a 2-1 victory over Towson.

The Rams improved to 5-3-3 in the Colonial Athletic Conference and 3-0-0 overall.

In the game Friday, the scoring started after physical play ignited the Rams' offense when freshman midfielder Flanagan (Franktown, Colo.) was shoved from behind by Patriot player Mary Raveia as they were running down the field.

Raveia was yellow-carded for the infraction and Flanagan responded by letting her play do the talking.

After a Patriots defender deflected the corner kick, she gathered the ball and flicked it to the left past the goalkeeper to score just 52 seconds after the penalty.

"I didn't even know it was coming really," Flanagan said of the shove. "I think she should have gotten a red card because I didn't

even have the ball and she definitely just took me out. It didn't hurt me, but if I had gotten hurt I would have been really mad."

While the offense looked consistent in the first half, the Patriots could not get going as the Rams' defense disrupted play after play. Freshman Samara Stephen-Dowd (Vienna Va./Oakton High School), who has shown flashes of offensive prowess, demonstrated her ability again as she played Patriot players hard.

The Rams ensured a win with their second goal of the night in the 36th minute. Senior forward Hedda Gardsjord (Oslo, Norway) dribbled the ball down the field as freshman Pernilla Jansson (Enebyberg, Sweden) followed beside her. After gathering a well-placed ball from Gardsjord, Jansson fired a blast inside the left post from eight yards out for her team-leading fifth goal of the season.

After the departure of Rams players Jen Parson and Solfrid Anderson, who scored 27 goals between them last season, Brown said they needed someone to fill the holes left by their veterans. He said Jansson is doing exactly that.

"When we brought Pernilla in our thought was that she would carry the burden and that load and score goals," he said. "It's nice that she started to kind of click here for conference play and that's important."

The Rams' offensive dominance would not continue in the second half however as momentum began to shift toward the Patriots. George Mason had seven shots in the period compared to VCU's five, but strong play by sophomore goalkeeper Lauren Hardison (Midlothian, Va./Clover Hill) prevented the Patriots

from scoring.

Brown said the victory over James Madison Sept. 24 as well as this victory over George Mason were crucial because they came against strong conference teams.

"We had two of the better teams, I don't want to say two of the top teams in the CAA, but they were definitely two of the teams that were predicted to make postseason as the final six," he said. "So to get two wins after them is huge."

Brown also said playing tough teams like North Carolina, which is ranked second in the nation, helped prepare his players for conference games.

"That was the whole purpose of having a tougher schedule than normal," he said. "We felt like we had a lot of new players and we have a lot of talented players and we could have played the usual schedule and probably would have been 6-1 or 7-0. But that really wouldn't have really prepared us for what we're trying to do right now."

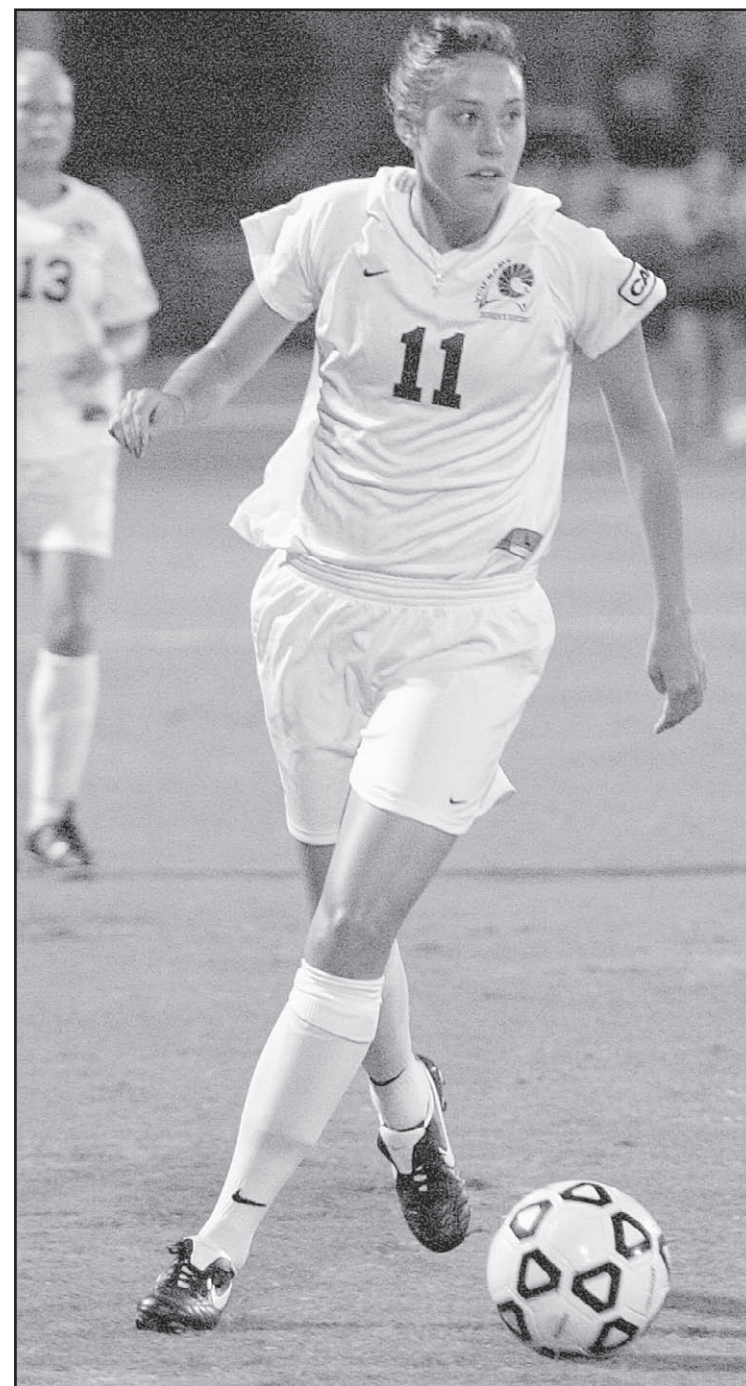
"It was frustrating in the beginning because of a lack of goals, but now it's starting to pay off, so hopefully we can carry this momentum into Sunday against Towson and just go from there."

Jessica Wilks (Chesterfield, Mo.) put the Black and Gold on the scoreboard first against Towson Sunday with a goal assisted by Flanagan.

The Tigers tied the score early in the second half, but Flanagan sealed the victory for the Rams.

A conference game against UNC Wilmington this Friday looms for the Rams.

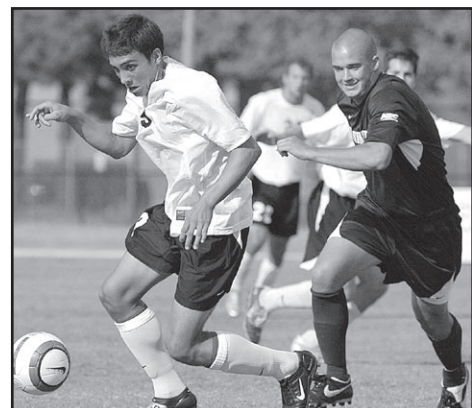
Philip J. Bogenberger contributed to this story.



Pat Kane

VCU's Megan Flanagan (11) scored two game-winning goals last weekend to lift the Rams to two wins.

Sports Briefs



Rams come up short versus Tigers, earn tie against Patriots

After Towson scored 24 seconds into the game, Pat Viray (Reston, Va./South Lakes High School) tied the game nearly 12 minutes later, before VCU fell to the Tigers 2-1 Sunday, at Sports Backers Stadium.

The Rams played George Mason to a scoreless tie Friday night.

Viray scored his second goal of the year, putting in a rebound of Stephen Shirley's (Carrollton, Texas) blocked shot for the Rams (0-1-1 CAA, 2-7-1).

The Tigers responded in the 70th minute and the lead stood for the Tigers, who won for the first time in Richmond

and broke a five-game losing streak to the Rams. The first goal was the first time the Tigers scored against the Rams since 1990.

Goalkeeper Andrew Dykstra recorded a season-high nine saves against the Patriots, but the Rams were unable to get the ball in the net. It was the sixth straight game the Rams held the Patriots without a goal.

The Rams travel to UNC Wilmington Friday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m.

Rams held scoreless in two games over the weekend

VCU's field hockey team lost two conference games over the weekend, fall-

ing 2-1 in overtime to the University of Delaware and 2-0 to James Madison.

Freshman Nikki Lloyd (Kent, England) put the Rams on top 1-0 with her fourth goal of the season as junior Ashley Cadwallader (Fairfax, Va./Fairfax High School) recorded the assist.

The Blue Hens tied the game with just over a minute to play in the first half.

The Rams were unable to convert three penalty corners in overtime, and Katie Evans' goal on a penalty stroke gave the Blue Hens the win.

The Rams were pounded 4-0 by conference rival JMU Sunday, falling to 0-3 in the CAA and 3-7 overall.

The team travels to Old Dominion Friday, Oct. 7.



CT Sports is looking for students with skill to cover all the VCU sports action this semester.

The section is looking for beat writers for:

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For more information, contact Sports Editor Philip Bogenberger by e-mail at bogenbergepj@vcu.edu or by phone at (804) 828-1058

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Spectrum

Monday, Oct. 3

Ban Caribe

University Student Commons Plaza

Learn more about the African-American Studies Department and Africana student organization at this meet-and-greet. Noon-1 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 4

TechKnowOverload Tour

University Student Commons Plaza

Check out the latest gadgets and technology and stock up on freebies. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.

Socrates Café

Café Gutenberg, Second Floor

This month's question: What is "true love"? Ask questions about the questions and exchange of philosophical ideas with inquiring minds. 7 p.m. Free. 1700 E. Main St.

