



# the ct

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

Wednesday, October 4, 2007 Vol. 47 No.12

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# First Impressions

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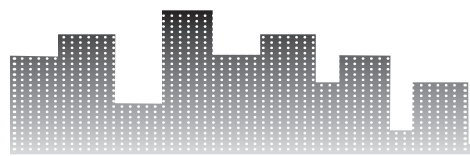
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# Briefs

## Weather



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## WORLD

**BAGHDAD** – The Polish ambassador to Iraq was slightly wounded and two civilians, including a bodyguard, were killed in a roadside bomb attack Wednesday in downtown Baghdad, according to Polish government officials.

Gen. Edward Pietrzyk was being treated for minor burns covering 20 percent of his body and “is going to be fine,” said Deputy Ambassador Waldemar Figaj, who spoke to The Associated Press from a hospital in Baghdad’s Green Zone. Pietrzyk was to be flown home to Poland by way of Germany later in the day.

A civilian passer-by died after at least two roadside bombs were detonated around 10 a.m., an Iraqi police official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information. A Polish security guard, Bartosz Orzechowski, 29, died at the hospital a short time later, Poland’s Interior Minister Wladyslaw Stasiak said during a news conference.

At least 11 people, including three security guards with the convoy, were also wounded in the attack in the Karradah neighborhood, police said. The guards worked for Poland’s

Government Protection Office, which is responsible for the security of Polish officials in Iraq, said Dariusz Aleksandrowicz, the agency’s spokesman.

The attack, which took place a few hundred yards from the Polish Embassy, seemed to target the ambassador, said Robert Szaniawski, a spokesman for the Polish Foreign Ministry.

“We still don’t have the reasons for the attack,” he said, adding that the embassy is not in the heavily fortified Green Zone.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the United States was shocked by the attack.

## NATION

**WASHINGTON** – Hillary Rodham Clinton defied the usual slow flow of summer money, tapping 100,000 new donors and outpacing all other presidential candidates in the chase for campaign cash over the past three months.

The New York senator raised \$27 million in the quarter — \$22 million for the primaries and \$5 million for the general election — while other candidates fell victim to the traditional third-quarter dip in fundraising.

For the first time, Clinton reported

attracting more new donors in a quarter than her chief fundraising rival, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. And, for the first time, she raised more primary election money than he did.

Both candidates have now raised about \$80 million each since the beginning of the year, Tuesday’s updated figures showed.

Obama still has the most donors at 352,000 and leads Clinton in primary money. He has raised nearly \$75 million toward the nominating contests to her \$62.6 million — a figure

that does not include the \$10 million she transferred from her 2006 Senate campaign.

The cash-on-hand figure will be a key measure of strength as the campaigns head into one of the most expensive stretches. Neither Clinton nor Obama reported how much money they had left in the bank.

With their third-quarter numbers, Obama and Clinton have helped push the Democratic field into record fundraising territory for a presidential campaign.

## LOCAL

**SUSSEX** - A Surry County judge will set a trial date for Michael Vick and three co-defendants on state dogfighting charges on Nov. 27.

The suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback and the others are not expected to be present at the hearing, Surry County Commonwealth’s Attorney Gerald G. Poindexter said after a hearing Wednesday to determine if each defendant had legal representation.

Poindexter said he hopes to have the trial begin as soon as possible.

“All the good citizens of Surry County I am sure would like to see an end to this, along with a lot of other good people,” Poindexter said.

Virginia Beach attorney Larry

Woodward, who will represent Vick on the state charges, said Vick turned himself in last week in Surry County for pretrial processing and bonding. Vick already has pleaded guilty to a federal dogfighting conspiracy charge and is awaiting sentencing Dec. 10.

Vick was charged last week in the rural county, home to his dogfighting enterprise since 2001, with two state felony counts — beating or killing or causing dogs to fight other dogs and engaging in or promoting dogfighting. Each felony is punishable by up to five years in prison.

His lawyers have said they will fight the state charges on the grounds he can’t be convicted twice of the same crime. In pleading guilty to a federal

conspiracy charge Aug. 27, Vick admitted helping to kill six to eight dogs, among other things. He faces up to five years in prison, while co-defendants Tony Taylor, Purnell Peace and Quanis Phillips also pleaded guilty to the same federal charge.

Vick, suspended indefinitely by the NFL without pay, tested positive last month for marijuana, a violation of U.S. District Court Judge Henry Hudson’s order that he stay clean in exchange for being allowed to be free.

After that positive test, Hudson ordered Vick confined to his home address between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., with electronic monitoring and random drug testing.

# the ct

817 W. Broad St. P.O. Box 842010  
Richmond, VA 23284-2010

Classified Advertising · ctclassifieds@gmail.com

**GAYLAND HETHCOAT**, Executive Editor  
editor@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

**REBECCA LANDAU**, Managing Editor  
managing@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-6056

**BETHANY EMERSON**, News Co-Editor  
**CHRISTEN DUXBURY**, News Co-Editor  
news@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-6056

**OLIVIA BEATTY**, Spectrum Editor  
**ROBERTO CURTIS**, Associate Spectrum Editor  
spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-5317

**JONATHAN HOWARD**, Sports Editor  
**MATT DOYON**, Associate Sports Editor  
sports@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-5317

**RACHEL VAMENTA**, Opinion Editor  
opinion@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-7660

**RACHEL LARUE**, Photography Editor  
photo@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

**MARY FRANKE**, Production Manager  
production@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-7660

**MELISSA SHOWALTER**, Production Chief  
layout@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-7660

**KAREN SAGUN**, Graphic Designer  
graphics@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

**GREG WEATHERFORD**,  
Student Media Director  
gowweatherfor@vcu.edu, 827-1975

**OLIVIA LLOYD**, Business Manager  
ollloyd@vcu.edu, 827-1642

**GERGANA BOBEVA**, Accounts Manager  
ctaccounts@gmail.com, 828-2544

**DAVID CANAVAN**, Advertising Director  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-5019

**PHIL HILLIER**, Advertising Representative  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-6629

**BRYAN JACKSON**, Advertising Representative  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 827-4562

**JEFF GREEN**, Webmaster  
webmaster@commonwealthtimes.com

**HUNTER DAVIS**, Circulation Director  
davishb@vcu.edu

*cover illustration by Rachel Larue and Melissa Showalter*

The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you believe we have made an error, please call Executive Editor Gayland Hethcoat at 828-4770 or e-mail him at editor@commonwealthtimes.com. Corrections will appear on this page.

Thursday, October 4, 2007



## Trani discusses future, budget cuts, football

JULIA LINDEN  
Contributing Writer

In an interview to be televised Friday, VCU President Eugene P. Trani praised the university's growth and diversity, warned that VCU should brace for painful budget cuts and stated the Rams won't field a football team while he's in charge.

"Not on my watch," he said.

Trani, who arrived in 1990, is VCU's fourth president and has become widely known for expanding the university on a grand scale. With expansion accelerating during the past few years, Trani said one of his most important duties as president is to be optimistic and "to show people that things are possible and that we can move ahead."

He discussed his goals and other topics with student journalists for VCU InSight, a newscast produced by the School of Mass Communications. The interview was taped last Thursday and will air at 7 p.m. Friday

on PBS (Channel 24).

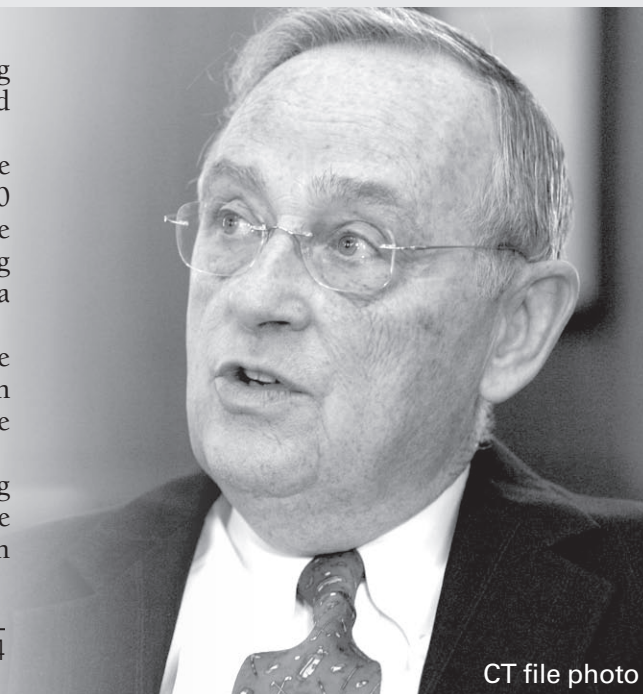
Besides VCU's growth, Trani discussed looming budget cuts – a leading concern among faculty and students.

Because of lagging tax revenues, state officials have told the university to reduce spending by almost \$10 million this year. This week, Gov. Timothy M. Kaine released a plan that outlines the exact cuts, including the elimination of two staff positions, according to a Richmond Times-Dispatch report.

Trani said the cuts will no doubt be hard on the university but "as golfers say, 'you gotta play through the rain.' We're going to play through the rain," he said.

Budget reductions aren't the only problems facing VCU. Many students and faculty members have complained about overcrowding, as VCU has grown to more than 31,300 students.

TRANI continued to Page CT4



## First impressions, concise résumés key to snagging jobs, workshop speakers say

CHRISTEN DUXBURY  
News Co-Editor

Making good first impressions when meeting with prospective employers and submitting clear, professional résumés were key points of a résumé-writing workshop held Tuesday at the University Student Commons.

Speakers Ron Edwards and Jerome Waller Jr., employees of Genworth Financial, a global financial security company, gave a crowd of 30 people pointers about how to confidently communicate when applying for jobs.

"You only have five seconds, and first impressions are everything," said Edwards, an early career talent management leader. Edwards said he sees up to 200 résumés for a single position, and he only looks at résumés for five seconds.

Résumés have to be well-written, Edwards said. In today's society, there is no excuse for error, he said.

"It is the first communication a potential employer may have with you," Edwards said.

All a résumé's contact information

must be up-to-date and appropriate, he said, including e-mail addresses, voice-mail boxes and cell-phone numbers.

"No (e-mail addresses like) sexxylady69@hotmail.com ... I've seen it all," Edwards said.

He suggested providing an e-mail address that gets checked at least once a day.

When providing past employment information, Edwards said, it is best to quantify your achievements in a way that suits the needs of the position for which you are applying.

Instead of listing you worked at Foot Locker, Edwards said, mention you sold 15 shoes a day, causing a 10 percent increase in sales profits.

"Include numbers and results," Edwards said.

