



the ct

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

commonwealthtimes.com

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antibiotic or vaccine?

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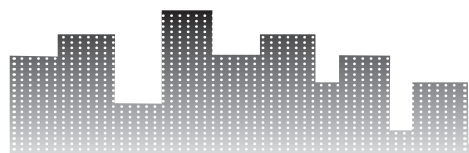
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WORLD

ANKARA, Turkey – Turkey's prime minister said Tuesday increased military action against separatist Kurdish rebels was "unavoidable" and pressed the United States for a crackdown on guerrilla bases in northern Iraq.

Turkish soldiers patrol mountains near the Iraq border in the province of Sirnak. Turkish helicopters pounded rebel positions near the border with rockets for a second day, and Turkey brought in troops by the truckload in an operation against mountainside

emplacements.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told members of his party in parliament "it is now unavoidable that Turkey will have to go through a more intensive military process."

But he also suggested he was not seeking an immediate cross-border offensive against the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, holed up in bases in northern Iraq.

"The responsibility of leadership does not allow for narrow mindedness,

haste or heroism," he said.

"We must remember that Turkey is part of this world, and diplomacy has certain requirements," Erdogan added, suggesting the world expected Turkey to exhaust all nonmilitary options.

Erdogan flies to Washington on Nov. 5 for talks with President Bush that could be key to whether Turkey carries out its threat of a major military incursion. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is also expected in Turkey later this week.

NATION

PHILADELPHIA – Democrats Barack Obama and John Edwards sharply challenged Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's candor, consistency and judgment Tuesday in a televised debate that underscored her front-runner status two months before the first presidential primary votes.

Obama, the Illinois senator, began immediately, saying Clinton has changed her positions on the North American Free Trade Agreement, torture policies and the Iraq war. Leadership, he said, does not mean "changing positions whenever it's politically convenient."

Edwards, the former North Carolina senator, was even sharper at times,

saying Clinton "defends a broken system that's corrupt in Washington, D.C." He stood by his earlier claim that she has engaged in "doubletalk."

Clinton, standing between the two men, largely shrugged off the remarks and defended her positions. She has been the focus of Republican candidates' "conversations and consternation," she said, because she is leading in the polls.

She said she has specific plans on Social Security, diplomacy and health care.

"I have been standing against the Republicans, George Bush and Dick Cheney," she said, "and I will continue to do so, and I think Democrats know

that."

But she avoided direct answers to several questions. The New York senator wouldn't say how she would address the fiscal crisis threatening Social Security, she declined to pledge whether she would stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon or say whether she supports giving driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Rather, she tried to turn every issue into an argument against President Bush.

It was the Democrats' first debate in a month, and during that time Clinton has solidified her front-runner position, gaining in polls, taking the lead in fundraising and dominating the agenda.

LOCAL

RICHMOND – Philip Morris USA, moving to protect its signature cigarette, sued Lorillard Tobacco Co., claiming its use of the letter "M" to promote its Newport cigarettes cashes in on Philip Morris's iconic Marlboro brand.

The nation's No. 1 tobacco company filed suit in U.S. District Court seeking to block Lorillard from using an "M" in its packaging for Newport, contending it unfairly infringes on its top-selling brand.

"For over 50 years Philip Morris USA has devoted significant resources and assets to build the value of its Marlboro brand and trademarks," Philip Morris states in its suit, filed this week.

Lorillard, which is based in Greensboro, N.C., filed an application in February with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to register "M Newport Blend" and "M Newport Blend The Way to Chill" as trademarks.

The Richmond tobacco giant claims

Lorillard is engaged in "a blatant attempt to trade on the long-standing goodwill and equity of Philip Morris USA's M mark and its related Marlboro brand."

Philip Morris USA asked the court to find Lorillard in violation of Marlboro's trademark; block the company from using the "M" logo with its Newport cigarettes or any other brand; and to pay compensatory damages, among other demands.

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cover photo by Rachel Larue

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News

Meningitis threat

Students respond with questions, clinic visits

BETHANY EMERSON & CHRISTEN DUXBURY
News Editors

About 700 students have visited University Student Health Services since last Monday to receive an antibiotic pill in response to the death of a 19-year-old music major, VCU health officials said Tuesday.

The antibiotic, a single dose taken orally, was distributed free of charge to prevent the spread of bacterial meningitis.

"We were able to quickly get supplies in bulk from VCU hospital," said Betty Reppert, associate director of University Student Health Services, referring to the antibiotic dispersal to students.

The antibiotic differs from the meningitis vaccine many students might have had before enrolling at VCU because it fights different strains of meningitis than the vaccine. The vaccination protects against only two of the three types of meningitis commonly found in the United States, Reppert said.

At least 400 students were initially contacted by VCU with the recommendation they receive the antibiotic because of their close contact with the music major. Reppert said more of the music major's classmates were contacted this week and strongly urged to visit University Student Health Services for the antibiotic.

Although meningitis hasn't been confirmed as the cause

of the student's death, Reppert said, the antibiotic was administered as a preventative measure.

Yet, for those who were not in close contact with the student, her death brings new questions about VCU's attention to immunizations and the importance of health precautions.

Charvee Patel, a chemistry major, said she was concerned to find out only full-time students are required to fulfill immunization requirements after being accepted by VCU.

"I would disapprove (of this regulation for part-time students), because they're all interacting on the same campus," Patel said.

Jeanine Uzel, immunization coordinator for the Monroe Park and MCV campuses, said this requirement is not VCU's decision.

"It's all based on state law," Uzel said, adding that state law mandates part-time students do not have to abide by the same vaccinations laws that full-time students do.

Uzel said most of the vaccines required for full-time students are normally completed in childhood or school years, including measles, mumps and rubella vaccines, as well as three hepatitis B vaccines – or a signed waiver not to receive the vaccines – and a tuberculosis screening. In addition to this, full-time students must have a tetanus booster within the past 10 years of applying to VCU.

