

**STEWART REACHES NEW HEIGHTS IN INVITATIONAL – PAGE 9**

# The Commonwealth Times

**FREE**

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# BRIEFS

Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



## IN THE NEWS

Compiled from wire reports

### Bush's wartime powers again under review at Supreme Court

**WASHINGTON** - His wartime powers undercut once before by the Supreme Court, President Bush could take a second hit in a case in which Osama bin Laden's former driver is seeking to head off a trial before military officers.

At stake is more than whether Salim Ahmed Hamdan, after nearly four years at the Navy prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, goes on trial for war crimes before a special military commission.

Analysts say if the high court rejects Bush's plan to hold such trials for the first time since the aftermath of World War II, it could rein in the president's expanded powers in pursuing and punishing suspected terrorists.

In addition to special military trials for Hamdan and others, the Bush administration since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has claimed it has the authority to eavesdrop on telephone conversations without court oversight, aggressively interrogate foreigners and imprison people without giving them traditional legal rights.

### California demonstrations for immigrants' rights continue

**LOS ANGELES** - Tens of thousands of immigrant rights advocates from across Southern California marched Saturday in protest of federal legislation that would build more walls along the U.S.-Mexico border and make helping illegal immigrants a crime.

The march followed rallies on Friday that drew throngs of protesters to major cities around the nation.

On Saturday, demonstrators streamed into downtown Los Angeles for what was expected to be one of the city's largest pro-immigrant rallies. The crowd was estimated at more than 100,000, said police Sgt. Lee Sands.

Many of the marchers wore white shirts to symbolize peace and also waved U.S. flags. Some also carried the flags of Mexico and other countries, and even wore them as capes.

The House of Representatives has passed legislation that would make it a felony to be in the U.S. illegally, impose new penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants and erect fences along one-third of the U.S.-Mexican border. The Senate is to begin debating the proposals on Tuesday.

### Hong Kong firm to help screen U.S.-bound ships for terror threats

**HONG KONG** - A Hong Kong conglomerate that has won a federal contract to screen U.S.-bound cargo in the Bahamas for terror threats defended the plan on Saturday, saying it would not be feasible for American officials to work in ports across the globe.

Some U.S. lawmakers and security experts have expressed concern about the contract for Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. because American customs agents will not be working with the screening equipment, designed to detect smuggled radioactive materials.

The Hong Kong company is in the final stages of being awarded a no-bid, \$6 million contract from the United States for screening at the Freeport Container Terminal in the Bahamas, just 65 miles from the American shoreline.

John Meredith, group managing director for Hutchison Port Holdings, the maritime subsidiary for Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. and the world's largest ports company, said it would be impractical for American agents to work in every port that handles U.S.-bound cargo.

Meredith said the best option for the United States is to rely on trusted agents using sophisticated inspection equipment to scan shipments at ports abroad.

### Nigeria agrees to hand over Liberian warlord to stand trial

**ABUJA, Nigeria** - Nigeria announced Saturday it is ready to hand over Liberian warlord Charles Taylor to be the first former African head of state tried for crimes against humanity, making a reluctant move that will be a strong warning for other warmongers on the continent.

A.U.N. tribunal accuses Taylor of instigating horrific wars that destroyed two West African nations, killed 1.2 million people and left millions homeless and maimed. He also allegedly harbored al-Qaida suicide bombers who attacked U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

Taylor has been living in exile in the southern Nigerian city of Calabar since being forced from power under a 2003 accord that ended a rebel assault on Liberia's capital. Many African leaders are leery of trying former presidents or dictators, apparently worrying they could be the next to be accused of human rights abuses or other crimes. Others fear a push to try toppled leaders would encourage those in power to more fiercely resist democratic change.

### CORRECTION

There were factual errors in Thursday's issue of The Commonwealth Times in an article titled "Problems still abound on campus regarding handicapped accessibility." The article states, "Students with disabilities don't have a say on whom they can or can't room with. Space is limited, and they must room with other students with impairments."

Joyce Knight, coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities for the Monroe Park Campus, said housing services cannot say students must room with other students with disabilities as well as limit whom they can room with.

The Commonwealth Times also used the phrase handicapped students instead of students with disabilities.

The Commonwealth Times regrets the errors.

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# NEWS

## Hotly disputed bill fails in Virginia Senate

**RYAN FARR**  
Staff Writer

Denounced by gay-straight alliances across the state, the source of widespread debate throughout Virginia has finally found a new home: the trash can.

Delegate Matthew Lohr, R-Harrisonburg, proposed a bill authorizing school boards to prohibit the use of school facilities by any student organization promoting "sexual activity by unmarried minor students."

Opposition quickly arose against the proposed law from more than 60 organizations in Virginia, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Equality Virginia, and

*"To me, sex is sex whether it's heterosexual or homosexual. I just don't think our public schools are really the place where clubs should be formed that discuss it and promote it."*

— **Matthew Lohr, member of the House of Delegates**

other assorted groups, because of the bill's alleged goal to disband gay-straight alliances. The alliances intend to provide support for gay students and to foster dialogue with the rest of their peers.

"When asked in the subcommittee hearing if he could think of any other organization that this would affect, Delegate Lohr couldn't think of any others besides gay-straight alliances," said Jeremy Kidd, president of Queer Action, a VCU student organization devoted to political activism around gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. "It's really obvious that this is an attempt by a really homophobic delegate to give school boards the authority to push (gay-

straight alliances) off."

Lohr denied singling out gay-straight alliances.

"Certainly the bill never mentions any organization by name," he said. "It's not even limited to homosexual sex. To me, sex is sex whether it's heterosexual or homosexual. I just don't think our public schools are really the place where clubs should be formed that discuss it and promote it."

Although Lohr claimed the bill didn't gun for gay-straight alliances at large, he cited it was inspired by one particular gay-straight alliance's actions at Manchester High School in Chesterfield County. In March 2005, the group invited gay author Greg Herren to give a talk and do a book signing, but was stopped by the school principal one week before the scheduled visit.

"When they did some research on some of the books Herren had worked with, one of them was about 'Frat Sex: Gay Sex in College Fraternities,' Lohr said. "Some of the book covers on his works were very, very explicit and revealing and, in my opinion, inappropriate."

Shortly after the incident, Lohr argued that the Chesterfield County School Board should have had the authority to disband the student organization.

Gay-straight alliances were first barred by a school board and subsequently reinstated by district court ruling in Orange County, Calif., in 1999. Since then, numerous gay-straight alliances have successfully filed suit against school board bans, typically citing violations of the First Amendment and the 1984 Equal Access Act. Initially supported by religious organizations that were kept out of public schools in the 1980s, the act ensures any student club the right to meet as long as the school allows at least one other non-curriculum based club to meet outside of class time.

Still, Kidd said he worries many don't have the power to fight legislation like Lohr's if it were passed.

"A lot of school GSAs are not in the position to sue if this were pushed by their school boards, and there probably wouldn't be anything they could do about it," he said.

While Lohr's bill should not directly affect gay-straight alliances, opponents of the bill say Virginia school boards

*BILL continued to Page 5*

## Ali Faruk leads SGA presidential race

**KAREN BOLIPATA**  
News Co-Editor

Student government elections for the Monroe Park Campus concluded March 9, but official results have yet to be released. It could take a few days or even weeks before they are made public, said Nusrat Chowdhury, director of the elections committee for the Student Government Association.

Following the most attended SGA debate in recent memory, voter turnout increased 30 percent from last year's elections with 2,956 votes cast, she said.

According to unofficial results, presidential candidate Ali Faruk, a fourth-year sociology major who has served SGA since his freshman year,

**Ali Faruk 1,273**  
**Bruce Vann 1,077**  
**Tyler Bass 540**

leads the race with a total of 1,273 votes. Bruce Vann, a third-year business management major who joined SGA during his sophomore year, trails Faruk with a total of 1,077 votes. Tyler Bass, a second-year English major, received the least amount of votes with 540.

The official results won't be released until the judicial branch completes reviewing complaints filed against the candidates. Chowdhury said judicial briefs were filed against Faruk and Bass, but couldn't specify details of the cases.

In the senatorial race, 31 candidates ran for 25 seats in the Senate. Still, Chowdhury said she expects all candidates to earn a spot in office once current senators resign at the end of this semester.

Election winners are expected to be sworn into office before the end of the semester.

Faruk's running mates are Megan Shandleon as the candidate for vice president and Kaitlin Bowles, candidate for executive director of University Relations.

## Autopsy: alcohol cause of Cornell student's death

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.** - Excessive alcohol consumption caused a Cornell University freshman's death during a spring break visit with a friend at the University of Virginia, an autopsy found.

Matthew Pearlstone, 19, of St. Louis was found dead in a U.Va. dormitory room March 17. Arkuie Williams, central district administrator for the medical examiner's

office in Richmond, listed "alcohol intoxication" as the cause of death.

Williams would not disclose Pearlstone's blood-alcohol level. He said the death was an accident.

Howard Pearlstone said his grandson had been out "partying" the night before he died. He also said his grandson had struggled with alcohol problems in the past.

Matthew Pearlstone was a computer science and electrical engineering student.

He had been a marathon runner in high school.

Howard Pearlstone said his grandson "had accomplishments out of this world. He had a tremendously high IQ. ... Anything he touched, he did extremely well."

Cornell spokesman Simeon Moss said counseling services would be offered at Matthew Pearlstone's dormitory.

"He seemed to be a very popular student here," Moss said.





