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FREE

**MONDAY**

JANUARY 29, 2007

Vol. 46 No. 4

[commonwealthtimes.com](http://commonwealthtimes.com)

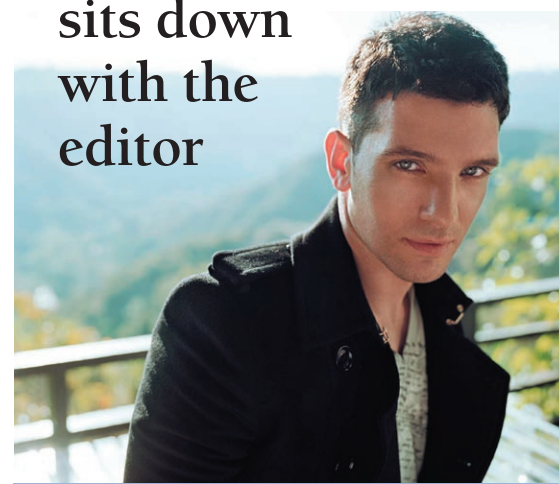
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The independent student press of Virginia Commonwealth University

# Briefs

## WEATHER

### MONDAY



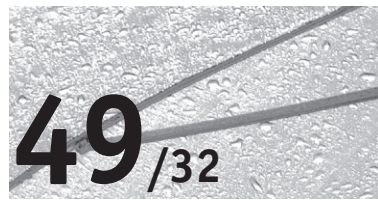
### TUESDAY



### WEDNESDAY



### THURSDAY



Cover photo by  
Olivia Beatty

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

## IN THE NEWS compiled from wire reports

### WORLD

**TEHRAN, Iran** – An Iranian nuclear agency has denied claims by a top lawmaker that the Islamic Republic had begun installing 3,000 centrifuges at a uranium enrichment plant.

Hossein Simorgh, spokesman of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization public relations department, said, "No new centrifuges have been installed in Natanz," referring to the nuclear facility in central Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Earlier Saturday, lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi said Iran was currently installing the centrifuges, underlining that the country would continue to develop its disputed nuclear program despite U.N. sanctions.

It was not immediately clear why the two officials made contradicting statements. Iranian officials have in recent weeks said the country was moving toward large-scale enrichment involving 3,000 centrifuges, which spin uranium gas into enriched material.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini refused to elaborate on the discrepancy Sunday, saying only that the contradicting remarks were a "technical matter."

"Let the organization elaborate on it at a convenient time," Hosseini said.

Hosseini also said that Russia's national security adviser, Igor Ivanov, arrived in Tehran on Sunday for talks with top leaders, including President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Ali Larijani, the country's nuclear negotiator.

### NATION

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton blamed President Bush Saturday for misusing his authority to act in Iraq but conceded, "I take responsibility" for her role in allowing that to happen.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Clinton said she would not cede black votes to Barack Obama and that she had proven as a U.S. senator that gender is irrelevant.

Of her husband, the former president, she said he would have a role in the campaign but "I'm the one running for president."

Clinton was making her first campaign swing through the early-nominating state, which twice voted for Bill Clinton for president. She met with key activists and held a raucous town hall meeting with 1,500 cheering backers and hundreds of journalists.

"I have said clearly and consistently for quite some time that I regret the way the president misused the authority," Clinton said. "He misled Congress and the country on what he was seeking and what he intended to do."

### STATE & LOCAL

**SUFFOLK** – Policing the Internet is paying off for city police.

A man is facing felony drug distribution charges after an investigation that police said started after his brother used his MySpace Web page to boast of their homegrown marijuana crop and the frequency with which both men use marijuana.

Michael Wayne Pilkerton, 20, of Suffolk, was charged after police used an informant to make three marijuana purchases from him in recent months, police said. They said the investigation was launched in March after they learned about the MySpace page.

The page's creator, Jonathan Pilkerton, was not mentioned any further in a search warrant filed in Suffolk Circuit Court detailing the investigation last week.

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## HPV vaccine might be required for Va. children

**OLIVIA BEATTY AND AMY CAPISTRAN**  
*Capital News Service*

Virginia might be one of the first states to add the newly developed human papillomavirus vaccine to the list of required vaccinations for school children.

A bill before the Senate would require girls to receive the first dose of a three-part vaccine before entering sixth grade. Sen. Yvonne Miller, D-Norfolk, said she supports the bill.

"This bill is a way to prevent individuals and families from needless suffering," Miller said.

HPV is a sexually transmitted disease that can lead to several types of cancer, including cervical cancer. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, cervical cancer kills an average of 3,700 women a year.

If passed, the bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2008.

The State Board of Health Regulations for the Immunization of School Children requires the vaccination, which is free to those unable to pay the current retail price of \$120 a dose. The total cost for all three doses is \$360.

The Food and Drug Administration licensed the vaccine in June 2006 for use on 9- to 26-year-old females. The recommended age for vaccination is 11 to 12 years. The three shots are administered over a six-month period.

As with all vaccinations required for school children by the State Board of Health, parents may object to their child receiving the vaccine by citing religious reasons or concerns for their child's health.

Merck, the pharmaceutical company producing the vaccine, lists a disclaimer on its Web site stating, "Only a doctor or a healthcare professional can decide" if the vaccine is appropriate for an individual patient.

The Web site also lists potential side effects such

as "pain, swelling, itching and redness at the injection site, fever, nausea and dizziness."

Several other states are considering HPV vaccination bills, including Maryland, South Carolina, California, Colorado and Texas. A similar bill failed to pass in the Michigan Legislature.

According to the CDC, a genital HPV infection is a sexually transmitted disease caused by HPV. However, many people infected with HPV may never find out about it because the body takes care of it without treatment.

The CDC says there are about 40 types of HPV. The vaccine protects against four of the major types, which collectively cause 70 percent of cervical cancer incidences and 90 percent of genital wart breakouts.

"Approximately 20 million people are currently infected with HPV," the CDC Web site states. "At least 50 percent of sexually active men and women acquire genital HPV infection at some point in their lives. About 6.2 million Americans get a new genital HPV infection each year."

Karen Sagun illustration

## GA news at a glance

**GERGANA BOBEVA  
AND REBECCA LANDAU**  
*Capital News Service*

- Virginia colleges and universities might be required to submit an annual report detailing how they have promoted ideological balance. A bill sponsored by Delegate R. Steven Landes, R-Weyers Cave, aims to create diversity among universities' guest speakers and faculty by requiring submission of the reports to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia by Dec. 31 every year. The bill is currently being reviewed in the House Higher Education Subcommittee.

- Smoking in public buildings might be banned if a bill reaches approval. The Virginia Smoke Free Air Act, sponsored by Sen. J. Brandon Bell II, R-Roanoke, passed the Senate Education and Health Committee Thursday in a 9-5 vote. The bill calls for penalties of \$100 for first-time offenders and \$250 for subsequent offenses or for offenders who continue smoking in prohibited places after an initial offense. Owners who permit smoking in public buildings also will be subject to fines. Civil penalties of \$200 for first-time offenders will increase to \$500 for subsequent offenses.

- Speed limits for school buses will increase if a proposal is approved by the Senate. The bill passed the House of Delegates Jan. 22 and was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee Jan. 23. Introduced by Delegate Matthew J. Lohr, R-Harrisonburg, the bill aims to let school buses drive 60 mph instead of 55 mph.