MENINGITIS continued to CT4

Watch for signs, symptoms of meningitis

- High fever (101 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Headache
- Stiff neck
- Nausea/vomiting
- Confusion
- Extreme sleepiness
- Seizure

'If you had close contact' with an individual with meningitis or are concerned for your health, see the VCU Alert at vcu.edu/alert for the most up-to-date information. If you have additional questions, call University Student Health Services at (804) 828-8828.

-from the University Student Health Services Web site

Learn more

Meningitis vaccine and meningitis antibiotic; What's the difference?

- Vaccine: optional but strongly encouraged for all students
- Vaccine: protects against two of the three types of meningitis commonly found in the U.S.
- Antibiotic: provision by VCU for students in close contact with the music major or for any concerned students
- Antibiotics: fight different strains of meningitis than the vaccine

Should students still seek meningitis vaccines or antibiotics?

- Vaccine: Yes. Students who have not received the vaccine are strongly urged to visit University Student Health Services for a vaccination.

LEARN MORE continued to CT4



A student gets a flu shot at a Henrico Ukrops pharmacy on Monday.

Rachel Larue photo



Learn more, continued

• Antibiotics: All students who have come into contact with the student should get the antibiotics, regardless of whether or not they have been vaccinated against meningitis.

How much does the vaccine, antibiotic cost?

- Vaccine: \$95
- Antibiotic: free

How long is the vaccine, antibiotic offered to students?

- Vaccine: offered continually to students during immunization hours
- Antibiotic: offered continually, but Reppert urged concerned students to come in as soon as possible, because after this week, the antibiotic will be less effective

Are there any negative side effects associated with the vaccine, antibiotic?

- Vaccine: a sore arm
- Antibiotic: no known side effects

How may students receive the meningitis vaccine, antibiotic?

Immunization hours and location:

- Monday and Wednesday, 8:30-11 a.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday, 2-3:30 p.m.
- Sports Medicine Building 1300 W. Broad St. Suite 2200
- Or schedule an immunization at (804) 828-8828



Karen Sagun illustration

MENINGITIS continued from CT3

The meningitis vaccine is also an optional requirement for both full- and part-time students. Uzel said even though it is optional, it is highly recommended, particularly to those living on-campus.

For many students, cost might be the deciding factor for this vaccine. The University Student Health Services offers the meningitis vaccine for \$95 to students.

Students can also be exempted from vaccines if they have religious reasons for not wanting to take them. These students must fill out a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption and submit it to VCU.

"That's a pretty big step to do a religious exemption form," Uzel said.

Reppert said religious exemption is not common among VCU students. Yet, Uzel said, for the few who do submit these forms, it could have harmful health effects.

"We encourage people to really think about religious exemption and what that could mean," Uzel said. "(After the form is submitted) we couldn't give you any immunizations ... if you step on a nail, we could not give you a tetanus shot."

Alfrantz Lolagne, a computer information systems major, said the religious exemption subject is a sensitive one, even though it might open the campus up to more disease.

In response to the VCU student's death, Uzel said students should be conscious of health issues.

"Make sure your vaccines are up to date ... wash your hands ... and get enough sleep," Uzel said.

Walgreens



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Obama taps crowd's frustration at rally in Charlottesville

CHRISTEN DUXBURY
News Co-Editor

Sen. Barack Obama criticized the Bush Administration during a rally in Charlottesville Monday, voicing concern for its policies both in Iraq and at home.

His message was received by a crowd of more than 4,200 people who gathered outside at the Charlottesville Pavilion.

Obama took to the stage, telling the cheering crowd that they were an inspiration to him. He said it is their diversity that inspires him to work toward an America that looks past bipartisanship.

"America is not just a collection of red states and blue states," he said.

Even though Obama is trailing Hillary Clinton in popularity polls, Obama's visit drew more spectators and money than Clinton's visit to Charlottesville in September, a Pew Research Center survey said.

The Democratic presidential candidate was praised by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who spoke at the event. Kaine endorsed Obama in February and expressed his hope that Obama turns Virginia into a mostly Democratic state for the first time in decades.

Kaine called Obama the underdog, but Obama is second-seated among Democratic party candidates, according to the Pew Research Center.

The only way Americans will

see the changes they want to see is if the current political system is changed, Obama said.

Congress should not be influenced by lobbyists, heads of corporations or big oil companies, he said.

"Congress should be held accountable by you," he said.

He said he would bring back the civil liberties the Bush Administration has taken away. If elected, Obama said he would review every executive order established by Bush and reverse any law that encroaches upon the nation's civil liberties.

Strongly promoting basic human rights, Obama also said that if elected, he would work to end the genocide in Darfur and stop the AIDS/HIV crisis in Africa.

On health care issues closer to home, he promised to lower premiums and get everyone, including 47 million uninsured Americans, insured by the end of his first term.

Obama spoke out against the war in Iraq, saying the war has cost the country billions of dollars and thousands of lives. He promised that if elected, he would start bringing troops home immediately.

"It will be the first thing I do," he said, prompting cheers from the crowd.

Obama expressed concern for Congress, saying they need to stand up to the president on tough issues, such as the war and energy plans.

He pledged that if he were



Sen. Barack Obama talks to supporters during a November 2005 rally held in Richmond.

CT file photo

elected, he would work to raise the fuel efficiency on automobiles to 40 miles per gallon, ending U.S. dependence on oil from the Middle East.

If elected, he also promised he would keep the well-being of the average voter in mind.

"Everyday I will wake up and ask: 'How can I fight for a better country?'" he said.

He said his ability to know what the average American wants comes from votes, and he encouraged everyone to go to the polls for elections both big and small, including Tuesday's local elections.

As he left the stage, shouts of "We believe!" were heard throughout the crowd.

"Congress should be held accountable by you."

— Sen. Barack Obama



Andy Kotsch's first place carving

Rachel Larue photo

Pumpkin face takes first

BETHANY EMERSON
News Co-Editor

Student Katie Connor sat on the second floor of Shafer Court Dining Center Wednesday energetically carving out an owl pattern that would score third place in the Pumpkin Carving Contest.

Every year, VCU Dining Services sponsors a pumpkin-carving contest for students as a way for students to get more out of their

dining experience than just food, said Louise Kapelewski, marketing manager for VCU Dining Services.

