

THURSDAY

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the ct

The **independent** student press of Virginia Commonwealth University

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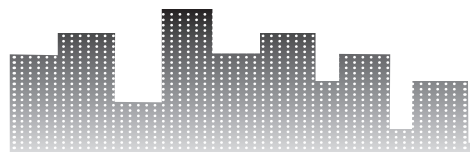
2007 new student **guide**

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WORLD

DUBLIN, Ireland—Former President Jimmy Carter accused the U.S., Israel and the European Union in June of seeking to divide the Palestinian people by reopening aid to President Mahmoud Abbas' new government in the West Bank while denying the same to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

Carter, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who was addressing a human rights conference in Ireland, also said the Bush administration's refusal to accept Hamas' 2006 election victory was "criminal."

Carter said Hamas, besides winning a fair and democratic mandate that should have entitled it to lead the Palestinian government, had proven itself to be far more organized in its political and military showdowns with Abbas' moderate Fatah movement.

Hamas fighters routed Fatah in their violent takeover of the Gaza Strip early last month. The split prompted Abbas to dissolve the power-sharing government with his rivals in Hamas and set up a Fatah-led administration to govern the West Bank.

Carter said the consensus of the U.S., Israel and the EU to start funneling aid to Abbas' new government in the West Bank but continue blocking Hamas in the Gaza Strip represented an "effort to divide Palestinians into two peoples. All efforts of the international community should be to reconcile the two, but there's no effort from the outside to bring the two together," he said.

The U.S. and European countries cut off the Hamas-led government last year because of the Islamic militant group's refusal to renounce violence and recognize Israel.

NATION

ALBANY, N.Y.—Some student loan providers have been setting rates based on the schools borrowers attend, a practice New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo likens to "redlining" in the home mortgage market.

Cuomo said his office's investigation of the \$85 billion industry found that a "significant number" of lenders rank colleges and universities on the loan default rates of their students and set interest rates on private loans higher for schools with poor records, according to a letter he sent to the chairmen of two congressional committees.

"In other words, just as lenders in the mortgage industry once made judgments about credit lending in entire neighborhoods as a whole, so too are lenders making generalized judgments about student and parent credit risk based on a student's 'school neighborhood,'" Cuomo told Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and Rep. George Miller, D-Calif.

One "large lender" offers students at schools that have

default rates up to 3 percent the best interest rates, from 8 percent to 9.25 percent, while institutions with default rates between 5 percent and 10 percent are hit with interest rates from 11 percent to 14 percent, Cuomo said.

So students with "excellent" personal credit histories are quoted an 8 percent rate if they're going to Duke University and 11 percent if they attend the University of Phoenix, according to one of Cuomo's examples. If their credit is less than "stellar," Duke students get a rate no worse than 9.25 percent, while Phoenix students would see rates as high as 14 percent. Cuomo said the "disparities remain even if parents co-sign the loan."

While annual tuition and expenses at Duke top \$46,000, Phoenix, which heavily promotes its online courses, generally costs "much less than" \$20,000.

Cuomo did not identify the lender in his example, but a spokesman for his office said later it is Nelnet, based in Lincoln, Neb.

by actor Tom Cruise. Snyder's company also owns the Johnny Rockets chain of '50s-style diners and several sports-themed radio stations in the Washington, D.C., media market.

Los Angeles-based dick clark productions produces or holds right to a staple of television programming, including the "New Year's Rockin' Eve" broadcast that has regularly featured Clark counting down the famous ball drop in New York's Times Square.

Other programs include the Fox television hit, "So You Think You Can Dance," the Golden Globe Awards, the American Music Awards, the "Bloopers" television show and more than 800 episodes of "American Bandstand," the music show that made Clark, 77, a star in the 1950s.

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LOCAL

McLEAN—Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder's RedZone Capital investment company in June bought dick clark productions inc. for \$175 million in a deal that brings the Redskins and the "Bloopers" television show into the same corporate family.

Under the deal, RedZone Capital acquires a 60 percent stake in the TV production company for \$135 million. Amusement park operator Six Flags Inc., a publicly traded company that has Snyder as its board chairman and RedZone as its largest individual shareholder, gets the remaining stake for \$40 million.

The deal expands Snyder's presence in the entertainment world. In addition to the Redskins and Six Flags, Snyder is a partner in a film production company co-owned



Rachel Larue photo

Getting to know Jessica Lee

Student body president looks beyond election scandal

GAYLAND HETHCOAT
Executive Editor

At 20 years old, Jessica Lee is a career politician.

Since her first semester at VCU in the fall of 2004, the former president of her senior high school class has been one of the most active members of the Student Government Association, serving first as a senator and later climbing to the elected position of senate chairwoman, the highest position in the legislature.

Now, after winning the April election for student body president and being inaugurated in May, Lee reigns at the top of the whole student government. As the primary student lobby group to university administration, the SGA allocates student activity fees to campus organizations. During the 2006-2007 academic year, it appropriated more than \$500,000.

"We actually have the ability to change things here," said Lee, a senior political science major, about the organization. "It's not like in high school where SGA was just kind of a social group. You can pick an issue and see real progress made on it."

Lee's ascent to Monroe Park Campus student body president (the MCV SGA has its own president) might be a fitting ending to her years of service, but the position was hardly guaranteed to her. After Lee and her executive running mates won the spring presidential race with 908 votes (more than the other two candidates' votes combined), a contentious series of events led to

accusations of illegal campaign tactics against Lee.

William Moehl, the presidential runner-up who received 527 votes, spearheaded the allegations, which included claims that she distributed campaign fliers that purposefully resembled parking tickets and lied about stumping for votes in the James Branch Cabell Library, an area designated a no-zone for campaigning.

The SGA judicial board reviewed the charges and voted unanimously to dismiss all but one of them. The justices found Lee guilty of allowing her vice presidential candidate, Emad Maghsoudi, to forge her signature on an SGA packet and ruled later that she would have to apologize for her error during her inaugural speech.

Lee was unable to sign the document, she said, because of car problems she was experiencing off campus right before the form was due.

Moehl pressed on with the other charges. Shortly after the judicial board's decision, he sought an appeal, which the board subsequently rejected on the grounds that he provided no new evidence.

Convinced the judiciary would not give him a fair trial, Moehl then requested arbitration from university administration, filing formal charges that Lee and Maghsoudi had lied about their activity in the library, thus violating VCU rules and regulations.

Reuben Rodriguez, associate vice provost and dean

In wake of crime surge, new security plans announced

BETHANY EMERSON
News Co-Editor

A recent series of local crimes occurring on campus have spurred new safety procedures for the fall semester and have sent students a wake-up call to use common sense.

VCU police say campus safety is mostly dependent on students using good judgement.

"I can't emphasize enough keeping it simple: observing and reporting," said Capt. Grant Warren, director of VCU safety and security.

Warren referenced two carjackings that occurred in a VCU parking garage on June 5. He said these incidents are prime examples of using common sense to increase safety: The carjacking was observed, was quickly reported, and the suspect was caught within the same day.

Warren said the city of Richmond and particularly VCU suffer from inaccurate perceptions of crime in Richmond.

"Ninety-six percent of our crime is property crime," Warren said.

Yet for the 4 percent of crime that is non-theft, many students think common-sense advice isn't enough. That's why, says Pam Lepley, director of VCU's University News Services, VCU is implementing new safety alert procedures in the fall.

Beginning in the fall 2007 semester, VCU will implement new procedures that will inform students within minutes of an emergency situation. Lepley says these new capabilities will include text messaging; electronic display alerts in the University Student Commons, libraries and dorms; and siren alarms that can be set off within minutes of an emergency situation.

Previously, students were alerted of emergency situations via a mass e-mail. Lepley says it could take up to an hour and a half to reach VCU's large student

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of student affairs, took up the matter and assigned Karen Belanger, director of judicial affairs, to investigate. In a letter provided by Moehl, dated June 5 and signed by Rodriguez, the dean stated that after reviewing Belanger's report on May 25, he decided no further action against Lee was warranted. Another letter revealed the same outcome for Maghsoudi's case.

Although Moehl may still request a three-person panel of administrators to review the judgment, the case is over for all practical purposes.

Moehl, a senior business major, said he finally accepts the outcome, but his feelings have not changed.

"Obviously, as I grow further away from it, it has less personal or emotional impact. But I'm still disgusted," he said. "When it all came out, the first thought that came to my mind is, 'I am disgusted to be a VCU student. How can I go to a university that's lacking integrity?'"

Moehl said he pursued Lee so vigorously because he wanted to demonstrate how committed a leader he would have been.

"I fought for a while for the SGA presidential (election) because I believe that it would have been the best option for the students. It turns out that's not what happened," he said. "If I'm asked to come back, I'm going to fight for the students."

Lee said she expects challenges as the head of the student body, but Moehl's campaign against her tested her personally and professionally in ways she had never been tested before. The hardest thing, she said, has been trying to get people to stop talking about the scandal.

"It has been really disappointing," Lee said. "There's so much I want to do, and there's so much excitement that I have, but I can't share that with people because I have to do so much damage control."

Looking toward the upcoming academic year, Lee and her running mates said they are ready to put the conflict with Moehl behind them and begin tackling the issues that really affect students.

Among her top priorities, Lee said she wants to overhaul parking and make it friendlier to VCU's large commuter population, create a resource center for undergraduate students interested in graduate school and improve campus dining by, among other things, offering more vegetarian fare. Lee said what will set her administration apart from others is an overarching effort to ensure VCU recycles and utilizes green technology in its expansion and construction.

"The whole theme is making sure VCU stays student-centered," she said. "We keep growing and growing, and we have to make sure we are still providing for the students we have here now."

To get this message across, Lee and her executive teammates will launch a major publicity campaign when the fall semester commences. Many students either know nothing about the SGA or have misperceptions about it, Maghsoudi said.

"Some people see SGA as a bunch of dorky, nerdy poli-sci kids," said Maghsoudi, a senior political science major. "We want to introduce it to more art kids, more graduate students (and) more theater kids."

Lee said involvement in student government can be one of the most rewarding university experiences.

"SGA makes me feel like the school's a lot smaller than it is," she said. "It's just really exciting because it gives you access to a network of really motivated, really awesome people."

"It's really addicting," Lee added. "Once you get one thing done, you get so excited about the next thing you're working on."

Lee's drive to "get things done" traces back to an epiphany she had when she was an environmental sciences major her freshman year, a point in her life when she was not nearly as concerned about politics as she is today.

"I started realizing that all of the stuff I did didn't matter if people who are making laws don't agree with you," she said. "You could shout from the rooftops that global warming's going to kill us all tomorrow, but it doesn't matter if there's not a politician listening to you."

Since then, Lee's political activism has expanded beyond student government. The president of the VCU Young Democrats and a member of the Virginia Young Democrats executive board, she has volunteered for notable Democratic politicians, including Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry during his 2004 presidential campaign and Sen. Jim Webb in his 2006 Senate campaign.

Lee insists she is not an ideologue, saying, "I'm not loyal to the Democratic Party as much as I am the ideas that they represented," namely civil rights and multilateralism.

She demonstrated recently her bipartisanship by working as a field director for Republican state Senate Majority Leader Walter Stosch in his successful bid for the 12th District Republican primary. A well-known supporter of funding for higher education, Stosch and the rest of the General Assembly will face voters

Nov. 6.

Kelly Porell is executive director of the young voters interest group Virginia21, where Lee interned in her role as field director for Stosch.

Porell said one of the most admirable things about Lee is "her ability to put aside partisanship when she recognizes what's important."

Jessica "did the right thing for students and their families by getting involved," Porell said.

In addition to political campaigns, Lee has gotten involved in other activist causes, participating in such groups as the Sierra Student Coalition, VOX at VCU (Voices for Planned Parenthood) and the Muslim Student Association.

Lee said all of her activity derives from the same source: the need to connect to others.

"I love people. I like to analyze people," she said. "I like to listen and hear

their crazy stories or their complaints or whatever it may be. I can absorb people all day long."

By the same token, Lee hopes that being active will help others better understand her.

"People in general see me, and I'm always running to meetings. I'm 'Little Miss SGA,'" she said. "They think I'm a very serious person, but really at the end of the day I just come home and put on some music and try to pass like everybody else."

Lee, who wants to study human rights law after graduation and is unsure whether she wants to aspire to a career in the competitive world of professional politics, said modesty will be one of the guiding principles of her administration during the next year.

"I like to think I'm a student who just happens to be able to know how to contact administration."

SAFETY continued from Page CT3

body, which surpassed 30,000 students last year.

Students will receive an informational e-mail before the fall semester begins, Lepley says, as well as a printed letter in the mail explaining how to sign up for the text messaging emergency system.

Some VCU students say the downtown setting is not alarming; safety is just something they keep in mind on an ongoing basis.

Lucie Franklin, a senior majoring in psychology and advertising, says she had worries when enrolling at VCU, but safety is no longer a concern.

"When I first came to VCU, I was a little nervous about being in such a large school ... My first day, I came equipped with mace attached to my keys," Franklin said. "After that first semester, I ditched the mace. I never had any need to use it ... Although VCU is so large, everyday I seem to see familiar faces. I love VCU, and I love being in the city."

VCU police provide a free escort service by calling 828-WALK. Almost 300 yellow emergency telephones are located throughout the campus, and classrooms are equipt with panic buttons.

Warren says one of the most effective

ways VCU promotes crime prevention is through a safety awareness program called Campus Watch. VCU police also provide dorm security and a 24-hour campus patrol by uniformed VCU officers.

Blaid Mbiyangandu, a biology major, says these services have provided him with a sense of safety amid the danger of a big city.

"VCU has ... done a good job protecting its more than 30,000 student body," Mbiyangandu said. "Features such as the escort, the VCU police and its strict on-campus housing

regulations provide one of the best campus securities."

Warren has specific advice for freshmen and transfer students.

"(They) should not believe they are invincible and (they should) take their personal safety seriously. Be alert and aware. Observe what is going on around them and report it to the campus police," he said.

