



STUDENTS SHARE THEIR BEST/WORST VALENTINE'S DAY MEMORY— PAGE 7

The Commonwealth Times

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IN THE NEWS

Compiled from wire reports

Iran leader threatens new nuclear policy

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's hard-line president threatened to revise his policy of working within international atomic frameworks, as diplomats in Europe said the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency had stripped most of its surveillance equipment from Iranian nuclear sites.

In Iran, thousands rallied across the nation Saturday to celebrate the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution and show support for Iran's nuclear rights.

State-run television called the nationwide demonstrations "a nuclear referendum" and showed footage of rallies in Iran's major cities. In Tehran's Azadi Square, some young men wore white shrouds symbolizing their readiness to die for the country's nuclear ambitions.

Bird flu found in Italy, Greece, Bulgaria

ROME — Bird flu has reached Western Europe, with Italy and Greece announcing Saturday they had detected the H5N1 strain of the virus in dead swans.

The announcement that the disease was detected in five swans in southern Italy came a day after the opening of the Winter Games in Turin, several hundred miles to the north. Italian officials said the virus had only affected wild birds and posed no immediate risk to people.

The European Union said the deadly strain, which has infected at least 166 people and killed 88, most in Asia, had been confirmed in swans in Bulgaria.

No human infections were reported in the three countries, but the outbreak raised concerns that the spread of the disease could increase chances for it to mutate into a form easily transmissible among humans, who generally catch the disease from domestic poultry.

Also Saturday, authorities in Nigeria said they were investigating whether the deadly strain, which was discovered in the country last week, had spread to humans after at least two children were reported ill.

Fossett breaks flight distance record

MANSTON, England — Adventurer Steve Fossett completed the longest nonstop flight in aviation history with an emergency landing Saturday, flying 26,389 miles in about 76 hours but stopping early because of mechanical problems.

Ground control said Fossett, 61, broke the airplane distance record of 24,987 miles while his lightweight experimental plane was flying over Shannon, Ireland.

Generator problems then forced him to land the Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer at Bournemouth International Airport in southern England instead of at a military air strip in nearby Kent.

The millionaire adventurer completed his nonstop journey around the globe — and then some — more than three and one-half days despite losing about 750 pounds of fuel during his takeoff Wednesday from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida because of a leak.

White House faces opposition to user fees

WASHINGTON — Airline passengers, higher-income veterans and owners of freighters using the St. Lawrence Seaway are among those hit up for billions of dollars under President Bush' new budget plan.

The spending proposal for the budget year that begins Oct. 1 contains \$3.5 billion in new user fees. Typically branded as new taxes by those who have to pay them, these fees are intended to hold down the public's cost for programs such as airline screening, medical care for veterans and military retirees, food inspection and oversight of commodities markets.

The fees would swell to \$47.2 billion over five years, dunning taxpayers and industry to help pay for government services.

Most if not all of the proposed fees, however, arrived on Capitol Hill dead as a doornail.

The largest single fee would increase the tax paid by airline passengers for security screenings from \$2.50 to \$5 for a one-way nonstop ticket. It would raise \$1.6 billion when combined with fees on cargo carriers.

The Air Transport Association, the major airlines' trade group, opposes the higher security fees and is confident Congress will reject the proposal, said the group's president, James May.

The idea behind user fees is that those who benefit from government services should pay for them rather than everyone.

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NEWS



Pat Kane

Stephen Hicks, a junior mass communications student, talks to Wyatt Tee Walker in the T. Edward Temple building.

A witness to history recalls Dr. King

ALEX WOOLRIDGE
Capital News Service

Typically, examining the civil rights movement involves flipping through textbooks or listening to a lecture of second-hand information. On Thursday, VCU students and visitors from Virginia Union University were given insight into the movement from a man who was at its core: Wyatt Tee Walker.

Though often overlooked, Walker played a crucial role in the struggle for equality in one of America's redefining eras. In 1960, Walker became the first full-time director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization that helped propel Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. into the most visible figure in the civil rights movement.

Later, as King's chief of staff, Walker worked closely alongside the legendary civil rights leader while they sculpted the national message that illustrated King's vision. During the next decade, Walker even substituted regularly for King in public appearances when he was sick or jailed as a result of the movement.

In his speech at VCU, Walker focused on outlining King's legacy. The 76-year-old figure described King's accomplishments from an up-close perspective and challenged what he called "revisionist historians" by redefining King's mark on the United States.

"Since his brutal assassination in 1968, most of the attempts to decipher the mystique of Martin Luther King Jr. have failed," said Walker, who now lives in Chester.

Walker discussed King's impact on five areas: statutory segregation, public accommodations, the right to vote, human rights and international issues.

It's not accurate, he said, to directly attribute the end of

segregation to court challenges. Instead, Walker said, segregation came to an end because King convinced people that segregation was unacceptable.

"They committed themselves to pay any price, suffer any penalty, and to bear any burden until the walls of segregation came tumbling down," he said.

When those walls fell, everyone benefited, Walker said. He said every improvement for blacks also helped other groups of people. The struggle for desegregation in schools, he pointed out, resulted in improved education for all.

Walker concluded his prepared speech by saying that at the center of King's revolution was the ideal that communities should only judge a person "based on the fundamental of his or her being and not on the specificity of their identity."

VCU Professor Clarence Thomas invited Walker to speak at VCU in conjunction with his Minorities and the Mass Media course and the Association of Black Communicators. Thomas, who said he first interviewed Walker as part of a civil rights history project for the Library of Congress, said Walker is still passionate about the issues he discussed in front of the audience.

"I think what keeps him motivated is the urgency of spreading the word to the younger generation," Thomas said. "When you speak to people of that generation who have worked in the movement, a lot of them realize the people in the current generation are not even familiar with the movement."

Walker, who survived four strokes in 12 months, showed his drive to keep informing younger generations about the civil rights movement by surmounting his health concerns.

"I would stand and speak to you, but I'm not able," he told the audience. "As I get around, I tell people that I don't intend

KING continued on Page 5

Lawyer says Fawley indictment "flawed"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATHEWS, Va. (AP) - The indictment charging an amateur photographer with killing college student Taylor Behl is "irreparably flawed" and should be thrown out, a lawyer representing Benjamin Fawley claims in a motion filed Thursday in Mathews Circuit Court.

The motion is one of five filed by defense lawyer Bill Johnson on behalf of Fawley, who is facing a first-degree murder charge in the death of the 17-year-old former Virginia Commonwealth University student. Behl disappeared from campus Sept. 5, and her decomposed remains were found in a shallow ravine in Mathews County a month later.

The indictment, filed Jan. 17, charges Fawley with intentionally killing Behl and planning her death, and then offers several possible accompanying charges such as rape, sodomy and abduction, making the actual charge Fawley faces unclear, Johnson wrote.

A phone message seeking comment left by The Associated Press at the Mathews County Commonwealth's Attorney's office on Thursday night was not immediately returned.

The motions also request that the defense gain access to evidence gathered by investigators, including copies of Behl's credit card and cell phone bills from Feb. 1 to Sept. 30, 2005, lists of items seized during searches of Fawley's apartment and Behl's car, and computer-related information investigators took from Fawley's and Behl's computers that pertain to the sexual relationships of Fawley and Behl.

Fawley's lawyers also are seeking the names and contact information, including the age, of "any person known or suspected to have had a sexual relationship, however brief, with Taylor Behl since Feb. 1, 2005," according to court documents.

Fawley also seeks permission to hire a sexual behavior expert to explain erotic asphyxiation—the restriction of breathing during sexual intercourse to heighten the pleasure. Fawley told police that Behl died during consensual erotic asphyxiation.

His trial is scheduled to begin May 30.

NEWS

WHO's WHO @VCU

Meet Napoleon Peoples

Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

CLIVE WHITE

Staff Writer

Born in Philadelphia, Penn., Napoleon Peoples, director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, once had the dream of being an architectural engineer. But after he attended Wilberforce University in Ohio, that dream changed.

"I really wanted to be an engineer, and then I decided I wasn't going to a technical university," Peoples said. "I went to Wilberforce and started in psychology and liked it."

The concept of psychology interested Peoples so much that he pursued the major up to four degrees. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Wilberforce University. Then at Kent State University, he received a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and a specialist degree in counseling psychology.

Upon receiving his specialist degree, Peoples worked in 1970 as a counselor under what is now VCU Counseling Services. He left the job after three years, however, to pursue his doctorate in psychology at Kent State University.

"When I left, it wasn't even about getting a leave of absence," he said. "I felt all the time that if you're going to do academics, do it to the best of your ability."

After he received his Ph.D., Peoples returned to work as a counselor and professor at VCU, where he taught many courses both on the undergraduate and graduate level. He also developed the course "Personality and Behavior of the African-American," which is still being taught today.

Peoples left counseling in 2001 to become the director of multicultural student affairs when the first director, L. Victor Collins, left.

Though the responsibilities of a counselor and director both include dealing with students, Peoples said there are great differences between the two.

"You're dealing with life and death," Peoples said of his past job as counselor. "You're dealing with people who are struggling with issues of strength or depression or any number of things, and you're trying to help maximize their full potential."

Helping people maximize their potential is a skill that student-worker Alicia Ward, a junior African-American Studies major, said he brings to his current job as director.

"Dr. Peoples relates really well to the students here," said Ward, who works at the OMSA office. "People come in specifically to talk to Dr. Peoples, and I think that is an example of how well he relates to students."

Communication with students has been a major part of Peoples' professional career no matter the job. Still, he said he used to miss aspects from his former job as counselor. Peoples likened that sentiment to a gardener who eventually stops gardening.

"When you do anything repetitively over and over, you're going to miss it," he said.



Napoleon Peoples

PEOPLES continued to Page 5

Senate panel backs revised tuition bill

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Senate committee unanimously approved legislation Thursday denying in-state tuition to some illegal aliens enrolling in Virginia public colleges.

The Education and Health Committee sent the bill to the Senate floor after it was amended to address the concerns of opponents, including a coalition of Latino organizations.

As introduced by Sen. Emmett W. Hanger Jr., R-Augusta, the bill would have required all illegal immigrants to pay out-of-state tuition. The House of Delegates has already passed a similar bill.

Opponents of the legislation claim it would unfairly punish young people—most of them longtime Virginia residents who attended the state's public schools—for their parents' decision to bring them to this country.

Hanger worked with immigrant advocates on an amendment to allow in-state

tuition for illegal immigrants who:

- lived with a parent while attending high school in the state;
- graduated from a Virginia high school;
- lived in the state for at least three years before graduating;
- have registered as an entering college student;
- have provided the college an affidavit stating they have filed an application to become a permanent U.S. resident and are actively pursuing permanent residency or will do so as soon as eligible; and
- have submitted evidence he or at least one parent has filed a state income tax return for at least three years if they had enough income to be required to do so.

Immigrant advocates said they were pleased with the revised bill.

"This is what happens when we work together," said Walter Tejada, a member of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors. "There needs to be more of that."

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NEWS



Pat Kane

Sara Duke, president of VOX@VCU, speaks at a Queer Action rally opposing House Bill 1308. The bill may ban gay-straight alliances at middle and high schools. HB1308 has passed the House of Delegates and will be taken up by the Senate after Feb. 14.

VCU 2020 plan to enhance student experience

Future first-year students at VCU should expect a curriculum geared more toward academic success than that of past freshman classes, thanks to the VCU 2020 Vision for Excellence, the university's "roadmap" for the next 15 years that, among its other plans, aims to enhance the student experience.

The VCU Board of Visitors on Thursday approved the plan, which would ensure the success of first-year students, many of whom are first-generation college students who are often unprepared for the rigors of higher education, according to a press release.

"We are guaranteeing to our students and their families that a student graduating from VCU has the skills that they need for lifelong learning, which really is what it's all about," Stephen D. Gottfredson, co-chair of the strategic planning commission as well as provost and vice president for academic affairs, said in the statement.