Seventeen students visited the Shafer Court Dining Center Monday through Wednesday to carve a pumpkin at the table set up with complimentary pumpkins and carving tools.

The pumpkin carvings ranged from classic pumpkin smiles with triangular eyes and wide grins to

bizarre designs etched with forks and elaborate faces.

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday, staff from VCU Dining services and individuals from the business services judged and marked the first, second- and third-place winners.

Andy Kotsch won first place with his face (far left), with Jim Thompson coming in second with his carving that included the VCU RAMS logo.



Sports

“Last year, we had a team that was new to our coaching staff and our terminology and style of play – but not new to college basketball. This year, we have six guys that understand our terminology and our style of play, and then, we have the other half of our team that’s new to college basketball, and our terminology, and our system.”

– Head coach Anthony Grant

Former 6th man Shuler now starting

“My job is pretty much the same (as it was last year). I’m just starting. I don’t look at it as, ‘OK, I have to replace B.A. (Walker) and Jesse (Pellet-Rosa).’ I’m just going to come out there and do whatever I can to put us in a position to win the game.”

CAA Coach of the Year Grant enters second season

“This year’s team will have a different identity than last year’s team ... This year, our senior leaders are Wil Fameni, Mike Anderson and Jamal Shuler ... I’m pretty pleased with where we are right now.”

Rams invited to Puerto Rico Tip Off and BB&T Classic

In the Puerto Rico Tip Off, VCU will face Houston in the first round. With a win, the Rams will face either Miami or Marist, followed by an opponent to be determined in the final round. In the BB&T Classic in Washington, D.C., the Rams will face the Maryland Terrapins.

Maynor receives off-season accolades

“All the awards from pre-season are just what people think. I’m all about winning. It’s about me and my teammates.”

Schedule

Thu., Nov. 1, vs. Virginia State (exhibition), Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 5, vs. Virginia Union (exhibition), Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 9, vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
*Thu., Nov. 15, vs. Houston, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 9 a.m.
*Fri., Nov. 16, vs. Miami or Marist, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 11 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 18, TBA, San Juan, Puerto Rico, TBA
Sat., Nov. 24, vs. Elon, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Thu., Nov. 29, @ Hampton, Hampton, 7 p.m.
%Sun., Dec. 2, vs. Maryland, Washington, D.C., 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 5, vs. William and Mary, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 8, vs. Richmond, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 15, vs. Longwood, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 22, @ Bradley, Peoria, Ill., 8:05 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 2, @ James Madison, Harrisonburg, TBA
Sat., Jan 5, @ UNC Wilmington, Wilmington, N.C., TBA
Thu., Jan. 10, vs. Georgia State, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan 12, vs. Hofstra, Siegel Center, noon
Wed., Jan 16, vs. Delaware, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan 19, @ Old Dominion, Norfolk, 4 p.m.
Wed., Jan 23, @ Hofstra, Hempstead, N.Y., 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan 26, vs. Drexel, Siegel Center, 6 p.m.
Tue., Jan 29, @ George Mason, Fairfax, 7 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 2, vs. Towson, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 6, @ Georgia State, Atlanta, TBA
Sat., Feb. 9, @ Delaware, Newark, Del., 2 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 13, vs. James Madison, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 16, vs. Old Dominion, Siegel Center, TBA
Wed., Feb. 20, @ Northeastern, Boston, 7 p.m.
#Sat., Feb. 23, @TBA
Wed., Feb. 27, vs. UNC Wilmington, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.
Sat., March 1, @ William and Mary, Williamsburg, TBA
March 7-10, CAA Tournament, Richmond

*- Puerto Rico Tip Off
%- BB&T Classic
#- ESPN BracketBusters



Men’s basketball preview

Six players from last year’s team, which won 28 games en route to the CAA title and a win over Duke in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, return to the Rams. This year, VCU is expected to finish second in the CAA behind rival George Mason. Junior point guard Eric Maynor, the pre-season conference player of the year and a Wooden Award candidate, is back at the helm and will be expected to

be even more of a leader with the departure of guards B.A. Walker and Jesse Pellet-Rosa. Perhaps the biggest story lines of the season will be the Rams’ youth and depth.

Last season’s team was big on experience (four seniors), but low on depth (11 players on the roster). This year, VCU will carry a 15-man roster, but nine are new to VCU, including seven freshmen.

Joey Rodriguez

Joey Rodriguez might be small in stature, but he has big shoes to fill. The freshman point guard will be called upon to back up Maynor in times of need. Last season, this role went to seniors Matt Coward and B.A. Walker. Rodriguez is still making the transition from high school to college that will make him effective.

“It’s definitely a lot faster. Players are a lot stronger. I’m still trying to work timing out with the other players,” he said.

The coaches, however, know exactly what they want Rodriguez to do.

“Just run the team,” he said. “That’s all they keep telling me to do – be vocal and be a leader.”

From Eric Maynor: “Joey’s a great point guard. For me to come out of the game and for him to come in, I feel like we wouldn’t be missing anything. He’s going to give the same energy and same intensity that I give.”

Franck Ndongo

After spending a lot of time on the bench last season, Franck Ndongo looks to have an expanded role because of Pellet-Rosa’s departure. Even though he will be more heavily relied on, he said he doesn’t feel the pressure to put up numbers.

“No pressure at all. What I’m thinking about is my team no matter where I go, 6th man or 7th man – it’s all about the team,” he said.

The summer proved to be a big factor in Ndongo’s improvement. Along with taking 14 credits in summer school, Ndongo took his game to an international level.

“I was called by my national team to play for Cameroon in AfroBasket 2007,” he said.

Larry Sanders

Larry Sanders stands out on the VCU roster. In a season of youth and improved depth, the freshman has both of those qualities. Sanders, a 6’9 forward, provides immediate help to Wil Fameni and Michael Anderson in the post. However, the big man also has the least basketball experience on the team. Sanders didn’t start playing until 10th grade and didn’t play varsity until his junior year.

“It’s just a big learning process for me. It’s tough, but he (head coach Anthony Grant) makes sure you understand,” Sanders said.

