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OCTOBER 26, 2006

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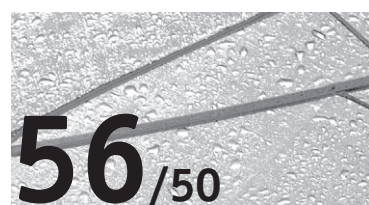
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## IN THE NEWS

compiled from wire reports

### WORLD

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** – Argentine prosecutors asked a judge Wednesday to issue an arrest warrant against former Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural center that killed scores of people.

The decision to attack the center “was undertaken in 1993 by the highest authorities of the then-government of Iran,” prosecutor Alberto Nisman said at a news conference.

Nisman said the actual attack was entrusted to the Lebanon-based group Hezbollah.

The worst terrorist attack ever on

Argentine soil, the bombing of the Jewish cultural center killed 85 people and injured more than 200 others when an explosive-laden vehicle was driven near the building and detonated.

Prosecutors urged the judge to seek international and national arrest orders for Rafsanjani, who was Iran's president between 1989 and 1997.

The judge, under Argentine law, is allowed an indefinite amount of time to accept or reject the recommendations.

Federal Judge Rodolfo Canicoba Corral had no comment following the news conference by Nisman and fellow prosecutor Marcelo Martinez Burgo.

### NATION

**NEW YORK** – Mayor Michael Bloomberg's explanation that the city's cleanup of the World Trade Center site was done quickly out of respect for victims' families did little to quell the anger of some who fear the remains of their loved ones were overlooked.

Bloomberg said Tuesday that city officials who handled the World Trade Center cleanup years ago worked “as fast as we could” but said they were urgently trying to get remains back to the families.

Thirty-six more bone fragments were found Tuesday as workers continued sifting debris from subterranean cavities

that were apparently missed during the initial cleanup.

Several large bones were accidentally discovered last week after a utility crew opened up a non-working manhole. Since then, the city has been tearing up the pavement and examining other underground pockets in the same vicinity, which is a service road along the western edge of the 16-acre site.

In the past few days, more than 130 bones and fragments have been recovered. The medical examiner's office is working to match them to victims. The remains for more than 40 percent of the 2,749 victims still have not been identified.

### STATE & LOCAL

**RICHMOND** – Mayor L. Douglas Wilder on Wednesday endorsed Democrat Jim Webb and his bid to unseat Republican George Allen in the U.S. Senate.

Wilder, Virginia governor from 1990 to 1994, promised to help Webb with voter turnout in the weeks leading to the Nov. 7 election. He said Webb could beat Allen if he gets a large voter turnout in the Hampton Roads and Richmond areas.

“Those are the battlegrounds,” Wilder said. “A lot will depend on the turnout in those areas.”

Webb said he's sought Wilder's counsel during the campaign.

“There is no living American who un-

derstands the demographics of Virginia like Douglas Wilder,” he said.

Wilder, who remains the nation's first and only elected black governor, said he's angry at the way President Bush has handled the Iraq war. And he says one big reason Webb is so close in the race is because of national voter anger toward Republicans in Washington.

Though a Democrat, Wilder has an unpredictable, often conservative streak that means Democrats can never take his backing for granted.

In 1997, Wilder withheld his endorsement for Democrat Donald Beyer, who lost that year's governor's race to Republican Jim Gilmore.

**Corrections** From Monday, Oct. 23: In “Students weigh in at SGA-sponsored forum,” the CT identified Katy Nash, a senior mass communications major, as Katy Bush. • It should be noted that Alli Ainsley, a contributing writer who wrote “Melting pot at the Siegel Center,” is a former VCU varsity volleyball player. She played on the team through 2005. • In “Another brick in the wall?” the CT listed the writer as Karen Huma. The correct name is Huma Riyaz.

The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you believe we have made an error, please call Executive Editor Karen Bolipata at 828-6056 or e-mail her at editor@commonwealthtimes.com. Corrections will appear on this page.

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Thursday, October 26, 2006



# News

## Faculty, staff to pay more for parking

AMANDA ZUMBRUN  
Contributing Writer

Faculty and staff will pay more to park in VCU-owned garages and lots beginning Dec. 1.

The parking rate will increase to \$58 per month, up from \$56.24, as part of the 2006-2007 university budget approved by the VCU Board of Visitors.

The people hit the hardest by the increase are VCU staff members who make minimum wage. A minimum-wage employee would have to work more than 11 hours just to pay for a monthly parking pass.

Many staff workers in the University Student Commons said they would rather park on the street than pay for a parking pass. The downside is that many of them have already received tickets as a result.

Rico Pender, assistant manager at the Compass Pointe Emporium at Shafer Court Dining Center, said he had not heard anything about the rate increase. Neither had his co-workers, he said.

Pender currently parks in one of VCU's decks. He said he knows many people who pay for parking and that it's a shame the rate is going up.

"It's rough," Pender said. "I can't see it being a good thing, but I guess they need to raise the price for certain reasons."

Emma Minor, assistant manager for VCU's Parking and Transportation Services, said the parking fees pay for



Photo: Katy McDaniel

a lot of things.

"Cleaning, security and cashiers are included in the cost to keep the parking lots and garages running," Minor said. "Your parking pass also includes assistance, like a jump start when your battery dies, and flat tire repair."

The fees also pay for construction of parking facilities. "With all the new faculty, staff and students VCU is bringing in, we want to make sure there is enough room for people to park by building new decks to park in," Minor said.

The university announced the rate increase through e-mail last month. Parking and Transportation Services also notified faculty and staff in the e-mail that their 2006 parking passes were about to expire.

Jonathan Tarr, a Commons worker, said he hadn't heard of the rate increase. But he said he "read somewhere about how VCU Parking and Transportation wants you to update your information online so they can send you a new parking pass."

The new pass will be valid through Sept. 30, 2007.

Minor said VCU instituted online

renewal of parking passes because "our customers are very busy people."

"We hope online renew will be more convenient to our subscribers and show that Parking and Transportation is keeping up with new technology," she said.

VCU students who park in the decks and parking lots pay up to \$155 a semester. During the fall semester, the pass is good from the first day of school until Dec. 31. That's about \$38 per month.

The daily rate for parking in a VCU deck is \$3.25 for students and \$5 for faculty and staff.

VCU offers alternatives to help alleviate the increase in parking rates. One option is to park in the decks that accept cash and pay only for the days you are on campus.

VCU employees can use payroll deduction to pay for parking on campus, she said.

"Full-time faculty and staff can also sign up for the payroll deduction, which is automatically taken out semi-monthly," Minor said. "When they do that, it's not taxed by the government."

### Other ways to get to campus

#### Ride your bike

Find a bike rack at [www.usca.vcu.edu/offcampus/docs/BikeParking.pdf](http://www.usca.vcu.edu/offcampus/docs/BikeParking.pdf)

#### Ride the bus

A \$50 VCU student transit pass with unlimited GRTC trips for one semester is available from Parking and Transportation Services.

#### Carpool or vanpool

Check out [ridefinders.com](http://ridefinders.com) and [www.usca.vcu.edu/offcampus/alttrans.html](http://www.usca.vcu.edu/offcampus/alttrans.html) for more information.

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commonwealthtimes.com • CT3



# Hibbs renovation opens new doors for students

**SHEENA JEFFERS**  
News Co-Editor

The renovated Hibbs Building and the creation of the University College led to a rebirth of several VCU programs.

Students in need of advising, tutoring or other university-focused programs now have a new, more central location to obtain the much needed services.

Michal Zivan Coffey, director of the Campus Learning Center, couldn't be happier. The CLC is one campus program benefiting from the renovated Hibbs and University College.

Coffey was hired three years ago as a tutoring coordinator. After VCU received a \$1.2 million government grant to increase students' math and science scores, she helped launch an in-depth tutoring program at VCU.

"This was something VCU clearly needed," Coffey said.

The small tutoring program was soon acknowledged as a vital necessity, and the university officially named it the Campus Learning Center two years ago, the same year Coffey was named director.

Coffey began building a free tutoring program available to all students. Its features included class-specific assistance, individual tutoring and flexible drop-in tutoring schedules.

Location, however, hindered the CLC.

The CLC was placed in a small building off Harrison Street in an "awkward location," Coffey said. It was secluded, hidden by surrounding buildings and difficult for students to find.

"It was hard for people who weren't familiar with the campus yet," she said.

This August the CLC packed its bags and moved into the newly renovated Hibbs building. It has made all the difference, Coffey said.

The CLC staff knew about the move for a year, and it served as a motivation, Coffey said.

"Our mantra for the year was, 'Soon we'll be in a pretty new space,'" Coffey said, laughing.

The new space has increased the CLC's visibility, and Coffey said, the number of students the CLC staff sees.

"Now if we tell them we're across from Shafer (Court Dining Center), they know where they're coming," she said.

Before moving to Hibbs, the CLC staff saw about 700 students walk through its doors in one semester, Coffey estimated. This semester the doors of the CLC constantly open and close.

Since September, CLC has counted 4,580 contact hours with students.

"Our numbers are just way up," Coffey said. "More students are using us more frequently, and we're also seeing more students overall, and that thrills us."