Highlight the employer's needs, being direct and concise, and leave no question in the employer's mind about your qualifications, he said. It also is important for the résumé's layout to jump out at the potential employer while not distracting that person from your qualifications, Edwards said.

"Make the résumé visually appealing

**Want to know how to dress to impress at an interview? Turn the page.**

and easy to read," Edwards said.

Pick a format and stick to it, he said, using all of the white space on the page.

"You have eight-and-a-half-by-11 inches to sell yourself," Edwards said.

Edwards' motto, "Your first impression is your best impression," holds true beyond résumé writing, he said – it applies to presenting yourself to potential employers.

To introduce himself, second speaker Waller stood in front of the audience with his shirt half un-tucked, his posture slouched and his speech slurred and unimpassioned.

"That was five seconds," said Waller, a benefits design analyst, as he donned a suit jacket and tucked in his shirt.

To be successful at a career fair, students should research the fair before attending, he said.

"It's all about the preparation,"

Waller said.

Students should know in advance whom they want to visit at the fair and should be prepared to answer questions about why they are seeking employment.

When visiting prospective employers, he said, students should be able to tell a person about themselves in 30 seconds or less. Students should practice this speech on employers they are not interested in before speaking to potential employers they like.

Clothing matters at career fairs and similar events, Waller said. Dressing for the job will help make students feel they belong at the places they apply, he said, but a nice presentation has an impact only if students follow up the meeting in a proactive way.

"Take action immediately," he said.

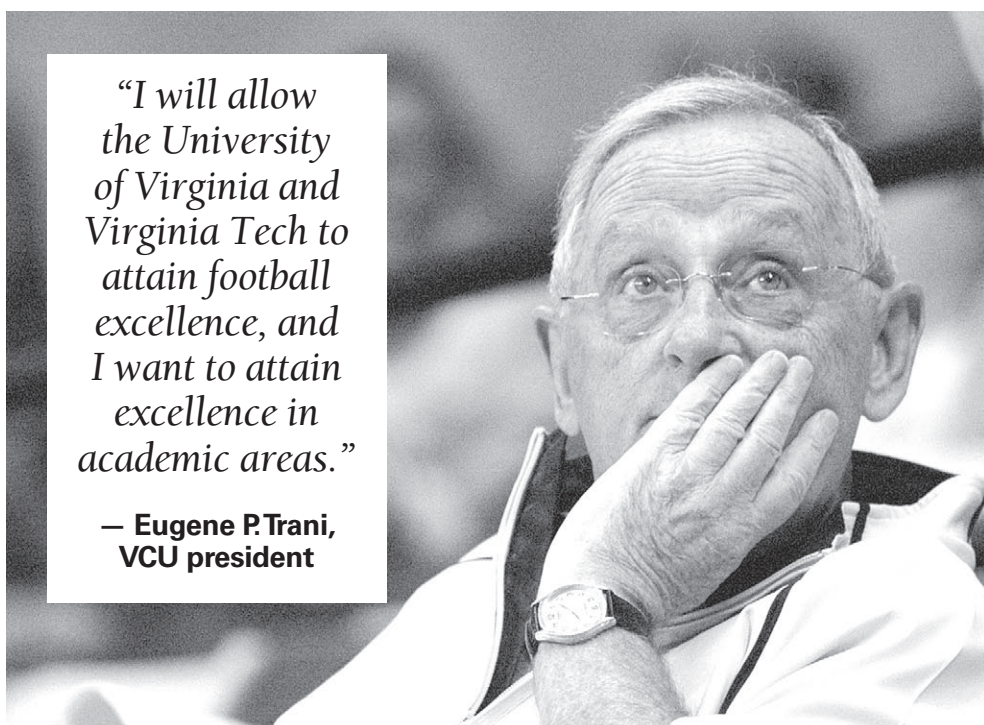
If a company asks that you fill out an application, do so as soon as possible, Waller said.

To gain sought-after jobs, the speakers said, students need to step out of their comfort zones and do the work needed to present their most positive assets.



*"I will allow the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech to attain football excellence, and I want to attain excellence in academic areas."*

— Eugene P. Trani,  
VCU president



CT file photo

## TRANI continued from CT3

Trani acknowledged those concerns. One way VCU is addressing the matter, he said, is by building a new home for the School of Business, located east of Belvidere Street, between Main and Cary streets. The new building will be 135,000 square feet, will have more than 100 faculty offices and will be able to accommodate 4,500 students.

When the new School of Business opens in January and other departments move into the old business building, Trani said, "We will have a whole series of new facilities to deal with this issue" of overcrowding."

And what about football? With VCU's success in athletics, including the men's basketball team's victory over Duke last spring, why not go the whole ... 100 yards?

Trani praised VCU's athletic program and said many of VCU's teams have enjoyed successful seasons recently. But as for football, the president does not see a team in the university's future.

"Football is very expensive. There are not many teams who have entered the football fray in recent years who have made it successful. So I will allow the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech to attain football excellence, and I want to attain excellence in academic areas," Trani said.

Trani said in 20 to 30 years VCU will continue to have great academics, faculty and a terrific location. He said that urban areas, with first-rate art galleries and music, are a great place for universities.

"Our location is a major advantage," he said. "A lot of what VCU will be in 20 years, you already see."

## Dr. Trani, unplugged

**On his favorite thing about VCU:** "I think it's a remarkable institution ... the student body is remarkable, the faculty is remarkable. ... It's just a very special place."

**On his most important duty as president:** "Making this university increasingly a student-centered university is very, very important."

**On campus security:** The president expressed disappointment in the number of students who signed up for VCU's new text-messaging alerts. "The last figure I heard was in the 11,000 category ... There's not a lot we can do if people do not sign up for it, but I hope they will."

**On when he's not busy being president:** You can often find him with his grandchildren at one of his favorite local restaurants, the Dairy Bar. "There are a lot of excellent restaurants in Richmond. I do not shy away from restaurants," he said with a grin.

# Walgreens



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# What not to wear & how to impress

CHRISTEN DUXBURY  
News Co-Editor

Rachel Larue photos

**NO**  
mismatched  
outfits

**NO**  
cotton  
knits

**NO**  
jeans

**NO**  
tennis  
shoes

**NO**  
low-cut  
tops

**NO**  
excessive  
jewelry

**NO**  
holey  
clothing

**NO**  
ripped  
shorts

**YES**  
minimal  
makeup

**YES**  
minimal  
accessories

**YES**  
dark  
colors

**YES**  
modest-  
length  
skirt or  
slacks

**YES**  
hair worn  
short or  
tied back

**YES**  
conservative  
tie

**YES**  
matching  
suits

**YES**  
polished  
shoes

Students who attended Wednesday's fashion show at the University Student Commons had more than couture on their minds – they were looking for ways to dress for success.

Joseph Lyons, assistant director of the Career Center, told students to repeat, "I need to dress as if I want the job."

With help from student ambassadors, Lyons gave students a lesson on proper attire for meeting with employers. The fall career fair is next week, and the fashion show aimed to help students who might be thinking about meeting with companies' representatives.

The show began with examples of how not to dress for a job interview or meeting. This segment showcased students in jeans, holey clothing, ripped shorts and tennis shoes.

If you're not dressed properly, Lyons said, do not come directly from class. He said it only takes seconds for prospective employers to judge, so students should look and dress appropriately.

The second group to walk the runway wore business-casual attire. Although many students feel that this is appropriate for a career fair, Lyons said it is not.

"This attire is reserved for after you get the job," Lyons said.

This style of dress looks nice, but it is not the best presentation, he said. Business-casual includes polo shirts, skirts above the knee and open-toed shoes.

The third category was labeled "almost ready." The models wore business attire with flashy accessories and too-low necklines. These touches might distract the people who are interviewing you, Lyons said.

The fourth and final category showcased a woman and man in dark, matching suits with minimal accessories and polished shoes.

"Make sure everything is well coordinated," Lyons said.

Females should wear dark colors, run-free pantyhose, skirts no shorter than the knee and minimal makeup, Lyons said, while men should wear correctly tied ties, nice shirts and proper business shoes. Men should also keep long hair tied back, he said.

Dressing well can prepare students to put their best face forward, Lyons said.

"It's almost psychological," he said. "When you put on the suit that you always go to interviews in, you slip into business mode."



# Child Soldier Awareness Week provokes thought, involvement

BETHANY EMERSON  
News Co-Editor

Green T-shirts and film viewings help mark this week's Child Soldier Awareness Week at VCU, sponsored by VCU's chapter of Invisible Children, a group dedicated to raising awareness and providing aid to children abused in northern Uganda.

Sarah Knowlton, primary officer of VCU Invisible Children, said the organization has scheduled a variety of events through Sunday night specifically designed to inform students and get them involved.

"Most of the things we are doing this week are geared towards just raising awareness," Knowlton said. "The focus is to get people aware of what is going on over there and to get those students doing something about it."

Allison Proffer, secondary officer, said it is important for students to be aware of Uganda's child-abuse issue.

*"It broke my heart. For something that you've heard so little about ... it is just very awakening, I guess, and it kind of brings you back to reality and makes you realize that the world is not as it should be. It also helped me realize that there is something I can do about it."*

**—Allison Proffer, secondary officer of VCU's chapter of Invisible Children, speaking about her response to the film showing the child soldiers in northern Uganda.**

"There is a world outside of our little world in Richmond," Proffer said. "I think that it is good and challenging for a person's soul."

Knowlton, a graphic design major, said the civil war currently raging in Uganda has created a dangerous environment for Ugandan children, forcing most to "night commute." Children are taking extensive routes to school, two to four hours both ways, for the sake of safety. Knowlton said children take these routes out of fear of being abducted by soldiers. When abducted, the children are brainwashed, sexually abused and forced into the military.

Proffer said students should work together to stop these horrible situations from occurring.

"As American students and the upcoming generation, we can stop those things that are happening (in the world) that are bad," Proffer said.

This week's events provide opportunities for students to learn more, get involved and have some fun at the same time, she said.

Invisible Children has a table outside the University Student Commons through Sunday and are selling bright green T-shirts. Students who buy these T-shirts should wear them on Friday, Knowlton said, in support of Invisible Children and its goal of stopping the child soldiering.

On Friday evening, there will be a screening in the Commons of "Invisible Children: Rough Cut," a movie produced by the three men who created Invisible Children after traveling to northern Uganda.

"From my experience, once people see the film they are kind of forced to act because they cannot just watch it and not want to do anything," Knowlton said.

Proffer said the film had a similar effect on her.

on Saturday night and a free dinner at Cous Cous on Sunday evening, which will include two other film screenings, each telling the story of a different Ugandan child.

All these events are free, but donations are accepted. Donation money will go straight into rebuilding a northern Ugandan school that VCU is paired with, Knowlton said. Rebuilding this school is the main way VCU's chapter of Invisible Children supports the situation in northern Uganda.