Although he has a large learning curve, Sanders

has greatly benefited from playing with Fameni and Anderson, both seniors.

“(They are) great teachers. I can tell you that much. If I do something wrong, Wil is going to tell me I did it wrong before I realize it.”

From Wil Fameni: “(The freshmen) might be inexperienced, but they are talented. That’s something you can’t teach.”

Jamal Shuler

Senior Jamal Shuler is cracking the starting lineup for the first time.

“I’m excited about playing, starting, being out there and bringing energy to the team,” he said.

“Shu” knows that it’s vital to bring the same energy from the opening tip.

“I just feed off the crowd; coach said that’s my job. I just have that mentality that I have to bring what I have to bring ... I know we’re always going to have a big crowd. They always give me that extra boost.”

If the Rams had a weakness last season, it was their trouble closing out a few tough opponents, such as Bradley and Old Dominion.

“It ultimately comes down to us making better decisions at the defensive end and the offensive end. Just minimizing mistakes; that’ll help us win those games. That experience in the NAAs is added experience for us. When we get in tough situations, like down two with 30 seconds left to go, to have that edge when we’ve been here before, and we can get through it. It gives me more leadership to provide to the young guys.”

Brandon Rozzell

Brandon Rozzell is the one Virginian recruit added to the Rams roster this season. Being a Richmond native, he played on the Siegel Center floor in high school and attended VCU games.

“I came to pretty much every home game after being recruited,” he said.

The freshmen are already bonding with the existing team to form the links that were so vital in the last portion of last season.

“The coaching staff and my teammates are like another family to me,” he said.

When he gets his chance, Rozzell will be quick to help the team.

“I’m looking to step up and do what I can,” he said. “When my time comes, I’m looking to provide.”





“He’s great. Since he’s been here, our intensity and work ethic and our discipline has tripled.”

– Quanitra Hollingsworth on new Associate Head Coach Curt Kassab

Sports

Women’s basketball preview

Nine players, including three starters from last year’s team, return to this season’s squad. Junior transfer Radoslava Bachvarova and sophomore La’Tavia Rorie will fill the shoes vacated by graduates Michele Cosel and Miranda Smith in the veteran starting lineup. The power duo of senior Krystal Vaughn and junior Quanitra Hollingsworth, who averaged a combined 29.3 points per game in the 2006-2007 season, both return for the Rams.

Associate Head Coach Curt Kassab and Assistant Head Coach Amaka Agugua join Head Coach Beth Cunningham on the staff.

Kassab brings 13 years of experience as a head coach, going 259-80, including eight seasons at the helm of the girl’s basketball team

at nearby Atlee High School in Mechanicsville. Kassab is known for his desire to win and instill a strong work ethic in players.

Agugua served the Rams as a graduate assistant last season and played CAA basketball at Hofstra University from 2001-2006. While there, she was a three-year captain and led the Pride to its first ever post-season appearance in the WNIT in 2006.

The Rams finished the 2006-2007 season with a 17-13 overall record and 10-10 in the CAA. They reached the quarterfinals of the conference tournament before bowing out to host Delaware.

Expectations are higher this season, as VCU has been tapped to finish fourth in the CAA.



Vaughn and Hollingsworth named to pre-season All-Conference Teams

Quanitra Hollingsworth was named to the Preseason All-CAA First Team, and Krystal Vaughn earned a spot on the Preseason All-CAA Second Team.

Rams picked to finish fourth in CAA

“We know we can can finish better than fourth, but it’s definitely a confidence builder that everyone else in the CAA recognizes what we’re bringing.”

—Quanitra Hollingsworth

Kassab and Agugua join coaching staff

Curt Kassab made the move from Atlee High School after eight seasons as the school’s girl’s basketball head coach. While there, Kassab completed a 30-0 record en route to the state championship in 2003, and a 24-2 record last season. Amaka Agugua starred for Oakton High School before playing basketball at the collegiate level for Hofstra. Agugua gained experience with the Rams last season as a graduate assistant.

Rams to host VCU Roundball Classic

“We’re definitely excited. We’ve been waiting to do some kind of tournament outside the season. The fact that we get to host one is really big, and we definitely have some good teams and good competition.”

—Quanitra Hollingsworth

Quanitra Hollingsworth

After two seasons as the face of the VCU women’s basketball team, Quanitra Hollingsworth is used to dealing with pressure.

“I definitely have the spotlight on me already, so it’s not anything different. I just have to go out there and play,” she said.

For the 6’5 center, going out and playing will immediately help the Rams toward their quest for a CAA title. An injury last season temporarily sidelined Hollingsworth, and she wasn’t quite as effective after her return, nor was the team. She is currently dealing with a second injury, this time to her back, but she is confident it will not affect her play.

“I’m having a little back problem, but I’m getting treatment, and I’m able to go 110 percent,” she said.

Hollingsworth’s goals are big for this season – the pre-season all-conference selection hopes to lead her team to the CAA championship and pick up player of the year and all-conference honors along the way.

However, Hollingsworth has big team-oriented goals that she thinks are already being put into action.

“My attitude as far as the team is concerned and my personal approach towards the team — I want to be a motivator,” she said.

Krystal Vaughn

If there is one thing that Krystal Vaughn does not lack, it is confidence. The senior forward thinks confidence is the key to winning, the reason for last season’s collapse and why she plays so well.

“During the beginning of the season our confidence level was high. Towards the middle of the season, we lost a couple of games, and it was hard to gain our confidence again,” she said.

With the help of her work ethic and leadership skills, Vaughn’s confidence enables her to envision the Rams as CAA champions. It also helps her look at the giants of the CAA – James Madison and Old Dominion – as teams equal to VCU.

“I’d never look at the teams as hard to beat. It’s nothing. I just play, but it comes to our team coming together and being able to win,” she said.

And, it is Vaughn’s confidence that makes her able to talk about herself and her teammates.

“Q (Quanitra Hollingsworth) and I are the most dominating post players in the conference. Together we cannot be stopped.”

Projected starting lineups

Men

Pos.

