

the

ct

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FREE

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# A new plan

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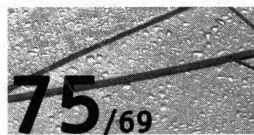
The Commonwealth Times  
has a new look!

student press of Virginia Commonwealth University

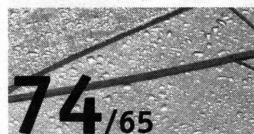
# Briefs

## WEATHER

### THURSDAY



### FRIDAY



### SATURDAY



### SUNDAY



### Extended forecast

Mon.-Thurs., Sept. 4-7

**Monday**  
86/69 T-storms

**Tuesday**  
87/68 T-storms

**Wednesday**  
88/65 T-storms

**Thursday**  
88/65 Showers

**Note:** The CT will not publish over the Labor Day weekend. Look for our next issue Thursday, Sept. 7.

## IN THE NEWS compiled from wire reports

### WORLD

**TEHRAN, Iran** – Iran's hard-line president challenged the United Nations and proposed a televised debate with President Bush on Tuesday, two days before a Security Council ultimatum demanding his country roll back its suspect nuclear program.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said no one can prevent Iran from pursuing what he called a peaceful nuclear program, not even U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who was expected in Iran on Saturday.

The White House immediately rejected the Iranian president's debate proposal as a "diversion" from serious concerns over the country's nuclear program.

The U.N. Security Council has set today as a deadline for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, a process that can produce

either fuel for a reactor or material for weapons. Iran has refused any immediate suspension, calling the deadline illegal.

**PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico** – Hurricane John lashed tourist resorts with heavy winds and rain Wednesday as the dangerous storm marched up Mexico's Pacific coast, and forecasters predicted its center would brush close to land before nicking the tip of Baja California and heading out to sea.

The Category 4 hurricane could dump up to a foot of rain along parts of Mexico's southern coast, causing landslides or flooding, meteorologists warned. The hurricane had maximum sustained winds of 135 mph and stronger gusts capable of ripping roofs off buildings and causing storm surges of up to 18 feet above normal.

### NATIONAL

**DENVER** – Though John Mark Karr provided a detailed confession to killing JonBenet Ramsey, it was all a lie, authorities said.

Prosecutors abruptly dropped their case against Karr Monday after DNA tests failed to put him at the crime scene, despite his insistence he sexually assaulted and strangled the 6-year-old beauty queen.

Karr remained in custody until he can be sent to Sonoma County, Calif., to face misdemeanor child pornography charges dating to 2001. If convicted in Sonoma County, Karr could face a maximum of

one year in prison and \$2,500 on each count, said Don Steier, a California defense attorney who has been involved in high-profile sex crimes cases.

In Boulder, District Attorney Mary Lacy has been sharply criticized by the governor and others for arresting Karr. She acknowledged that and told reporters she has received calls from people calling for her to be "tarred and feathered" and "run out of town." Republican Gov. Bill Owens said Lacy, a Democrat, "should be held accountable for the most extravagant and expensive DNA test in Colorado history."

### LOCAL

**GOOCHLAND** – A man identified as the primary suspect in the abduction and slaying of a 21-year-old Goochland County woman apparently committed suicide earlier this week, police said Wednesday.

John M. Snyder, 37, was found dead Monday, the same day police discovered the remains of Emily "Kate" Robertson in a creek about 3 miles west of the Goochland courthouse, Sheriff James Agnew said.

Snyder's wife found him dead of a single gunshot wound to the head in their Henrico County apartment, but it appears he died before Monday, Agnew said without elaboration.

Robertson had been missing since

Friday, when a Short Pump Town Center security-camera video showed her getting into a burgundy Pontiac Firebird 10 minutes before her shift was scheduled to begin at the mall's Nordstrom store.

Although police were unable to see the license plate number of the car in the security-camera video, Agnew said Snyder owned a Firebird "identical to the one in the photos." Evidence was found in Snyder's car and has been submitted to the crime lab for tests, Agnew said, but he wouldn't say what was found.

There were no obvious signs of trauma to Robertson's body, so more tests were needed to determine a cause of death, the state medical examiner's office said. It could take several weeks for those tests to be concluded.

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"This is a chemical abortion. It has no moral distinction from a surgical abortion."

—The Family Foundation

"Studies show women will not be having unprotected sex if emergency contraception is available."

—Nancy Harris, nurse practitioner

## America's new Plan B

**SHEENA JEFFERS**  
News Co-Editor

Before the end of the year, a prescription will no longer be necessary to purchase Plan B, an emergency-contraceptive pill that could prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of sexual intercourse.

On Aug. 24, the Food and Drug Administration approved over-the-counter sales of the pill, which will be available at pharmacies and health clinics to those 18 and older. For anyone younger than 18, a prescription is still required.

Nancy Harris, coordinator of women's health and a nurse practitioner at University Student Health Services, said the clinic doesn't know how they will handle this new development.

### KNOW THE FACTS

Plan B is most effective taken within 24 hours.

After 72 hours it is 89 percent effective.

Plan B is not RU-486 (the abortion pill).

If you are pregnant it will not cause an abortion.

Some side effects may include nausea, abdominal pain, fatigue, headache, menstrual changes, dizziness, breast tenderness and vomiting.

Plan B consists of two tablets (VCU suggests taking both at the same time.)

It does not protect against HIV or sexually transmitted infections.

[www.go2planb.com](http://www.go2planb.com)

afraid we'll lose a teaching opportunity," Harris added. Before, if a student came in for EC, a nurse spoke to her about birth-control methods and offered to start her on birth control on her next menstruation.

"It's a missed opportunity," she said.

"We still have students under 18," Harris said. "We need to find some kind of system to show they are 18. A lot of things have to be settled."

Plan B, a product of Barr Pharmaceuticals, Inc., prevents ovulation or fertilization with large doses of progestin that enter the body. If a woman is already pregnant, the pill does not cause an abortion.

The pill costs \$15 and will only change if its contracted price with Barr Laboratories changes, Harris said.

"The biggest disadvantage is I'm

The FDA's decision took time, petitions, meetings and countless heated conversations since Dec. 16, 2003, when the FDA advisory committee voted to suggest the sale of EC over the counter. Since then, legislators, various organizations and the American public have debated this controversial move.

The FDA called Plan B "the safest product that we have seen brought before us." But some groups remain wary. Many believe such easy access to the pill will only result in sexual promiscuity among adolescents.

Cherry Sancho, a marketing and business major, said the age limit to purchase the pill should be raised.

"When they say free contraception, it's like free sex for everyone," she said.

Chris Freund, director of policy and communications for the Richmond-based Family Foundation, said he was not surprised with the FDA's decision.

"It was clear for quite some time that the FDA would bow to political pressure," Freund said.

The government, he added, sent a message "that they are more interested in politics than protecting the health of Americans" with their approval. Freund said he believes such easy access could encourage unhealthy sexual behavior, date rape and illegal activity such as purchasing pills for minors.

Emergency contraception is "clearly an abortion," he said, since it prevents the implantation of a fertilized egg.

But Freund only represents one side.

Amanda Burton, a junior religious studies major, said she supports over-the-counter sales of the pill.

"I'm totally for it," she said. "I still think we need to

fight for it because it's only 18 and up, and accidents happen when you're young. It's 16 and up in other countries, so why is America so behind?"

Sara Duke, President of Voices for Planned Parenthood, said, "There have been studies proven and done that show access to emergency contraception does not increase promiscuity."

In Spring 2006, the Office of Health Promotion and University Student Health Services found 68 percent of VCU undergraduates had 0-to-1 sex partners in the last year.

In 2004, there were 437 prescriptions written for Plan B at VCU.

"That's a very small percentage of prescriptions overall," said Harris, who has been at VCU for more than seven years and has seen no sign of abuse of the pill.

When it comes to promiscuity, Harris said she agrees with Duke.

"Studies show women will not be having unprotected sex if EC is available," Harris said. "It's a legal medicine. It's safe. Nobody ever says anything about having Tylenol, and Tylenol can be deadly."

According to Planned Parenthood, experts predict it could prevent up to 1.5 million unintended pregnancies. Fifty percent of women between ages 18 and 50 will have an abortion in their lifetime. Women have 800,000 abortions a year, and half of all pregnancies are unplanned.

"That isn't talked about," Duke said.



PLANB continued to Page C77

## Do you use smokeless tobacco (dip/snuff)?

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for more detailed information

The study will be conducted in McGuire Hall on VCU's Medical Campus  
Principal Investigator: Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D.

## News in Your Words

**Q:**

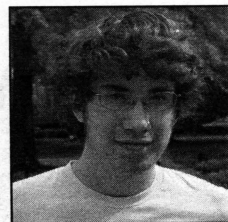
**GAYLAND HETHCOAT AND SHEENA JEFFERS**  
News Co-Editors

What are your thoughts on the government's decision to allow women ages 18 and older to buy emergency contraception without a doctor's prescription?

**A:**

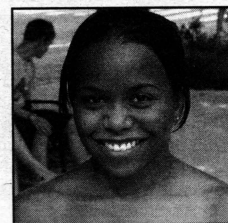
"I think it's completely reasonable, because if men can just go out and get condoms, why can't women go out and get a pill?"

**Stuart Dumais, freshman**  
Art foundation



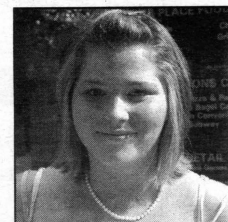
"If you're going to do it you need to know what it's going to do. I feel like because it's available over the counter, it's easy to go do that without reading into the details of what it does."

**Kelly Fenner, senior**  
Fashion merchandising



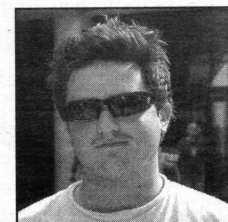
"I think it's great making it more available. I don't think it's something you should use everyday, but if it's needed, and someone is in that situation, it's great that it's now available for those needed."