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## NEWS

### WHO's WHO

@VCU

## Meet David Nelson

### *Physician for University Student Health Services*

**CHRISTINE MADDOX**

*Staff Writer*

David Nelson said he always wanted to be a physician. Working at Student Health Services, he said, gives him the opportunity to treat different problems and help different students.

"I enjoy working at student health because I like working with the students," Nelson said. "It's fun, and it's a nice group to work with."

Nelson, born in Chicago in 1957, grew up outside the city.

"I remember as a boy, I wanted to be a doctor, and I give credit to my mother," Nelson said. "She wanted to be a doctor, but in the 1950s that was not as common a thing. It would have been difficult for her in those days to raise a family of four and do medical study, so she encouraged me that way, and I had a natural interest, too."

Nelson attended Boston University and graduated with a medical degree in 1982.

He completed his residency in family medicine at Florida Hospital in Orlando.

Once he finished, Nelson moved to North Carolina to work as part of the National Health Service Corps, which helped give a full range of medical care to those in rural areas.

After his service, he decided to move to Richmond and take a job at VCU.

He has now been living in Richmond for 16 years with his wife and two daughters.

Nelson, a staff physician, does primary care for students.

"I see anyone who presents for care. Because I'm in family practice, my training is as broad of training as there is available," Nelson said. "I can work with kids through the elderly. And I have gravitated to some other areas as well, including some primary care psychiatry."

Betty Reppert, associate director of student health services, said she enjoys working with Nelson.

"He's very kind and gentle," she said. "He also has a special interest in students and student mental health."

Nelson said he considers working with the students as the best part of his job.

"One of my favorite parts is getting to know the students better and seeing them get better," Nelson said. "I see some that are having difficulties with emotional problems, and them getting better is nice to see."

He said he also enjoys working with the staff at student health.

Lindsey Eades, assistant director of administration for student health services, said she feels likewise about Nelson.

"He is very experienced and knowledgeable," Eades said. "He has a lot to offer."

In his spare time out of the clinic, Nelson likes to go running and follow cross country and track in the newspapers. He also enjoys going to his daughters' different activities, ranging from sporting events to drama performances.

All in all, Nelson said he feels he has contributed to the lives of many students and finds it gratifying to see the change in students over the years.

"We have a first-class health center here," Nelson said. "It's excellent for students and an excellent place to work, for me."



**David Nelson**



## NEWS

## Freedom for three Western peace activists and hopes for Jill Carroll

**BASSEM MROUE***Associated Press Writer*

**BAGHDAD**, Iraq - Without firing a shot, U.S. and British forces stormed a house Thursday and freed three Christian peace activists who were bound but unguarded, ending a four-month hostage ordeal that saw an American in the group killed and dumped along a railroad track.

The U.S. ambassador and the top American military spokesman held out hope the operation on the outskirts of Baghdad could lead to a break in the captivity of American reporter Jill Carroll, a freelance writer for The Christian Science Monitor who was abducted Jan. 7.

The military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, said the 8 a.m. rescue of the Briton and two Canadians from a “kidnapping cell” was based on information divulged by a man during interrogation only three hours earlier. The man was captured by U.S. forces on Wednesday night.

A senior Iraqi military officer told The Associated Press, however, that the operation had been underway for two days in the Abu Ghraib suburb west of Baghdad, site of the notorious prison. The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his position, said U.S. and British forces refused to give him other details.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Canadian forces also took part in the rescue operation, although their precise role was unclear.

But the joyful news was tempered by violence that raged throughout Iraq as the

day wore on. Fifty-eight people were killed in execution-style slayings, bombings and gun battles. For the third straight day, Sunni insurgents hit a major police and jail facility — this time with a suicide car bombing that killed 25 in central Baghdad.

Lynch said a reinforced U.S. and Iraqi security presence in the capital had prevented car bombings on five recent consecutive days, but acknowledged that attacks “surged today.”

No kidnappers were present when the troops broke into the house where the peace activists were discovered with their hands tied.

“They were bound, they were together, there were no kidnappers in the areas,” Lynch told a news briefing.

The freed men were Canadians James Loney, 41, and Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, and Briton Norman Kember, 74. The men — members of the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams — were kidnapped Nov. 26 along with an American colleague, Tom Fox, 54.

Fox's body was found this month, shot and dumped in western Baghdad.

“We remember with tears Tom Fox,” group co-director Doug Pritchard said in Toronto. “We had longed for the day when all four men would be released together. Our gladness today is bittersweet by the fact that Tom is not alive to join his colleagues in the celebration.”

The three freed members of Christian Peacemaker Teams were taken to a hospital for observation in Baghdad but were released in good condition, the organization said from the Iraqi capital.

British Embassy spokeswoman Lisa Glover said the men would be flown out of Baghdad in the next few days. She said Kember was in “reasonable condition” and spent the day “relaxing and talking to British authorities.”

Kember's wife, Pat, said she had spoken with her husband on the phone.

“He was very, very pleased to be free, but he was very emotional in talking to me. I think he must be very worried about me and the family,” she told New Zealand's Radio Live in an interview replayed by the British Broadcasting Corp.

Speaking from her north London home, she said his decision to go to Iraq was “a bit silly,” but added “I knew that he felt he must do something and he's getting old, and if he (didn't) do something ... it would be too late.”

Loney's brother, Ed, told CBC television that his mother had spoken with James on the phone and that he sounded “fantastic” though “he's lost quite a bit of weight.”

“He's alert and he was asking how we were doing and said he was sorry for the whole situation,” Ed Loney said. “My mom said, ‘Don't worry about it — just get home and we'll talk about all that stuff when you get here.’”

He told CNN that he later spoke directly with his brother, who was “having a lovely chicken dinner with potatoes and a nice soup” and “told me about being rescued and seeing the light of day and smelling the outside air.”

Ed Loney also said his brother told him he was well taken care of.

“He was always warm and always fed

and things like that. He was more worried about boredom ... I think that was probably the worst part of it, from what he said.”

The Christian Peacemaker Teams volunteers have been in Iraq since October 2002, investigating allegations of abuse against Iraqi detainees by coalition forces. The group says its teams promote peaceful solutions in conflict zones.

Pritchard called for coalition forces to leave the country.

“We believe that the illegal occupation of Iraq by Multinational Forces is the root cause of the insecurity which led to this kidnapping and so much pain and suffering in Iraq,” he said.

The kidnapped men were shown as prisoners in several videos, the most recent a silent clip dated Feb. 28 in which Loney, Kember and Sooden appeared without Fox, whose body was found March 10.

The previously unknown Swords of Righteousness Brigades claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

“As we study who could conduct these kinds of operations there seems to be a kidnapping cell that has been robust over the last several months in conducting these kind of kidnappings,” Lynch said.

While many insurgent groups and the al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist organization have kidnapped and often killed foreigners in Iraq, there also is a heavy criminal element involved in such crimes. Thousands of Iraqis have been kidnapped for ransom and some Westerners are believed to have been

*ACTIVISTS continued to Page 8*

## States unprepared for flu pandemic

**KRISTEN GELINEAU***Associated Press Writer*

The federal government cannot be relied upon to protect Virginia from a potential flu pandemic, and no state is fully prepared to handle such an outbreak, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt said Thursday.

Leavitt issued the warning to around 900 officials from local governments, schools, businesses and health and emergency services. Similar summits are being held in each state to raise awareness of a possible flu pandemic.

“If there's a pandemic in the 21st century, it's going to reach Virginia,” Leavitt said. “Any community that fails to prepare, with the expectation that somehow the federal government will come to the rescue, will be tragically wrong. Not because the federal government lacks a will ... but because there is no way to respond to 5,000 communities at the same time.”

Leavitt's concerns were echoed by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who also addressed the crowd and reiterated that local preparedness is key.

“No federal resources are sufficient to handle all the problems we have,” Kaine said. “We need to make sure at the state level that the resources are available.”

On Tuesday, the World Health Organization announced that 103 people have died from the H5N1 strain of bird flu. Although no cases in the United States have been reported, health officials fear the virus could mutate into a version that could easily be transmitted between people, potentially triggering a global pandemic.

The virus has genetic characteristics that are very similar to those of the virus of 1918, which was also a bird flu that mutated into one that spread easily among humans, Leavitt said.

The 1918 virus was the most lethal flu germ of the 20th Century, killing 20 million to 50 million worldwide and leaving more than 500,000 people dead in the United States alone.

A flu pandemic today could sicken 90 million people in one year and leave 2 million dead, Leavitt said.

Whether or not this particular strain of flu leads to a pandemic, future pandemics are inevitable — and nobody is well-prepared to handle one, Leavitt said.

“Pandemics happen,” he said. “The reality is, in the construct of history, we are overdue and we're underprepared.”

Virginia's plan will focus on better communica-

*FLU continued to Page 8****BILL continued from Page 3***

could potentially construe its language in a way that would eliminate the groups from their schools.

“I think it's crap,” said Kathryn Jackson, a junior and psychology major at VCU. “If they use school facilities to teach about safe sex and family planning, I don't think that's a bad thing. It's promoting health, not necessarily ‘go out and get some sex now.’ We want healthy people.”

Still, others doubt that any student groups would be affected at all. Sophomore business-administration major Jeff Andriliunas said, “What organization does that? I've never known any type of activity like that at school.”

Lohr said he doesn't think any organization sets out to promote sexual activity.

“There could be organizations that veer off course and head down that road, and this is what this bill is aimed at,” he said.

Despite easily passing the House of Delegates with a vote of 70-29, after a month of deliberation, the bill was voted down 9-6 in the Senate's Education and Health Committee on March 2. A similar law in 2005 passed in the House and died in the same Senate committee.