Franklin suggests practical ideas for safety.

"At night, I'm cautious walking to my car. ... Exercising common sense, and being aware of your surroundings is never a bad idea," Franklin said.

For more information on VCU safety and crime prevention, go to www.vcu.edu/police. Also, watch your e-mail and mailbox for letters with information on how to join the text-message alert system.



ATTENTION!!! VCU STUDENTS



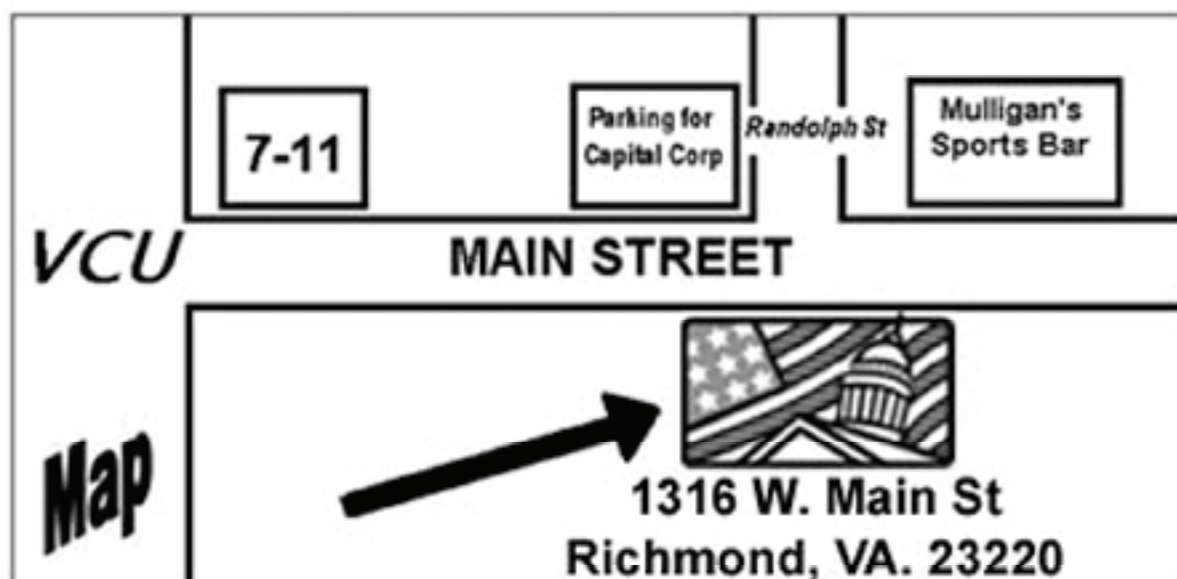
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Sports

VCU 2006-2007

Seasons in review

MATT DOYON

Associate Sports Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Rams began the 2006-2007 season with a new man at the helm, first-year Division I head coach Anthony Grant. Grant replaced Jeff Capel at VCU after serving as an assistant to Billy Donovan at the University of Florida for 10 years.

In the CAA pre-season poll, VCU was predicted to finish sixth out of twelve teams by the league's coaches and sports information directors. That appeared to be a realistic expectation after returning home from the Virgin Islands in mid-November, having dropped two out three contests in the Paradise Jam Men's Basketball Tournament. The Rams dropped to 2-2, which proved to be the lowest point the team reached throughout the season.

VCU never looked back after that. The Rams proceeded to win 17 of their next 18 games to set the pace in the CAA with a record of 19-3, with



Pat Kane file photo

those three losses by a mere seven points combined, before losing a tough game at Hofstra.

All of their success in conference play allowed the Rams to gain control of their own destiny down the stretch. Meanwhile, Old Dominion was enjoying some very good conference play itself. The Monarchs won the rematch between the two schools in a heated contest in Norfolk on Feb. 10, cutting

the Rams' CAA lead to just one game.

After a non-conference BracketBuster loss to Bradley, VCU rebounded with a strong win over James Madison on Senior Night. The only obstacle between the Rams and the regular season CAA crown was Georgia State, a team they trumped by 29 points

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2007-2008 SEASON PREVIEWS

JONATHAN HOWARD

Sports Editor

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Rams won two meets in 2006, taking home the season opener at the University of Richmond Invitational and the Greensboro Invitational in Greensboro, N.C. The black and gold lose five runners from last year's team, including Cary Chaffee, who won the Richmond Invitational. However, 10 runners return, including 2006 All-CAA selection Jay Wyss.

Name to know: Jay Wyss (Richmond/J.R. Tucker) finished ninth in the CAA Cross Country Championships last year and finished the season with multiple top 10 finishes.

Player they will miss: Cary Chaffee and Wyss were a one-two punch in many

of last year's races. He finished eighth in the CAA Championships.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Rams return 12 runners from a squad that took home one meet in 2006. The black and gold won the Maymont Cross Country Festival but finished in the bottom half of the rest of their meets.

Name to know: Danielle Williams (Virginia Beach/Salem) took home the individual victory at Maymont and finished 18th at the CAA Championships.

Lingering question: Who will coach the Rams in 2007? Interim head coach Tom Black is gone and an announcement regarding the new coach is not expected until at least early July.

FIELD HOCKEY

The black and gold have a new head coach, former assistant Kelly McQuade, who takes over the reigns for 2007. She inherits a young team (four seniors) that finished last season 4-15. The team will have a chance to make an impression at home in October when it plays five of seven games at the friendly confines of Cary Street Field. Hot-shot scorers Jenna Harris (Aurora, Colo./Smoky Hill), Nikki Lloyd (England), Emily Guerra (Yorktown/Seton Hall) and Emilie Osinga (Netherlands) return to pace the offense.

Name to know: Nikki Lloyd scored eight goals for the Rams last season.

In the coach's words: "This team is different from other teams in that they are eager to break out of a mold that they have been cast in. They are fighters. They are anxious and ready

to do anything in order to succeed in all aspects of college athletics, including academics. These women have shown that they are willing to change their old habits to break new goals. They are ready to win both on and off the field." - Head coach Kelly McQuade

MEN'S SOCCER

With three CAA championships and six NCAA tournament appearances, the men's soccer club isn't used to average soccer. However, the last two seasons have been just that. After a 6-10-4 season in 2005, the Rams stumbled to 4-13-1 in 2005. Head coach Tim O'Sullivan looks to lead a relatively young team (only two seniors) back to CAA prominence.

Name to know: Defenseman Gerson

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at Homecoming. The second time around went much differently, though, with the Rams relying on a late Jesse Pellot-Rosa tip-in basket to win the game 72-70, as well as the conference title.

Despite VCU earning the top position in the CAA, talk arose that opponents were no longer intimidated by VCU's pressure defense and ability to score and run the floor.

The Rams held seed with convincing wins in the first two rounds of the CAA Tournament over Georgia State and Drexel respectively, landing them a spot in the championship game versus George Mason. GMU entered the finale having already played on the three previous days. That didn't phase the Patriots, as they led the Rams until the final minutes of the game, when fatigue finally set in. The more talented Rams prevailed with a narrow victory, 65-59, on the back of point guard Eric Maynor's 20 points and two late steals.

The Rams earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament with their third CAA Tournament championship. They landed the 11 seed in the West Region on Selection Sunday with Duke as a first-round opponent. In Buffalo, the Rams used the same formula against the Blue Devils as they had 10 days earlier against the Patriots, overcoming an unusually inexperienced Duke squad that was accustomed to advancing to the Sweet 16. Maynor was once again the hero as he sunk a smooth jump shot with 1.8 seconds remaining, advancing the Rams with a 79-77 win.

Pittsburgh was the next opponent, a team that easily outsized VCU with its two seven footers. The Rams trailed the Panthers by 19 points midway through the second half and refused to give up. They eventually took a two-point lead with under a minute in regulation and forced overtime, only to fall short, 84-79.

The season ended but not before the Rams had the most successful season in school history (28-7 overall, 16-2 CAA). Coach Grant was named CAA Coach of the Year and Maynor was named to the All-CAA first team.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team entered the 2006-2007 season as a young and mostly inexperienced team, with Michele Cosel and Miranda Smith as the only seniors on the roster.

After leaping to a 7-0 start, good for first place in the CAA, the Rams encountered some hard times upon entering conference play. They had

some high points characterized by strong fundamentals, as well as play that looked very sloppy, which all added up to a very streaky season.

Fortunately for VCU, only four conference opponents were impassable for most of the season. William & Mary was the one team in its sights that wasn't passed.

The women entered the CAA Tournament in Newark, Del., as the No. 6 seed and dominated 11th-seed Northeastern in the first round, 74-58. They then fell to Delaware by a similar final, 79-58.

VCU will now look to next season in what appears to be a promising squad, highlighted by the excellent play of rising star center Quanitra Hollingsworth.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team looked to continue its dominance of the CAA as it entered the 2007 season, having previously won 10 CAA Championships. On March 21, the squad was in first place in the conference and ranked 20th nationally with a record of 13-6. Senior Petr Olsak was ranked 56th and Arnaud Le Cloerec was ranked 62nd in singles play at the same time, while in doubles, Sebastian Ripoll and Emil Lindgen were ranked 66th.

The Rams entered the CAA Tournament in Newport News as the top seed with a 17-7 record. After getting by eighth-seed Hofstra 4-0, they were upset in the semifinals by fourth-seeded Georgia State, 0-4.

Despite its early departure from the CAA Tournament, VCU earned its 15th consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Rams suffered a 4-1 loss to Texas Tech in the first round in Los Angeles, cutting short a season with high expectations.

Olsak and Le Cloerec were named to the All-CAA Singles and Doubles First Teams. Alex Israel and Damien Lacombe earned second team singles honors, while Lindgen and Ripoll earned a place on the doubles second team.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team had similar hopes for the 2007 season as the men's team. The team came into play recognized as one of the top teams in the CAA and looked to defend its conference title from 2006.

At its peak, the squad won 9 of 10 matches between Feb. 14 and March 15. Junior Tatsiana Uvarova dominated the singles matches for VCU. Seniors Olga



Jason Gareau file photo

Borisova and Marianna Yuferova were the star doubles team, going 21-4 on their way to a No. 14 national ranking.

VCU drew the No. 2 seed in the CAA tournament and advanced all the way to the final before falling 4-0 to top-seeded William & Mary in Newport News.

Uvarova advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament before falling 6-4, 6-4 to Northwestern's Georgia Rose in singles play. Borisova and Yuferova qualified for the Round of 16 in doubles competition but lost 6-4, 6-3 to the second-ranked duo of Sara Anundsen and Jenna Long of North Carolina.

BASEBALL

The Rams baseball team entered the 2007 campaign with high hopes and the burden of being picked to win the very competitive CAA. With other strong schools such as ODU, GMU, UNC Wilmington, William & Mary and Delaware, it was difficult for any school to distinguish itself from the pack.

The team was built around young, speedy, talented players with good defensive skills. It also relied heavily on senior ace John Leonard, who went 5-2 and was usually the designated hitter or outfielder on days he didn't pitch.

VCU started slow out of the gate, dropping three of four at San Diego, but quickly rebounded by sweeping a weekend series from Fordham. The Rams lost just four series throughout the season and were never swept themselves.

Despite the logjam of quality CAA teams, VCU finished the regular season strong enough to earn the No. 3 seed in the conference tournament in Wilmington, N.C. The black and gold used momentum to advance past UNC Wilmington, Delaware and Old Dominion, seeded fourth, second, and first respectively, into the championship game against Delaware. The Rams won the second round game 6-4 between the two schools and again 10-4 in 10

innings in the championship.

VCU couldn't parlay that conference success into NCAA Tournament success, though, as it struggled to muster offense in a 7-1 loss to Coastal Carolina in Myrtle Beach. In the elimination match, the Rams lost 5-4 in a more closely contested game, giving them their second loss in the double-elimination style format.

GOLF

Sophomore Rafael Campos recently won the 2007 Johnnie Walker Puerto Rico Amateur Open by six strokes. His four-round total was 292, and his win earned him a sponsor's exemption for the PGA's Puerto Rico Open next March. The win in Puerto Rico was his second tournament victory there this season. He earned First Team All-CAA honors this season and had four top 10 finishes this season for VCU.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Senior Davion Lambert led the way for the Rams in their 2006-2007 track and field campaign. He and fellow senior James Frierson competed in the 2007 East Regionals, hosted by the University of Florida. Both competed in three different events with some of the nation's top collegiate talent. Frierson's best finish at regionals was 14th, coming in the 200-meter with a time of 21.11.

Lambert competed in the long jump, high jump and triple jump. His best finish was in the long jump, posting a mark of 22' 10".

In addition, freshman DeAngelo Wilson finished in 17th place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.69, the event he won at the CAA championship.

Sophomore Jason Gallo and senior Derek Altizer teamed with Wilson and Frierson in the 4x100 relay, who also won that event in the CAA championship.



Pat Kane file photo

PREVIEWS continued from Page CT6

Dos Santos (Sao Paulo, Brazil) earned second-team All-CAA honors in 2006.

Interesting stats: Twelve of last season's 13 losses came by a one-goal margin.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The 2006 Rams proved to be dangerous, reeling off an 11-6-3 record, including 5-2-1 at home. As 2007 rolls around, some key pieces from the team are missing. Gone are co-head coaches Denise Schilte-Brown and Chris Brown (now coaching at the University of South Florida) and points-leader Hayley Moorwood (playing with New Zealand in the World Cup). A new duo, Tiffany Roberts-Sahaydak and Tim Sahaydak, have taken over head coaching responsibilities.

Name to know: Midfielder Stephanie Power (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia) was last season's highest returning scorer. She netted three goals and five assists in 2006.