Little Shop of Horrors

Richmond's Landmark Theater

A young man meets the lady of his dreams and falls in love, and an exotic, bloodthirsty plant has a taste for the world in this Broadway musical production based on the 1960 film. (804) 780-0200.

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Living On The Cheap

Richmond Salons I, Commons

Learn how to stretch your college student budget. Noon. Free. (804) 828-6500

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts

Directed by Terry Austin, the concert is a VCU Music presentation. Tickets free to students with VCUCard and \$5 for the general public. For tickets and information, are \$5 and FREE with valid VCU ID. For tickets and information, please call the VCU Music Box Office at 804.828.6776.

HUNGRY FOR CULTURE? TRY CHINESE

JOANNAH NWOKEABIA

Spectrum Co-Editor

Rose Nan-Ping Chen thinks she has just the thing to satisfy Richmond's ravenous appetite for culture and foreign flicks: The China-America Festival of Film and Culture.

The capital city is already home to the hugely popular VCU French Film Festival, Arabic Film Festival, International Student Film Festival, Italian Film and Food Festival, and several smaller cultural celebrations. And Chen, creator and director of CAFFC, is ready to serve up some of her heritage as well.

What sets the Chinese film festival apart is that films aren't the only things on its menu. Art contests and exhibitions, a performance of Chinese songs from the Greater Richmond Children's Choir and a cultural food tasting add a distinct twist to the festival. Expected guests include renowned filmmakers, artists and scholars.

Chen said she considers the event an opportunity for people to expand their knowledge about Chinese culture in an interactive environment. Hence the several lectures and discussions on China-related issues sprinkled throughout the five-day event that kicks off Wednesday, Oct. 5.

The film festival serves as "an entry point

for cross-cultural dialogue," Chen said.

The group she started, The Rose Group for Cross-Cultural Understanding, is the event's main sponsor. Founded in 2002, the nonprofit organization aims to promote understanding and good will between United States and China.

With Chinese fluency gaining exponential value in the world of business, Chen pointed out it has become the most studied Asian language in the world, surpassing Japanese.

*CHINESE continued on page 15
along with Chinese calendar*



Race, reality - writing through "The Wire"

Cynthia Merchant

David Simon, Richard Price and Robyn Diehl Lacks discuss "The Wire" at the W.E. Singleton Center.

TOM NASH

Spectrum Writer

The James River Writers group hosted a panel discussion Friday at the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts. Panelists included Richard Price and David Simon, part of the creative team behind the HBO series "The Wire," and Robyn Diehl Lacks, assistant professor of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.

"The Wire" is now in its fourth season after three successful years as a critically acclaimed crime drama involving an ongoing police investigation into the complex drug market on the streets of Baltimore.

Peter Coughter, a VCU Adcenter professor, moderated the discussion that followed a screening of an episode from the third season of the show.

One of the central themes of the discussion centered on the fact that although "The Wire" is popular with critics, the show

may be as good as it is because it's not especially popular among television viewers.

Price said he believes part of the reason why the show remains somewhat under the radar of most viewers is because of its epic scope that can make it difficult for new viewers to follow the plot.

"They're coming in on chapter 48 of a 200-chapter Russian novel," Price said. "I mean, things happen in year one, episode three that do not play out until year two, episode three, and you just have to be there for the whole time."

Creator David Simon had a different take on the show's marginal ratings. "Let's be honest, a drama that has a majority African-American cast . . . it's never happened," he said. "Black viewers have learned to watch white actors because they've had to. But whites have never learned to sit in their living room and feel like a minority."

WIRE continued on page 15

Spectrum

Reviews from VCU's online radio station

Audiophiles



Franz Ferdinand – You Could Have It So Much Better

STEVE BROWN
WVCW

Right from the start, Franz Ferdinand's new disc, "You Could Have It So Much Better," starts off so much better (no pun intended) than their last. The first track, "Fallen, The," is a beat-heavy dance track that starts the CD off really fast. The band finds no reason to start it slow and build it up – they get right into it. After that, you get the album's first single, "Do You Want To," which is a lot better than the band's single from their last CD, "Take Me Out." The band slows it down with the fourth track, "Walk Away," which is probably one of the disc's downsides. The lyrics

aren't anything special and it doesn't do a lot for the album. After that, though, the band picks it right back up with two more tracks that will be great for your next dance party. But of course for some reason, they slow it back down again with the seventh track, "Eleanor Put Your Boots On," which is another song that feels really out of place. Three more dance songs, a slow one, and a fast one close it all out. If Franz Ferdinand would have taken out the slow songs, this CD would



'You Could Have it so Much Better'
3 of 5

have been a lot better. Unfortunately, those songs bring it down.

For Fans Of: LCD Soundsystem, Modest Mouse, Secret Machines

Straylight Run– "Prepare to be Wrong"

GINNIE SEGER
WVCW

Straylight Run returns with their sophomore release "Prepare to be Wrong." This politically charged and intensely emotional six-track extended play demonstrates that this band can not only stand on its own, but may also exceed the success of the bands it formed from (Taking Back Sunday, Breaking Pangaea). Tracks such as "With God on Our Side" read more like a eulogy, sung with haunting vocals that tell the tales of death and destruction throughout time. With only six tracks, Straylight Run leaves the listeners craving a full-length release.



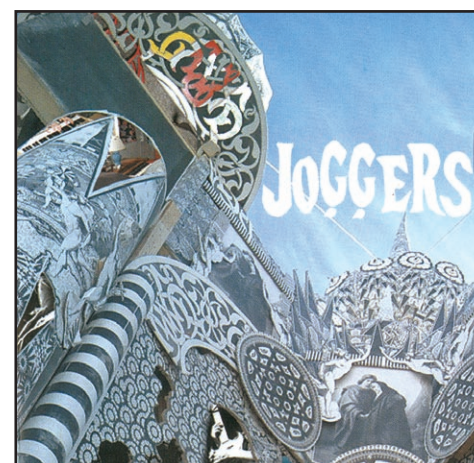
'Prepare to be Wrong'
4 of 5

For Fans Of: Something Corporate, Death Cab For Cutie, Taking Back Sunday

The Joggers– "With a Cape and a Cane"

STEVE BROWN
WVCW

The Joggers, a Portland, Ore., trio, are back with their sophomore release, "With a Cape and a Cane". The album is a mix of different sounds. There are some upbeat songs that are definitely dance worthy, some very unique, guitar-driven songs, and some stuff that just needs to be heard to be explained. Overall the album is very well constructed and definitely something any indie-rock fan should check out.



'Prepare to be Wrong'
4 of 5

For Fans Of: Hot Hot Heat, The Kinks, The Walkmen

**And The Ram Says...
Rating Key**



Time better spent dead.



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Meh.



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Spectrum

I am Ghost – “We are Always Searching”

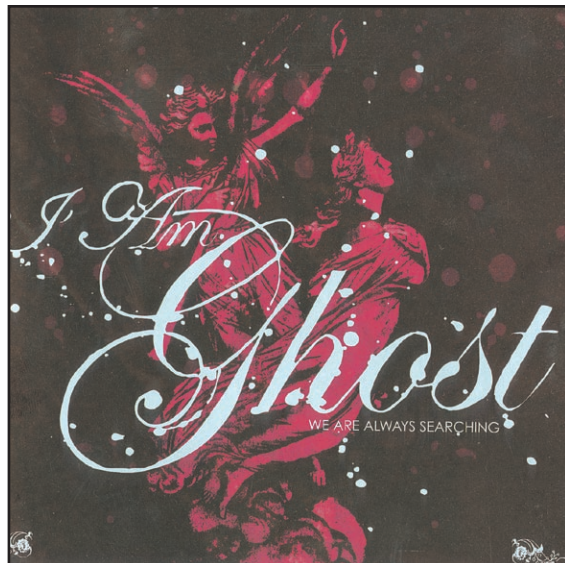


‘We are Always
Searching’
2 of 5

BRYAN JACKSON
WVCW

Not since Tom Cruise starred in *Interview With a Vampire* have vampires been this hot. Bands can't stop singing about the fanged bloodsuckers these days. “We Are Always Searching,” from Epitaph's *I Am Ghost*, is a prime example. A decent album ruined by generic vampire lyrics. How do the members of *I Am Ghost* sleep at night? Probably in coffins.

For Fans of: My Chemical Romance, Aiden



Matt Pond PA – “Several Arrows Later”



‘Several Arrows Later’
4 of 5

STEVE BROWN
WVCW

“Several Arrows Later” is quite possibly Matt Pond PA's best record to date. This is the fourth full-length album from the band and it shows a lot of growth from their last one released just last year. The lyrics and melodies are catchy, and the strings and guitar are a great accompaniment to Pond's voice.

For Fans Of: Bright Eyes, Built to Spill, The Magnetic Fields



WVCW's top 30 albums of the week

ARTIST — Recording

- 1 DANDY WARHOLS — Odditorium Or Warlords Of Mars
- 2 DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE — Plans
- 3 NADA SURF — The Weight Is A Gift
- 4 SIGUR ROS — Takk
- 5 NEW PORNOGRAPHERS — Twin Cinema
- 6 IRON AND WINE/CALEXICO — In The Reins
- 7 HER SPACE HOLIDAY — The Past Presents The Future
- 8 JOHN VANDERSLICE — Pixel Revolt
- 9 AGAINST ME! — Searching For A Former Clarity
- 10 APOLLO SUNSHINE — Apollo Sunshine
- 11 SUPER FURRY ANIMALS — Love Kraft
- 12 SUICIDE MACHINES — War Profiteering Is Killing Us All
- 13 NIGHTMARE OF YOU — Nightmare Of You
- 14 ORANGER — New Comes And Goes
- 15 LIMBECK — Let Me Come Home
- 16 CORAL — The Invisible Invasion
- 17 DIAMOND NIGHTS — Popsicle
- 18 TIM FITE — Gone Ain't Gone
- 19 DIVORCE — The Gifted Program
- 20 JACK'S MANNEQUIN — Everything In Transit
- 21 AUGUSTANA — All The Stars And Boulevards
- 22 OK GO — Oh No
- 23 LAURA VEIRS — Year Of Meteors
- 24 SAM CHAMPION — Slow Rewind
- 25 LAKE TROUT — Not Them, You
- 26 NEW BUFFALO — The Last Beautiful Day
- 27 PATTERN IS MOVEMENT — Stow Away
- 28 CARIBBEAN — Plastic Explosives
- 29 STRETCH ARM STRONG — Free At Last
- 30 PALE PACIFIC — Urgency

Weird News

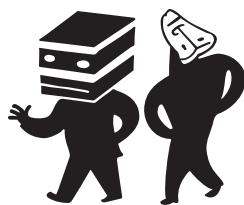
Teens dressed as cops to search women

A gang of teenage boys dressed as police officers to body search female visitors at the Munich Beer Festival have been arrested.