**Audrey Waple, sophomore**  
Pre-health/biology



"I think it will probably be abused by some people. But people want what they can't have, so maybe they won't use it as much as people think they will now."

**Phil Ceconi, sophomore**  
Mass communications



"Initially I thought it was a good idea, but I think in a way it could promote going out and having sex since there's less restrictions on getting it. And in today's society that's not a safe thing to do."

**Stacy Moore, sophomore**  
Nursing



Monday, August 28, 2006

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# VCU becomes 'Bayside High'

## 'Mr. Belding' shares anecdotes, wisdom with students

**GAYLAND HETHCOAT**

News Co-Editor

"Hey, hey, hey, what is going on here?"

Casual and dedicated fans of the '90s teenage sitcom "Saved by the Bell" instantly recognize the trademark line: it belongs to Richard Belding, the show's sometimes goofy but always affable principal played by Dennis Haskins.

As his character was prone to do with students Zack, Kelly, AC Slater, Jessie, Lisa and Screech, the actor shared life lessons Tuesday at the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts. Haskins, 55, focused on his 11-year role as Mr. Belding and the entertainment industry but touched upon his own personal experiences as well. Senior criminal-justice major Ronald Young Jr. hosted the event, which the VCU SportsCenter sponsored.

The presentation began with a video montage of Haskins' other acting work, showcasing his roles in television shows like "The West Wing" and "7th Heaven." To the delight of the audience, the video ended with the colorful, pop-themed credits of "Saved by the Bell." The auditorium rang with the voices of nostalgic students singing every

childhood in Chattanooga, highlighting the imprint left on him by his first sixth-grade acting experience in a theatrical production of "Pinocchio."

"Wherever you're from is a great place to start," Haskins said, citing Oprah Winfrey's life as a success story that did not begin in Los Angeles or New York City.

Haskins said he got his start when he discovered theater at UTC after he realized he would never become the professional basketball player he always wanted to be. Although the Kappa Sigma brother did not pursue acting right after he graduated, he eventually attended television casting calls throughout the South. One audition landed him a role in the first episode of "The Dukes of Hazzard" and inspired him to move to Los Angeles where more opportunities existed.

In 1988, after years of television and theater in Los Angeles, Haskins auditioned for "Good Morning, Miss Bliss," the precursor to "Saved by the Bell." Five auditions later, he landed the role of Principal Richard Belding, which came as a surprise, he said. The casting director sought a 50-year-old black male for the part.

Thus began the famous fictional principal's career, which spanned from 1988's "Good Morning, Miss Bliss" to the spin-off series, "Saved by the Bell: The New Class," which went off the air in 2000. During this time, Haskins starred as Mr. Belding in 247 television show episodes and several made-for-TV movies. The show went on to air in 87 countries and was very popular and influential abroad, he said. According to Haskins, "Saved by the Bell" was the first television show to air in Romania after the execution of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

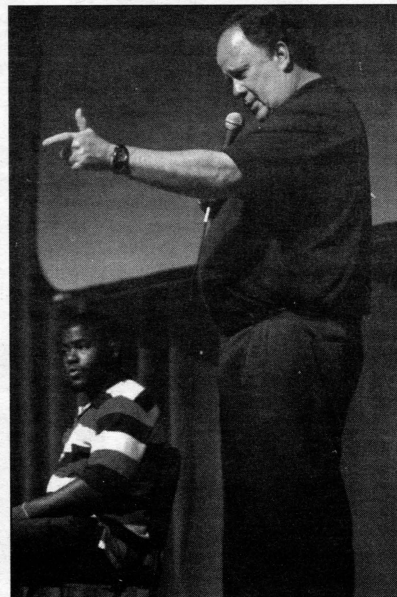
Haskins provided a plethora of other anecdotes from the show's 11-year run. He shared one of his favorite albeit melancholy "Saved by the Bell" episodes, for example: the one in which Zack and the gang graduate from high school. A snappy producer served as the inspiration for Belding's memorable "Hey, hey, hey" line, Haskins said.

After wrapping up his presentation, Haskins invited six audience members onstage for "Saved by the Bell" trivia. Brian Whitehurst, a sophomore psychology major, won when he named Scott Wolf as the actor who appeared on the glee club episode before getting his own television show, "Party of Five."

Whitehurst called his participation in the trivia an "experience of a lifetime," adding that Mr. Belding was one of his "idols" growing up. As he stood in a line of dozens of students waiting to get photos with Haskins, Whitehurst said he plans to frame the signed "Saved by the Bell" photograph Haskins gave him and hang it above his bed.

Ronald Young Jr. also said his experience as the event's host was one of a lifetime.

"Growing up, I had a lot of idealistic views because



Ronald Young Jr. with Dennis Haskins

Katy McDaniel photo

### Dennis Haskins' 'Saved by the Bell' quiz

1. What was Screech's dog's name?
2. What were the call letters of the Bayside Radio Station?
3. What was the jukebox number of Zack and Kelly's song in The Max?
4. Where was the show set besides California?
5. What was the name of the duck from the oil-spill episode?

(Check your 'Bell' smarts on Page C77)

"Hey, hey, hey, what is going on here?"

word of the theme song.

"I have been going to colleges and universities around the United States for the last three years because you guys love 'Saved by the Bell,' and so do I," Haskins said to the audience.

He explained that although most students do not know it, he has visited VCU annually for the past 10 years. Haskins, a former University of Tennessee at Chattanooga basketball player, and his friend Charles Barkley are long-time supporters of VCU Athletics, he said. He complimented the university's selection of Anthony Grant as the new men's basketball coach.

After introducing himself, Haskins elaborated on his

BELDING continued to Page C77

## The Commonwealth Times business office is looking for a new account assistant.

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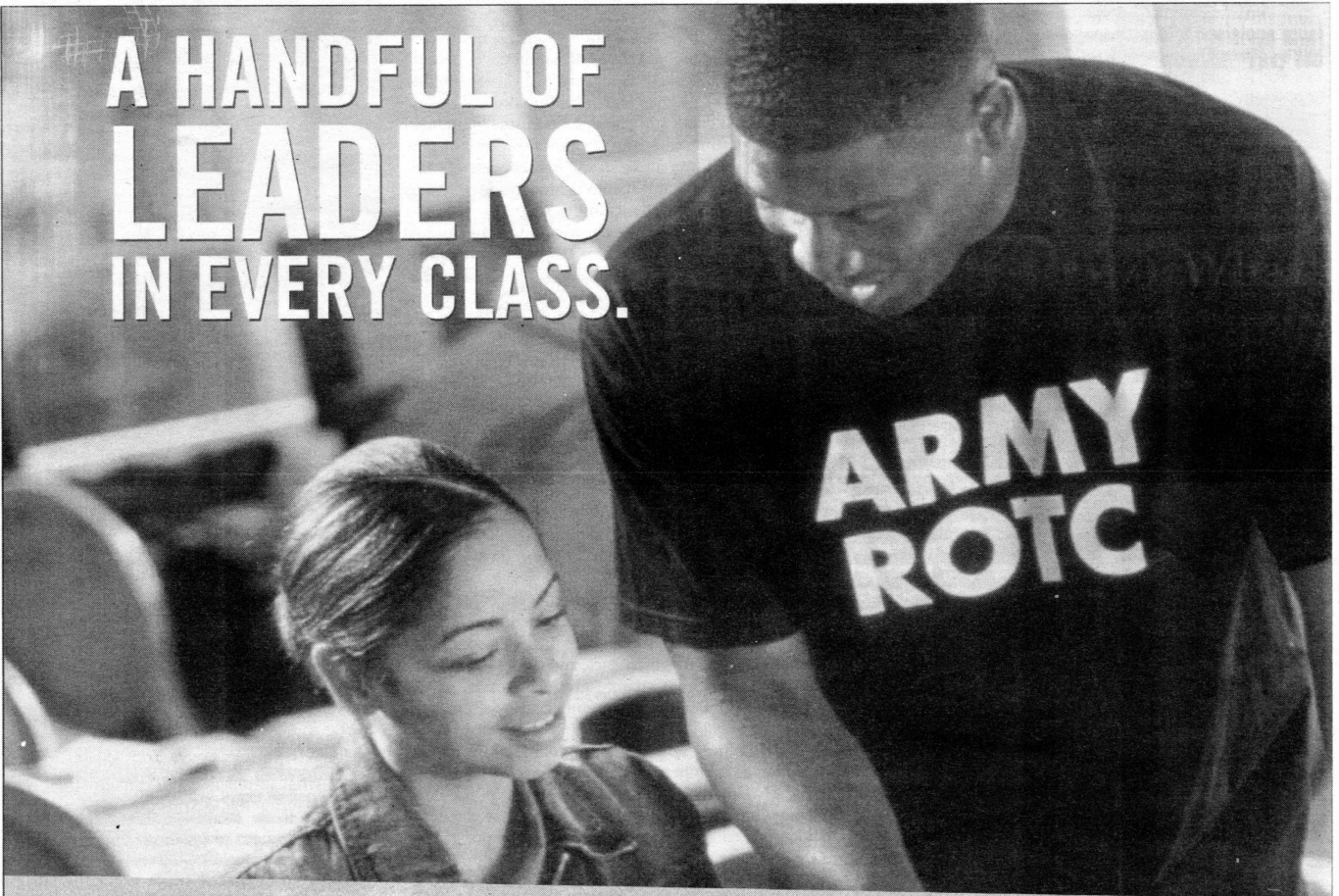
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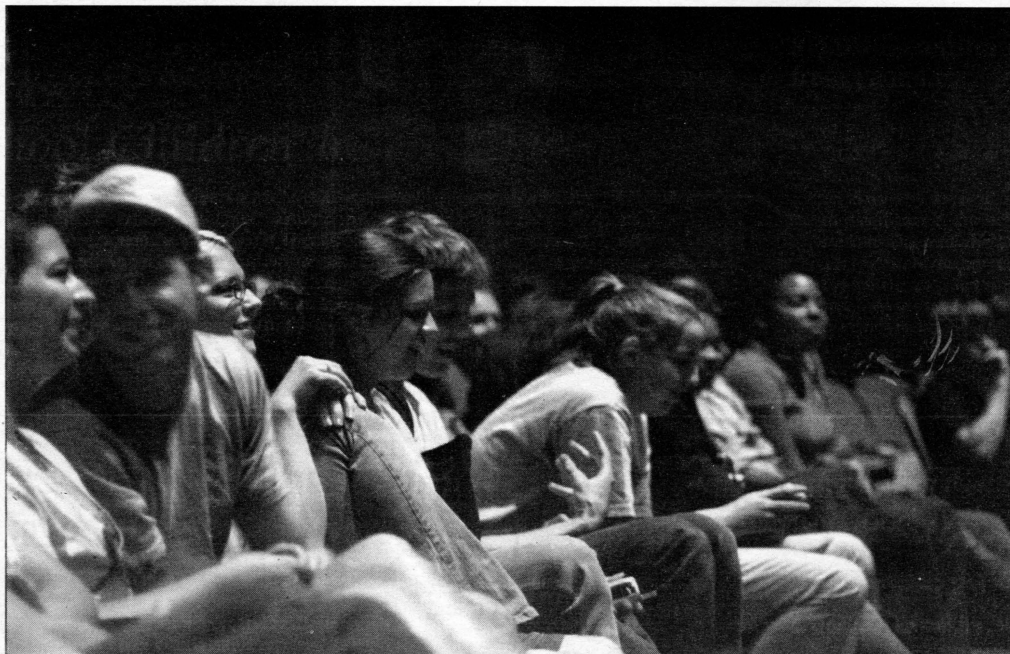
## BELDING continued from Page CT5