While Kidd said he expects to have some variation of the bill return each year, Lohr said he has doubts about resubmitting his bill.

“The committee seems to be pretty set in their vote, so if the Senate Education Committee is exactly the same, then it probably wouldn't be much use,” he said.







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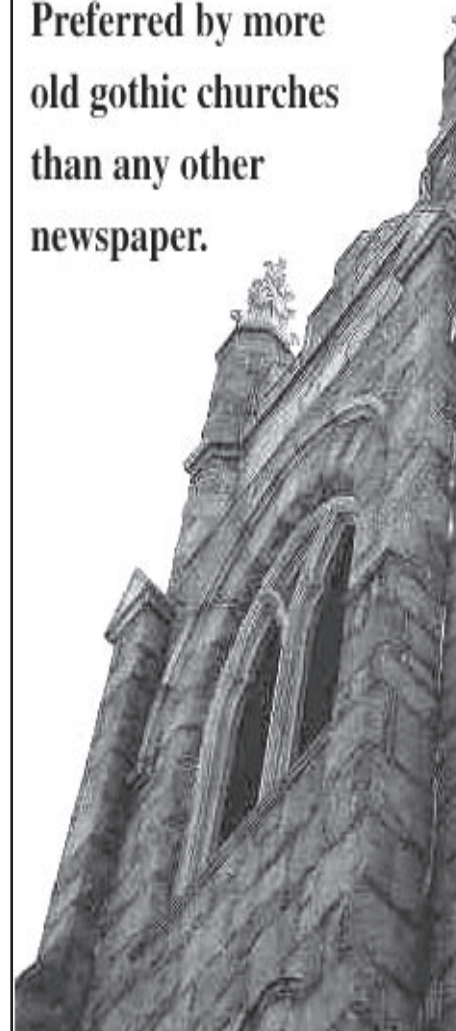
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# NEWS

# The CT hits the streets: Safety

**MICHAEL NG, STEVEN PANTALEO AND BREE SISON**  
*Staff Writers*

- Q1: How likely do you think it is that you could be attacked on or near campus?**  
**Q2: How prepared do you think you are to defend yourself against an attacker?**  
**Q3: Where on campus do you feel the least safe? Where do you feel safest?**  
**Q4: How important do you think it is for VCU to e-mail students a list of offenses around campus on a weekly basis?**  
**Q5: What advice would you give to incoming freshmen about staying safe at VCU?**



**Erin Shelton, senior, creative advertising**  
Q1: Likely. I walk by myself at night, and I carry money on me. It's obvious that I'm a waitress.  
Q2: Semi-prepared. I grew up here, and I know what to look out for.  
Q3: I feel the least safe near the BP. I feel the safest on the compass because there's a camera.  
Q4: Somewhat important. Only because half the people don't read them.  
Q5: Be aware of your surroundings.



**Crystal Robinson, freshman, psychology**  
Q1: Likely. It seems like Richmond is a crime city.  
Q2: Pretty prepared in a situation.  
Q3: At the end of Main Street. Safest at Shafer.  
Q4: Important. Students have a right to know.  
Q5: Always go places with people.



**Camille Trejo, junior, kinetic imaging**  
Q1: Very likely because my car has been broken into, and my house has (been) three times.  
Q2: I feel prepared because I carry two knives, one that is a lipstick case, a stun gun, and I wear steel-toed boots.  
Q3: Grace Street and a strip on Harrison. I feel the safest in the center of campus where it is well lighted.  
Q4: Extremely important because a guy followed me around once, and I would have liked to have known.  
Q5: Don't go anywhere alone, and just be smart about it.



**Nitin Bhagi, senior, biology**  
Q1: Somewhat because I travel alone at night.  
Q2: Fairly well prepared because I'm aware of my environment.  
Q3: Shafer Street is where I feel safest. I feel the least safe on Cary Street because it's not well lighted.  
Q4: Very important. It benefits students to realize what type of environment they're in.  
Q5: Travel in groups.



**Caroline Grier, senior, homeland security/political science**  
Q1: I feel very likely, especially where I live.  
Q2: I feel pretty well prepared because I used to work out with a Navy SEAL and could kick butt.  
Q3: I feel the least safe at Monroe Park. I feel the safest in the Commons. When I'm on campus I never feel threatened.  
Q4: They should e-mail them as soon as they occur to keep you on your toes.  
Q5: Travel in herds. Mace is a good idea. My mom wanted to give me a taser, but I wouldn't go that far.



**Laura Paz, sophomore, mass communications**  
Q1: Somewhat, because I walk around campus.  
Q2: Not at all.  
Q3: I feel the least safe in my neighborhood.  
Q4: Important. It's good to know and be aware.  
Q5: Don't run around by yourself. Be aware and be cautious.



# NEWS

## *FLU continued from Page 5*

tion between health officials and the public and will address the needs of the state's most vulnerable residents, including the elderly and the poor, Kaine said. Hospitals must also ensure they have enough supplies on hand to handle an onslaught of flu-sickened patients, he said.

Leavitt suggested residents keep a two-week supply of food and adequate medical supplies at home in the event of a massive outbreak.

The federal government has already given Virginia \$2.2 million in funding to help with preparedness and the state will receive 1 million treatment courses of Tamiflu and other antiviral drugs by 2007, Leavitt said.

Kaine did not respond when asked if he thought the federal government's funding for Virginia was adequate.

A milder form of avian flu in 2002 led to an outbreak in the Shenandoah Valley that quickly spread out of control, infecting nearly 200 farms and forcing the slaughter of 5 million birds.

"Just that indication in our recent history certainly should make us sort of sit on the edge of our chairs and be particularly alert," Kaine said.

## *ACTIVISTS continued from Page 5*

grabbed by those criminal gangs as well.

Often, it is believed, kidnappers take hostages only for the purposes of selling them into captivity to larger, more organized criminal gangs or insurgent organizations.

The last hostage to be freed in a military operation was Douglas Wood, an Australian rescued in west Baghdad by U.S. and Iraqi forces on June 15, 2005, after 47 days in captivity.

Lynch said there was no new information on Carroll that "I can discuss at this time." But, he said: "There are other operations that continue probably as a result of what we're finding at this time. So you've got to give us the opportunity to work through that."

Carroll has appeared in three videotapes delivered by her kidnappers to Arab television stations, and the deadline her captors set for killing her passed weeks ago without word about her fate.

"My expectation and hope is that the released hostages and the associated activities, in terms of information gathered, could help us bring about her release as well," U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said in an interview with Fox News.

The Islamic Army in Iraq confirmed Thursday it had killed Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni, claiming he was a spy. Baldoni had been reported killed on Aug. 26, 2004.

"He was a spy. We knew that from the first hour," Rami al-Shammari, a spokesman the insurgent group, told Al-Jazeera television in an interview.



**Sunday, April 9, 2006**

Check in: 11:30 am

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# SPORTS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Men's Track and Field

Sat. April 1  
at UNC Charlotte, 1 p.m.

Sat. April 1  
at Christopher Newport, 1

### Women's Track and Field

Sat. April 1  
at UNC Charlotte

### Women's Tennis

Tues. March 28  
at Richmond, 2 p.m.

### Men's Tennis

Wed. March 29  
vs. Duke, 2 p.m.  
Thalhimer Tennis Center

### Men's Soccer

Wed. March 29  
vs. Richmond Kickers, 7 p.m.

### Baseball

Tues. March 28  
at Radford, 3 p.m.

Fri. March 31  
vs. Georgia State, 7

Sat. April 1  
vs Georgia State, 3

Sun. April 2  
vs Georgia State, 1



## SPORTS BRIEFS

Compiled from CT resources

### Women's tennis wins 19th straight match

The Rams kept their winning streak going when they trounced Hampton 6-0 Friday at the Thalhimer Tennis Center.

At the No. 1 and 2 positions, No. 52 Tatsiana Uvarova (Minsk, Belarus) and No. 44 Marianna Yuferova (St. Petersburg, Russia) cruised to solid victories. Uvarova defeated Elena Besedova 6-3, 6-2 and Yuferova won 6-0, 6-0 against Syreeta Thompson.

Uvarova, Yuferova and senior Olga Borisova (Minsk, Belarus) are a combined 45-1 in dual matches this season.

### Baker to compete internationally

VCU freshman goalkeeper Laura Baker (Kent, England) will suit up for England's 21-under field hockey team in a series of matches against Germany March 25-April 2.

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Rams clean up at Fred Hardy Invitational

Compiled from CT resources

You would have thought the track-and-field teams were competing at home with the performances the Rams put forth Friday and Saturday. After all, they only had to travel to cross-town rival Richmond's First Market Stadium.

The men's team finished with a season-high six top finishes, and Lauren Stewart (Richmond/Maggie Walker) set a new school record in the pole vault for the women's team, competing in the 2nd Annual Fred Hardy Invitational hosted by the University of Richmond.

Stewart vaulted 11 feet, 5 3/4 inches on the first day of competition. Stewart, who also owns the indoor pole vault record, topped former Ram Crystal Jordan's record of 11'.

In men's competition, junior James Frierson (Richmond/Highland Springs High School) grabbed his second straight first-place finish in the 200 meters, and sophomore Jackie Deshazo (Mechanicsville/Atlee High School) followed close behind for second.