The plan also aims to strengthen the university's research programs. VCU's research budget has grown from \$90 million in 1997 to \$206 million in 2005, according to the press release, which also stated more than 600 individuals contributed to developing the plan in the past 18 months.

KING continued from Page 3

any disrespect by not standing. Truth is the same whether you stand or sit."

After his speech, Walker answered questions from the audience — and vividly recalling such now-historic moments as the "I Have a Dream" speech King gave in Washington, D.C., in 1963.

Before the speech, he said, "Andy Young and I stayed up all night that night, because we thought the 'I Have a Dream' section was hackneyed and trite. It had been used 25 to 35 times before, and we thought Dr. King needed a new conclusion. Of course, we were wrong, and Dr. King was right, because we had not envisioned that it would become a world stage."

Walker was worried as he walked the grounds where the speech was to be held. He and other members of King's staff feared a small audience might weaken the speech's influence.

"We felt that if it was a sparse crowd, the nation would not pay much attention to our demands. If it was a big crowd, they'd have to pay attention. And I can't tell you the thrill that was in my heart to see those buses streaming in from north and south with pilgrims to that great march on Washington."

Walker looked ahead as well, advising the crowd to keep resisting racism and

prejudice. He also acknowledged a gradual passing of the torch in the fight for equality, noting the recent deaths of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

"Rosa Parks' death and Mrs. King's death signaled to me that our generation is passing — what I think was the greatest generation America has produced. Time is catching up with us," Walker said.

He also addressed economic disparities in society today. King was convinced, Walker said, that there would not be a breakthrough in racism until wealth was evenly distributed.

Walker's candid replies to some questions elicited particularly impassioned crowd reactions.

In one instance, Walker responded with visible frustration to recent concerns about King's alleged infidelity.

"The journalists must do their research to find that most of the stories about his infidelity were planted by the FBI in order to defame him, and they were allegations that have never been proven," Walker said.

Walker then gave his take on the perception that the federal government sought to bring King down for his disagreement with the Vietnam War.

"Most of us in the movement believe that Dr. King was assassinated by the

military-industrial complex because of his opposition to the war," he said. "A hit was put on him in Memphis. I do not believe James Earl Ray pulled the trigger."

As for future strides toward social equality, Walker offered some words of advice. First, he emphasized the importance of the church in African-American life. The church, he said, must be "liberation headquarters."

Walker also decried the obsession with material goods often associated with the age group he called "the hip-hop generation."

"The generation of which I've been a part has been influenced by ideas rather than things. Dr. King died a poor man," he said. "And this generation has been seduced by 'bling bling' and big cars and money and power rather than ideas."

After the event, Thomas said Walker joked with him about how he was originally coming to speak before a single class. But with such a major figure coming to the university, Thomas said he knew he couldn't limit the experience to 30 students.

"It had to become a bigger event," Thomas said. "He's too important of a historical figure. It grew from my class to maybe a couple of classes. It just kind of grew and grew to where we wound up with over 300 people in the audience."

PEOPLES continued from Page 4

The wee bit of nostalgia he had when first becoming director has not seemed to affect his focus. Under his direction, the OMSA has implemented 13 new programs.

Ijuanze Isom, multicultural program specialist, is in his first year working under Peoples and said he has grown an appreciation for People's commitment to his job.

"He has an excellent vision, and he is motivated to really innovate this office, not only for students at VCU, but also for the staff and faculty and (the Greater) Richmond community," Isom said.

The goals of these programs, Peoples said, are to educate students about cultural diversity and its impact on individuals, the university and society.

"We live in a real mono-cultural society that's moving toward multiculturalism at a rapid pace," he added.

Despite differences, Peoples said humans share a common bond.

"When I look at human beings, that is the most important (part) of the whole ingredient, no matter what circumstance," he said. "We are all human beings, and when people are suffering, or people are confused or conflicted, or people are having fun — they are all the same thing."



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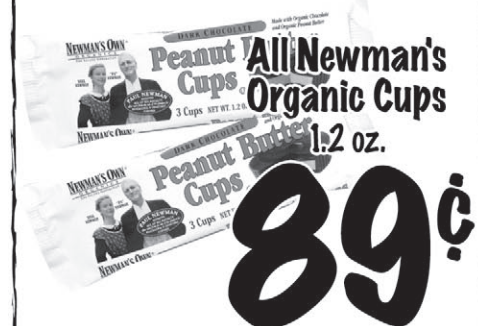
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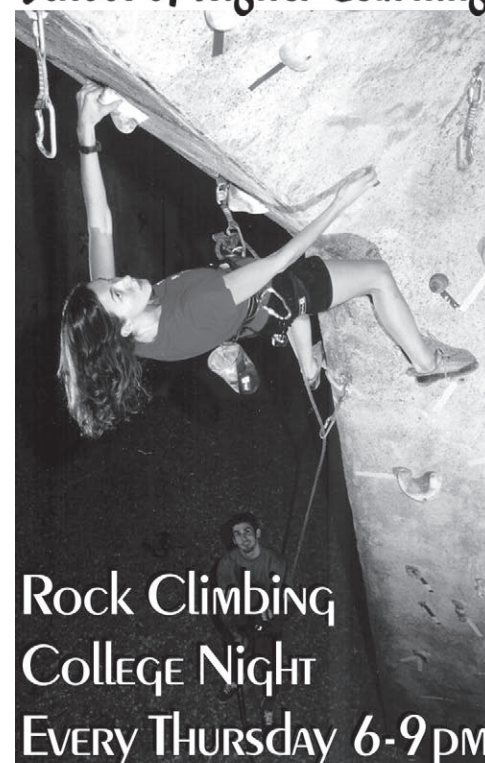


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News

The CT hits the streets: Valentine's Day

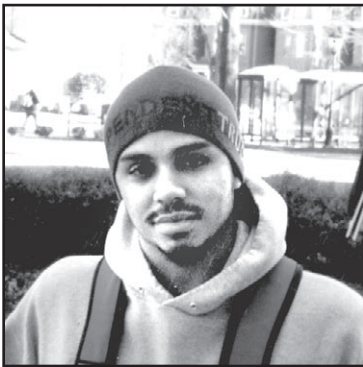
TRACY MATTOX AND PHILIP BOUIE
Staff Writers

- Q1:** What does Valentine's Day mean to you?
Q2: How will you celebrate Valentine's Day?
Q3: What is your most fond Valentine's Day memory?
Q4: What is your worst Valentine's Day memory?
Q5: What would be the greatest Valentine's Day gift VCU could give to its students?



Melanie Seals, 19
Sophomore English major
San Antonio, Texas

Q1: Valentine's Day is a commercialized holiday that forces guys to make up for their stupid mistakes.
Q2: Go out to dinner, use the hot tub and get intimate.
Q3: In elementary school, my mom would take me shopping.
Q4: Dating a guy that didn't give me anything for Valentine's Day.
Q5: \$500 vouchers to pay for books.



Houston Cook, 21
Junior business major
Groton, Conn.

Q1: A day where you're supposed to give special attention to your significant other.
Q2: By giving flowers and teddy bears that say "I love you."
Q3: Not applicable.
Q4: Someone broke up with me on Valentine's Day.
Q5: Scholarships.



Prajani Bastakoti, 22
Senior business major
Arlington, Va.

Q1: A day where couples express their feelings about love.
Q2: Hang out, get dinner and have fun.
Q3: An ex-boyfriend got me tons of gifts.
Q4: There isn't a worst Valentine's Day memory, but last year I couldn't see my boyfriend.
Q5: Some kind of game where you could win a dinner for two, gift certificate or (tickets) to the movies.



Elizabeth Castle, 19
Sophomore psychology major

Q1: Spending quality time with the one you love.
Q2: Go out to eat.
Q3: I have no idea, because I really didn't have many.
Q4: Not having a boyfriend, I guess.
Q5: No final exams and make parking decals not cost too much.



Nick Duzant, 20
Junior business major
New York, N.Y.

Q1: Just a holiday. It really doesn't mean anything to me
Q2: Just call my mom and make sure she feels real special.
Q3: Don't have one.
Q4: I forgot Valentine's Day one time, and my mom was my Valentine. She wasn't feeling that too much.
Q5: A VCU singles dance, reduced parking and free chocolate.



Maria Venetsanos, 19
Sophomore English major
Fairfax, Va.

Q1: A day for people to act like they care.
Q2: Probably go out to dinner and just be with him.
Q3: When my ex-boyfriend rented a hotel room with a Jacuzzi. We had a bubble bath and dinner.
Q4: When a guy totally forgot about Valentine's Day, and ever since then I've been against it.
Q5: No school for one day and more parking.



SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Homecoming victory for Rams over Monarchs

Nick George, Jesse Pellot-Rosa lead in scoring effort to topple Old Dominion

DAVID HALL
Sports Writer

With a nationally televised audience watching on ESPN2 Saturday and the homecoming crowd looking on, homegrown product Jesse Pellot-Rosa (Richmond/ George Wythe High School) served up some home cooking.

Coming off of a heartbreaking loss to Colonial Athletic Association-leading George Mason two days prior, VCU held on to defeat visiting Old Dominion 80-74.

In front of a record crowd of 7,838, the junior guard put the Rams on his back and carried them in the first half despite a slow start from star forward Nick George (Manchester, England). Pellot-Rosa finished the first half with 17 points, and George scored five.

Rams head coach Jeff Capel said that after the loss against the Patriots Thursday, Pellot-Rosa stayed behind to work on his shot. His preparation showed against the Monarchs.



The crowd cheers on VCU toward its 80-74 victory over the Monarchs in Saturday's homecoming game.

"Jesse was very determined, you can tell by the way he played," Capel said.

The Monarchs were able to stay in the game with the help of former CAA Player of the Year Alex Loughton scoring nine points and the team adding 13 points from the foul line.

The Rams led by six at halftime and opened the second half with a 12-5 run to take a 50-

37 lead.

The Monarchs were able to climb back behind sharp shooting and crisp ball movement. Monarchs point guard Isaiah Hunter was able to locate Loughton for consecutive baskets to pull Old Dominion within one with 6

See **HOME**COMING, Page 11

Old Dominion
vs. Virginia Commonwealth

FINAL SCORE



80-74 vcu

SCORING

VCU		Old Dominion	
George	19	Henderson	6
Faulk	6	Dahi	21
Walker	11	Loughton	19
Pellot-Rosa	19	Hunter	15
Harper	5	Williamson	9
Maynor	10	Lidonde	0
Anderson	3	Harris	0
Capel	0	Adams	2
Davis	4	Vasylius	2
Shuler	3		

Halftime: 38-32 vcu

George Mason
vs. Virginia Commonwealth

FINAL SCORE



73-61 Mason

SCORING

VCU		Mason	
George	21	Thomas	14
Faulk	2	Lewis	21
Walker	10	Skinn	13
Pellot-Rosa	9	Butler	2
Harper	11	Campbell	18
Maynor	4	Carter	0
Anderson	1	Norwood	5
Davis	3	Fleming	0
Shuler	0	Hernandez	0

Halftime: 36-24 vcu

George Mason deals VCU first loss at home

Rams fail to keep Patriots at bay despite 12-point lead at halftime

CLIVE WHITE
Sports Reporter

Five minutes into the second half VCU looked to be unbeatable at home Thursday, expanding a 12-point halftime lead against George Mason to 17. That was before the Patriots rallied for a 73-61 win, giving the Rams their first home loss of the season.

In response to the Rams' spurt, the Patriots called a timeout, and the game shifted from the Rams' dominance with a roaring crowd to the Patriots' resiliency and a crowd held breathless.

The Rams' offense got almost every shot they wanted to fall in the first half, working all angles of the court and connecting on 65 percent of their shots.

The Patriots on the other hand had a tough first half, not hitting their second field goal until 7 minutes passed. The Rams, players and fans, showed why they were 10-0 at home with lights-out shooting and crowd presence.