of "Saved by the Bell," he said. "It did a lot of shaping how I look at things."

"Saved by the Bell" remains in syndication on television stations around the country. TBS airs Monday through Friday the original series and its incarnations from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Haskins said as much as fans want it to happen, the "Saved by the Bell" cast does not have plans for a reunion episode or season.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Hound Dog
2. KKTY
3. A12
4. Indiana, Hawaii, Las Vegas
5. Becky



VCU students share with each other their answers to "Saved by the Bell" trivia.

Katy McDaniel photo

## PLANB continued from Page CT3

Even though President Bush confirmed his support in a briefing on Monday, his own supporters could restrict the legislation, which Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-New York, called "a victory

for women's health."

Duke, however, has a different point of view.

"It is a political move," she said. "Seeing his numbers have dropped, I see it

strictly as a Republican strategy."

E.J. White, a moderate-conservative political science major, agreed.

"It's an election-year ploy to get votes," he said.

Though the FDA approved national over-the-counter sales to adults, Virginia has the power to restrict approval. A Virginia legislator must introduce legislation within the state for the General Assembly to approve.

In 2005, Delegate Robert G. Marshall, R-Manassas, proposed House Bill 1813 aiming to pull state support from public college campuses prescribing EC. Planned Parenthood of Virginia fought against the legislation and developed billboards that read, "Think Virginia Won't Take Away Your Birth Control? THINK AGAIN!" The bill died in a House of Delegates subcommittee.

Freund said the Family Foundation is making plans to counter the legislation.

"We plan to work with legislators and our medical resource council, a team of doctors and health care workers, to determine what legislative remedies are possible," he said.

As for the ongoing debate about whether increased availability of EC encourages sexual promiscuity, Harris said, "There's always a small population who will abuse EC. It's the same for abortions. But the rest of the population shouldn't be penalized. I truly don't think it will be abused and misused. It's for those accidents—we're only human."

## Video awards will kill the radio star

**SHEENA JEFFERS**  
News Co-Editor

Tonight at 8, the video—or rather, the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards—will kill the radio star. A tradition since 1984, the VMAs are known for their shock-rock performances like Madonna's "Like a Virgin" in the '80s and Britney Spears ripping off her clothes in 2000 to reveal a flesh-colored, skin-tight suit.

The fashion at the VMAs is as attention-grabbing as the musical performances. Lil' Kim, for example, showed up in 1999 with her entire breast exposed, leaving only a small piece of fabric to cover the nipple.

If you want a first peek at the

designer attires, the red carpet arrivals will begin at 6:30 p.m. Here's who you can expect to see at this year's show:

### Performers:

Justin Timberlake  
Fergie  
Christina Aguilera  
Shakira  
The Killers  
Panic! at the Disco

The All-American Rejects  
Beyonce  
My Chemical Romance  
Pharrell  
T.I.

### Scheduled to Appear:

Lindsay Lohan  
Paris Hilton  
50 Cent  
LL Cool J  
Snoop Dog  
Kanye West  
Diddy  
Rihanna  
Jessica Simpson  
Jennifer Lopez  
Fall Out Boy  
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# Neuroimaging the mind: An unclear picture

W.R. DRAPER  
Staff Writer

In 2001, a research team led by Princeton philosophy graduate student Joshua Greene, now at Harvard, published a landmark article in *Science* providing evidence that moral decision-making relies on emotion rather than on pure reason. The group used functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging to scan subjects as they read about moral dilemmas and found that brain areas associated with emotion lit up when the more vexing scenarios were considered.

The use of fMRI for psychological investigation shows no sign of abating. Researchers in the Aug. 4 issue of *Science* found the way certain options are presented to subjects (the so-called "framing effect") is associated with activity in the amygdala, a deep brain structure which is key to the processing of emotion. This is just one of numerous recent examples that lend support to Greene's theory.

fMRI took over from computed tomography for psychiatric studies as well as for research into simple cognitive and motor activities. It expanded into the study of financial decision-making (neuroeconomics) and even, more dubiously, neuromarketing. Perhaps the most intriguing use of fMRI is for investigating the neural correlates of emotion and moral judgments.

The idea that morality is guided more by passion than by rationality goes back as far as the 18th century. British philosopher David Hume, notorious for pointing out that causality is unprovable, stated that moral judgments resemble esthetic ones and that moral knowledge is attained through sentiment, not reason.

This became the basis of the theory of emotivism in the early 20th century that basically says that ethical statements are reducible to emotional expressions. In short order, it was trashed by philosophers far and wide. A few academics, however, were never convinced by the criticism. One of them, Colin Wilks of the University of Newcastle in Australia, has recently resurrected the doctrine in his 2003 book *Emotion, Truth and Meaning*, arguing that it has been misunderstood and caricatured.

Wilks said the biggest problem with emotivism is "that it leaves very little for conventional philosophers to talk (about) because it shifts the focus of inquiry to

psychology."

A colleague of Greene's, University of Virginia social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, has presented a "social intuitionist" model that harmonizes with the Greene's fMRI work. In a 2001 study for *Psychological Review*, Haidt found that in a moral context, people rely on what they've learned from their society and culture to react emotionally to events. Only later, if it's necessary, do they concoct a rational explanation for those automatic judgments.

The use of neuroimaging in psychology has been criticized as being scientifically unsound, with some like neuroscientists Rodolfo Llinas and W.R.

Uttal likening it to phrenology, the 19th century pseudoscience that claimed to divine personality traits from skull bumps.

In his 2001 book *The New Phrenology: The Limits of Localizing Cognitive Processes in the Brain*, Uttal writes "although the brain is certainly differentiated, most high-level cognitive functions cannot be justifiably associated with localized brain regions (because) high-level cognitive processes are associated with widely distributed activity in many parts of the brain."

He also expressed doubts about how we label the thought processes themselves. Social neuroscientist John

Cacioppo reflected this skepticism in an October 2003 *American Psychologist* article, "Just Because You're Imaging the Brain Doesn't Mean You Can Stop Using Your Head."

VCU Medical Center neuropsychologist David Hess said the research was trying.

"We are peering into a black box and attempting to draw conclusions. Tricky business at best," he said. Hess conceded the moral dilemma study "has at least face validity."

Greene said while there is some merit to such criticism—and he agrees that there has been a fair amount of regrettable hype—this merely reflects the lack of development of the science. He expressed optimism that its present crudity will be overcome.

"Part of what we're doing now is just getting our bearings, developing a more detailed functional map of the brain. You can call all that 'phrenology,' but if it's accurate... then it's valuable."

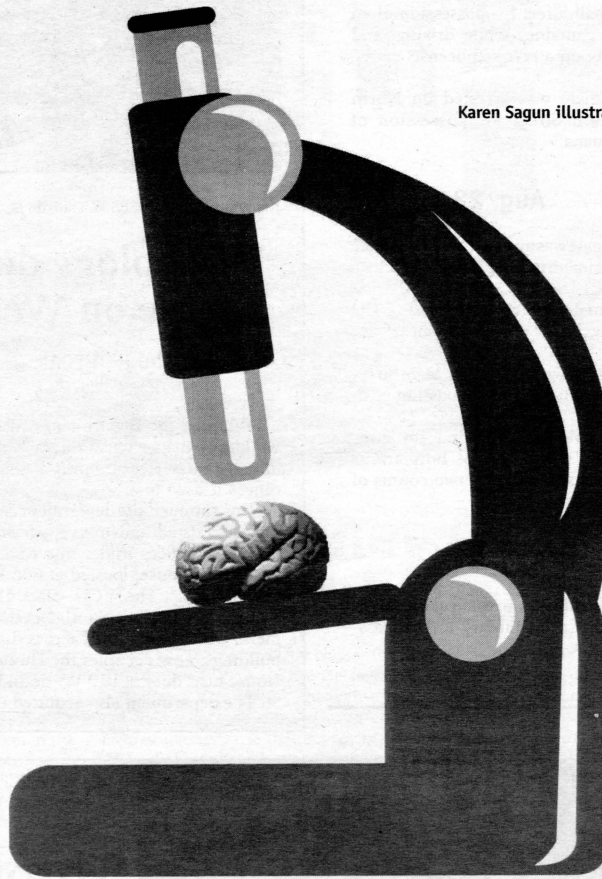
On his Web site, Greene concedes that he has an "ultimately political agenda." He opines that such major social problems as war, terrorism and environmental destruction are "a product of well-intentioned people abiding by their respective common senses," and that the solution is to learn to distrust moral common sense.