Coffey said the CLC is at "maximum



Photo: Cynthia K. Merchant

efficiency," and there is never a room left unscheduled or unused.

Even with an increase of students, individual appointments are still readily available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day, Coffey said.

Coffey said she is excited and thankful for the new building. She said the old building was tight on space, forcing the tutoring and supplemental instruction coordinators to share an office. She said the lighting was harsh and the tutoring rooms were tiny.

Now, Coffey and the rest of the CLC staff are living it up, she said, with natural lighting, better acoustics, a better heating and cooling system, more offices and more rooms for tutoring.

"This is an amazing change from last year," Coffey said.

Coffey and her staff are not the only ones experiencing the change.

Patty Strong, director of the Writing Center – another program recently added to the University College – said she is seeing an influx of students as well.

The center was previously housed with the Department of English. Strong described the operation then as "low tech."

"We had a shabby little room on the third floor," she said. "So this (new location) is just wonderful for us," she said.

Strong said the Writing Center's relocation has been nothing but helpful for the program.

"In general traffic and writing assistance traffic, I'd say at least 30 percent," Strong said of the increase.

Historically, writing centers are tucked away in unattractive rooms, she said. This move elevated the program from a basement operation to something much larger, she said.

"Our services have always been there for students. It's not that we're so much radically changing the way we do things, but for me moving down into this really terrific space sends a message," she said.

It shows the importance of writing and it's not something we hide in the basement."

Strong said it was easy for students to think of writing as a punishment when they had to maneuver through twelve hallways and go into a room with bad lighting and bad smells.

The new location, however, is nothing like a dungeon, she said. It also makes the Writing Center more central to everything else, and that shows the importance of writing in our culture, she said.

"It brings it out into the open," Strong said.

She said she is so excited about the new space she wants to change the name to The Mind Spa.



Mihran Ozbalik (left), Charmaine Wiggins (center) and Annalisa Sukhu have a night study session in the Campus Learning Center. (Photo: Cynthia K. Merchant)



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# Spectrum

## Forget Blockbuster

For free DVDs, Cabell Library is the place to be

ALEX MAYO

Contributing Writer

The last place you would think to go get a movie may become the first as James Branch Cabell Library expands its DVD collection and video equipment.

Cabell recently adopted the standard film format of DVD, as opposed to VHS cassette tapes. The collection's range suits broad tastes, from the serious film student to the occasional movie-watcher. The DVDs can be checked out for free with a valid VCU ID.

"We've been collecting films since the '70s," said Nell Chenault, head of Media and Reserve Services at Cabell Library. "It was only about two fiscal years ago that we started building the DVD collection."

Cabell Library now offers more than 1,300 DVD titles, including feature films, international films and documentaries. These movies cover a

wide variety of genres. They were selected based on various criteria, including faculty suggestions, instructional support, and research and film studies.

Some movie selections are influenced by current issues or events, Chenault said. An example: The film "Clash of the Titans" was ordered especially for last year's James River Film Festival, when special effects legend Ray Harryhausen visited campus.

Besides new DVDs, the library is offering new services and equipment. For instance, it has more dual-deck stations with movie-playing capabilities available for use in the library.

That equipment came in handy during a recent storm.

"When the power was out at the dorms, a number of students came with their DVDs to watch them here," Chenault said. "We also have group viewing rooms. So if you wanted to get together with your friends, anywhere from two to 10 people can watch together on a 35-inch monitor with surround sound."

According to Nicole Miller, the library's circulation specialist, there are two ways students can search VCU's movie database.

The easiest way is to access the VCU Libraries catalog online at [www.library.vcu.edu](http://www.library.vcu.edu). You can simply type in the name of the movie you're looking for and see if it's available.

There's also the old-fashion way. You can flip through the pages of the movie folder located at Media and Reserve Services.

If students doing research are looking for a specific film that the library doesn't own, they can ask for it through an interlibrary loan. Cabell Library will get in touch with the University of Virginia, Randolph-Macon College or another university library and have the film shipped here.

"If we don't have it and you're writing a paper, we'll get it for you for free," Chenault said.

Generally, students and staff can borrow DVDs for three days and faculty for one week. Checking out a video is free, but there is a late-return fee. The fine is \$1 for each day the movie is overdue. This may not be as much of a problem when renting from Cabell, because returning the DVD on time can be more convenient.

"It's a lot easier because I can take back the movie on my way to class," said Greg Baisden, a 21-year-old senior. "I don't have to make a special trip to the movie store. I'm already on campus every day."

Thursday, October 26, 2006

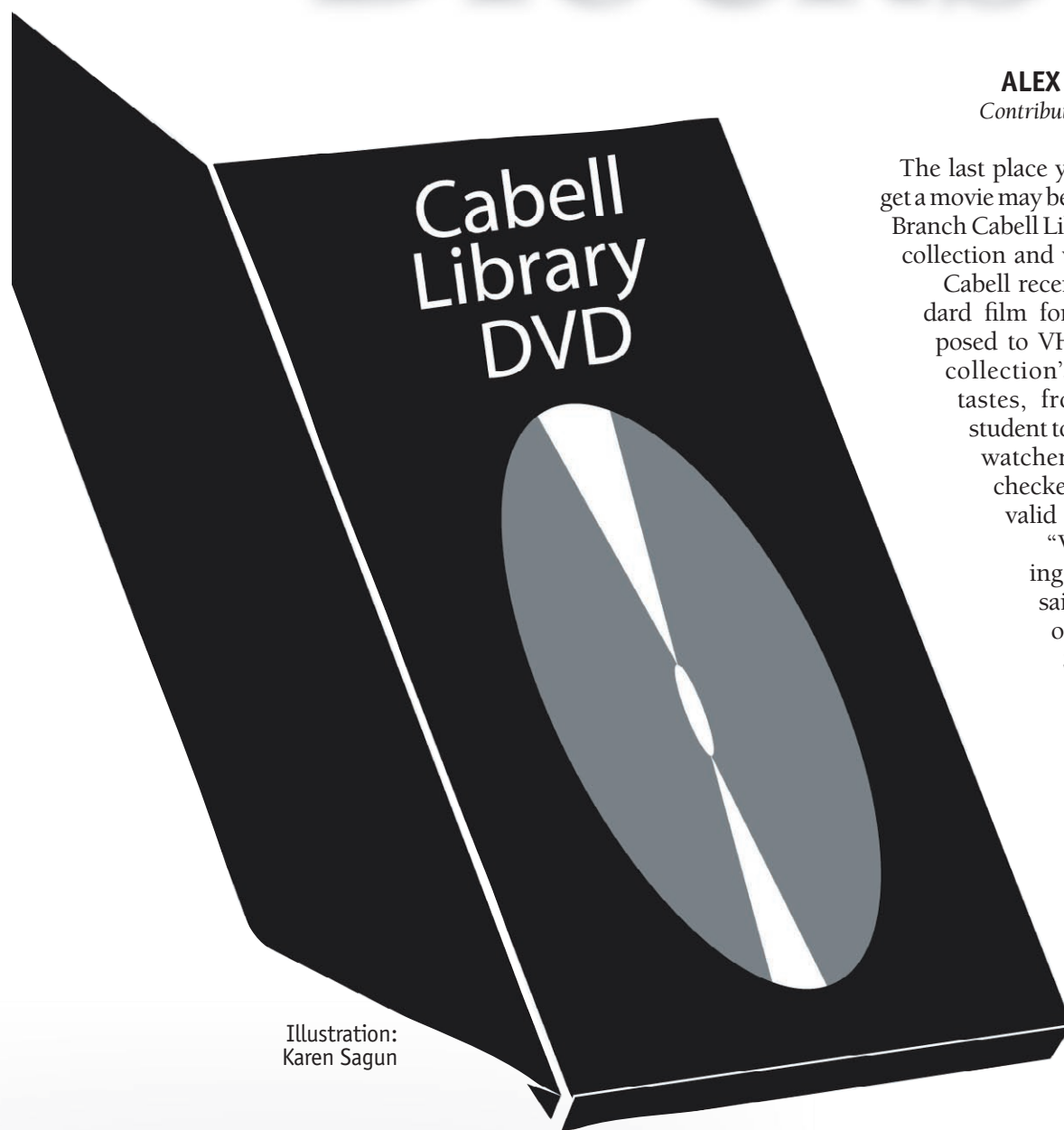


Illustration:  
Karen Sagun

### On the Web

For more information about the DVD collection at Media and Reserve Services, call 828-1088 or visit [www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/mrs](http://www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/mrs)

# Web sites offer free e-books by famous authors

**BRANDON DUNLOW**  
Contributing Writer

If you could find books you need online, would you still buy them from a store?

Several Web sites on the Internet think it's worth the time to scan the books into a computer and make them available for free to the public.

Sam Kerr, a VCU student and a self-described "avid reader," is pleased that he can look up and find many free books online.

"I think it's a great benefit to students, especially when they have to take a classical literature course," Kerr said.

The Internet search engine Google recently launched an Internet site that allows you to look for and download books that are considered public domain. Google Book Search also allows you to read portions of books that are copyrighted.