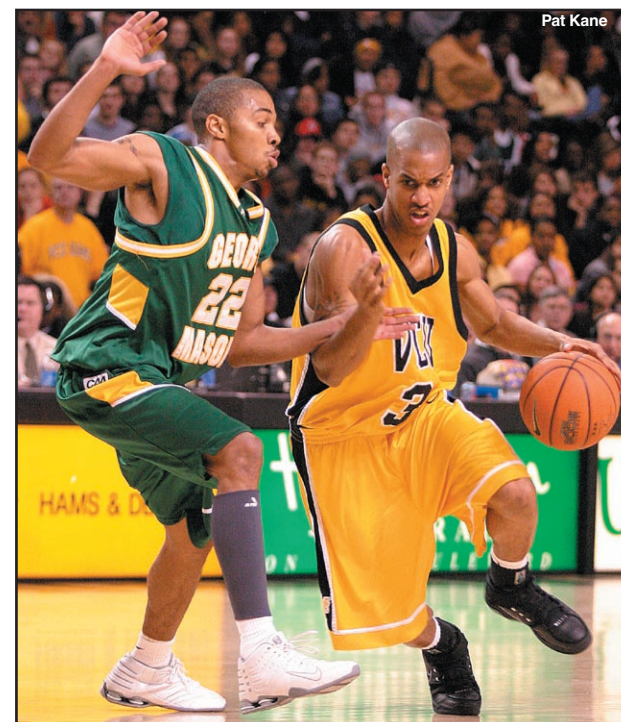
"That performance by VCU in the first half was as good as I've seen all year," said Patriots coach Jim Larranaga. "Fortunately we hung in there long enough."

Patriots center Jai Lewis and swingman Folarin Campbell were the key players in keeping the Patriots close to the Rams in the first half and leading the mounting charge of changing a 17-point deficit to a victory.

Along with Lewis scoring eight points and Campbell adding seven points, the pair continually put in timely baskets in the first half to hold the Rams back from blowing the game wide open in the first half. Both had an even stronger second half, finishing with 21 and 18 points respectively.

But in the second half they got

See **MASON**, Page 11



VCU's Eric Maynor (right) drives toward the basket in Thursday's game against George Mason.

SPORTS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

VCU suffers narrow loss to W&M Tribe at home

Hollingsworth’s 24 points, career-high rebounds not enough to seal victory for Rams

WESTON REEVES
Associate Sports Editor

Junior guard Michele Cosel (Mechanicsville/Atlee High School) and redshirt freshman Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake/Great Bridge High School) were a match made in heaven in the second half Sunday, but VCU’s women’s basketball team was unable to escape a poorly played first half as the Rams fell 70-66 to visiting William & Mary, dropping their sixth game in a row.

Hollingsworth made the most of her presence in the paint, scoring 22 of her 24 points in the second half and grabbing a career-high 21 rebounds to help bring the Rams back from a 34-22 halftime deficit. Despite her efforts, the Rams could not find a way to hold a significant lead and finish with a win.

“I think we got ourselves in a hole in the first half,” Hollingsworth said after the game, “but all in all we came out and we competed like we really wanted it. It just so happened they came out on top.”

Tribe sophomore Kyra Kaylor was a key reason William and Mary managed to maintain their lead throughout the second

half. Heading into Sunday’s game, the 6-0 forward was a leading candidate for Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year, averaging 18.8 points a game and grabbing 12.3 rebounds in conference play.

After pouring in 20 points and hauling in 17 rebounds in her last appearance against the Rams, Kaylor was up to par in this game as well. She scored a game-high 26 points and secured 12 boards to pace the Tribe.

Rams coach Beth Cunningham said her team respected Kaylor coming into the game and focused on shutting her down in the second half.

“I think a player like that is hard to shut down,” Cunningham said. “She had 15 points in the first half. She came out on fire, but I think we did a better job on her in the second half.”

The Rams struggled offensively during the first half, hitting only 34.8 percent of their shots and turning the ball over nine times by either botching passes or committing simple mistakes.

Despite their first-half woes, the Rams responded and started the second half strong when Cosel kick-started an 8-0 run by sinking

See WOMEN, Page 11



VCU’s Quanitra Hollingsworth grabbed a career high of 21 rebounds in Sunday’s game. (File photo)

William & Mary vs. Virginia Commonwealth

FINAL SCORE



70-66 W&M

SCORING

William & Mary

VCU

James	14	Pinkney	9
Kaylor	26	Hollingsw.	24
Stroh	7	Cosel	15
Kell	0	Chistova	12
Schiel	14	Jones	2
Cruse	2	Vaughn	2
Neumer	0	Williams	2
Carter	4		
Boone	0		
Tausanovitch	3		

Halftime: 34-22 W&M

Tigers squeak past Rams in OT

RECAP

TOWSON, Md. – Tierra Jackson hit a pair of free throws with 3.6 seconds remaining in overtime to lift Towson to a victory over VCU Friday.



Jamell Beasley sent the game into the extra period after draining a 3-pointer from the top of the arc at the end of regulation, helping the Tigers overcome a nine-point deficit in the final 5:36. The shot was the Tigers’ only 3-pointer of the game.

Trailing 60-56 in overtime, Michele Cosel (Mechanicsville/Atlee High School) drilled a 3-pointer with 49 seconds left to pull the Rams within one.

Cosel followed with a steal on the Tigers’

possession, and Brittany Pinkney (Clinton, Md.) was eventually fouled. She made both free throws to give VCU a 61-60 lead with under 18 seconds to go before Jackson’s game-winning free throws.

Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake/Great Bridge High School) registered 13 points and a team-high 11 rebounds, and LaKea Jones (Fort Washington, Md.) added 10 points and 10 boards for the Rams, who fell for the fifth straight game.

Cosel tallied 13 points, and Vera Chistova (St. Petersburg, Russia) chipped in 12, but the Rams shot just 35 percent from the field.

Beasley scored 20 of her game-high 22 points after halftime, and Jackson registered 21 points and a game-high 12 rebounds to propel the Tigers.

SCORING

Halftime: 23-22 Towson

VCU			Towson		
Vaughn	6	Jones	11	Robinson	5
Hollingsw.	20	Pinkney	11	Pyne	4
Chistova	13	Williams	0	Rose	0
		Peterson	0	O’Brien	10
				Beasley	22
				West	0
				Jackson	21
				Hopkins	0

UPCOMING EVENTS



Men’s Basketball

Wed. Feb. 15
at Towson, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 17
ESPN Bracket Buster
vs. Albany, 7

Women’s Basketball

Fri. Feb. 17
vs. Hofstra, 7 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 19
at George Mason, 2

Track & Field (Men’s & Women’s)
Fri.-Sat. Feb. 17-18
Virginia Tech Invitational
Blacksburg, Va.

VCU sporting events are free to students with a valid student ID. For more information, contact the VCU Sports Line at 828-3440 or visit vcurams.vcu.edu.

Men’s Tennis

Fri. Feb. 17
vs. Hofstra, 7 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 19
at George Mason, 2

Women’s Tennis

Fri. Feb. 17
vs. Hofstra, 7 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 19
at George Mason, 2

Baseball

Wed. Feb. 15
at Liberty, 2 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 17
at Northwestern, 4

Sat. Feb. 18
at Northwestern, 1

Sun. Feb. 19
at Northwestern, noon

VCU RAMS



SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mozingo K's 10 in baseball opener

FARMVILLE, Va. – Junior pitcher Harold Mozingo (Tappahannock/Essex High School) recorded 10 strikes, scattering just three hits over six innings as VCU dispatched of Longwood 6-0 in the Rams' season opener.

Designated hitter **Barrett Ripley** (Glen Allen/Hermitage High School) got the game-winning RBI in the first inning by getting plunked with the bases loaded in the first inning. **Sergio Miranda** (Bayamon, Puerto Rico) came home for the Rams.

Miranda drove in **Bobby Holmes** (Quinton/Lee-Davis High School) with a sacrifice fly in the second inning to make the score 2-0.

Junior right fielder **Trai Harris** (Newport News/Woodside High School) had two RBI, while **Kwan Evans** (Hampton/Bethel High School) was the only Ram to have multiple hits, going 2-for-5.

The final two games of the series against the Lancers were postponed due to inclement weather.

The Rams are on the road against Liberty Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Men's tennis knocks off No. 13 Wake Forest, No. 35 Minnesota

The 34th-ranked VCU men's tennis team scored two victories over ranked opponents this weekend, dropping the 13th-ranked Demon Deacons 4-2 and upending 35th-ranked Minnesota 5-1 Sunday at Thalhimer Tennis Center Friday.

The Rams swept the doubles portion Friday before taking three singles matches to seal the win. The sixth singles match did not finish.

Petr Olsak (Novy Jicin, Czech Republic) and **Sergi Arumi** (Barcelona, Spain) claimed victories in singles and doubles for the Rams. **Georges-Alexandre Israel** (Marseilles, France) clinched the match with a 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Cory Parr.

In action on Sunday, the Rams took all three doubles match-ups with an 8-7 win by **Sebastian Ripoll** (Mauleon-Soule, France) and freshman **Emil Lindgren** (Stocksund, Sweden) over the Golden Gophers.

Israel was successful on Sunday as well, improving to 8-0 and clinching the match with his 6-2, 6-3 defeat of Raoul Schwark. Junior **Arnaud Lecloerec** (Plouhinec, France) and sophomore **Damien Lacombe** (Perigueux, France) were victorious on the day as well.

Women's Tennis stays perfect with win over ODU

The women swept the Monarchs 7-0 Sunday at Thalhimer Tennis Center and improved to 9-0 on the year.

The Rams were perfect in singles competition but fell 9-8 in doubles when sophomore **Viktoria Konstantinova** (Hanskovo, Bulgaria) and junior **Camille Ripert** (Lourmarin, France) both fell to Barbara Costa and Barbara Kerner. The Rams' 17th-ranked pair of sophomore **Marianna Yuferova** (St. Petersburg, Russia) and senior **Olga Borisova** (Minsk, Belarus) won -8 over Fernanda Luiz and Charleen Haarhoff.

VCU great has jersey retired

Former men's basketball standout **Calvin Duncan** (Linden, N.J.) had his jersey retired during halftime of the VCU-Old Dominion game Saturday.

Duncan, who led the team in scoring his sophomore and junior seasons, was twice named an Associated Press honorable mention All-American selection and selected as 1983 Co-Sunbelt Player of the Year.

He ranks as the university's fourth all-time leading scorer with 1,630 career points.



Calvin Duncan (center) looks on as his jersey is retired during the VCU-ODU homecoming game Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

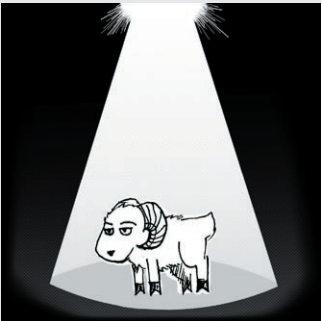
Elsewhere

in the world of sports...

Kwan withdraws citing injury

TURIN, Italy – Michelle Kwan's Olympic career likely came to an end Sunday when she withdrew from the figure skating competition with a strained groin muscle. The nine-time U.S. champion and five-time

world champion Kwan was hoping to add her first Olympic gold in Turin after falling short in the previous two games. Kwan will be 29 at the next Olympics, which is considered older for a figure skater. Seventeen-year-old Emily Hughes, who is the sister of defending Olympic champion Sarah Hughes, is replacing Kwan.



RAM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

So you think you can dance...

...Christian Edwards really can.

Edwards is a lieutenant on the VCU Dance Team.

Class:
Sophomore

Major:
History

Birthdate:
January 3, 1986

Hometown:
Charlotte, N.C.

