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The Commonwealth Times

FREE

The Independent Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 44 No. 25

Monday, April 24, 2006

www.commonwealthtimes.com

(804) 828-1058

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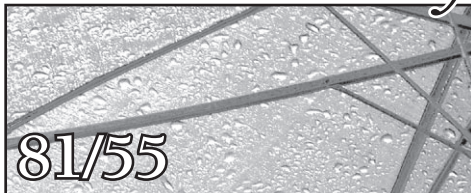
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BRIEFS

Monday



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IN THE NEWS

Compiled from wire reports

Turnout steady as New Orleans picks mayor

NEWORLEANS — A steady stream of New Orleans voters, some from storm-scarred neighborhoods and others by the busload from evacuee havens across the nation, cast their first ballots since Hurricane Katrina in a crucial election Saturday to decide who will lead the rebuilding of this devastated city.

Incumbent Mayor Ray Nagin was leading with 38 percent of the vote as of press time, but he faced 21 challengers, including the state's lieutenant governor. If none gets more than 50 percent, a runoff between the top two vote-getters will be held May 20.

Because of the Aug. 29 storm, what ordinarily would be a routine municipal race has become an unprecedented experiment in democracy.

Of the city's 297,000 registered voters, tens of thousands are spread out across the United States. More than 20,000 cast ballots early by mail, fax or at satellite voting stations around the state, and thousands more made their way to 76 polling stations that opened at daybreak Saturday.

"We're still citizens of New Orleans," said 24-year-old J. Todd Smith, who made the trip by bus from Atlanta. "We still want to know what's going on there. I still have my driver's license. My license plate still says Louisiana."

Alaskan students arrested for elaborate school rampage plan

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Police said a group of seventh-graders hatched an elaborate plan to cut off

power and telephone service to their middle school, slay classmates and faculty with guns and knives, then escape from their small Alaska town.

The arrest Saturday of six students in North Pole, a town of 1,600 people about 14 miles southeast of Fairbanks, marks the nation's second breakup of an alleged Columbine-style school attack this week. Five Kansas teenagers suspected of planning a shooting rampage at their high school were arrested Thursday, the seventh anniversary of the massacre in suburban Colorado.

The Alaskan seventh-graders had been picked on by other students and wanted to seek revenge, Police Chief Paul Lindhag said. They also disliked staff and students, he said.

The students had planned to disable North Pole Middle School's power and telephone systems, allotting time to kill their victims and flee from town, Lindhag said.

A parent alerted police of rumors of an attack, Lindhag said. He would not elaborate on the case or what kind of documented evidence led to the arrests.

IMF Gets the Green Light for Reform

WASHINGTON — Economic powers gave the world's financial firefighter, the International Monetary Fund, the green light Saturday to remake the 61-year-old institution so it can better prevent and cope with crises.

The strategy was embraced by the IMF's steering committee during the weekend meetings of the 184-nation IMF and World Bank.

"We resolve to make the IMF more fit for purpose in

a global economy and more able to address challenges that are quite different from those of 1945 when the IMF was created," said Gordon Brown, Britain's chancellor of the exchequer.

"Specifically, we agreed the IMF must focus more on crisis prevention as well as crisis resolution," said Brown, chairman of the IMF's policy-setting panel.

Cheering Vietnamese greet Microsoft leader

HANOI, Vietnam — Thousands of cheering Vietnamese students welcomed Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates on Saturday with a raucous adulation normally reserved for rock stars.

The excitement that greeted Gates during his first visit to Vietnam reflects the communist country's eagerness to follow the route of high-tech meccas like India and its belief that he can help pave the way.

"I've been waiting for Bill Gates to come to Vietnam for a long time," said Le Tuan Anh, 21, a second-year computer engineering student who clutched a copy of Saigon Entrepreneur magazine that profiled Gates on its cover. "Hopefully this will boost IT development in Vietnam."

During a speech at the close of his whirlwind, daylong tour, Gates said the country has the potential to become one of the Asian "miracle" economies by investing in its young people.

"The key element to allowing IT to help the economy grow, and become an export sector itself, comes back to investment in education," he said. "Clearly I see that over the next decade Vietnam will join those miracles."

The Commonwealth Times

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NEWS

Hibbs Building scheduled to open in fall

SCOTT WHITENER
Staff Writer

More than a year ago, VCU started renovating the Hibbs Building, and if the construction continues on schedule, students and faculty can walk through its doors at the beginning of the fall semester.

Brian Ohlinger, associate vice provost for facilities management, said students and faculty can expect everything inside the building to be new because the 44-year-old building should offer modern-day appeal.

"We're taking a 1960s-era building, gutting it and starting over," Ohlinger said. "The only thing that will stay the same is the outside."

The priority during the renovation involves new plumbing, heating and electrical systems, Ohlinger said, because students had been concerned about the inconsistent temperature inside the building.

Thandi Mkandawire, a junior fashion and merchandising major, said the renovation was a necessity.

"I'm glad they're fixing the temperature stuff," he said. "It was pretty broke down before. There were big problems with the air system."

Students familiar with the first-floor dining hall are in for a surprise when they re-enter the building. The first-floor offices house the University College, which will combine several functions that are now spread out across the campus.

Jon Steingass, associate dean for the College of Humanities and Sciences, said the University College consists of four functions targeted to help students:

- Academic advising for first- and second-year students.
- Writing center to help students with their papers.
- Learning center to provide tutors for students.
- Testing center to assist incoming students as well as provide an area for proctored make-up exams.

"We want to work with students throughout their college career," Steingass said. "The University College will make a way to provide more outreach to community colleges."

At the academic advising center, students can talk with advisers in a central place instead of traveling throughout campus to meet with various teachers. The floor plan for the University College, Steingass said, was designed by a team of VCU faculty.

"If you look at other colleges that have a university college, VCU will be one of the best because it was developed from



A bicyclist pedals past the Hibbs Building Nov. 21, 2005, as it appeared before exterior renovations began.

"The idea is to give students a place to relax and think. We already have a courtyard at Life Sciences and in front of the Commons. It gives more of a university feel."

— Bryan Brown, senior associate, VCU survey research lab

scratch," he said.

The third and fourth floors will contain classrooms where students will see vivid, modern colors on the walls, new furniture and technology plus a "black box" that replaces the overhead projectors previously used.

Kelly Coldiron, student-systems specialist for the College of Humanities and

Sciences, said wireless Internet is installed throughout the building.

"It'll be like a cyber café minus the coffee," she said.

The second floor features an office complex for English faculty that replaces the faculty dining hall.

With the renovation of the Hibbs Building, Steingass said VCU is taking a step

to provide more one-on-one access to all students at the community-college level.

Bryan Brown, a senior associate in the VCU survey research lab, said the next plan Hibbs includes a courtyard to replace the alley between it and the Ginter House.

"The idea is to give students a place to relax and think," he said. "We already have a courtyard at Life Sciences and in front of the Commons. It gives more of a university feel."

The English department faculty returns to Hibbs in early August, while the doors officially open Aug. 17 to the public. Steingass said he looks forward to moving back to Hibbs because it's a great opportunity for a new beginning.

"It's a brand new space and the first year of a new initiative with University College," he said. "We're excited about it."

NEWS

Earth Day encourages recycling

LISA CHUN
Staff Writer

For those hankering for half-cotton, half-recycled plastic T-shirts, VCU's Earth Day 2006 celebration could be the place to go.