In the coach's words: "This coming season we will have a group with an interesting mix of experienced players and relative newcomers. With a strong defense in place, the focus will be on producing creative attacking soccer that is both unpredictable and effective. The team has proven that throughout the spring we can create scoring chances against some of the strongest opponents in the nation. We are working tirelessly to not only build a successful team for

the 2007 season, but more importantly we are working to establish a culture that molds leaders and champions." – Head coaches Tiffany Roberts-Sahaydak and Tim Sahaydak

VOLLEYBALL

The 2006 Rams put up a 16-18 record last season, including 8-10 in the conference and 6-4 at home. The team will have a chance to show off in front of the home crowd in late August when the black and gold host the 3rd Degree Sportswear Invitational.

Name to know: Freshman Pamela Cheu comes to VCU from the Mexican junior national team and will be an immediate supplement to the Rams ability to control the ball.

In the coach's words: "The 2007 team will be one of the more exciting teams to watch in the region. We have been fortunate to compile an incredibly athletic group of great young women. We will start the season with a lack of experience playing together, but the majority of players have a wealth of experience as volleyball players. We have added 10 new players to a very solid group of returners to be lead by senior outside hitter Erin Burnette. Along with the three players mentioned above we have Ivan Rich, who had a very good spring. She will be the player our new middles will be chasing for playing time." – Head coach James Finley

IN BRIEF

A lot of action took place after spring exams. Here are a few notes from the VCU sports universe ...

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Junior point guard Eric Maynor (Fayetteville, N.C./Westover) accepted an invitation to participate in the USA Basketball Men's Pan-American Games team trials. Tryouts will be held July 12-14 at Haverford College. Players who make the team will participate in the Pan American Games held in Rio de Janeiro from July 13-29. Syracuse's Jim Boeheim is slated to be the head coach.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Junior center Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake/Great Bridge)

earned an invitation to try out for the women's USA Basketball U19 team. Tryouts occurred May 17-20. Hollingsworth was not among the finalists to make the team.

BASEBALL

Sergio Miranda (Bayamon, Puerto Rico/PRBA) capped his collegiate career with a bang. The shortstop was named to the inaugural American Baseball Coaches Associated Rawlings Gold Glove team, awarded to players who excel on defense. Pitcher Luke Pisker (Oley, Pa./Oley Valley) was named third-team All American by the ABCA. Miranda was named first-team all region, and first baseman Jared Bolden (Lynchburg/E.C. Glass) was named second-team all region.

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2007 new student **guide**

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welcome to **VCU**

A GUIDE FOR NEW STUDENTS



The Village

Rachel Larue photo

Local fare with local *flair*

COMPILED BY OLIVIA BEATTY
Spectrum Editor

It always seems easier to go to restaurants you've heard of or eaten at all your life, but why not try out some of the amazing local restaurants Richmond has to offer? Support local businesses and get great food at prices that easily rival those of chain restaurants.

\$\$—\$20 or less **\$—less than \$10** ***—editor's picks**

The Fan

3 Monkeys Bar and Grill. Sandwiches, salads, pizzas. Open for lunch and dinner until 1 a.m. 2525 W. Main St. 204-2525. \$

Akida. Sushi. Lunch Mon-Fri. Dinner Mon-Sun. 814 N. Robinson St. 359-8036. \$\$

Athens Tavern. Greek. 401 N. Robinson St. 353-9119. \$

Avalon Restaurant & Bar. Continental fare. 2619 W. Main St. 353-9709. \$\$

Avenue 805. Italian. 805 N. Davis Ave. 353-2505. \$\$

Baja Bean Co. Mexican. 1520 W. Main St. 257-5445. \$ *

Bamboo Cafe. '20s style hangout. Main and Mulberry streets. 353-1609. \$\$

Border Chophouse and Bar. Steak. 1501 W. Main St. 355-2907. \$\$

Bogart's Restaurant. Sandwiches upfront, live music in back. 203 N. Lombardy St. 353-9280. \$ *

Carlton's. Asian and Italian. Live music on weekends. 2526 Floyd Ave. 359-3122. \$\$

Cary Street Café. Vegetarian, live music. 2631 W. Cary St. 353-7445. \$

Commercial Taphouse & Grill. Burgers, wraps, ribs. 111 N. Robinson St. 359-6544. \$

Cous Cous. Mediterranean and Moroccan. 900 W. Franklin St. 358-0868. \$-\$\$

Curbside Café. Sandwiches, entrees and brunch. 2525 Hanover Ave. 355-7008. \$

Davis & Main. Grill food. 2501 W. Main St. 353-6641. \$\$

Easy Street. A little bit of everything. 2401 W. Main St. 355-1198. \$

Edo's Squid. Seafood and pasta. Make reservations. 411 N. Harrison St. 864-5488. \$\$

Elephant Thai Restaurant. 1100 W. Cary St. 355-3320 \$

Emilio's Restaurante Español. Mediterranean and Spanish. Live music/DJs nightly. 1847 W. Broad St. 359-1224. \$\$

Empire. Sandwiches and vegetarian. 727 W. Broad St. 344-3323. \$

Helen's Inn. Soup, seafood, pasta, vegetarian. 2527 W. Main St. 358-4370. \$\$

Home Team Grill. Burgers, salads. 1630 W. Main St. at Vine. 254-7360.

Hyperlink Café. Sandwiches, coffee, alcohol and oxygen. Live music. 814 W. Grace St. 254-1942. \$\$

Thursday, July 5, 2007

Panda Veg

Rachel Larue photo



Ipanema Café. Vegetarian. 917 W. Grace St. 213-0170. \$

Jamaica House. 1215 W. Broad St. 358-5793. \$

The Jerk Pit. Jamaican grill. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat. 2713 W. Broad St. 353-7755. \$

Joe's Inn. One word: spaghetti. 205 N. Shields Ave. 355-2282. \$ *

Kuba Kuba. Amazing Cuban. 1601 Park Ave. 355-8817. \$ *

The Metro Grill. Continental. 301 N. Robinson St. 353-4453. \$\$

Nara Japanese Restaurant. Sashimi, noodles, teriyaki, steak. 1309 W. Main St. 353-1315. \$

Nile Ethiopian Restaurant. 309 N. Laurel St. 225-5544. \$ *

Panda Veg. All-vegetarian Asian. 935 W. Grace St. 359-6688. \$ *

Piccola Pizzeria and Restaurant. Italian. 1100 W. Main St. at Harrison. 355-3111. \$ *

Racine. American bistro. 304 N. Robinson St. 340-2884. \$

Ribs, Rolls & Cheesecake. 802 W. Broad St. 562-0869. \$

Robin Inn. Italian. 2601 Park Ave. 353-0298. \$

Saigon. Vietnamese. 903 W. Grace St. 355-6633. \$

Sidewalk Café. Subs and more. 2101 W. Main St. 358-0645. \$

Six Burner Restaurant & Bar. American bistro. 1627 W. Main St. 353-4060 \$ \$

Star-lite Dining & Lounge. Traditional fare. 2600 W. Main St. 254-2667. \$

Strawberry Street Café. Famous bathtub soup-and-salad bar, varied menu. 421 N. Strawberry St. 353-

6860. \$ \$ *

Sticky Rice. Tasty Japanese-American. 2232 W. Main St. 358-7870. To-go offered at their satellite store across the street. \$ *

Table 9. Sandwiches, salads. 2001 Park Ave. 353-2205 \$

Village Cafe. A Fan classic not to be missed. 1001 W. Grace St. 353-8204. \$ *

Vito's. Pizza, subs. 904 W. Grace St. 353-5533. \$

White Dog. American. 2329 W. Main St. 340-1975. \$ \$

Oregon Hill

821 Café. American, vegetarian, vegan. 821 W. Cary St. 649-1042. \$ *

Hollywood Grill. Steaks, seafood, vegetarian. Corner of China and Pine streets. 819-1988. \$

Mamma 'Zu. Italian. 501 S. Pine St. 788-4205. \$ \$

Mojo's. Philly cheese steak. 733 W. Cary St. 644-6676. \$

Carytown/Museum District

Babe's. Gay friendly. Bar food. 3166 W. Cary St. 355-9330. \$

Bandito's Burrito Lounge. Free karaoke Wed. nights. 2905 Patterson Ave. 354-9999. \$

Bin 22 @ Betsy's. Coffee, paninis, light fare. 3200 W. Cary St. 358-4501. \$ \$

Carytown Burgers and Fries. Best burgers in town with specialty toppings, made to order. Dine in, takeout or delivery. 3500 1-2 W. Cary St. 358-5225 \$ *

Café Diem. Fusion, live entertainment. 600 N. Shepherd St. 353-2500. \$ \$

Caliente. Caribbean, Cajun, Southern. 2922 Park Ave. 340-2920. \$ \$

China Panda. Szechuan and Hunan. 616 N. Sheppard St. 355-6888. \$

Coppola's. Italian-style deli and café. 2900 W. Cary St. 359-6969. \$ *

The Corner Cafe. Pastas, chicken, seafood. 800 N. Cleveland St. 355-1954. \$

Double T's Real Smoked Barbecue. 2907 W. Cary St. 353-9861. \$

Farouk's House of India. Fabulous lunch buffet. 3033 W. Cary St. 355-0378. \$ \$ *

Galaxy Diner. Diner fare, fried pickles, fried Oreos. 3109 W. Cary St. 213-0510. \$ *

Ginger. Thai and Chinese. 3145 W. Cary St. 254-7373. \$- \$ \$

Mary Angela's Pizza and Subs. 3345 W. Cary St. 353-2333. \$

Mom's Siam. Exceptional Thai food. 2811 W. Cary St. 359-7606. \$- \$ \$ *

Nacho Mama's. Tex-Mex. 3449 W. Cary St. 358-6262. \$ *

New York Deli. 2920 W. Cary St. 358-3354 \$

Thai Curry House. 3129 W. Cary St. 358-7027 \$

Thai Diner Too. 3028 W. Cary St. 353-9514. \$

Viva Mexico. 2929 W. Cary St. 377-9240. \$

Weezy's Kitchen. Burgers, salads, vegetarian. 3123 W. Cary St. 726-1270. \$



Rachel Larue photo

welcome to **VCU**

For anyone who loves music...

COMPILED BY ROBERTO CURTIS

Associate Spectrum Editor

If you're setting foot in the Richmond social scene for the first time, you might not know how rich with talent it really is. Although it is a medium-sized city, creativity and style flourish here. With so many talented people, the bars, restaurants and venues are perfect for musicians to prove themselves and let their voices be heard. The following is a compilation of the Richmond music scene's diverse venues and performances.

AA—All Ages 18—18+ 21—21+
V—Age restrictions vary

Ashland

Ashland Coffee & Tea (AA) Americana, folk and bluegrass. 100 N. Railroad Ave. 798-1702
ashlandcoffeeandtea.com

Ironhorse Restaurant (AA) Live music
Fri and Sat. 100 S. Railroad Ave. 752-6410
ironhorserestaurant.com

Carytown

Babe's of Carytown (18) Gay dance club with beach volleyball and line dancing. 3166 W. Cary St. 355-9330

New York Deli (21) DJs and a photo booth.
2920 W. Cary St. 358-3354 myspace.com/newyorkdeli

Thai Curry House (V) Electronica and bands.
3129 W. Cary St. 358-7027

Downtown

Blues Café & Bistro (18) Tasty eats and live music. 550 E. Marshall St. 225-7400
bluescafeandbistro.com

Crossroads (21) DJs, blues and jazz. 217 W. Clay St. 643-2060

Cotton Club (21) Jazz, R&B and hip-hop. 112 N. 5th St. 644-3999

Godfrey's (21) DJs and drag. 308 E. Grace St. 648-3957 godfreysva.com

The Jefferson Hotel (AA) Jazz and harp music from brunch and cocktail hour.

Lemaire Restaurant, 101 W. Franklin St. 788-8000

Manhattan's Lounge, 112 N. Fifth St. 644-5777

Tropical Soul (18) R&B, Afrobeat and reggae. 314 N. 2nd St. 771-1605



Rachel Larue photo



The Camel

Rachel Larue photo

Fan

Bogart's Backroom (21) A staple in the scene. Live music Mon-Sat 203 N. Lombardy St. 353-9280 bogartsinthefan.com

Cabo's Corner Bistro (AA) Fine swingin' and singin'. 2053 W. Broad St. 355-1144

Café Diem (21) Fine funk and open mic. 600 N. Sheppard St. 343-2500

The Camel (AA) Bringing the "hip" back. 1621 W. Broad St. 353-4901

Cary Street Café (21) Folk, reggae and funkgrass. 2631 W. Cary St. 353-7445 carystreetcafe.com

Commercial Taphouse and Grille (21) Live music. 111 N. Robinson St. 359-6544

Cous Cous (21) Mediterranean flair. 900 W. Franklin St. 358-0861 coucous900.com

Easy Street Restaurant (21) Great rock, jazz and funk. 2401 W. Main St. 355-1198 easystreetrichmond.com

Emilio's Tapas Bar (18) Local Afrobeat, salsa and jazz. 1847 W. Broad St. 359-1224 emiliosrichmond.com

Hyperlink Café (V) Reggae, hip-hop and wi-fi. 814 W. Grace St. 254-1942 hyperlinkva.com

Martini Kitchen & Bubble Bar (21) Local funk and jams. 1911 W. Main St. 254-4904 bubblebar.net

Mojo's Philadeli (18) Local hardcore and grind. 733 W. Cary St. 644-6676 mojtogo.com

Mulligan's Sports Grille – The Fan (V) Live jazz on Sun. and occasional live bands. 1323 W. Main St. 353-8686

Shockoe Bottom

Alley Katz (V) Local and national acts. 10 Walnut Alley 643-2816 alleykatzrva.com

Bottoms Up Pizza (AA) Jazz on Sun. 1700 Dock St. 644-4400 bottomsuppizza.com

Buffalo Wild Wings (21) Bar games, karaoke and occasional live acts 1501 E. Cary St. 648-8900 buffalowildwings.com

Canal Club (V) Local and national acts. 1545 E. Cary St. 643-2582 thecanalclub.com