"This is largely because our social instincts were not designed for the modern world," he said, "nor...were they designed to promote peace and happiness in the world for which they were designed, the world of our hunter-gatherer ancestors."

Neuroimaging has made the emotivist case more persuasive, but as for the above speculation, evolutionary psychology is not without its problems. There are many, including our limited knowledge of the Pleistocene, the period in which early humans developed. An abundance of alternative hypotheses also explain the data.

Nonetheless, Greene's social theory can probably hold up without appealing to that "updated" sociobiology for theoretical support. Regarding the charges of neo-phrenology, however, they're unlikely to slow down the engine of what Brazilian neurologist Jorge Moll has called moral cognitive neuroscience. As Uttal said, his camp is up against the Zeitegeist.

Karen Sagun illustration



## CRIME LOG

**Aug. 25**

A male was arrested at the Pollak Building for possession of marijuana.

A male was arrested on North Laurel Street for carrying a concealed weapon.

A male was arrested at Nanci Raygun for malicious wounding.

**Aug. 26**

Two males were arrested on Floyd Avenue for underage possession of alcohol and possession of marijuana.

A male was arrested on West Broad Street for obstruction of justice.

**Aug. 27**

A male was arrested on Ryland and Grace streets for possession of marijuana and obstruction of justice.

A male was arrested on West Broad Street for possession of cocaine and possession of marijuana.

**Aug. 27**

A male was arrested on West Marshall Street for possession of an open container while driving, and driving on a revoked license.

A male was arrested on North Harrison Street for possession of marijuana.

**Aug. 28**

A male was arrested on West Grace Street for urinating in public.

A male was arrested at the VCU Bookstore for embezzlement.

A male was arrested on Main Street for conspiracy and trespassing.

A male was arrested for conspiracy, possession of burglarious tools, trespassing and two counts of petit larceny.

**Aug. 29**

A female was arrested at the James Branch Cabell Library for trespassing.



Cynthia K. Merchant photo

The White House at 806 W. Franklin St.

## Psychology department offices shuffle on West Franklin Street

**GAYLAND HETHCOAT**  
News Co-Editor

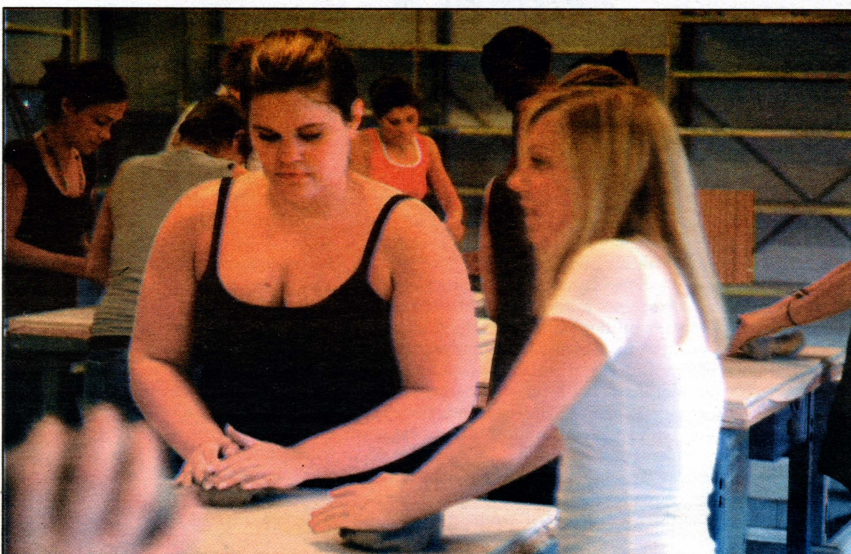
Although the Department of Psychology remains on West Franklin Street, it no longer occupies the same offices it used to.

This summer, the department consolidated its administrative, advising and fiscal offices under one roof at the White House, located at 806 W. Franklin St. The VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development, which was spread across three buildings, now occupies the Hunton House next door at 810 W. Franklin St. The department also acquired the

Bird House at 820 W. Franklin St.

Linda Zyzniewski, assistant professor and director of undergraduate studies, said the changes will make the psychology department more visible to its approximately 1,300 undergraduate majors. In the coming months, she added, they can expect the university to assign them advisers instead of serving them on a walk-in basis.

Until then, the psychology department, which is the largest undergraduate program at VCU, will use Blackboard to communicate with its students about more departmental changes, Zyzniewski said.



## Through the lens

**KATY MCDANIEL**  
Assistant Photography Editor

The first day of class for crafts students involved the smack of clay hitting the wooden worktables and making a musical vibration throughout the second floor of the art building. Molding wet soil into wedges is the average start to any project in a clay studio. The wedge is achieved by pounding and rolling the material into cone shapes until the molded lump is warm and easy to shape. This method rids the clay of air pockets that can cause the material to crack when it is put into the kiln.

# FALL 2006 SESSION I GROUP EXERCISE CLASS SCHEDULE 9/5 - 10/18

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## STUART C. SIEGEL CENTER 1200 W. BROAD ST. 827-1100

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30 am - 7:30 am		Body Sculpting Mary		Body Sculpting Mary	A.B.S. Erik		
7:00 am - 8:00 am			Indoor Cycling Dennis		Indoor Cycling Dennis		
8:00 am - 9:00 am			HPEX 200 Only TBA		HPEX 200 Only TBA		
9:00 am - 10:00 am				Turbo Kick Nicole			Yoga Katherine
10:00 am - 11:00 am		HPEX 200 Only TBA		HPEX 200 Only TBA		HPEX 200 Only TBA	
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm		Tai Chi/Taiji Jonathan		Yoga Georgia	Yoga Katherine	Hip Hop Jason	
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Indoor Cycling w/A.B.S. Kerry						
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm		Intermediate Tai Chi/Taiji Jonathan					
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm						Indoor Cycling Kerry	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm		A.B.S. Erik					
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	KuKuwa Dance Workout* Samantha		Turbo Kick Suji & Eric	Indoor Cycling Kerry & Eric	Step Suji	Turbo Kick/ Boot Camp Catey	Hip Hop Jason
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm		Body Sculpting Latoya	Yoga Katherine	Step Eric	A.B.S. Eric	Interval Training Mike	KuKuwa Dance Workout* Samantha
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm		Hip Hop Jason	Indoor Cycling Kerry	Indoor Cycling Dennis	Body Sculpting Latoya	Indoor Cycling Dennis	
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm		Turbo Kick/ Boot Camp Catey	X-treme Martial Arts Berkley				
9:00 pm - 10:00 pm		Yoga Rob	Martial Arts Tricks Berkley	Yoga Rob			

\* Latin, Caribbean & African Dance

All classes subject to change

## CARY ST. RECREATION COMPLEX 911 W. CARY ST. 828-6219

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:00pm - 8:00pm					X-treme Martial Arts Berkley		
8:00pm - 9:00pm					Martial Arts Tricks Berkley		

## MCV RECREATION & AQUATIC CENTER 10TH & TURPIN 828-6100

Time	Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
11:45 am - 12:15 pm			Lunch Crunch A.B.S. Molly				
12:15 pm - 12:45 pm			Lunch Crunch A.B.S. Molly				
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm			Indoor Cycling Mike				
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm					Step Molly		
6:00pm - 7:00pm				Water Exercise Elizabeth			

**VCURecreational  
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Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services  
[www.recsports.vcu.edu](http://www.recsports.vcu.edu)

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# Sports

## In Brief

### Volleyball Molten Classic

The VCU volleyball team will be in Provo, Utah, this weekend to participate in the Molten Classic. Opponents include Stanford, ranked number four in the CSTV/AVCA Division I Preseason Top-25 Coaches Poll. Then, they'll play Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Friday, and will stay in Provo through Saturday night to play Stanford and BYU.

Last weekend, VCU came out of the Duke Invitational with a 2-1 record, beating gardner-Webb and Marquette, but losing to Duke.

BYU, which has qualified for the NCAA 20 times now, will host the tournament and be VCU's final challenge. The Rams are bringing with them Ludmila Francescato (Fraiburgo, Brazil), named Monday as the CAA Player of the Week for getting 25 kills and 22 digs against Marquette last week, tacking on her third 20-20 performance and setting a new personal record in digs.

### Women's Soccer Connecticut Huskies Classic

BOCA RATON, Fla. - The women's soccer team wrapped up the Florida Atlantic Tournament with a tie Sunday, Aug. 27, at Florida Atlantic.

In the 14th minute of Sunday's game, Hayley Moorwood (Auckland, New Zealand) scored the Rams' point after Leigh Anthony (Fredericksburg/W.T. Woodson HS) crossed over a free kick to her.

No more scoring took place until the 74th minute, when the Florida Atlantic Owls player Tessa McGarrity sent a kick over the goalkeeper's head.

VCU was outnumbered on shots 8-12 and each team had four shots-on-goal.

The Rams beat the Stetson Hatters 3-1 on Saturday, Aug. 26, with a 13-3 advantage over Stetson in shots, and 8-2 for shots-on-goal.

## Club sports · Men's rugby

# Movin' on up

**JAMES K. GALLOWAY**  
Sports Editor

The VCU men's rugby team moved up to Division II this year and is moving on to new and tougher challenges.

The rugby team at VCU started up in the 1970s, but sustained for 20 years, but went defunct in 1995. In 2001, VCU rugby alumni restarted the club at Divi-

players with wider variation in competition."