High school:
J.R. Tucker (Henrico)

Dance experience:
Mom taught dance, competitive dance in Charlotte

Plans after VCU:
To get a master's in education, own a dance studio, dance on a cruise ship

Hobbies:
Dance, helped coach a team, basketball

Favorite songs to dance to:
Hip-hop stuff

Dream job:
Dancing at a Broadway show

Favorite sport:
Competitive Dance



Favorite drink:
Shirley Temple

Best asset:
I try to be a good people person.



SPORTS

HOMECOMING, from Page 8

minutes left.

With the game on the line and hundreds of rowdy rams fans screaming and waving yellow towels, Capel called on freshman guard Eric Maynor (Fayetteville, N.C.). It was a decision he said produced huge dividends.

"How about Eric Maynor? We just put the ball in his hands, and he made big plays," Capel said.

Maynor showcased his ability to split the Monarchs defense on numerous offensive possessions.

VCU sealed the deal with three consecutive buckets: Maynor's floater in the lane, Sam Faulk's (Fayetteville, N.C.) tip in and George's 3-pointer as the shot clock was winding down.

Pellot-Rosa and George led the way with 19 points apiece, a career high for Pellot-Rosa. B.A. Walker (Onancock/Nandua High School) chipped in 11 points, and Maynor finished with a season-high 10.

Arnaud Dahi scored a game-high 21 points to lead the Monarchs, who shot just 43.1 percent compared to 51.8 percent for the Rams. Loughton registered 19 points and nine rebounds, and Hunter totaled 15 points.

The Rams travel to Towson Feb. 15 for a contest against the Tigers.

MASON, from Page 8

considerably more help from their teammates. Taking advantage of the Rams' defense, the Patriots shot 74 percent in the second half in addition to making 13 of 14 free throws.

The amazing shooting percentage for the Patriots and the Rams' poor defense were not the only factors leading to VCU's second-half collapse. It was the lack of scoring by the Rams that also helped quiet a loud crowd.

"I want to thank the crowd," Rams head coach Jeff Capel said. "They were great, I'm sorry we weren't."

Leading scorer for the Rams with 21 points, Nick George (Manchester, England), said he was disappointed with how he and his team ended the game.

"We weren't able to hold our lead," he said. "There has been so many times where we've been in that situation when we built a nice little lead and (were) not able to take care of it."

Though this was a game that George was looking forward to, he said he will not dwell on the loss.

"The main thing is that we come back tomorrow and stay focused. That's the only way to get better. This is over. We need to put it behind us because if we continue to think about it we stay down," he said.

WOMEN, from Page 9

a layup and hitting a 3-point shot from the corner to cut the Tribe's lead to 34-32.

With 11:36 left and the Rams trailing 39-36, Cosel tied the game when she hit another 3-pointer from the corner.

Whenever the Rams managed to close the gap, however, the Tribe pulled away. After the score was tied at 39, Kaylor capped a 12-2 run for the Tribe with a layup to bring the score to 51-41.

Sophomore guard Devin James put the Tribe up for good 56-54 when she sank an inside shot with 3:49 left. The Rams continued to play catch-up. Hollingsworth helped bring them within two when she sank a layup with 5 seconds left, but Kaylor put the game out of reach when she hit back-to-back free throws for the final margin.

Despite the loss, the connection between Cosel and Hollingsworth was apparent. Cosel provided Hollingsworth with easy scoring opportunities, finding her frequently under the basket.

"If I see her coming down the court and I'm driving and she makes her main cut, I'm definitely going to try to give her the ball every time," Cosel said. "She's such a big presence inside."

The Rams look to improve on the scoring connection Cosel and Hollingsworth have formed as well as attempt to snap their losing streak when they host Hofstra on Fri. Feb. 17.



Online poll

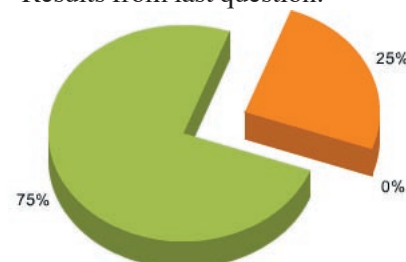
This week's question:

Will Rams men's basketball finish in the CAA top four (and receive a first-round bye)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Vote online at
commonwealthtimes.com

Results from last question:



75% may watch the Turin games;
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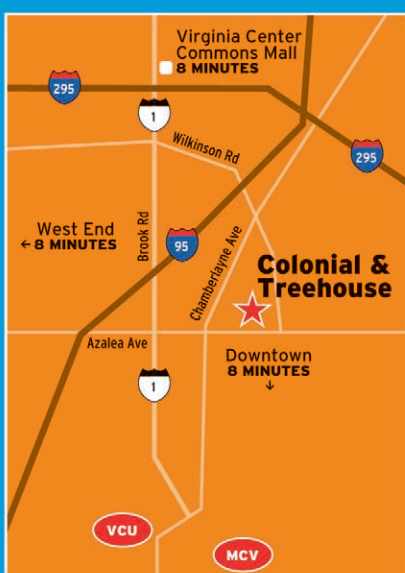
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SPORTS

STANDINGS

CAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

	CAA		Overall
	W	L	W-L
George Mason	13	2	(19-5)
UNC Wilmington	12	3	(19-7)
Hofstra	11	3	(18-4)
Virginia Commonwealth	10	5	(16-7)
Old Dominion	10	5	(17-8)
Northeastern	9	6	(13-10)
Drexel	7	8	(13-13)
Towson	6	9	(10-14)
William & Mary	3	11	(8-15)
Delaware	3	12	(7-17)
Georgia State	3	12	(6-17)
James Madison	2	13	(5-18)



SCORES

Thurs. Feb. 9

Hofstra	76	Delaware	54
Georgia State	70	UNC Wilmington	70
William & Mary	60	Northeastern	47
Old Dominion	81	Drexel	83
James Madison	76	George Mason	73
Towson	68	VCU	61

Sat. Feb. 11

UNC Wilmington	69	Drexel	68
Georgia State	57	Delaware	75
Northeastern	78	Towson	53
Hofstra	89	George Mason	65
Old Dominion	74	William & Mary	72
VCU	80	James Madison	70

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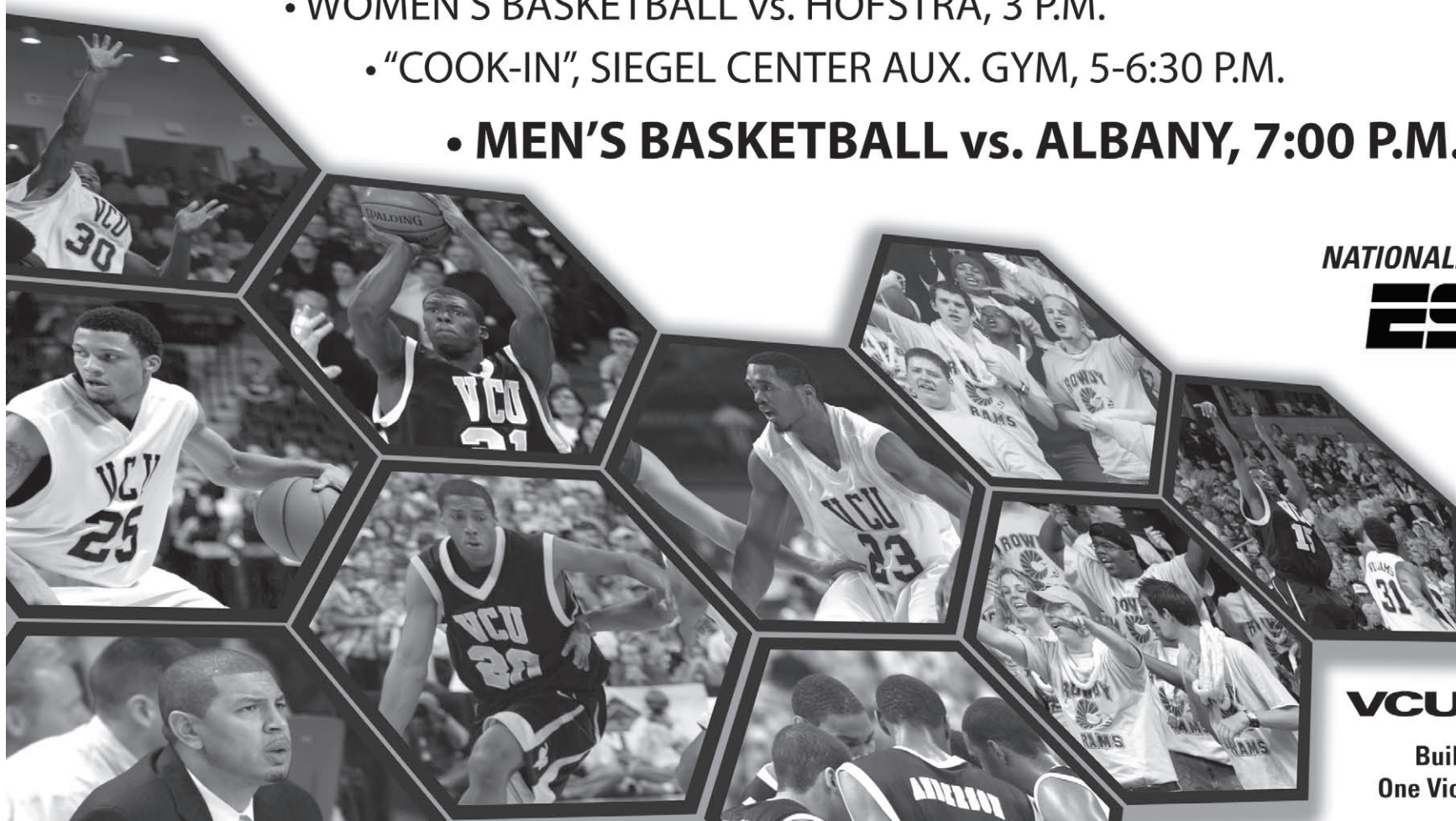
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February 17th, 7:00 p.m.

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- **MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. ALBANY, 7:00 P.M.**



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SPORTS



CAA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

	CAA		overall
	W	L	W-L
Old Dominion	12	0	(14-7)
James Madison	10	3	(18-4)
Delaware	9	4	(17-5)
Hofstra	9	4	(14-8)
William & Mary	8	5	(12-10)
UNC Wilmington	7	6	(13-9)
Drexel	5	8	(10-12)
George Mason	5	8	(9-13)
Virginia Commonwealth	4	9	(11-11)
Towson	3	10	(8-14)
Northeastern	3	10	(7-15)
Georgia State	2	10	(7-14)

SCORES

Fri. Feb. 10

Georgia State	68	James Madison	52
Hofstra	84	Drexel	50
UNC Wilmington	51	William & Mary	58
Delaware	56	Northeastern	54
Old Dominion	81	VCU	61
George Mason	33	Towson	62 (OT)

Sun. Feb. 12

George Mason	67	Georgia State	50
Northeastern	58	Old Dominion	89
James Madison	87	Drexel	41
Towson	53	UNC Wilmington	53
Delaware	85	William & Mary	70
Hofstra	91 (OT)	VCU	66

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C5. Shrimp w. String Bean

C6. Chicken or Beef w. Broccoli

C7. Hunan Chicken or Beef

C8. Szechuan Chicken or Beef

C9. Chicken or Beef or Shrimp w. Garlic Sc.