Another Web site called Project

Gutenberg allows books to be downloaded if they are in the public domain. Any book that has had its copyright run out is considered to be public domain.

Dan Ream, head of education and outreach services at James Branch Cabell Library, said online books are a great idea.

"I think this is one of the most revolutionary projects Google is working on," Ream said. "As a librarian, I also see advantages in e-books of 24/7 availability and no potential theft or muti-

lation, as with books on the library shelves."

There is no shortage of books available. Project Gutenberg alone has more than 19,000 free e-books available; more than two million e-books are downloaded

from the site each month.

Some of the most popular books being downloaded for free are works by such literary minds as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson. Also available are historical texts such as Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" and Albert Einstein's "Relativity: Special and General Theory."

There is no doubt that students can benefit from Web sites that offer free books.

"It's certainly helped me out when I needed a book and couldn't find it in a library or available to buy at the bookstore," Kerr said.

He thinks it is better than libraries in some respects.

"If I get a book from the library, I need to worry about getting it back on time. And if it is a long book, I might feel rushed to read it. I don't feel that way knowing it's on my computer," Kerr said.

Some of the books are even offered as audio.

While some people are glad to see some of their favorite books online, others say that it just isn't as good as holding a real book in your hands.

Hope Perry, who is working on a

master's of Library Science at East Carolina University, thinks that online books just aren't as good.

She believes that more must be done if online books are going to really become popular. "I think it will be more popular when it's not so straining on the eyes," she said.

Perry prefers holding a real book in her hands.

"I don't want to get in bed and curl up with a good laptop before going to sleep. I want that book," Perry said.

## On the Web:

Google Books  
<http://books.google.com>

Project Gutenberg  
<http://www.gutenberg.org>

International Children's Digital Library  
<http://www.icdlbooks.org>

U.Va. Library Electronic Text Center  
<http://etext.virginia.edu/ebooks>

University of Pennsylvania's Online Books Page  
<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books>

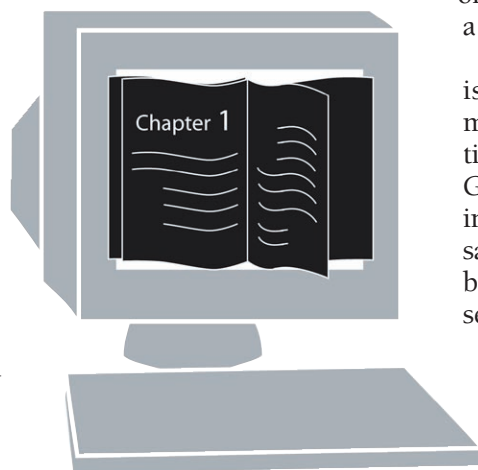


Illustration: Karen Sagun

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# Spectrum

## REVIEW

# Angra – ‘Aurora Consurgens’

**GRANT FANNING**

*Staff Writer*

Angra released their long-awaited album “Aurora Consurgens” Tuesday, daring to follow up 2004’s “Temple of Shadows,” which received worldwide praise.

“Temple of Shadows” was amazing, there is no arguing that, so I had very high expectations of this new album. After waiting almost two years, I am glad to have this in my hands and in my ears.

For those who have not heard Angra, this is a great chance. I would really recommend this new album as an introduction to the band. It is a bit more straightforward than “Temple of Shadows” and more aggressive than “Rebirth.”

Now when I speak of Angra, I am really only talking about what fans will call the “Post-Matos” era of Angra. This Brazilian quintet was formed in 1991 by former Spitfire guitarist Rafael Bittencourt and former Viper vocalist André Matos. After releasing three albums in the 1990s, the band split up with the two guitarists, Bittencourt and Kiko Loureiro, opting to continue with the Angra name, while Matos, bassist Luís Mariutti and drummer Ricardo Confessori moved on to form Shaaman. Angra fans were doubtful that Loureiro and Bittencourt could continue Angra without Matos, but they have proved many of them wrong and have arguably produced some of the best power metal since Helloween’s “Keeper of the Seven Keys.”

Like I said, “Aurora” is more straightforward and aggressive than the last two Angra releases, but it is still very much Angra. The groovy Brazilian rhythms are still all over the album, particularly on “Scream Your Heart Out.” A couple of the tracks sound like they would be perfectly suited for “Temple of Shadows,” which is more of a compliment than a put down in my opinion. “Salvation: Suicide” and “Window to Nowhere” retain the traditional Angra structure of a power metal song, opening with simultaneous guitar and drum syncopations, flowing into ridiculously pleasant guitar melodies and continuing to amaze the listener with a catchy verse/chorus/break/solo/solo/solo/chorus formula.

Standout tracks on Aurora Consurgens include the quasi-ballad “Breaking Ties,” the powerful opener “The Course of Nature,” and the ever so catchy chorus of “The Voice Commanding You.” But in all reality, this is not the type of band that will release an album with two or three “hit” songs and a bunch of filler garbage. Every track on this album is of substance and proper distinction. Nothing is out of place. Listeners will find themselves enjoying this album for many years.



### Track Listing

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The Course Of Nature     | 7. So Near So Far                   |
| 2. The Voice Commanding You | 8. Passing By                       |
| 3. Ego Painted Grey         | 9. Scream Your Heart Out            |
| 4. Breaking Ties            | 10. Abandoned Fate                  |
| 5. Salvation: Suicide       |                                     |
| 6. Window To Nowhere        | <b>Label:</b><br>Steamhammer (U.S.) |

# WEIRD NEWS

Compiled  
from CT  
resources

## Eyelash transplants sweep Nip/Tuck world

Inspired by procedures used by the hair-loss industry for balding men, surgeons can now use a “plug and sew” technique to give women “long, sweeping lashes” that were once only obtainable through mascara and temporary extensions.

The procedure, which costs around \$3,000 an eye, consists of removing 30 to 40 hair follicles from the back of the scalp and then sewing each follicle onto the patient’s eyelids.

Though the procedure was first only used for patients suffering from burns or malformations of the eye, is now primarily done 80 percent of the time for cosmetic reasons.

The transplant, though, is not without a downside. Those with very curly hair are not good candidates for the procedure due to “kink” in the eyelashes, and like head hair, the transplanted eyelashes need to be trimmed regularly.

## Full facial transplants given go-ahead in Britain

According to a spokeswoman for the Royal Free Hospital in London, British surgeons are truly changing the face of cosmetic surgery by receiving ethical permission to perform full face transplants.

Though surgeons in France performed the world’s first partial face transplant last year for a victim that was mauled by a dog, the UK Face Transplantation team hopes to make medical history and to simply change a few lives now that they’ve been given the go-ahead by the Research Ethics Committee of the Hospital.

Though the microsurgery techniques needed for the transplant surgery are well developed, the team’s main concerns are “about the psychological impact and the long-term risk of the drugs the patient will need to take to avoid rejection of the new face.”


## Japan embraces robotic nannies

In Japan, busy parents can now leave their children in the care of the newly engineered ‘humanoid’ robot, called PaPeRo. The 38-centimeter robot, nicknamed for Partner-type Personal Robot, develops a personality based on how it is treated and features the latest in image recognition technology. It can also send pictures of the child to parents on demand through cameras installed in each eye.

Besides its ability to track children moving at 20-centimeters-per second, the robot also has a built-in mobile phone and will locate and play with the child when the parents call it. Parents can also send text messages and talk to children using PaPeRo’s microphones and speakers.

Created as a part of a deal between computer company NEC and Japanese telecommunications company NTT, the robotic nanny can do more than just watch children. It can also check e-mail, keep records of favorite TV channels, sports game scores and even dance.






24th Annual  
**Festival of India**


**Saturday**  
October 28  
11 am-9 pm  
**Sunday**  
October 29  
11 am-9 pm

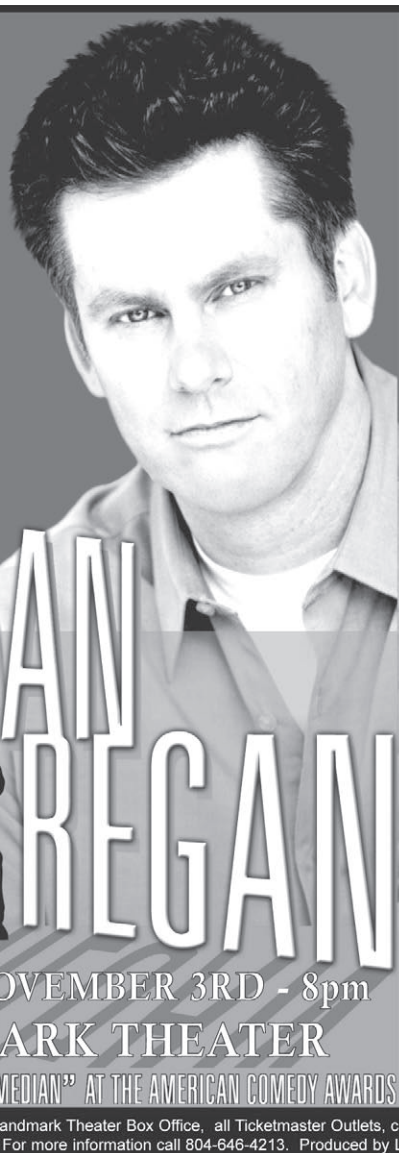



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Pumpkin Carving Contest  
Come and carve your pumpkin at Shafer Court Dining Center  
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Pumpkin entries may be claimed at 9:00 pm after the event on Halloween, October 31, 2006.