Have a Nice Day Café (18 on Wed, 21 men and 18 women Fri and Sat) DJs on multiple floors. 11 S. 18th St. 771-1700 caferichmond.com

Mars Bar (18) All 80's all the time. 115 N. 18th St. 644-6277 marsbarrestaurant.com

McCormack's Irish Pub (21) Alternative and Irish rock. 12 N. 18th St. 648-1003

Millie's Diner (AA) Occasional acts on Sun. 2603 E. Main St. 643-5512 milliesdiner.com

Poe's Pub (21) Live bands weekly. 2706 E. Main St. 648.2120 poespub.com

Rocks (18) Grunge, rock and Lucha Libre. 1814 E. Main St. 648-7625 rocksrichmond.com

Tiki Bob's Cantina (V) DJs Tue and Thu-Sat. 110 N. 18th St. 644-9091 tikibobsrichmond.com

Shockoe Slip

Europa (21) Electronica and brass bands. 1409 E. Cary St. 643-0911 europarichmond.com

Hard Shell (AA) Jazz on Fri. 1411 E. Cary St. 643-2333 thehardshell.com

Toad's Place (AA, 18) Alternative and rock. 140 Virginia St. 648-8623 toadslacerva.com

Richbrau Brewery and Restaurant (21) Top 40, Techno, '70s and '80s. 1214 E. Cary St. 644-3018 richbrau.com

Sine Irish Pub and Restaurant (21) Gaelic and other styles. 1327 E. Cary St. 649-7767 sineirishpub.com

Taphouse Grill (21) Jazz Fri-Sat. 1212 E. Cary St. 644-3018 richbrau.com

Tobacco Company (21) DJs and live music. 12th and E. Cary Streets 782-9555 thetobaccocompany.com

Southside

Beefeater's Bar and Grill (18) All kinds of music, plus karaoke. 11800 Hull St. 744-9541

Bleu Bistro (21) Karaoke and bands. 8982 Quioccasin Road. 750-1120 bleubistro.com

Bottega Bistro (AA) Folk/Brazilian. 11400 W. Huguenot Road. Midlothian 379-9899 bottegabistro.com

Brio Tuscan Grille (AA) Live Jazz Thu. 9210 Stony Point Parkway 272-2255 briotalian.com

Caddy's (21) Live music and karaoke. 13312 Midlothian Turnpike 794-3007

Chammps Restaurant and Bar (21) Karaoke and bands. 9202 Stony Point Parkway 323-6053 chammps.com

Legend Brewing Company (21) Live music and home brewing tips. 321 W. 7th St. 232-3446 legendbrewing.com

Mi Hacienda (18) Salsa y merengue twice a week. 8250 Midlothian Turnpike. 560-6994

Milepost 5 Seafood Restaurant (AA) Acoustic music. 1300 Sycamore Square 794-9344 milepost5.com

Mulligan's Sports Grille – Midlothian (18) Live bands, karaoke and scores. 11146 Hull St. 744-8686

O'Toole's (21) Live music on weekends. 4800 Forest Hill Ave. 233-1781 otooleresrestaurant.com

Sports Page Bar and Grille (18) Open mic and live bands. 14245 Midlothian Turnpike 379-1844 sportspagebarngrill.com

Taylor's Restaurant at Market Square (21) Live bands. 4922 E. Millridge Parkway in Brandermill 763-6305

Vision's Dance Club at Holiday Inn Select (21) Live '70s and '80s hits. 1021 Kroger Center Blvd. 379-3800

West End

Azzurro's Ristorante (AA) Jazz and folk on Thu. 6221 River Road 282-1509 azzurrotest.homestead.com

Innsbrook Pavilion (AA) Regional and national acts. 423-6589 innsbrookafterhours.com

Maggiano's Little Italy (AA) Live jazz. 11800 W. Broad St #2204 253-0900 maggianos.com

The Pour House (21) Live bands and sports news. 3438 Pump Road 346-9080 thepourhouse.us

welcome to VCU

Museum District

Rebecca Landau photo



Museum District—As its name suggests, this district is known for its museums, mainly the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Past Boulevard, this neighborhood is home to many VCU students who either bike or drive to campus. Although the district is similar to the Fan, rent tends to be less expensive, and the district's proximity to Carytown is a bonus.

Carytown

Rebecca Landau photo



Carytown—Located up Cary Street past Boulevard, Carytown is known for its distinct and diverse shops, which feature merchandise ranging from vintage-inspired fashion to the latest bikes. Check out the Byrd Theatre, which features cult films on Saturdays at midnight and fairly new films throughout the week, costing just \$2 per person.

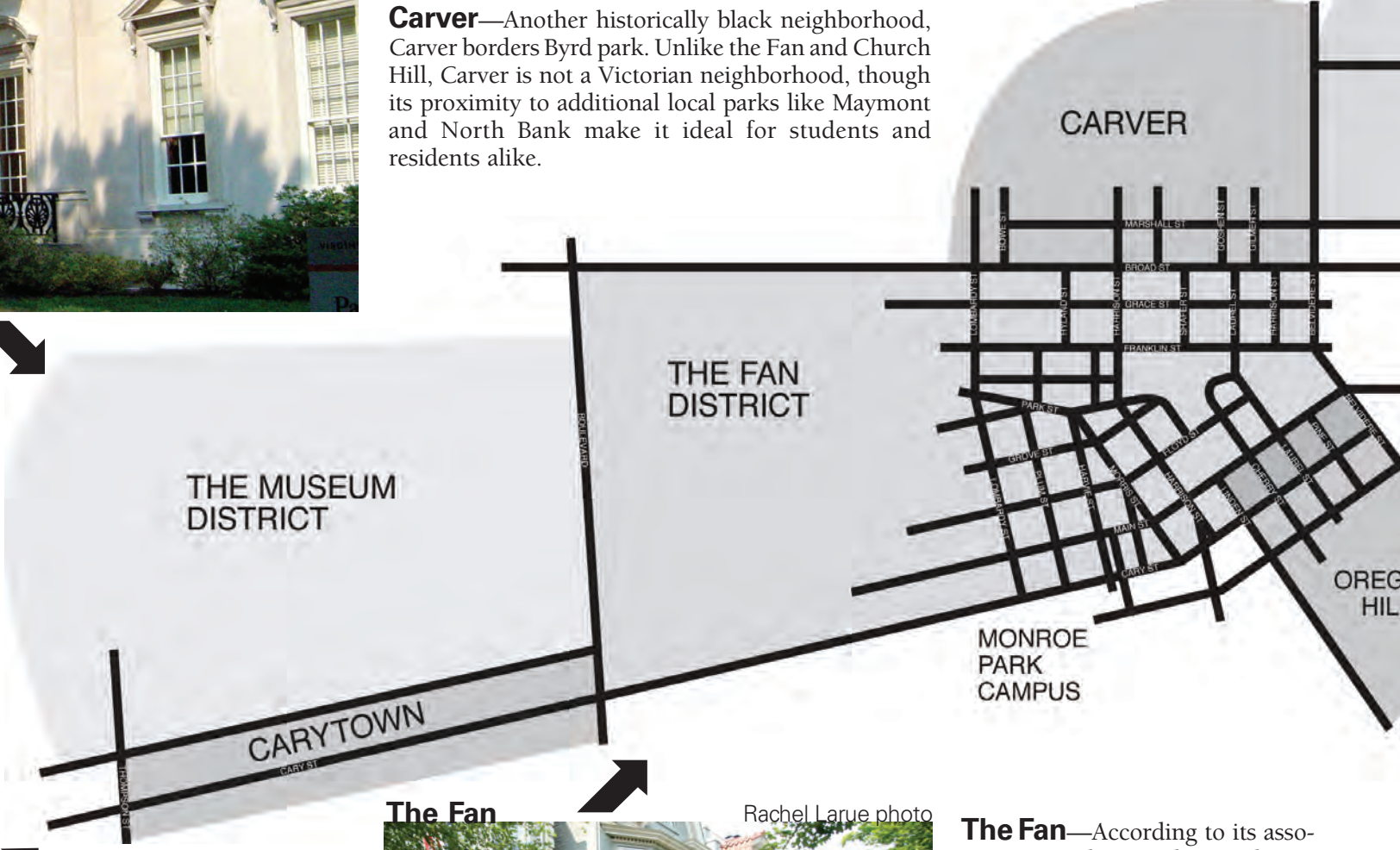
Carver

Rebecca Landau photo



Carver—Another historically black neighborhood, Carver borders Byrd park. Unlike the Fan and Church Hill, Carver is not a Victorian neighborhood, though its proximity to additional local parks like Maymont and North Bank make it ideal for students and residents alike.

Karen Sagun graphic



The Fan

Rachel Larue photo



The Fan—According to its association's Web site, The Fan began as a settlement surrounding the tracks of a late 17th century trolley line. The Victorian neighborhood is named for its distinct shape, which extends 85 blocks outward from Harrison Street. Home to wealthy families and poor college students alike, the neighborhood is known for its diversity.

Richmond

Neighborhoods bordering VCU

Jackson Ward



Rebecca Landau photo

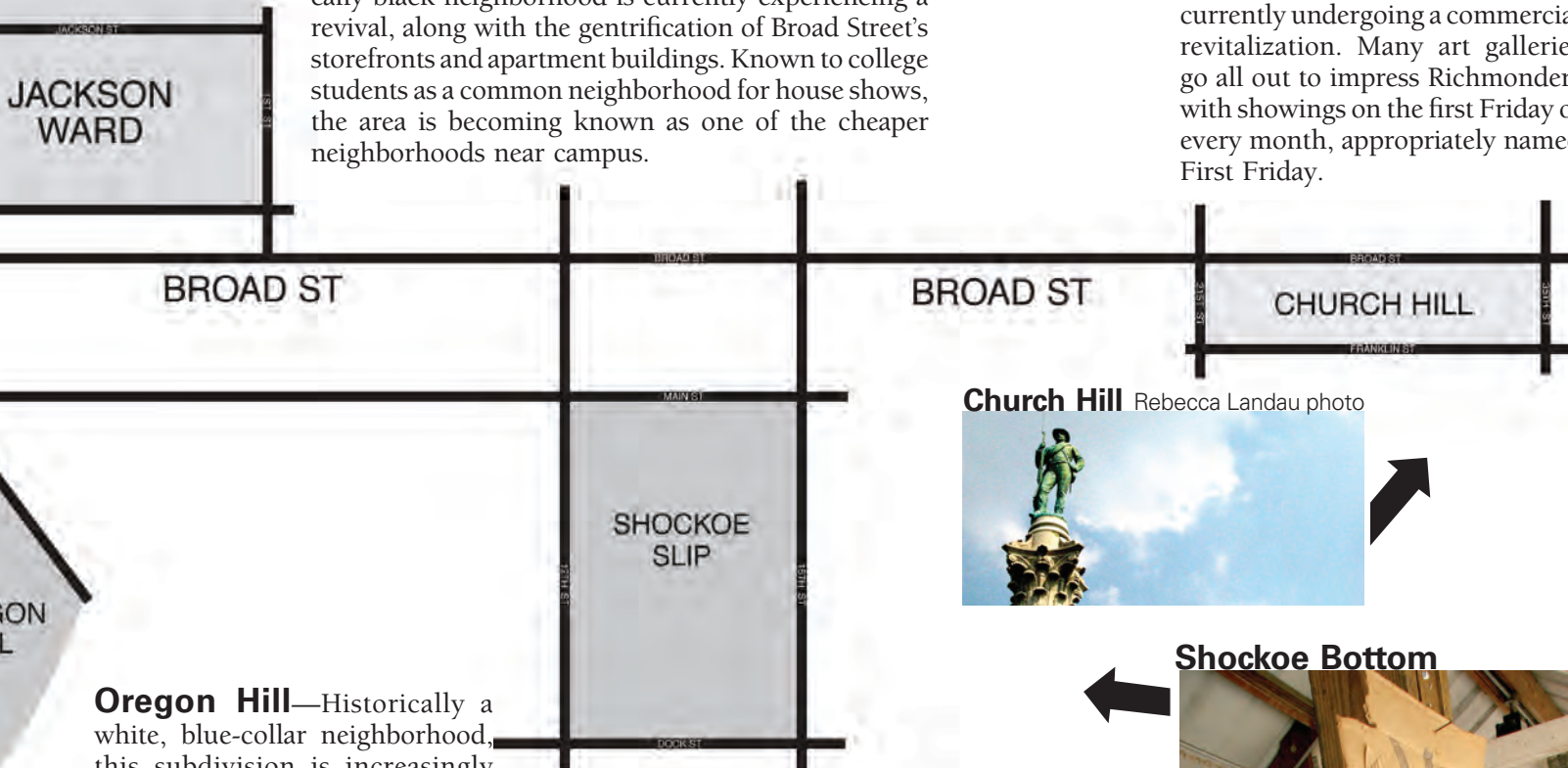
Jackson Ward—North of Broad Street, this historically black neighborhood is currently experiencing a revival, along with the gentrification of Broad Street's storefronts and apartment buildings. Known to college students as a common neighborhood for house shows, the area is becoming known as one of the cheaper neighborhoods near campus.

Broad Street

Rachel Larue photo



Broad Street—The art scene is huge on the areas of Broad Street near the university, an area currently undergoing a commercial revitalization. Many art galleries go all out to impress Richmonders with showings on the first Friday of every month, appropriately named First Friday.



Church Hill

Rebecca Landau photo



Church Hill—Located past Downtown, this Victorian neighborhood, like the Fan, is considered one of Richmond's nicer areas, though it's not as expensive as the Fan. Ideal for medical school students since it's close to VCU's MCV campus, Church Hill also boasts a quaint park with a tall Confederate monument and an overlooking view of the city.

Oregon Hill—Historically a white, blue-collar neighborhood, this subdivision is increasingly populated with college students, especially art students, as rent is typically lower than in the Fan. Recently, controversy between the Oregon Hill District Association and VCU about university expansion made local headlines. In addition to VCU, the neighborhood also borders Hollywood Cemetery, one of the oldest Confederate graveyards in the United States.