- Fairfax County fourth-graders' request for the Ginger Gold apple to be the new Virginia state fruit was killed last week. Delegate Kristen J. Amundson, D-Mount Vernon, carried the bill for the school children.



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# New VCU Transit Route!

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VCU Parking and Transportation Services strives to provide excellent customer service. We value customer feedback and encourage you to visit our website at:

[www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark](http://www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark)

You may also contact Ms. Miriam Maddux, the VCU Parking and Transportation Ombudsman, at 828-2421 or [madduxmf@vcu.edu](mailto:madduxmf@vcu.edu).




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# Stem cells of biblical proportions

**JORDAN RODERICKS**  
Contributing writer

“Stem cell” is a term not directly cited in any classical religious work. Yet, a VCU study links religious affiliation to views on stem cell research.

Conducted over a 15-day period, a recent VCU Life Sciences telephone survey of 1,000 adults indicates religious beliefs and opinions about embryonic stem cell research are connected.

“Sixty-eight percent of people who say that religion is not an important part of their life say they are in favor of embryonic stem cell research,” Pamela Lepley, director of University News Services, said in a press release.

The study found that support of stem cell research has decreased 4 percent from 2005 to 2006. The majority of the surveyed, 54 percent, supported the research, while 37 percent opposed it.

“Forty percent of people who say

that religious beliefs provide a great deal of guidance for their day-to-day living are in favor of embryonic stem cell research,” the press release states.

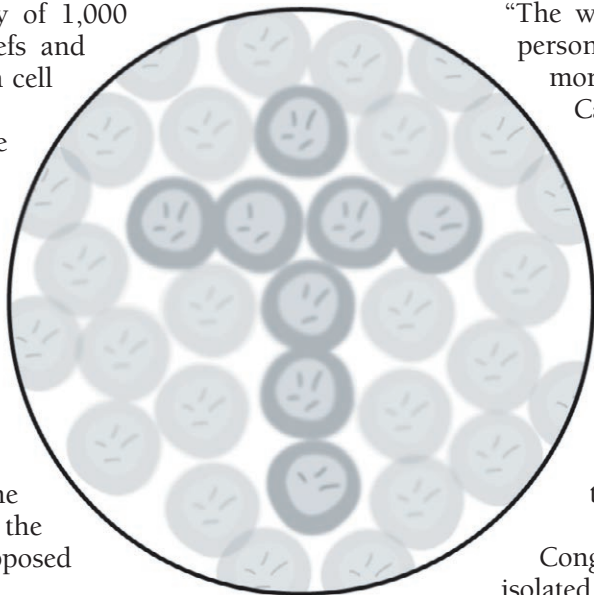
Several theologians have weighed in on the stem cell research debate.

Lisa Sowle Cahill is a professor of theology at Boston College.

“The whole idea that the embryo is a person is really a philosophical idea more than a strictly religious one,” Cahill said. “The church even says that we don’t know that for sure philosophically, but we should give the embryo the benefit of the doubt and be especially protective of it.”

PBS NewsWeekly Web site reports the U.S. Roman Catholic Bishops oppose the research, calling it “immoral, illegal and unnecessary.” The bishops say life begins at conception, the Web site claims.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations’ viewpoint is that “an isolated, fertilized egg does not enjoy the full status of personhood.”



Karen Sagun illustration

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# Sports

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### Rams fight back, but fall short against Dragons

**KIA BRADY**  
Sports Writer

The Rams showed a strong effort but couldn't weather the storm, losing to the Towson Tigers 59-52 yesterday. VCU was led by senior Michele Cosel (Mechanicsville, Va./Atlee), who tied a career high with 20 points and contributed four assists and four rebounds. Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake, Va./Great Bridge) also chipped in with another double-double with 11 points and 17 rebounds.

The game was full of spurts, with Towson starting the game with a 10-1 run.

"We came out sluggish, and our energy wasn't there today," said Cosel.

VCU then went on its own 11-3

run to pull close.

With 5:13 remaining in the first half, Cosel and Hollingsworth were forced to come out of the game because of foul trouble. The Tigers used this to their advantage and went on a 9-2 run to extend the gap to 29-15 by halftime.

The teams traded baskets to begin the second half, and with 13:41 remaining in the second half, the Rams trimmed the lead to seven at 37-30. This was as close as they would come.

For most of the second half, VCU kept their deficit between nine and 10 points, but untimely turnovers and poor foul shooting (11-of-24) troubled the Rams. On a positive note, the Rams did outscore the Tigers in the second half, 37-30.

The Rams have lost two in a row and drop to 3-6 in conference play and 10-9 overall. VCU remains in 8<sup>th</sup> place in the CAA. VCU hopes to rebound on Thursday against Delaware at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

#### The Score

**VCU 52**  
**TOWSON 59**

### Inside the numbers

**Towson (5-4 CAA, 14-5):** Davis 2, Robinson 12, Baker-Brice 14, Freeman 18, Mahan 5, Abraham 0, Snowden 0, Beasley 8, Keown 0, Gaston 0, Pyne 0. Totals: 20 16-24 59. 3-pointers: Freeman 2, Baker-Brice.

**VCU (3-6, 10-9):** Vaughn 8, Hollingsworth 11, Cosel 20, Chistova 3, Jones 0, Waller 7, Rorie 0, 3. Totals: 18 11-24 52. 3-pointers: Cosel 4, Chistova.



CT file photo

Michele Cosel's 20 points were not enough to lead the Rams over the Tigers.

### THIS WEEK

#### Men's Basketball

Mon., Jan. 29, vs. William & Mary, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.  
Wed., Jan. 31, @ Hofstra, Hempstead, N.Y., 7 p.m.

#### Women's Basketball

Thurs., Feb. 1, vs. Delaware, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.

#### Men's Tennis

Fri., Feb. 2, vs. Virginia, Thalheimer Tennis Center, 7:00 p.m.

#### Women's Tennis

Feb. 1-4 @ USTA/ITA National Team Indoor Championships, Madison, Wis.

#### Men's Track and Field

Feb. 2-3, New Balance Invitational, New York, N.Y.

#### Women's Track and Field

Sat., Feb. 3, North Carolina Invitational, Chapel Hill, N.C.

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



## Second-half Questions

**JONATHAN HOWARD**  
Sports Editor

The VCU men's basketball team is now 10-0 in the conference after Saturday's road victory against Drexel. Now that the second half of the conference season has started, these are the big questions for the rest of the season and beyond...

### *Can the Rams finish the season undefeated?*

I've been asked this question more times than I care to remember, and it is a topic of conversation among pretty much anyone who keeps up with the basketball team. My answer, however, is no. If there is one thing that I have learned, it's that no matter how good a team is; they must eventually lose. The last team to entertain an undefeated record was Illinois during the 2004-2005 season. The Illini breezed through their schedule before losing to Ohio State, a team that was on probation and without star power. VCU already losing three non-conference games lowers the pressure, but it's still a tough situation. The biggest threat for a loss is Wednesday night when the Rams travel to New York to face Hofstra. However, as Ohio State proved, all giants can fall.