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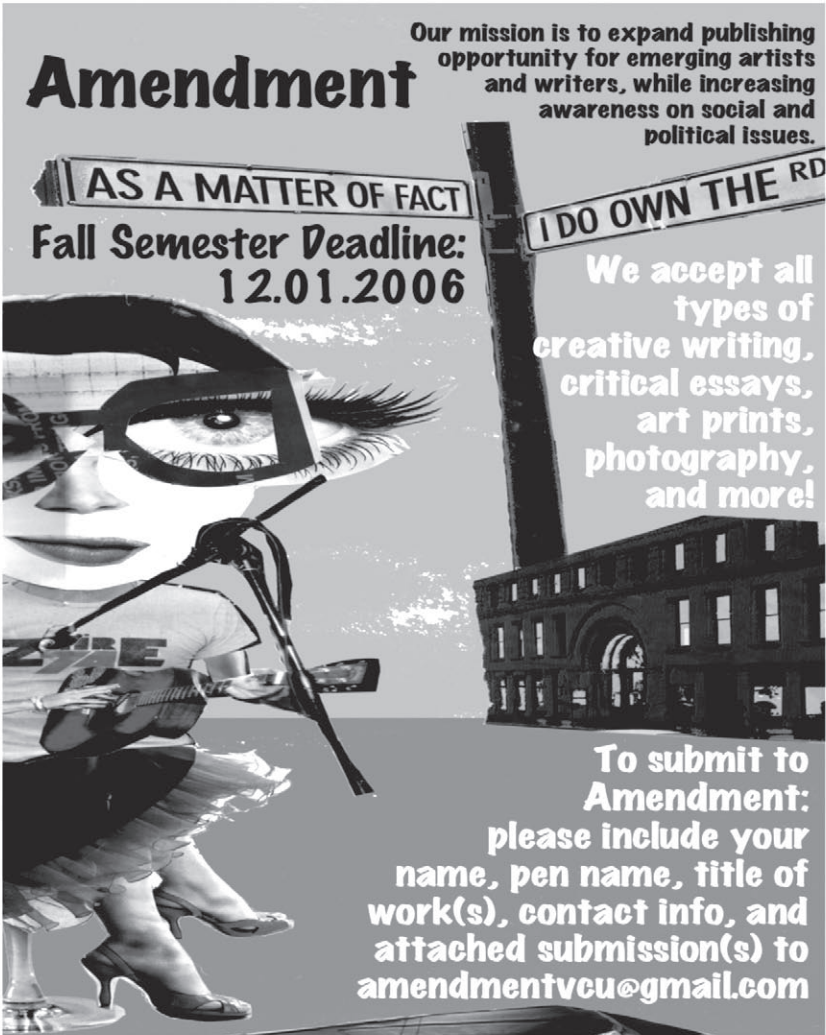
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# Comparing notes

## Sides square off in marriage amendment forum at VCU

GAYLAND HETHCOAT  
News Co-Editor

One week after students deliberated the proposed constitutional marriage amendment at a Student Government Association-sponsored forum, VCU held Tuesday another amendment discussion in the Commons Theater.

Organized by the VCU Equity and Diversity Committee and the student Society of Professional Journalists chapter, the discussion featured the Virginia House of Delegates author of the amendment, Republican Delegate Robert G. Marshall of Manassas, and another amendment supporter, Pat McSweeney, an attorney and adjunct professor of political science at VCU. Claire Guthrie Gastanaga, the campaign manager for the Commonwealth Coalition, spoke against the amendment, while Geoff Dankert, vice president of broadcast for the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, asserted his neutrality as a journalist.

"This is not a debate; this is a forum," Paula Otto, the forum's moderator and associate director of the School of Mass Communications, told a packed crowd of students, faculty and local residents. "Our goal is to inform and educate the audience about Ballot Question No. 1."

In keeping with a forum, Otto refused the speakers opportunities to respond to the other speakers, although on many occasions they tried to. After each speaker introduced him or herself, Otto read a series of questions prepared by journalism students and then gave audience members the chance to ask questions.

Marshall and McSweeney articulated their positions on the marriage amendment first. Speaking in mostly legal jargon, Marshall explained that his inspiration to author the amendment came from *Lawrence v. Texas*, a U.S. Supreme Court case in which the justices struck down the criminal prohibition of homosexual sodomy in Texas.

While Marshall spoke, a man in one of the lower rows of the theater stood and turned his back to Marshall. He sat down when Marshall finished and McSweeney introduced himself.

"Does the government have a role in regulating

sexual conduct in relationships?" McSweeney asked. He did not explicitly answer that question but continued, "Marriage is beyond simple contract. The government's role is to restrict parties, not simply to bless what they voluntarily decide to enter into or get out of or to bless whatever terms they happen to come up with."

Over millennia, McSweeney added, the "appropriate" role of government has been to regulate marriage—not

**"Are you going to be quiet?" Marshall asked the audience.**

**Attendants shouted "No!" in near unison.**

to interfere with individuals' relationships but to preserve society and stability.

Gastanaga straightforwardly expressed her dissent.

"This amendment is unnecessary, it is undemocratic, and it is unpredictable and ill-conceived," she said.

It is unnecessary, she said, because marriage has been defined in Virginia since 1975, when the General Assembly passed a statute prohibiting same-sex marriage. She said the amendment is undemocratic because it takes away the right of future generations to decide how they want to legally define marriage and other partnerships.

Gastanaga warned attendants that the amendment

could lead to unmarried couples losing protective orders and other domestic violence safeguards because the commonwealth would not recognize any union but marriage under the amendment.

"The guys who dismissed the domestic violence arguments as absurd in Ohio are the ones who filed an amicus brief in the Ohio Supreme Court, saying the plain language of the Ohio amendment clearly means that unmarried domestic violence victims in Ohio should not be given the right to be protected by the domestic violence laws," Gastanaga said.

While the amendment supporters and opponent spent most of their time dismissing one another, Dankert offered a completely different perspective on the amendment. He said he has studied more than two dozen news articles and television clips on the amendment and found that while media coverage has been "fairly down the middle," many journalists have missed opportunities to go beyond stereotypes or generalizations of both sides of the debate.

He cited several examples of inadequate reporting, such as an article he read in *The Daily News Record* of Harrisonburg, which barely mentioned a lesbian couple that protested an otherwise pro-amendment rally, he said. On the other hand, he cited another article about an anti-amendment forum in Lynchburg sponsored by the American Association of University Women, which failed to mention any presence of amendment support at the event.

Dankert said his organization, the Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, fosters fair coverage of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues in the media. But he stressed that is it not a political or activist organization, and it does not take stands on policy issues.