C10. Sweet & Sour Chicken or Pork

C11. Kung Pao Chicken

C12. Shrimp w. Lobster Sauce

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C14. Triple Delight

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L13. Hunan Chicken or Beef or Shrimp

L14. Shrimp/Pork/Chicken Egg Foo Young

L15. Chicken and Shrimp Combination

L16. Sesame Chicken

L17. General Tso's Chicken

L18. Orange Chicken

L19. Triple Delight

L20. Shrimp w. Lobster Sauce

LUNCH SPECIAL \$5.45

11:00am - 3:00pm

Served with White or Fried Rice & Vegetable Roll

L1. Bean Curd w. Mixed Vegetable

L2. Szechuan String Beans

L3. General tso's Tofu

L4. Eggplant w. Garlic Sauce

L5. Mock Chicken w. Broccoli

L6. Mock Chick w. Mixed Vegetable

L7. Mock Hunan Chicken

L8. Mock Kung Pao Chicken

L9. Mock Beef w. Broccoli

L10. Mock Szechuan Style Beef

L11. Mock Beef w. Tofu in Brown Sauce

L12. Mock Shrimp w. Mixed Vegetable

L13. Mock Shrimp w. Lobster Sauce

L14. Mock Shrimp w. Garlic Sauce

L15. Mock General Tso's Chicken

L16. Mock Sesame Chicken

L17. Mock Orange Chicken

L18. Mock Triple Delight

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VCU HOMECOMING 2006



TOP: Jesse Pellot-Rosa had 17 of his 19 points in the second half of the VCU-ODU homecoming game Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

ABOVE: Jim Jones checks out the crowd during the VCU homecoming concert Friday, Feb. 10.

LEFT: VCU's Eric Davis (31) makes a lay-up during the VCU-GMU game Feb. 9.

Pat Kane photos

VCU HOMECOMING 2006



TOP: The crowd gets hyped at the VCU-GMU game Feb. 7.

ABOVE: Nikki Carr jokes at the homecoming comedy show Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the University Student Commons.

LEFT: Twista gets the crowd going at the VCU homecoming concert Friday, Feb. 10.

Pat Kane photos



Spectrum

Two views on VCU's homecoming concert

Trey Songz kicks things off at the 2006 VCU homecoming concert Friday, Feb. 10.

Pat Kane photos



Twista & Co bring students together

JAMES GALLOWAY
Spectrum Writer

VCU's homecoming concert was a groovy accent to homecoming week. R&B artists Trey Songz, Twista, Jim Jones and Juelz Santana were the features of Friday night's concert and working together, put on a crowd-pleasing show.

Petersburg, Va. native Trey Songz kicked things off with some stage antics that were as much fun to watch as they were to participate in. He hand-picked a group of women from the pit and brought them onstage. Before he sang to the beat, he whispered something to the first girl in line. There's no telling what he said to her, but it provoked a very enticing dance between the two that set off the atmosphere of Songz's entire set.

The women really seemed to like him, but all that aside there is a lot to be said for the range of his voice. Trey Songz gave an inspiring speech afterwards about following one's dreams, and looking at the title of his first album, "I Gotta Make It," you can see where it came from.

Twista was next on the ticket, and put the house on its feet. In 1991, after the release of "Runnin' off at the Mouth" under the name Tung Twista, he was recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records as world's fastest rapper. His speedy tongue and precise rhythms worked magic at pulling in the audience's attention. He mentioned his most recent album, "The Day After," and pleased the crowd with some singles from the LP, including the single he and Trey Songz did together, "Girl Tonight."

The attitude had transformed by this time. The audience was clearly skeptical before the show.

"Twista may be the strongest attraction tonight," Tiffany Stiles said, "and I'm not

even sure about him." Under stifling security, seats were filling slow and the show was a half hour late getting off the ground. By the halfway point, both Twista and Trey Songz had paid homage to Biggie and 2Pac and the tone had shifted from playful to groovy, meaningful waves of sound.

It was clear that this concert, like many others, wasn't about one artist, but instead the chance for that fabled spark that ignites when you put a motley collection of talented people together onstage. The now-crowded stands were shaking in rhythm with the music, the bass was cutting through the air and dictated the sea of bodies swaying in unison. During that moment of solidarity in the middle of the show, the free energy was pulsing in four-four count. It could be felt flowing through the audience and it was then that the purpose of this concert revealed itself.

"You don't go to a show so you can hear their CD live," Dyshawn Thompson said afterwards. "You go for the vibes, for the atmosphere. Even if you don't like the rappers, you can still feel them in there."

After the climax of the show, underground gangsta rapper and explicit-lyrics strongman Jim Jones took the stage. When Twista stepped aside for Jim Jones, the crowd was in a very open mood, and Jones seemed to fit right in there. People were dancing and strangers were laughing together; just the kind of thing you like to see at these events. Jim Jones carried the party over to Juelz Santana. The East Coast hardcore rapper turned out to be "What the Game's Been Missing" and gave us some infectious grooves to go home with.

At the end of the homecoming concert, all the groups got onstage together and sang. It was another positive display of attitude towards coming together and entertaining.

Dipset wins over skeptical crowd

COURTNEY L.A. SEABORNE
Spectrum Writer

The homecoming concert featuring Trey Songz, Twista and Dipset had a great turnout. A lot of people came out to support the artists, have a good time and enjoy the show.

Did everyone enjoy the concert? It was obvious from the crowd's reactions who stole the show and who didn't.

Trey Songz started off the show. He is Virginia's finest right out of Petersburg and the girls loved him. He definitely got a lot of screams, but there was a mixed reaction toward his performance.

He first came out with blue faded jeans, a white T-shirt and a yellow do-rag. By the time his performance was over, all he had on was his jeans (which the girls loved). At the beginning of his performance, he sang a lot of songs that a lot of people didn't know. Closer to the end of his set he sang all the songs that everyone knew, songs like "I Don't Wanna Leave" and "Just Gotta Make It," which were both crowd-pleasers that got everyone up from their seats.

The highlight of his show was when he invited four girls on the stage to not only be seen by plenty but also to get an up close and personal feel of Trey Songz. His performance overall was OK. In the beginning, he got a huge response but there were some sitting in the crowd toward the middle. By the end, though, he had a huge response and the crowd was really into him. Especially the ladies.

Twista was the next performer. What is there to really say about this performer and performance? Was Twista hot or not? From the crowd's unanimous decision he was defiantly not. Twista — as most of you may know — is known for his fast rhyming skills, but his performance wasn't the best.

Since Twista raps so fast no one could really sing along, and Twista is a rapper who needs other rappers on his track to make a song hot. He proves this all the time with songs featuring artists like R. Kelly, Kanye West and Lil John. Those songs — especially the two with Kanye West — were hit makers, but everything else basically wasn't.

Twista did a lot of songs that no one knew. The crowd's response was a sight to see. From left to right, most of the floor seats were all consumed with people. Everyone was sitting. I even saw someone close their eyes.

Twista's highlight was when he brought Trey Songz out to do a duet called "Girl Tonight." For the most part, Twista was performing other people's songs and gave a shout out to the fallen soldiers of hip-hop

by playing their songs. He even forgot the lyrics to one of his own songs (which people in the crowd noticed).

Twista's performance overall was really not a good one. Sorry Twista.

I guess the best is always last because it seemed like everyone was waiting for the last performer, Harlem's own Dipset (minus Camron who was not present). As soon as Jim Jones came out onstage the crowd was ecstatic. Everyone was up screaming and reciting all the lyrics to "We



Twista gets the crowd going.

Certified Gangstas."

Soon after Juelz Santana came out, and what a sight it was to see. The girls were going crazy. It was funny because when Trey Songz came onstage it was just him. Twista had two other people on the stage, but those Dipset boys had at least 10 people onstage, all part of their crew and also the cutest little boy about two years old with long hair all in one ponytail. He really hyped up the crowd because he knew a lot of the words and was dancing back and forth onstage. Every song that Dipset sang got a huge response. There was definitely no sitting during Dipset's performance. The crowd was roaring with both guys and girls dancing to all the tracks played.

They also brought Trey Songz out for a second time to do a duet, so I guess you can say that he was a hit. No one sat, everyone clapped, sang, danced and put their Dipset sign in the air as he defiantly took over the show. Dipset was the best performance of the night and it was proven by the audiences response.

Overall, the concert was a success thanks to Dipset and it really put students in the "school spirit" mindset. The roaring response was continued throughout the night as students partied hard and prepared for



Spectrum



ABOVE: Adrian Blaze and That Guy Dave go into the crowd during the Chairshot Heard Round the World match at Alley Katz Saturday, Feb. 11. **RIGHT:** Adrian Blaze goes for an armbar on That Guy Dave.

Pat Kane photos



Spectrum

MAYHEM

returns to Alley Katz

Pat Kane photos

TOM NASH
Spectrum Writer

Alley Katz received a return visit Saturday from the local underground wrestling group Richmond Lucha Libre, which promptly converted the popular club into a wrestling ring that knew no bounds.

The event, titled “The Chairshot Heard ‘Round the World” featured a “doomsday deathmatch” between Horrorshow and Kamikaze Kid as the main event.

“We had a great turnout, the crowd was really hyped,” RLL owner Chris Hoyer said. “We’ve been really upping our turnout with each show.”

Hoyer, who wrestles as Horrorshow, was betrayed during the last outing by Kamikaze Kid (James Long), a senior printmaking major at VCU. The face-off between the two was for the Richmond Lucha Championship title.

It began with Kamikaze Kid being thrown into a folding table and ended amid fireballs and Kamikaze gaining the upper hand as his run-in buddies El Sucio and Adrian Blaze held Horrorshow on a table as Kamikaze Kid dove off the second-floor balcony.

“It was a last ditch effort to become the world champion,” Kamikaze explained.

Hoyer will bring Richmond Lucha Libre back to Alley Katz for its next event, but he has bigger plans in mind for the future.

“It’s hard to find good venues in Richmond,” he said. “I’d love to do the Siegel Center.”

Kamikaze feels that the events will continue to gain in popularity because of their intended audience: those who usually look down on professional wrestling.

“By creating a product that is cool and punk rock on the outside, we’re trying to harken back to the days of Hulk Hogan on the inside,” Kamikaze said, breaking with his character for a moment. “It strikes a chord in everybody, no matter who you are.”



The Amazon hits a cross body on Ace Montana during the Chairshot Heard Round the World match at Alley Katz Saturday, Feb. 11.



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For information on this study or to see if you are qualified for this study, please contact Annie Cheang at 828-9698.

This study is under the supervision of "Annie" Kai I. Cheang, Pharm.D., and John E. Nestler, M.D.

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ART2681

Spectrum

First Novelist award given at Singleton Center ceremony

KATHERINE PUGH
Spectrum Writer

Faculty, students, and other members of the VCU community came together to honor Lorraine Adams and her book "Harbor" for the Fourth Annual First Novelist Award at the Singleton Center on Friday.

The First Novelist Award was started to honor rising talent in the literary world. Created in conjunction with VCU writer and alumnus David Baldacci, the award has since been given out to a variety of authors for their first novels, as chosen by a panel of judges.

The well-attended event featured many familiar faces littered the crowd, including moderator Patty Smith and faculty such as First Novelist Award founders Laura Browder and Tom DeHaven, as well as Marcel Cornis-Pope, Jennifer Koster, Gregory Donovan and Colleen Curran.

Clint McCown came up to announce the award to Adams after a few more acknowledgements and took several moments to introduce the work. He described the book as "rich in emotion, psychological death...suffering, resilience, hardship and hope." As Adams came up to the stage, VCU e2 Bookstore Director Steve Gonzales presented her with a sculpture made and designed by Allan Rosenbaum, husband of Laura Browder.

The sculpture depicted a face cradled in a giant hand. After the ceremony, Browder described that the piece had been very important for her husband to make. It was his first ceramic casting, and it was the first time he had been able to come back to working with the material after a lengthy sabbatical due to an illness caused by pollution within a school studio he had worked in previously. With a laugh, Browder mentioned that the sculptured had just been finished the day of the event.



Lorraine Adams

Adams was also given a \$1000 cash prize and an all-expense-paid trip to the event from where she teaches at the New School in New York.

Adams, a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton and the holder of a master's degree in literature from Columbia, took to the stage with a relaxed air. "Some of that was hard to listen to," she said, regarding McCown's

introduction. "Well, no it wasn't. It was divine to listen to!"

Adams went on to describe the background of her novel, which was based on her own journalism experience. Questioning the nature of terrorism and violence, the novel follows Aziz Arkoun, a 24-year-old Algerian stow-away who braves the icy waters of Boston harbor to swim to freedom.