### *What happens if VCU DOES finish the conference season undefeated?*

Because of the undefeated conference record and the nine-game winning streak, VCU has started to garner a lot of national respect. If the Rams were to finish with a conference record of 18-0, they would easily wrap up an NCAA Tournament berth. Even if the Rams were to drop a game in the CAA tournament, it would be VERY hard for the selection committee to overlook an 18-0 conference record. The CAA hasn't been as strong as many predicted this year, but Hofstra, Old Dominion, Drexel and George Mason (especially after their Final Four run) all draw respect from around the nation. VCU has gotten a lot of attention from the national polls as well, which assures the Rams that they will receive a decent seed in the tournament.



Men's basketball head coach Anthony Grant

### *How long will Anthony Grant be at VCU?*

He's been here for less than a year, but you already can see a difference in the program. The team has reached a plateau that it had not reached under former coach Jeff Capel. One could argue that the Rams haven't accomplished anything yet because the season has yet to end. But let's be honest: When's the last time VCU was considered for the Top 25? Keep in mind that VCU was picked sixth in the CAA in pre-season polls. Major schools that are looking for a spark will be willing to offer coach Grant more than VCU can offer. More than likely, this isn't Grant's last stop. It's just a matter of when, rather than if.

**OK GUYS... it's your turn. Do you have questions or comments about VCU sports? Have an opinion on professional sports? Send in your thoughts to the sports mailbag by e-mail, [sports@commonwealthtimes.com](mailto:sports@commonwealthtimes.com), or by dropping them off in the sports box at The Commonwealth Times office at 817 W. Broad St.**

## Standings

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Conference	Overall	Games back	streak
<b>VCU</b>	<b>10-0</b>	<b>18-3</b>	-	<b>W9</b>
Hofstra	9-1	16-5	1	W4
Drexel	7-3	15-5	3	L1
Old Dominion	7-3	14-7	3	W2
George Mason	6-4	12-8	4	W1
Northeastern	5-5	7-14	5	W2
William & Mary	4-6	11-9	6	W1
Towson	4-6	10-11	6	L1
Georgia State	3-7	7-13	7	L3
James Madison	3-7	6-14	7	L2
UNC Wilmington	1-9	4-15	9	L5
Delaware	1-9	3-18	9	L4

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Conference	Overall	Games back	streak
James Madison	9-0	17-2	-	W9
Old Dominion	8-0	12-7	½	W9
Delaware	8-1	17-3	1	W1
Hofstra	5-4	14-5	4	L1
William & Mary	5-4	13-7	4	L1
Towson	5-4	14-5	4	W3
Georgia State	4-5	12-8	5	W1
<b>VCU</b>	<b>3-6</b>	<b>10-9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>L2</b>
UNC Wilmington	2-6	6-13	6½	W1
Northeastern	2-7	3-17	7	L4
George Mason	2-7	8-11	7	L1
Drexel	0-9	5-15	9	L8



# In Brief

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Rams extended their winning streak to nine games, and improved to 10-0 in the conference Saturday after a win over Drexel in Philadelphia. The Rams improve to 4-1 on the road versus Drexel, which holds a 3-2 advantage over VCU in the Stuart C. Siegel Center. B.A. Walker (Onancock, Va./Nandua) scored a game-high 24 points (6-8 3-pointers) to lead the Rams to victory. Eric Maynor (Fayetteville, N.C./Westover) and Jesse Pellot-Rosa (Richmond, Va./George Wythe) scored 17 and 14 points respectively to round out double-digit scoring for VCU. Drexel led by two at the half, but the Rams continued their solid play late in the game to pull out the victory.

VCU was assisted by 16 Drexel turnovers, which were turned into 29 points. The Rams also held a 9-0 advantage in fast break points. For Drexel, Bashir Mason scored 19 points and eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for his career.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Lady Rams fell to rival Old Dominion last Thursday, 84-62. Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake, Va./Great Bridge) led VCU with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Michele Cosel (Mechanicsville, Va./Atlee) added 14 points and eight rebounds, while Lakea Jones (Fort Washington, Md./National Christian Academy) scored 11.

## MEN'S TENNIS

The 14<sup>th</sup>-ranked Rams fell to No. 7 Duke 4-2 over the weekend. Sergi Arumi (Barcelona, Spain) picked up the lone singles victory for VCU. The Rams won 2-of-3 doubles matches.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

Through Saturday's matches, No. 13 VCU recorded four sweeps in as many matches in the 4 X 1 Invitational. VCU defeated Campbell, UNC Wilmington, Delaware and East Carolina, all by a score of 5-0.

## MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Davion Lambert (Richmond, Va./Virginia) picked up his fifth win of the season after taking first in the high jump event. Lambert's jump measured 7- 1/4. He also took third place in the long jump with a 24-5 leap.

Jay Wyss (Richmond, Va./J.R. Tucker) placed first in the 3,000-meter run for VCU.

## WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Verniece Johnson (Mineral, Va./Louisiana) placed first in the long jump at the Navy Invitational. Johnson's jump measured 18 feet 2 1/4 inches.

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# Spectrum

*"I don't think you realize how messed-up your priorities are until you walk into a gas station and say 'Yeah...let me get a pack of Camels...and 48 cents on pump two.'"*

—Nick Cantone



## Erik Meyers

I went to a club last night, and there was the song "Lean back, lean back..." I \*\*\*\*ing fell down.

## VCU Homecoming kicks off with a laugh

**GERGANA BOBEVA**  
News Editor

Energy and laughter filled the Commonwealth Ballroom Saturday evening, when a crowd of about 100 students gathered for the Local Talent Comedy Show.

The show brought three professional comedians to VCU for a free show, as one of the opening events for Homecoming 2007.

Pat Dean, a senior English major and comedian, hosted the show. Other performers were Nick Cantone and Odyssey Michaels from Richmond, and Erik Meyers from Baltimore, Md.

Jokes were about VCU being the only place where North and South were following

the same left sign on the highway, and the difference between love and sex being a \$20 bill.

Organizers and comedians were happy with the turnout of the show at the end of the evening.

"I feel happy. It was a good show. People laughed and I couldn't be more pleased," Cantone said. "We told jokes, and they laughed, and when we told bad jokes, they stared at us."

Michaels said he enjoyed the show and thought it was well organized.

"I had a wonderful time. The people that put this event together did a wonderful job," Michaels said. "It was absolute pleasure to come and perform."

Cynthia K. Merchant photos



## Odyssey Michaels

I went here, too. I went here... And by "went" I mean I used the bathroom here about 10 minutes ago.

## \*NSYNC'er visits Richmond

**PAT KANE**  
Executive Editor

I'm waiting in the lobby of the Omni Hotel to talk to perhaps the most famous person I'll ever meet: JC Chazez of '90s megaband \*NSYNC.

A thin woman in heels is complaining about the odor in her room. After scanning the lobby, she elaborates to her crew that it smells like "12 Indians are cooking onions in there." But she is pleased that the horse trade show she's with is making money, even if she detests Richmond.

I surmise that Delta Airlines also hates Richmond, since JC's flight from New York sat on the tarmac for an hour. I catch up with him waiting to scarf down dinner with his manager, Eric, and a guy named J.R. in the hotel's cavernous dining room.

"I'm literally hand delivering the first single to everybody," JC says of his new tune, "Until Yesterday."

Chazez is "running up and down the East Coast," he says, playing small gigs and doing radio station promos.

"The travel wears you down, but the good part is that I'm talking to people that live, eat, breath, sleep music everyday," he says.