Proffer said students can be involved financially or by giving their time.

"We want (students) ... to be involved in any way they can," Proffer said. "If people can commit a couple hours of their week to help plan prepare events. ... Also (student can be involved by) writing letters to our senators and government officials to let them know we do care about this situation."

## Child soldier awareness events this week

### EVERYDAY:

Information table and T-shirt sales  
Table outside the Commons

### FRIDAY:

"Invisible Children: Rough Cut" film  
7:30 p.m.  
Richmond Salon I in the Commons

### SATURDAY:

'80s and '90s dance-and-costume party  
7 p.m.  
1309 W. Broad St., Apt. 318  
Food, music and snacks

### SUNDAY:

Dinner and film screenings  
6 p.m.: free dinner  
7 p.m.: screening of two short films  
Cous Cous on 900 W. Franklin St.

\*All events are free but donations are accepted.

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# Sports

FIELD HOCKEY



Rachel Larue photo

## Rams again manage only one goal in loss to Lancers

**Freshman Flore van Dessel (No. 8) leads the Rams offense upfield**

**MATT DOYON**

*Associate Sports Editor*

VCU took to Cary Street Field Wednesday to face rival Longwood. Under the lights, the Lancers got the best of the Rams, 3-1, to pick up their second win in a row and their fourth of the season.

It didn't take long for the Lancers to nab the lead. Mary Freeman scored on a penalty corner shot assisted by Katie Claxton just 4:09 into regulation.

Junior Angelina Banaag (Virginia Beach/Green Run) pulled VCU even with her first goal of the season in the 30th minute. Banaag aimed high and had her initial shot deflected by the arm pad of goalkeeper Avanell Schmitz, but she gathered her own rebound and chipped the ball in from 4 yards out.

Banaag's goal was the last of the night for the Rams, who finished with only one tally for the third consecutive match.

Cristin Newbold tallied what proved to be the game-winning goal for Longwood, again assisted by Claxton. The score came on a speedy grounder 7:37 before halftime that beat senior goalkeeper Brittany LoVullo (Williamsville, N.Y./Williamsville North) to the back of the net.

Unlike previous games this season, the Rams were unable to convert on any of their three penalty corners in the first half and didn't manage any penalty-corner scoring opportunities in the second half.

Head coach Kelly McQuade made a defensive alteration at halftime by

FIELD HOCKEY continued to CT13

## THIS WEEK

### Field Hockey

Fri., Oct. 5, vs. James Madison, Cary Street Field, 4 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 6, vs. California, Harrisonburg, 2 p.m.

### Men's Soccer

Fri., Oct. 5, vs. Delaware, Sports Backers Stadium, 7 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 7, vs. Drexel, Sports Backers Stadium, 2 p.m.

### Women's Soccer

Fri., Oct. 5, @ Delaware, Newark, Del., 7 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 7, @ Drexel, Philadelphia, 1 p.m.

### Cross Country

Sat., Oct. 6, @ Hagan Stone Park Invitational, Greensboro, N.C., TBA

### Women's Tennis

Oct. 2-7, @ ITA All-American, Pacific Palisades, Calif., all day

### Volleyball

Fri., Oct. 5, @ Delaware, Newark, Del., 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 6, @ Towson, Towson, Md., 7 p.m.

### Golf

Oct. 7-8, @ Duke Intercollegiate, Durham, N.C., all day

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





# Sports

## UEFA Champions League Matchday 2 wrap-up

ROBERTO CURTIS  
*Associate Spectrum Editor*

Arguably, the highest quality of professional soccer played occurs in the Union of European Football Associations' (UEFA) Champions League, a 32-team, nine-month tournament pitting the best of the best clubs in Europe against one another annually. Group-stage matchdays occur every two weeks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The round of 16 begins in the spring, culminating in the Champions League Finals in late May. Home teams are displayed first with team numbers representing wins, draws and losses. See UEFA.com for more details.

### Group A

(0-1-1) Liverpool FC	0-1	Olympique de Marseille (2-0-0)
(0-0-2) Besiktas JK	0-1	FC Porto (1-1-0)

Liverpool lost at home to French opposition for the first time in history. Porto's Ricardo Quaresma scored in added time to defeat its Turkish opponents.

UEFA continued to CT10



The VCU golf team hosted the VCU Shootout Monday and Tuesday at Hermitage Country Club in Manakin-Sabot, just outside of Richmond. The Rams finished in a tie for seventh with North Carolina and Southeastern Louisiana with a score of 1-over-par (865). Penn State won the tournament with a three-round total of 19-under-par (845). Senior Alex Brown (Richmond/Belmont Abbey College) was the best player for VCU, finishing tied for 13<sup>th</sup> at 2-under-par.

Rachel Larue photo

**Sophomore Lanto Griffin**

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In addition, the applicant should have the ability to design fitness training programs for a variety of individuals and groups.

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# Pick'm

## Football Week 6

Each week, the CT sports editors, Alex Dynan, a guest and a coin will pick the outcomes of this weekend's action. If you wish to participate, bring a copy of the games listed here with your picks to the Student Media Center (817 W. Broad St.) by 5 p.m. Friday. The top score each week receives a prize.  
Last week Lady Luck had her coming-out party,

going 14-6, including picking 9-of-10 in the NFL. Everyone else ... not so much. Doyon went 11-9, Howard 10-10 and Dynan recorded the first losing record of the season with a 9-11 effort. Howard now must suffer the embarrassment of being tied with the coin.



This week's games

**Jonathan Howard (52–38)**  
*Sports Editor*

**Matt Doyon (61–29)**  
*Associate Sports Editor*

**Alex Dynan (55–35)**  
*Co-host, WVCW's "The Aftermath"*

**The Coin (52–38)**  
*aka "Lady Luck"*

COLLEGE

Kentucky at South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	Kentucky	Kentucky
Florida at LSU	LSU	LSU	Florida	LSU
Ohio State at Purdue	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Purdue
Wisconsin at Illinois	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Illinois
Oklahoma at Texas	Texas	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
Virginia Tech at Clemson	Clemson	Virginia Tech	Clemson	Clemson
Nebraska at Missouri	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Missouri
Cincinnati at Rutgers	Rutgers	Rutgers	Rutgers	Cincinnati
Georgia Tech at Maryland	Georgia Tech	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
Oklahoma State at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Oklahoma State

NFL

N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Jets
Seattle at Pittsburgh	Seattle	Seattle	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Detroit at Washington	Detroit	Washington	Detroit	Detroit
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Baltimore at San Francisco	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	San Francisco
Jacksonville at Kansas City	Kansas City	Jacksonville	Kansas City	Jacksonville
Atlanta at Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Carolina at New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	Carolina	Carolina
San Diego at Denver	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego	Denver
Chicago at Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Chicago





# Sports

## UEFA continued from CT8

### Group B

(1-0-1) Valencia CF	1-2	Chelsea FC (1-1-0)
(0-1-1) Rosenborg BK	0-2	FC Schalke 04 (1-0-1)

Villa's early goal for the Spanish side couldn't stop the brutal attacks leading up to Chelsea goals from Didier Drogba and Joe Cole. German giants Schalke pulled through with goals from Kevin Kuranyi and Jermaine Jones, sending Norwegian champions Rosenborg to the bottom of the group.

### Group C

(0-2-0) S.S. Lazio	2-2	Real Madrid CF (1-1-0)
(0-0-2) Werder Bremen	1-3	Olympiacos CFP (1-1-0)

Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Goran Pandev scored twice for their respective teams in a match that saw the Spanish champions lose only their second game of the year. The disappointing Bremen remained winless after being up a goal at home to the Greek champions.

### Group D

(1-0-1) Celtic FC	2-1	AC Milan (1-0-1)
(0-0-2) SL Benfica	0-1	FC Shakhtar Donetsk (2-0-0)

In a weekend with both Scottish teams triumphing over great adversity, defending champion AC Milan showed why no team has ever successfully defended its European title. Ukrainian Shakhtar was able to keep its energetic Portuguese opponents at bay, achieving the best possible record in the Champions League so far.

### Group E

(0-0-2) Olympique Lyonnais	0-3	Rangers FC (2-0-0)
(0-0-2) VfB Stuttgart	0-2	FC Barcelona (2-0-0)

French titleholder Lyon tied its second worst loss in the Champions League's history, set a fortnight ago on Matchday 1 at Barcelona. With only four group stage matches left, German champion Stuttgart also is in danger of falling by the wayside in the group of death, which is arguably the most troublesome group to emerge from.

### Group F

(2-0-0) Manchester United FC	1-0	AS Roma (1-0-1)
(0-0-2) Dynamo Kyiv FC	1-2	Sporting Clube de Portugal (1-0-1)

Though not as embarrassing as last season's 7-1 quarterfinal defeat against United at Old Trafford, Roma still succumbed thanks to a brilliantly played through ball from Nani to Wayne Rooney. Portuguese visitor Sporting earned its first points of the season by scoring two goals in the first half against a Ukrainian side also looking for a victory.

### Group G

(0-1-1) PFC CSKA Moskva	2-2	Fenerbahçe SK (1-1-0)
(1-0-1) FC Internazionale Milano	2-0	PSV Eindhoven (1-0-1)

Maybe the most unpredictable of the groups, Italian champ Inter Milan trounced Dutch champ PSV thanks to two skilled goals from Zlatan Ibrahimovic. Turkish great Fenerbahçe tied in Moscow to bring its team one step closer to qualifying for the knockout stage for the first time.

### Group H

(0-0-2) FC Steaua Bucuresti	0-1	Arsenal FC (2-0-0)
(1-0-1) Sevilla FC	4-2	SK Slavia Praha (1-0-1)

Personal favorite to win, Premier League leader Arsenal managed only a single goal, given to Robin van Persie with an assist from Cesc Fabregas. Meanwhile in Spain, the dubious Sevilla finally showed what it is capable of in defeating the visitors from Prague in a riveting match. Both teams were coming off of tremendous league victories.

CT10 · commonwealthtimes.com

## Catching up with ... Sara Baughman



photo courtesy of Sara Baughman

### The Baughman file

*While at VCU*

Name: Sara Gatewood  
(now married)

Sport: Volleyball

Position: Middle blocker

Graduated: 1999

Major: Criminal justice

Now: Police Lieutenant  
for the Department of the  
Navy

Husband: Russ, married  
since 2005

BY JONATHAN HOWARD

*Sports Editor*

**On her experience on the VCU volleyball team:** "Playing for VCU was a great experience. Even though there were many low points, the ability to play with such great women, who have turned out to be wonderful ... long-lasting friends are something I won't ever trade in. During the years I was there, we may not have been the best in the conference, but we were the best of friends."