Having finally gotten into Division II, he said, "There is a difference in challenge. You can't tell how good a team will be by the size of their players. I've seen the smallest players take out the biggest guys on the field."

"I've seen a lot of players who have heart, and the game takes a lot of heart to be good at it. You have to

classes and sports to be more successful.

"We have the numbers to succeed, and we have three excellent coaches, with over 100 years of combined experience. One of them, Steve Parker from England, has 25 years of experience in American rugby," said Caridi.

Parker said, "I moved here to America back in 1981, I even got my citizenship here, and I've coached for about ten years now. I've played rugby since I was 11 years old. It's a wonderful sport."

Discussing the public view of rugby, Caridi said, "rugby in the old days had a bad connotation, because people considered us to be a bunch of drunken meat-heads. People think it's a lot more violent with more injuries than football, which isn't true. We're as much athletes as any of the varsity sports at VCU."

"The image is really changing and becoming a lot more professional," said Caridi. "There has been a movement to popularize the sport across the United States," he said, but of the obstacles standing in the way

*RUGBY continued on Page CT14*

*"There is a difference in challenge. You can't tell how good a team will be by the size of their players. I've seen the smallest players take out the biggest guys on the field."*

- Joe Caridi, VCU men's rugby match secretary

sion III, and in five years it reached Division II.

Junior Joe Caridi (Alexandria, VA) is the match secretary and player for the rugby club.

Caridi said, "In our area, rugby only goes as low as Division III, because the sport is not very popular. However, in Massachusetts, it goes down to Division V because there are more

mentally prepare yourself," Caridi said, "and if you take it seriously, you can even play in the championship down the road."

Caridi explained that they can't force the players to practice, and because they can't force them to show up, their drive plays a larger role in higher-level rugby than in Division III. The players are hard-pressed to balance their



Photo: Cynthia K. Merchant

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Men's Soccer

Sat. Sept. 2  
vs. UNC-Greensboro,  
7 p.m.

Michigan Tournament  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Fri. Sept. 8  
at Michigan State, 5 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 10  
at Michigan, 2:30 p.m.

### Women's Soccer

Sun. Sept. 3  
at Richmond, 7 p.m.

VCU/Ewing Sports  
Invitational  
Sports Backers Stadium

Fri. Sept. 8  
vs. Colgate, 7 p.m.

Fri. Sept. 10  
vs. LaSalle, 3 p.m.

### Volleyball

BYU Molten Classic  
Provo, Utah

Fri. Sept. 1  
vs. Texas A&M-Corpus  
Christi, 7 p.m.

Sat. Sept. 2  
vs. Stanford, 12 p.m.  
vs. BYU, 9 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 6  
vs. Hampton, 7 p.m.

### Field Hockey

Fri. Sept. 1  
at Yale, 3 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 3  
at Sacred Heart, 12 p.m.

VCU sporting events are free to students with a valid student ID. For more information, visit [vcuams.vcu.edu](http://vcuams.vcu.edu) or contact the VCU Sports Line at 828-3440.



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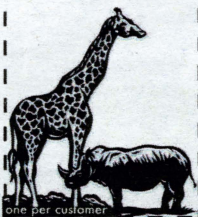
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## RUGBY continued from Page CT12

of adding men's rugby to the list of varsity sports, one is the issue of sex.

As varsity sports exist now, VCU covers men's baseball, men and women's soccer and women's field hockey, to name a few.

There are seven male sports and seven female sports, and putting rugby on without also adding a women's team to the palette of varsity sports would upset the balance between sexes and funding.

In addition to the problem of imbalance, there is the practical dilemma of marketability. If a rugby team has a sponsor, the brand name is often worn on their jerseys, since there isn't any room for advertising. The 80-minute game doesn't stop for anything – not even for an injury, so definitely not for a commercial break.

Additionally, as Caridi said, the game is a lot more fun to play than it is to watch, so the typical fan of rugby is usually dedicated and probably has some background or personal interest in the game – an involvement which takes more than idle attention of a traditional sports fan.

Despite the issues underscoring the popularity of rugby at VCU, Joe Caridi said, "we do have support from the school, but it's a slippery slope. We draw from the same pool of money as the academic, social and athletic clubs."

The Student Government Association has to make their own decisions on what not to fund so they can appropriately

fund all the clubs. Additionally, the rugby team brings in \$40 per semester in dues from each player.

"Each club gives SGA a budget, the SGA then asks you to talk to them about the budget, and they make their own determinations as to what is important and what's otherwise negligible," Caridi said.

Caridi explained the issue that arises under these circumstances, saying, "the people at the SGA don't always understand why we need certain things. If they want to know why we spend more money on jerseys before they give us the money, it's because we don't wear pads under the jerseys so they have a tendency to rip more."

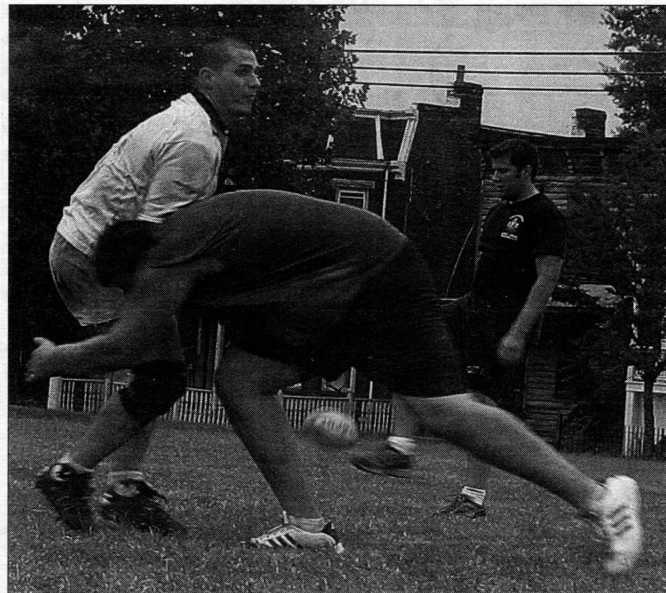
Caridi said, "22 jerseys cost \$1,500, and on top of that, we pay the city, field, referee, and other fees just to play."

Last year, 60 alumni came and participated in the matches and dinner. Caridi said, "We have such amazing alumni support because before, they were where we are now. In fact, we get more alumni at the games than we have players."

He continued, "They support us because they want to see us keep playing. They want to come back and tell their stories of playing and want to hear us keep telling stories too."

Every spring, the rugby club team plays alumni matches, and hold a dinner, and the alumni donate money to them every spring.

Caridi intimated that it is the sheer obscurity of the rugby team that keeps the club as much a fraternal organization as an athletic organization. The team, Caridi says feels like a large family – a



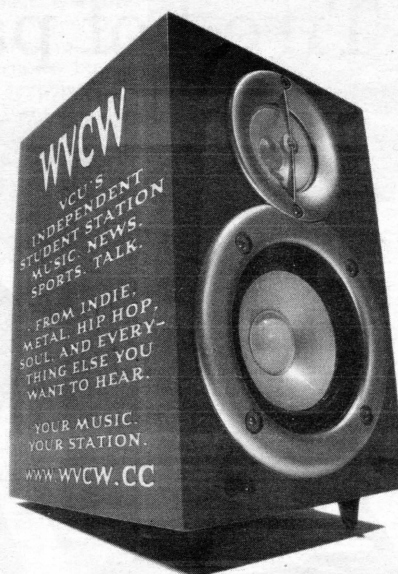
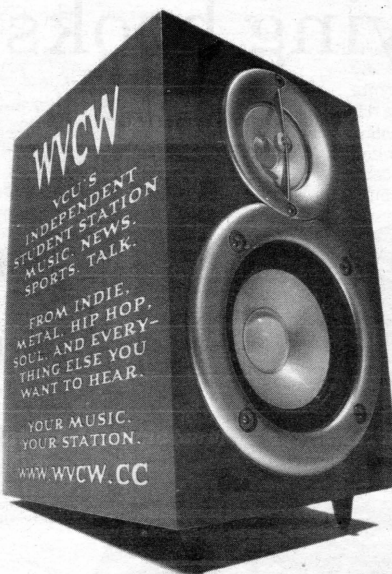
VCU men's rugby team practicing at the Leigh Street Field. Photo: Cynthia K. Merchant

family he wants to keep growing.

Regarding the future of the VCU rugby team, Caridi said "considering the last five years, I'd say in another five years, we'll make it into Division I." He added, "Lots of good freshmen came out last fall. They really enjoy the game and sport of rugby. There will be lots of underclassmen to take over the team when the old guys leave out. I see

the team getting stronger over the next couple of semesters."

The VCU rugby team has been practicing since Aug. 21 and still welcomes newcomers as they prepare for their season to get underway. Practice held on Monday, Aug. 28 saw the largest turnout since the start of practices. The first game will be played Sept. 10 against Mount St. Mary's.



# Spectrum

The Comic Arts archive is open along with the other Special Collections and Archives on the fourth floor of James Branch Cabell Library from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

LEFT: James Branch Cabell Library shows off its comic wall near the fourth-floor elevators. INSET: MAD is just one of many comic magazines featured in the Comic Art archive.

Cynthia K. Merchant  
photos

## Eisner Awards find home in VCU's Special Collections and Archives

KATIE PUGH  
Spectrum Editor

As the new school year opens, VCU's James Branch Cabell Library reopens its Comic Art Collection in the Special Collections and Archives. However, it will soon hold quite a few more special items. The Will Eisner Comic Industry, having celebrated their 17th award just this past July, is in the process of submitting their archives to the library for inclusion.

The Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards are given to comic artists, writers and creators in commemoration of Will Eisner, the founder of the graphic novel. They appear every summer at San Diego's Comic-Con International, where comic creators from across the world come together to celebrate their art. This summer, Alan Moore was one of the more celebrated comic creators, winning Best Writer, Best Graphic Album and one of the Best Archival Collection.