"The music industry has changed night and day, 180 degrees in the past five years," he says.

He's reconnecting with the fans and the stations he hopes will pick up on "Until Yesterday" and his sophomore album.

We turn to working on the album with former bandmate Justin Timberlake.

"I've know him since he was 12," he says as two waiters plop down the trio's supper. "We brought a new kind of excitement and creativity to the table." He likes that Timberlake took a chance with last year's smash hit "FutureSex/LoveSounds."

"He wanted to grow as a musician, and he absolutely did," Chazez says.

The single, musing on breaking up with a girlfriend pregnant with another man's baby, started with the tag line, "I loved you all the way until yesterday."

"I gave him the line, and then Justin started playing some keyboard parts that seemed a bit campy, and we went with it," JC says.

Timbaland is also playing a key role in the album. JC hadn't heard about Timbaland's alleged sample robbery from Finnish producer Janne Suni, but said he's taking over the world.

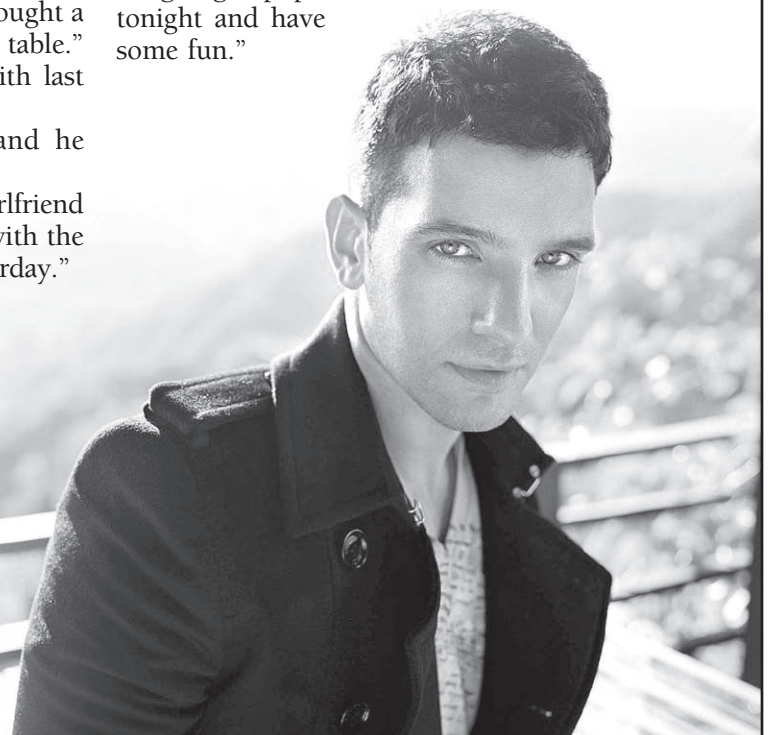
"Everyone originally looked at him as just a hip-hop producer," he says. "But he's

tackled an entirely different market. He's a jack-of-all-trades."

Chazez sums up his album as "intelligent." "It's a thoughtful record," he says of the tentatively titled "Kate," named for his imaginary muse. "I put brain power into every aspect of the record."

The Orlando resident, who's been in Richmond all of half an hour, disagrees with some other Omni guests.

"My hotel room is great. I'm going to pop out tonight and have some fun."





From **blurry**  
**pinholes** to  
digital  
feedback



Douglass Barkey's "Hands/Fire", 2004

Olivia Beatty photos

**OLIVIA BEATTY**  
*Spectrum Editor*

Cameras have come a long way. Three of the four local artists' exhibits that opened at Artspace and the Project Space Gallery in Plant Zero Friday night spanned the gamut of photographic possibilities.

Foggy black and white photos, blurry photo postcards and vibrant wavy photos, in addition to bright acrylic paintings made the walls pop at the Manchester-area gallery.

The large parking lot was packed, as a steady flow of people mingled in and out of the gallery. A DJ turned the tables down one hall, as a band played a Flaming Lips cover in the main gallery. Finger food was nibbled and wine was sipped.

The Project Space Gallery is a long hallway where VCU School of the Arts professor Rosemary Jesionowski's interactive installation "Where are you going,

GALLERY continued to Page CT12



Rosemary Jesionowski's  
photo postcards



# WEIRD NEWS

## Random act of Gnome violence

Several dozen gnomes were beheaded by vandals at the Australian tourist attraction "Gnomesville." A \$390 reward is being offered for the capture of the attackers.

"Gnomesville" lies deep in the forest, south of Perth. It boasts an impressive collection of more than 1,000 of the chubby-cheeked figurines.



## Convict drives self back to jail

An Irish convict stole a car to take himself back to prison, after he had missed a weekend release deadline. The man has been given a six month suspended jail sentence.

He had fallen asleep on the bus and missed his stop, so he nabbed the nearest car in an effort to make his deadline.

The convict was also fined \$390 for failing to submit a Breathalyzer test.

## Pot-growing sailor

A Russian nuclear submarine officer was convicted Wednesday for growing cannabis in his barracks' window and distributing it to his fellow sailors. The officer had been drying and pushing it to the rest of the crew for a year.

In unrelated news, the same submarine misfired a test missile last year.

## Die single? Try a "ghost bride"

Two women were killed to sell as "ghost brides" for dead single men. Chinese police have arrested three men in connection to the bizarre slayings.

An old belief still held in some parts of China, is that men who die without a wife must be buried with a dead woman. The two will be husband and wife in the afterlife.

Often, they are women who die of natural causes. The strange custom has taken a deadly turn since becoming an easy way to make money.

Families of the young men pay around \$1,600 for the corpse brides. Officials fear that more murders may be linked to the custom.

## Iguana's unending arousal

An iguana, whose erection has lasted for more than a week, is due to have his penis amputated. Veterinarians in Antwerp tried to treat the arousal problem, but decided removal was the only answer because of the risk of infection to his already red and swollen penis.

Fortunately, male iguanas have two penises.

## Tiny dancers

A dance school in China has been shut down after sending 22 students, some as young as 15, to work as bar girls.

The girls spent six months at the school, and were then sent to nightclubs to entertain male clients during dinner parties.

It was reported that the clients would freely "fumble across the girls' bodies and embrace them."

The clubs paid 100 yuan a night for every girl, half of which was taken by the company that made the arrangement. The remainder was divided between the school and the girl.

fiction drama poetry

nonfiction

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StudentUniverse.com

## Lunchjustgoteasier @the new Hideaway Café

Hideaway Café is located in the Hunton Student Center at the corner of Broad and 12th Street. The Hideaway Café will offer a delicious mix of tasty breakfast, lunch, and dinner options and a convenient ordering method. The Hideaway Café will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and closed on weekends.