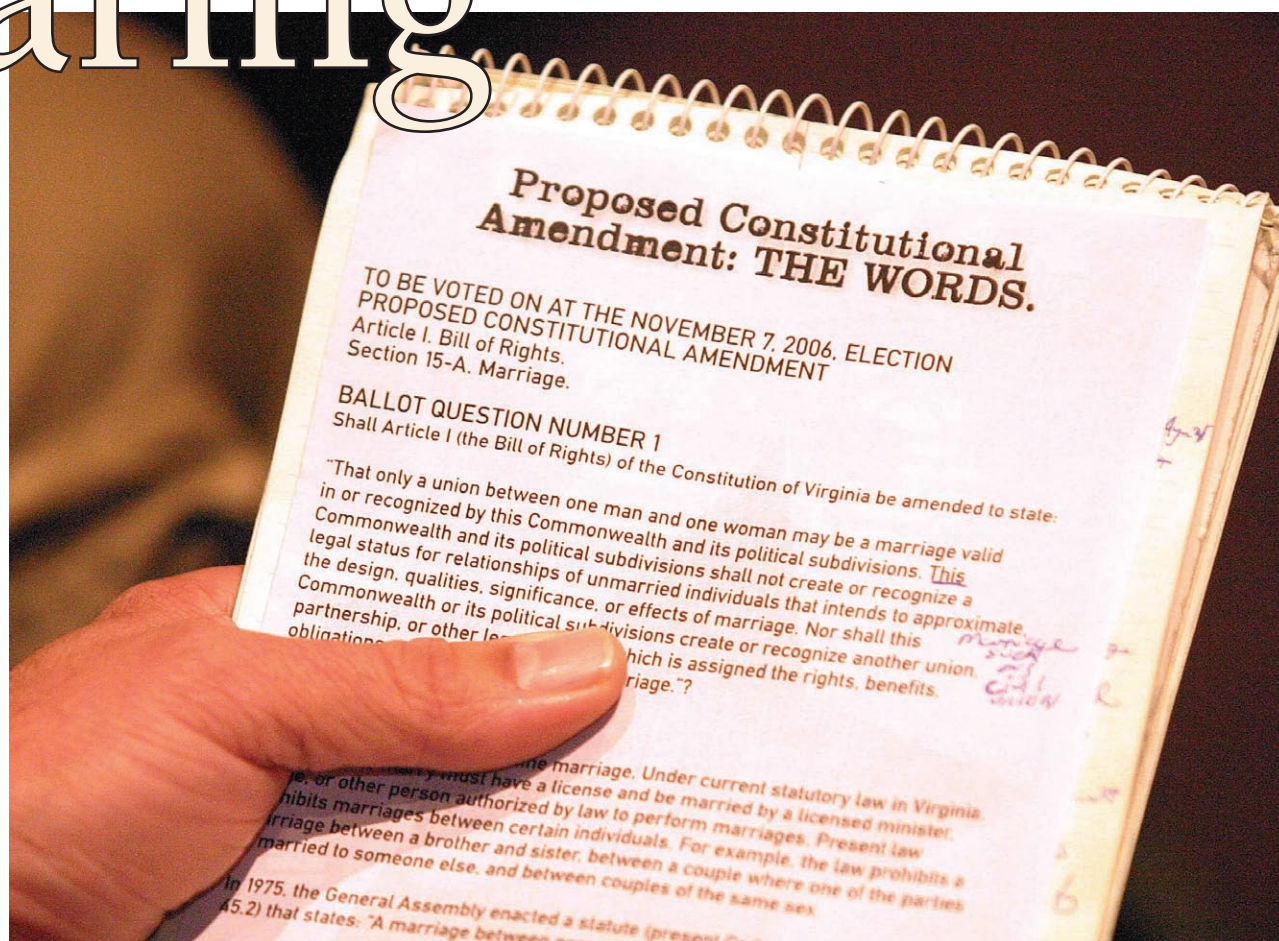


Photo: Pat Kane

Continued Page CT11 ►

Thursday, October 26, 2006





# Different strokes

**"All it takes is common sense to recognize that if you can't figure out on your own without an explanation what something means, it probably doesn't belong in our constitution."**

—Claire Guthrie Gastanaga, campaign manager, Commonwealth Coalition



Photos: Pat Kane

**"Part of a journalist's job is to illuminate viewpoints and ideas that people might not otherwise get. That's what we do as journalists."**

—Geoff Dankert  
Vice President for Broadcast, National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA)



**"There is no unintended consequence because the clear language of this constitutional amendment is ... in the language that you can read before you go in or as you go in to vote on this proposition on Election Day."**

—Pat McSweeney  
Attorney, Adjunct Professor of Political Science at VCU



**"If there's anything more fundamental to the human existence than the human family – marriage – I don't know what it is, and I don't think anybody can demonstrate anything more fundamental."**

— Delegate Robert G. Marshall, R-Manassas, co-sponsor of the Marshall-Newman marriage amendment

Although the forum stayed within the parameters Otto set for it, discussion did often get heated, especially when the audience members were allowed to ask questions and make comments.

Elizabeth Cramer, an associate professor in the School of Social Work, called out Marshall for his repeated usage of the term "homosexual," saying the preferred language is "gay" or "lesbian."

"The term 'gay' and 'lesbian' are rhetorical terms, which intend to gain a favorable status or publicity or hearing, and I'm using a neutral term," Marshall responded. "But if I'm not allowed to use that in a public forum, who is not tolerating whom at this point? Are speech police to come here and administrate you can't use a neutral term?"

He went on to make a reference to the Old Testament, to which the audience responded with boos, laughter and snide comments.

"Are you going to be quiet?" Marshall asked the audience.

Attendants shouted "No!" in near unison.

In an effort to provide clarity, Dankert read the usage guideline of the term "gay" in the Associated Press Stylebook, calling the book the "bible for print

reporters."

The entry says "gay" is "used to describe men and women attracted to the same sex, though lesbian is the more common term for women. Preferred over homosexual except in clinical contexts or references to sexual activity."

Marshall also elicited noise from the audience when he talked about his views on marriage and family.

"If there's anything more fundamental to the human existence than the human family – marriage – I don't know what it is, and I don't think anybody can demonstrate anything more fundamental," he said. "You all were here because there was some union at some point between a man and woman."

Gastanaga mostly avoided ideology, instead concentrating on the marriage amendment and its potential ramifications.

"All it takes is common sense to see that this amendment is legal nonsense," she said in her final remarks. "All it takes is common sense to recognize that if you can't figure out on your own without an explanation what something means, it probably doesn't belong in our constitution."

"I hope that when I wake up on November 8th that

Virginia will have made the right kind of history as we approach the eve of the 400th anniversary and celebration of the settlement and initiation of our democracy," Gastanaga said to a round of applause.

Susan Scott of Richmond said she intends to vote "no" for the "right kind of history" Gastanaga talked about. Exiting the forum, she said the discussion made her more firmly convinced to vote "no" Nov. 7.

"I think it is a blatant travesty on the Bill of Rights in the constitution of Virginia," Scott said of the amendment.

Katherine Hemminger, a junior women's studies and psychology double major, agreed. She said people are more concerned with labeling relationships than looking at the quality of them.

Hemminger said attendants would have gotten more out of the forum if it were a debate.

"They should have been allowed to respond because I think the discussion is the most important part of it," said Hemminger, who plans to volunteer with the Commonwealth Coalition in the days before Nov. 7.

When asked what outcome she predicts for Ballot Question No. 1, Scott said laughing, "It's called prayers."



# Sports

## In Brief

### Field Hockey

RICHMOND—VCU (4-13, 2-4 CAA) beat the Towson University Tigers (9-8, 2-4) 3-1 Sunday at Cary Street Field.

Emily Guerra (Yorktown/Seton Hall HS), unassisted, scored the first point of the game in the 14th minute.

Six minutes later, Nikki Lloyd (Kent, England) put another one in for the Rams, also unassisted to set up a 2-0 lead.

In the second half, Towson's Laura Schnell scored a goal on a penalty stroke, but twenty minutes later Lloyd secured VCU's victory with a final point assisted by Rebecca Sullivan (Fredericksburg/Stafford HS) and Emilie Osinga (Aerdenhout, Netherlands) off of a penalty corner.

The Rams outshot Towson 11-8 with a 7-5 edge in shots on goal.

Brittany LoVullo (Williamsville, N.Y.) matched Towson's Christina Armer with four saves.

### Volleyball

Despite outshooting Northeastern Sunday for a team total of .203-.178, VCU lost 3-1 (27-30, 30-20, 29-31, 24-30).

Ana Luiza de Borja (Florianopolis, Brazil) gave the Rams 20 kills and 14 digs. Cat Juson (Long Beach, Calif.) provided 48 assists and 17 digs. The team slips to 12-11 overall and 6-7 in the CAA.

### Men's Soccer

TOWSON, Md.—The Rams (4-12, 2-7) lost Sunday to Towson (13-1-2, 9-0-1) 2-1.

The game went scoreless until well into the second half, when Towson's Tom Appel-Schumacher assisted Sebastian Haensel 34 minutes in for a shot from 18 yards out.

Three minutes later, Towson scored again, this time from 15 yards out by Kevin Ruck, assisted by Sean Cunningham.

VCU's only point came toward the very end of the match, seconds after Towson's final point. Matthijs Maruana (Alkmaar, Netherlands) converted Thomas Weingartner's pass from 20 yards out.

VCU was outshot by Towson 14-15, but led 8-7 in shots on goal.

## COMMENTARY

# Contempt for the Field of Dreams

MICHAEL DE SOTO

Associate Sports Editor

As I grow older, I find it harder and harder to appreciate big American-based events like the World Series and the Super Bowl. Sure, I enjoy watching them for the love of the game and all that, but they just don't mean as much as they used to.

I remember the first baseball game I ever watched. I must have been 3 years old. Kansas City was playing the Toronto Blue Jays. I remember that game because I didn't understand what the hell was going on. Men in white and baby blue ran back and forth on white lines (think AstroTurf) that seemed to go nowhere, and I was confused. I was also a toddler and my cognitive apparatus wasn't strong enough to figure things out. But I'm sure that was the moment I fell in love with sports.

I remember sitting in my basement, transfixed by the television as officials reversed an Art Monk touchdown in Super Bowl XXVI. I wasn't even 9 years old, but even then I knew I was watching a defining moment in football history.

I remember—and I'll only admit this once—I actually transcribed (and I mean word for word) the first quarter of that great Super Bowl.

It was a funny sight for sure; watching John Madden and sidekick Pat Summerall as their heads bounced up and down in slow-mo. I'd play a few seconds, pause, write, then play a few seconds more. I was obsessed.

We all grow up, I guess. Now, instead of admiring sports and the many stars, I write about them. I try to find wit, to sharpen it slowly and swing it mightily

at teams and players that deserve it. It's a fantastic job. One I'm paid a

princely sum to do. (Not really.)

And as an aside, I'll take this opportunity to mention that this sports section is looking for a few good writers. You know you're interested (you wouldn't be reading this piece otherwise), so drop us a line and we'll set things up.

Anyway, my point is that I've grown apathetic over the years. It's a different type of feeling – one different than growing out of Santa Claus, or growing into girls.