Oregon Hill



Rebecca Landau photo

Shockoe Bottom—This ultra urban area of Richmond is known for its clubs, restaurants and proximity to commercial downtown Richmond. Students should keep in mind the downsides of an area rich with nightlife: more expensive cuisine and some shadier areas, including a large, free parking lot located right near local clubs.

Shockoe Bottom



Rachel Larue photo



Rachel Larue photo

Spotlight on Rumors Boutique

When Casey Longyear came to VCU as a freshman half a decade ago, she says she was surprised there wasn't a boutique in Richmond that carried independent designers' clothes, jewelry and art. Now a VCU graduate, Longyear opened Rumors Boutique at 404 N. Harrison Street in June.

"This is the place I thought I would find in Richmond," Longyear said.

Longyear, 22, a former fashion merchandising major, co-owns the boutique with Marshe Wyche, also 22.

Longyear says the store fills a void in the Richmond scene.

"Everyone here is so creative," Longyear said. "Different kids have dropped off artwork ... Today, two girls came in and recognized the designers."

Longyear says the store isn't trying to compete with nearby boutique None Such, located less than a block away, which sells clothes and jewelry made by local art students. Instead, she says, her store is aimed toward consumers who want to buy clothes designed and produced independently across the United States.

The store also sells records and student art, and this fall, Longyear says the store will expand its current aesthetic to include more professional designs. Typical clothing prices range from \$20 to \$130.

WHERE TO SHOP

vintage bargains



REBECCA LANDAU
Managing Editor

Fantastic Thrift – Great for artwork, clothes, shoes and some furniture. Fantastic Thrift has a boutique counter where customers can peruse vintage jewelry. Be forewarned though – boutique goods can be more expensive than normal thrift store merchandise.

Diversity Thrift – Though farther away from campus than Fantastic Thrift, this store offers a wider variety of furniture options and an equitable portion of second-hand clothes. A generous book selection and a decent array of artwork also make it a must for

thrift shoppers.

Clementine – This small, upscale consignment shop in Carytown offers female shoppers designer-brand clothing in chic styles, despite its tiny store front. Downside? You might have to dish out more cash than you are used to for already-worn clothes, but the clothes tend to be worth the extra money.

None Such – Located near campus, this cozy thrift store doubles as an art gallery and sells local designers' art, jewelry and clothes, as well as an assortment of vintage dresses, shoes, hats and bags. And if you're a dog lover and happen to stop by at the right time, you might get to pet the friendly Rotweiler that greets

customers when they walk through the door.

Exile – Great for outlandish costumes and vintage clothes alike, this store on West Grace Street is known for its counter-culture appeal. With its authentic art, furniture, lamps and knick-knacks, it also can be a fun place to just browse if you don't feel like spending too much cash.

Urban Artifacts – Urban Artifacts is a must for those who frequent Carytown and love vintage-inspired fashion and design. This quirky boutique is great when looking for fun jewelry or accessories, though merchandise can be costly.

Cheap textbooks and where to buy them, pros and cons

BETHANY EMERSON
News Co-Editor

pros: + cons: –

VCUe² Bookstore (follet)
+ Convenient location: two blocks from Shafer Food Court on West Broad Street
+ Easy online ordering makes the books ready for pick-up within a few days. Go to efollet.com and begin by selecting "VA" and then "VCU".
+ These books often are in-stock because most professors order from

this store.
– Books tend to be expensive.

Virginia Book Company
+ Great location: one block from Shafer Food Court on Franklin Street.
+ Prices tend to be lower than the VCU Book Store.
– Some books are not in stock, and offers on buy-backs are low.

Half.com
+ Offers a vast selection of books at extremely low prices, often between \$1 to \$5.
– Shipping adds to the cost, and it can take a week or two to receive your

books by mail.

Amazon.com
+ Offers a huge selection of books
+ Offers both new and used books
– Shipping charges add to cost
VCU's SGA Book Trading Web site
– vcusga.com
+ Buy textbooks from peers at low prices with simple communication via the Web site.
– Dishonest descriptions of textbook condition and small selection of books
– Must arrange to meet the sellers with cash on your own time.

Cheap Tips

- Always ask for the used editions of books. Make sure to select "used" when using the VCU Book Store's online ordering option.
- Compare prices before you spend money. You can find out the textbook listing for courses ahead of time by going to efollet.com and selecting your course and section number.
- Check out bulletin boards around campus or ask friends if they've taken the classes you're enrolled in previously. They might have the textbooks you need.

Catch a game

Wondering where and when you can catch VCU's athletic teams in action? Here is a list of sports and their home fields, along with schedules (at least those that have been released) for fall semester sports.

Baseball: The Diamond

Basketball: Stuart C. Siegel Center

Field hockey: Cary Street Field

Soccer: Sports Backers Stadium

Tennis: Thalhimer Tennis Center

Volleyball: Stuart C. Siegel Center



Pat Kane file photo

2007 Field Hockey

Aug. 25, vs. Fairfield, noon
Aug. 31, at American, 4 p.m.
Sept. 2, at Georgetown, noon
Sept. 7, vs. Richmond, 7 p.m.
Sept. 14, at St. Joseph's, 4 p.m.
Sept. 16, at Temple, 1 p.m.
Sept. 21, vs. Towson, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23, vs. Delaware, 1 p.m.
Sept. 28, at Hofstra, 3 p.m.
Sept. 30, at Drexel, 1 p.m.
Oct. 3, vs. Longwood, 6 p.m.
Oct. 5, vs. James Madison, 4 p.m.
Oct. 12, vs. Appalachian State, 6 p.m.
Oct. 20, vs. William & Mary, 1 p.m.
Oct. 21, vs. Old Dominion, 6 p.m.
Oct. 26, at Princeton, 6 p.m.
Oct. 28, at Northeastern, 2 p.m.

2007 Men's Soccer

Aug 31, vs. Virginia Tech, 8 p.m. \$
Sept. 2, vs. Albany, 3:30 p.m. \$
Sept. 7, vs. St John's, 3 p.m. #
Sept. 9, vs. Clemson, 1:30 p.m. #
Sept. 15, vs. at UMBC, 1 p.m.
Sept. 22, at American, 1 p.m.
Sept. 29, vs. North Carolina, 7 p.m.
Oct. 5, vs. Delaware, 7 p.m.
Oct. 7, vs. Drexel, 2 p.m.

Oct. 12, at Old Dominion, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14, at William & Mary, 2 p.m.
Oct. 19, vs. Northeastern, 7 p.m.
Oct. 21, vs. Hofstra, 2 p.m.
Oct. 26, at George Mason, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28, vs. Towson, 2 p.m.
Nov. 2, at UNC Wilmington, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4, at Georgia State, 1 p.m.
Nov. 9, at James Madison, 7 p.m.

\$ – Nike/Alltel Classic at Sports Backers Stadium

– Virginia Tech tournament



Pat Kane file photo

2007 Women's Soccer

Aug. 31, vs. Seton Hall, 4 p.m. \$
Sept. 2, vs. Villanova, 2 p.m. \$
Sept. 7, vs. Maine, 4 p.m. #
Sept. 9, vs. Oklahoma, noon #
Sept. 14, vs. North Carolina, 7 p.m. %
Sept. 16, vs. Navy, noon %
Sept. 20, vs. Richmond, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23, at North Carolina State, 1 p.m.
Sept. 28, vs. UNC Wilmington, 7 p.m.
Sept. 30, vs. Georgia State, 2 p.m.
Oct. 5, at Delaware, 7 p.m.
Oct. 7, at Drexel, 1 p.m.
Oct. 12, vs. Old Dominion, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14, vs. William & Mary, 2 p.m.
Oct. 19, at Northeastern, 6 p.m.
Oct. 21, at Hofstra, 1 p.m.
Oct. 26, vs. George Mason, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28, at Towson, 1 p.m.
Nov. 1, vs. James Madison, 7 p.m.

\$ – Villanova tournament

– Nike/Tribe Invitational at Williamsburg

% – VCU/Ewing Sports Invitational at Sports Backers Stadium

2007 Volleyball

Aug. 24, vs. Marshall, 12:30 p.m. \$
Aug. 25, vs. Virginia Tech, 3 p.m. \$
Aug. 31, vs. George Washington, 2 p.m. #
Aug. 31, vs. South Carolina, 7 p.m. #
Sept. 1, vs. Liberty, 2 p.m. #
Sept. 1, vs. Maryland, 7 p.m. #
Sept. 7, vs. St. John's, 3 p.m. %
Sept. 7, vs. Colgate, 5:30 p.m. %
Sept. 8, vs. Penn State, 2 p.m. %
Sept. 14, vs. Florida A&M, 7 p.m. ^
Sept. 15, vs. Tulane, 1 p.m. ^
Sept. 15, vs. Arizona State, 5 p.m. ^
Sept. 21, at Georgia State, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 22, at UNC Wilmington, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26, at William & Mary, 7 p.m.
Oct. 5, at Delaware, 7 p.m.
Oct. 6, at Towson, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10, vs. Howard, 7 p.m.
Oct. 12, vs. UNC Wilmington, 5 p.m.
Oct. 13, vs. Georgia State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 16, at Georgetown, 7 p.m.
Oct. 19, at James Madison, 7 p.m.
Oct. 20, at George Mason, 7 p.m.
Oct. 26, vs. Hofstra, 7 p.m.
Oct. 27, vs. Northeastern, 7 p.m.
Oct. 30, vs. Radford, 7 p.m.
Nov. 1, vs. William & Mary, 7 p.m.
Nov. 6, at American, 7 p.m.
Nov. 8, vs. Towson, 7 p.m.
Nov. 9, vs. Delaware, 6 p.m.
Nov. 23, vs. Albany, 7 p.m. *
Nov. 24, vs. Georgetown, noon *
Nov. 24, vs. Long Island, 4 p.m. *

\$ – Virginia Tech tournament

– VCU/3rd Degree Sportswear Invitational at the Stuart C. Siegel Center

% – Penn State Classic

^ – Arizona State tournament

* – VCU Thanksgiving tournament



Pat Kane file photo

CT sports stories of the year

JONATHAN HOWARD

Sports Editor

2006-2007 was a busy year for VCU Rams athletics. Here is this best and worst of this past school year.

Men's basketball beats Duke

It was a match up made in heaven. A hot mid-major team in VCU going up against Duke, an NCAA giant that suffered a down year. The Rams traveled to Buffalo with one thing on their mind: victory. VCU trailed 40-38 at halftime but outscored Duke 41-37 in the second half to take home the win. Eric Maynor's (Fayetteville, N.C./Westover) pull-up jumper from the free throw line with five seconds to play sealed the deal and gave the Rams a 79-77 triumph. Maynor led the Rams with 22 points while Josh McRoberts (22) and Greg Paulus (25) put up career highs in scoring. The win proved to be the Rams' last as Pittsburgh knocked off VCU in the second round. The black and gold finished the season with school and conference records for wins.

Women's basketball starts hot, ends cold

Things were looking good for Beth Cunningham's Rams in the beginning of the season. The team started out a school-record 6-0 but dropped seven of the next 10 games. Helping the slide was an injury to sophomore sensation Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake, Va./Great Bridge), who went down with an ankle injury in a victory over Norfolk State. The star center missed the next two games but recovered well afterward. The Rams looked to have regained early season form in February, winning four of the final five regular season games leading up to the CAA tournament. An opening-round victory over Northeastern in the tournament continued the momentum, but pesky Delaware ended the Rams' season the following day.

Baseball makes NCAA Tournament

It was an interesting year on the diamond for VCU baseball. The team had its ups and downs but ended up tying for first in the conference and winning the CAA tournament over Delaware. Led by pitchers Luke Pisker (Oley, Pa./Oley Valley) and John Leonard (Virginia Beach, Va./Kellam), the glove of Sergio Miranda (Bayamon, Puerto Rico/PRBA) and the hot bat of Jared Bolden (Lynchburg, Va./E.C. Glass), the Rams entered the tournament looking to make a statement. However, the

Rams combined to make six errors in losses to Coastal Carolina and St. John's, sending the black and gold home in the tournament's opening round.

Donovan leaves Florida ... then returns

When Billy Donovan announced he would be leaving the University of Florida to coach the NBA's Orlando Magic, it didn't mean much to VCU. That is, until the realization set in that coach Anthony Grant would become UF's top target to replace Donovan. Florida's

athletic director flew in to Richmond to speak with Grant, but after 10 minutes in the capital city, he turned around to fly back to Gainesville. Why? Donovan had a change of heart and decided coaching NBA wasn't for him. Bottom line, Florida keeps its coach, and VCU fans can breathe again.

Lambert wins again... and again... and again...

The saying goes that there are three things in life that are certain: death, taxes and change. For the VCU men's track and field team, the saying was more along the lines of death, taxes and Davion Lambert (Richmond/Varina). The sprints and jumps specialist racked up victory after victory. The senior racked up at least eight wins during the indoor season and made the NCAA championships during the outdoor season.

New coaches for women's soccer

After Denise Schilte-Brown and Chris Brown stepped down as co-head coaches of the VCU women's soccer team and took a similar position at the University of South Florida, Athletic Director Norwood Teague set out to make a statement. The results: the hiring of former women's National Team member Tiffany Roberts-Sahaydak and former MLS player Tim Sahaydak as their replacements. The duo brings many years of professional and international experience to the table, as well as big-time NCAA experience. Both attended the University of North Carolina.

Men's soccer suffers uncharacteristic season

VCU men's soccer isn't used to losing. With six NCAA Tournament appearances and three CAA titles, winning is the norm. However, the Rams followed up a disappointing 6-10-4 season in 2005 with an even more disappointing 4-13-1 effort in 2006. The black and gold sputtered to a 2-8-1 conference record and were 3-6-1 at home. Of the 13 losses, 12 were determined by only one goal.