Prizes, including apparel made from cotton and recycled plastic bottle caps, highlight some activities during VCU's Earth Day celebration from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. Thursday, April 27.

"Over the years, it doesn't seem like it's as important as it used be," said Denecia Daniel-Cornish, a senior biology major.

Daniel-Cornish said schools used to celebrate more Earth Day activities. She stressed that she wished to see speakers who actually dealt with the environment



at the Earth Day celebration.

Steven Heinitz, VCU's recycling coordinator, said he expects a variety of exhibitors at the event including the Sierra Club and the Virginia Recycling Association to take part in the celebration.

"It's a time to step back and take a look at the environment before it is lost," Heinitz said.

Greg Garman, director of VCU's Center for Environmental Studies, recalled the first U.S. Earth Day in 1970 as creating a major impact toward increased environmental awareness.

"Hopefully, from some people, it would

help to refocus them to make a difference in whatever way they can," said Garman, who offered suggestions for the VCU and Richmond communities toward improving the environment.

Garman suggested that residents in the Richmond area conserve more water and minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

"Don't worry about a beautifully manicured lawn because they require a lot of water and a lot of harmful chemicals," he said.

Garman said uncontrolled urban development, expanding populations and nonpoint source pollution (pollution that runs off land, including fertilizers and pesticides) adversely affect the quantity

See EARTH, Page 7

PACME recipients recognized

JASON SWETZOFF
Staff Writer

Four members of the VCU community will walk across a stage Thursday, April 27, to receive their Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment.

"If you come to the awards you will hear what people are doing," said Napoleon Peoples, director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. "It's really amazing what people are doing not only inside the university but outside the university. People are making a commitment to become change agents and make significant contributions."

This year's PACME faculty award goes to Elizabeth Cramer, associate professor of the Social Work Masters Program, while the staff award goes to the Association of Administrative Professionals, an association for staff administrative support.

R. McKenna Brown, director of the School of World Studies, will receive the administrator award and Shivani Shodhan, co-director of the VCU Intercultural Festival will be presented with the student award.

"I am really honored to be awarded the PACME, and it is humbling to be recognized for what I am so passionate about," Shodhan said.

During the award ceremony, President Eugene P. Trani will present one of these four winners with the Riese-Melton Award, the capstone award given for contributions to cross-cultural relations at VCU.

In addition to the PACME award, each recipient receives \$500, while the capstone award recipient receives an additional \$250.

"Even if someone doesn't win the award," Peoples said, "just to be nominated is an honor in itself because that says somebody is watching you and what you are doing, and what you are doing is significant and important."

The nomination committee consisted of five people, including representatives of the schools of pharmacy and of the arts, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Services, VCU Libraries, and the human resources office.

"We choose people that go out of their way in their personal lives. If what they are nominated for is what they are paid for then that wouldn't be fair," said Velma Jackson-Williams, assistant vice provost for institutional equity and director of EEO/AA Services, who worked with the committee.

Guaranteed admission for transfers

KAREN BOLIPATA
News Co-Editor

VCU has just become one of the few universities in the state to provide guaranteed admission for graduates of the Virginia Community College System.

The agreement, signed April 12, takes effect immediately.

"It helps us promote a greater working relationship with the community-college system," said Delores Taylor, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. "Also, it helps the students who are going into the community-college system to hopefully have a seamless transition from community college to VCU."

The agreement stipulates that any

transfer student will be admitted to the university as long as they meet certain requirements such as maintaining a 2.5 cumulative grade-point average and enrolling at the university within one year of completing the transfer-oriented associate degree.

Donna Brodd, vice provost for Academic Affairs, said she expects transfer students to have little difficulty with the transition.

"We know a lot of them are very good students," she said. "We already have the data that says students who come in with a degree have a very good graduation rate from VCU."

Even with the agreement, transfer

students may need to fulfill additional requirements for specific majors such as the arts, nursing and dental hygiene. One benefit this agreement gives transfer students, Brodd said, is increased outreach between the state's community colleges and the university.

"This will give us an opportunity to better serve students who want to go to VCU and help them while they still have time to take courses," she said.

Last year the General Assembly passed the Higher Education Restructuring Act, which gave the state's universities more autonomy as well as required them to

See TRANSFERS, Page 7

Nursing school anticipates new facilities

NAOMI HILL
Staff Writer

By March 2007, VCU's nursing students should be attending their classes in a new building on the Medical Center Campus.

"Things are going extremely well. We are very pleased with the progress being made," said Brian Ohlinger, associate vice president for Facilities Management. "We are slightly ahead of schedule, which is very good because it lets us play around with the weather. If we get a period of bad weather, then we have a little bit of time to give back to the project."

Once students enter the 70,000 square-

foot building, they will find up-to-date equipment such as patient simulators and a new clinical learning center that allows them to learn the latest nursing-education technologies. Also, they can see skilled labs, hospital-patient rooms, adequate research space and two lecture halls that can seat about 140 students.

Nancy Langston, dean of the School of Nursing, said the new building will accommodate advanced teaching methods.

"It is difficult to attract prospective teachers and researchers in this current old building that is poorly designed to support modern-day teaching or research," she said.

As an example, she cited a new simula-

tor that allows students to practice pelvic exams on a female pelvic model.

"The pelvis is hooked up to a computer, which will tell the students how much pressure is applied," Langston said. "It is able to simulate four different pathologies. This will literally give students experience that we know is randomly available in the community."

Ohlinger said a significant improvement is wireless access in the building. One of the two lecture halls, however, will have hard wiring, while another accommodates a distance-learning class.

The broadband width could bog down

See NURSING, Page 7

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NEWS

NURSING, from Page 4

the network because it might not have adequate capacity, Ohlingersaid, so the health sciences office will provide additional hard wiring for one of the lecture halls.

Heather Sykes, a nursing student, said once the building is finished, students will have access to more computer labs than they did in the old building.

"Now, nursing students have to go all the way to the academic campus to gain computer access," she said, "so it will be nice to study, and we will have a place where students can meet."

Sykes said students can practice on dummies for their simulated activities, which helps them go through motions before working on actual patients.

Paul Timmreck, senior vice president for finance and administration, said the project not only met the budget but also

met it on time. Still, a cost increase allowed the nursing school to have a free standing building.

"The project did change when we relocated it from West Hospital to the current site," he said. "But it has not changed since we made that decision to locate it on Leigh Street at \$17.1 million."

"The school will be state-of-the-art," Timmreck said. "I think we learned from others as they learned from us. I won't question that it will be a real attraction to students and faculty."

If all goes as planned, nursing students and faculty should begin using the new facilities May 2007.

"This is really going to be a great step forward," Ohlinger said. "Finally they can get their own building, which is designed for their own instructional purposes instead of an old dormitory."

TRANSFERS, from Page 4

develop policies with the state's community college system.

Taylor said she hopes the agreement will encourage more students from community colleges to enroll at the university. Last fall, 966 students transferred to VCU from Virginia's community colleges.

The plan, Brodd said, also sends a message to transfer students.

"One of the reasons is to make sure students of community colleges are aware that four-year institutions are open to them and VCU really wants Virginia community-college students," she said.

The university will also provide 10 need-based, in-state tuition and fees scholarships for transfer students who maintain at least a 2.75 GPA. Other universities in the state that implement guaranteed-admission plans are Longwood University, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia, which also signed a guaranteed-admission agreement April 12.