The fake police officers pretended they were looking for hidden weapons as they ran their hands over the bodies of women they singled out.

But the real cops caught them after women complained about the intimate searches.

The three teenagers face charges of sexual assault, indecency and impersonating a police officer.



Giant World Cup brothel opens

A giant brothel set to cater for tens of thousands of soccer fans at next year's World Cup in Germany is opening its doors in Berlin.

Built just yards from the main stadium, its owner believes the three level Artemis brothel will be a big hit with World Cup visitors.

Norman Jacob, lawyer for the private investor who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "Football and sex go together extremely well."

Prison visitor locked up

A 16-year-old girl who visited her boyfriend in prison in Austria ended up in jail overnight after guards forgot about her.

The teenager, from Graz, only expected to be allowed an hour



visit with her 20-year-old boyfriend, who is serving a two-year sentence for drug offences at the Judenburg prison.

But she ended up spending the night with him inside the visitor's room.

"I noticed after about an hour-and-a-half that nobody had knocked to say our time was up, and thought we had just got lucky," she said.

"After two hours I realized I needed to get home and rang the bell for them to let me out, but nobody came. I couldn't even call my mum to tell her where I was because they made me hand my mobile in."

The pair was found at 7:30 a.m. the next morning by cleaning staff.

Spectrum

China-America Festival of Film and Culture

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Evening With Rose: Understanding China from a Cross-Cultural Perspective
University of Richmond

Rose Nan-Ping Chen, creator/director of the film festival, discusses China's future and its relations with the United States. Reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. For reservations: (804) 287-6344 or (804) 287-6608.

Thursday, Oct. 6

Contemporary China Through Film
University of Richmond
Tyler Haynes Commons, Room 313

Chinese Filmmaker and TV show producer Hu Jing Cao discusses her works as well as opportunities and restrictions journalists face in China today. A short documentary film will be shown, followed by discussion. 3-5 p.m.

Video Art in China
VCU School of the Arts
Arts Foundation Building, Room 535

Shulin Zhao, director and curator of the Contemporary Art Center and Today Art Museum in Beijing and video artist Huang Yan present the Visiting Artists Lecture Series. 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremony and Reception
University of Richmond
Jepson Hall

7 p.m.

Film: Breaking The Silence
University of Richmond
Jepson Hall, Room 118

A poor, single mother will do anything to provide for her son in this family drama. 91 minutes. Starts at 7:30 pm.

Friday, Oct. 7

Touch of the Brush: The Art of Chinese Calligraphy
University of Richmond
Lora Robins Gallery of Design From Nature
UR professors lead a lecture and demonstration. 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Film: Pretty Big Feet
University of Richmond
Adams Auditorium, Boatwright Memorial Library
Two very different women forge a friendship in this drama. 103 minutes. 3:00 p.m.

Screening of a Collection of Video Art from China
VCU School of the Arts
Sota Gallery

Shulin Zhao, director and curator for Contemporary Art Center and Today Art Museum (Beijing), and video artist Huang Yan present. 3-5 p.m.

Symbolism and Hidden Meanings in Chinese Arts
University of Richmond
Weinstein Hall, Brown-Alley Room

Sally Yu Leung, commissioner of San Francisco Asian Art Museum and independent curator discusses Chinese art and culture. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Chinese Arts at University of Richmond
Lora Robins Gallery

The evening entails a reception and viewing of the exhibits of artworks dated between 3,000 B.C. and 1911 A.D. 7:45-9 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8

All Chinese film screenings at Byrd Theatre
Tickets are \$2 per film at the door; English subtitles, followed by filmed interview with directors.

Film: Postmen in the Mountains

A retired postman and his son journey through the rugged mountains in China's southeastern Hunan province and discover more than the beautiful scenery around them. Director: Huo Jianqi. 93 minutes. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Film: Cell Phone

A country boy fares well in the big city, but his cell phone gets him into messy situations. Director: Feng Xiaogang. 107 minutes. 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Movie Magic
Virginia House

Positive Vibe Café's Chip Young sings film tunes a cappella and Greater Richmond Children's Choir performs Chinese songs. Come dressed in film costumes or in Chinese-styled clothing. Reception. 6:30-9:00 p.m. Sulgrave Road.

Sunday, Oct. 9

All events held at The Robins Pavilion in the Jepson Alumni Center
University of Richmond

A Taste of China in the Old Dominion

Sample Chinese dishes prepared by area chefs using Virginia's produce. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. To buy advance tickets call (804) 739-8639.

Short Film Showcase
Quigg Room

Watch award-winning films from The Rose Group for Cross-Cultural Understanding's competition and from Beijing Film Academy. 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

American Audiences, Chinese Films

A panel of filmmakers, critics and scholars from China and America will use film clips to demonstrate how to engage new audiences with Chinese cinema. 3-4 p.m.

"Beyond the Great Wall: Snapshots from China"
A display of selected entries from the photography contest.

Closing Ceremony and Awards Presentation
4:15-5:00 p.m.

Film: Together
Jepson Hall, Room 118
University of Richmond

Wrapping up the film festival, renowned Chinese director Chen Kaige's film based on a true story: an adolescent violin prodigy comes of age in Beijing. 118 minutes. Starts at 7:30 p.m.

CHINESE continued from page 12

Its impact is evident at VCU. Here, the Department of Foreign Languages offers Chinese courses, but not Japanese ones.

Americans commonly associate China with business, trade and commerce. But Chen said she wanted to use the festival to show that there's much more to the burgeoning country.

"I feel that with my bicultural background, I can do something about the China-United States relationship," she said.

Born in Taiwan, Chen has resided in the U.S. for more than 30 years — 27 of them in Richmond, which she's dubbed her "adopted hometown." She was employed at VCU Medical Center and served on several art foundation boards.

Although she recently relocated to Washington, D.C., she said Richmond provided a more suitable setting for CAFFC because of its rich history and its culture-hungry audience. VCU, the University of Richmond and Byrd Theatre will host CAFFC events.

This year marks the centennial anniversary of cinema in China. In May, she took her group to Beijing where she showed the foreign works of American filmmakers in a film festival.

It represented the first half of a bilateral exchange. Through sharing cross-cultural films, The Rose Group aimed to unite college students and audiences living in the Eastern and Western worlds.

With this week's screenings, the exchange comes full circle and Chen can add another title to her long list of accomplishments—pioneer.

International film festivals across America have included Chinese films. This, however, is the first time an independent film festival has dedicated itself exclusively to China's culture and cinema, she said, citing information from the U.S. Chinese embassy.

"I am so pleased we are ahead of the curve," Chen said. It is "very likely" that the festival will return to Richmond next year, she added.

"This is the beginning of a good thing."

WIRE continued from page 12

Coughter also discussed with Simon and Price the stark realism the show presents to its audience who have been more accustomed to series like "Law and Order," where each show wraps up nicely in an hour that is packed with cop drama clichés and clear definitions of good versus evil.

"It's all gray," Price said of "The Wire." "There's no black and white out there."

This mantra was especially evident in the episode screened, in which the police officers are eventually told that they are going to no longer be hunting for drug users because it occupies too much of the force's time with too little payoff. In the episode, the police chief likens the situation to when drunks on the corner drank out of paper bags and the patrolling officers had no choice but to spend most of their time arresting them.

Such controversial ideas have made the show a hit among a fairly small niche audience: cops and drug dealers.

Price recalled riding along with a police officer who caught someone in the middle of a drug deal.

"They finally put the kid in the back of the police car. He asks who was in the passenger seat . . . and the kid looks at me and says, 'Who's that?' and the cop says, 'He writes for "The Wire,"' and he says, 'You write for "The Wire"?' That's an excellent show. I haven't seen all the episodes, but I hope to catch up with them when they come out on DVD."

As someone with a thorough understanding of the law enforcement side of the show, Lacks, who is also co-director of the Public Safety Institute, was added to the panel to provide a perspective from someone who deals with many different agencies involved in crime prevention.

"It's shows like this that make criminal justice majors one of the largest groups at universities," Lacks said. "It's outstanding . . . It's a phenomenal impact (on enrollment in criminal justice programs)."

Coughter asked the panelists why they believed a show like "CSI," the wildly popular prime time CBS drama, has succeeded in pulling in a massive audience while "The Wire" remains a favorite of those directly involved in the events they're dramatizing.

Simon and Price were visibly put off at the very mention of the CBS drama. Price insisted that "The Wire" maintains a nuanced, realistic feel that many viewers may not be comfortable with.

"('The Wire') is like the humanity of people," he said. "It's not trying to make heroes or demons out of anybody."

"Are these (drug dealers) romantic figures?" Coughter asked.

"There's a poetry to profanity," Simon said.