There's too much hype, too much pomp surrounding what should be a pleasant afternoon at the ball park. We've moved from high points watching "Iron Man" Cal Ripken Jr., and chasing Sammy Sosa and Mark McGuire as they swung for the Roger Maris record.

Now we're in quagmire. There's the Balco scandal that won't go away. Kenny Rogers, who has a horrible postseason record, went 3-0 this year with 23 consecutive scoreless innings, leading the Detroit Tigers to the dance. Cinderella story, right? No. Turns out he juiced baseballs.

Worse, when the umpires were notified of Rogers' pine tar hijinks, they didn't walk to the mound to see what's what. Rogers subsequently pitched the game of his life.

After the game, the coaches and umpires and Rogers all told different stories to the media. And they all played as if nothing happened. What does it say about the state of the country when accused cheaters are allowed to keep playing? Would we rather not know?

Unfortunately for Rogers, FOX cameras picked up the "brown spot"—most definitely pine tar—on his pitching hand. And when checking old film, it became clear that Rogers had the mystery spot on his hand during his other appearances this postseason.

Which, of course, explains how a known postseason choker can turn around his career numbers on a dime.

But we'll never really know the truth.

I haven't decided if this is just the way things are—the way things are supposed to be—or if this is symptomatic of our crumbling civilization.

I don't think I want to know.

Illustration:  
Karen Sagun

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Cross Country

Sat. Oct. 28  
CAA Championships  
Newark, Del.

### Volleyball

Fri. Oct. 27  
vs. James Madison, 7 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 28  
vs. George Mason, 5 p.m.

### Men's soccer

Fri. Oct. 27  
vs. James Madison, 7 p.m.

### Women's soccer

Fri. Oct. 27  
@ James Madison, 7 p.m.

### Golf

Fri. Oct. 27–Sun. Oct. 29  
Landfall Tradition  
Wilmington, N.C.

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

## Write for the sports section.

E-mail sports  
@[commonwealthtimes.com](mailto:commonwealthtimes.com)

See BRIEFS, Page CT9





Keeping Tabs | NFL Week 8

It’s all on the line here: money, success – journalistic integrity. So far, seasoned sports editor James Galloway has dominated associate and brilliant columnist Michael De Soto in their NFL pool. Galloway leads the informal pick count 55-53. Things are close. Six of the 14 picks this week are different, which means De Soto, “The mighty defender of Liberty,” could take back the lead or “Justice for All” Galloway can jump ahead nine points. Will Galloway be schooled? Will De Soto fall flat? This week could be for all the marbles.

The stakes are high: a cold crisp \$20 bill and a meal from Qdoba’s. The heat is *on*.

Galloway’s Picks  
(55-35) .611

Green Bay	Arizona (1-6) @ Green Bay (2-4) 1 p.m. Sunday
Atlanta	Atlanta (4-2) @ Cincinnati (4-2) 1 p.m. Sunday
New Orleans	Baltimore (4-2) @ New Orleans (5-1) 1 p.m. Sunday
Tennessee	Houston (2-4) @ Tennessee (1-5) 1 p.m. Sunday
Philadelphia	Jacksonville (3-3) @ Philadelphia (4-3) 1 p.m. Sunday
Seattle	Seattle (4-2) @ Kansas City (3-3) 1 p.m. Sunday
Chicago	San Francisco (2-4) @ Chicago (6-0) 1 p.m. Sunday
Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay (2-4) @ N.Y. Giants (4-2) 1 p.m. Sunday
San Diego	St. Louis (4-2) @ San Diego (4-2) 4:05 p.m. Sunday
Indianapolis	Indianapolis (6-0) @ Denver (5-1) 4:15 p.m. Sunday
N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets (4-3) @ Cleveland (1-5) 4:15 p.m. Sunday
Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh (2-4) @ Oakland (1-5) 4:15 p.m. Sunday
Carolina	Dallas (3-3) @ Carolina (4-3) 8:15 p.m. Sunday
New England	New England (5-1) @ Minnesota (4-2) 8:30 p.m. Monday

De Soto’s Picks  
(53-37) .589

Arizona
Cincinnati
Baltimore
Tennessee
Philadelphia
Seattle
Chicago
Tampa Bay
St. Louis
Denver
N.Y. Jets
Oakland
Carolina
New England

Hey,  
sports  
guys!

I liked (“Off-field cheats find on-field friends,” Oct. 23) a lot. Note that Whitman and Einstein aren’t “contemporary” Americans, and that Eisenstein was German. Other than that, good writing and good opinion.

– Oscar De Soto  
Washington, D.C.

Michael Responds: Thanks, dad, for giving me the business. Yes, you’re right. Einstein was born in Germany in 1879. But did you know that he became a U.S. citizen in 1940? He was naturalized in a New Jersey courthouse. As for your other slur on my great work, Whitman died in 1892 in his New Jersey home. Though their lives were not “simultaneous,” they were “contemporaries” as far as Webster’s New World Dictionary is concerned.

To write to the sports guys,  
e-mail [sports@commonwealthtimes.com](mailto:sports@commonwealthtimes.com)

BRIEFS, from Page CT8

Women’s Soccer

RICHMOND—The Rams (11-4-3, 7-2-1) tied Towson University (5-10-2, 1-8-1) Sunday. VCU’s point was scored almost 30 minutes into the second half when Pernilla Jansson (Stockholm, Sweden) sent the ball to Karin Tersteeg (Diepenveen,

Netherlands) who put in a header off the corner. In the 49th minute of play, Towson scored their lone goal as Rosie Goldberg picked up the assist from Phyllicia Rosselli. VCU massively out-shot Towson 31-14, shooting 13-3 shots on goal in the 110-minute game.

Brandon Inge’s got somethin’ to say!

JAMES K. GALLOWAY  
Sports Editor

VCU alum Brandon Inge is currently playing in the World Series but is troubled by the “lack of respect” the Tigers have been getting recently. The Tigers, often revered as the team that lost 119 games in 2003, are down from the Cardinals two games to one in the 2006 World Series. In his most recent tiff, he expressed dissatisfaction with Kenny Rogers’ indecent

tactics where he pitched a good game with pine tar on his hands. In an official Major League Baseball interview, he was quoted as saying “This is another prime example of people trying to discredit our team,” he said. “He goes out there battling...whatever he has on his hands, I don’t even care, and people try to discredit what we’re doing here.” Inge feels as though the other teams the Tigers beat are insulted by the loss because those teams did

serious rearranging after the key losses. The Yankees allegedly wanted to fire their manager, Joe Torre. Oakland followed through on firing their manager, Ken Macha. The uproar within the MLB over the Tigers mostly bothered Inge because the Tigers may not always have been a good team – but they are now in the World Series and doing quite well. Still, nobody wants to forget about the 2003 embarrassments they once were.



# Classifieds

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## TRAVEL

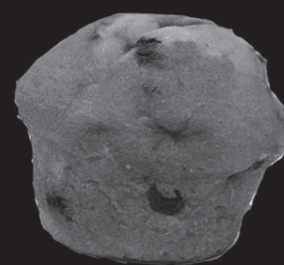
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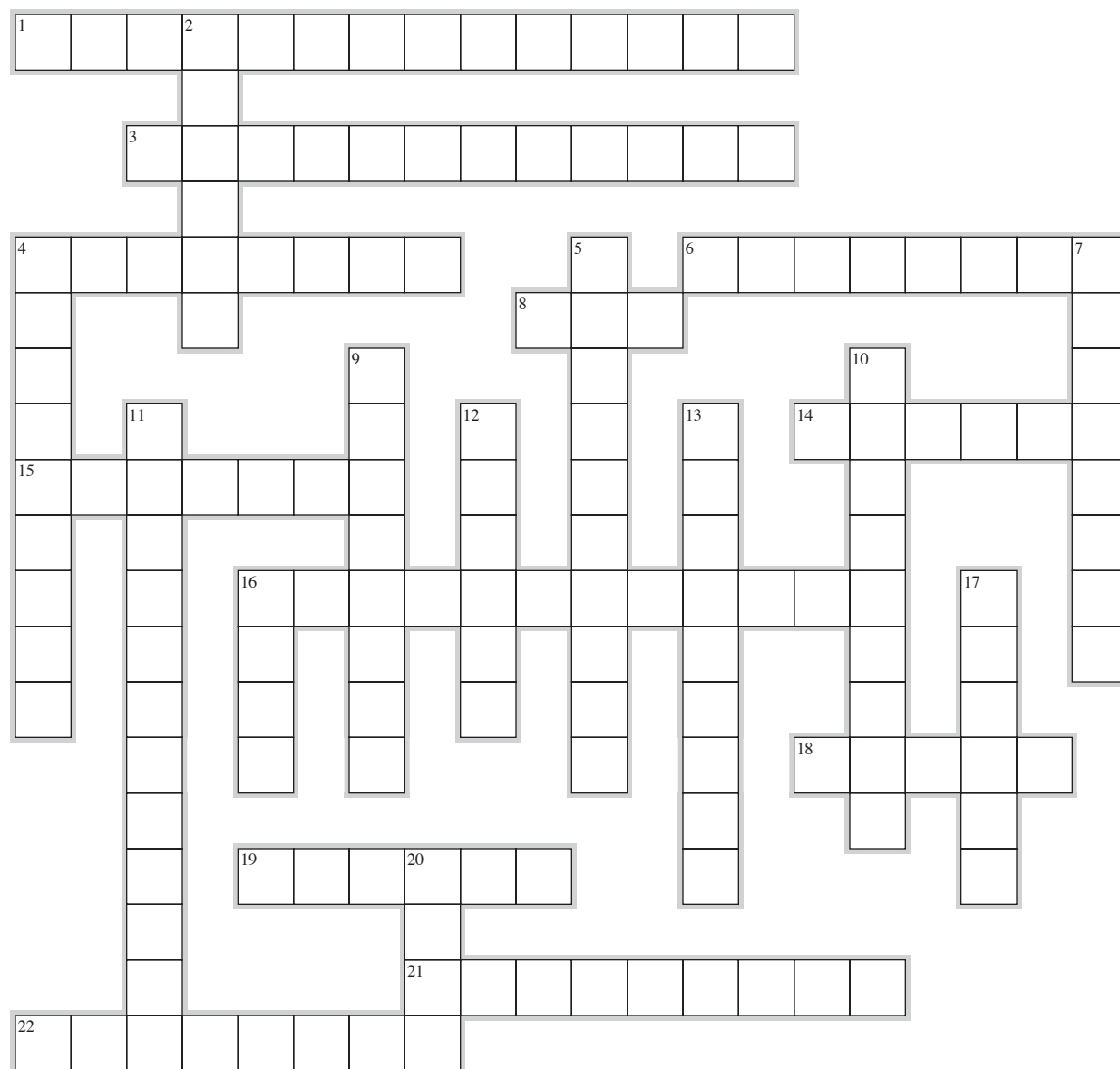