Pat Kane file photo

Get to the *gym*

Looking for a place to workout? Need to practice your jump shot? Do you like dancing in front of a mirror? The good news is that VCU has numerous gym facilities, all of which are free to students with a student ID.

In past years, this policy changed during the summer, with students enrolled in summer school having free access and all other students who wanted access having to pay a \$30 fee for the semester. Starting this summer, all students will have free access.

MONROE PARK CAMPUS

Stuart C. Siegel Center: Besides being the home to Rams basketball and volleyball, the Siegel Center also provides gym space for students. The facility contains a large workout space with everything ranging from nautilus equipment to free weights, to treadmills.

Across the hall is a full-length court for basketball, dodgeball and indoor soccer. Farther down the hall is an exercise room for group and personal classes, which are available for a small fee. Personal trainers for workout sessions are available as well.

Cary Street Gym/Field: Located behind the Eugene P. and Lois E. Trani Life Sciences Building and Thalhimer Tennis Center, Cary Street Gym provides more basketball space for students. There is a full-length basketball court, which also has goals on the sides to accommodate more games. Nets and racquets for volleyball and badminton and balls for indoor soccer are available at the front desk.

On the same floor is a small workout facility with treadmills and some nautilus equipment. Also on the first floor is the outdoor recreation office, where you can rent camping equipment, as well as sign up for camping trips and other outdoor activities. Trips take place all year long. Information is available in the office and online. On the second level, rooms are available for racquetball and squash, and a floor and mirror is provided for dance and exercise. There are also two basketball courts outside to the left of the building.

The Cary Street Field is to the right of the building, next to the on-going construction. Used for field hockey and club lacrosse, as well as practice for both soccer teams, the field is also home to intramural sports. The field has posted hours of availability. The field can be reserved for no charge by calling the gym.

Franklin Street Gym: Although the actual gym portion is available only to athletes, this building, located less than a block away from Rhoads, Johnson and Brandt halls, is home to a large swimming pool students may use. The hours for the pool are generally posted on the front door.

Thalhimer Tennis Center: Home of the men's and women's tennis teams, these tennis courts are also open to public use. When the teams aren't practicing or competing, the courts are open to students.

MCV CAMPUS

MCV: This gym, located next to Cabaniss Hall, is actually the largest gym facility in square footage owned by VCU. There is a large workout facility and basketball court with goals along the sides.

There is also a lap pool and a hot tub located on the first floor. On the second level, there are rooms for racquetball and squash, as well as an exercise room.

There is also a room containing a heavy punching bag and a speed bag.

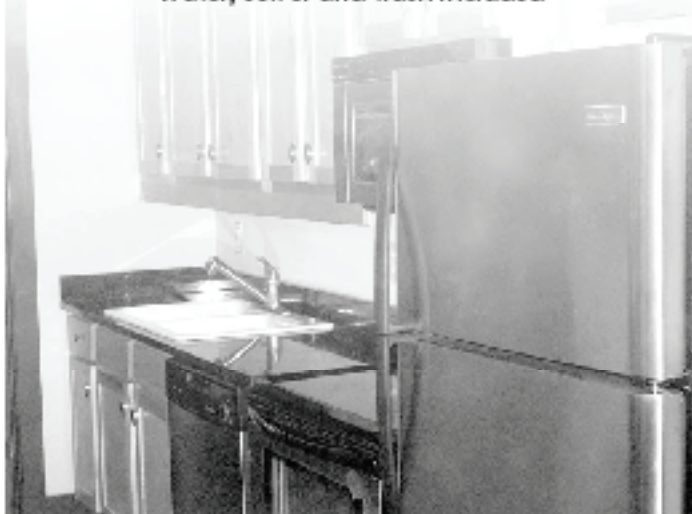
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M/F/D/V

Spectrum

A DATE WITH

DESIGN

Design Center graphic

OLIVIA BEATTY

Spectrum Editor

Cameras were flashing, hot techno music was pumping, and the models were strutting down the catwalk in the latest fashions.

Stepping into the University Student Commons Ballroom on Friday, May 4, was like being transported to Milan, Paris or New York. For one night, Richmond too was a fashion capital.

About 120 of the best student-produced fashions from the fashion design and merchandising department appeared in the sold-out show, titled "Divine Disorder." The show's theme was inspired by the chaos theory of fashion adoption.

Divided into 12 segments, the show included garments produced in the 2006-2007 school year by 29 juniors

and 29 seniors. Garment collections included eco-friendly fashion, machine knits, loungewear and cocktail.

The fashion merchandising students devised, produced and marketed the event. A panel of nine jurors chose one garment as "critic's choice" for each segment.

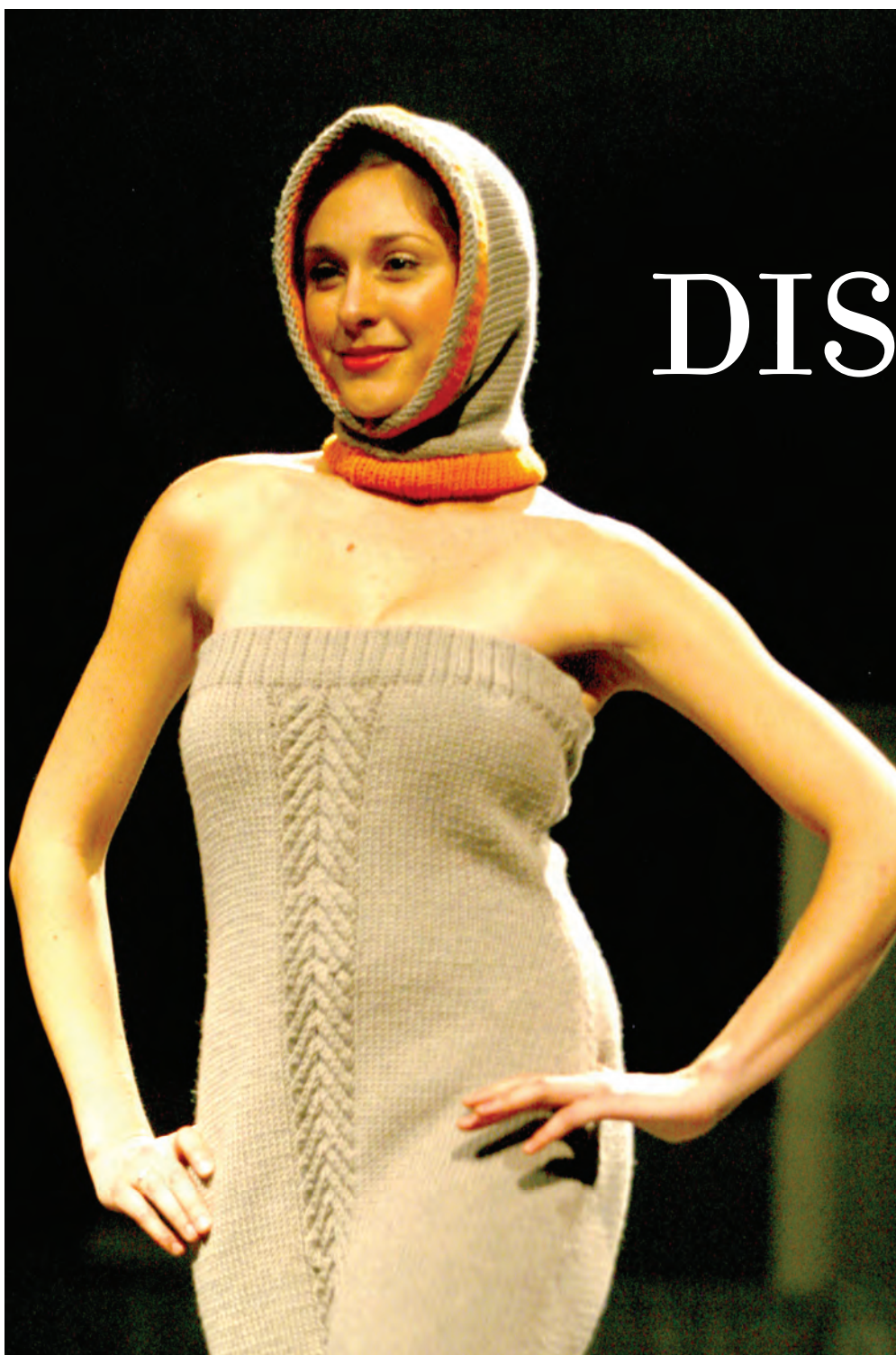
The fashion department awarded 18 design and eight merchandising prizes for study abroad and research and gave scholarships to outstanding students. Cotton Inc. also gave awards in three categories: dresses, resort wear and menswear.

At the end of the show, the department recognized design student Soo Hyun Kim, who was one of the top three U.S. finalists in the REMIX 2007 IFTF International Fur Design Competition in Milan. Her design was a fox fur swing coat with a cape collar.



Hoods, cotton, polka dots and floaty skirts were catwalk favorites.

Cynthia K. Merchant photo



“DIVINE DISORDER” BREAKDOWN:

The eco collection, “EARTH SPEAKS,” was inspired by the ever-growing green movement. Students used alternative fabrics, such as bamboo, and natural fabrics and dyes. The segment included beaded linens, tight skirts, hooded dresses and floaty shirts with structured skirts.

The machine knits segment, “THE YARN SHOP,” featured sexy, strapless dresses and form-fitting, striped skirts made from hand-woven material, and it was described as “designs your grandma never thought of.”

The loungewear segment, “MOCHA MOVES,” showcased Greek-inspired luxurious satin, silk and lace nightwear in rich earth tones.

“MARTINI LOUNGE” displayed a burgundy, satin bustier and a green, satin, halter dress with a puffy skirt.

The “PATTERNED OBJECT” segment featured delicate dresses in fabric with intricate designs, a map dress and a long nautical cape.

The “COUNTERPARTS” works displayed tall, floppy collars and natural patchwork skirts, while the 1980s-inspired

“PARTY LIKE A ROCKSTAR” saw models sporting houndstooth prints, pleather, wide-leg pants, vintage linen and distressed army style.

Cotton dresses were the thing at the “GARDEN PARTY,” which featured dresses in black, white, red, yellow and purple with all kinds of necklines, backs, skirt lengths and sleeves.

Earthy fabrics made an appearance at the show (above). Models pose in the latest black-and-white trend (right).

Cynthia K. Merchant photo

Resort wear was created for the “FRENCH RIVIERA” segment. Garments were in vintage ‘50s and ‘70s styles, boasting block colors, polka dots and stripes in browns and oranges.

“NOT YOUR MOTHER’S WEDDING DRESS” showcased beads, feathers and cowgirls in cream, green and rosy pink.

The packed house went wild when the first male model took to the catwalk for the “UTBAn COWBOY” menswear segment. The theme was hip-hop meets country, with garments including fake chaps, vests, cowboy hats, handkerchief masks and Southwest-style button-up shirts.



Cynthia K. Merchant photo

WEIRD NEWS

Purity ring banned

A 16-year-old British schoolgirl appealed to the High Court challenging the ban on her wearing a purity ring at school. The ring symbolizes her decision to abstain from sex until marriage, and it is banned as part of the school's no jewelry policy.

The girl's lawyers say her right to express religious beliefs is not being upheld. The girl said she should be allowed to express her religious devotion since Muslims are allowed to wear headscarves, and people of other faiths are allowed to wear bangles in school.

The school said it is merely enforcement of uniform policies, not encroachment on religious rights.

This is the most recent in a series of clashes about wearing religious symbols and clothing in European schools. Muslim headscarves are banned in French state schools, and another British girl was forbidden to wear a Muslim gown to school.

Prostitution candid camera

The mayor of San Fior, Italy, is attempting to embarrass men into not using prostitutes by photographing cars that pick them up and then publishing the details in the newspaper.

By arming police with digital cameras and instructing them to take photos of cars that stop to pick up prostitutes, the mayor will then publish information about the cars, including license plate numbers.

The reason for the crackdown is so people who have to be at work early aren't kept up at night by the sound of cars. The mayor is awaiting approval from lawyers, who are researching whether this violates privacy laws.

Magic act of nature

A lake in southern Chile has disappeared. The speculation is that the ground just opened up and swallowed it whole.

Fed mostly by water from melting glaciers, the lake used

to be in the Magallanes region of Patagonia. The lake's surface area was between 10 and 12 acres, which is about the size of 10 soccer fields.

The Chilean National Forestry Corporation said when it patrolled the area in March, everything was normal, but on their May patrol the lake was completely gone.

The forestry's director said all that was left of it were hunks of ice on the dry lakebed and a huge fissure. The disappearance is under investigation.

One theory is that a tremor hit the area and cracked the ground, draining the lake.

Stumped by a stick

Two teenage thieves failed an attempt at car theft because they couldn't figure out how to use manual transmission.

The teens, armed with a gun, approached a man outside of a pizza restaurant in Marietta, Ga., and stole his wallet and car keys.

While the thieves sat in the car and tried to start it, restaurant employees called the police. The police captured the teens as they tried to escape on foot into the woods nearby.

Author sued for not being a prostitute

The film company that bought the rights to adapt the book "Sarah" into a movie is suing its best-selling author for pretending to be a 19-year-old male prostitute to gain a movie deal.

The book is about a transgender boy who works alongside his mother as a truck-stop prostitute. The book came out in 2000 under the pen name J.T. Leroy, described as a male teen prostitute.

The book was actually written by 41-year-old Brooklyn mother Laura Albert, who now lives in California.

Antidote Film Company claims it was falsely induced into the movie contract, saying part of its attraction to the book was the unique life story of its author.

The company would like to recover the \$110,000 it paid for the novel's movie rights.



the ctube

JONATHAN HOWARD

Sports Editor

For those of you who are like me and are sad to see "The Sopranos" go, a cheerful and funny video is exactly what you need. Good thing another classic television show

came to the rescue. The hit Fox television show "The Simpsons" spoofed the opening scene of "The Sopranos" with its own mob character, Fat Tony.