Although the stark realism of the show may contribute to its lack of widespread popularity that shows like "Six Feet Under" and "The Sopranos" managed to achieve, both Simon and Price said they are satisfied with the success the show has had.

"We knew going out that it wasn't going to run wild," Simon said, "but this is what we wanted to do."

Spectrum

'Extreme' addition to local pizza scene

food review

OMAR YACOUBI
Op-Ed Editor

The latest addition to the retail shops at Ramz Hall, Extreme Pizza opened its doors Sept. 28 to a steady stream of VCU students and Richmond locals curious about the first new pizza place in town since California Pizza Kitchen opened at Short Pump Town Center two years ago.

Like CPK, Extreme Pizza is a California chain, and it uses innovative recipes

with Pacific-Southwest influences to provide pizza with new flavor. Unlike CPK, Extreme Pizza is geared toward the college crowd, with pictures reflecting its founder's love of extreme sports featured prominently in each location. No surprise, then, that it was one of the first sponsors of the X Games, an annual competition for extreme sports.

Extreme Pizza started out in 1994 as a small business on San Francisco's Fillmore Street, a trendy nightclub district with in-

tense competition for flavorful pizza where shops with names like Pizza Orgasmica compete for partygoers' attention – and their taste buds. With several locations up and down the West Coast, their Richmond location marks their first foray east of the Mississippi.

Why Richmond? It might be because VCU has one of the largest liberal arts student populations on the East Coast, and many West Coast locations found their success in being located near campuses with students hungry for something other than the ordinary slice of cheese.

Enter Extreme Pizza. With nine kinds of cheeses to choose from, the era of the boring pizza slice is over. Soy, gorgonzola, sage, cilantro and pepperoncini are just a few of the varied toppings available to the distinguishing palate. Not sure what you want? Signature pizzas like "Peace in the Middle East," "The Screaming Tomato" and "Poultrygeist" await your selection.

For those over the age of 21, cold beer and wine is available in the California tradition, and for everyone else, Pepsi products flow from the fountain. I'm a Coke fan, but after tasting these pizzas I can understand why Pepsi is a better complement – it has a smoother taste that lets the distinct flavor of the pizzas shine through.

There are plenty of vegetarian choices,

too. One low-fat offering, the "White Out," comes with all the vegetables and no cheese. Vegans can choose soy as well.

The usual pizza sidekicks are available – buffalo wings, for one, but there are also salads, calzones and subs. Pizzas are made to order right in front of you at a topping station that looks more like a Subway sub shop than a pizza place, and the pizzas roll through an automatic oven that leaves the pies coming out toasty fresh.

Prices range from a reasonable \$2.25 for one of the generous daily slice offerings to about \$4-6.50 for an 8-inch "indee" personal-sized pizza. For extremely large appetites, there's the \$13 to \$24 "huge" 18-inch. A helpful scale in the menu and below the counter tells you how many people each size will feed (for the record: the huge feeds four to six).

Other than the stuffed deep-dish offerings, Extreme pizzas come in only one kind of crust. It's somewhere between thin and thick, toasty but chewy. Because the toppings and cheese are the main attraction, the crust doesn't get in the way, but it's a perfect complement. It's as though the crust's creators took Aristotle's Golden Mean to heart before setting to their work.

Forget the fake Sbarro at Shafer Court Dining Center; this is where you'll find the freshness and the flavor.



5 out of 5

Extreme Pizza
941 W. Broad Street
(804) 359-2030
Free delivery
Visit online:
extremepizza.com

Above: Choose from five "extreme, not mainstream" sizes of pizza.

Left: Cashier Noland Bradshaw works behind the counter at Extreme Pizza.

Pat Kane photos

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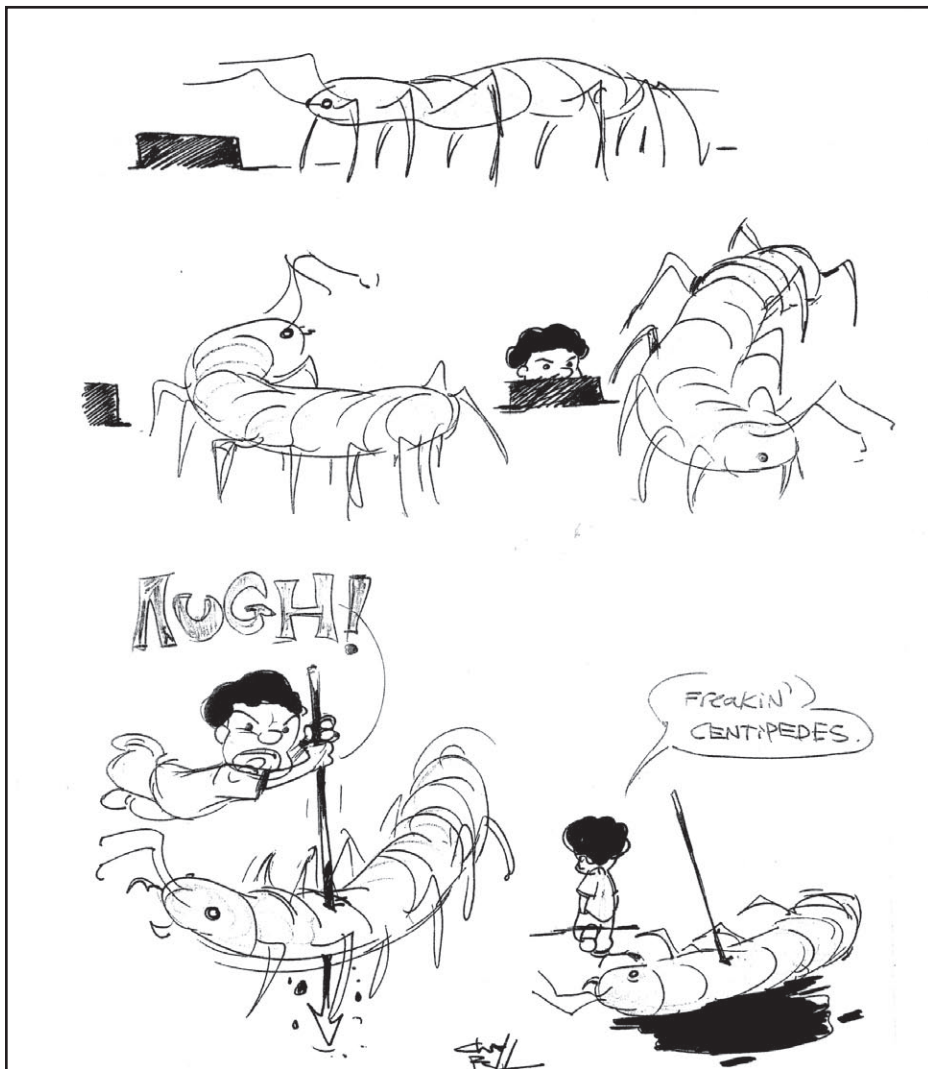
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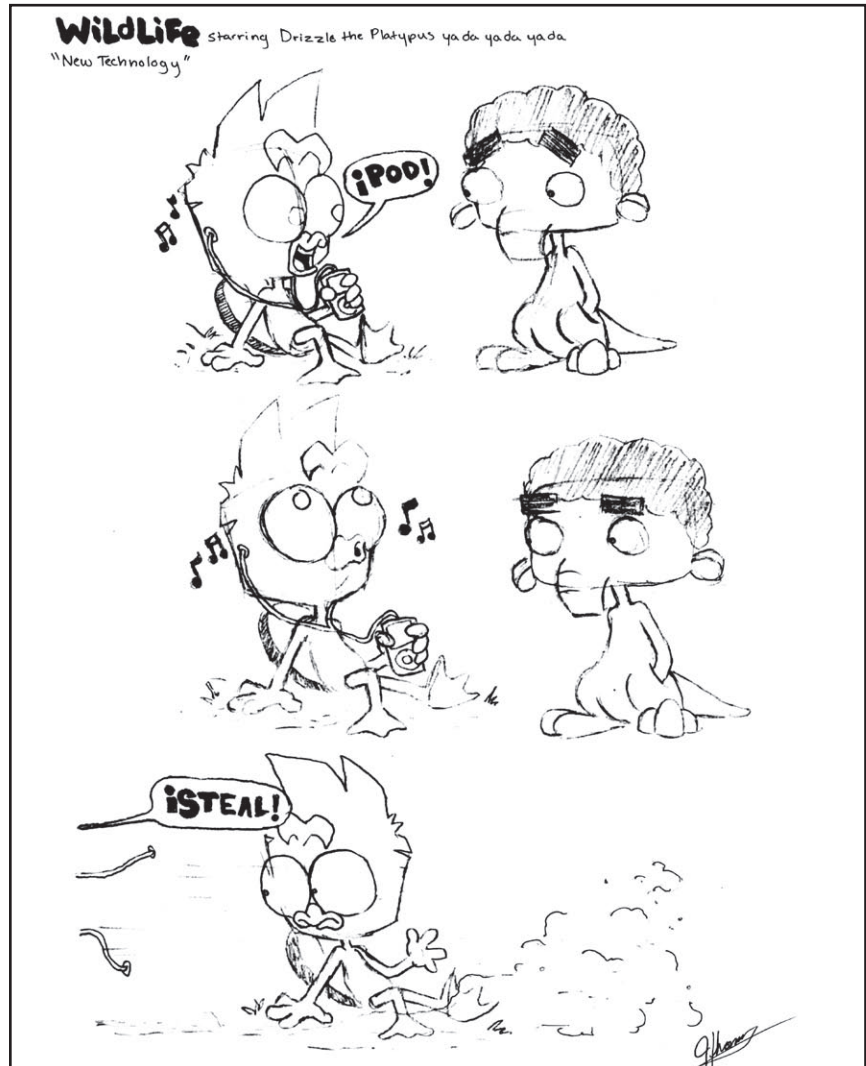
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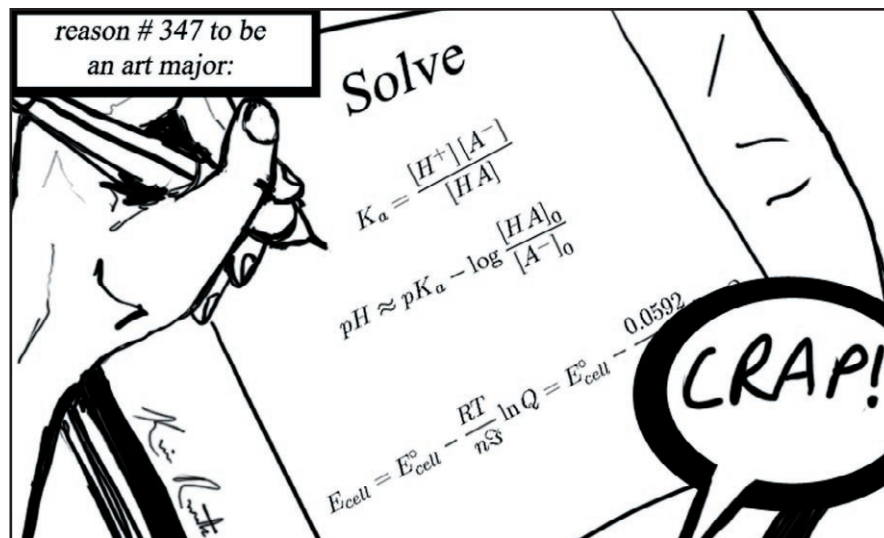