Junior Davion Lambert (Richmond/Varina High School) also grabbed his second



Mike Vanderhoof sprints toward the finish line in the men's 400 relay Saturday.

consecutive first-place finish, earning the top spot in the triple jump. Distance runner Mariusz Mostrag (Krajnik, Poland) also grabbed a second first-place spot in as many meets, finishing the 800 with a time of 1 minute,

50.82 seconds.

Freshman sprinter Jason Gallo (Rochester, N.Y.) took home his first career first-place finish with a win in the 100, and junior Lukasz Matusiewicz (Warsaw, Poland) earned his first top finish of the season in the 1500.

The relay team rounded out the first-place finishes with a time of 41.67 in the 400 relay.

Stewart wasn't the only one to establish a school record over the weekend. With a limited squad competing in the Raleigh Relays in North Carolina, sophomore distance runner Jay Wyss (Richmond/J.R. Tucker High School) set a new school record in the 10,000 with a time of 30:31.67, edging the 2001 record set by Daniel Ndungu.

In the women's events, senior Tanika Brown (Powhatan/Powhatan High School) finished first in the high jump with a mark of 5'07". Frankie Moore (Chesapeake/Great Bridge High School) tied for third in the high jump.

Verniece Johnson (Mineral/Louisa High School) recorded a mark of 17'7 1/2" in the triple jump for first, and finished fifth in the 200 with a time of 25.88.

Sophomore Megan Seay (Burke/Lake Braddock Secondary School) finished fifth in the long jump out of 22 jumpers with a personal best 17'2 3/4".

Emily Thompson (Crozet/Western Albemarle High School) and Danielle Williams (Virginia Beach/Salem High School) each finished third in their events. Thompson posted a time of 11:51 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and Williams ran a 4:49.89 in the 1500.

Hurdles specialist Octavia James (Newport News/Heritage High School) placed second in the 100 hurdles, finishing with a time of 14.90, and finished fifth in the 400 hurdles. Junior Pia Ruth (Rahway, N.J.) finished two spots behind James in the 100 hurdles.



Lindsay Holman leads the pack during the women's 800 meters Saturday at the University of Richmond's First Market Center.





# SPORTS

## STANDINGS

### CAA BASEBALL

	CAA		Overall
	W	L	W-L
Old Dominion	8	0	(24-3)
James Madison	8	0	(18-5)
UNC Wilmington	4	2	(19-6)
Virginia Commonwealth	5	3	(13-10)
Northeastern	3	2	(8-7)
George Mason	5	6	(10-14)
Georgia State	3	5	(10-13)
Hofstra	3	5	(9-15)
William & Mary	3	8	(8-15)
Towson	1	7	(7-16)
Delaware	0	5	(10-9)

(Updated through March 26)



## Mason edges UConn in overtime for first-ever spot in NCAA Final Four

WASHINGTON - George Mason edged Connecticut 86-84 in overtime in the Washington Region Championship to earn the Patriots' first-ever spot in the NCAA Final Four.



Denham Brown had a chance to lift the top-seeded Huskies to victory, but his game-winning 3-pointer glanced off the rim to send the Verizon Center crowd into a frenzy.

The Huskies trailed by five in overtime before a 3-pointer by Marcus Williams.

After a foul, Jai Lewis missed two free throws with 6 seconds remaining that would have sealed the win for the 11th-seeded Patriots, allowing Brown to push the ball up the court for a last-second opportunity.

The Huskies pulled off some last-second dramatics at the end of regulation on a layup that took an extra bounce off the rim before falling in as time expired, sending the game into the extra period.

Jai Lewis scored 22 points to pace the Patriots, who trailed 43-34 at the half. Lamar Butler contributed 19 points, and Will Thomas had 17 points and 10 rebounds. Forlarin Campbell added 15 points, and Tony Skinn had 10. The Huskies were led by Rudy Gay's 20 points. Jeff Adrien added 17 points, Marcus Williams tallied 13 and Brown had 11.

The Patriots face the Florida-Villanova winner in the NCAA semifinals on Saturday. LSU and Texas face off in the other semifinal. — Philip Bogenberger

### BASEBALL RECAP

## Dukes shut out Rams in weekend series

Compiled from CT resources.

**HARRISONBURG** – The baseball team finished its series against James Madison Sunday, scoring only one run over the weekend and dropping three straight at Long Field/Mauck Stadium.

After being shut out in back-to-back games Friday and Saturday, the Rams yet again succumbed to strong pitching from the Dukes. For the series, the JMU pitching staff tossed 24 1/3 scoreless innings, limiting a Rams team that had produced double-digit hits in the 10 games prior to this series to only 12 hits for the series.



James Madison right-hander Ryan Reid struck out nine in eight innings, and senior second baseman Michael Cowgill hit his 12th home of the season.

Trailing 7-0 heading into the top of the seventh, the Rams scored their only run of the game and weekend when designated hitter **Tim St. Clair** (Woodbridge Va.) homered with one out in the seventh. The Dukes scored two more runs in the bottom of the eighth to round out the scoring.

The Rams started out the weekend Friday falling to the Dukes 4-0. Right-hander **Harold Mozingo** (Tappahan-

nock/Essex High School), despite pitching for his third complete game, was out done by Dukes righty Travis Miller. Mozingo allowed six hits, four runs and four walks with 12 strikeouts, one away from his season high.

On Saturday, Dukes senior pitcher Greg Nesbitt went the distance, allowing only four hits, one walk and seven strikeouts to lead James Madison past VCU 8-0. Junior **John Leonard** (Virginia Beach/Kellam High School) pitched 7 2/3 innings for the Rams with six hits, six runs, three earned runs, four walks and seven strikeouts in the loss.

FRIDAY	
	VCU 0
	James Madison 4

SATURDAY	
	VCU 0
	James Madison 8

SUNDAY	
	VCU 1
	James Madison 9

## Elsewhere

in the world of sports...

### Dana dies in wreck before season opener

**HOMESTEAD, Fla.** – Indy Racing League driver Paul Dana, 30, died after a two-car crash during the warmup for the season-opening Toyota Indy 300 Sunday at Homestead-

Miami Speedway.

The other driver, Ed Carpenter, was awake and alert at a Miami hospital, IRL officials said. Carpenter had no broken bones according to X-rays, but is undergoing a CT scan to see if there are any other internal injuries.

The race started as scheduled, however, Rahal Letterman Racing co-owner Bobby

Rahal announced that drivers Danica Patrick and Buddy Rice, teammates of Dana, would not race.

Dana is the first IRL driver killed since Tony Renna died in a crash during testing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in October 2003.

Carpenter, the stepson of Indy Racing League founder Tony George, spun his Vision

Racing car exiting Turn 2 of the 1.5-mile oval and hugged the outside wall before slowly creeping back onto the racing surface. The racecar was nearly stopped when it was hit in the left-rear corner at nearly full speed by Dana's car.

Buddy Lazier said Dana passed him and Scott Sharp after both slowed because of the accident.

### Most recent motorsports deaths by series

IndyCar: Paul Dana, Homestead, Fla., 2006

NASCAR: Dale Earnhardt, Daytona, Fla., 2001

Champ Car: Greg Moore, Fontana, Calif., 1999

Formula One: Ayrton Senna, Imola, Italy, 1994





# Spectrum

## 'V for Vendetta' brings dark graphic novel world to life

**KATIE PUGH**  
Spectrum Writer

*Remember, remember the Fifth of November  
The Gunpowder Treason and Plot  
I know of no reason why the Gunpowder Treason  
Should ever be forgot*

"V for Vendetta" follows the theme of many infamous books such as "1984" and "Brave New World" as it paints the picture of the not-so-distant future that has been broken apart by war, corrupt politics and newfound epidemics. As the citizens are thrust into a period of darkness and despair, a voice comes forth from behind a Guy Fawkes mask with a Shakespearean flourish in the form of the "terrorist" V, who plans the downfall of his people's oppression by whatever means necessary.

There are few movies I have seen lately that have made me feel how it is to be truly pulled into the plight of the characters. "V for Vendetta" was successful in its efforts to make me care about the world of the future and the power of self-reliance and the drive toward purpose. However, it also made me very aware of the power of insanity. I cheered for V because he was the perfect antihero; even as the city burned, we want him to succeed.

My biggest concern upon going to see the movie was that it would play into the horrible rendering that Alan Moore's other infamous comic series, "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," underwent. After hearing about Moore's less-than-happy remarks regarding the movie adaptation of his story – ones that led him to break ties with DC entirely after he found that they misquoted his opinions – I was worried. After seeing the last "Matrix" movie, I was even more worried.

However, the movie was the likes of which I would not have expected. Just as the graphic novel crafted themes of classical romance, dark comedy and vicious social commentary, the movie did the same. The major characters grow and change as we watch them understand one



Art courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

another, mature with each others' help and reach mutual understandings of similar pain and individuality angst.

It is the singular character V that makes the story. His lines and antics are exaggeratedly dramatic, and his tendency to quote such authors as Shakespeare and Goethe makes him eccentric to say the least. His ever-smiling mask

compliments his debonair cool. Hugo Weaving – though never seen in the movie – brings V to life in such a way that in one moment, blowing up buildings is absolutely giddily humorous and the in the next, we are brought to tears with his stories.

The relationship between V and Evey, a young girl of tragedy whom V saves from certain peril, is one that

### MOVIE REVIEW

thoroughly blossoms in both mediums. Though Natalie Portman portrays a much older, more buxom version of the tender 16-year-old in the graphic novel, her performance is stellar. Her mental and physical abuse makes her changes broken in and painful to watch, and we understand the path she moves down in a way that is barely overnight. There is no real inference toward a father-daughter relationship, as there was in the start of the series; rather, it is fear and respect that give way to intimacy.