Player

G

*Eric Maynor

G

Jamal Shuler

F

T.J. Gwynn

F

*Michael Anderson

F

*Wil Fameni

*Returning starter

Women

Pos.

Player

G

*LaKea Jones

G

La’Tavia Rorie

F

*Krystal Vaughn

F

Radoslava Bachvarova

C

*Quanitra Hollingsworth

*Returning starter

At Daytona Beach Community College

Last season’s stats

13.9 PPG, 6.4 APG, 4.2 RPG

8.6 PPG, 40.9% 3-pointers

4.8 PPG, 56.3% field goals

6.4 PPG, 4.9 RPG, 75.9% free throws

8.9 PPG, 5.4 RPG, 1.0 BPG

Last season’s stats

6.0 PPG, 3.9 APG

3.7 PPG, 2.9 RPG

15.6 PPG, 6.8 RPG

- 12.6 PPG

13.7 PPG, 9.4 RPG

Pick'm
Football Week 9

Each week, the CT sports editors, Alex Dynan and a coin will pick the outcomes of this week's college football and NFL action. If you wish to participate, bring your picks to the Student Media Center (817 W. Broad) and leave them in the sports box by Friday at 5 p.m. Top score

receives a prize.
Last week: Doyon fell from his top spot after a miserable 8-12 showing. After a 1-9 showing in college, he needed Denver to beat Green Bay to stay on top, but it did not happen. "The Aftermath" co-host Alex Dynan takes a one-game lead

after a blistering 15-5 performance, including 9-1 in the NFL. The coin made up a lot of ground as well, riding a 14-6 performance, including 9-1 in the NFL. Bringing up the rear – again – is Sports Editor Howard. After a 10-10 performance, he is still in last place.



Jonathan Howard (84-66)
Sports Editor



Matt Doyon (93-57)
Associate Sports Editor



Alex Dynan (94-56)
Co-host, WVCW's "The Aftermath"



The Coin (76-54)
aka "Lady Luck"

This week's games

COLLEGE

Wisconsin at Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State
LSU at Alabama	LSU	LSU	LSU	Alabama
Arizona State at Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Arizona State
Rutgers at Connecticut	Rutgers	Rutgers	Connecticut	Rutgers
Cincinnati at South Florida	South Florida	South Florida	South Florida	South Florida
Wake Forest at Virginia	Wake Forest	Virginia	Wake Forest	Virginia
Navy at Notre Dame	Navy	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
Missouri at Colorado	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Colorado
Purdue at Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Purdue
South Carolina at Arkansas	South Carolina	South Carolina	Arkansas	Arkansas

NFL

New England at Indianapolis	Indianapolis	New England	New England	New England
Denver at Detroit	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver
Carolina at Tennessee	Carolina	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Seattle at Cleveland	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle
Arizona at Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa	Arizona
Dallas at Philadelphia	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
Jacksonville at New Orleans	Jacksonville	New Orleans	New Orleans	Jacksonville
Green Bay at Kansas City	Green Bay	Green Bay	Kansas City	Green Bay
Cincinnati at Buffalo	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Baltimore at Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Baltimore

THIS WEEK

Men's Basketball

Thu., Nov. 1, vs. Virginia State, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Fri., Nov. 2, @ UNC Wilmington, Wilmington, N.C., 7 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 4, @ Georgia State, Atlanta, 1 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Thu., Nov. 1, vs. James Madison, Sports Backers Stadium, 7 p.m.

Volleyball

Fri., Nov. 2, vs. William and Mary, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.

VCU sporting events are free to students with a valid student ID. For more information, visit vcuathletics.com or call the VCU Sports Line at 828-3440.

Feast on the East this NBA season

Some key stars have already moved to new phone books and others could soon



ON MATT'S MIND

MATT DOYON
Associate Sports Editor

While sifting through all the Kobe Bryant stories and rumors, you might have noticed the NBA season tipped off Tuesday. And the Eastern Conference is no longer the little brother of the West that it had been since Michael Jordan's, err, second retirement.

The migration of Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to the Celtics has transformed the storied franchise from the last-place team of a year ago to a title threat once again. That gives the Atlantic Division a grand total of one team that could advance to the second round of the playoffs. Well, not exactly, but almost. Toronto was the lone team to escape the regular season with a winning record last year in 2006-2007 and won't take a step back this year – Chris Bosh proved he is the heart of the team and can carry

it through the turmoil it'll undoubtedly face on its mid-season West Coast trip. The Knicks are facing too many obstacles on and off the court with no one to unify the talent. Isiah Thomas is the Matt Millen of the NBA; the worse his team performs, the more lucrative the contract extension he receives. The 76ers demonstrated their resignation to rebuilding with the trade of Allen Iverson last Dec. 19 and are still in the development process. New Jersey in the wild card of the Atlantic, providing it doesn't trade Jason Kidd.

Detroit, a perennial contender, continues to keep its core intact and leaves no reason to think this season will break the mold. But speaking of Kobe, Chicago, another Central Division playoff team of a year ago, has been rumored to be a potential suitor for the disgruntled Bryant. The deal would send yet another Western Conference All-Star eastward and change

the balance of the league. Cleveland, last season's Eastern Conference representative in the NBA Finals, has done the least of any Central contender to improve. LeBron James is going to have to do the heavy lifting again. The Cavs are still dealing with precarious dissension from Sasha Pavlovic and Anderson Varejao, who might opt not to play in the NBA rather than rejoin Cleveland. Larry Hughes and Daniel Gibson will have to have a bigger impact on the offense for Cleveland to make it deep in the playoffs.

The Southeast is the weakest of the three Eastern divisions, but the Wizards, Heat and Magic could all make the post-season, conceivably. That means every playoff team could actually finish above .500!

Leagues, such as the NFL and MLB now have greater disparities between their two leagues/conferences, and the NBA is no longer the lopsided mess it had become.

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Sports BRIEFS

GOLF

Rafael Campos (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico/The Baldwin School) shot an even par 72 on Sunday to finish 20th at the Landfall Tradition, hosted by UNC Wilmington in Wilmington, N.C. Campos led the Rams to an 11th-place finish out of 12 participating teams. Lanto Griffin (Blacksburg/Blacksburg) finished in 26th at 10-over, while Vincent Nadeau (Penn Hook/Purdue) finished 29th at 11-over.