As Adams began reading the first chapter, it became clear to the audience of how heavy the work would be. She opened it as a good segue into a novel of "funny names and strange places." The first words of the book stay cemented into the minds of those who read or hear it: "Water never warms in American harbors."

After the reading, the panel was directed by Patty Smith. Guests included literary agent Elizabeth Kaplan and freelance writer and author Caroline Kettlewell, who wrote such books as "Skin Game: A Memoir."

Along with Adams, the three brought in each of their experiences writing books, their own processes creating their stories and advice for those present who were thinking of following the same path. "You can't just decide to write a novel. You have to be a novelist," Kaplan said. "If you've got good talent, it's easy to write 100 pages, but it's the next 200, that's impossible."



Monday, Feb. 13

On Campus

The VCU Spring 2006 Social Justice Film Series will be screening "State of Fear." 4 p.m. Commons Theater.

Around Town

804noise will be hosting Unicorn Hardon (Providence, RI), Some Awesome Radical Sound, and Kid Camaro (Virginia Beach) at Paper Street Info Shop. \$3. 7p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

On Campus

Inner Tube Water Polo. 8:30 p.m. Recreation/Aquatic Center MCV campus.

Around Town

Luna Halo, Need to Breathe, and Waiting for Yesterday will be playing at Alley Katz. \$8 advance, \$10 at the door. 6 p.m. All ages. 643-2816

Wednesday, Feb. 15

On Campus

Professor Robert Hobbs Rhoda Thalheimer, Endowed Chair of American Art, will be lecturing on "Robert Smithson's Partially Buried Woodshed." Grace Street Theater. 4 p.m. 828-2784.

Weird News

Star Trek home bankrupts fan

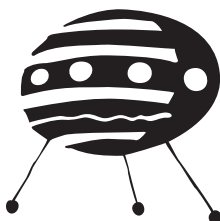
A Star Trek fan has filed for bankruptcy after spending about \$21,000 to turn his apartment into the Voyager starship.

Tony Alleyne's apartment in Hinckley, England, has molded walls, touch-panel blue lighting and a life-size model of the show's transporter room.

Alleyne built a command console, reshaped windows to resemble portholes and set up vertical lights so he can be "beamed up."

He had been planning on going into business after Trekkies learned about the home and began paying him to convert their homes.

He took out two huge loans and ran up debts of about \$175,000 on 14 credit cards marketing his idea and paying for the merchandise.



Alleyne, who was divorced from his wife after he replaced their fridge with a "warp coil" said: "I was convinced Trekkies all over the world would want a house like mine and pay me to do it."

"I'm still proud of what I created but it's been a financial disaster."

Man finds Stradivarius on chicken coop

An elderly Hungarian is set to become a millionaire after finding a Stradivarius violin hidden above his chicken coop.

Imre Horvath, 68, makes a living from the poultry and eggs he sells from his home.

He believes the violin was hidden in the roof space by his musician father, Zoltan, before he went off to fight in World War II, where he was killed.

Horvath said he had no use for the instrument and had taken it to an expert in Debrecen to have it valued because it looked like it might have been valuable.

"They were very excited, but sent me to the capital to have their findings checked," he said, "and they confirmed

the violin was made by the famous 17th century Italian instrument maker Antonio Stradivari."

"I was delighted but then terrified because I have nowhere I can keep the violin in my little house. I just want to sell it as soon as possible and put the money in the bank. Then I can relax."

Only about 650 genuine Stradivarius violins are believed to exist today and one recently sold in the U.S. for almost \$2 million.

Fishing lake stolen

Polish police are hunting poachers who stole a bulldozer and used it to fill a huge fishing lake with dirt.

As the six-foot deep lake gradually filled with dirt, thousands of fish were left floundering in just a few inches of water.

The poachers then picked up all the fish and took them.

Owner Edward Kurylo said he thought it was a joke when, anglers who had paid for licenses to fish in the lake, told him they could not find it anymore.

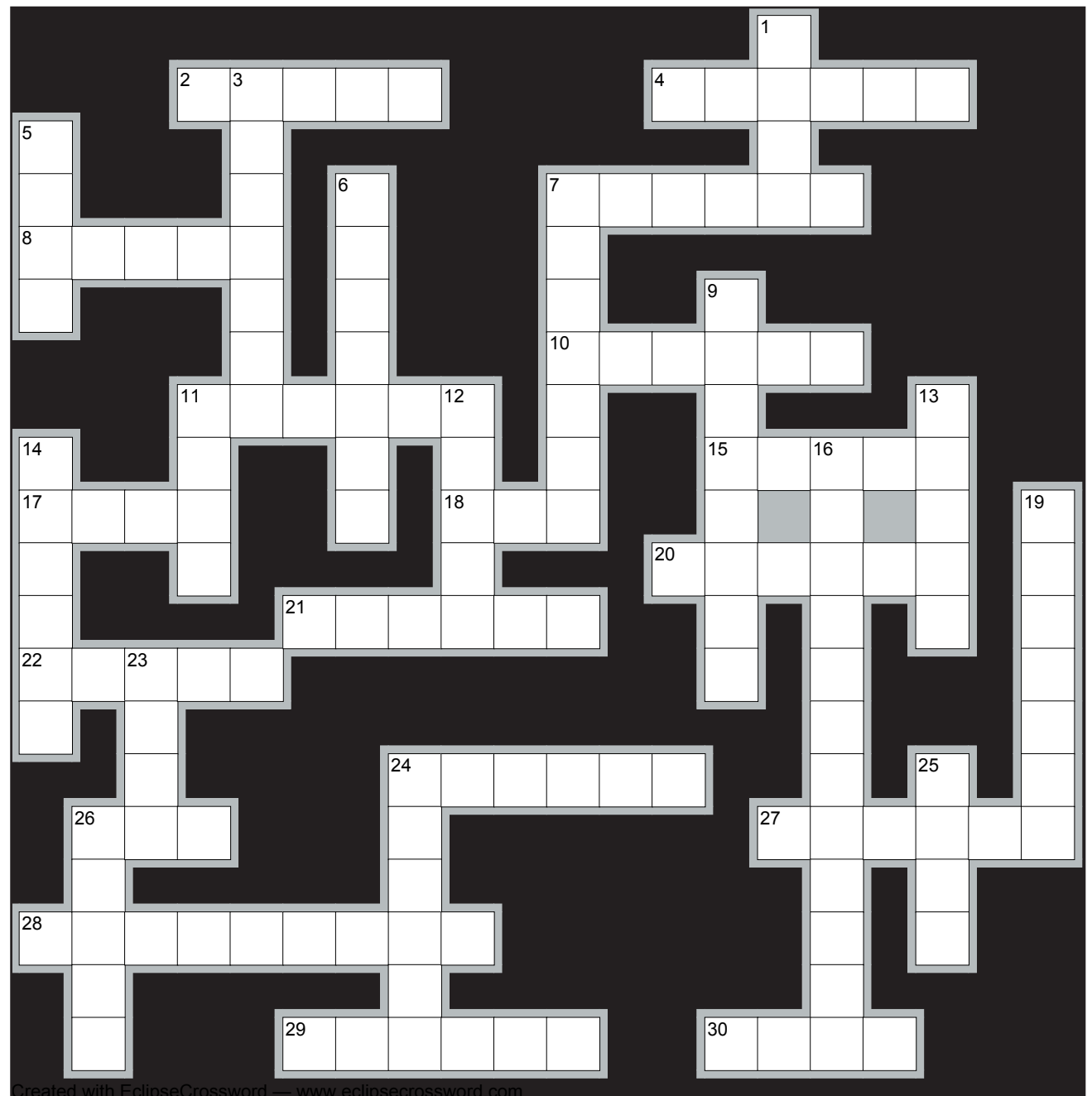
THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES CROSSWORD: BLACK HISTORY EDITION

Across

2. Wrote “Roots”, an account of his family’s history.
4. Lingo.
7. Famous Washington born into slavery as Booker Taliaferro on April 5, 1856 in Franklin County, Va.
8. A hiding place for treasure! Yaaar!
10. He taught creative writing at two universities, had his plays produced on four continents and made recordings of black history, music commentary and his own poetry.
11. Black scholar, early leader in the 20th century black protest movement, and advocate of pan-Africanism.
15. One of the original Black Panthers.
17. Professional tennis player. Born on July 10, 1943, in Richmond, Va.
18. An ____ to a grecian urn.
20. Singer and musician. Born Steveland Morris, on May 13, 1950, in Saginaw, Mich.
21. One of the first American women millionaires.
22. Television talk-show host, actress, producer.
24. “I never run my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger.”
26. Born Cassius Clay.
27. Equality.
28. Jazz musician and entertainer. Born in New Orleans, La., the son of Mary Ann and Willie.
29. Started his life as a slave and ended it as a respected and world-renowned agricultural chemist.
30. Solid.

Down

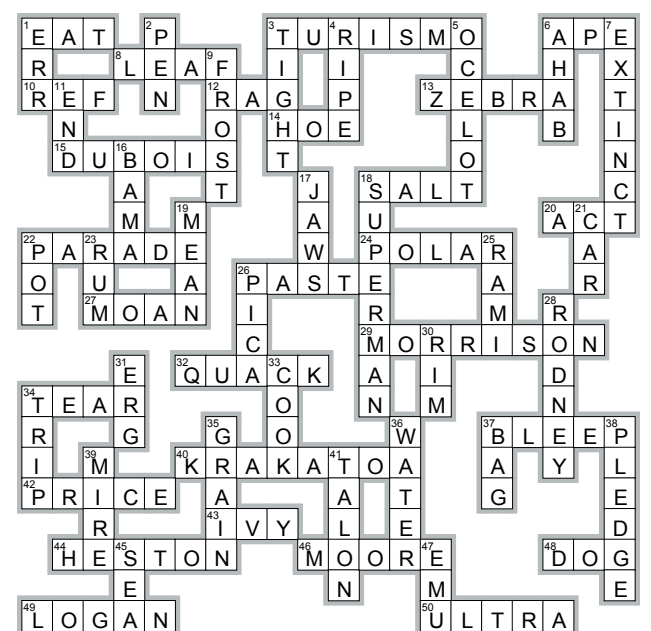
1. Easy, open.
3. Writer, poet, performer and director. Born Marguerite Johnson, on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Miss.
5. Secretary of State.
6. Black nationalist and Muslim leader. “_____ X.”
7. She mobilized the National Association of Colored Women and the National Council of Negro Women.
9. A teacher and then an educational consultant to New York City’s Bureau of Child Welfare, she became the first black congresswoman.
11. Famous Charles whose research succeeded in finding the best way to ‘bank’ whole blood and then to store



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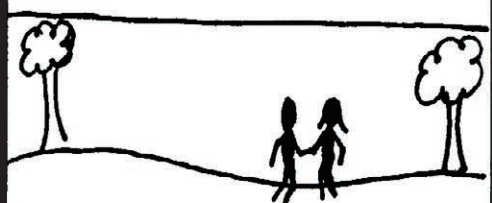
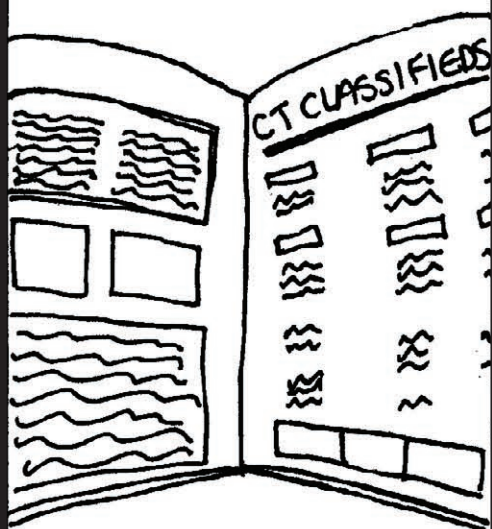
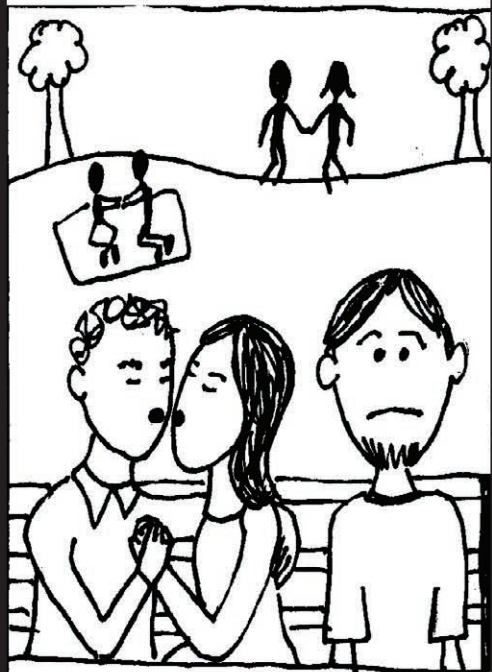
- only the plasma.
12. Combination fork and spoon.
13. He is considered among the most influential figures in the development of rock’n’roll music.
14. Football player, broke Jim Brown’s career rushing record in 1984.
16. A talented basketball player from youth, his exceptional height (at 7 feet, 2 inches) made him a formidable opponent.
19. Named one of the NBA’s 50 greatest players, published a book, “I May Be Wrong but I Doubt It,” in 2002.
23. A type of marsh bird.
24. Leader of a slave insurrection, born in Southampton Co., Va.
25. “Certainly I don’t want to die. But if anyone has to die, let it be me.” — Regal last name, a junior.
26. Baseball player. Born February 5, 1934, in Mobile, Ala.