**On how being apart of VCU shaped her today:** "My time at VCU was a real eye-opener. Like many freshmen, away from the parental influence for the first time, I allowed my grades to slip and paid for it for the following two years. My high point at VCU was being able to pull myself back academically by making the 3.0 club my junior and senior years."

**What does she do now?:** "I'm a police lieutenant for the Department of the Navy, and being a college graduate helped me excel as fast as I have (been with the police department for six years). Playing on the volleyball team helped me develop the mental toughness that is required to get through the day as a police officer. There are many times I've wanted to 'throw in the towel' and say 'I'm done,' but being conditioned in volleyball to never quit and give up, which would consequently let my teammates down. That has helped me become the police officer I am today, and not let my fellow officers and the public down."

**Advice for VCU athletes:** "Don't lose sight of why you are there. You are there to play the sport you love to play!"

Thursday, October 4, 2007







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**MATT DOYON**  
*Associate Sports Editor*

## MLB

The New York Mets ended their season amid enough drama for a Broadway show, but general manager Omar Minaya is taking a refreshing approach to initiate the off-season in Queens. Minaya could've gone the typical route by acting hastily and irrationally but has instead decided to retain club manager Willie Randolph.

To some, this comes as no surprise, and the mere thought of firing Randolph might leave you with nothing to do but scratch your head. But you have to remember that we're talking about the city that never sleeps, and much of that time not sleeping is spent lamenting the woes of the city's wounded teams.

Randolph led his team to a record-setting season, just not the kind fans were expecting a month ago.

The Mets owned a seven-game lead over the Philadelphia Phillies on Sept. 12 with just 17 games remaining on the schedule. Then they became the first team ever to have a division lead that large and miss the postseason altogether.

The first person to receive blame for such shortcomings is almost always the manager, and this instance was no different. That's exactly why Minaya had to nip the murmuring in the bud and announce just two days after the Mets' season ended that Randolph would return next season.

Do you know why Randolph wasn't fired?

He was not fired because in his first two seasons with the Mets, Randolph accumulated a record of 180-144. Oh, and he had them only one out away from going to the World Series after tying the Yankees for the best record in baseball at 97-65 last season.

This season the Mets won 88 games, and the team was in contention for the playoffs until losing on the very last day of the regular season.

And who was most responsible for that loss?

A man who won his 300th game this season and is a two-time National League Cy Young award winner – Tom Glavine. Is it Randolph's fault that a 10-time all-star gave up seven runs in the first inning? Is it his fault that the Phillies won 16 of their last 22 games to catch the fading Mets and win the division?

No.

Sometimes a manager has to do his job and trust that

# Job security

**Willie Randolph and Isiah Thomas will stay employed in New York; whether that's justified is debatable**

others will do the same. Randolph admitted he's always been associated with winning, and he's embarrassed to have been a part of the Mets' collapse. He certainly had a hand in the matter, but he doesn't deserve to lose his job. David Wright will be back next year; so will Jose Reyes and Carlos Beltran. That's because they know how to win, and so does Randolph.

Look at the headaches that have surrounded the Yankees year after year with the speculation that each week might be the last for Joe Torre as the club's skipper.

I guess four World Series championships and six appearances in 12 years just isn't enough.

The problem the Yankees have fostered is that owner George Steinbrenner and general manager Brian Cashman have left the door open for the possibility of Torre seeking new employment. Their support of Torre is too passive and allows everyone to be increasingly more critical of him.

So thank you, Omar Minaya, for actually taking a public stand for your manager rather than firing him. You won't regret it.

## NBA

Finally, a story that can get the Knicks back in the headlines!

At least, that's the way owner James Dolan sees the situation.

Madison Square Garden, and by extension Dolan, were found to be liable in a civil lawsuit brought by former team executive Anucha Browne Sanders. The suit claimed that the Garden facilitated a hostile work environment that allowed team president and head coach Isiah Thomas to make repeated sexual remarks directed at Sanders.

The court has put the Garden on the hook to pay \$11.6 million in punitive damages to Sanders.

Thomas, the biggest culprit in the case, gets off with nothing more than embarrassment and some damage to his already imperfect reputation. He was found to be guilty in the case but doesn't owe any money and likely won't lose his job.

NBA commissioner David Stern has previously been harsher in punishing players than coaches and management. He demonstrated that by critiquing players' uniform-wearing habits and placing rules on how they must wear them. Also, the NBA takes action only

against individuals after criminal suits, not civil ones. It's unlikely he'll follow in NFL commissioner Roger Goodell's footsteps and levy a severe penalty.

Meanwhile, Dolan somehow manages to continue to support Thomas, who showed arrogance and disregard for women during his trial.

So, if you're keeping track, Thomas drove the Knicks into the ground after assuming his position as team president in 2004. Then, he decided he was the best candidate to become head coach. It's no surprise, but they've continued to lose since then. To complete the trifecta, he sexually harassed a black female co-worker, saying later that it is not nearly as wrong for a black man to call a black woman a "bitch" than it is for a white man to do the same.

Thomas appears to have the golden ticket in his position with the Knicks. He has made more than his fair share of bad decisions but was still rewarded with a contract extension.

Hey, the Knicks have to stay in headlines somehow – even if it means cringing and saying Thomas is the face of the franchise.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### MEN'S TENNIS

Senior Damien Lacombe (Perigueux, France) took home the A-2 singles crown from the Virginia State Open hosted by U.Va. last weekend. Lacombe improved to 7-1 in singles play thus far in the fall season by not losing a set in four matches en route to the title. Lacombe was the top-seeded player and downed senior teammate Alex Israel (Marseille, France) in the final match. Junior Emil Lindgren (Stocksund, Sweden) reached the final match of A-1 Singles play but had to retire in the second set down 6-4, 2-1.





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**Senior Emily Guerra Chases down a loose ball.**

Rachel Larue photo

**FIELD HOCKEY continued from CT7**

replacing LoVullo with junior Laura Baker (Kent, England/Langley Park) in goal for VCU.

The change didn't save the Rams from defeat as Claxton added to her busy night for the Lancers by netting an unassisted goal of her own in the second half.

VCU couldn't make good on any of its four shots and twice as many scoring opportunities in the second half.

Bad breaks and tricky bounces voided valid scoring threats all night. The crowd held its collective breath on several occasions as the ball narrowly trickled wide of the goal.

Longwood walked away with the road victory despite being out-shot 11-8 in the match, but the team did take seven penalty corners.

The loss is the fourth in a row for VCU both to Longwood and overall. The Rams' record drops to 4-7 after a 3-1 start, and the team returns to the field to host first-place CAA foe James Madison on Friday.





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# Spectrum

## Getting kicked & other hazards

### Behind the scenes of the Starr Foster Dance Project

OLIVIA BEATTY  
*Spectrum Editor*

Starr Foster is sick of flying. She's spent much of the year as a guest dance teacher at schools across the country.

"If I have to get on one more airplane this year, I'll scream," Foster said.

Somehow, she's still managed to find the time to create new pieces and prepare a company performance.

The Starr Foster Dance Project will present "Talking With Ghosts" Thursday through Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Grace Street Theater. The performance consists of two new works and two old works.

In general, Foster said, she choreographs about six new pieces each year.

"All my work is about real human situations, emotions and tragedy — not about how the stars are re-aligning," Foster said.

When Foster sets a piece on her company, she said she usually has all her choreography prepared, which leaves little space for her dancers to improvise or add movements.

"I generally don't tell the dancers what I'm thinking about what the piece is about. That's where their input comes in," Foster said. "They develop their own character in the work, and they know what the dance is about by the end."

Foster said the decidedly raw and energetic "Heroin(e)," which premiered two years ago, is different from the company's usual work. The piece explores the parallels between drug users and beauty pageant enthusiasts and requires 15

dancers in addition to the company.

"It's a women's piece," Foster said. "It's about how the pressures that we have as women are just as detrimental as drug use. As women, we have such incredible pressures to be beautiful."

In the piece, the dancers flail, squirm, primp, cough and speak as they lift, push, lean on and manipulate each other. The work also includes video projections of women putting on makeup and doing drugs. The piece incorporates Neil Diamond music and makes Janis Joplin references.

As an ensemble, the dancers get only three one-and-a-half-hour rehearsals to learn and perfect the 25-minute piece.

"I love all these layers," Foster said to the dancers during rehearsal, as the ensemble moved in a seamless canon.

Foster auditioned  
35 dancers  
from

the community and made her company pick the lucky 15. Foster said she didn't feel comfortable picking the dancers because she knew most of them from her work as a dance teacher. She wanted the dancers to be judged solely on how they handled a section of movement from "Heroin(e)."

The large number of dancers packed into the relatively small space was in and of itself impressive. The rehearsal required a lot of stopping and starting to fix logistical spacing problems.

During the rehearsal, which took place in a studio, Foster told the dancers to stay within the imaginary lines that represent the stage space. Foster said the stage is actually larger than what she marked, but she wanted to be sure no one goes over the edge.

"There are a lot of spacing issues that you don't really know are going to exist until you actually have 20 humans in one little space — people are getting kicked," Foster said.

One of the most striking aspects of Foster's rehearsal style is how casual and good-natured she is. She is always open to questions from

DANCE continued to CT16



Jordan Livermon and Starr Foster play with gravity in "Talking With Ghosts"

Doug Hayes photo

# 'Eastern Promises'

## shocks, stirs and disturbs

ROBERTO CURTIS  
*Associate Spectrum Editor*

"A History of Violence" star Viggo Mortensen and director David Cronenberg team up again – this time for a dark, disturbing look at the social underbelly of Russian mob life in "Eastern Promises."

The movie opens along a dank, dreary street in North London with a seemingly innocent barbershop visit suddenly erupting into a brutal, succinct throat slitting.

In the same part of town, a 14-year-old Russian street urchin wanders into a pharmacy hemorrhaging and pleading for help. The end of her life is followed by the start of another; her daughter's.

Both deaths are tied to the Vory V. Zarkone Russian crime family, a fact that is uncovered by the newborn's hapless midwife, Anna (Naomi Watts), a nurse working in the maternity ward of a nearby hospital.

Because of a recent miscarriage, Anna quickly bonds with the newborn orphan,

hoping to notify her family in Russia before the British government steps in and marginalizes the baby to a life of inadequate social services.

In an attempt to help the baby, Anna recovers a diary belonging to the late mother and goes home to have her Russian uncle, Stepan (Jerzy Skolimowski), translate.

Although reluctant because of the diary's content, Stepan eventually relents and begins to uncover the life of an enslaved prostitute and her rape and abuse at the hands of the Zarkones.