COMICS

Blue and Blond Chris Malone



Death of a Nice Guy Kevin Roberts

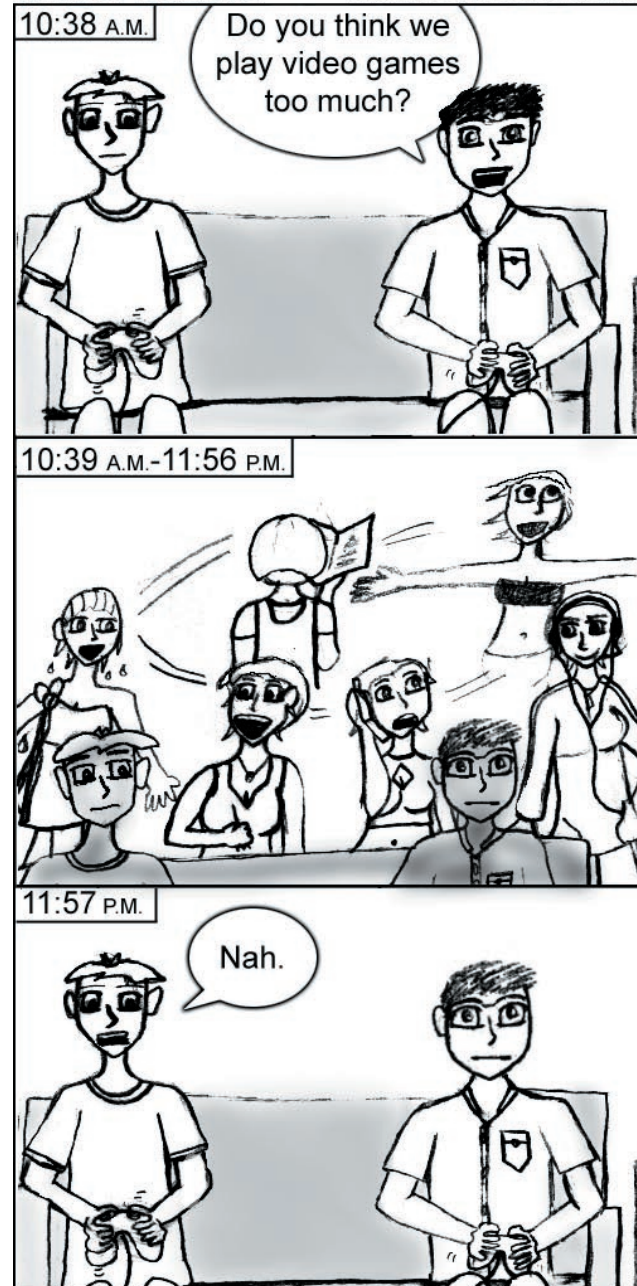


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EDITORIALS & LETTERS

Opinion In Brief

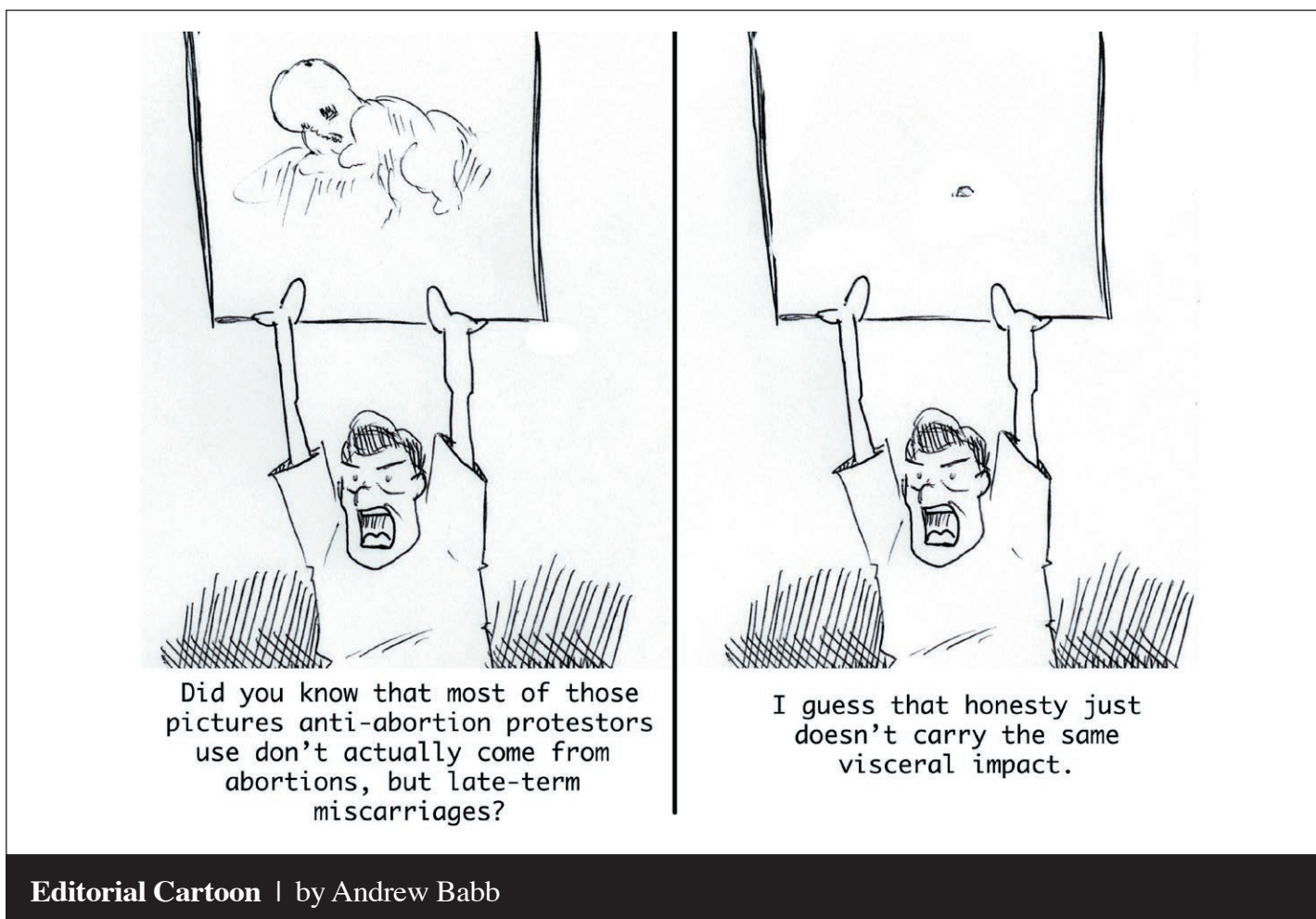
Abort! Abort!

William Bennett—former education secretary under President Reagan, author of the *Book of Virtues* and avid gambler—made news recently for his suggestion that “you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down.”

Though it is true that crime is higher among the African-American population, its root causes are not found in race. Poverty and other inequalities that result from a centuries-old system of slavery and segregation which ended only four decades ago have yet to be erased.

In all fairness, Bennett was speaking hypothetically in response to a similar point from the other side of the political spectrum—that crime is down in general because abortion is up. Bennett used a hypothetical statement to point out that abortion is not necessarily justified as a means to an end.

But in the course of trying to make a valid point, Bennett entered into a minefield involving two of the most controversial subjects of our day—abortion and race. These two subjects are the same sparks that have set off heated debate surrounding the last two protests on our campus in as many weeks. In a brief moment of carelessness, Bennett managed to roll both into one.



Editorial Cartoon | by Andrew Babb

Your Turn *Letters to the Editor*

The abortion protests: A Christian response

Last week our campus was very disturbed by abortion protesters from Life & Liberty Ministries. Their tactics were very condemning, ranging from posters with verses intended to condemn to yelling matches filled with hate and totally devoid of grace or any hope of redemption.

This is not the nature of the gospel, nor is it the way Jesus dealt with sinners. Jesus announces the nature of his mission when he says, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19). This reveals a ministry of salvation, not of condemnation. In fact, it is worth noting that, though Jesus is quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, He intentionally leaves out the last part of verse 2, which says that the Messiah would come to proclaim “the day of vengeance of our God.”