One aspect of the movie that made me grimace was the obvious American sentiment. The graphic novels barely mention America; if anything, it is simply a side issue. In the movie, there is some sort of theme that America is to blame for the downfall of Britain by the spread of their wars. Do moviemakers believe that it will not matter to Americans if the plight is not particularly pertinent to them? Is warfare less of an impact if it does not involve the American people directly? Or is this simply another poor ploy against the Bush administration?

Overall, I was extremely happy with the "V for Vendetta" adaptation. Though the events of the book are much more disjointed in the movie, the feel of it and the impressions one leaves with are the same. We want the conviction of V, Evey's metamorphosis and we want to be the people who are there when the world changes. But does that just mean that we all have a little insanity inside? Whilst we ponder such questions, we can rest assured that the movie is definitely worth the watching.



Pat Kane

## For a smoothie escape, go tropical

**OMAR YACOUBI**  
Spectrum Writer

### RESTAURANT REVIEW

Part of the new development at Ramz Hall, Tropical Smoothie Café provides students and busy commuters with a workday escape from the ordinary. In addition to the variety of smoothies available, tropically themed music and décor complete the effect.

Instead of order numbers, workers call out your name over the speaker when your order is ready – a pleasant personal touch that, along with the quality, clearly sets this establishment apart from ordinary fast food.

Served in a generous 24-ounce cup, smoothies range from the Jetty Punch (strawberries and banana) to the Blimey Limey (strawberries, pineapple, orange and lime) and Mango Magic (mangos, pineapples and non-fat yogurt). One of the sweeter offerings is the Kiwi Quencher, made of non-fat yogurt, strawberries and kiwifruit.

In addition to low-fat smoothies, "power," weight gain, meal replacement and dessert smoothies are also in the offering. The Mocha Madness, for example, combines Ghirardelli chocolate, cappuccino, coffee and yogurt for a creamy, low-fat coffee experience, while the Peanut Paradise provides peanut butter lovers with a protein powder-infused concoction for a thick and tasty treat.

Smoothies come by default with Turbinado sugar, a natural blend of sugar that is healthier than the refined variety of sugar found in ordinary processed foods, but an even healthier option is to substitute Splenda in your smoothie for no charge. Unlike other artificial sweeteners, Splenda blends well with the taste of the

*SMOOTHIE continued from Page 15*



## Spectrum

# Jam-worthy CDs

## New releases and contemporary classics

**JAM WILLIAMS**  
Spectrum Writer

### ‘Dave Chappelle’s Block Party’

The “Dave Chappelle’s Block Party” soundtrack spotlights comic mega-star Dave Chappelle’s freestyle stand-up material and performances by Mos Def, Erykah Badu, Common, Dead Prez, Jill Scott, Talib Kweli and the Roots, among others.

The soundtrack captures the exceptional combination of comedy and music, and was recorded on location as Chappelle threw a block party in downtown Brooklyn, inviting local residents to experience performances by the most progressive urban artists in music today.

In the movie there were brilliant performances by Kanye West and a newly reunited Fugees, but those performances were left out of the soundtrack. Despite the absence of those tracks, there is plenty of hip-hop goodness to take your mind off the missing persons. Mos Def’s energy is captured on several songs; the Black Star selection “Definition” and the always classic “Umi Says” and “Universal Magnetic.”

Although it is not as gripping as the movie, the soundtrack is a nice mix of conscious, organic hip-hop that every hip-hop fan should own.

**Recommended if you like Common, Dead Prez, The Roots and Jill Scott.**

### Bad Religion – ‘The Process of Belief’ (2002)

Bad Religion’s “The Process of Belief” is one of the best examples of songwriting in punk music. This can be seen in the first three tracks of the album “Supersonic,” “Prove It” and “Can’t Stop It.” There are other great songs that question the political events going on in the world embodied in songs such as “Kyoto Now” and “Sorrow.”

“The Process of Belief” contains every ingredient that made classic Bad Religion albums so unique. Another amazing part of the album is the liner notes and artwork. The art is absolutely gorgeous, with layered tracing paper at some points as well as lyrical foldouts. This album can be listened to from start to finish as there are no filler tracks. Each song is worth your attention.

**Recommended if you like Descendents, Pennywise and NOFX.**



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# Spectrum

## The most romantic place on campus

**PAUL SHOEMAKER**  
*Spectrum Writer*

Whenever I'm feeling down about my classes or life's basic troubles, it's nice to notice the small yet optimistic details that surround me that make life a bit more easygoing.

Just a sidewalk around Shafer and heading toward the University Student Commons is the most romantic place on campus – probably the most romantic place in the entire city.

### UNIVERSITY LIFE

Naturally occurring, without human consideration or development, is a street sign that gives a sentimental greeting to unsuspecting students passing by. From the slight bending of aluminum, along with the red brake lights of parked buses waiting to pick up students, one can make out a glowing red heart that pulses with each step.

Better seen at night (but it does work under many circumstances), the effect of the heart is immediately obvious and gratifying.

Great to point out to dates or friends, this spot has definitely become a small reminder that when college life seems to be getting too much, little signs of life can be simple yet comforting.



Tom Nash

We felt it would cheapen the beauty of this optical effect to capture it on film, but it's there. Go see for yourself.

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## Spectrum

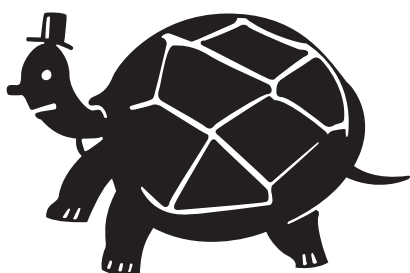
## Weird News

**Tortoise dies at 255**

A tortoise thought to have been the oldest animal in existence has died at the age of 255.

Addwaitya, who was the pet of British Gen. Robert Clive in the 18th century, died at his home in a zoo in Kolkata, India.

Historians say he was taken from the



island of Aldabra in the Seychelles and presented to Clive by sailors working for the East India Company.

Addwaitya weighed up to 500 pounds and measured about five feet wide. He is believed to have died of liver failure.

"His death is heartbreaking," one of

his keepers said. "He was a permanent fixture. We will miss him."

Officials will be preserving his shell as a museum artifact.

**World's first beer health spa opens**

The world's first beer health center has opened in the basement of the Chodovar Family brewery in the Czech Republic.

Beer baths, beer massages and beer cosmetics are offered at the spa.

The converted cellars include seven Victorian-style baths where guests can swim in beer while enjoying a pint poured at an adjacent bar.

Guests who purchase the \$140 weekend packages have a range of health treatments open to them, including beer wraps.

"Beer can treat a range of conditions, particularly skin conditions, and the health center should appeal to men who are put off by 'posh' traditional spas," Owner Jiri Plevka said. "We believe in



the healing properties of beer and we offer the full range of treatments. We are a fully fledged beer spa."

**Bank robber gets stuck in chimney**

A man found stuck in a bank chimney in Washington was arrested upon being rescued for attempted robbery.

"We asked him what he was doing down there and he said, 'What do you think? I'm trying to rob the bank,'" Police Chief Robert Perales said.

Firefighters pulled out the 26-year-old man, who was arrested immediately.

Police were called to the bank because of an apparent break-in attempt. They found the trapped robber after finding the top removed from the ventilation shaft of the furnace.



—Compiled from wire reports

## CALENDAR

**Monday, March 27**

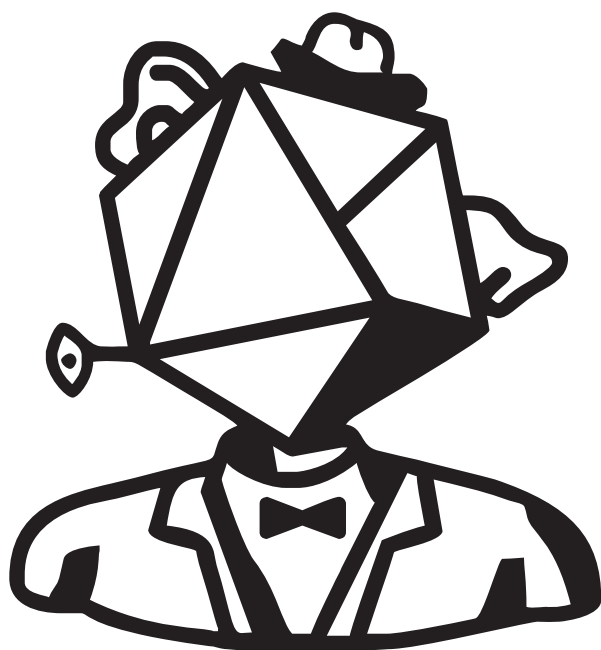
A discussion panel will be held including first person accounts of soldiers, parents of soldiers and others who have experienced or directly impacted by war in Iraq. Siegel Center, Founder's Room. 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 28**

VCU Music will present a Jazz Orchestra II concert. Singleton Center, Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall. 8 p.m. 828-6776.

**Wednesday, March 29**

The percussion studio will give a recital. Singleton Center, Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall. 8 p.m. 828-6776.



**The Commonwealth Times will hold elections for Managing and Executive Editor April 10, 2006.**

For more information contact Katie Gantt at 828-6516 or ganttkt@vcu.edu



# Spectrum

## ***SMOOTHIE continued from Page 11***

sugar already found in most fruits, and some smoothies are so sweet to begin with that to add sugar on top of it just seems like overkill.