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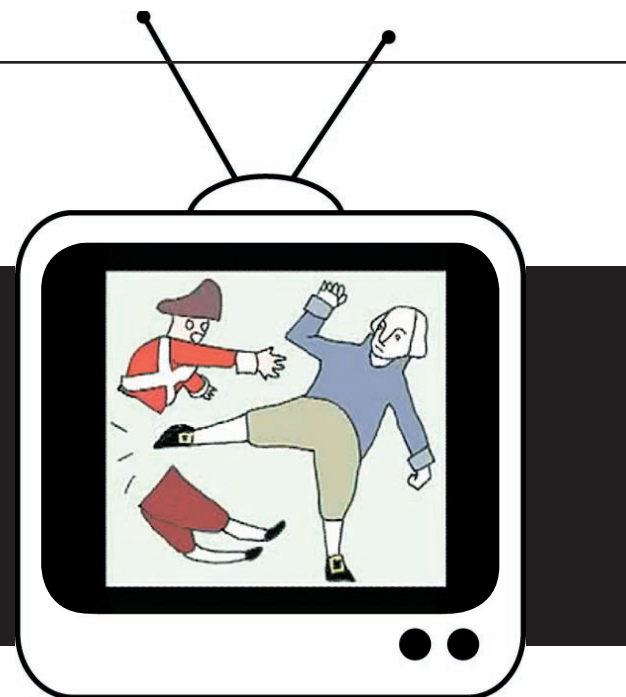




Check out the CT staff's favorite videos at  
<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=CommonwealthTimes>

**Looking for an entertaining video on YouTube can be like searching for a needle in a haystack.** With users uploading at least 65,000 new videos a day, it's hard to know what to look for and where to find it. That's why the CT has created The CTube. Issue to issue, we'll weed through all the good, bad and ugly that YouTube has to offer to find what we think, at the least, will hold your attention. No need to spend more time than necessary on YouTube when Facebook already consumes half of your day, right?

the  
**Ctube**



#### PAT KANE

Executive Editor

The mythology and lore Americans have built around our founding fathers is a thing to behold. But Brad Neely's animated video "Washington" will expand even the greatest presidential scholar's frame of mind. Did you know, for example, that George Washington:

- Invented cocaine?
- Killed his sensei in a duel, and never said why?
- Will kick you apart?
- Had a wig for his wig?

• Once held an opponent's wife's hand in a jar of acid... at a party?

The two-minute video features wig-clad singers Cox and Combes warning, "Opponents beware/He's coming, he's coming, he's coming!" Washington starts his day surveying the land on his horse made of crystal accompanied by a Schnauzer dog. He shares some snuff with the ladies before dispensing several British troops by devouring their brains or kicking them in half.

The simple line drawings and rapid-fire delivery quickly wipe clean your preexisting notion of

our first president. Perhaps the finest moment is when the beat drops, and we learn, "He'll save children, but not the British children." G.W. reads the newspaper as lions and crocodiles munch on little Redcoats. Then he shoves a burning building marked "British School" off a cliff into the sea.

While I can't delve into all of the facts in a family newspaper – rest assured this is not fit to be shown to first-graders – it only gets better from there.

What do I want to see next from Neely? "Fillmore," an exposé on our greatest president, Millard Fillmore.

## GALLERY continued from Page CT10

where are you from?" hangs.

Jesionowski turned her color pinhole photos of landscapes and buildings into self-addressed, postage-paid postcards with questions on them like: "Where are you?" or "What's something you did when you were 11?"

The postcards are hinged onto the gallery wall so viewers can see both sides. Most people have answered the questions literally, while others filled in random answers or wildly colored with crayon. Jesionowski says she sent out around 3,000 postcards.

"I am exploring ideas of travel, moving and memory as they relate to one's sense of place or home," Jesionowski said. "I began by giving postcards to friends and family . . . Once I had exhausted those resources, I began sending whole stacks of postcards to friends, magazines and art centers across the country, asking that the cards be handed out to as many people as possible."

Douglas Barkey's "Traversed Light" plays with the instant feedback of digital photography to create distortion and wavy squiggles of bright light. Barkey also used movement and digital tools to make his large, vividly colored photos.

"I am fascinated by the manner in which I can 'paint' as a photographer, literally using my camera

to transform nature into a flowing river of light, a dancing and vibrant space, merging colors to form new shapes that only exist inside the camera," Barkey said.

Originally from Argentina, Barkey now lives in Richmond where he is the vice president of Media WORKS Enterprise, an art and design youth development program.

Catherine "Kitty" Johnson's "A Bridge Hidden by the Fog" also takes advantage of digital photography technology, to capture the fog and bridges on the James River.

Johnson says a digital camera sees fog differently than a traditional camera. Her black-and-white photos show the harsh lines of the bridge against the wispy, mysterious fog.

"I have been photographing the river and its bridges for years at different seasons and at different times of the day. Depending upon the light, the time of day, the season of the year, the same subject becomes an entirely different picture," Johnson said.

2002 VCU painting and printmaking graduate Jessica Sims' "Right Here, Right Now" is a collection of bright and simple acrylic paintings. The paintings are small, and their paint is thick and textured, giving them a sense of movement. Sims uses color



Olivia Beatty photo

### The Jangling Reinharts rock out.

associations from memories of childhood to create the abstract works.



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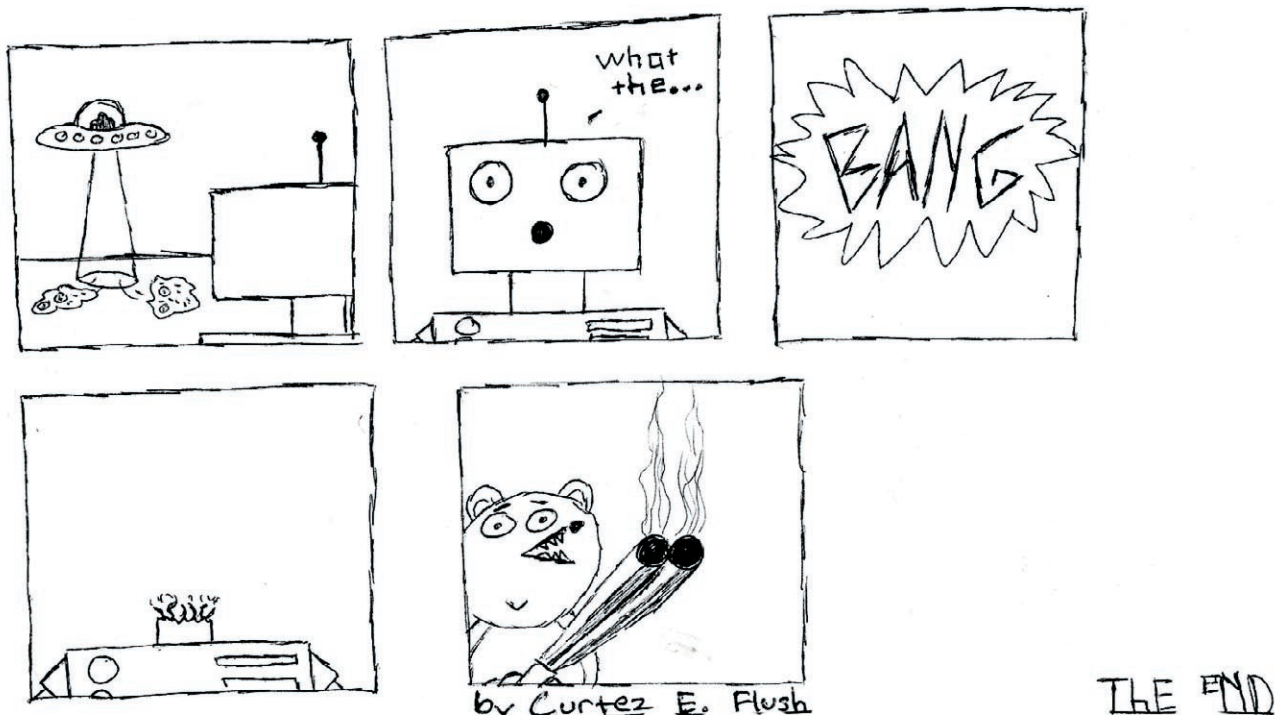