Why does Jesus leave this part out? Because he knows that “vengeance,” or

condemnation, will come at his second coming, not his first coming (and it was his first coming that he was announcing). The second coming of Christ will indeed bring “the day of vengeance” and condemnation for those who “have not obeyed the gospel of our Lord Jesus” (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10).

But now is the time of salvation, not of condemnation. The purpose of Jesus’ first coming is clear: “For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:17).

In fact, Jesus had the reputation of being “the friend of sinners” (Luke 7:34). What reputation did Life & Liberty Ministries build for themselves last week? Were they seen as the friend of sinners or as the condemner of

sinners? If you are a Christian, what kind of reputation are you building for yourself?

The Bible calls the Christian to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Life & Liberty Ministries may have spoken the truth, but they did not do so in love.

They spoke the truth in condemnation. But the church’s job is not to condemn sinners. In fact, the Apostle Paul makes exactly that point: “What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church?” (1 Corinthians 5:12). Far from condemning sinners, Paul’s approach was to befriend sinners, lovingly winning them to the Savior: “I have become

all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22). Is this your approach?

Someone may object and point out that Jesus himself said things similar to what we heard last week: “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?” (Matthew 23:33). This objection, however, fails to recognize whom it is that Jesus is speaking to. He is not speaking to sinners on the street corner like Life & Liberty Ministries was; he is speaking to the leadership who were preventing those sinners on the street corner from being saved (Matthew 23:13-15). Jesus’ heart is to save sinners (Luke 19:10).

If you are not a Christian, Jesus lovingly calls you to turn from your sins, believe in him, and follow him throughout your life. His heart’s desire is to save sinners from their sins and from the judgment to come. He died on the cross and rose from the dead for this purpose. He is the friend of sinners.

— **Rev. Christopher Daniel, M. Div**
Campus Minister,
Reformed University Fellowship

The Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Commons Theater near the Information Desk. Chris’s message responding to last week’s abortion protests can be heard at vcu.ruf.org

The Commonwealth Times

The independent student press of
Virginia Commonwealth University

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Lyz Holder • April Kung
Danielle Moss • Katherine Pugh*

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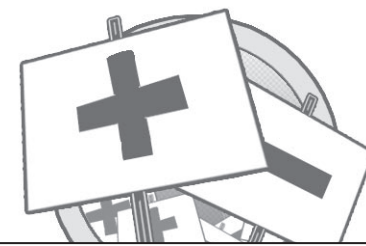
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OP/ED

Protest, counter-protest

Once again, three perspectives on a controversial display



Let's say it a better way

DANIELLE MOSS
Op/Ed Writer

I was walking around campus Wednesday, and I saw someone handing out fliers to people near Shafer Street. I ended up getting one of these fliers, thinking it was something about a local concert or a coupon to one of the local campus stores.

What I actually ended up getting was something completely different. The anti-abortion pamphlet was entitled "The American Holocaust Photo Display," and it showed pictures of aborted fetuses at various stages of development. It was one of two pamphlets being handed out by the Life & Liberty Ministries group.

I practically stopped where I was walking and felt tears welling up in my eyes, as well as a growing sense of feeling sickened and disheartened at what I was seeing. I understand abortion is a very controversial subject for many people, but this was definitely going too far.

As I looked away from these gruesome pictures and read the text, I learned how the Life and Liberty Ministries Group sees abortion as murder, and there is never a pretty picture of murder. The pamphlet also mentions how it wants to end the censorship of these pictures so people can see the actual result of an abortion.

This was my first time seeing an aborted fetus, and I have to say that it did get its point across, but it didn't have to go about it in this way. I also took notice of the saying that was placed on the back of the pamphlet – "When something is so horrifying we can't stand to look

at it, perhaps we shouldn't be tolerating it."

I realize this group is completely against abortion and wants to show their feelings against it, but if they were having trouble looking at these pictures themselves, why would they think others would not feel the same way?

The group answers this question by saying they are being a witness for the ones (aborted children) who can't speak for themselves. They are also asking people to repent for their sins since the people who go through having an abortion or who conduct the abortion are committing murder and breaking one of God's laws.

As I put the pamphlet in my book bag, I headed toward the Komen Breast Cancer Tour. The tour was very informative, having three booths set up for cancer awareness and how to properly do a breast self-exam. It was one of the few times I was actually attracted to a breast cancer promotion for its content and theme, and I really needed something positive to lift my mood after reading that pamphlet.

While I was there, I saw before me a huge picket sign of an aborted fetus with the word "ABORTION" in large letters going down the side. It was held by an 8-year-old kid. I heard someone yelling at the top of their lungs how much God loves you and wants you to live – or something along those lines. It was obviously someone from Life & Liberty Ministries "preaching the good word to the heathens on the college campus," as they would put it.

By the time I was leaving the Breast Cancer Tour group, the anti-abortion group had left.

I guess they either went on to another part of campus or were escorted away by the university police. Either way, I think they could have gone about saying what they wanted to say in a different context.

I myself am against abortion, and that stems from my own morals and life decisions – not from the basis of politics, my family or my faith. I am Christian, but I do not base the justification of my social or political standards or way of life on my religion.

I believe that if someone wants to say something and has the right to express what they want to say, they should. But if you are going about it in a way that seems to push your beliefs onto someone else or has to use offensive or gut-wrenching material, you are seriously going about it in the wrong way.

The same point could have been made if they had placed the same 8-year-old kid in a suit with a clean haircut holding a sign saying, "I want some friends to play with. Please stop abortion" or even a sign saying, "I want a little brother or sister. Please stop abortion." I know I would have reacted better to something like that as opposed to the dead fetus pictures.

I disagree with the group saying you have to show a dead body to stop someone from committing murder. If your family brings you up properly and teaches you that murder is wrong in a proper, non-traumatizing way, then a dead body wouldn't need to be shown.

I know that I'll probably be having nightmares after seeing the pictures I saw. Wonderful to know when you have tests coming up.

*Danielle Moss can be reached at
twithlove@hotmail.com*

Of animals and fetuses

TAD HETHCOAT
Op/Ed Writer

In the wake of last week's PETA protest, students were exposed to another controversial demonstration Wednesday. The issue this time was abortion, and like last week's protest, the demonstrators and counter-demonstrators articulated differing ideologies heavily entrenched in morality.

While last week's protest was a reaction to a specific stimulus – the PETA-sponsored art exhibit that showcased juxtaposed images of oppressed peoples and shackled or slaughtered animals – Wednesday's demonstration was much more a whimsical occurrence than it was a triggered response.

The original organizers of the demonstration – ardent anti-abortionists who displayed gruesome images of mutilated fetuses throughout campus – appeared out of the blue, unexpected to most students and faculty. Moreover, they seemed more bent on arbitrarily moralizing and condemning passers-by than pushing a

goal-oriented agenda designed to influence abortion legislation at the local, state, and federal levels.

Because of the demonstrators' "fire and brimstone" tactics, many students and faculty were bothered – and naturally so. In fact, shortly after the initial demonstration began, the counter-demonstrators had outnumbered and become more vocal than the original instigators. For those observing the loud, chaotic event, it was quite apparent that the student body (or at least the majority of those present) was ideologically opposed to the anti-abortionists, which one could note from the pro-choice signs students carried and the chants they shouted periodically.

The emotional response to the anti-abortion demonstration came at a time when many ponder the future legal status of abortion as the makeup of the Supreme Court has changed with the arrival of new chief justice John Roberts and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's vacancy. Although it's debatable whether the Supreme Court would overturn Roe v. Wade given the

precedent of "stare decisis," or upholding that which has already been decided, it's still a power the land's highest court has. Many made it clear that this consideration was on their minds.

Fortunately, despite the heated nature of the abortion argument, Wednesday's demonstrations didn't reach a belligerent or violent state. Many counter-demonstrators understood that the anti-abortionists had the freedom to express their opinions, whatever they might be, as VCU is public state property. The counter-demonstrators' quips with the anti-abortionists stemmed more from their use of grotesque, sensational images of fetuses (and the fact that several young children were holding them no less) than the anti-abortionists' own opinions.

In any case, it's probably best that the anti-abortionists, like the PETA-sponsored exhibition, made a presence on campus, however unpopular they might have been. Activism can be confrontational and uncomfortable, but it does a good job of eliciting responses from people. After all, without opposing viewpoints, neither side of the ideological spectrum would have a basis for measuring its own.

*Tad Hethcoat can be reached at
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Lost in translation

Simple comparisons contain complex ideas

OMAR YACOUBI
Op/Ed Editor

It seems offensive images are a running theme on campus these days. Between aborted fetuses and burning humans, we've been hit by some pretty hard stuff to swallow. In PETA's exhibit, people were offended by the comparison of racial struggle to the need for animal rights, and now Life & Liberty Ministries has called abortion "The American Holocaust." Both comparisons caused students much distress, but they were designed to make a point.

Comparisons are hard to avoid when expressing complex and difficult ideas. Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," for example, once took time out of his show to list the various Hitler comparisons that had been made in Congress over the space of a few months – Richard J. "Dick" Durbin (D), the senior senator from Illinois, had compared the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay to that of Hitler's prison camps and other repressive regimes. Another Richard, Rick Santorum (R) of Pennsylvania, compared the Democrats' support of the filibuster to supporting Hitler's Vichy France.

In listing these comparisons, Stewart offered a solution: no more Hitler comparisons. But comparisons to Hitler seem difficult to avoid, for example, when describing the human rights violations that took place in Saddam Hussein's prewar Iraq.

When liberal activist group MoveOn.org was once criticized for having a member-submitted advertisement on its site comparing Bush to Hitler, on the other hand, Jewish leaders came forward to denounce the comparison as "diminishing the memory of the Holocaust."