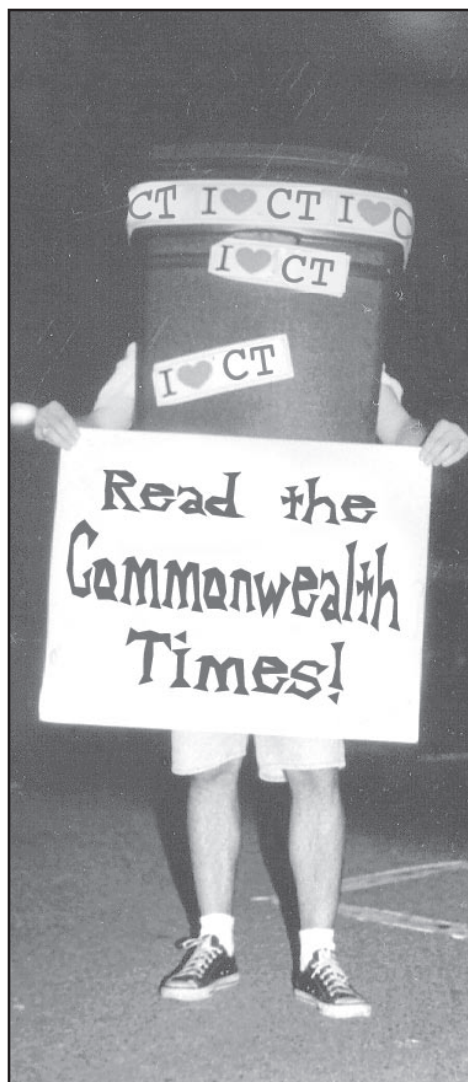
EARTH, from Page 4

and quality of our water, especially the James River.

Heinitz also emphasized the importance for people to read product labels so they can become informed consumers and purchase products that do not harm the environment. Though he said that one day of festivities cannot solve the Earth's problems, Earth Day remains important because it helps develop the public's environmental interest.

"It's a great opportunity for everybody at VCU to get a good idea of what the current issues are today," he said, encouraging all students, faculty, staff and others to participate in the celebration.

We want to hear from you!



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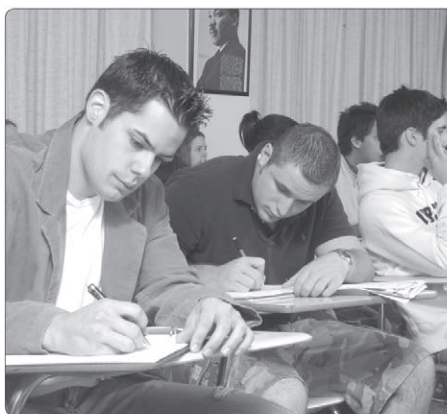
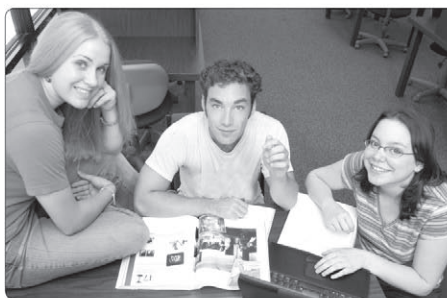
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Applications can be obtained at the Student Media Center at 817 W. Broad St. For more information about these positions please contact Katie Gantt at ganttk@vcu.edu.

SPORTS

Frierson pushes VCU to first title in 10 years

Compiled from CT resources



VCU's
James Frierson

Junior **James Frierson** (Richmond/Highland Springs High School) led Virginia Commonwealth University to its first Colonial Athletic Association Championship since 1996, earning four gold medals and one silver on Saturday at SportsBackers Stadium.

Despite Frierson's efforts, the meet was not decided until the final event when junior **Davion Lambert** (Richmond/Varina High School) snatched first place in the high jump, securing the triumph.

Frierson's achievements include top finishes in the 100, 200 and 400 meters, as well as the 400-meter relay. The sprinter was also a member of the Rams' second-place 1,600 relay team. Frierson, who competed in the long jump for the first time in

his collegiate career on Friday, accounted for 51 of the Rams' 181 total points.

Soggy conditions did little to slow the Rams down. Sophomore

Jackie Deshazo (Mechanicsville/Atlee High School) earned the bronze medal after a mark of 11.07 seconds.

In the 200, the trio of Frierson and Deshazo and **Jason Gallo** (Rohcester,

N.Y.) finished first, third and fourth respectively. In the 400, Frierson and Deshazo grabbed 15 crucial points for the Rams. Frierson won the event, while Deshazo took fourth.

Junior **Mariusz Mostrag** (Krajnik, Poland) took home the gold in the 800, and Lukasz Matusiewicz (Warsaw, Poland) claimed the silver medal.

In the field events, Lambert

earned his third-consecutive CAA title in the long jump. The junior picked up where he left off on Friday, grabbing the gold in the high jump and bronze in the triple jump.

Kyle Miller (Front Royal/Warren County High School), withstood two days of rainy weather turned in a gutsy performance and earned the silver medal with 6,124 points.

All athletes who won their respective events qualified for the NCAA Regionals, which will be

held May 26-27 in Greensboro, N.C. The Rams return to action this weekend at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pa.

The women's team did not enjoy the same success as their male counterparts, but senior **Tanika Brown** (Powhatan High School) ended her career by claiming a second successive conference high-jump crown. The Rams finished in seventh place.

Nikki Arrington (Midlothian High School) was a bronze medalist in the discus.



TRACK BRIEF

CAA Championships Final Standings

Men

1. VCU 181

2. UNC Wilmington 172
3. William and Mary 158
4. Northeastern 111.5
5. George Mason 83
6. Delaware 66
7. James Madison 31.5

Women

1. William and Mary 174.50
2. Northeastern 129.50
3. UNC Wilmington
4. James Madison 112
5. George Mason 75.50
6. Georgia State 74
7. VCU 53
8. Delaware 41
9. Towson 37

Golf team finishes third at Rutherford Intercollegiate

Compiled from CT resources

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. – The VCU golf team finished in third place at the Rutherford Intercollegiate after posting the lowest score in the final

round Sunday.

Junior **Daryl Chappell** (Dinwiddie High School) finished tied for fourth in the individual standings when he shot a 78-71-72—221 over three rounds. The Rams finished shooting 313-297-292—902.

Rams sweep doubleheader after falling in extra inning

Compiled from CT resources

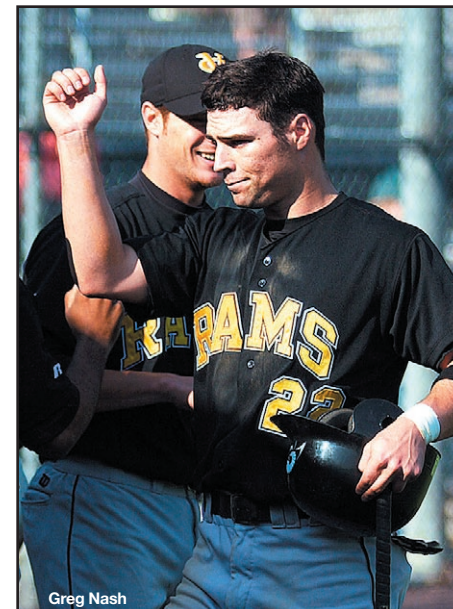
FAIRFAX - Dreary weather could not dampen VCU's spirit or their bats. Saturday's game at George Mason was rained out, forcing a doubleheader on Sunday.