MEN'S SOCCER

Freshman Jorit Loehr (Bremen, Germany) was named CAA co-rookie of the week after his strong performance against Towson. Normally a defenseman, coach Tim O'Sullivan moved him up to forward against the Tigers. The freshman did not disappoint, netting two goals, including the game-winner in overtime, and registering an assist.

VOLLEYBALL

Junior libero Laryssa Goncalves (Curitiba, Brazil/Colegio Dom Bosco) had a career-high 38 digs as the Rams defeated the Radford Highlanders in five games. VCU lost the first game 30-24 but won game two 30-29. Radford took game three 30-26, but the Rams held tough and forced a fifth game with a 30-22 win in the fourth. In the fifth and final game, Radford jumped to a 10-7 lead, but VCU outscored the Highlanders 9-4 the rest of the way to take a 16-14 victory. VCU's record improves to 9-17 after the win.



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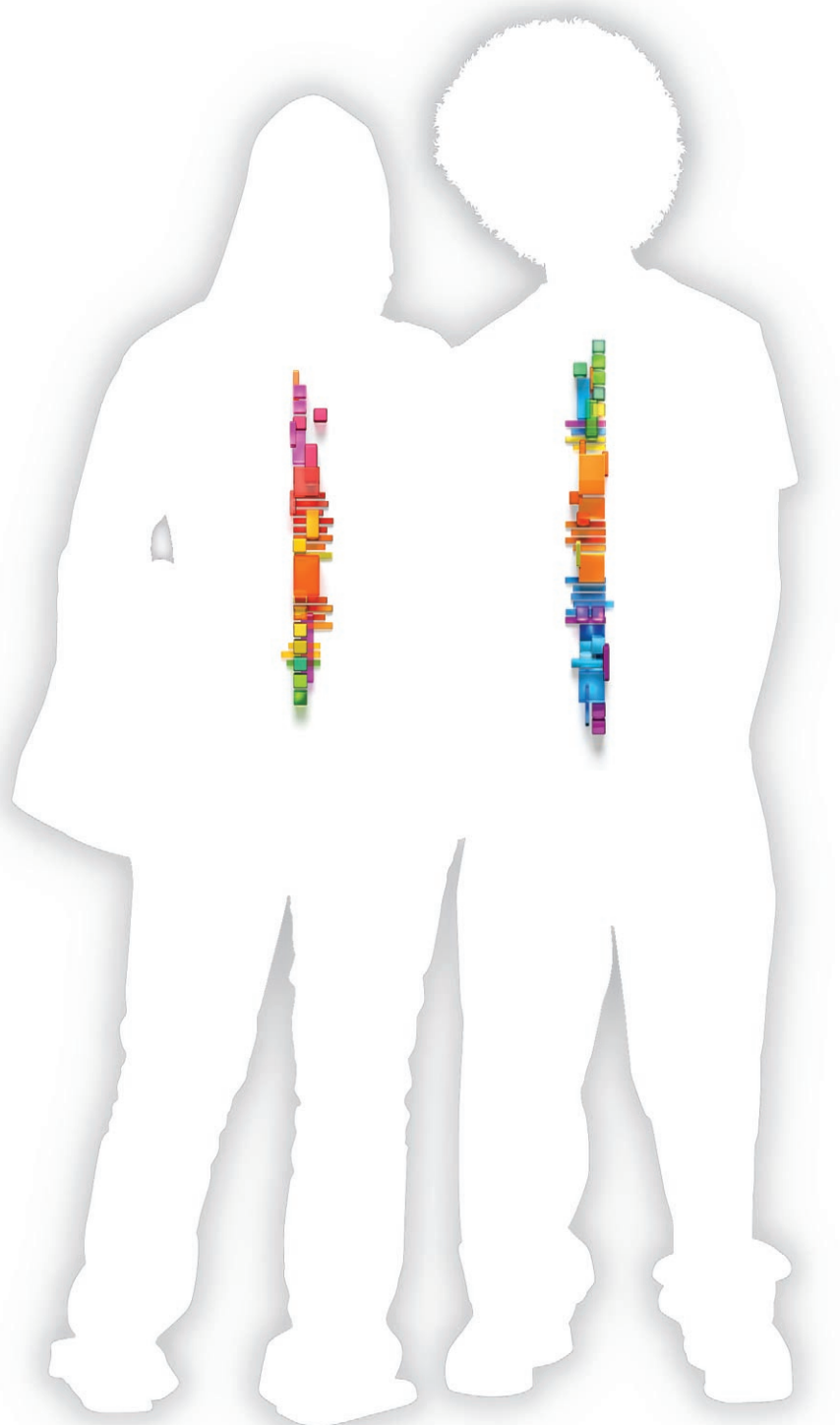
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Spectrum

theater
review



Grant Wiggins visits with death-row inmate Jefferson in 'A Lesson Before Dying'.

Photo courtesy of African American Repertory Theatre

Local theater teaches tolerance

ROBERTO CURTIS
Spectrum Editor

The African American Repertory Theatre's play "A Lesson Before Dying," though muddled with redundant speech patterns and melodrama, has a poignant, often overlooked theme that centers around the harsh realities of racism in the U.S. justice system of 1948.

The injustices of the system have all but claimed the life of Jefferson, a black teenager growing up in Bayonne, La.

Present in a liquor store robbery

turned gun-fight gone wrong, Jefferson is pegged with a triple homicide including the murder of the white store owner, he didn't commit.

Mentally and emotionally scarred by the legal process and sentenced to the electric chair, a broken Jefferson is left with no hope.

In addition to the members of her community, the person most afflicted by the tragedy is Jefferson's godmother, Miss Emma Glen, played by the experienced and soulful Diana Carver. Glen calls upon her nephew Grant Wiggins, played by a convincing J. Ron Fleming,

to console her godson and activate the nobility inside him that has been stamped out by his oppressors.