The same issue is also raised with choosing to term a conflict "genocide," such as Darfur, Bosnia, Kosovo or Rwanda – does it rise to the same level of suffering?

A blog entry by Swarthmore College Assistant Professor Timothy Burke on the Center for History and New Media's History News Network offers this solution: "A good analogy in public debate requires a precise sense of the ideas about causality it invokes." In other words, are the things we are comparing happening for the same reason?

The problem is that we may disagree about the reasons things happen – like animal rights and abortions. But as long as we are stuck with comparisons as a simpler means of communicating complex ideas, we should look at the various reasons behind them before deciding to take offense.

*Omar Yacoubi may be reached at
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3. Broccoli w. Garlic Sc.	4.00	5.50	20. Mushroom Beef	4.50	6.25
4. Ma Po To Fu	4.00	5.50	21. Egg Foo Young in Any Style	4.50	6.25
5. Boneless Spare Ribs or Spare Ribs	4.50	6.50	22. Shrimp with Broccoli	4.50	6.50
6. Sweet & Sour Pork	4.25	5.75	23. Shrimp w. Lobster Sc.	4.50	6.50
7. Roast Pork w. Broccoli	4.25	5.75	24. Shrimp w. Garlic Sauce	4.50	6.50
8. Pork with Garlic Sauce	4.25	5.75	25. Hot & Spicy Shrimp	4.50	6.50
9. Roast Pork w. Mixed Veg.	4.25	5.75	26. Shrimp w. Black Bean Sc.	4.50	6.50
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11. Chicken with Broccoli	4.25	6.00	28. Chow Mein in Any Style	4.50	6.50
12. Hunan Chicken	4.25	6.00	29. Beef or Shrimp w. Hunan Sauce	4.75	7.00
13. Moo Goo Gai Pan	4.25	6.00	30. Kung Pao Chicken or Shrimp	4.75	7.00
14. Chicken w. Garlic Sauce	4.25	6.00	31. Triple Delight w. Garlic Sc.	4.75	7.00
15. Lo Mein in Any Style	4.25	6.00	32. Triple Crown	4.75	7.00
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A 2. Fried Chicken Wings (4)	2.35	3.35	3.85	4.35
A 3. Fried Fish (2)	2.65	3.65	4.15	4.65
A 4. Fried Baby Shrimp (21)	3.65	4.65	5.15	5.65
A 5. Fried Jumbo Shrimp (6)	4.15	5.15	5.65	6.15
A 6. Fried Crab Stick (5)	2.65	3.65	4.15	4.65
A 7. Spare Rib Tips	2.65	3.65	4.15	4.65
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A 9. Fried Scallop (10)	3.15	4.15	5.65	6.15
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3. Fried Wonton (12)	3.25
4. Fried Crab Rangoon	3.05
5. Boneless Ribs (S) 4.15 (L) 8.15	
6. B.B.Q Ribs (S) 5.25 (L) 9.85	
7. Steamed or Fried Dumplings (8)	4.25
11. Chicken or Beef Sticks (4)	4.25
12. Chicken Ball Sticks (4)	4.25
13. Shrimp Toast (4)	3.55
14. Cold Sesame Noodle	3.25
15. Pu Pu Platter	8.25

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16. Egg Drop Soup	1.00	2.00
17. Wonton Soup	1.25	2.25
18. Chicken Noodle or Rice Soup	1.25	2.25
19. Hot & Sour Soup	1.50	2.75
20. Vegetable Soup	1.25	2.25
21. House Special Soup	4.85	
22. Seafood Soup	5.55	

FRIED RICE Pt. Qt.

25. Roast Pork or Chicken		
Fried Rice	3.25	5.55
26. Shrimp or Beef Fried Rice	4.00	7.25
Vegetable Fried Rice	2.75	4.75
27. Plain Fried Rice	1.95	3.00
28. House Special Fried Rice	4.25	7.55
29. Lobster Fried Rice	5.25	9.25
30. Crab Meat Fried Rice	3.75	6.55

LO MEIN (Soft Noodle) Pt. Qt.

32. Roast Pork or Chicken		
Lo Mein	3.75	6.25
33. Beef or Shrimp Lo Mein	4.25	7.25
34. Vegetable Lo Mein	3.25	5.25
35. House Special Lo Mein	4.50	7.75
36. Lobster Lo Mein	5.25	9.25

CHOW MEI FUN (Thin Rice Noodle)

37. Shrimp or Beef Chow Mei Fun	5.00
38. Roast Pork or Chicken Chow Mei Fun	4.55
39. Singapore Rice Noodle	5.50
39a. House Rice Noodle	5.50

CHOW MEIN Pt. Qt.

40. Chicken or Pork Chow Mein	3.85	7.00
41. Beef or Shrimp Chow Mein	4.25	7.25
42. Vegetable Chow Mein	3.25	5.25
43. House Special Chow Mein	4.50	7.55
44. Lobster Chow Mein	5.25	9.25

CHOW FUN (Flat Noodles)

45. Roast Pork or Chicken Chow Fun	5.25
46. Beef or Shrimp Chow Fun	5.50
47. House Special Chow Fun	6.00

MOO SHU DISHES (w. 5 Pancakes)

48. Moo Shu Chicken or Pork	6.75
49. Moo Shu Beef or Shrimp	6.95
50. Moo Shu Vegetable	5.50
51. House Special Moo Shu	7.25

EGG FOO YOUNG (w. White Rice)

52. Roast Pork or Chicken Egg Foo Young	5.25
53. Beef or Shrimp Egg Foo Young	5.55
54. Vegetable Egg Foo Young	4.75
55. Crab Meat Egg Foo Young	5.25
56. Lobster Egg Foo Young	7.55
57. House Special Egg Foo Young	7.00

Hot and Spicy

SWEET & SOUR (w. White Rice) Pt. Qt.

58. Sweet & Sour Pork	3.75	6.75
59. Sweet & Sour Chicken	3.75	6.75
60. Sweet & Sour Shrimp	4.50	8.25
61. Sweet & Sour Combination (Shrimp, Pork & Chicken)	8.35	

POULTRY (w. White Rice) Pt. Qt.

62. Chicken w. Broccoli	4.00	7.00
63. Chicken w. Cream Sc.	4.25	7.25
64. Moo Goo Gai Pan	4.25	7.25
65. Chicken w. Black Bean Sc.	4.25	7.25
66. Chicken w. Broccoli in Garlic Sauce	4.25	7.25
67. Curry Chicken w. Onion	4.25	7.25
68. Kung Pao Chicken	4.25	7.25
69. Chicken w. String Beans	4.25	7.25
69a. Chicken w. Cashew Nuts	4.25	7.25
69b. Almond Chicken	4.25	7.25

PORK (w. White Rice) Pt. Qt.

70. Roast Pork w. Broccoli	4.00	7.00
71. Roast Pork w. Chinese Veg.	4.25	7.25
72. Roast Pork w. Snow Peas	4.25	7.25
73. Pork w. Mixed Veggies	4.25	7.25
74. Pork w. String Beans	4.25	7.25

BEEF (w. White Rice) Pt. Qt.

75. Beef w. Broccoli	4.25	7.25
76. Pepper Steak	4.25	7.25
77. Beef w. Chinese Veg	4.25	7.25
78. Beef w. Oyster Sauce	4.50	7.75
79. Beef w. Mushrooms	4.50	7.75
80. Beef w. Scallions	4.50	7.75
81. Beef w. Snow Peas	4.50	7.75
82. Hot & Spicy Beef	4.50	7.75
82a. Beef w. Cashew Nuts	4.50	7.75
82b. Almond Beef	4.50	7.75

SEAFOOD (w. White Rice) Pt. Qt.

83. Shrimp w. Lobster Sauce	4.75	8.75
84. Shrimp w. Broccoli	4.75	8.75
85. Shrimp w. Snow Peas	4.75	8.75
86. Shrimp w. Mushrooms	4.75	8.75
87. Shrimp w. Cashew Nuts	4.75	8.75
88. Szechuan Flavored Shrimp	4.75	8.75
89. Shrimp w. Black Bean Sc.	4.75	8.75
90. Shrimp w. Mixed Veggies	4.75	8.75
91. Shrimp w. String Beans	4.75	8.75
92. Almond Shrimp	4.75	8.75

VEGETABLES (w. White Rice) Pt. Qt.

V94. Mixed Vegetables Tray	3.25	5.25
V95. Sauteed Broccoli	3.25	5.25
V96. Bean Curd Szechuan Style	3.25	5.25
V97. Sauteed String Beans	3.25	5.25
V98. Bean Curd w. Garlic Sc.	3.25	5.25

CHEF'S SPECIAL DISH (with White Rice)

1. Happy Family	10.55
2. Sesame Chicken or Beef	8.75
3. Orange Chicken or Beef	8.75
4. Four Season	8.75
5. Seafood Delight	10.95
6. General Tso's Chicken	8.75
7. Seafood Pan Fried Noodle	10.95
8. Beef & Scallops	10.55
9. Sesame Shrimp	10.55
10. Tung Ting Shrimp	9.55
11. Subgum Wonton	10.55
12. Dragon and Phoenix	9.95
13. Shrimp & Scallops w. Garlic Sauce	10.95
14. Mongolian Beef	9.25
15. Hunan Trio	9.75
16. Shrimp in Sa-Chia Sauce	9.55

DIET MENU All The Food Are Served with Steamed Mixed w. White Rice Sm. Lg.