Tim St. Clair (Woodbridge, Va.) belted six hits, including two homers, as the Rams swept a doubleheader against the Patriots on Sunday.

Sophomore **Sergio Miranda's** (Bayamon, Puerto Rico) three-run homer in the first helped the Rams to a 4-3 victory and **Joe Meador** (Mechanicsville/Lee-Davis High School) joined St. Clair in going deep in the second game, which VCU won 9-4.

Pitcher **John Leonard** (Virginia Beach/Kellam High School) went the distance in the first game, pitching all seven innings and striking out seven batters and walking three.

In the late game **Cody Eppley** (Dillsburg, Pa.) picked up his second win on the mound, striking out four batters in



Greg Nash

Scott Sizemore celebrates during the second game of a doubleheader at GMU Sunday, April 23. VCU swept Mason, 4-3, 9-4 after a rainout Saturday.

five innings of work.

Starting the series off on Friday, George Mason dropped VCU 4-3 after scoring two runs in the bottom of the 10th inning. Miranda had three hits and a run.

The Rams are 1-5 in extra-inning games.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tennis (Men's and Women's)

Thurs., May 18 -
Mon., May 29
NCAA Finals
Palo Alto, Calif.

Track and Field (Men's and Women's)

Thurs., April 27 - Sat., April 29
Penn Relays
Philadelphia, Pa.

Golf

Sat., April 29 - Sun., April 30
Cavalier Classic
Charlottesville, Va.

Baseball

Tues., April 25
at North Carolina, 6 p.m.

Fri., April 28 - Sun., April 30
vs. UNC Wilmington

Men's Soccer

Sun. March 26
vs. Brown, 1 p.m.
Thalimer Tennis Center

Women's Soccer

Sun. March 26
vs. Brown, 1 p.m.
Thalimer Tennis Center

VCU RAMS

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

SPORTS

TENNIS RECAP

Compiled from CT resources

Rams sweep conference titles

Lecloerec helps men take crown from Monarchs

NEWPORT NEWS – The men's tennis team won its 10th Colonial Athletic Association Championship in 11 years Sunday when they took down Old Dominion 4-2.

With the victory the Rams have an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Emil Lindgren (Stocksund, Sweden) and **Sebastian Ripoll**

Rams after initially falling behind 7-1.

VCU then jumped to an early 3-0 lead after singles wins from Lindgren and sophomore **Damien Lacombe** (Perigueux, France), but the Monarchs managed wins in the first and second positions. **Sergi Arumi** (Barcelona, Spain) sealed the

(Mauleon-Soule) secured the doubles point for the

championship win with his 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 win.

On Saturday in the semifinal match, the Rams secured a 4-1 victory over Georgia State. As of Saturday, Senior **Francesc Lleal** (Barcelona, Spain) had moved into a tie for eight place on VCU's career singles victory list with his 6-3, 6-1 win over Clarence Boyd.

Sophomores **Alex Israel** (Marseille, France) and Lacombe sealed wins at the fifth and sixth positions respectively.

Women win 27th straight, remain undefeated

NEWPORT NEWS – Top-seeded VCU won its second Colonial Athletic Association Championship Sunday when it defeated second-seeded William and Mary 4-1. As with the men's team, the women also have an automatic bid to the NCAA Tour-

namment. Sophomores **Vera Petrashevitch** (St. Petersburg, Russia) and **Tatsiana Uvarova** (Minsk, Belarus) secured the doubles point with a 8-4 victory.

After losing a point in the third singles match, the Rams won the rest to finish off the Tribe. Rams senior **Olga Borisova** (Minsk,

Belarus) displayed a strong win when she blasted Klaudyna Kasztelaniec 6-1, 6-4 in the fourth singles match.

In the semifinal match Saturday, the women's team defeated UNC Wilmington 4-0. Borisova moved into a sixth-place tie on the VCU career wins list. Her 63 career singles victories matched former Ram **Ilona Poljakova**, who played from 1992-1995.

AWARDS

- Junior **Arnaud Lecloerec** (Louhinec, France) was recognized for his strong season, earning his second straight CAA Co-Player of the Year award Thursday. Lecloerec, who shared the award with Old Dominion freshman Harel Srugo, managed a 23-8 singles record and is ranked 16th nationally according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.
- VCU sophomore **Tatsiana Uvarova** (Minsk, Belarus) is the third straight Ram to win CAA Rookie of the Year, sharing the honor with Katarina Zoricic of William and Mary.
- Sophomore **Marianna Yuferova** (St. Petersburg, Russia) earned CAA Co-Player of the Year honors on Friday. Megan Moulton-Levy of William and Mary shared the honor with Yuferova. Yuferova was 21-2 in singles play this season and 19-1 in dual matches.
- **Paul Kostin** was named coach of the year for both teams. He earned his 799th and 800th collegiate coaching victories Friday when both the men's and women's teams each won their respective matches 4-0. The women defeated George Mason and the men blanked Hofstra.



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STANDINGS

CAA BASEBALL

	CAA		Overall
	W	L	W-L
Old Dominion	17	4	(35-8)
James Madison	14	7	(26-18)
Northeastern	12	6	(18-15)
UNC Wilmington	11	7	(30-11)
Virginia Commonwealth	11	7	(22-16)
Delaware	9	9	(24-14)
Georgia State	8	10	(19-21)
Hofstra	8	13	(18-24)
George Mason	8	13	(14-25)
William and Mary	7	17	(13-26)
Towson	3	15	(13-26)

SCORES April 20-23

	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.		Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
VCU	3 [†]	-	4-9	W&M	0	3	1
Mason	4 [†]	-	3-4	N'eastn.	2	8	9
ODU	2	-	11-3	Ga. State	8	9	3
Delaware	12	-	10-8	UNCW	13	4	5
JMU	4	4	3				
Hofstra	6	7	6				

† 10-inning game



UPCOMING GAMES

Tues., April 25		Wed., April 26	
Northeastern vs. Mass.	1:00 p.m.	George Mason at Temple	3:00 p.m
Richmond at Towson	3:00	Ga. Southern at Ga. State	4:00
JMU at George Washington	3:00	Towson at Maryland	7:00
Liberty at George Mason	3:00	Norfolk State at W&M	7:00
La Salle at Delaware	3:00		
Ga. Southern at Ga. State	6:00		
VCU at North Carolina	6:00		
UNC Wilmington at Elon	7:00		



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Spectrum



"I Can Pull These" by Maya Goldweber

Seniors, MFA students display works at VCU galleries

TOM NASH

Associate Spectrum Editor

The VCU School of the Arts Senior Show and the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, which both opened with receptions last Friday, feature a wide range of works from the craft, painting and printmaking, kinetic imaging and sculpture departments.

The Senior Show's pieces ranged from Brad Walker's "Wallets", which consists of a group of wallets set next to each other, to Ella Watson's "Upgrade Renegade", a video piece in which she replaces student's belongings with glass sculptures. Watson recently won the dean's award at the Anderson Gallery's Juried Student Exhibitions.

Other pieces such as Maxwell O. Perry's "Triple Suicide Flasher" made oblique political statements, while some such as "Stainless Steel Knuckles With Washington Monument Attachments", by Mike Ohgren, were more direct in their message.

James Long featured work he has created for the Richmond Lucha Libre, a popular local wrestling league in which he wrestles as Kamikaze Kid.