For 75 cents more, you can add a booster to your smoothie ranging from multivitamins, soy or whey proteins, complex carbohydrates and immune defense. The energizer contains a little bit of caffeine, so prepare for your smoothie to taste a little more bitter than usual. The whey protein, on the other hand, makes any smoothie thicker and creamier without adding fat. Orange Julius, for example,

derives most of its flavor from the same additive. Yogurt can also be added for 50 cents to smoothies that don't have it already.



**'Tropical Smoothie Café'  
Rating 5 of 5**

But Tropical Smoothie isn't just about smoothies—they also have sandwiches and wraps. While the sandwiches are smaller than your average Subway sub, the quality Boar's Head deli meat, freshly baked bread and generous, heaping portion size make up for what the sandwich lacks in appearance.

The wraps, meanwhile, are a journey of their own. Buffalo Chicken, Thai Chicken and Chicken Mango Habanero are just a few of the choices available. For the vegetarian-minded, the Veggie Veggie provides a nourishing meal of rice, beans, asparagus, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, Swiss, parmesan and light olive oil in a garlic herb tortilla.

All the choices leaving you starved for recommendations? My personal favorites are the Kiwi Quencher, Tropi-colada (pineapples, coconut and banana), Thai Chicken wrap and Roasted Chicken sandwich. But then again, the King Caesar—also wrapped in a garlic herb tortilla—provides the ultimate chicken Caesar experience. Deciding may be difficult, but in the end almost any choice is worth it.

Feeling hungry for breakfast? Breakfast is served all day long, with choices like the Early Bird offering eggs, chicken, tomatoes and the restaurant's proprietary Texas Petal sauce to provide that extra zing without being overly spicy, all in a handy tortilla wrap. There are also egg-and-bagel options for a slightly lighter (and cheaper) meal.

One of the restaurant's more unusual offerings is the "tortizza"—a pizza baked on a tortilla, with a sprinkling low-fat cheese and more emphasis on the sauce and toppings. It's a healthier (and cheaper) option than Papa John's next time you crave the taste of pizza but don't want the extra calories.

In fact, it's hard to find much of anything unhealthy on the menu, unless you indulge in one of the dessert or weight gain smoothies (at least the unhealthy items are labeled so you are making a deliberate choice). The chain's slogan, "for healthy people on the go," certainly seems to be appropriate. Salads and soups are available as well for the even more healthy-minded—in addition, any wrap can be made into a salad for no charge. If you're feeling naughty, though, there are always the fresh-baked cookies for dessert.

Breakfast prices range from 99 cents for a small coffee or bagel to \$3.49 for a wrap. For lunch and dinner, expect to pay \$4.29 to \$5.29 for a sandwich or wrap and \$3.79 to \$3.99 for a low-fat smoothie. Specialty smoothies range from \$3.99 to \$5.99, while tortizzas cost from \$3.49 to \$4.59. Combining any smoothie or chips and drink with a wrap, sandwich or tortizza gets you a combo discount of somewhere in the range of 50 to 80 cents.

Ask for a VIP card with your first order. Each smoothie, wrap, tortizza or sandwich you buy earns you a punch, and every 10 punches you earn a free item on your next visit.

## **Tropical Smoothie Café**

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## 3.25

**10:00 p.m. – “Orientation”** – The Official Strut Week Launch Party at Element Lounge. Located on 18th & Main Street.

<http://www.classescanceled.com>

## 3.27

**7:00 p.m. - Movie Makeover Monday | Battle of the Sexes:** The sexes battle to win a makeover. Richmond Salons I, II.

**8:00 p.m. - Zoolander:** Fashion Comedy Richmond Salons I, II.

## 3.28

**12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Talk Tuesday: Scion car show.** Strut's title sponsor will have their cars on display. Commons Plaza.

**6:00 p.m. - Fashion Industry Panel Discussion:** A discussion about careers in the industry. ALLTEL Pavilion at the Siegel Center.

## 3.29

**12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Walk Off Wednesday:** Open to all who think they have the fiercest walk on campus in front of our panel of judges. Commons Plaza.

## 3.30

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Designer Tent Show:** We're bringing New York to Richmond! The tent show featuring some of Virginia's up and coming designers. Commons Plaza.

## 3.31

**8:10 p.m. - International School of Strut Fashion Show 2006:** Come join us at the most talked about fashion show in VCU history. ALLTEL Pavilion at the Siegel Center.

\* “Graduation” - Official After Party at Element Lounge with DJ Lonnie B. controlling the crowd.

# International School of Strut: Fashion Week 2006

[www.schoolofstrut.vcu.edu](http://www.schoolofstrut.vcu.edu) . [www.classescanceled.com](http://www.classescanceled.com) . [www.schoolofstrut.vcu.edu/fashion](http://www.schoolofstrut.vcu.edu/fashion)

VCU is an EEO/AA Institution. If further accommodations are needed because of a disability please contact the USCA Programs Office at 804-828-4554. Event sponsored by University Student Commons & Activities, Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Services.





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HELP WANTED

Monday, March 27, 2006

The Commonwealth Times • 17

# COMICS

Pizza From Scratch

Bill Lemmond

...AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

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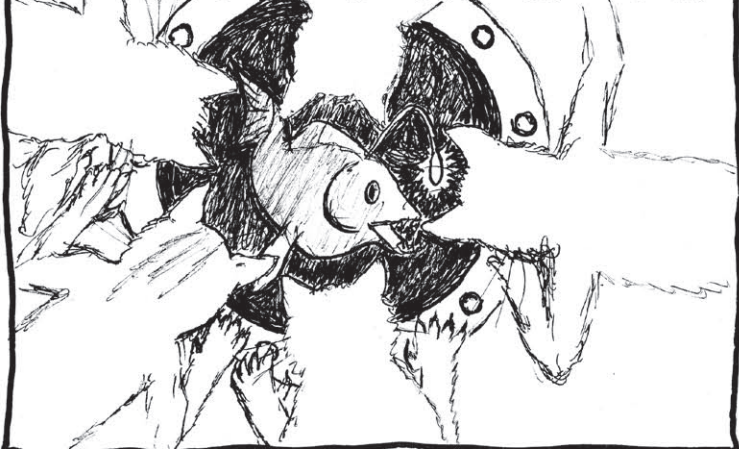


CATS NEED LESS ROOM & SUPPLIES, CAN DO MOST WORK... & PEOPLE THINK WE'RE CUTE.

NEXT ON ANIMAL PLANET:



FOR NOAA, WE CAT-NAP IN SHIFTS, TO OBSERVE EXOTIC FOOD-ER-FISH.



\*NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN.

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Monroe Park Campus, Cabell Library Room B-30

MCV Campus:, Sanger Hall Room B1-018

To request an appointment, email [statconsult@vcu.edu](mailto:statconsult@vcu.edu). For more information and the current schedule, visit [www.ts.vcu.edu/faq/stats/statconsult.html](http://www.ts.vcu.edu/faq/stats/statconsult.html).

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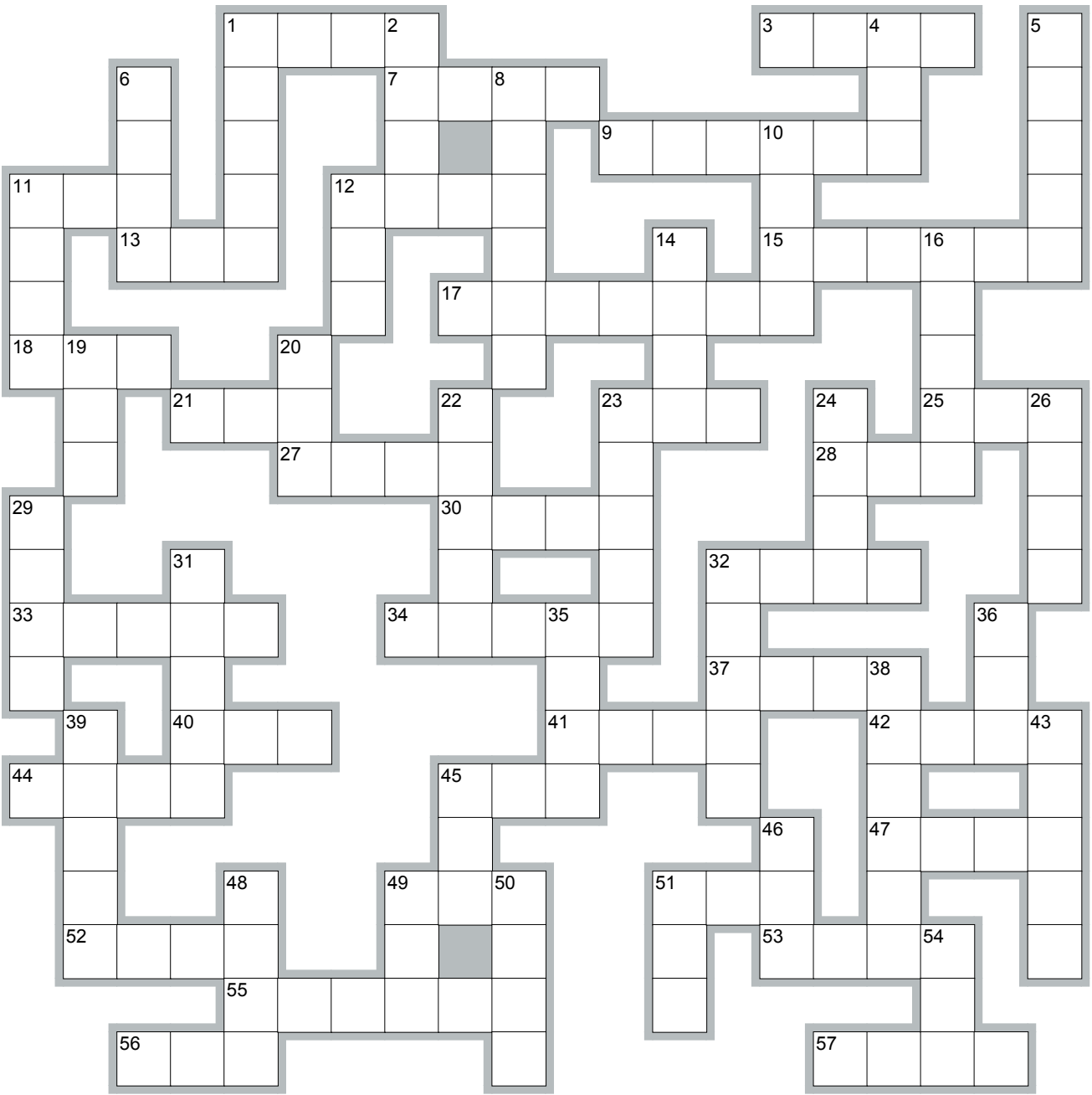
# THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES CROSSWORD