# Crossword

## Sweet Tooth

### Across

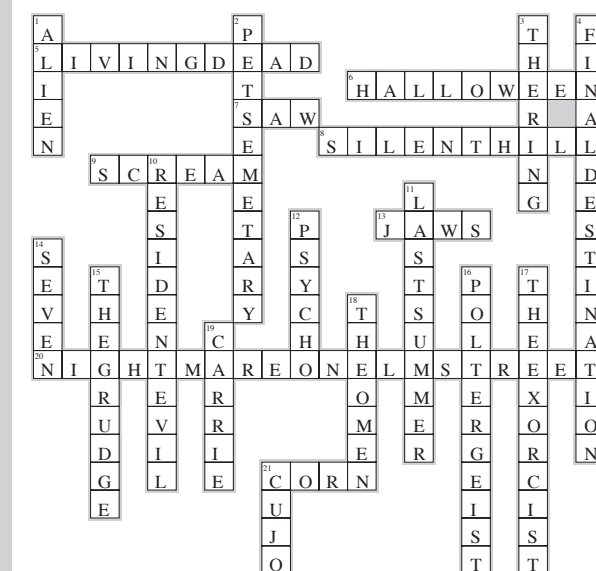
- Sweets in monetary form.
- "Nobody better lay a finger on my \_\_\_\_\_!"
- Giggle. Candy bar of nougat, peanuts, caramel, covered with milk chocolate.
- Milk chocolate-covered caramel candy.
- Candy that comes with a type of dispenser.
- "Gimme a break. Break me off a piece of that \_\_\_\_\_ bar."
- Lollipop with gum inside.
- Log-shaped, chewy, chocolate-flavored candy.
- Very small pieces of Willy Wonka Candy. Usually two flavors come in one small box.
- Candy coated chocolates that come in red, orange, yellow, green, brown, and violet.
- Licorice thats not Red Vines.
- Taffy-like candy. Slang for a stupid person.



### Down

- Nestle candy bar of milk chocolate and crisp rice.
- Chewy, square-shaped, fruity candy.
- Sweets shaped like a yellow, citrus fruit.
- "Taste the Rainbow."
- Eat this and drink cola and your stomach will supposedly explode.
- Ring-shaped fruit candy or mint.
- Hard candy. Happy farmer or joyous harvester.
- Hershey sign of affection.
- Coconut and almond dipped in milk chocolate.
- Cookie topped with caramel dipped in milk chocolate.
- Bar of peanuts and caramel.
- Gum drops. A period, point, spot, etc.