Though reluctant, Wiggins accepts the task of visiting the inmate. Positive interaction between the two men is slow at first but progress is eventually made despite the negative treatment Jefferson and his guests receive from the vile Sheriff Sam Guidry, played by tiring David Zimmerman.

Although the situation at the courthouse is bleak, the one decent person employed there is Deputy Paul Bonin, played by Logan Conner, who sees the

sheriff's bigoted ways as malicious and unnecessary. Easily the most comfortable with his role and acting in general, Conner represented the VCU theatre department well.

While balancing a job, love life and a position at a horribly under funded public school, Wiggins receives criticism from all fronts, including the church in the form of Jerry Shaw's somewhat irrelevant character, the Rev. Moses Ambrose. Ambrose warns Wiggins of the gravity of neglecting Jesus during

THEATER continued to CT15



Canal Club draws world-class animator

ROBERTO CURTIS
Spectrum Editor

Magisterial independent animator Bill Plympton will grace Richmond with his talents on Nov. 9 at the Canal Club for an evening of screenings, humor and free drawings.

You might not have heard of him, but among his peers, he is well known and incredibly respected as an animator. Nominated for two Academy Awards for his works, "Guide Dog" and "Your Face," Plympton is the archetype of the independent artist trying to make a living off his talent.

"I don't work for Disney or Dreamworks, and a lot of people think that's pretty special," Plympton said.

Mild-mannered Plympton is looking forward to his stop in Richmond. In addition to emphasizing his simplistic style, he'll be speaking to the young art community about the importance of remaining true to one's self in one's works.

"The great thing about independent work is I'm my own boss ... I can come up with any crazy idea I want, and no one's going to say 'No.' I can also finish it when I want ... change it when I want, and even though I don't make as much money as the commercials, the freedom is what it's all about," Plympton said. "That's the joy of making animation."

Although computers have revolutionized the animation industry, Plympton's unique style results in his shunning of computers. Every frame is drawn by hand. Literally thousands of frames go into each of his works.

"I don't use computers. It's all hand-made. I think a lot of people are either afraid of computers or just don't like the look of computers. That's what I'm going to bring to Richmond – the old-school, independent artist philosophy," Plympton said.

Regardless of whether his techniques are dated or efficient, nobody can argue

with his time-tested formula. Plympton's "dogma," as he calls it, involves three simple rules: "Make your films short – five minutes or less – make your films cheap – \$1,000 a minute or less – and rule No. 3 – make your film funny. If you can do all that, you will be a success," Plympton said.

Plympton will be showcasing clips from earlier works, as well as his unreleased film, "Idiots and Angels," at 8 p.m. at the Canal Club at 1545 E. Cary St. After the show, Plympton will draw a free picture for any ticket holder at the event. Also performing will be the



Photo courtesy of Plymtoons

Richmond Afrobeat Movement and the Art Cheerleaders.

The event is co-sponsored by the VCU kinetic imaging department, the Art Cheerleaders and the Richmond Moving Image Co-op. Tickets are \$10 for students with ID and \$15 for everyone else and may be purchased in advance at Chop Suey Books and Video Fan. For more information, call Mike Jones at 355-6537. For more information on Plympton, including his clips, visit his Web site at plymptoons.com.

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Virginia Commonwealth University

'The Darjeeling Limited'

REBECCA LANDAU
Managing Editor

The first scene of director Wes Anderson's latest film features actor Bill Murray dressed in a suit, desperately sprinting to catch a moving train called "The Darjeeling Limited." As Murray gasps for breath mid-stride, the camera pans in slow motion to his profile.

Suddenly, actor Adrien Brody appears running beside him. Lanky, lean and young, he passes Murray easily. As Brody swings onto the back of the train and into the film, Murray slows and stops, defeated, to watch the train chug away.

Although Murray might have missed the train, and thus a leading role in Anderson's latest movie, in the end, he's probably better off this time around. Anderson has directed and written great movies, but "The Darjeeling Limited" is not one of them.

The film stars Brody, Owen Wilson and Jason Schwartzman as three brothers who go to India to reconnect with each another and find themselves spiritually. Unlike his past films, such as "The Life Aquatic," "Rushmore" and "The Royal Tenenbaums," Anderson's latest effort lacks much of his signature charm, often found in his sentimental, stylized direction and his affinity for writing jarringly

honest and witty dialogue.

Making matters worse, "The Darjeeling Limited" soundtrack is mostly composed of authentic, Indian mixes. The Indian music is beautiful, but it doesn't connect the viewer to the film's story and characters as classic soundtracks in Anderson's past films have.

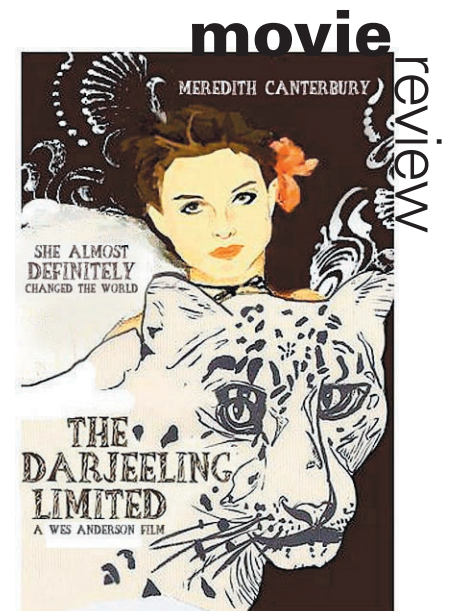
For instance, David Bowie's "Queen Bitch" perfectly augments the moment at the end of "The Life Aquatic" when Bill Murray lifts a boy onto his shoulders and walks in slow motion toward the screen.

The only moment in "The Darjeeling Limited" when a background song is memorable isn't in the film at all — it plays during the short film, "Hotel Chevalier," also directed by Anderson, which precedes the film.

"Where Do You Go To (My Lovely)" by Peter Sarstedt perfectly defines the final moment between the film's two actors, Schwartzman and Natalie Portman.