# Comics & Classifieds

## Robot and Bear Classics

Curtez E. Flush

The Adventures of Robot and Bear Episode 3 "Seein' if it works"



## EMPLOYMENT

SUMMER JOBS NO WEEKENDS or EVENINGS! Hanover County is looking for seasonal Recreation Aides, Recreation Therapeutic Aides and Recreation Supervisors for their summer youth program. Req's HS diploma or equivalent. For more information and to apply visit [hanovercountyjobs.com](http://hanovercountyjobs.com) or call 804-365-6334 (tdd#365-6140). Positions are filling quickly, apply soon. EOE/MFDV

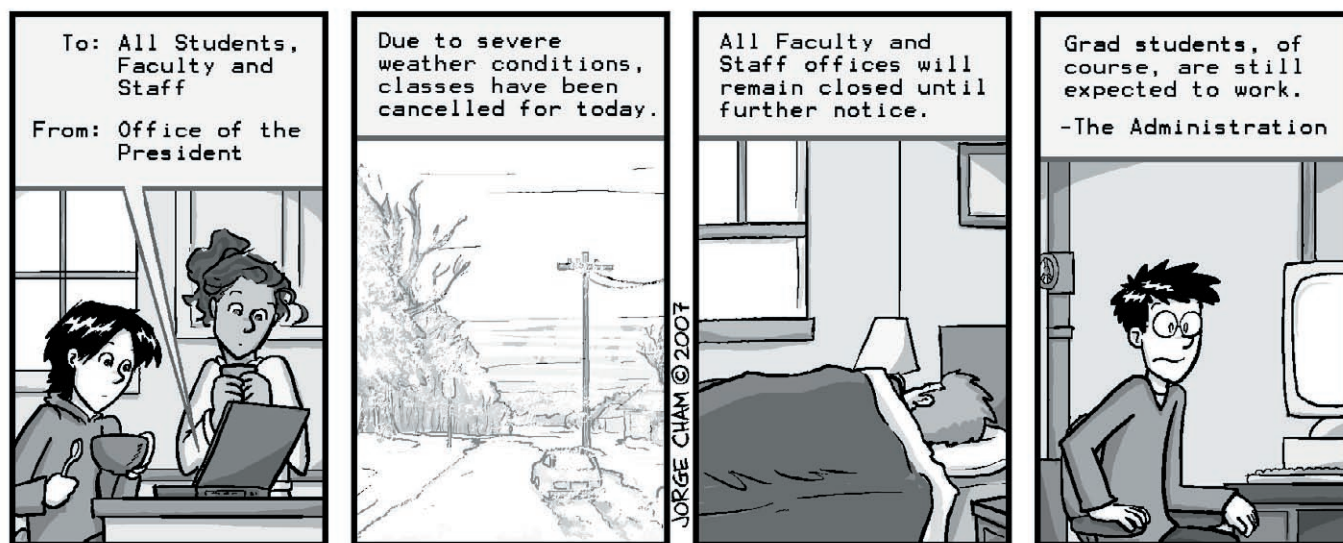
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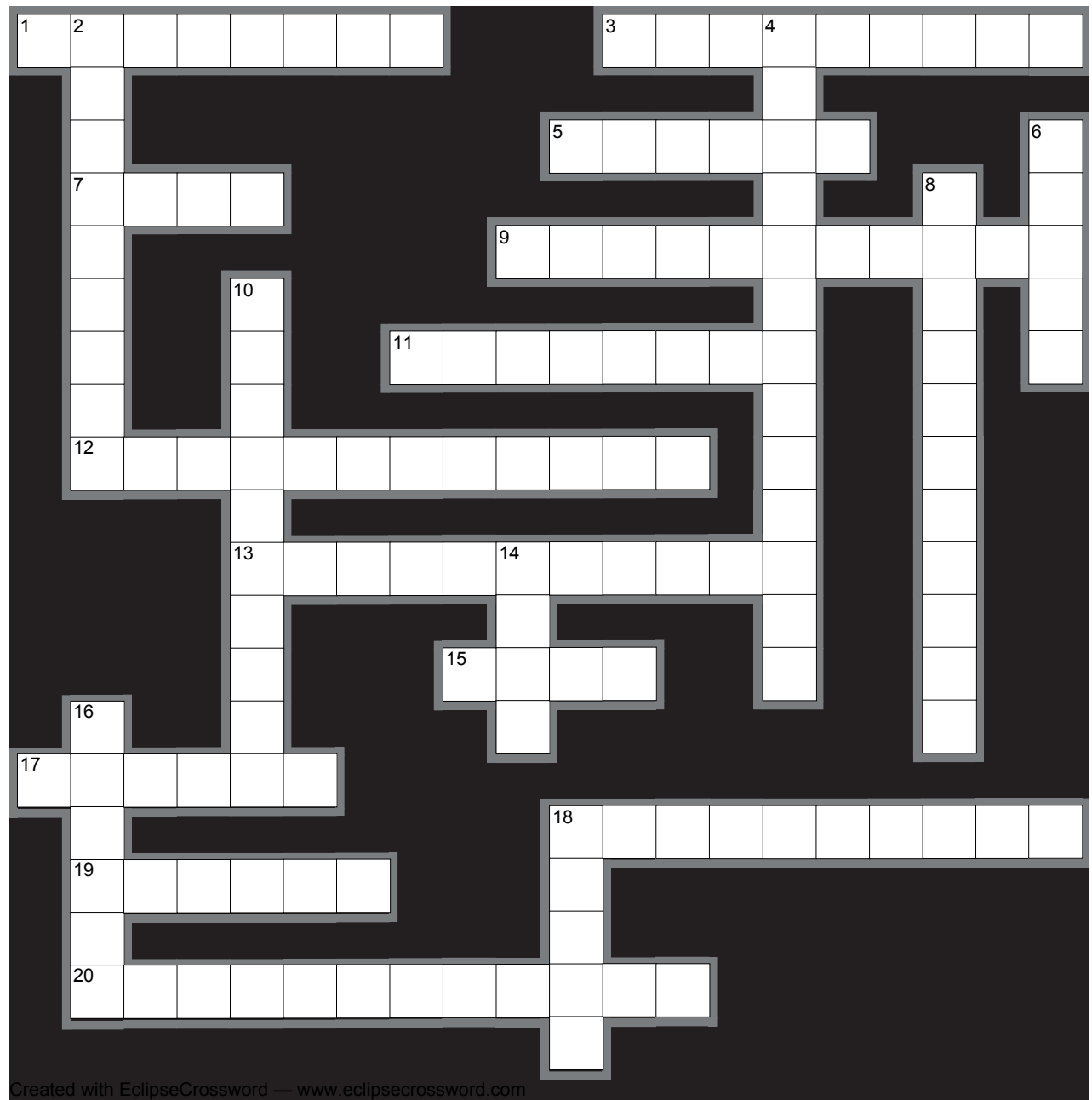