"A lot of people think its really cool," Long said. "A lot of people have responded well to the live-event aspect of it. There's a lot of content in there; it's not just squiggles and

stuff.

"People think it's cool that it's art about something you can actually go see. You can actually run into the people making it on the street."

The Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition being held in the Anderson Gallery displayed an even broader mixture of mediums. Allison P. Andrews' giant "Zen Garden" (featuring the giant metal outline of a Hummer) sat next to Christopher Wideman's photograph "Slip # 1."

"It's interesting to see many departments putting their work in one gallery," one viewer said. "I wonder, is this design or art? I question what I'm looking at a lot. Some (of the) work has this experiential viewing thing going on and that is (interesting) also. I enjoy the mixture of different mediums."

Colleen Ostrander's "Mary Shelley," a piece made of paper resembling a vertically aligned mountain range, was inspired by Ostrander's reading of "Frankenstein."

"I was interested in thinking about my mind as a sort of landscape," she said. "I feel very influenced by Mary Shelley and reading about her life. In 'Frankenstein' she does a lot of psychological profiling as well. I was looking at the Alps and that's what I was working off of."

The Master of Fine Arts exhibit will continue through April 30, when it will be replaced by a second group of works that will be on display May 5 until May 15.



Pat Kane photos

Ella Watson's "Upgrade Renegade" plays during the painting and printmaking department's senior gallery exhibition in the School of the Arts Building on Broad Street.

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Spectrum

Gov't Mule brings the jams to Innsbrook Pavillion

ANDREW SHILLING
Spectrum Writer

ROCKZILLA REVIEW

Lights glared through the fog, revealing a sea of peace signs given by nearly 3,000 Richmond concert goers provoking an electrifying feel-good atmosphere Wednesday night, at this year's first installation of Innsbrook After Hours.

This was the fourth show of the year for lead singer and guitarist Warren Haynes, drummer Matt Abbs, keyboardist Danny Louis and bassist Andy Hess, whose blend make up the heavy southern rocking band Gov't Mule.

"I'm really happy with the way the band's chemistry is flowing right now," Haynes said. "We have a bunch of new songs. We wanted to share our studio experience with our fans."

That's just what the band did as they opened up with the hard rocking "Bad Little Doggie," from the band's "Life Before Insanity" album, leading into "Lola Leave Your Light On" and "About to Rage," two songs off the band's newest record, "Déjà Voodoo," released in 2004.

Hootin' and hollerin' shook the grounds

at Innsbrook Pavilion, equipping the band with a little southern comfort as they tore into the classic Allman Brothers song, "Mountain Jam."

Tenor saxophonist, Ron Holloway joined the band on-stage for the song "Sco-Mule," which then led into a jazz rendition of Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watch Tower," also accompanied by the high squeals from Holloway. The band wheeled into "Slackshaw Jezebel" to end the first set.

Set two began when Haynes stepped out onto the glowing blue stage and performed his solo rendition of "Wasted Time." The set was filled with Gov't Mule hits such as "Mule," off the self-titled album, and "Banks of the Deep End," which led into "Devil Likes It Slow," brining out Holloway once again. The band exited the stage leaving Abbs to a riveting drum solo, at times only using his bare hands.

The crowd cheered relentlessly, assembling the band for a spectacular two-song encore, where they played "Thirty

Days in the Hole" by Humble Pie, and "Soulshine" for Holloway's a final appearance, only fitting for the end of a spectacular evening.

Officer Stem and 17 other police officers of the Henrico Police Department were at the event. He has been working the affair for the last 18 years and has not ever encountered any serious problems.

"We try to provide an atmosphere that is safe for people that attend the event," he said. "It's a great event, people come out and have a great time, and that's what it's all about," he added.

Brad Wells, promoter of Innsbrook After Hours, has been involved with the event since 1998. "We're seeing how this music is kind of crossing over and meaning different things to different ages," he said.

"You can be 50-years-old and like this band and you can be 15-years-old and like this band, I think it's encouraging to see this interesting mix of music. Rock'n'roll is only about 60-years-old so who knows what's going to happen."



Monday, April 24

Ambulette (formerly Bella Lea), The Silent Type and Widows will be performing at Nanci Raygun. 6 p.m. \$7 929 W. Grace St. 353.4263.

Tuesday, April 25

The "Taste of Culture" Café will offer a relaxed atmosphere for listening to poetry and jazz, watching films and relaxing. Coffee, tea and pastries will be served. 5 to 7 p.m. Student Commons, OMSA-room 215. 828-6672.

Wednesday, April 26

"Canoeing under the Stars" at Swift Creek Reservoir will be a great trip to see the stars and experience canoeing at night. A guide familiar with the constellations will be along. Price includes transportation, equipment guides and one night of canoeing. Students: \$5, faculty/staff: \$7, guests: \$9. 828-6004 for details.

Weird News

Grandmother wins \$13 million from slot machine

Josephine Crawford was almost out of quarters when she hit the jackpot at Harrah's casino in New Jersey.

"I'm going to take care of my family," Crawford said. "I have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We are going to have a good time with it."

Harrah's spokesman Alyce Parker said Crawford, a widow, had received four marriage proposals at the casino.

"She said she wasn't interested," he said. "She is very energetic, and she doesn't look a day over 65."



Croatian wrecks 33 cars in 23 years

Croatian Franjo Pozgaj, a 39-year-old mailman has finally learned how to ride a bicycle after crashing 33 cars in 23 years.

Pozgaj crashed his first car when he was 16 and has wrecked at least one a year since.

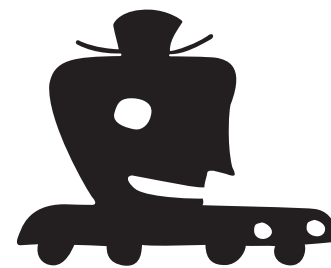
"The first car I crashed was my father's Audi when I was 16, and I once totally wrote off a new Renault just 20 minutes after I had bought it," he said. "I just seem to have bad luck with cars."

Pozgaj, who claims he has never suffered more than a few bruises from his crashes, has finally decided to take up biking.



Young boy steals teacher's car

Akos Szabo, an eight-year-old boy from Hungary, recently stole his teacher's car and drove a mile home.



The boy broke into the car, adjusted the mirrors and drove home to his parents, who did not know he could drive.

Szabo said he stole the car because he did not want to walk home.

No charges have been placed but he has been expelled from school.

— Compiled from wire reports

Spectrum

Jam-worthy CDs New releases and contemporary classics

JAM WILLIAMS
Spectrum Writer

Nonpoint — ‘Development’

Rock stations are raving about Nonpoint’s sophomore effort with MCA Records — and for good reason. “Development” is hard driving, yet comfortable and easy to listen to. It’s also one of the best hard rock albums I’ve heard in a long time. The strong guitar, drum-beats and vocals almost always have a refined, well-practiced sound. “Your Signs,” the first single from “Development,” has received air play and the song features strong, clear vocals from lead singer Elias Soriano. “Any Advice” is a mellower rock ballad that showcases the diversity and maturity of the band. It takes a step back and reminds the listener that these guys have talent outside of the mosh pit. Every member of the band does their part admirably and they mesh together very well. “Development” is a break out party for Nonpoint, and it could put them in the spotlight as the next mega rock band.

Recommended if you like Rage Against The Machine, Deftones and Taproot.