Answers from Feb. 9 edition



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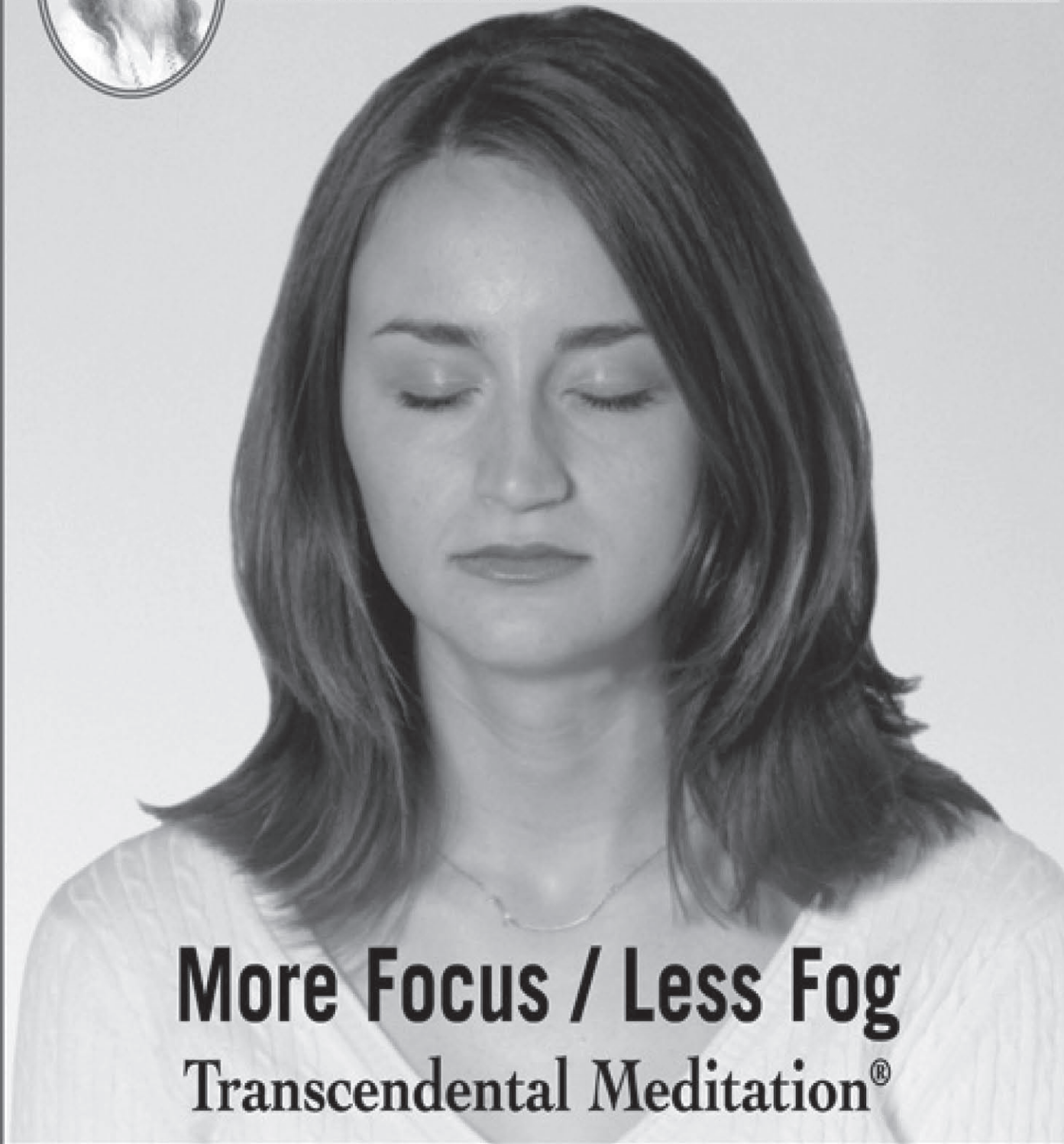
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Interested?
Contact Katie Gantt for more info at ganttkt@vcu.edu or 828-1058.

Time is running out. All applications for The Commonwealth Times' Managing Editor position must be submitted to VCU's Student Media Center at 817 W. Broad St. by Thursday, Feb. 16.

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PERSONAL

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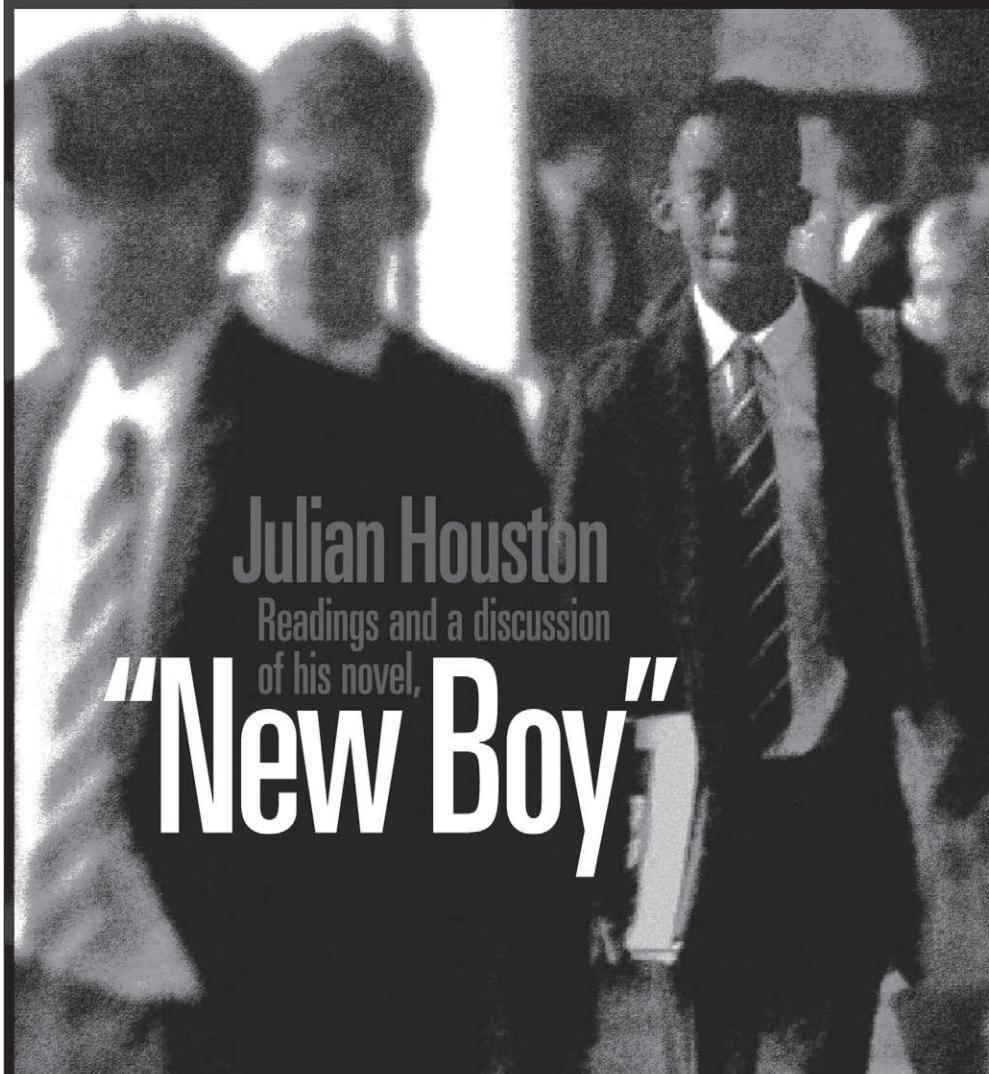
COMICS

Pizza From Scratch

Bill Lemmond



V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y



VCU Libraries Lecture

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006 • 7:30 p.m.
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
922 Park Ave.

Free and open to the public. A book signing and reception will follow the lecture. Parking is available for a fee in the West Main Street and West Cary Street parking decks. If special accommodations are needed, please contact Kimberly Separ at (804) 828-1105 prior to Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006.

This lecture is sponsored by the VCU Friends of the Library and VCU Libraries

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COMICS

WiLdLiFe

Jeffrey Thomas

WiLdLiFe starring Drizzle, JT, and Powell... oh and some sea horses on loan from Sea World.
"Failed Attempt"



VCU Residential Life and Housing and the VCU Homecoming 2006 Committee

would like to congratulate the 2006 Residence Hall Decorating Contest winner:

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Special thanks to the following students for all of their efforts in the Rhoads Brandt decorating:
Torian Cook, Emily Dugan, Tiffany George, Jennifer Lee, Kendal Lee, Aja McGruder, Jazmin Messiah, Shannon Monroe, Shaye Robinson, Romekka Simmons, Stephanie Via, and Ashley Walker.