"The Eisner Award Archives is especially relevant to an institution like Virginia Commonwealth University," said John Ulmschneider, university librarian, in an article from the library's Web site in March 2006.

Since the 1970s, VCU has worked hard with some of the biggest names in the comic industry in attempts to make its library one of the leading resources for graphic novels and comics both old and new.

With help from contributor and professional comic theorist M. Thomas Inge, the collection hosts over 20,000 pieces of comic history.

One of the most popular classes for English majors offered previously was Tom DeHaven's Graphic Novels topic course. Going through different art styles and thematic elements, DeHaven embraces the new wave of literary style that is present in sequential art. Many students have hoped for the return of the class in the future.

The comic archive is not only important to the more literature-savvy of VCU's populace. Art students, who hold particular interest in alternative art forms that divert from the normal sculpting and illustration, can also appreciate the diverse styles present in both modern-day and older comics.



When asked his opinion on the topic of VCU and alternative art, Ray Bonis, an archival assistant, said, "VCU's School of the Arts is one of the best in the country. It promotes creativity, and we house alternative materials for students to view. I think even if VCU didn't promote such art forms, the students would participate in it anyway. However, I do think departments like VCU's art history are open to such new styles."

"With one of the nation's most prestigious art schools, the Archives will provide crucial insights to students and faculty studying the vast diversity of craft in drawing, painting, and visual storytelling," Ulmschneider said in the Web article. "And historians, artists and sociologists throughout the nation will benefit from easier access provided by the James Branch Cabell Library to such an important collection of comics and comic-related materials."

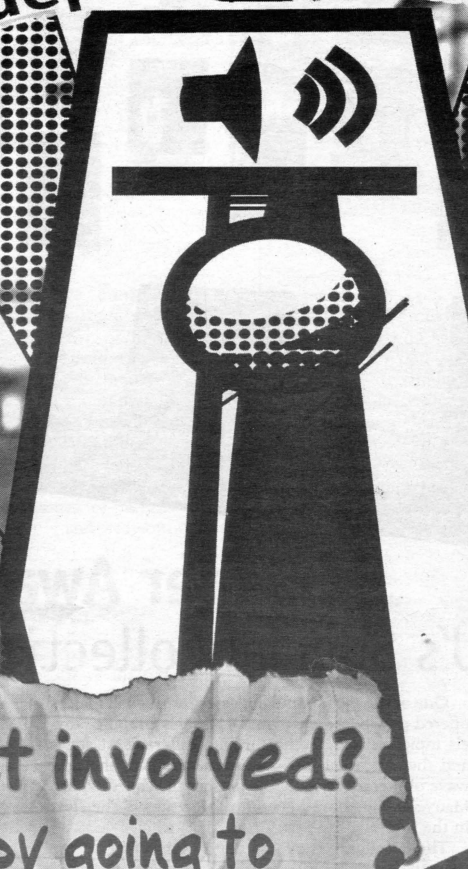
Students are allowed access to the archives, but they cannot check out any of the materials.

### Speaking of comics ...

In our next issue, hear the latest on the scoop regarding the appearance of one of contemporary comics' most famous writers. Who is it? When is he coming? It's the face that Cabell can't talk about, but we'll have it here in The Commonwealth Times!



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# There she is....

## VCU graduate shares experience vying for Miss Virginia

**SHEENA JEFFERS**  
News Co-Editor

This summer, 20 women from cities in Virginia stepped up to the microphone in Roanoke. Their stiletto heels and sequined dresses reflected the light of spotlights and camera flashes as the contestants posed, smiled and talked their way through the competition for the crown and the title of Miss Virginia.

Richmond native and 2006 graduate, Lauren Collier, was one of those 20 hopeful contestants. Now, as she returns to her work, she is reflecting on the past summer and her plans for the future.

The glittery world of American pageants has been teased, pointed at and not taken seriously since the birth of pageants in 1921, when Atlantic City hotelmen formulated a plan to keep tourists' attention and business past Labor Day. What began as a bathing suit contest on the beach has grown into the largest scholastic benefactor to women, providing more than \$45 million a year to American women, according to the Miss Virginia/Miss America Organization.

The 1999 movie "Drop Dead Gorgeous," a comedy based on social perception of pageant life, revealed pageant contestants as a few football fields below intelligent. For example, when asked, "If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?" contestant Becky Ann Leeman, played by Denise Richards, responds proudly, "I'd have good strong roots in a town like Mount

Rose, a solid Christian trunk and long, leafy branches to provide shade for handicapped kids on a hot day."

That movie, along with various classic moments in "Miss Congeniality," another pageant-mocking movie, muster a few laughs, but the pageant contestants are not as fluffy and clueless as the movies portray. They must compete in swimsuit wear, complete off- and onstage interviews, perform a talent, model an evening gown and show strides of activity in community involvement with their chosen platform.

Collier, who has competed in pageants for four years, reveals the discipline it takes to prepare for the race to Miss Virginia.

"Preparation becomes my life," Collier

said. Collier's twin sister, Lindsey, said, "I never see her when she's preparing for Miss Virginia."

A normal day for Collier in the weeks before the Miss Virginia pageant consists of early morning cardio sessions, two hours in the gym six days a week for weight training, practicing her talent for 30 to 45 minutes, catching the 11 o'clock news and preparing high-protein, low-carbohydrate meals.

"I typically can be caught carrying a cooler of food around with me on any given day," she said.

Collier, who won the swimsuit preliminary award, didn't win the pageant's most exposed award by chomping down on everything in that cooler.

"I eat every three hours to keep my

metabolism going," Collier said. "And of course I drink lots and lots of water too."

The requirements don't end at having a good body. Contestants must have a sharp mind and keen understanding of public speech to complete their onstage interview. They are asked two questions and given one minute to answer fully and creatively without a trace of a stutter.

"I read the newspaper or catch the news to stay up on current events for my interview," Collier said.

And then there is talent.

"My favorite part of the competition is talent," said Collier. "I love performing, and that is the only time when I get a full two minutes to own the stage."

Collier sang the 2002 hit "Forgive" by Rebecca Lynn Howard after being coached by Renee Grant Williams, who also coaches Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, the Dixie Chicks and Keith Urban in Nashville, Tenn.

Perhaps the most revered category of the pageant is the evening gown. The contestants walk elegantly across the stage in dresses ranging in prices from reasonable to outlandish. Collier, who has a full-time job at Cache, a nationwide women's retailer of dress attire, understands the mechanics of clothes. She designed her entire wardrobe, including her swimsuit and interview suit.

The most glamorous, however, was the evening gown.

"Before I design a gown, I always try on as many gowns as I possibly can," Collier said.

*COLLIER continued on Page CT18*

Miss Virginia runner-up Lauren Collier poses for a photo with her cousin, Amy Skaggs. Collier is a 2006 VCU graduate.



Sheena Jeffers photo



## Gym Class Heroes "As Cruel As School Children"

The boys of Gym Class are back with their new release, "As Cruel as School Children." With almost haunting melodies in "It's OK, But Just This Once" against the addictive bass lines and choruses in "The Queen and I" and "7 Weeks," GCH delivers a hip-hop album that pop-punk kids can appreciate. As far as real hip-hop devotees are concerned, the only decent tracks are "Shoot Down The Stars" and "New Friend Request." They have replaced their primarily instrument-driven music with samples. Lead Rapper Travis McCoy's lyrics still are very good but nothing special in the world of conscious hip hop.

*Recommended if you like: N.E.R.D, Fall Out Boy, Motion City Soundtrack.*



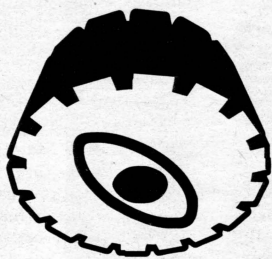
## The Futureheads "News and Tributes"

JAM WILLIAMS  
Spectrum Writer

"News and Tributes" is the remarkable follow-up to The Futureheads' 2004 self-titled debut.

The track "Return of the Berserker," better than anything heard on the first album, proves The Futureheads have the variety other bands can't cohesively keep together. "Skip To The End" serves as the most perfect catchy rock tune released this year. If you miss the voice of Joe Strummer and love danceable rock, then you will truly enjoy "News and Tributes."

*Recommended if you like: The Clash, Arcade Fire, Franz Ferdinand.*



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Events Calendar! Email press information to  
[spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com](mailto:spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com)

## COLLIER continued from Page CT17

"I may like the neckline of one gown, the skirt of another. I piece together the most flattering parts and then add a little of my own style to tie it all together."

After three trips to South Carolina for her wardrobe designs, one trip to Nashville for vocal lessons, weekly fittings with Michael Taylor Couture — a sponsor of Collier — countless hours in the gym and weeks of giving up her favorite foods, Collier gave her all at the Miss Virginia pageant.

As she made it through the top 10 and then the top five, Collier found herself hand-in-hand with finalist Adrianna Sgarlata, waiting for who would become the next Miss Virginia.

"When I am up there waiting to hear the winner announced, I always feel as if I'm in a coma," Collier said. "It seems as if the world and the crowd just fade away and the only thing I can focus on is how fast my heart is beating. Everything else becomes a blur."

The crown went to Adrianna Sgarlata. Collier came home as first runner-up.

"Being first runner-up to Miss Virginia is a bittersweet position to be in," Collier said. "If it weren't for my faith in God's plan, I might be tempted to see my position as first runner-up as more of a defeat than an accomplishment, but I trust that God's timing is always right and his plan is perfect."

Collier doesn't regret a single moment, and she ignores the stereotypes that come along with pageants.

"I have won around \$20,000 in scholarships over the past four years," Collier said. And from what? Participating in the Miss Virginia/Miss America Organization. Her strength, her smile and her faith have not dwindled upon returning home without the crown.