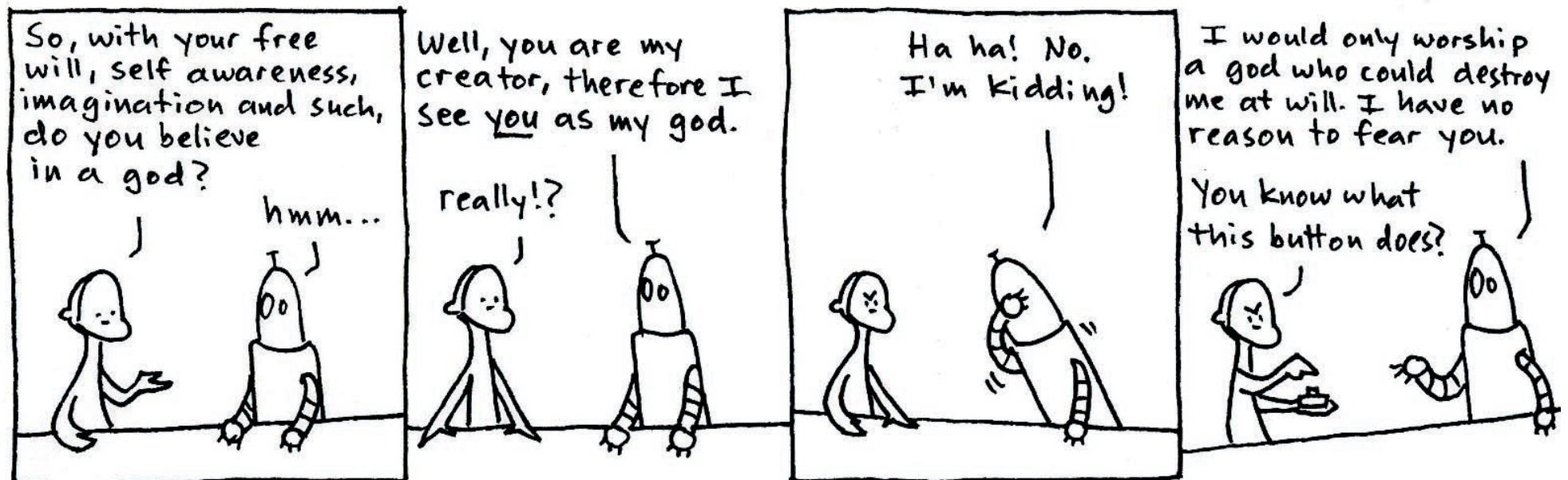
## Answers from Oct. 23



# Comics

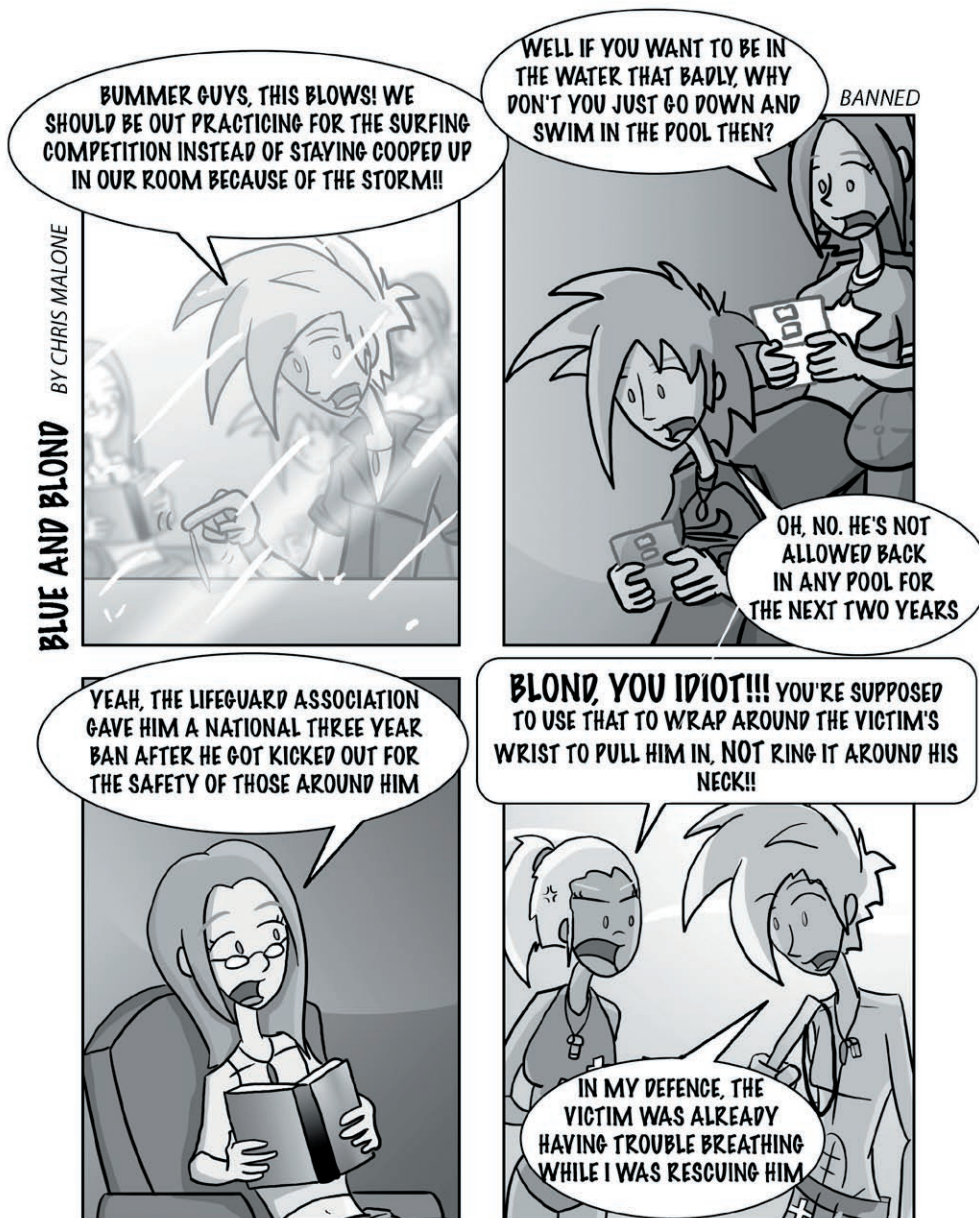
Digits

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Thursday, October 26, 2006





## Pizza From Scratch

Bill Lemmond



**Save a tree.  
Recycle this CT!**





# Opinion

## In Brief

Hollywood and its ilk love to find a cause du jour that its celebrities can throw their wads of cash at for a warm, fuzzy feeling before they blow a couple grand on something trivial and out of style next month. Recently, it seems adopting kids from extremely poor nations is at the top of the list.

For now, Madonna is at the center of attention for her controversial adoption of a Malawian boy. Rather than adopting and completely spoiling a single child with a celebrity upbringing, Madonna and other celebrities would do better to use the millions they'll probably drop on their latest "accessories" and help open up something a little better than a Kabbalah Center for these kids. A million bucks is pretty cool over here, but for poor African nations, that money could go a very long way for the many people who live on less than a few hundred dollars a year.

Unfortunately, it seems that people who really do have the power to make change do it half-heartedly—maybe this is because they are not as committed to their ideals as they would say. Hollywood loves to say that much of the conflict of the world is due to poverty and inequality in society. Well, are they doing their part? Mostly ... no.

## Over-advertisement

**KADIE PUFFENBARGER**

*Opinion Writer*

While I fully believe in both the right to free speech and the right to freedom of religion, I also believe there is definitely a problem with over-advertising on VCU's campus. Recently while trying to get from the Life Sciences building to the Honors building, my path was blocked by a group of what I can only call "religious fanatics." Normally I wouldn't use the word "fanatic," but in this case it applies.

Both in front of the Commons and in between the library and Shafer Court were herds of people, one side arguing with the other over what God believes in. This doesn't usually surprise me since there always has been, and probably always will be, a constant debate over just what makes God mad. This protest was different because I can normally walk through these crowds without being harassed over what I do or do not believe;

## Your Turn *Letters to the Editor*

### Turn your back on bigotry

At the marriage amendment forum in the Commons on Tuesday, I chose to stand with my back to Delegate Bob Marshall during his three-minute monologue to open the event. Afterward, several people asked me why I did this; I decided to explain my actions.

Delegate Marshall has made a legislative career out of being both a misogynist and a homophobe. I have sat in numerous General Assembly meetings as he introduced legislation to ban everything from gay adoption to gay marriage to gay-straight alliances in public schools. Time and time again, Marshall has argued that gay and lesbian people deserve few, if any, civil and legal rights because he feels we are immoral, unstable, depressed, depraved, or some combination of these qualities. He uses bigoted, incendiary statements to defame gay and lesbian people and to legitimize his mission to make us second-class citizens.

His homophobia not only impedes LGBT people's ability to raise families, hold jobs and form relationships. It also encourages the efforts of those who would perpetrate violent acts against our community by making us seem inferior. It is my belief that bigots do

not deserve the deference of being able to freely spout their homophobia to an audience.

Delegate Marshall needs to know that gay and lesbian people and our straight allies are not going to sit back and take

**"Bigotry has no place in public policy or public forums."**

back on the bigotry he represents. Bigotry has no place in public policy or public forums. My rights as a gay man are *not* debatable!

Others joined me on Tuesday in protesting Marshall and those who share his narrow-minded views. A faculty member demanded Marshall respect her lesbian identity by not referring to her as a "homosexual," a term considered overly clinical and insulting by many lesbian

on a university campus to spread the word? Someone please show where, in the Bible, it says to harass someone if they won't take a pamphlet from you. What really disappointed me is the fact that through their actions, or should I say intention to create a diversion in front of the Commons, these people took away from the attention VCU AID was trying to garner.

Has God lost such an extreme amount of voting power that it is necessary to scream his so-called platform as if he were up for reelection, while organizations like VCU AID have to sit by and have attention taken away from them on some very important matters? Has the world come to a point where even religious organizations believe this kind of negative attention is the only way to be heard and that it is also the only thing to listen to? This apparent escalation on the campus can't be a good thing, and I think VCU needs to monitor the groups it allows on campus so students are not being harassed in the course of others' freedom of speech.

and gay people. Students and community members shouted back, "Yes!" at Pat McSweeney, a conservative VCU adjunct faculty member on the panel, when he rhetorically asked if they thought he was out to discriminate.

LGBT people and our allies are sick and tired of people like Marshall and McSweeney being given a forum from which to discriminate and defame us, and we are doing something about it. This discussion is not finished, and we as LGBT people will not stop turning, shouting and demanding respect until every homophobe like Delegate Marshall realizes there are consequences for their bigoted actions. Please join me on Nov. 7 in turning your back on bigotry and Delegate Marshall by voting "no" on Ballot Question No. 1, the "marriage amendment."

— Jeremy Kidd

See **LETTERS**, Page CT19

**the commonwealthtimes**

The independent student press of VCU

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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.



LETTERS, from Page CT18

No need to rely on advisers

Referencing the Oct. 23 piece, "Another brick in the wall?" by Huma Riyaz, I think that since the advising situation here at VCU is so poor, it wouldn't hurt to scrap academic advising altogether. I say this because it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what classes you need to take next semester. It would be a lot easier if students just grabbed a copy of the undergraduate bulletin and the academic planning sheets and advised themselves.

That's not to say that conventional advising should disappear. Advising should still be offered, but it should be limited in scope and available only to those who genuinely want it. In summary then, advising of any form should not be required and students should not have holds placed on their records for not talking to an adviser.

— Steven C. Latimer

# Ban PowerPoint

HARRY JONES

Opinion Writer

PowerPoint should be banned in the School of Business. I can't speak for the other colleges of study at this university, but I am almost positive that VCU business students would agree this multimedia crutch is almost never utilized to its full potential in a lecture class.

In 30 minutes, any person off the street with basic computer ability can learn to produce 20 slides with the same skill to the level of a Ph.D. professor at this school. Over nine semesters, I have been forced to sit through thousands of these dry presentations. It would be a better idea to save me the time, just buy the book and PowerPoint presentations and call it higher education. VCU could even discount it, advertise on TV and rename the school ECPI (or some other important sounding acronym).

The computer has given us a lot of creative and innovative things over the past 50 years: improved military

ordinance trajectory calculations, PhotoShop and Internet porn. At the same time a little piece of software included in the Microsoft Office package, called PowerPoint, has in my opinion broken the legs of higher education. Now, professors don't even have to write on a white board. Instead, they can download a PowerPoint presentation to force feed us.

More than likely, the educators do not even take 20 minutes to make their own presentation. Instead, they just hand us the book-written presentation. I was under the impression master's level and Ph.D. levels of education were about creation of knowledge, not just the regurgitation of what is in a book. I have even been taught in two different courses from the same PowerPoint presentations. Any second-year business student should understand the importance of competitive advantage. I don't need two slides in two different 300 to 400 level courses presented with 40 minutes of filler lecture.

Coupled with Blackboard — another tool with endless opportunity

for creativity — we get PowerPoint presentations available online. Great, good idea. Now, not only do I not have to pay attention to anything other than the book and slides, I don't even have to attend the class. In some cases, the only thing keeping students from just reading the book, not going to class and earning their A is the strict attendance policies provided from the wonderful administration of this school. Some people like this leniency in their lectures.

The university has a vast pool of human capital and some of the most intelligent minds in the state or even the country. Instead of which books premade presentations say are right, I would like to know what they think... You know, some soul in my education. I understand in the business world, presenting information in an easy manner such as PowerPoint is necessary. This doesn't mean that straying from the normal is so bad. But instead of cookie-cutter lectures, would it take so much extra time to throw in a little creativity? The successful people that change their field are the people that think out of the box — the trendsetters.





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