## Across

- 1. Something you can do in the water.
- 3. A sloped surface.
- 7. Scratch it.
- 9. Rhymes with rigid.
- 11. Mire, muck.
- 12. Close to.
- 13. Born Cassius Clay.
- 15. Name of the new dining center.
- 17. Hairy elephant.
- 18. “North-northwest”
- 21. A large African antelope.
- 23. Cutting intstrument.
- 25. To lightly strike.
- 27. A spiritual teacher.
- 28. Quantity.
- 30. Range, tract, space.
- 32. Vacation.
- 33. Icy rain-like weather.
- 34. Ice and water makes surfaces \_\_\_\_ .
- 37. Wheel, cog.
- 40. Quaker \_\_\_\_ meal.
- 41. Trail.
- 42. Whipped, fried, scrambled, poached.
- 44. A tropical tree.
- 45. “ \_\_\_\_ at me” - call me.
- 47. Doesn’t dress nice.
- 49. The last part.
- 51. Caspian, Baltic.
- 52. \_\_\_\_ and Eve.
- 53. Causes drifts, makes it feel colder than it actually is.
- 55. To cause or bring on.
- 56. Bruce Wayne settles on picking this animal as his theme after one crashes through his window in the original story.
- 57. Spring, leap.

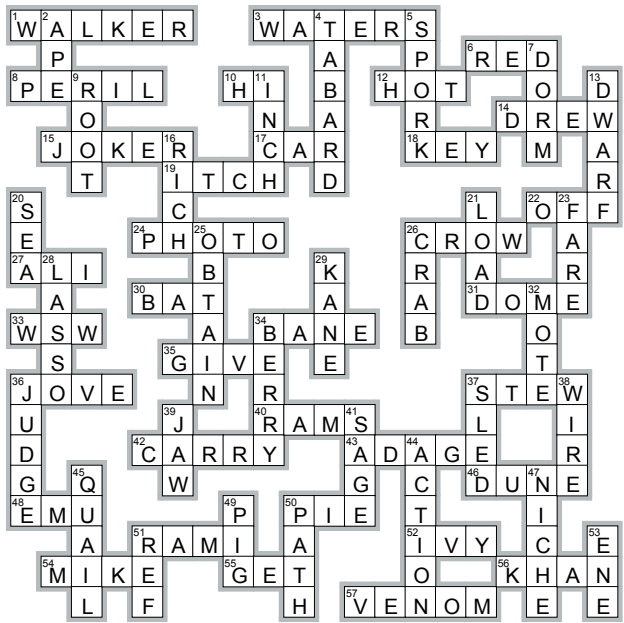
## Down

- 1. Cold rice stuffed with vinegar.
- 2. Name of the first hydrogen bomb.
- 4. Angry, insane.
- 5. Substance that freezes into ice, snow.
- 6. Pop.
- 8. Stockade, inclosure.
- 10. To suddenly flow.
- 11. A sorrowful sound.
- 12. “North-northeast”
- 14. A soft drink, not soda, Coke.
- 16. It would take nature this many years to overgrow everything we ever built.
- 19. To doze or sleep.
- 20. Pull.
- 22. Tasty bird.
- 23. Iron Man’s alter ego, recovering alcoholic.
- 24. Spiderman director.
- 26. Pale, whitish-red.
- 29. All your what are belong to us?
- 31. Eddie Brock’s alter ego.
- 32. Good, excellent.
- 35. Get something.
- 36. Bad hairpiece.
- 38. A sandwich made with rye and corn beef.
- 39. Spaghetti, angel hair, linguini.
- 43. One of the original Black Panthers.
- 45. Bang! Bang!
- 46. Mandible.
- 48. To not include.
- 49. A fast-running bird.
- 50. Famous Charles whose research succeeded in finding the best way to ‘bank’ whole blood and then to store only the plasma.
- 51. Melancholy.
- 54. Hoover, water.



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

## Answers from March 23 edition



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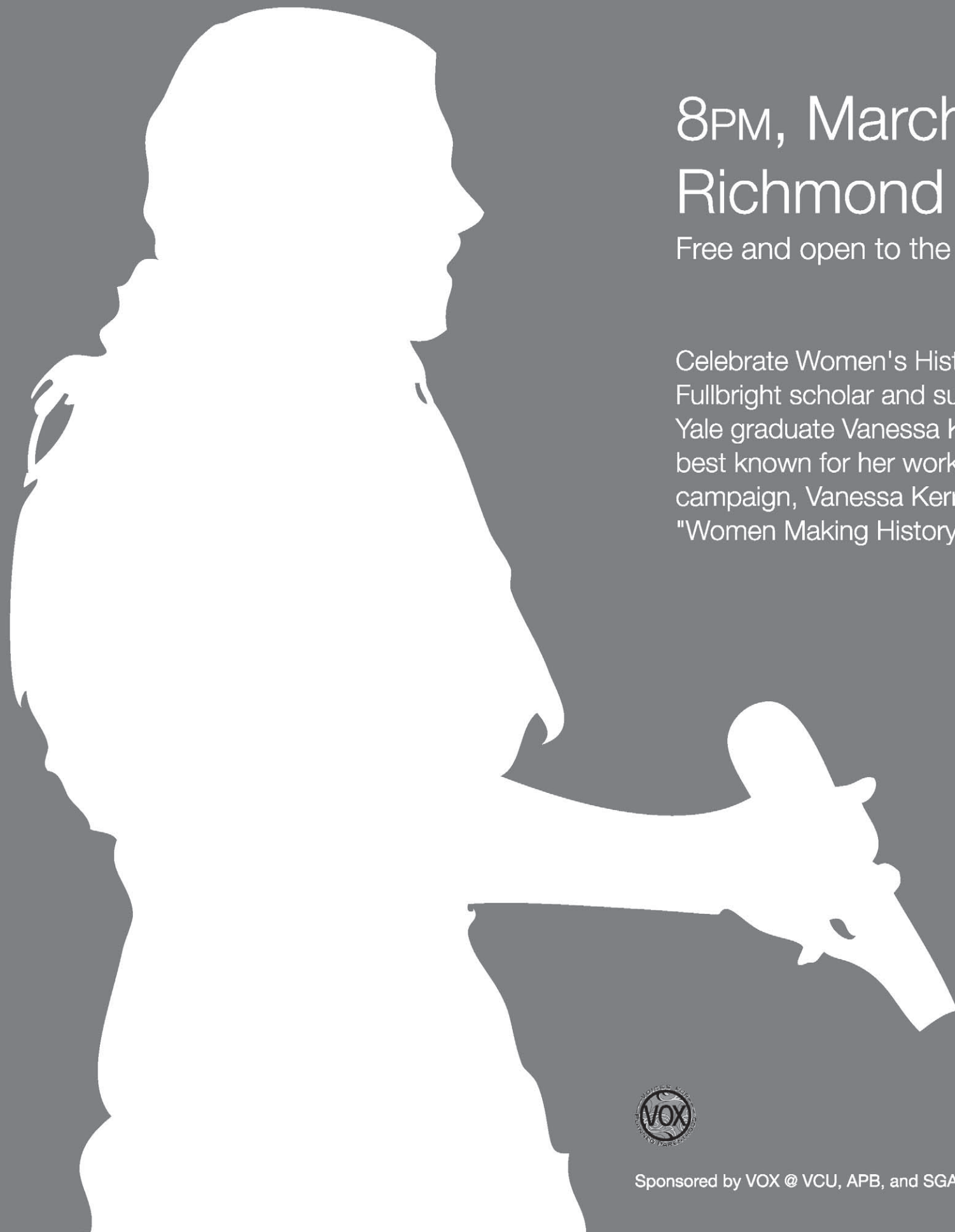






# Vanessa Kerry

*Women making history today*



8PM, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
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Meetings are held Mondays at 3 p.m. and Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at 817 W. Broad St. at the VCU Student Media Center. Please contact amendmentvcu@gmail.com if you would like to join **Amendment's** staff or to learn more about us. If you can't make the scheduled meeting times let us know that as well.





# EDITORIALS & LETTERS

## Opinion in Brief

### Permitting a problem

President Bush's proposal to give foreign workers a guest permit goes beyond the weak strategies of tightening border security and threatening employers of illegal immigrants. But it's still a long shot from helpful.