Dead Prez — ‘Let’s Get Free’



Dead Prez aggressively and articulately attacks the forces that contribute to inequality in modern society. They have an unbreakable conviction that what they’re saying is true and important. For this very reason, this album is powerful enough that it can’t help but spark discussions. On “Mind Sex,” they express the desire to have good conversations. With “Let's Get Free,” they’ve created quite a tool for getting people to talk about timely issues. The big disappointment is that they have such a boring musical backdrop for such bold statements. The album's beats and musical accompaniments have nothing special or interesting about them. Maybe this is intentional; all the attention is drawn to their voices, but even their rhyming skills aren’t that exciting. They make their points, yes, but it’s all direct communication. There are no rhymes delivered in a way that makes your jaw drop or that makes you want to rewind and catch that last verse again. Overall the hip-hop world needs more artists who are willing to speak out about real issues and that is exactly what this album does. Dead Prez are looking for a few good revolutionaries, and “Let’s Get Free” is the invitation for you to join the team.

Recommended if you like KRS-1, X-Clan and Brand Nubian.

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june 9 nickel creek
june 14 moe. w/melissa ferrick
june 21 blues traveler
july 15 the wailers



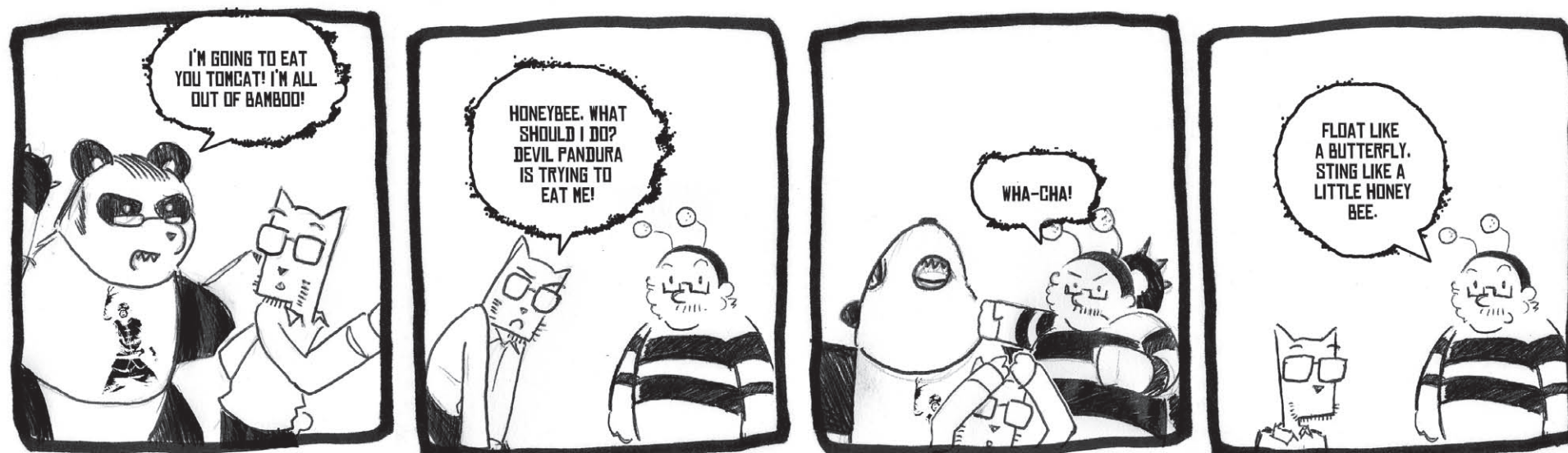
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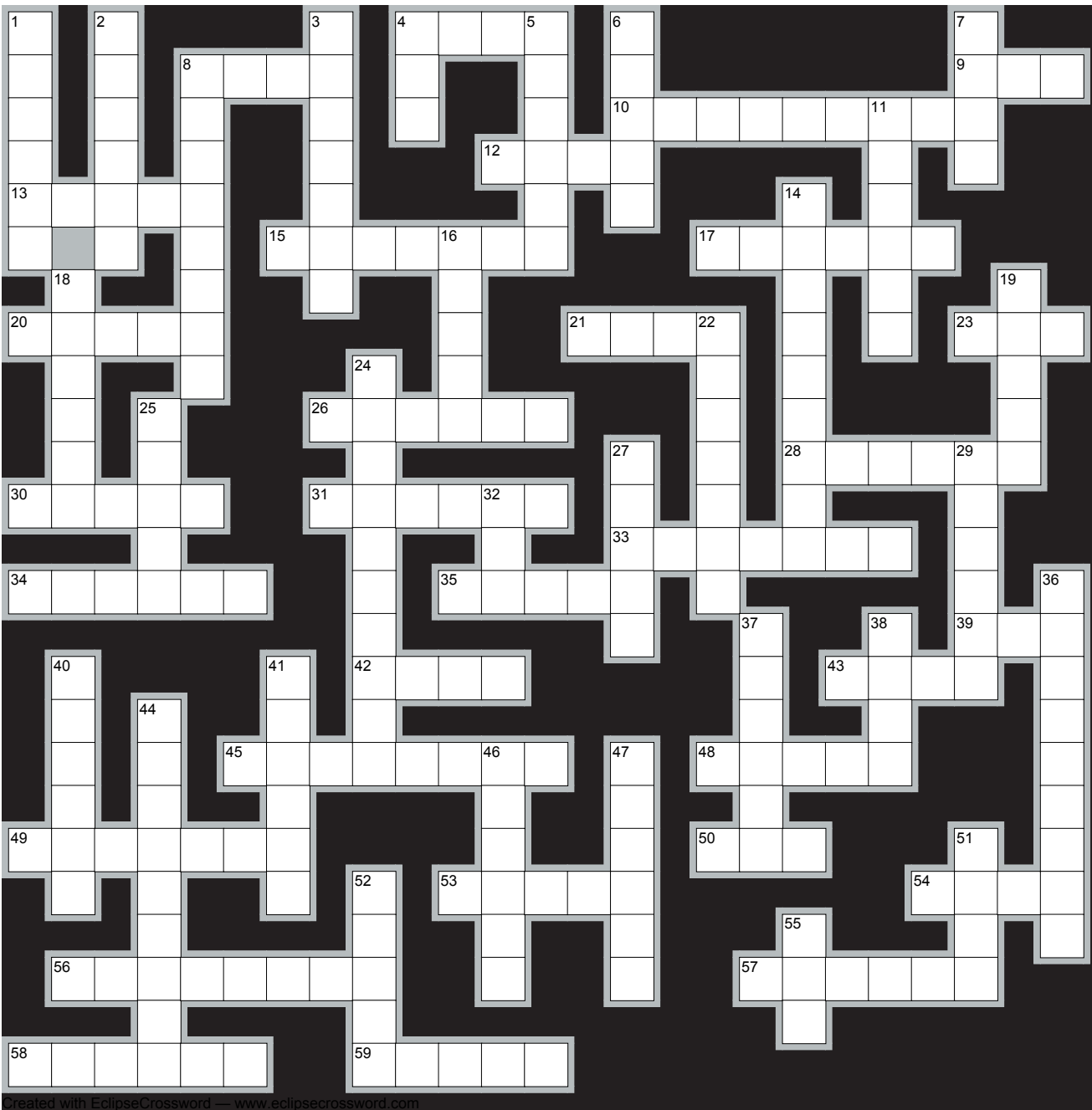
THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES CROSSWORD