EDITORIALS & LETTERS

Your Turn

Letters to the Editor

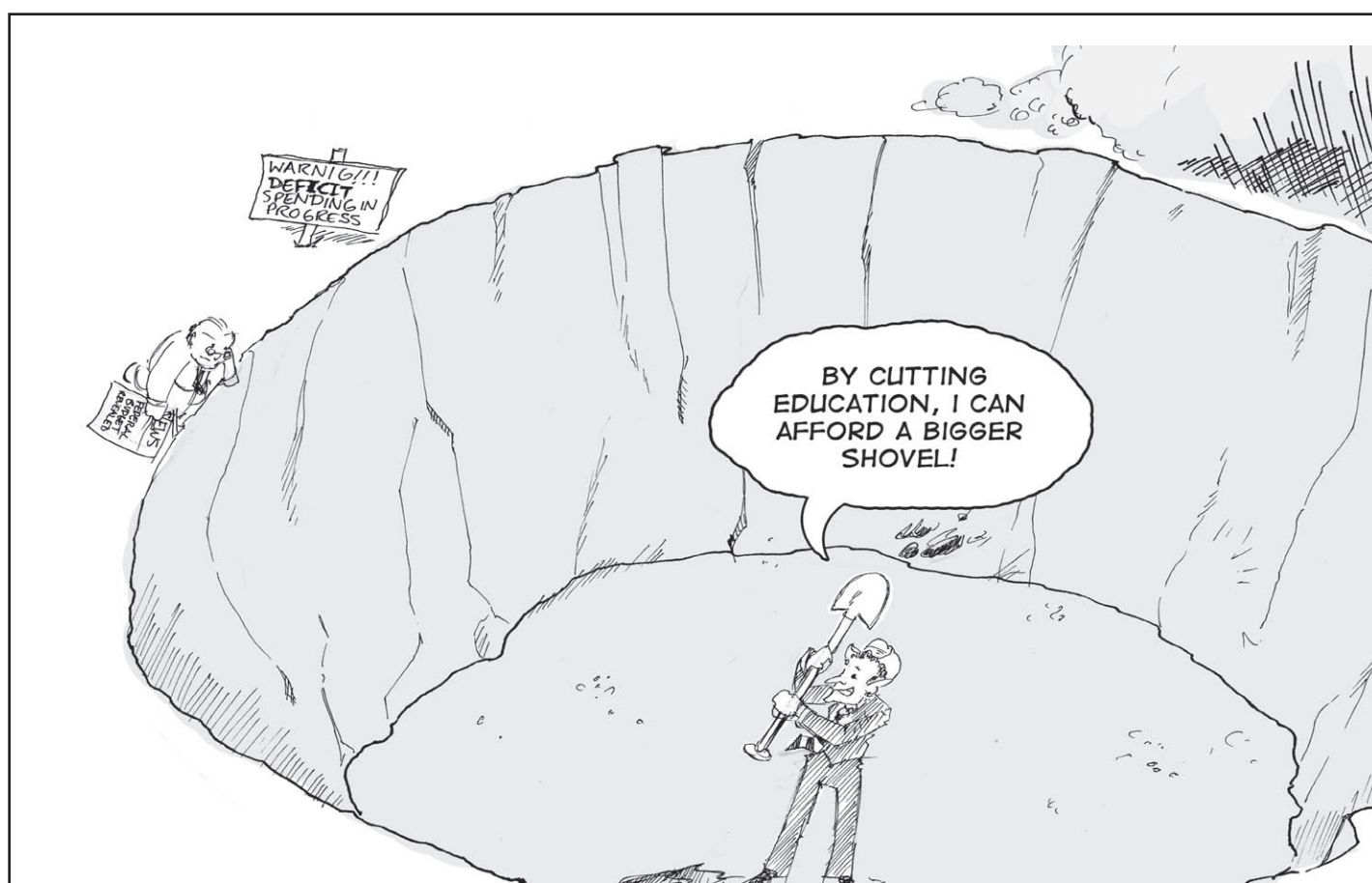
In lieu of recent criminal activity on campus, I would like to announce a new, student-led initiative for promoting and implementing campus safety procedures and policies. The Virginia Senate and House of Delegates are both pushing bills that require the commonwealth's institutions of higher education to implement certain specified measures to begin bolstering campus safety.

The SGA executive branch is proud to announce the organization and formation of the Campus Watch Steering Committee. Members that have been recruited include Chief Fuller from the VCU police department; Jim Vigeant from the Fan District Association; Dr. Daphne Rankin, the service learning coordinator and member of the VCU Safety Committee that was implemented by Dr. Trani; a representative from Sexual Assault and Violence Education Society; and Ali M. Faruk from the Student Government Association. Councilman Pantele from the City Council is also expected to be involved, as is a representative from Richmond City Police. Having a diverse array of members representing different areas applicable to student life is necessary when considering the implications of safety. Ali Faruk and I will co-chair this committee.

The Campus Watch Steering Committee, having been in the initial research and planning stages since November, will seek to forward and implement strategies to improve campus safety. The existence of such an apposite committee is crucial in the steps toward protecting VCU students to a better degree. It will operate concurrently with the VCU Safety Committee and will allow for greater student involvement.

It is the hope of the SGA that students will be in safe harbor on the Monroe Park Campus of VCU. An institution of higher education is responsible to its students to ensure safety, whether inside or outside of its buildings, on the streets and sidewalks or in the surrounding areas that its constituents inhabit. It is in our best interest as a student body to perpetuate our safety.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Smith, III
Special Assistant for Communications
Student Government Association



Editorial Cartoon by Andrew Babb

Starting off small

A semester in the sticks

JILLIAN PUERTO
Op/Ed Writer

What determines a person's choice in applying to college is usually a mixture of factors. Usually it's the atmosphere, whether a school excels in whatever subject the student wants to major in and where family and/or friends are attending. Thinking about all of the different options, I decided that atmosphere and the presence of friends wasn't necessary. I'd create my own atmosphere and friends. So I applied and was accepted into Longwood University. At that time I wanted to teach, so it was primarily the university's focus on education that convinced me that this school would be perfect for me.

I was born and raised in downtown Richmond and loved every second of it. From midnight movies when they were still only \$3 every Saturday night to the little shops (however overpriced at times) in Carytown, to the three malls and various diners open until the wee hours of the morning, to the random places to satisfy Thai food urges — Richmond has everything. The diversity

of Richmond thrilled me, even if that same cultural experience sometimes meant that I should be extraordinarily aware walking down the streets at night.

I had never lived in a small town, and I had no idea what it would be like. The only thing that I had imagined about Farmville was that it was a small town that somehow still had diversity. Farmville is a quaint, cute town, where nearly everyone speaks in a slow southern drawl, and a large majority of the students come from even smaller towns such as Ashland. The university in itself is quite beautiful — green lawns and brick architecture, enclosed by Brock Commons. I lived in Wheeler, an all-girls dorm, moderately large compared to most of my friends' dorms that I'd seen.

However, cute towns can only amuse me but so much. There are thousands of people at Longwood, but it's common to start recognizing people by the third week. The campus is enclosed, which gives it more of a college-like feel, but served only to make me claustrophobic. When I resorted to the streets of Farmville to find amusement, I could only find a few restau-

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The Commonwealth Times

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Virginia Commonwealth University*

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Op/Ed

The religious right or the religious wrong?

ALEXANDER MARRA

Op/Ed Writer

So thousands of Islamic folks have taken to the streets around the world, destroying Christian churches, burning flags of Denmark and other European nations (and the U.S. just because), and crying out, “Death to the infidel,” all because a smart-aleck Danish cartoonist tried to crack a joke about an apparently sensitive issue — the prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.

It seems we have reached a point now where it really has become us versus them. The cultural divide between the conservative Islamic world and the Western Christian or atheist nations (like most of Northern Europe) seems to be becoming too much to bear and may be the root to all the turmoil and violence.

The United Kingdom is home to millions of Muslims who are citizens under her majesty the queen, Elizabeth II. But it seems that place is home to the most demonstrations in a Western nation against Western society than anywhere in the world. In the meanwhile, Tony Blair is simultaneously being the proper politically correct European he is and denouncing Islamic radicalism that incites terrorism but he never misses a beat to praise his Asian populations for their numerous contributions to British society. But the British (even the Asian ones and other former colony émigrés), and all of Europe for that matter, cherish their freedom of speech, more so than Americans, who think they are the ones who invented freedom in general. And so Tony Blair will never say the cartoon should’ve never been published.

On the other side of the pond, we here in America dare not to even republish the cartoon for fear of retribution on our own soil — or perhaps for another reason. In this

land of the free, religion is practiced with more vigor than in any other industrialized Western nation on earth. It could be the fact that the religiously persecuted founded this nation. Or it could be the fact that the religiously charismatic founded this nation (i.e. Baptists and other “fringe” Protestants).

Or could it be that two world wars didn’t occur on our soil, with the killings of millions of human beings that went along with them? Those dark moments in human history happened in Europe, where its citizens witnessed the horrors firsthand in their backyards. Many, like the French existentialists Sartre and Camus, decided a God like the one their ancestors worshiped wouldn’t wreak such havoc upon his children, so they determined he didn’t exist. Europeans have been losing their Christian roots in droves since then, and now, in the 21st century, those beautiful 500-year-old churches in Italy, France, Germany, Spain, etc., are only architectural museums, and home to the dying generation of rosary-praying grandmas.

The Enlightenment-like neo-humanism has replaced religion in Europe, and with it comes a liberalism that allows sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll, but no conservative religious nuts. The only conservative religious nuts around who seem to care aren’t even of European extraction, but instead are the first-, second- and third-generation Muslim immigrants who now make up 10 percent of Eurolandia.

The Muslim protesters claim that the cartoon was blasphemous, and of course it was. A comic depicting a religious founder as a terrorist certainly sounds blasphemous. But what about “The Da Vinci Code,” which makes the Catholic Church out to be a Mafia-like organization of power, money and deception? Is that not blasphemous?

We as the religious are constantly bombarded with

commentary on our respective faiths that can be not just distasteful but also insulting, degrading and downright rude. But we as practitioners of the word of God must not let such mundane artistic expressions as comic strips, paperback novels and low budget student-film-like movies get us down. Did not our ancestors suffer so much worse?

Early Christians were burned at the stake, fed to the lions and crucified upside down. Muslims were decapitated and their heads paraded around on stakes by crusaders. Thank God we seem to have come a long way. But apparently we need to go a ways further if violence breaks out between religions and/or cultures every time we feel someone is trash talking our faith like a fifth-grade playground bully.

Nevertheless, it is a bit ironic that protests galore went up all over free-speech-happy Europe by angry Muslims since the free-speech Euro policy seems to be the root of their discontent. These people were using their free speech in Europe to mobilize and protest essentially the freedom of speech.

Then there is the example of the protesters in the Middle East burning Christian churches. Is that not more blasphemous than the political cartoon? The Danish did not touch a mosque, let alone torch it. In fact, I happen to know Europeans frequent the outsides of mosques to catch good kebab or other Middle-East-Euro food staples sold at fundraisers.

Burning a house of worship is not a sign of discontent or even revenge. It is akin to a war cry for another crusade. And at the very least, in this case, it seems to me that it is a bit hypocritical.

That can’t possibly accomplish anything but make it look like they think Christianity isn’t a religion that deserves respect, and only theirs does, in which case, we are in for a rough millennium that may end in crusades of a different sort. The question is, on which side will the conservative and religious U.S. be?

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rants and to my knowledge only one ethnic restaurant (a Chinese buffet). As a Thai food lover, this didn’t work out too well.

Being somewhat involved in politics, and following the news at the least, I was very surprised to discover that Longwood leans in a conservative direction. I remember rather naively telling my roommate, after finding out that she voted for Bush, “Wow, people still like him?” Actually, yes, a lot of people still like him, and the majority of the university voted for him. My naïveté was soon adjusted. Classroom discussions that would veer toward politics were ones in which, for the first time in a while, I remained quiet.

What I really liked about Longwood, however, was the classes. They were smaller in size, ranging from 15 to 30 people to perhaps under 100 people. The professors made themselves available and most times could be relied upon to answer an e-mail at 11 p.m. Classes were great, but I couldn’t handle the isolation and the exorbitant amount of partying students did because of, well, lack of anything else to do. After going to several parties and not enjoying them very much, I became a hermit. I went home to Richmond almost every weekend after the month of October and listened to my

friends’ stories about VCU parties, classes and the city. I decided to apply for a transfer by Nov. 1.

Since coming to VCU, I’ve had to relearn several things that I lost during the semester spent at Longwood. Traffic has gotten easier, as opposed to the first day, when I casually strolled out in front of a Greyhound. It’s still pleasantly surprising to discover that the campus leans to the left, and the many political activities available are great. Hookah bars were an experience for me as well, something that I tried picturing my Longwood roommate doing and failed. The class size is an adjustment — 300 compared to 30 — but I love taking notes, so it’s not a difficult transition. VCU also doesn’t accept transfer students’ GPAs from their previous colleges, so every once and again I curse the amount of hard work and time spent on classes for which ultimately only half of the credit will transfer, and none of the grades. But every time I wonder what I could have possibly seen in Longwood University, I’m still appreciative for how grateful it makes me feel to attend this school. By experiencing a school that definitely did not fit me, I’m even happier to attend a university that fits perfectly.

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