# Crossword

Silver screen edition

## ACROSS

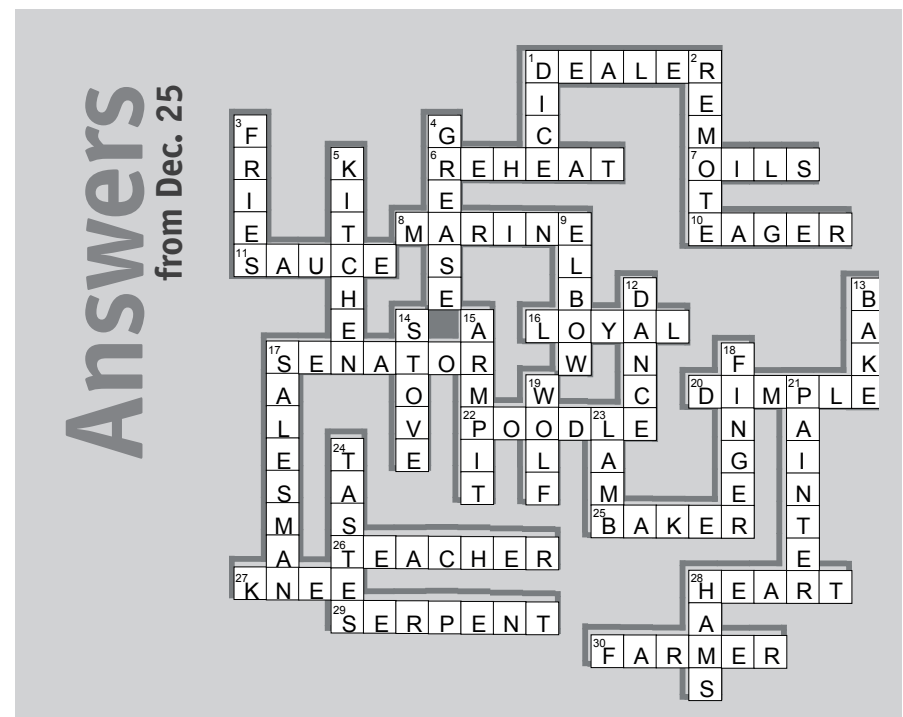
1. "\_\_\_\_ Rising" is a thriller about Lecter's origins.
3. Romantic comedy starring Zach Braff and Amanda Peet.
5. "The \_\_\_\_ 23" stars Jim Carrey in this psychological thriller.
7. "\_\_\_\_ 911: Miami" is a comedy about the police of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department.
9. Tyler Perry's "Daddy's \_\_\_\_\_"
11. Comedy starring Tim Allen, John Travolta, Martin Lawrence and William H. Macy. The middle-aged suburbanites go on a bike trip.
12. Horror movie about a woman returning to her homeland Russia to inherit her parents home after her mother's strange death.
13. "I Think \_\_\_\_\_" stars Chris Rock in this comedy about marriage and temptation.
15. "Because I \_\_\_\_ So" starring Diane Keaton and Mandy Moore.
17. Thriller based on actual case files. A serial killer taunts police with ciphers and letters.
18. From Marvel Comics. This movie is about Johnny Blaze who makes a deal with the devil. Stars Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes.
19. Dramatic thriller inspired by true events of the FBI. Stars Chris Cooper and Ryan Phillippe.
20. Based on Frank Miller's graphic novel that retells the Battle of Thermopylae between the Spartans and the Persians.



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

## DOWN

2. "The \_\_\_\_\_ Farmer" is about a former NASA worker who pursues his dream of building his own rocket. Takes place on a ranch.
4. Upcoming horror movie. Children see paranormal activity that adults cannot see.
6. "\_\_\_\_ and Lyrics" stars Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore.
8. This psychological thriller stars Sandra Bullock as a wife who vividly sees that her husband dies. However, the next morning she sees him alive and well.
10. "Bridge to \_\_\_\_\_" is a Disney movie of fantasy, adventure and friendship.
14. "Black Snake \_\_\_\_\_" stars Samuel L. Jackson, Christina Ricci and Justin Timberlake. God-fearing man and town tramp find redemption.
16. Eddie Murphy comedy about a man who was forced into marriage to a mean and hideous woman.
18. "Days of \_\_\_\_\_" is about soldiers from Africa who enlist in the French Army to fight against the Nazis in WWII.



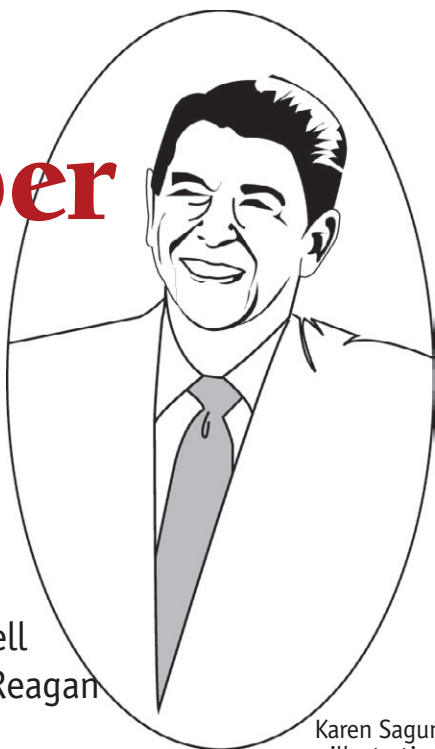
Answers  
from Dec. 25



# Opinion

## The Gipper Fact of the Week:

The Berlin Wall fell because Ronald Reagan punched it.



Karen Sagun illustration

## Hate mail, Round 2

**WILLIAM HUSZAR**  
*Op-Ed Editor*

Are you people illiterate?

Are you people lulled into a sense of satisfaction because of the Democratic victories in the past several months?

That must be the case - I received no negative mail over the weekend, but rather, a plethora of positive remarks. Not that I'm displeased - just a little disappointed in the more liberal sector of VCU. All that hate and vitriol that comes spewing out of your mouths on a day-to-day basis, and I sneak a right-wing article through a college newspaper without question? Geez, I thought even with the "Axis of Suck" comment someone would've been displeased. Apparently not.

Well, I'll just print all of the wonderful

responses I got from people who appreciated my attempts to stir some debate here, because, quite frankly, if you didn't like what I printed, and you don't write back - well, that's a victory for me. It proves why I am what I am. The other side is lazy and disorganized, much like their views on social policies.

By the way, what's up with John "Blue-Collar Champion" Edwards building a 30,000 square-foot home? Can you say "excess"? Not that I want to tax the wealthy any more—they already pay a disproportionate amount of taxes, but if you really believe in populism, I'm sure you can find better uses for all that extra money you don't mind parting with if you got the funds to build a house fit for about 300 people. Well, he probably needs the extra space for all the spare pairs of shoes he wears out chasing ambulances.

## From the president

**ALI FARUK**

*President, Monroe Park Campus SGA  
Special to the Commonwealth Times*

Greetings fellow students. I hope your semester is off to a great start! You might have noticed how the amount of trash in the Commons has become ridiculous. I want to give a gentle reminder to all students that we should respect each other and our school. So please pick up the trash around you. Respect your fellow students who work in the Commons by picking up your own trash and anything else you can.

The student senate had its first meeting of the semester last Monday. I delivered my State of the Student Body Address to a full house of senators. The State of the Student Body Address was my opportunity to recount the accomplishments of the SGA from this past spring and to discuss my plans for the future. If you're interested in hearing the address, it is uploaded to [www.vcusga.com](http://www.vcusga.com) as an audio podcast.