Across

- 4. To burn down completely.
- 8. Name of the first hydrogen bomb.
- 9. Consume, devour.
- 10. When standard medicines grow ineffective trying to fight a disease, that disease has become _____.
- 12. Opposite of first.
- 13. Kicked out.
- 15. Term for radioactive substances sent skyward as they return to Earth.
- 17. A poison or pollutant.
- 20. Which calendar points to December 21, 2012, as the end of time?
- 21. Destiny.
- 23. The Hoover one of these has a measurable effect on the Earth's rotation.
- 26. The Big opposite of the Big Bang.
- 28. To pass the sell-by date.
- 30. Danger, risk.
- 31. The Avian Island chain that contains Cumbre Vieja, a volcano that could produce a megatsunami that hits the east coast of the U.S.
- 33. Buggy plague.
- 34. The 'Omega Man.'
- 35. To melt and fuse.
- 39. Regret.
- 42. Round roof, also a type of volcano.
- 43. A bar used to fasten a door.
- 45. Epic Norse "last battle."
- 48. Universal theme in myth of an earlier end of the world.
- 49. The "M" in ICBM.
- 50. To be wrong, human, usually both.
- 53. The rider on a pale horse.
- 54. Greenhouse gasses could do this to the ice caps.
- 56. The explosions were heard on Rodriguez Island, 4653 km away.
- 57. Ate every to end the first age of the world in Mayan myth.
- 58. Coldest season.
- 59. It would take nature this many years to overgrow everything we ever built.

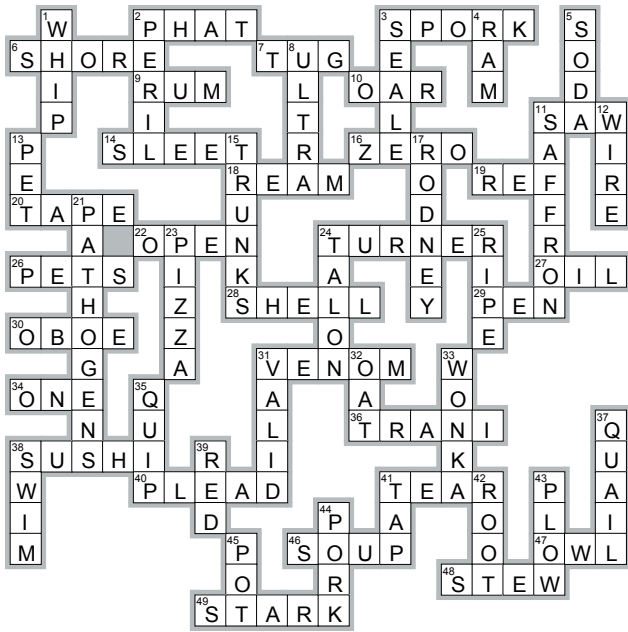
Down

- 1. Shelter, casemate.
- 2. Player the owner of an oil-rig and father in an apocalyptic movie.
- 3. Name of the spacecraft in "Deep Impact."
- 4. Tear.
- 5. Wandering, astray.
- 6. What planet does 'Planet of the Apes' take place on?
- 7. Domesticated animals that often misplace native populations.
- 8. A radio broadcast once convinced people that Earth was being invaded by these.
- 11. Type of bomb used on Japan.
- 14. Viruses and bacteria that damage the body.
- 16. Body of water, not a sea.
- 18. The hungry horseman.



- 19. A hiding place for supplies!
- 22. When a plant or animal permanently dies off.
- 24. "Hill of Robbers"
- 25. To be.
- 27. Doomsday versions of these pop up around significal events.
- 29. To return to a former state.
- 32. Animal mascot of VCU.
- 36. Declining rates of this may eventually render us unable to reproduce.
- 37. The fabled "Spear of Destiny" was sought by this man, who believe it would grant him ultimate victory... at the expense of everyone else.
- 38. Sustenance.
- 40. Wreckage.
- 41. Result of a large bomb or impact.
- 44. Zarathushtra's final messiah.
- 46. A NEO is a "Near Earth _____."
- 47. Fatal.
- 51. Rip.
- 52. Our sun will probably become a white one these someday.
- 55. Angry, insane. Also a Cold War acronym.

Answers from April 20 edition





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VCU Libraries Lecture

Tuesday, April 18, 2006 • 7:30 p.m.
**VCU Student Commons, Richmond Salons,
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Free and open to the public. 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 Friday, April 14, 2006.

The 20th Annual James Branch Cabell Lecture is sponsored by the VCU Libraries and the James Branch Cabell Library Associates.