Under Bush's plan, the millions of illegal immigrants would be able to register and work in the country for up to six years. Bush asserted that this policy isn't offering amnesty, which is true because these workers would presumably be forced to leave after their allotted time expired. However, this won't solve anything in the long run.

Even if all estimated 12 million illegal aliens are granted temporary legal status to work in the U.S., there will be a growing number of new undocumented workers coming into the country. Are we just going to keep getting illegal immigrants to step forward for their guest permits so that we can deport them in six more years?

While Bush's plan is better than building a wall along the border, it's still myopic and impractical. To his credit, there is no easy solution, but we've got to do more than temporarily eliminate the problem.

### Editorial Cartoon | Andrew Babb



## Your Turn *Letters to the Editor*

### Don't blame doctrine

We are an atheist and a Christian who think that the complex relations between science and religion call for something a little more sober than the entertaining diatribe by Ms. Kung ("It's time to evolve beyond religious dogma").

Precisely what conclusion she is trying to argue for is a little hard to say. Part of the issue seems to be whether the theory of intelligent design is a scientific theory or not. But determining that would require a careful account of what a scientific theory is and how scientific theories are related to other sorts of theories, philosophical theories for instance. Unfortunately, there is none of that in Ms. Kung's editorial.

Part of the issue seems to be the quite different one of whether the theory of intelligent design is actually correct (not all correct theories are scientific). This of course would involve a serious engagement with the actual arguments; but there is not much of that in the editorial either.

Ms. Kung's essay also seems to be concerned with whether intelligent design should be taught in high school biology classes. This is to some extent a separate issue. Even if the theory is a straightforwardly biological one, we do not teach every existent biological theory in biology classes. We make selections, based on quite

complicated issues about, for instance, the nature of education and the limits of democracy. But, again, there is no discussion of those issues in the editorial.

The real driving force of Ms. Kung's editorial seems to be an animus against religion, or at least Christianity. If so, it may be worth remarking on one familiar fallacy in her article: Nothing follows from the good or ill uses to which religious doctrines have been put about the truth or reasonableness of those doctrines. Religious institutions may or may not have stood in the way of scientific development (a matter, by the way, about which historians differ); they may or may not have been used to manipulate the masses, or whatever other evil one cares to think of. But this tells us nothing about the truth or reasonableness of those doctrines. Just as good people can do bad things, so true (or false) doctrines can be put to ill usage.

As we said, all of these issues call for sober debate rather than the strident and polarized tones that often characterize the American debate on these matters. That is why we, along with Dr. Brian Cassel from the VCU Health System and Dr. Thomas Huff, Provost of Life Sciences, are organizing a major series of talks and debates next year by prestigious scholars on both sides of these issues. We can assure you that none of these scholars has stopped using

his brain. The series, "Science, Reason and Faith," will be well advertised throughout the university and the greater Richmond community. We hope to see Ms. Kung there, and look forward to her sober and reasoned contribution to the debates.

— Professors Anthony Ellis  
and Donald Smith  
VCU Department of Philosophy

### Faith is not ignorance

First let me say that my intent here is not to make a case for the teaching of creationism in public schools but rather to clear up some of what I believe to be misinterpreted facts on the part of Ms. Kung in her article, "It's time to evolve beyond religious dogma." So far the debate over creation or evolution has been made by several individuals, each of whom have been for a particular theory either from a purely scientific or faith-based viewpoint. I think that perhaps I can add a bit to the conversation in that I have been Christian and in love with the Lord God for some time now. I have also wanted to be a scientist all of my life, and I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in chemistry here at VCU. Thus some

See **LETTERS**, next page

## The Commonwealth Times

The independent student press of  
Virginia Commonwealth University

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*Executive Editor*

### MAGGIE SOUZA

*Editor of the Editorial Pages*

### WRITERS

Lyz Holder • Alex Jones • April Kung  
Alex Marra • Danielle Moss • Andrew Mowe • Katherine Pugh • Derek Rinaldo

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## Op/Ed

**LETTERS,**  
*from previous page*

might feel that I and others like me would have some modicum of intelligence, and it is for this reason that I was interested that you would use the word “ignorant” to describe those who believe that there is a God of creation.

Ms. Kung, please don’t confuse faith for willful ignorance. In fact, ignorance is not expected at all from a biblical standpoint. For example, 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved.” Daniel 1:17 says, “God gave these four young men knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom.” Proverbs 24:5 says, “A wise man is strong, yes a man of knowledge increases strength.” So, you see, ignorance is not at all what God wants from his people.

If you want to use the fall of man to defend this idea of willful ignorance being a staple of a person’s belief in God let me fill out the rest of the story for those who may not know it. You are correct in saying that Adam and Eve were thrown out of the garden for eating from the tree of knowledge, but what you failed to mention was that it was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. So in reading, any logical person (a scientist like myself) would conclude that of course a loving God would not want his creations to be exposed to things that are evil. God knew what bad things would happen once evil was introduced to the hearts of man (Ephesians 1:5 says “...He (God) predestined us (Man)...”). Everything that has happened and will happen was all in his plans. So, you see, faith in God should never be confused with willful ignorance

and that knowledge and the seeking of knowledge is advocated for in the Bible and often bestowed upon those who seek it from God.

There are other things that I wanted to touch on. As a scientist I completely understand the scientific method. I carry it out everyday in my lab. I also know that science can’t and won’t ever be able to explain everything that happens in life. Any theory — be it from biology, chemistry, or any other science for that matter — at any time can be proven wrong with new data. For the sake of keeping things simple, a theory is nothing more than an educated guess to try and explain what is happening in the world around us. All any scientist can do, be they a creationist or evolutionist, is try and design experiments to either strengthen or weaken their theories.

But on this particular matter you can’t experiment on the creation of the universe. You can only observe the remnants of past events here in the present and then evaluate the facts. The thing that separates creationists and evolutionists is the framework in which they interpret the facts, and contrary to popular opinion we all have and use the same facts. For example an evolutionist might say, “We must have evolved from a common ancestor because our DNA can be compared with remarkable similarity to many of the animals (apes) around us.” A creation scientist would say, “I agree and can’t argue with the fact that we have DNA in common with many of the animals around us and I agree that we all came from the same place. “Let me show you how I can say this and have it fall in line with the Word of God.” Look with me if you will at Genesis 2:19. “Lord God

had formed out of the ground all of the beasts of the field and all of the birds of the air.” If we look at Genesis 2:7, “The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground.” Thus, since the beast of the field the birds of the air and man were all formed from the ground it would make perfect sense that we have a common point of origin: the ground from which we were made.”

So, you see, it is the framework in which we interpret the facts that makes the difference. And just as there are responsible and irresponsible scientists who correctly or incorrectly interpret or falsify facts for that matter (revisit the recent fraudulent reports of Gerald Schatten and co-workers involving their cloning experiments) there are responsible and irresponsible creation scientists who correctly or incorrectly interpret or falsify the facts. And just to throw this out there, many scientists have said before that the absence of proof is not proof. So what does this mean? It means that just because you can’t prove scientifically that God doesn’t exist doesn’t mean he doesn’t exist.

The last point that I would like to touch on is your statement concerning the opinion that the less zealous we have become in our religious beliefs the more we have advanced in our moral philosophies. So I guess the ever increasing murder rate across the country is an improvement in your opinion on our becoming less zealous in following the Sixth Commandment, Exodus 20:13: “Thou shalt not kill.” The increasing reports of wives being beaten by their husbands is an improvement in your opinion on our becoming less zealous in following Ephesians 5:25: Husbands love your wives like Christ

loved the church and gave up his life for it. “The increasing problems of racism and prejudice are improvements in your opinion on our becoming less zealous in following.” Hebrews 13:1: “Keep on loving each other as brothers do not forget to entertain strangers.” The increasing number of children being abused and in constant conflict with their parents is an improvement in your opinion on our becoming less zealous in following Ephesians 6:1-4 (you can look that up for yourself).

So, you see, contrary to what you have said in your article, the Bible lays down many moral principles that if followed would make the world a much better place to live in. But why listen to me? We each must study to show ourselves approved. We should each look these things up and read them for ourselves and ask God to give us the proper understanding of his word.

All in all, each day science continually proves itself wrong and seeks to improve on new and existing theories. There are problems in science that man has been working on that will most likely never be solved, and because you can’t experiment on the past and the “mystery” that is the origin of life it will be left to each person to interpret the facts within the framework of their choosing. So to end, just like the Rosetta stone was the key to understanding the language of the ancient Egyptians and other languages, faith is the key that unlocks the door into understanding the things of a spiritual nature. Hebrews 11:1 asks, “What is faith?” It is the confident assurance that we hope for what is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.

— Dwight A. Williams

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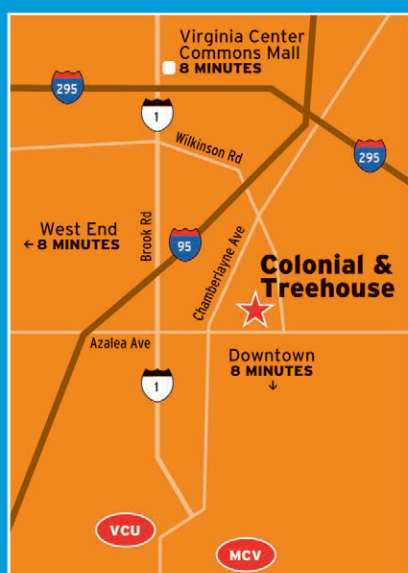
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