Thanks to one entry in the diary, Anna is led to an upscale Russian restaurant where she meets Zarkone family patriarch, Semyon Zarkone (Armin Mueller-Stahl), his son, the reckless and controlling Kirill (Vincent Cassel) and the cruel, cool and collected family chauffeur and assassin, Nikolai Luzhin (Mortensen).

Alarmed at what she possesses, the mob closes in around her and her family, while Anna's naivety and maternal instincts get the best of her. Immediately, the audience is given an inkling, however absurd, that the assassin might have a soft spot for the young nurse.

Still, Nikolai's sense of professionalism does not stop him from losing sight of his goals. Between being chauffeur and preventing the drunken Kirill's insecurities from getting the best of him, Nikolai is also responsible for tying loose ends and making people disappear.

Intent on earning respect in the form of

the eight-pointed star tattoos stamped on all worthy family members, Nikolai stops at nearly nothing to prevent the volatile diary from ruining his career.

The movie works its magic in the subtleties of the characters' underlying personas. Anna's unrefined but intrinsic motherly nature compromises her family's safety, while Kirill's embodiment of the typical heir of patriarchal society eventually gives way, shaming his family and culture in unforeseen ways.

When Watts shares scenes with the actors playing Anna's uncle (Skolimowski) and mother (Sinead Cusack), some of her best acting in the film is present.

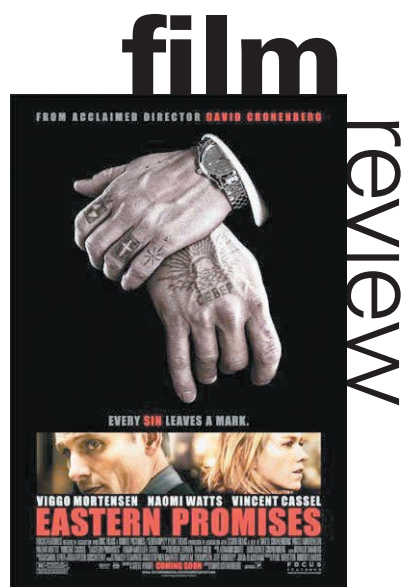
The always-captivating Mortensen provides the most entertainment through dark and reserved acting, inescapable charm and one of the bloodiest, crudest knife fights I've ever witnessed in a thriller. You get to see his assets too.

Cinematographer and frequent Cronenberg collaborator Peter Suschitzky deserves proper respect for a job well-done.

Cronenberg and writer Steve Knight do a stellar job of sending the audience the right clichés to keep them off-guard.

Seemingly pleasant old men, murderous villains and loving motherly figures all contribute to a cut-and-dry plot. Yet, the audience's constant removal from the comfort zone leads to the kind of excitement and break from monotony for which remarkable movies are known.

**Rating:** A



### DANCE continued from Page CT13

her dancers and laughs right along with them when things do go quite as planned.

Foster said she is blessed to have a tight-knit group of beautiful girls who get along very well together.

For this performance, the company will also be presenting one piece that premiered in Richmond in 2006, "Songs of Sorrow," and the two premieres, "Sharing Small Spaces" and "Talking With

Ghosts."

"Sharing Small Spaces" is an intense and statuesque quintet. The dancers' bottom halves are grounded and heavy, juxtaposing with their upper bodies that arch backward and upward. Their chests seem to be reaching for the heavens.

Acrobatic lifts and repeated small hand motions add to the strong, yet fragile nature of the work.

"It's turned out quite nice. We're

all pretty happy with that one," Foster said.

"Songs of Sorrow" is a delicate and mysterious quartet. The dancers display precision control as they execute sustained lifts and exquisitely slow movements. Bursts of speed and energy provide a perfect balance to the pace of the rest of the piece.

For "Talking With Ghosts," Foster returns to the stage after a

two-year hiatus. The piece is a duet with Jordan Livermon, a three-year veteran of the company. Foster said the work represents a journey to the past. The piece is an exploration of the magical places you can visit in your imagination.

"The great thing about modern (dance) is it provokes and inspires thought," Foster said. "It gives you ideas and you walk away with something."





**GRANT FANNING**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Viva La Bands tour brought Cradle of Filth, GWAR, CKY and Vains of Jenna to Virginia as the tour stopped off in Norfolk on Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Organized by Bam Margera and Rockstar energy drink, the Viva La Bands tour springs from the compilation album of the same name, "Viva La Bands, Volume 2," featuring Children of Bodom, The 69 Eyes, Viking Skull and CKY, among others.

The tour began Sept. 24 in Baltimore and made its third stop at the NorVa in Norfolk. I had a chance to sit down with Jess Margera, Matt Deis and Chad Ginsburg of CKY to talk about the tour, Bam and touring in Europe.

**Grant:** I've got to ask this. Is Bam going to attend tonight?

**Chad:** Well, contractually he's only contracted to be at 12 shows. He was at the first two shows. I don't know where he is tonight. Half the time, I'd want him on our bus. Not all the time, unless he wants to chip in, because he's the one that's going to be vomiting on everything.

**Grant:** So are you having fun with GWAR on the road?

**Chad:** They put on a great show. GWAR is worth the ticket price alone, and for Richmond, you know, you should be proud because

# B·A·M

## brings the bands

GWAR's done a lot. Everyone knows who GWAR is.

**Matt:** They still support Richmond as much as they can, too, with all the stuff that they've done, like recording other bands in Richmond. They are a great band in many ways.

**Grant:** How did Cradle of Filth jump on this tour? I heard they were added last minute.

**Jess:** Yeah, actually Children of Bodom was supposed to be headlining this thing, but they got all busy with s--- over in Finland and I don't know. Cradle jumped on.

**Grant:** What is CKY up to right now? Tell me a bit about your last release, "An Answer Can Be Found," and what's up with the new record.

**Chad:** Our last album was the last record we did with Island Records, and it was fine. It's another CKY record that we're proud of. However it's received, it gets received. It gets

more positive responses these days as people give it more time. The new record's going to be really sick. I built my own studio this time, and the new record company ... there's going to be a lot of new possibilities.

**Grant:** Any tentative release dates? How close are you to being finished?

**Matt:** When it's done, it'll be done. We're not going to try to be one of those bands that just sit around and let it happen.

**Chad:** The label would love it whenever we can give it to them. But, as (the) Christmas season passes, we'll still be working on it.

**Grant:** Chad, you run all the audio for Radio Bam, Bam's weekly radio show on Sirius Satellite Radio. Are you going to be doing the show while on tour?

**Chad:** Yeah, I have a mobile radio show on the bus. I got to wait 'til Bam realizes that we're on tour right

now. This Monday's show is up in the air, but I'm ready.

**Grant:** You guys played the East Coast Surfing Championships in Virginia Beach this past August. Tell me about that.

**Matt:** It was 15,000 people down at the beach, at minimum. The sun was setting over the horizon, and the waves were coming in. It was the recipe for the perfect show.

**Chad:** It was free too, which makes it even more of a recipe for a perfect show.

**Grant:** You've been touring in Europe for a while. How do you like touring over there?

**Matt:** You know how, like, over here, if your friends, whether you're in to rap or rock or whatever, if your friends are like "Hey, you want to go to the bar and just grab a drink?" you know, and everyone can do that. Over there it's like "Hey, do you want to go check out this rock band?" and whether you like rock, it's just something they do over there that's communal and social.

**Chad:** It's hard to make money over there. Our money is not worth much, plus we spend a lot to eat. So when a band comes over here to tour they have to charge several more dollars for T-shirts.

The Viva La Bands tour will be rolling across the country until its final stop in Worcester, Mass., on Nov. 3.



## WEIRD NEWS

## Miniature mystery heads

As many as 20 miniature versions of the Easter Island head sculptures have been mysteriously left on doorsteps and outside post offices in villages across northern England.

Each of the carvings, some as tall as 18 inches, is slightly different, yet they all bear the same riddle on a blue note card: "Twinkle twinkle like a star, does love blaze less from afar?" The word "paradox" is written around the points of a star.

Authorities suspect that it is a publicity stunt of some kind, but so far no clues have been found as to the identity of the head carver.

Security camera footage caught a glimpse of a man getting out of a car, but his face was unrecognizable. He has been leaving the heads on doorsteps since August.

## Coffin purchase alerts authorities

Colombian police were unaware of the murder of eight cocaine laboratory workers until the victims' relatives went to purchase coffins.

A police commander said they were tipped off after the purchase of eight caskets raised suspicions. The province, which is near Ecuador, is a key cocaine production area. Leftist rebels and drug gangs frequently fight over smuggling routes.

Police said the murders appeared to be part of a robbery where one trafficking group stole a large amount of coca base from another group and used it to make cocaine.

## Savings and protection

A bank in Thailand, in an effort to combat HIV/AIDS, is giving out condoms to custom-

ers too shy to purchase them at a store. Thailand is generally a conservative country, despite its reputation as a sex-industry center.

The "Condoms for Confidence" campaign was launched at 600 branches nationwide. The effort comes as the government's awareness campaign, created 20 years ago, has lost steam.

Despite a ten fold reduction of new HIV/AIDS cases since 15 years ago, the health ministry said it is concerned about the numbers of teenagers and homosexuals being infected.

A representative at the Disease Control Department said embarrassment about buying condoms and ignorance in using them were the main causes of the new cases.

## Polygamy not so easy

An Indonesian businessman's attempt to make polygamy easier was rejected by a constitutional court. Polygamy is allowed in Indonesia. According to the country's marriage law, approval to take a second wife can only be obtained in court. The only way he will get approval is if his first wife agrees, is disabled or cannot have children.

The businessman argued that those conditions effectively prevent polygamy and have caused many men to simply avoid registering their second marriages. As a result, children from unregistered marriages can lose their inheritance rights and other benefits.

The court said in its ruling that the approval process was not against the constitution or the tenets of Islam, which allows multiple marriages on the condition that wives are treated fairly.

weekend  
calendar

## →Thursday 10/4

**Alley katz:** Assemblage 23 with Dharmata 1010. 9 p.m. \$15. 643-2816.

**Canal Club:** "Flicker," a screening of short films by local filmmakers. 8 p.m. 1545 E. Cary St. 232-7642.

**Emilio's:** Rich Whiskey Audition. 10 p.m., \$5. 359-1224.

**Toad's Place:** Kicked Back Classics – The Richmond Symphony's concert series continues with "Opposites Attract." 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. 788-1212.

**University of Richmond's Modlin Center for the Arts:** The Robert Randolph Family Band performs at the Robins Center. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. 289-8980

## →Friday 10/5

**1708 Gallery:** "Simple Dumb Objects" by Martin Brief, Dean Kessmann and Molly Springfield. "Bomber Girl, Megamen and Other Creatures" by Young Min Moon. 7 p.m. Through Oct. 27. 319 W. Broad St. 643-1708.