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EDITORIALS & LETTERS

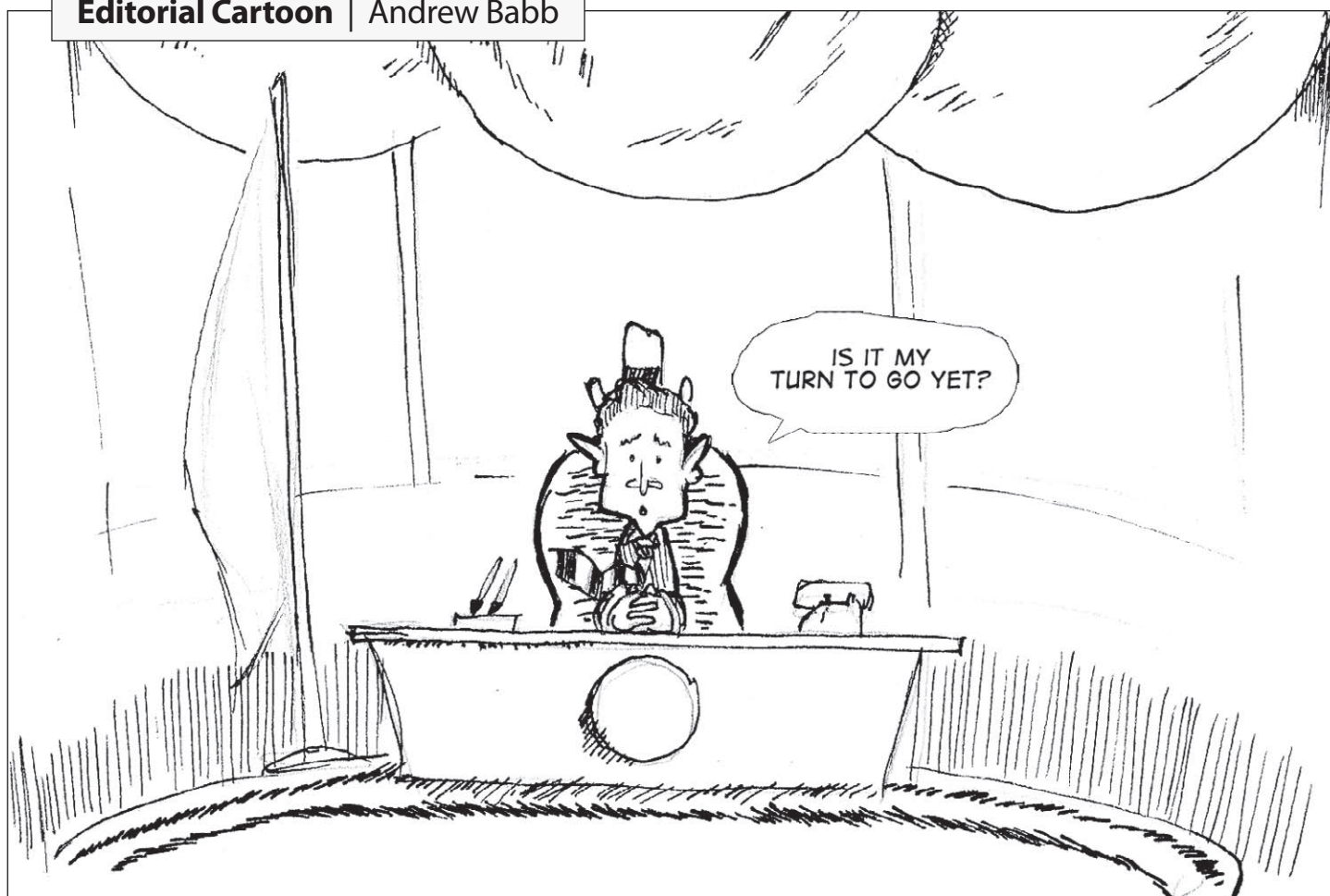
Opinion in Brief

University of Virginia students protesting for a “living wage” increase have been portrayed by many media outlets as today’s youth finding a backbone and doing some old-fashioned ’60s style protesting, but those of us with better things to do than take cell phone pictures of our buddies being politely escorted away by university police (and probably putting them up on Facebook) know that what it amounts to is wishful posing.

Do these students actually care about the people they’re supposedly fighting for? If they did, why would they do something as obviously pointless as refusing to leave a building or not eating? Does anyone really care if a U.Va. student is refusing to eat? Where are the Molotov cocktails, the effigies and — most importantly — the general stick-it-to-the-man attitude the cooler set of our parent’s generation had? Where were these protests during the first days of the war in Iraq, or over the Patriot Act?

These school employees should be able to negotiate their own contract, and the bottom line is the fact that these students are protesting in their name is hurting more than helping.

Editorial Cartoon | Andrew Babb



Your Turn *Letters to the Editor*



\$5.15 ain't what it used to be

Dear Editor:

As a student in the social work program at Longwood University I have recently been volunteering with the Virginia Organizing Project, where I will complete my field placement during the summer. The project I am working on is the campaign to increase Virginia’s minimum wage. Part of my project is to get people to sign a petition supporting an increase in the minimum wage. A question I have encountered often while petitioning has been: “Why should we care?”

Imagine that you are a minimum-wage worker in Virginia. You work full-time making \$5.15 an hour with an annual income of just \$9,893 after taxes. In Virginia nearly 150,000 families are at this income. It seems obvious that paying our minimum-wage workers enough to sustain their families is not just a good idea. It is the right thing to do.

It takes more than a good idea to make something happen. It takes connections with people who will stand behind that idea and put the effort into it to see it work. We as students have a unique opportunity

as we prepare to return home for the summer. The number of signatures that my organization has set as our goal is big (to say the least). But I have to wonder: If VCU students going home for the summer took the petition with them, how many signatures could they secure in their homes across the state?

I believe that apathy, manifested in the “I don’t care” attitude so prevalent in our generation of young people, is a defense mechanism to cover up a sense of powerlessness. I would encourage you to own your power and use that power to benefit the lives of minimum-wage workers across our state. Be heard. Let us bring together our collective voices and say: Increase Virginia’s minimum wage!

With hope and ambition,
Helen Dempsey

SGA Help Desk

The Student Government Association is happy to announce the creation of the SGA Help Desk. The desk is located in the kiosk directly across the hall from the Career Services Center on the first

floor of the University Student Commons. The Help Desk aids the SGA by providing more, much-needed visibility to students to recruit more student input. The desk also serves as an information center; students may pick up a number of brochures, pamphlets, documents, pens and magnets regarding leadership and organization opportunities. At least one SGA member is at the Help Desk from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please stop by the Help Desk to see how you can participate in the SGA and while you are there, please be sure to stop by the Career Services Center to get useful help on writing resumes, compiling references, finding an internship and finding a job. Career Services does an excellent job at providing VCU students with the resources necessary for successfully finding a job, locating and applying to graduate school, and developing a concise strategy for advertising the student’s best abilities via resume.

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

The Commonwealth Times

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Op/Ed

MySpace message foils school shooting plot

KADIE PUFFENBARGER
Op/Ed Writer

Talk about your idiot criminals. As if planning another shooting rampage on the anniversary of the Columbine incident wasn't stupid enough, five Kansas high school students were arrested after posting a message threatening to do just that on one of the students' MySpace Web pages. Apparently one of them even went so far as to give details to a woman he was chatting with on MySpace. After receiving this information she promptly told authorities in her state, North Carolina, who contacted authorities in Kansas. After figuring out who the boys were, their homes and lockers were searched. Guns, ammunition, knives and coded messages were found in the bedroom of one suspect, Sheriff Steve Norman said. Authorities also found documents about

firearms and references to Armageddon in two suspects' school lockers.

Of the five suspects, one is 18 and the others are between 16 and 17. What gets me is the prosecution is trying to decide whether they should be tried as adults. How exactly is this a hard decision? They had plans in place to murder around a dozen people. Not only should they be tried as adults but also as terrorists. Our country seems to think that because someone is between 16 and 18 they deserve some kind of break for being "kids." I hate to break it to the American justice system but if a "child" is 16 or older and planning to walk into a school and kill at least a dozen people, they are very aware of what the consequences will be.

A lot of the problem here is not just the parents' apparent lack of attention and inability to properly raise a child but also the whining bunch of brats who are currently

being raised in this country. It appears that this group of boys was targeting a select group of popular students, possibly because they had been bullied by them. Has our nation become such a pansy version of its former self that a little teasing is grounds for capital punishment by the children being teased? Is it completely unthinkable that these boys could stand up for themselves, especially considering how it was a group of five of them, without resorting to the use of firearms? Apparently so, and it is really disgusting that the parents of these boys obviously had no clue what they were doing if they have purchased (or stolen) firearms and ammunition.

I can almost guarantee that this group of would-be spree murderers will likely walk away with what will amount to a slap on the wrist. Yet had these boys claimed some hatred for America they

would stand trial as terrorists because if you take away the cute schoolboy faces, that's all they are. What makes them different than five grown men plotting to fly a plane into a building in New York? Nothing. They planned to carry out this attack hoping to teach these students a "lesson" and were well aware of the panic and terror that would ensue during and after their spree.

Now as they are hauled away, we can only sit and watch as they make up some bizarre defense about how they were teased by other students and their only way out was to kill a dozen people. Let's try bringing charges against the parents, too, for once. Maybe if we can take down a few neglectful parents along with their spoiled kids then we can actually make a dent in the huge problem of whining adolescents.

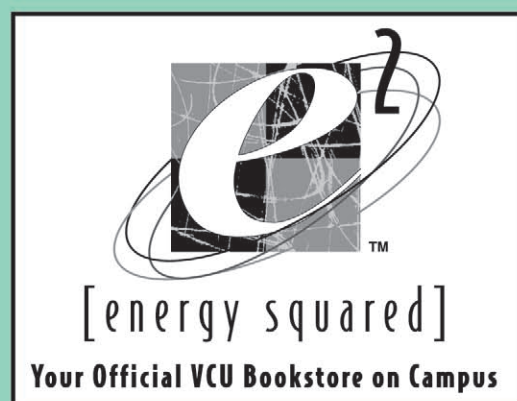


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