For fans of both shows, this parody provides entertainment and nostalgia alike.

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PARIS, JE T'AIME

film



review

REBECCA LANDAU
Managing Editor

“Paris, je t’aime” opens with a beautiful shot of Paris’ skyline at sunrise, illuminating the city as a dusty, ancient specimen of romantic sentimentality. This dreamy introduction captures what the viewer can expect in the frames that follow—a film that gives the audience a delicate glimpse into what makes a city its own schizophrenic creature.

Anyone who loves urban life knows how in a city, romance, grief, comedy, terror, irony and anonymity combine organically around its inhabitants to create a unique, communal experience. This anthology thrives on exploring these experiences by tackling each part of what makes us human, from the outrageous to the common, with the same kind of attention to detail.

Boasting 20 short-film contributions from such well-known directors as Gus Van Sant, the Coen brothers, Alfonso Cuarón, Wes

Craven and Alexander Payne, each short expresses a different, distinct personality, while still retaining a feeling of cohesiveness with the overarching theme of Paris.

While a few of the pieces might be too weird or esoteric for some viewers, the overall collection is fairly even as an anthology. Standouts include the Coens’ wacky take on an American tourist in Paris, starring Steve Buschemi, and Tim Twyker’s short, starring Natalie Portman. In Twyker’s piece, we see a relationship through the perceptive eyes of a blind lover. The short’s glorious editing, culminating to a climax with the help of lovely narration, makes the film fascinating, complex and emotional to watch, like a visual poem.

But my favorite is director Alexander Payne’s short. In this piece, an overweight American tourist narrates her experience on vacation in Paris in poorly-pronounced French. Her voice manages to expose her character’s soul in its monotone delivery far better than any overwrought, melodramatic soliloquy ever could. Plus, the short

film wouldn’t have worked so beautifully without actress Margo Martindale’s sad eyes, telling you that although she is, in fact, wearing a fanny pack, and although she hasn’t really read the poetry written by the poets whose graves she visits, she feels, loves and understands Paris.

And that’s the beauty of this collection of tales. Paris is not merely the backdrop for neurosis and poetry; it is neurosis and poetry. One doesn’t need a Ph.D. in gothic architecture to understand, while sitting in a Parisian park on a sunny day, why life is complicated and wonderful, and why, “nous tout Paris d’amour”: We all love Paris.

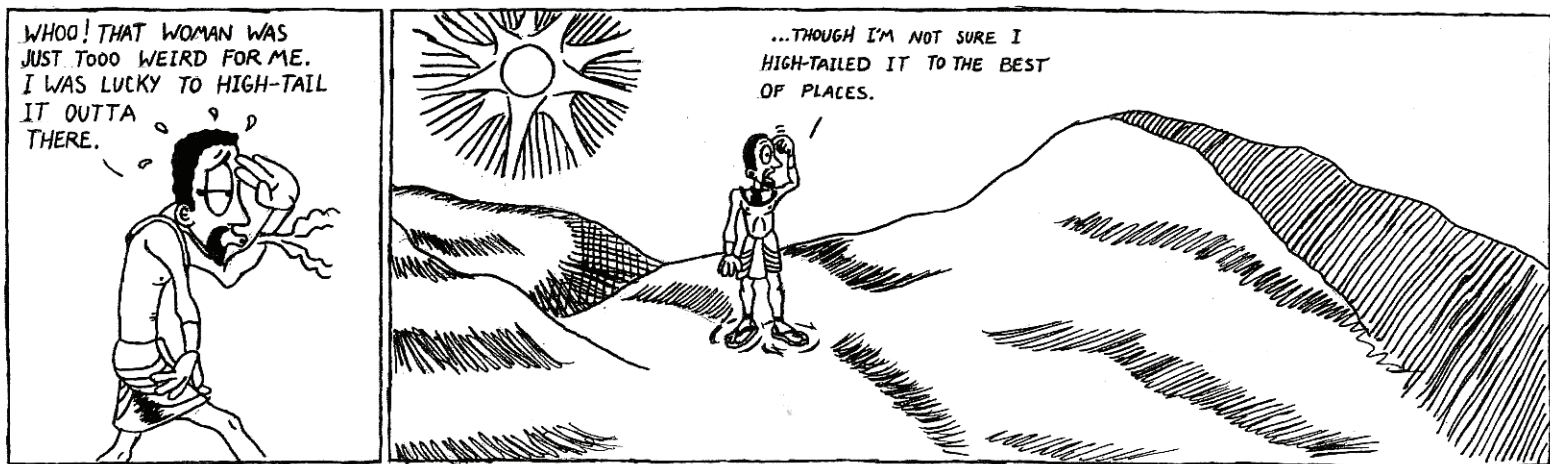
Grade: A

Melissa Showalter illustration

Comics

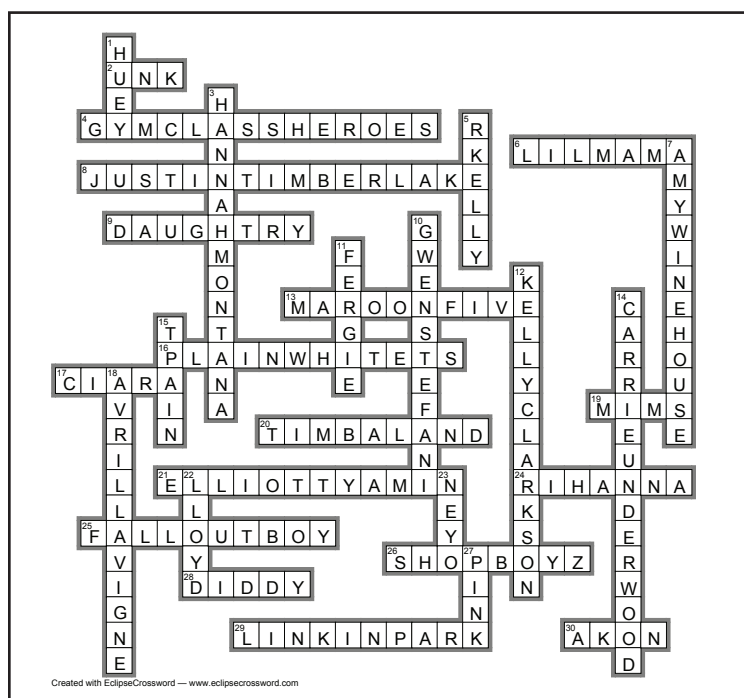
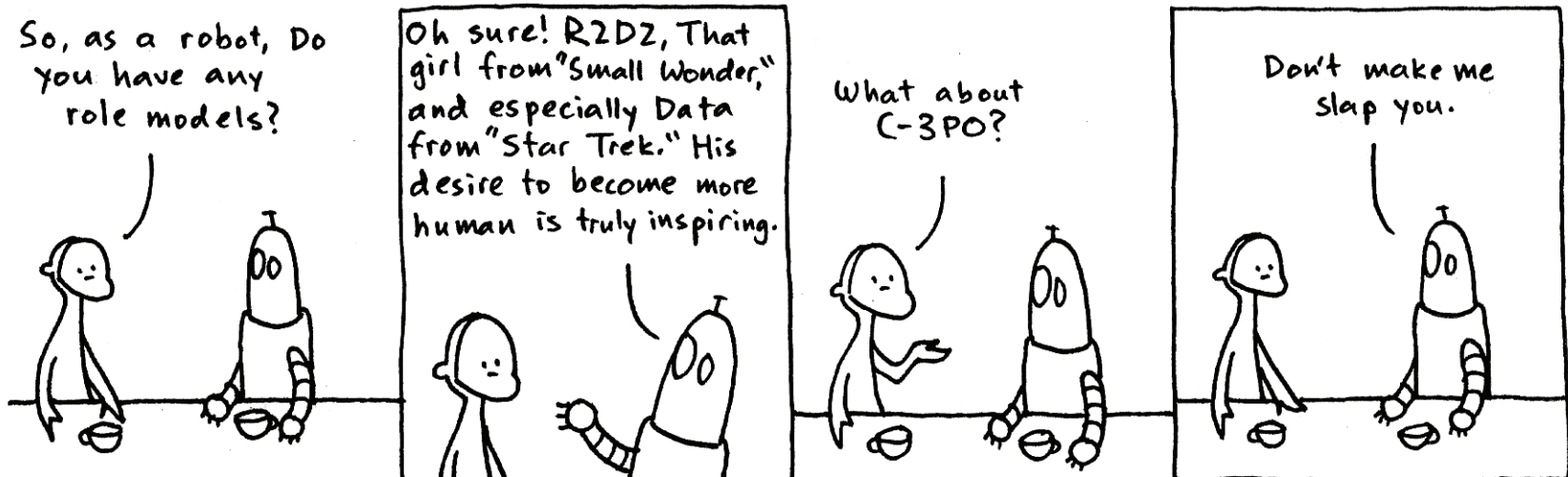
Clockstoppers

Cobb Dixon



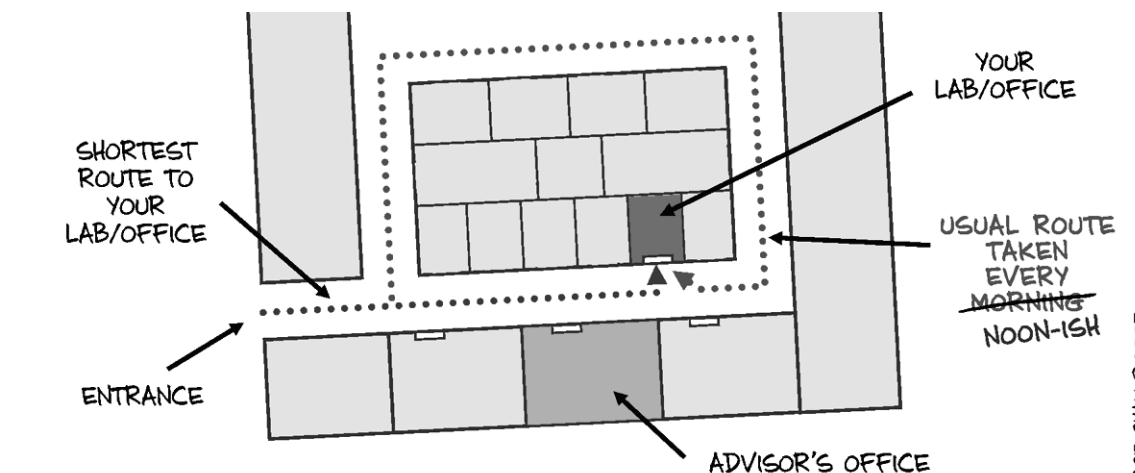
Digits

Geoffrey Cook



Piled Higher and Deeper

Jorge Cham



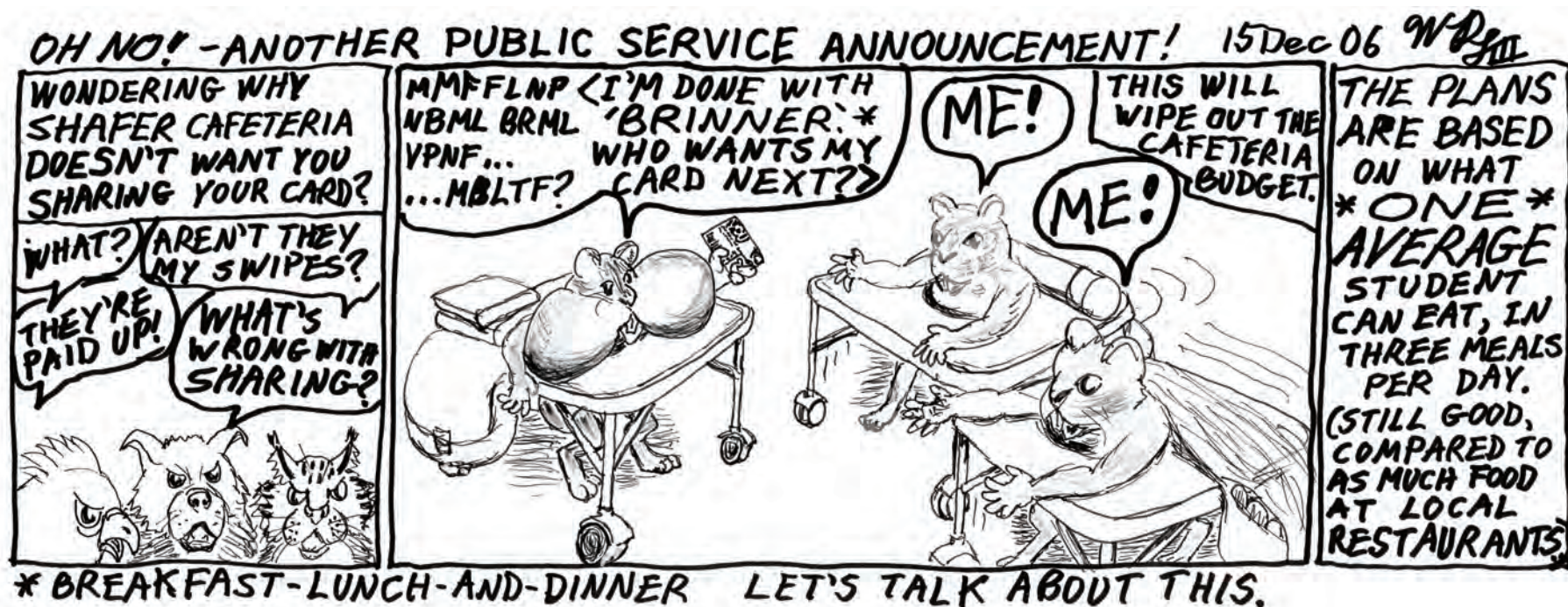
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Classifieds & Comics

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Bill Lemmond



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Opinion

Shameful court decision strikes down student speech

REBECCA LANDAU
Managing Editor

When 18-year-old Joseph Fredericks displayed a banner stating, “Bong Hits 4 Jesus,” on a public sidewalk, he didn’t think his silly joke would result in the largest revocation of students’ First Amendment rights in U.S. history.