After I gave my address, the senate passed a bill to put Veterans Day on the university calendar. For some reason, it was never on the calendar before. Other bills that were introduced were a

Banned Students Bill to prevent students who have been banned from VCU from enrolling as students. This is more or less a housekeeping bill and a common-sense proposal to do something that should have already been taken care of. The other is the ResNet Bill, which deals with the new software that students in residence halls are required to install on their computers. Some students have expressed concerns about its effectiveness and questioned its purpose. Student senate meetings are held every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Commons Forum Room. All students are welcome and invited to attend.

Part of my role as student body president is to make sure those of you who want to contribute to our student body aren't sitting on the sidelines. That's why I encourage all students to consider applying to be a student representative to the VCU Board of Visitors for the 2007-2008 academic year. The student representative serves as a non-voting representative to the board's Student Affairs Committee. Eligible students must be enrolled as a full-time student in good standing and maintain continuous full-time enrollment throughout the representative term. For more infor-

mation, please check the VCU Web site or contact Reuban Rodriguez at [vcudean@vcu.edu](mailto:vcudean@vcu.edu).

Speaking of getting students involved, here's a way to directly affect the decisions that are made at the Virginia General Assembly: Come out to Virginia21's special session on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 3 p.m. in the Canal Room of the Commons to learn about issues that are important to Virginia's students and are being voted on by Virginia's lawmakers. Some bills that the General Assembly is working on are a redistricting study and an intellectual diversity bill. Do you think we need a non-partisan redistricting plan? Do you think that intellectual diversity is a problem on campus? E-mail [politics@vcusga.com](mailto:politics@vcusga.com), or join the Facebook group "Let's Do Something About It" for more information.

And lastly, it's about that time again: SGA elections. We have election packets available for student body president, student body vice president, executive director of university relations and senator positions for the fall of 2007. The best place to find out more about this is the SGA Web site at [www.vcusga.com](http://www.vcusga.com).

FARUK continued to Page CT19

the  
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The independent student press of VCU

**PAT KANE**

Executive Editor

**WILLIAM HUSZAR**

Opinion Editor

### WRITERS

Stephen Hicks · Harry Jones ·  
Kadie Puffenbarger · Huma Riyaz ·  
Joseph Stanley

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### Add Your Voice

The opinion pages of The Commonwealth Times are a forum open to the public. Clear, concise and compelling contributions are welcome online at our Web site, by e-mail at [opinion@commonwealthtimes.com](mailto:opinion@commonwealthtimes.com), or by mail and in person at 817 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. 23220-3806.

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.



## Your Turn *Letters to the Editor*



I am highly offended! You never spoke about how bad the Giants are! Or how the liberal media constantly vomits up its personal agenda. They should be declared a clear and present danger, OK? Overall - OUTSTANDING!

**Dan Passaro**

I had the opportunity to read your piece looking to stir up some responses for your opinion section, and I wanted to take the opportunity to reply. I agree with you on just about every point you made in that article. Don't let the loony left vilify you for calling it like it is. It's funny how liberals, who claim they stand for free speech and open minds, will castigate anyone who doesn't march in lock step with them to the beat of "political correctness."

In an effort to help spur up some more responses, here are some of my views:

Affirmative action is about the most ridiculous regulation on employers. If you aren't qualified for a job, then it doesn't matter where your ancestors were born. Reverse racism anyone? Anyone?

It will be a sad day when socialism gains a foothold in the U.S., so my advice

to everyone who wants "free" healthcare: move to Canada or the U.K. Don't f\*\*\* up the country for the rest of us that are responsible enough to take care of ourselves.

Hate crimes are equally asinine. If you assault or murder someone, how is it any more illegal if you're doing it because of their race or sexual preference? And remember folks, only crazy crackers can be accused of hate crimes.

If you are on welfare or receiving more government assistance than you pay in taxes, then your right to vote should be revoked. If you are not contributing to a system, then you should have no say in how the resources of that system are allocated. Entitlement spending is out of control. We need to re-teach Americans to be responsible for themselves instead of waiting for Uncle Sam to save their stupid a\*\*\*\*. Hurricane Katrina is the perfect example of this.

The Second Amendment has nothing to do with hunting. Nor does it have anything to do with the National Guard, which was created with the Militia Act in 1903, a mere 114 years after the Constitution was ratified. Also, the argument against modern firearms being out of the scope of the Second Amendment because the founding fathers never could

have predicted the destructive power of such devices: Well, I hate to break it to you, but that would make TV and the Internet outside the scope of the First Amendment for the same reasons.

To borrow the words of Michael Savage: "Liberalism is a mental disorder."

**Preston Price**

It's about time. Conservative students of VCU (we do exist) have waited patiently for the right-wing perspective to be showcased within The Commonwealth Times, and it finally was with William Huszar's recent Opinion section article titled "Read It and Weep." Weep we will not, cheer we might. Huszar not only expressed his voter's preference for George Bush but also revealed the Democrats as the hypocrites they are. Huszar accurately hypothesizes that neither Hillary OR Obama will win the presidential election in 2008.

On a deeper note, Huszar commented on those who proudly display their Che Guevara shirts on campus, strutting through the university as \$15.99 human communism reminders. Communism, no matter how well argued, would never

work or succeed. In response to these idiotic displays of communist pride, many proudly adorn Ronald Reagan shirts. Give the Gipper his due. He was the REAL hero.

In brief, thank you for finally displaying a political side often ridiculed and mocked on campus and for showing one of the most capable, intelligent writers to appear within this publication all year. William Huszar has renewed my faith in the idea of representative diversity within this campus.

**Aine Murphy Norris**

### FARUK continued from Page CT18

com. Click on the elections tab on the left side of the screen. Elections will not be until March, but the due date for completed applications is Friday, Feb. 16, which is only a few weeks away. The election season is a very exciting time for the SGA, so don't miss out.

As always, I can be reached at SGAPresident@vcu.edu.





# University College congratulates first-semester freshmen who made the fall 2006 Dean's List.

## — A —

Ryan E. Abdelnour  
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Shannon Alford  
Maryam Y. Al-Homaid  
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Francesca N. Barreto  
Mary Caitlin Barrett  
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Alexander E. Battley  
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Laurence A. Bauer  
Ruth A. Baumann  
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Maricris B. Belber  
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Faith A. Broache  
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Gabrielle A. Brost  
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Cayce E. Castolue  
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Sue Jonathane Celestin  
Cintia B. Celis  
Ausim M. Chaghtai  
Elizabeth A. Chamberlin  
Tiffany M. Chapman  
Makeda S. Chatawa  
Ravison Chauha  
Fairouz L. Chibane  
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Jasmine DeCarish  
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Kayla G. Diggs  
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Jennifer N. Dunn  
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Hannah C. Ellwell  
Collin W. Emmel  
Michelle L. England  
Courtney A. English  
Wesley J. Evans  
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William N. Isenberg  
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Daniel Z. Partell  
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Yuan James Rao  
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Kyle R. Rasmussen  
Stephanie E. Ratskin  
Mary F. Rayhel  
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Sean J. Reddy  
Christina Rasto  
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Matthew Lee Richeson  
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Ena Y. Xiao

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