"The jewels are in the journey," Collier said. "I always say that whether or not I walk away with the crown, I have lost nothing because I have gained so much along the way."

Collier is currently working with Cache at Short Pump Town Center. As far as next year's Miss Virginia: "I may come back, I may not," Collier said.

## Expression over oppression

Amendment is now available from the Student Media Center. Featuring art and pieces of writing from different groups of the student body, it vivifies the stark problems of gender, race, sexuality and other issues every student cares about and every human being is affected by.

"This year's journal features topics such as violence, identity politics, reproductive freedom, love and rage," said President Ceres Gibson. "Entering its third year at VCU, Amendment has grown from a cut-n-paste interdisciplinary anthology to a fiery unlocked diary of political thought."

Amendment accepts submissions year-round at [amendmentvcu@gmail.com](mailto:amendmentvcu@gmail.com).

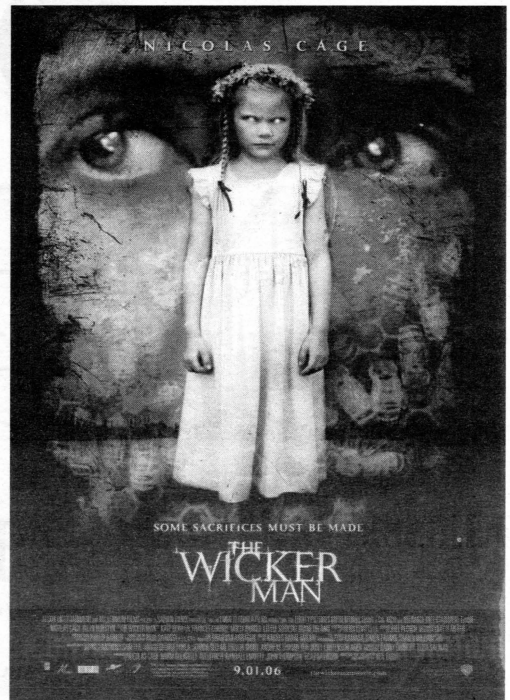
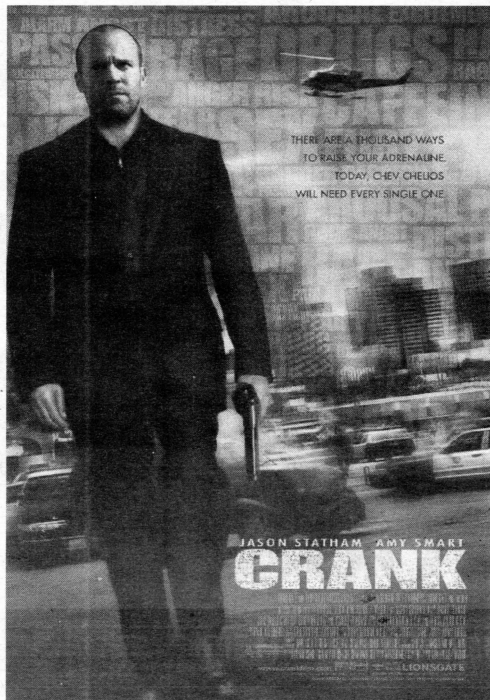
## What's happening?

This Friday, it's classical music in all the right places!  
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8 p.m. at Rocks, 1814 E. Main St., \$5.

Out in theaters  
this Friday



# Comics

Pizza From Scratch

Bill Lemmond



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# Classifieds

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## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Sigma Alpha Lambda, nat'l honors & leadership org. Is seeking founding officers/members to begin a campus chapter at VCU. Contact: [rminer@salhonors.org](mailto:rminer@salhonors.org)

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## MUSICIANS WANTED

Looking for a band member? Make that search easy with a classified in *The Commonwealth Times*! For a limited time, classifieds will cost just \$10 a week! This includes two 50-word classifieds and one full week of online advertising! Call or stop by our office to place your ad. 804-828-1058

## FOR SALE

1997 Ford Explorer XLT High mileage but very strong mechanically. 4.0L V6 SOHC. Loaded: AC; power doors, locks, front seats. AM-FM cassette. \$3,995. (804) 231-1997. [alanhcooper@yahoo.com](mailto:alanhcooper@yahoo.com).

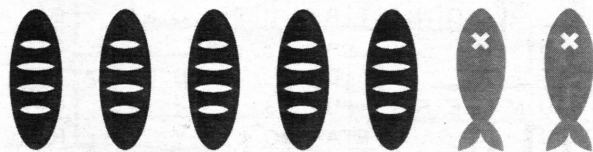
## HELP WANTED

Sitters Wanted. \$10+/hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. [www.student-sitters.com](http://www.student-sitters.com)

WAREHOUSER Part-Time-Sherwin-Williams Floorcovering Center in Richmond, VA has an opening for a Part-Time (30 hours a week) Warehouse. Previous experience preferred; must be able to work independently, use of forklift (will train) and some knowledge of floorcovering a plus. High School Diploma or Equivalent. Salary based on experience. Flexible Hours 7am-2pm M-F. For interview fax resume to (804) 643-2840 or email to [sw5212@sherwin.com](mailto:sw5212@sherwin.com).

Richmond Coliseum Job Fair part time event positions great for college students September 7<sup>th</sup> 3-7pm [Richmondcoliseum.net](http://Richmondcoliseum.net).

## FRANKLIN STREET COMMUNITY



We invite you to join us at Franklin Street Community.

Our passion is to see Richmond impacted by the Gospel of Jesus. We want to foster a community which not only sings and hears of God's glory but shows His mercy and power in feeding the poor and in presenting the message of rescue in Christ to the people of Richmond.

Our worship services are at Harvest Renewal, 822 West Franklin Street in Richmond from 4 to 5 p.m. every Sunday. We also meet once a month on first Sundays to feed the hungry with food and the Gospel at the Salvation Army building at Grace and Foushee at 10:15 a.m.

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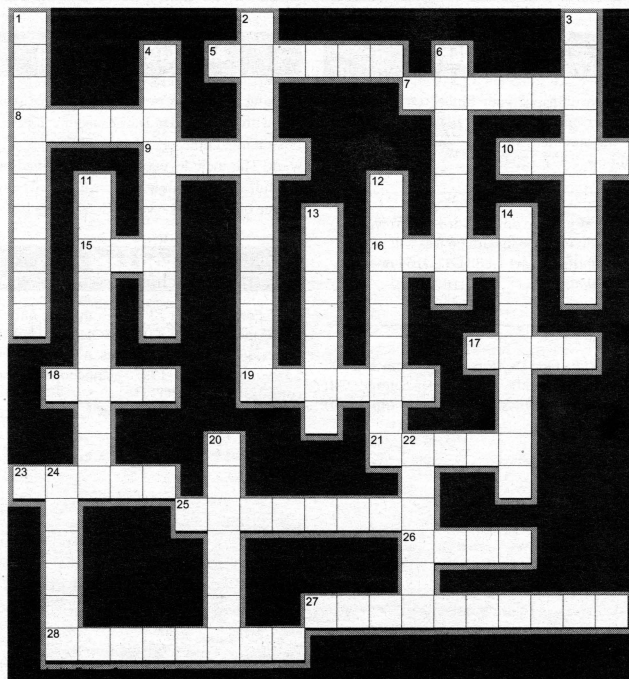


Send your comments and letters to  
[ctvcu@hotmail.com](mailto:ctvcu@hotmail.com).

# Crossword

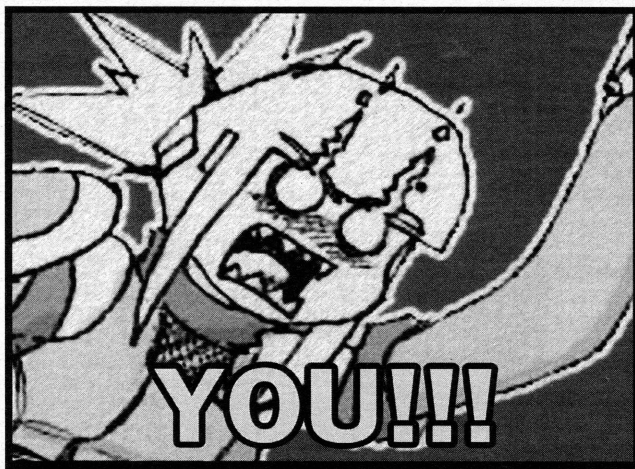
## Across

5. Receives award
7. Malcom's in this
8. Living shelter
9. Law and \_\_\_\_
10. Tony Shalhoub
15. Crime scene investigation
16. host
17. Plane crashes on island
18. My name is \_\_\_\_
19. Project \_\_\_\_
21. Actress on Will & Grace
23. \_\_\_\_ Manilow
25. Series on president
26. Primetime \_\_\_\_ Awards
27. Daily Show host
28. Altos, tenors, and...



## Down

1. Curb this
2. Buried how low?
3. Place of interview
4. Steve Carell series
6. Won outstanding animated program
11. Kiefer Sutherland
12. American Bandstand host
13. The \_\_\_\_ Race
14. Grey's \_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_ Colbert
22. Charlie's
24. Won

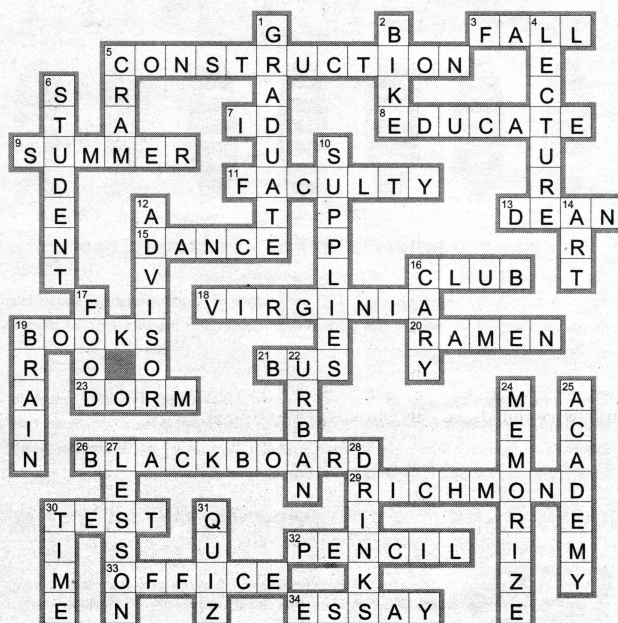


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## Answers from Aug. 28



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# Opinion

## In Brief

### Cooler heads

In all the hubbub over the reference to a creationist think tank that has since been removed from VCU's biology textbooks, no one seemed to notice the original context of the reference, which emphasized that evolution is a theory "based on data," not unlike those relating to cells and atoms.