Nonetheless, that’s just what happened when, on June 18, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in a split vote that Fredericks’ principal had the right to punish the high school student for setting a bad example. The student’s sign was neither displayed nor constructed on school property, but rather was presented on a public sidewalk. The student unfurled his banner to coincide with the passing of the Olympic Torch in front of his high school.

“It was reasonable for (the principal) to conclude that the banner promoted illegal drug use – and that failing to act would send a powerful message to the students in her charge,” stated Chief Justice John Roberts for the court’s majority, as reported by CNN.

No, folks, we haven’t stepped into a time warp and re-entered the ultimate era of conservatism –1950s

MaCarthyism – when basic freedoms of speech were ignored to keep everyone happy and delusional.

This is 2007, and our most respected judicial body has inadvertently decided that while it is constitutional for the Patriot Act to permit unapproved governmental wire tapping, a high schooler can’t express himself freely on American streets without possible censure from his high school administrators.

Yes, drugs are illegal, and yes, the student’s statement was encouraging illegal behavior; not to mention, it was pretty stupid. But last time I checked, talking about drugs was still legal, and last time I checked, there was a group of people in this country who think marijuana should be legal, and they aren’t stupid.

The First Amendment doesn’t only protect intelligent, non-offensive speech about things its citizens can legally do. The First Amendment exists to protect speech that is mocking, satiric, political, stupid, hateful (without directly inciting violence), silly and critical of its government – speech that might piss off and embarrass a high school principal at a major community event.

As anyone who went to high school can attest, administrators are typically more concerned with

maintaining their school systems’ sterling images than respecting teenagers’ opinions or rights to protest.

Some might argue high school students do not have the same legal rights as adults. In one sense, this is true.

Court case Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier clarifies the role of administrators in censoring student speech. The Hazelwood decision states administrators at a public school can discipline a student for disruptive or inappropriate behavior on school property, with the defense that said behavior is distracting other students from learning. Yet, no academic body previously has been given jurisdiction to punish its students for beliefs or statements expressed outside the classroom, regardless of their proximity to a school campus.

Call me crazy, but I always thought that after the bell rings and classes are adjourned, parents are the ones who are in charge of regulating their children’s behavior, however egregious or stupid it might be.

For instance, what if a Christian student wants to pray in the middle of a public street while waiting

SPEECH continued to Page CT27

Weird news is good news

RACHEL VAMENTA
Opinion Editor

The concept of good habits is nothing new to those of us who are entering or leaving college. There’s the usual advice about good hygiene and nutrition, people skills and study skills. But there’s one habit that probably isn’t stressed enough, and that’s following the news.

News happens everyday. Even so, sometimes what we see, hear or read might not be particularly appealing or amusing.

Here’s why offbeat news is so great. For one, its weirdness and absurdity are powerful attention grabbers. The offbeat is also a fun alternative to the typical headlines toting scandals and disasters. And there’s something for everyone, which is all the more reason to pay attention to stuff that just might show up on a future current events quiz.

Currently garnering some of the most buzz in the world of offbeat news is the story of Roy Pearson’s missing pants. Pearson, who lost a pair of pants at his dry cleaners in 2005, decided to sue the store owners for \$67 million. Although

the cleaners’ agreed to settle for \$12,000, Pearson would only drop the lawsuit to \$54 million. His case is being heard in court this month. Even more perplexing is the news that Pearson, an administrative judge in Washington, D.C., cried in the courtroom while testifying. So far, this guy isn’t proving anything apart from the fact that he’s implacable.

This summer also looks to be one for amazing medical breakthroughs, so gamers, listen up. If you have sore shoulders and a Wii obsession, you might just have Wiiiitis. According to recent news reports, its symptoms are similar to tennis elbow, and can be treated simply with one week’s worth of Ibuprofen. Wiiiitis is hardly the last of video game-related afflictions, so perhaps it’s a matter of time before “Guitar Hero wrist” becomes an official medical term.

Almost anything having to do with animals or Japanese cultural quirks is fair game to the offbeat. The Soladi Care Home in Togichi, Japan, made headlines for being the first 24-hour nursing home for aging dogs. The home also will employ puppies to play with the older dogs. Strange, but it makes sense if you

equate the puppies to their human teenage counterparts who volunteer in elder care programs. Soladi’s monthly rate comes to \$800. Hopefully the dogs will get the same quality of care as their human owners, if not better.

Entertainment and celebrity news coverage is also a staple this summer. However, the real story isn’t about overhyped film premieres, the latest reality show upset or supposedly penitent socialites. No, deep down, we’re all wondering who will replace Bob Barker on “The Price Is Right.” The show’s retired host was recently rumored to have endorsed friend and fellow television personality Rosie O’Donnell, but like the rest of us, Barker doesn’t know who CBS will ultimately hire. In a way, it would be nice to take his word about Rosie, because then at least the whole thing would be settled.

Arguably, some news stories – both hard and offbeat – do get blown up beyond proportion. But isn’t that the fun of it? Summer is the perfect time to start keeping up with these stories. Besides, a lot can happen in the next few weeks.

Pearson could be giving away pants on “The Price Is Right,” for all we know.

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.

Greetings from the editor

As VCU's independent student press, The Commonwealth Times strives to inform Virginia's largest university student body of the latest campus and community news.

Beginning Aug. 23, the first day of fall semester classes, look for the CT every Monday and Thursday. You can find us at locations across the Monroe Park and MCV campuses, as well as at numerous off-campus sites, including local restaurants, such as The Village and Mojo's (not to mention online at commonwealthtimes.com).

For those interested in journalism, we encourage you to do more than just read our paper; consider joining our extended staff as volunteers. We are always on the lookout for students who want to contribute as reporters, writers, photographers and designers. Send your inquiries to editor@commonwealthtimes.com to find out how you can get involved.

On behalf of the CT staff, we wish you a good summer, and we welcome new students to VCU. We look forward to your readership this academic year.

—Gayland Hethcoat

SPEECH continued from Page CT26

for the school bus, and an administrator interprets this act as “inappropriate,” because the school wants to maintain a secular image? Alternatively, what if a student wants to distribute safe-sex pamphlets on the weekend, and school administrators think this activism is contradicting their sexual education program's pro-abstinence policy, encouraging underage sex, or worse, the pamphlets' images from medical texts are graphic enough for the principal to ignorantly consider them pornographic?

Air-headed administrators could use this ruling to liberally censor any speech they consider “embarrassing.” Maybe our current Supreme Court justices should make sure high school principals are precise at interpreting the meaning of speech and are incapable of experiencing self-righteous power trips before they allot them such unchecked freedom of judgment.

Also, if students can now be prosecuted for their personal beliefs and statements made outside schools, how far will the restrictions go? Will teens be allowed to participate in political discussions about issues like civil rights, abortion and terrorism? Like it or not, culture is often synthesized by our teenagers, and like it or not, our teenagers grow up to be our voting adults. By treating them like sub-citizens, you are only alienating them from the democratic process.

If an 18 year old is mature enough to enlist in the draft, he should be old enough to write “Bong Hits 4 Jesus” on a banner. It's shocking that the

same generation of teens who propelled the civil rights movement forward and ended the Vietnam War has allowed this kind of unconstitutional and morally-bereft decision to restrict their children from protesting peacefully outside their high schools.

If youth speech were restricted to inhibit criticism of currently-held laws in our country's history, segregation and slavery could still be in existence today, as well as laws against the sale of alcohol, laws restricting peaceful protest and laws dictating Americans must maintain the moral fabric of previous generations, without consideration for— cultural change.

Look back at the previous seminal Supreme Court case, *Tinker v. Des Moines*, which up to this point had been considered a precedent for student rights. The then-rational Supreme Court held that students “do not shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gate.” The First Amendment, according to that decision, protects public school students from oppression inspired by their social or political speech.

But not today. Today, for embarrassing an administrator, a student goes from being an American citizen to a public relations liability. While “Bong Hits 4 Jesus” might just be a dumb phrase, its invention has led to a Supreme Court decision that can only be labeled a terrible misjudgment of First Amendment rights – a scary foreshadowing of the increased reduction of Americans' rights to free speech in the years to come.

For freshmen, advice from a recent graduate

STEPHEN HICKS

Opinion Writer

Freshmen: First off, welcome to VCU.

I might not be the best ambassador, but hopefully something somewhere in this address will equip you for the rough streets surrounding Monroe Park.

The first bit of advice I can offer is to create relationships with your professors. Do not hesitate. Introduce yourself on the first day of class. Avoid waiting until the last few weeks of the semester. Everyone seems to do that, and that's when people get stressed out. Skip the anxiety. If a professor knows you, a solution can arrive sooner than later.

A relationship with a professor can also help in the future. You might need a letter of recommendation. You might need help in deciding on your major or minor. If you have a strong rapport with your professor, these tasks should be no sweat.

Secondly, buy cheap books. Resist the temptation to stand in long lines on the hottest days of August at the bookstores. Believe me, those lines do reach outside. Try using online sources, like half.com or amazon.com, for purchasing books. Just make sure you order as soon as possible – anything can happen to your mail.

The next parcel of advice might be the most

important: Be social. This is not high school. Start over if you'd like. If you live in the dorms, this should be rather easy. If you live off campus, join an organization and utilize time with your classmates. You never know what could happen.

OK, I lied. Maybe this is the most important element of your freshman orientation: Do not depend solely on your academic advisors. They are few. You, the students, are many. When you meet with your advisor, come with a list of questions. Also ask for paperwork. If you've decided on a major, ask for that department's graduation checklist. This is your education. This is your money that you're spending here. Take some control.

Lastly, I want to leave you with three syllables of survival: “internship.” Apply for every internship possible in your desired field of study. This will allow you to gain hands-on experience before you graduate with a particular degree and land a job in a field you realize you hate.

Like I said before, I might not be the best ambassador, but I hope this piece helps. Good luck and much success.

Stephen Hicks is a May 2007 graduate of the School of Mass Communications.

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Crossword

Across

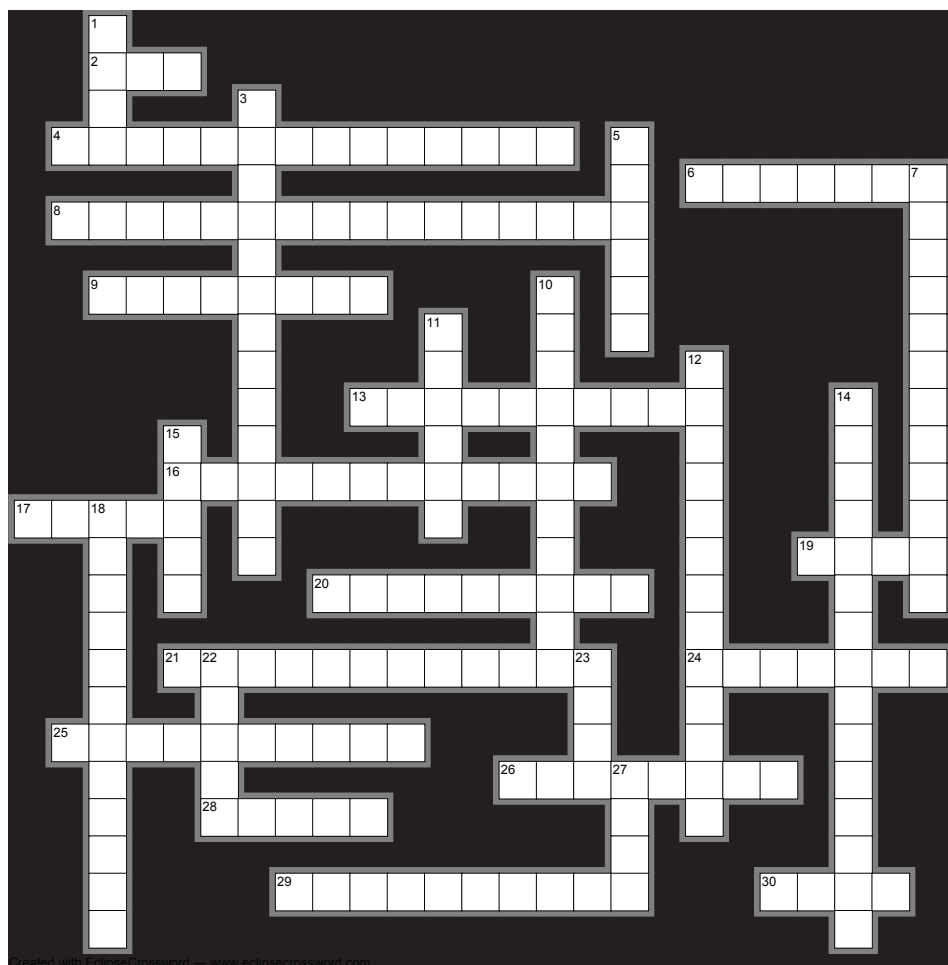
2. "2 Step"
4. "Cupid's Chokehold"
6. "Lip Gloss"
8. "Summer Love"
9. "Home"
13. "Makes Me Wonder"
16. "Hey There Delilah"
17. "Like a Boy"
19. "This Is Why I'm Hot"
20. "Give It to Me"
21. "Wait for You"
24. "Umbrella"
25. "Thnks Fr Th Mmrs"
26. "Party Like a Rockstar"
28. "Last Night"
29. "What I've Done"

30. "Don't Matter"

Down

1. "Pop, Lock & Drop It"
3. "Nobody's Perfect"
5. "I'm a Flirt"
7. "Rehab"
10. "The Sweet Escape"
11. "Big Girls Don't Cry"
12. "Never Again"
14. "Before He Cheats"
15. "Buy U A Drank (Shawty Snappin')"
18. "Girlfriend"
22. "Get It Shawty"
23. "Because of You"
27. "U + Ur Hand"

ANSWERS on Page CT24



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