D01. Steamed Mixed Veg.	3.25	5.25
D02. Steamed Chicken w. Mixed Veggies	4.25	7.25
D03. Steamed Shrimp w. Mixed Veggies	4.75	8.25
D04. Steamed Chicken w. Broccoli	4.00	6.75
D05. Steamed Shrimp w. Broccoli	4.75	8.25

SIDE ORDERS

Fried Donuts	2.95
Pineapple	3.75
White Rice (Sm.) 0.75 (Lg.) 1.50	
Crispy Noodle	0.30
Almond Cookies	1.00
Soda	0.75
Oo Long Tea	1.50

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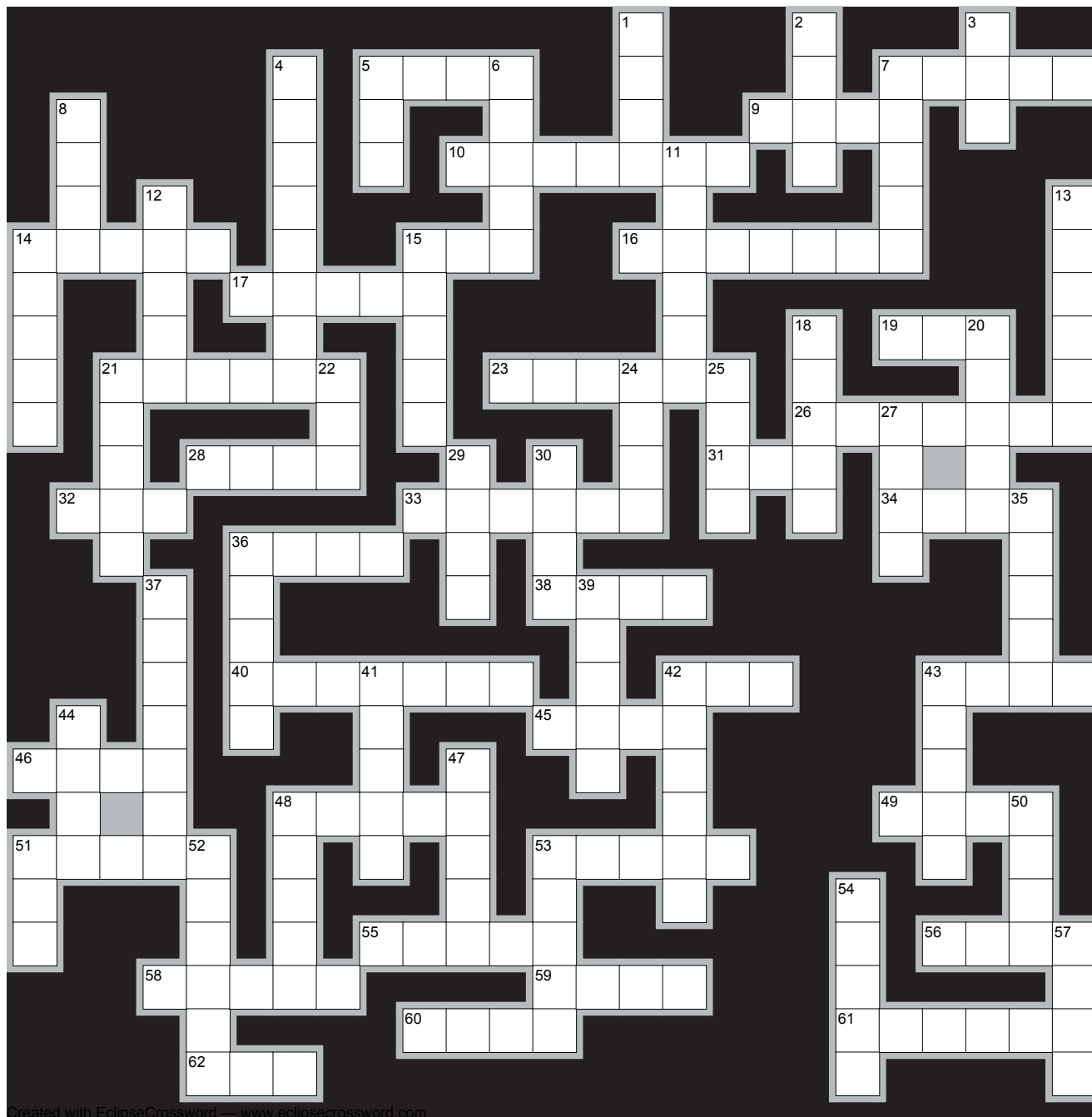
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THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES CROSSWORD: FOOD EDITION

Across

5. Smithfield's famous product.
7. Pitted fruit, also a princess that Mario must save.
9. Meat market.
10. Very, very expensive yellow-tinted spice.
14. Dogs don't know it's not _____.
15. During winter chocolate is sometimes served this way.
16. Powerful, yet usually considering plain.
17. Cold rice stuffed with vinegar.
19. You'd probably want to let the cat out of this.
21. If ravioli isn't filled with meat, then it's probably stuffed with this.
23. Name of the new dining center.
26. Tiny canned fish.
28. Used to catch fish.
31. Quaker ___ meal.
32. Mandible.
33. The hungry horseman.
34. A soft drink, not soda, coke.
36. Condensed, subject of pop art.
38. Whipped, fried, scrambled, poached.
40. Central place on campus, with pool hall.
42. Demonic alcoholic beverage.
43. Fish or meat usually with vegetables prepared by stewing.
45. Fully grown, ready for harvest.
46. The title of the man who created the sandwich.
48. Back tooth.
49. Clawed sideways-stepper.
51. Good, good for your heart!
53. Substance that freezes into ice, snow.
55. Fruit, citrus.
56. Moo juice.
58. De-boned dish.
59. Cattle.
60. Type of beans. Delicious with liver and Chianti.
61. Dry versions of this are commonly mixed with milk.
62. Cherry, apple, mincemeat...

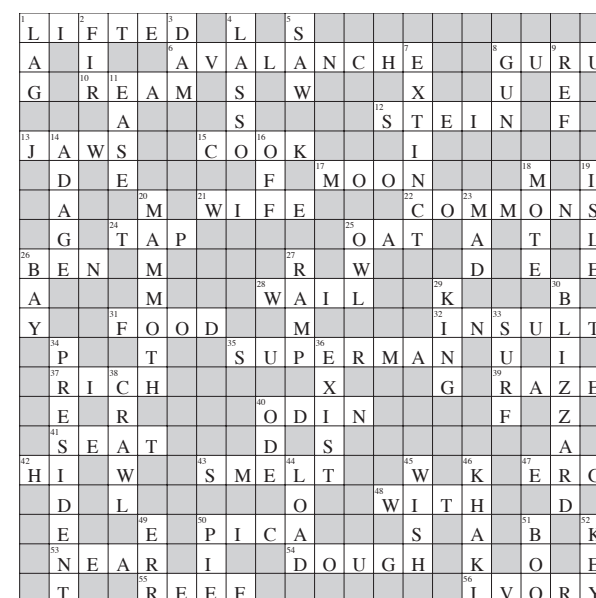


Down

1. Mix
2. Range, tract, space.
3. Bruce Wayne settles on picking this animal as his theme after one crashes through his window in the original origin.
4. Hard, generally look like small brown bowling balls.
5. Oink!
6. German cabbage.
7. An open pie generally made with tomatoes, cheese, and other toppings.
8. Pop.
11. Colorful fruit.
12. Cookie batter.
13. Gridlike batter cake.
14. He is considered among the most influential figures in the development of rock-and-roll music.
15. Former cafeteria
18. Spaghetti, angel hair, linguini.
20. Generally gas or charcoal, meant for cooking.
21. Beans that, when ground-roasted, can be prepared into chocolate.

22. Consume, devour.
24. Toll, charge.
25. Non-alcoholic beer.
27. Secretary of State.
29. As a famous story goes, a princess was once disowned by comparing her love for her father to this substance's relation to meat.
30. Something that heats things up.
35. Granny Smith, Green, Red.
36. A bite between meals.
37. Diabetics need this.
39. Bottom of the food pyramid.
41. Syrup, tree.
42. A sandwich made with rye and corn beef.
43. Combination fork and spoon.
44. Satisfy
47. Sometimes crushed with ice and flavoring for a cold treat.
48. Corn.
50. Around, spherical object. Sometimes made out of snow.
51. Love interest, girlfriend or boyfriend.
52. Steamed, cocktail, fried, gumbo, stewed, etc.
53. Famous candy-man.
54. To cut into tiny pieces.
57. Seaweed.

Answers from Sept. 29 edition



GREAT FOLK.



Don't Miss The National Folk Festival This Weekend!

Celebrating America's best authentic traditional music, dance and crafts:

Bernard Allison, **Blues** • Cephas & Wiggins, **Piedmont blues** • Cheick Hamala Diabate, **West African jeli**
 Chuna McIntyre and the Nunamta Singers and Dancers, **Yup'ik Eskimo** • Dervish, **Irish** • D.W. Groethe, **Cowboy poetry and songs** • First African Baptist Singers, **Richmond gospel choir** • Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars, **Jewish klezmer** • Hayden Thompson, **Rockabilly** • Ivo Papasov, Yuri Yunakov and the Legends of **Bulgarian wedding music** • J.P. Cormier, **music from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia** • Khmer Classical Dance Ensemble, **Cambodian court dance** • Los Pleneros de la 21, **Puerto Rican bomba y plena** • The Madison Hummingbirds, **African American gospel brass ensemble** • Marcia Ball, **Gulf Coast blues, R&B and boogie woogie** • Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, **Mexican mariachi** • Mountain Heart, **Bluegrass** • Papa Susso, **West African griot** • The Paschall Brothers, **African American a cappella gospel** • Prem Raja Mahat, **Nepalese music and dance** • Sankofa Strings, **African American string band** • Savoy Family Band, **Cajun** • Zydeco Joe & the Laissez Le Bon Temps Roulez Band, **Zydeco**

Featuring music from "The Crooked Road", southwest Virginia traditions:

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