For the record, the textbook in question said it is "no wonder most scientists in our country are dismayed when... teachers must put forward a variety of 'theories' on the origin of life, including one that runs contrary to the mass of data that supports the theory of evolution." The controversial reference to the Institute for Creation Research and intelligent design were simply used as an example of this.

Far from making an argument for creationism or espousing a "creationist agenda" as some have been quick to accuse, the textbook was simply putting forward a scientific perspective in the context of a contemporary controversy.

## Why Gray deserves to die

**WILL HUZZAR**

*Opinion Writer*

Ricky Jovan Gray was convicted last week of murdering the Harvey family on New Year's Day 2006.

I work at the Doubletree Hotel at Richmond International Airport, where earlier that day was the final performance of Bryan Harvey with his band, nRg Krisis, for the New Year's Eve bash there.

I came into work that day to hear that "someone killed that guy in the band" from one of my co-workers. I had slept all of New Year's Day, after working a long shift on December 31st. I was shocked as I read that a man I had watched play all night, to the cheers and festivity of the entire crowd, was dead.

The next few days were a big commotion for the hotel staff. Investigators came to interview employees at random, and they were pulled aside discreetly throughout the day. Accord-

ing to them, the investigators asked "Did you notice anyone suspicious?" Universally, the answer was "No." "Did anyone seem like they had a problem with the band?" Once again, the answer was "No." It didn't make sense. How could such a seemingly respectable family face such a brutal demise?

The crime against Harvey's family was so brutal that some law enforcement and medical personnel left the scene weeping after witnessing the fashion that Bryan, his wife and two small daughters had been murdered. According to the Richmond Times-Dispatch on Aug. 25, even Gray's Pastor, Joe Ellison Jr., said he "threw up" after receiving a confession from Gray while meeting him in prison.

What is more horrifying is that Gray had no connection to the Harvey family. According to court proceedings, he had only entered the family's home because the door was open; he stole a computer, a wedding ring and some cookies. The summary of his actions?

The lives of a decent family, in exchange for probably a thousand dollars worth of goods, chosen at random.

Gray was not insane, nor was anything compelling him to do what he did. I doubt that the "bad childhood" that is attributed to Gray is enough to slash four restrained people to death and attempt to burn down a house.

The death sentence is an extreme measure. It is the ultimate punishment in our society for the greatest crimes one can commit. No matter what angle one frames it, Gray committed a horrible crime, an act of ultimate selfishness. His offenses were an assault on the people of Richmond, and had he not had been caught after his second horrific act, it might have continued endlessly.

I did not know Bryan Harvey for anything more than his music. Yet, that next day, I too felt the sting of loss that many in the city felt that fateful day. Richmond suffered great pain in the wake of Gray's actions, and the recommendation of the death penalty by a jury of peers in this instance is more than appropriate.

## Your Turn *Letters to the Editor*



### 'Not rehired' response

I hate to say it, but in this case Jim Sparks just may be right ("Not rehired," Aug. 28, p. 22). The problem is that this stigma not only exists at VCU, but in every major college or university in the South as well. While you may have the right to freedom of religion, you certainly don't have the right to freedom without religion.

Simply mention that life could have been created without God, and all of a sudden you're labeled as a Satan-worshipper or atheist.

The fact is that most people want to believe that there is a true separation between church and state when there may only be a thin dotted line, and it is frequently crossed.

VCU is very cautious about protecting its name, at times with good reason, but it seems to be more of an obsession since the incident with Taylor Behl last fall. While I understand that the incident involving Behl left VCU with a black eye for no good reason, the university must also stand up and say that its professors have the right to their opinion on any subject.

Losing a good instructor to something as trivial as a textbook seems a bit odd. While VCU struggles to achieve its academic superiority, it must also see it is the professors and students who make VCU what it is, not whether or not they believe in divine creation.

— Kadie Puffenbarger

### Specious rhetoric

Just as President Bush apologized for citing erroneous intelligence to justify war on Iraq, he now professes he has learned from the mistakes of hurricane Katrina. Really? What did he learn? That maybe he should feel some compunction for not reacting instinctively to help hordes of dying people? That he should've quickly drafted an emergency operation? Maybe he should feel compassion and value human life? That he shouldn't be vacationing at his ranch when he's aware of a possibly horrific catastrophe?

This empty rhetoric doesn't satisfy me nor prove his competence. It only shows, once again, that he desperately strives to rescue his own political reputation when in jeopardy. Never personally accepting blame, President Bush shirks individual responsibility and diverts it toward the entire federal government.

This rhetoric of evasion characterizes Bush's speeches to the public concerning aftermaths of catastrophes or wars in which he has demonstrated incompetence and lack of judgment.

— Brian Prestwood

## the commonwealthtimes

The independent student press of VCU

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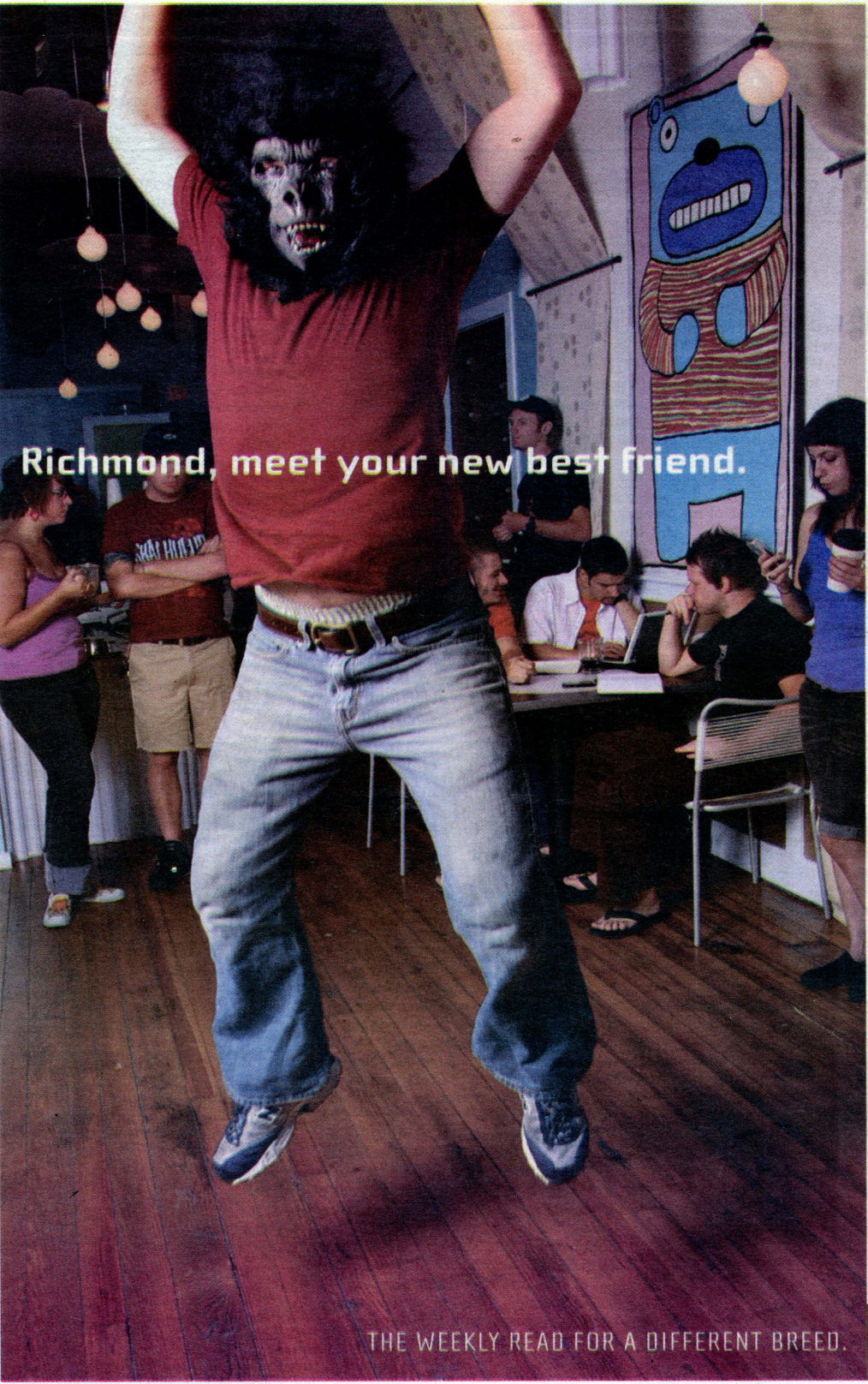
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Letters must be sent from a valid VCU e-mail address or signed with daytime and evening telephone contact. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, style and space.

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A person wearing a gorilla mask and a red t-shirt is dancing in the center of a cafe. They have their arms raised and legs apart. In the background, several other people are present: a woman in a purple top on the left, a man in a red t-shirt and khaki shorts standing next to her, and a group of people sitting at a table on the right. A large, colorful, abstract painting of a face is on the wall behind the table. The floor is made of dark wood, and there are string lights hanging from the ceiling.

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