**Art6:** "Hispanic Roots" by Jorge Benitez, Federico Chiriboga, Nora Pozzi, Diego Sanchez and Javier Tapia. Music from Jimmy Warner Orchestra and Charles Williams. 6 p.m. Through Oct. 21. 6 E. Broad St. 343-1406.

**Artemis Gallery:** "Leather Masquerade," the masks of Bill and Sue Baldwin. 5 p.m. Through Nov. 1. 1601 W. Main St. 254-1755.

**Curated Culture's Cornerstone Gallery:** "absence/presence," by Aimee Helen Koch and Richard Trevillian, 7 p.m. Through Oct. 26. 23 W. Broad St. 344-1508.

**Gallery5:** "The Carnival of 5 Fires," a festival of art, theater and music. 7 p.m., \$5. Continues Saturday, 7 p.m., and Sunday, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10. 200 W. Marshall St. 644-0005.

**Gallery 5800:** Visual Arts Center of Richmond's faculty exhibition. 5:30 p.m. Through Oct. 31. 5800 Grove Ave. 353-0054.

**Metro Space Gallery:** WRIR FM benefit art and music show with local artwork for sale. Marionette and Dark Little Rooms perform. 6 p.m. 1621 W. Broad St. 622-9747.

**Page Bond Gallery:** Recent works by Peri Schwartz and Sami Ben Larbi. 7 p.m. Through Nov. 1. 1625 W. Main St. 359-3633.

**Propaganda Gallery and Studio:** Larry "Poncho" Brown speaks at the gallery's one-year anniversary. 6 p.m. 101 E. Leigh St. 253-4053.

**Richmond Public Library:** "Contemporary Vistas," "Everything Europe: A Traveler's Journey" and "ABeCedarios: Photography and Folk Art Carvings from Oaxaca, Mexico." 7 p.m. Through Oct. 30. 646-4740.

**Transmission:** "Point of Departure," recent works by Amze Emmons. 7 p.m. Through Oct. 30. 321 Brook Road. 200-9985.

## →Saturday 10/6

**Cartoon Network's Adult Swim College Tour:** Ghostface Killah featuring Witchdoctor. Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballrooms. 7-10 p.m. VCU students only. Free ticket with student ID. 828-4554

**Alley Katz:** Conshafter, The Sketches. 5 p.m. \$7. 643-2816.

**Second Street Festival:** Food, entertainment, marketplace and music. Noon-9:45 p.m. Average White Band performs at 8 p.m. Free. 788-6471.

**Habitat for Humanity Jazz Night:** A benefit for New Orleans musicians and local families, with music from NO BS Brass Band, Bungalo 6 and Rex Richardson. 7 p.m. at the Singleton Center. Tickets are \$10-\$20. 232-7001.

**Dancing in the Vineyards:** A dance performance by Z Mullins Dance Company, wine tasting and a silent auction at James River Cellars. 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15. 513-3976.

**The Camel:** HuDost with Rattlemouth (world fusion) 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. 353-4901.

## →Sunday 10/7

**Poe's Memorial Service:** The Poe Museum mourns the death of Edgar Allan Poe with hearse rides, poetry and a memorial service. 1-5 p.m. Free. 648-5523.

**Kicked Back Classics:** The Richmond Symphony's concert series continues with "Opposites Attract," at the Science Museum of Virginia. 5 p.m. Tickets are \$17. 788-1212.

**Virginia State Fair:** Jonas Brothers with Jump 5 and special guest Joey Page at the Classic Amphitheater. 3 p.m. \$20. 569-3200.

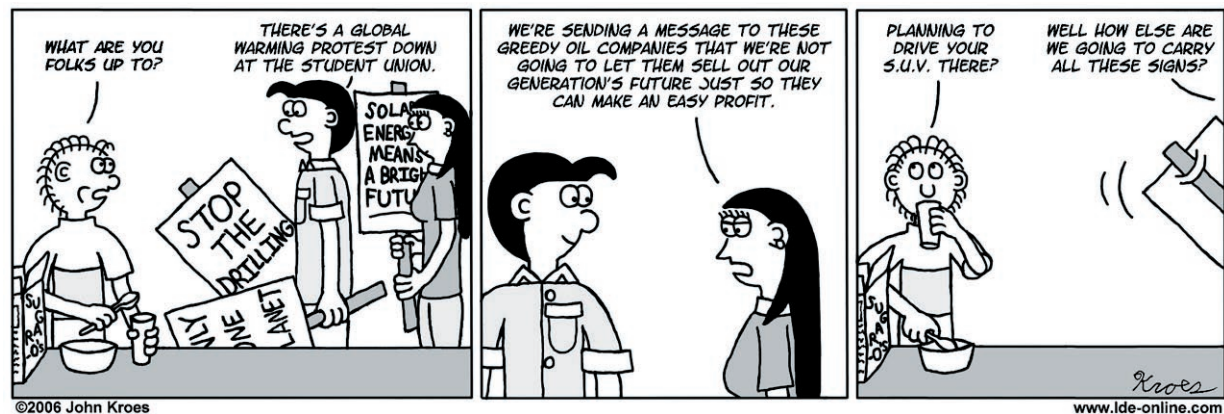
**Gallery5:** "The Birth of Zombie Stringband," a Halloween play with music from All The Saints, Punk Sinatra and Special Ed and the Shortbus at Gallery5. 6 p.m. 200 W. Marshall St. 239-2549.



# Comics

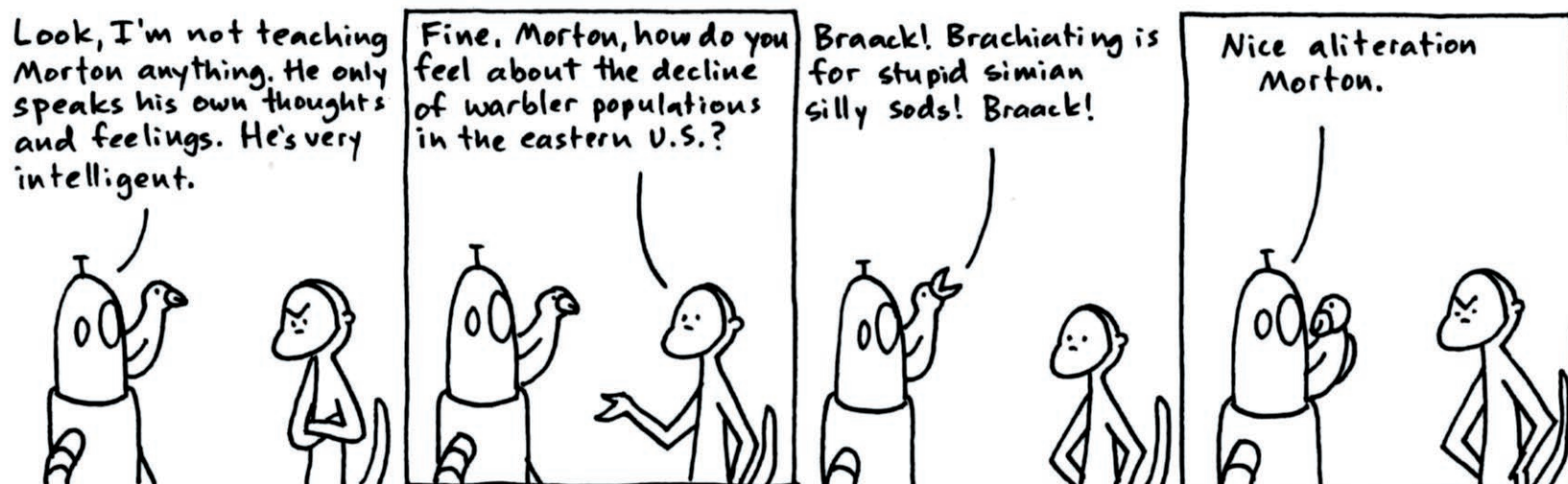
Last-Ditch Effort

John Kroes



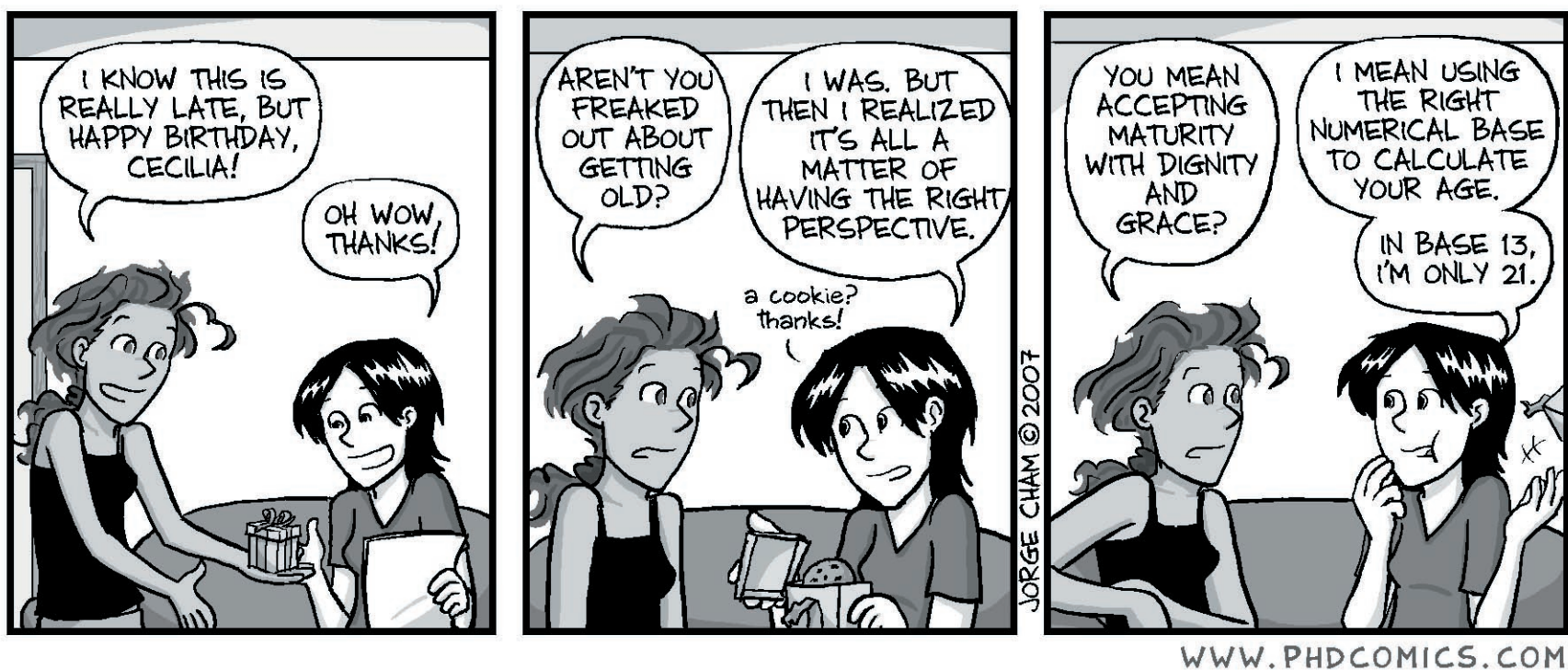
Digits

Geoffrey Cook



Piled Higher and Deeper

Jorge Cham





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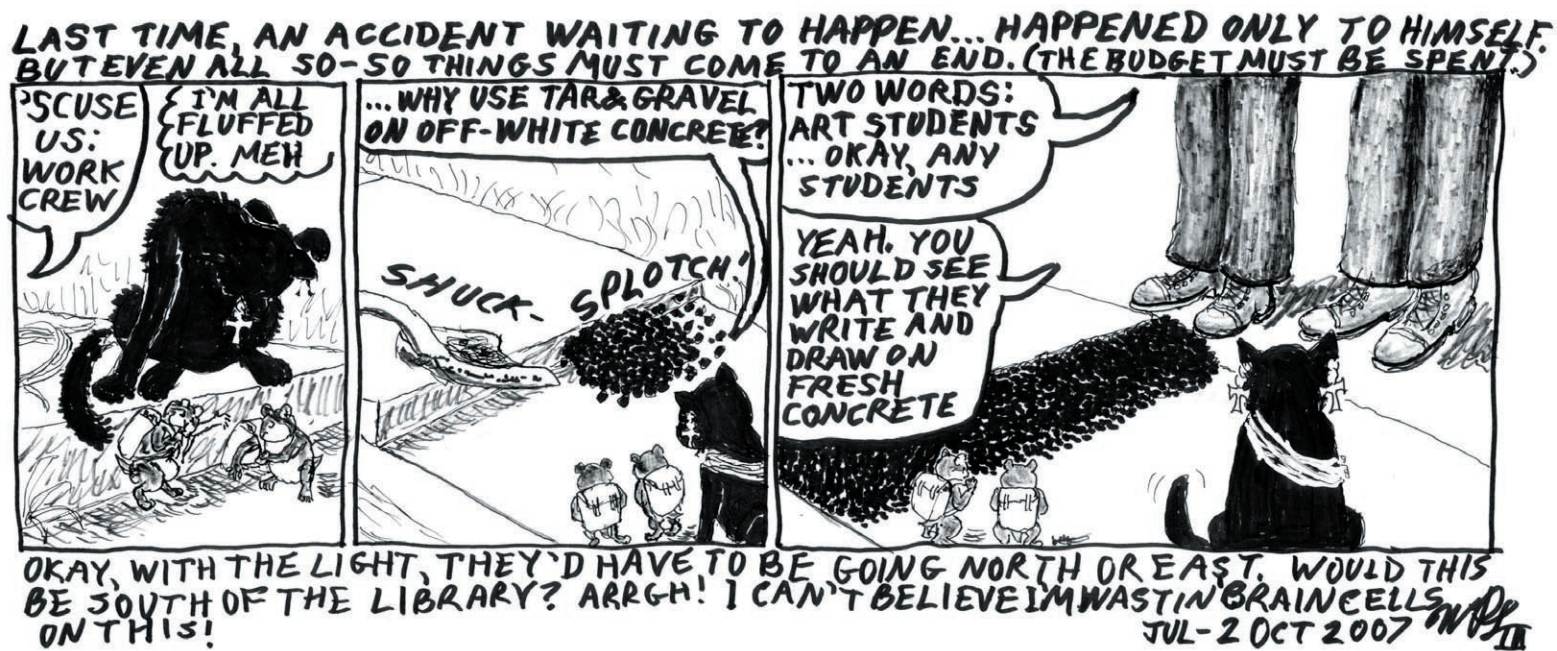




# Comics

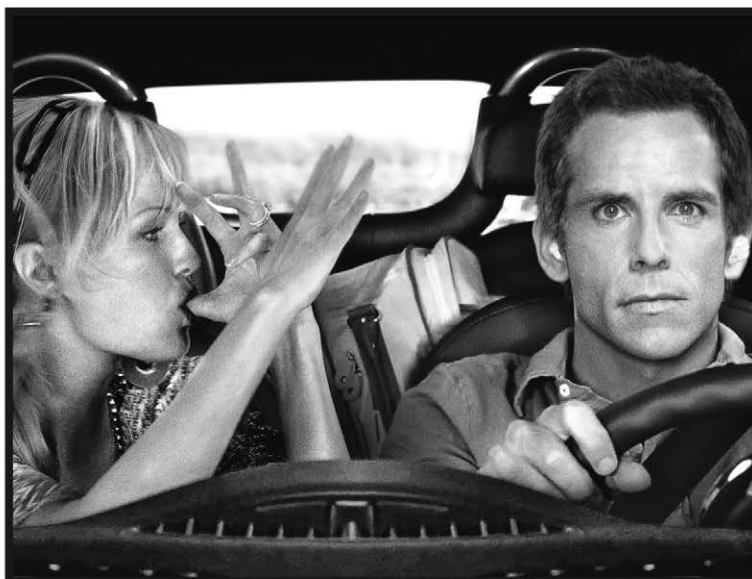
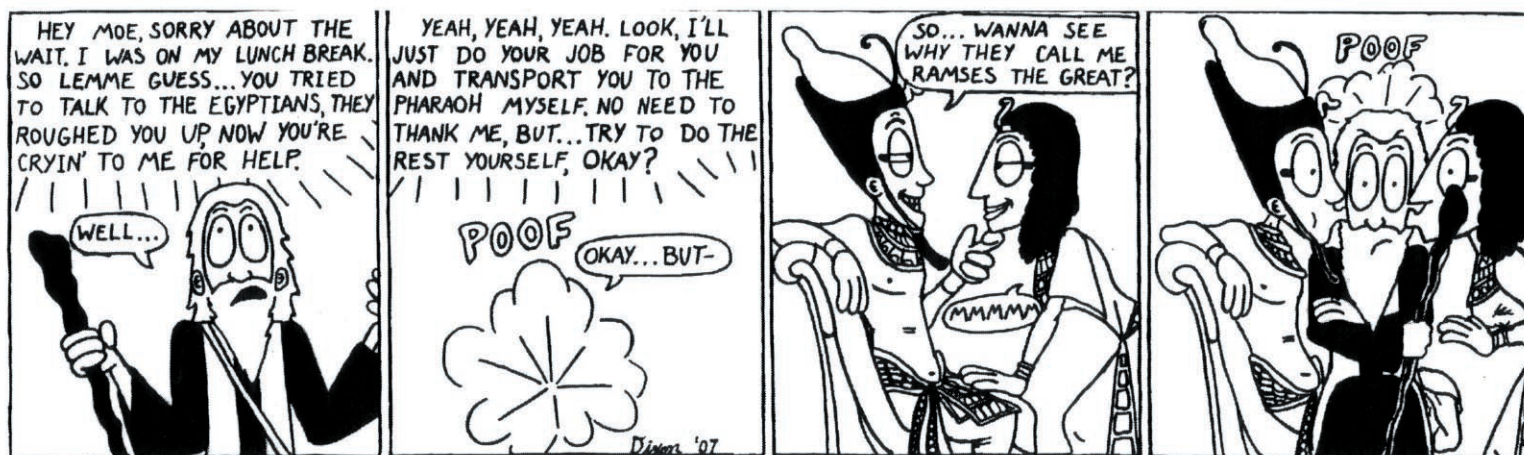
Pizza from Scratch

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Cobb Dixon



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# Opinion

**CORRECTION:** The comics “Last-Ditch Effort,” “Digits,” “Piled Higher and Deeper” and “Clock-stoppers” from the Sept. 27 CT were reprinted in the Oct. 1 issue.

the  
ct

GAYLAND HETHCOAT  
Executive Editor

RACHEL VAMENTA  
Opinion Editor

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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.

## Some school rules dumber than they look

RACHEL VAMENTA  
*Opinion Editor*

How far would you go to protest dumb school rules? Would you consider having a criminal record?

Last week, one New York high school student was charged with a misdemeanor for indecent exposure, because he had streaked through his school wearing only a paper bag on his head. According to local newspaper The Times Herald-Record, he streaked to protest backpack checks at Tri-Valley Central School in Grahamsville.

This protest is just one of many displayed by Tri-Valley students, who are also wearing tampons and maxi-pads to object to the unfair treatment of several girls who were reprimanded for carrying their purses inside the school. The school security guard reportedly asked these girls if they were on their period and said they could not carry a purse otherwise.

Tri-Valley is reportedly banning backpacks for safety and health reasons. It's easy to understand the security concern about concealed weapons. But to suddenly ban heavy backpacks is unfathomable, especially if Tri-Valley uses the excuse that the bags could hurt the kids' backs.

I'm pretty sure backpack-induced scoliosis is a problem that occurs outside New York schools.

Schools are banning more than backpacks in their hallways. This week, the Percy Julian Middle School in Oak Park, Ill., banned students from hugging in the hallway. School principal Victoria Sharts told The Associated Press some hugs could be too long and too close.

Sharts also said hugging was “more appropriate for airports or for family reunions” than for hallway encounters. That statement's got to look ridiculous in a student handbook. And it has to sound pretty absurd, too: “Sorry I was late, Coach. I was hugging my friend.”

Surely there must be more important issues for school boards to tackle than bag checks and hugs. Although it's easy to wonder why seemingly pointless rules exist, we also have to remember that dumb rules have existed as long as people have. Some of these rules extend beyond classrooms and into the so-called real world. For example, DumbLaws.com says it's illegal to tickle women in Virginia. It's also illegal to hunt animals on Sunday “with the exception of raccoons, which may be hunted until 2 a.m.”

Anyone who's caught a raccoon at 2:30 a.m. knows that's just outrageous. Still, I doubt it's worth streaking for.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The counterpoint perspective on football at VCU in “Should VCU have a football team? A point/counterpoint discussion” (Sept. 27) was no doubt sincere and the viewpoint expressed was interesting, but it was unresponsive to the advantages presented. In summary, some of those advantages were:

1. A higher competitive profile in the pool of more qualified students for admission to VCU.
2. Immediate economic benefits to the university and the Richmond community from football and football-related activities.
3. Improved alumni relations and corresponding long-term financial benefits to the university from endowments and bequests.
4. Improved school spirit and a more highly energized student body.
5. A student body better prepared to assume its citizenship and leadership roles in the larger community upon graduation.

This is an impressive list of benefits, regardless of the cost. It is a mistake to consider a review of the benefits of football to VCU to be a complaint. Positive, optimistic, enthusiastic, hopeful – certainly. But there is little evidence that VCU students are complainers looking for something new. Most VCU

students come from U.S. high schools with established football and basketball programs and homecoming games in the fall. They're simply looking for something old, something they have always known. It seems totally unrealistic to expect students or alumni to ever be enthusiastic about college soccer, field hockey or tennis, and yes, even baseball, whatever the quality of the teams.

To mandate that students must enthusiastically support existing, less mainstream programs before making any improvements to the athletic program seems condescending and punishing. It sounds like, “You can't have your dessert until you finish your spinach.” This is not an authoritarian boarding school where the headmaster knows what's best for the kiddies.

And speaking of the headmaster, from where does the belief originate that VCU President Trani “will not allow” a football team? He is not a tyrant. He has demonstrated himself to be a wise, open-minded leader and a sophisticated businessman who listens to his constituents – most importantly the more than 50,000 VCU students and employees. Like all of us, he too is listening and learning, growing and becoming. Trani's interests in seeing VCU become not only the largest, but also the most successful institution of higher

learning in the state, probably exceed our own. History suggests he thrives on growth and change.

VCU lives in the world of ideas. Football is just one more idea being advanced to help VCU realize its full potential. If it attracts little or no interest, the idea will die. But if it engages the minds of students and faculty, the work of initiating a program can begin.

What is there to lose by exploring the possibility? What do you think? We must create the VCU of tomorrow. We must create it now. This is our time. We are ready!

—Jibran Muhammad

**Editor's note:** For more information about Trani's thoughts about football at VCU, refer to “Trani discusses future, budget cuts, football” on Page 3. The CT received this letter before Trani's latest statements were publicized.

Stress and happiness in America? The article by Rachel Vamenta said: “One-third, or 34 percent, of the Americans said they were generally ‘very happy’ with their lives, while 50 percent said they were ‘pretty happy.’ Fifteen percent said they weren't too happy, and 1 percent didn't know.”

That is 100 percent. The surveys covered everyone.

Nothing, however, was said about the National Overhappiness Problem (NOPRO). This is a situation where people are too happy. They dance in the streets, tell uproarious jokes, listen to hypersonic music or otherwise run, jump and play. The phenomenon also is seen in animals, such as happy puppies and gamboling lambs.

Holding down overhappiness in children, for example, may at times be unwise and impossible. And sports victory celebrations are a sterling example of the overhappiness problem.

How can we clean up this situation? How many people are affected by the mysterious problem? Is it spreading? Is an epidemic possible?

Survey takers should be very careful when meeting an overly happy subject. A big smile, a lusty thump on the back and joyous guffaw may be encountered. More alarming yet, the prospect may burst out in song!

Can you imagine conducting happiness surveys at football or basketball uproars, at benches, the circus, the rodeo, Mardi Gras or a comic opera?

—Risto Marttinen





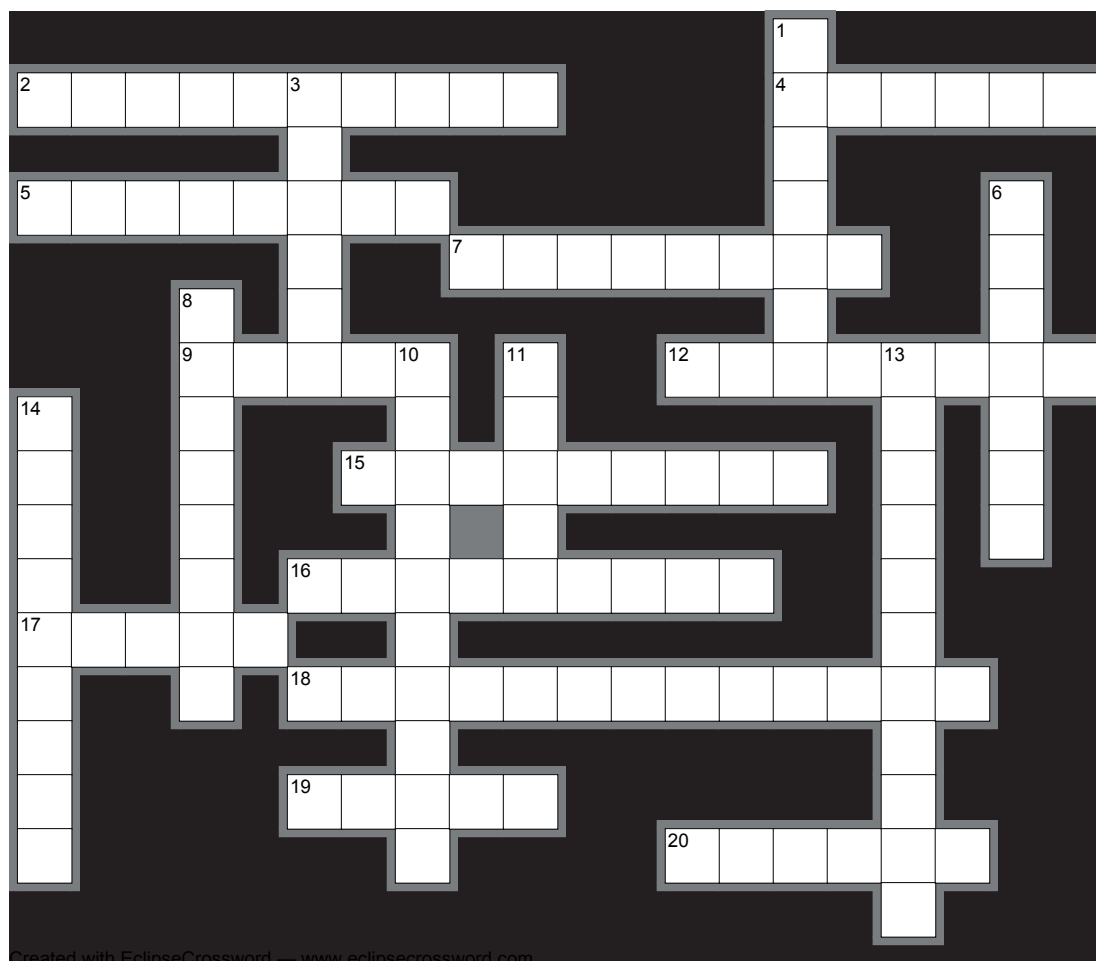
# Crossword

## Across

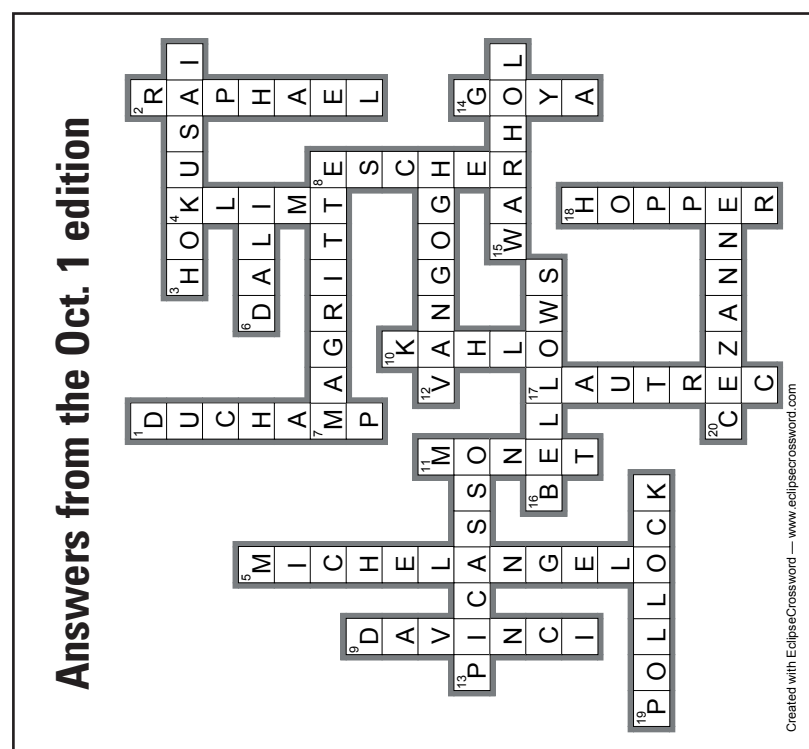
2. "Love is a burning thing, and it makes a fiery ring bound by wild desire." - Johnny Cash
4. "If you want to destroy my sweater, hold this thread as I walk away." - Weezer
5. "It's close to midnight and something evil's lurking in the dark." - Michael Jackson
7. "N-n-now th-that that don't kill me, can only make me stronger, I need you to hurry up now, cause I can't wait much longer." - Kanye West
9. "If I could tell the world just one thing, it would be that we're all OK, and not to worry 'cause worry is wasteful and useless in times like these." - Jewel
12. "There's something inside me that pulls beneath the surface, consuming, confusing, this lack of self-control I fear is never ending." - Linkin Park
15. "All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arrive, you were only waiting for this moment to be free." - Beatles
16. "Don't wanna be a fool for you, just another player in your game for two." - NSYNC
17. "I feel the fear of uncertainty stinging clear, and I can't help but ask myself how much I'll let the fear take the wheel and steer." - Incubus
18. "Jazz and Awol, that's our team, step inside the party, disrupt the whole scene, when it comes to beats, well, I'm a fiend, I like my sugar with coffee and cream." - Beastie Boys
19. "When you were here before, couldn't look you in the eye, you're just like an angel, your skin makes me cry." - Radiohead
20. "No bullet can stop us now, we neither beg nor we won't bow; neither can be bought nor sold." - Bob Marley

## Down

1. "Ooh la la la, it's the way that we rock when we're doing our thing." - Fugees
3. "I keep on fallin' in and out of love with you, I never loved someone the way that I love you." - Alicia Keys
6. "I got love for my brother but we can never go nowhere unless we share with each other, we gotta start makin' changes." - 2Pac
8. "Whispered goodbye, and she got on a plane, never to return again, but always in my heart." - Maroon 5
10. "We make plans to go out at night, I wait till 2 then I turn out the light, this rejection's got me so low, if she keeps it up I just might tell her so." - Offspring
11. "If there's nothing missing in my life, then why do these tears come at night?" - Britney Spears



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13. "I made it through the wilderness, somehow I made it through, didn't know how lost I was, until I found you." - Madonna
14. "When I'm alone in my room, sometimes I stare at the wall, and in the back of my mind I hear my conscience call, telling me I need a girl who's as sweet as a dove, for the first time in my life, I see I need love." - LL Cool J





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