The two actors play an estranged couple who reunite in a hotel room in Paris. Portman and Schwartzman talk, awkwardly stare at one another and then reconcile, if only temporarily. Portman, who strips down to almost nothing in the film, only reappears briefly in "The Darjeeling Limited" to reprise her role in a cameo.

The audience never learns about how this couple met or why they separated. This is a shame, considering the chem-



Schwartzman and Portman in 'Hotel Chevalier'

istry between the two actors in "Hotel Chevalier" is five times more interesting to watch than the predictable film that follows.

Predictability isn't always a bad thing. Although Anderson's films often focus on dysfunctional families, they also usually have individually considered, connective themes that are prominent in the set designs, the music and the films' overall feel. These themes make the films fresh.

In the "Royal Tenenbaums," rusty reds and oranges are featured consistently in the film's sets, and the plot follows suit, as each character is written and stylized to fit a retro sensibility.

"The Darjeeling Limited" attempts to use its setting in India as a way to create

'DARJEELING' continued to CT15

Gosling shines in 'Lars and the Real Girl'

RACHEL VAMANTA
Opinion Editor

Ryan Gosling is shy and lonely, and he pretends a sex doll is his girlfriend.

Yes, you read correctly.

In "Lars and the Real Girl," Gosling plays Lars Lindstrom, a sweet but painfully shy and detached young man. Lars lives quietly, working, attending church and keeping to himself. This worries Karin, Lars' sister-in-law, played by Emily Mortimer. Karin and her husband, Gus, repeatedly invite Lars over to dinner. Lars declines until one day, to their surprise and delight, he announces he has a visitor.

Enter Bianca, the sex doll.

To Lars, however, Bianca is not a doll. She is, essentially, a real girl, a missionary from Brazil who is half Brazilian and half Danish. Bianca also has lost the use of her legs and must be transported carefully in a wheelchair. Lars

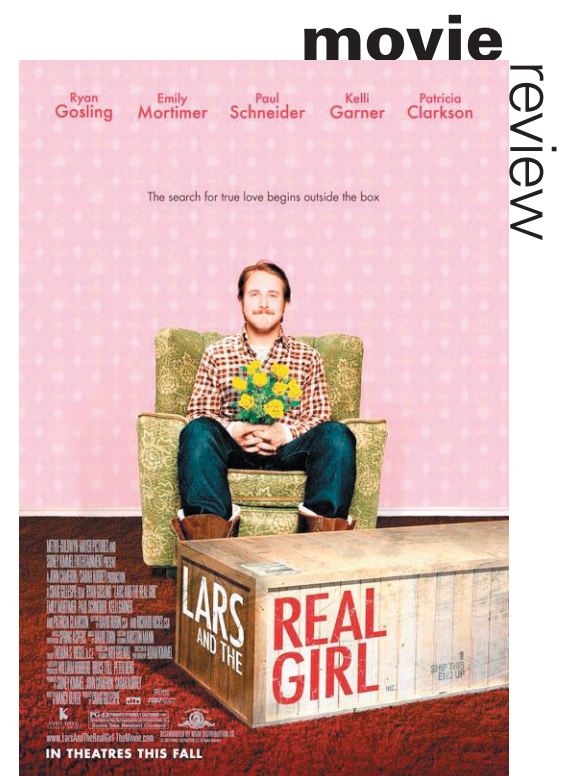
constructs and shares Bianca's life story with Karin and Gus before introducing her to his psychologist, Dr. Dagmar Berman, played by Patricia Clarkson.

The rest of the movie shows what happens as Karin, Gus and the townspeople follow Dagmar's advice to pacify Lars and go along with his delusion, since he isn't hurting anybody. The film also examines the relationship between Lars and Gus, and the events in Lars' life that made him who he is.

The question of whether Lars has a sexual relationship with Bianca is never directly addressed. However, there is no doubt Lars loves her, whether he is dropping Bianca off at "work" (she is a clothing model) or even pulling her wheelchair up his coworker's front porch steps.

The movie's plot could easily belong to a typical mainstream Ben Stiller sex comedy, but thankfully, "Lars" isn't that kind of comedy. It's not as if director Craig Gillespie

LARS continued to CT15



weekend calendar

Thursday, Nov. 1

Lecture: Katherine Bolding will lecture at the School of the Arts at VCU at 3 p.m. 1000 W. Broad St. 827-1557.

Lecture: Filmmaker Su Friedrich will lecture at the Bowe Street Art Building in room 535 from 2-3:15 p.m. Free to the public. 828-1695

For Africa: A benefit concert with music, theater and dance from Danica Priest and Friends, Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company, Living Word Stage Company and more at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Street Theater. Tickets are \$26. Concert continues on Friday and Saturday. 828-2020.

VCUarts Fall Exhibition: Ixchel's Thread: Maya Weavings from the Bowdler Collection and lecture and demonstration. VCU Anderson Gallery, Monroe Park Campus. 4-7 p.m. Free. 828-1837.

Kicked Back Classics Series: The Richmond Symphony presents "To Grandmother's House," an exploration of fairy tale compositions at 8 p.m. at Toad's Place. Tickets are \$10. 788-1212.

Azzurro's: Laura Ann Boyd, 6:30 p.m., free. 282-1509.

The Camel: Cinemasophia, The Lodger and Now Sleepyhead, 8 p.m., \$5. 353-4901.

Emilio's: Southside Funk Orchestra, 10 p.m., \$5. 359-1224.

Mars Bar: Pop '80s Dance Night, weekly, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free. 644-6277.

Singleton Center for the Performing Arts: VCU Trombone Choir at 8 p.m. Free. 828-1169

Friday, Nov. 2

Bogart's: The Former Champions, (jazz), 9:30 p.m., \$5. 353-9280.

The Camel: Silent Film Star, Red Collar, Langley Holland, 9 p.m., \$5. 353-4901.

Saturday, Nov. 3

Brunswick Stew Festival: Stew, music and children's activities at 17th Street Farmers Market at 11 a.m. Free. 646-0477.

Bogart's: Bungalo 6, (jazz) 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$7. 353-9280.

Emilio's: Curious Strange (funk), 10 p.m., \$5. 359-1224.

Sunday, Nov. 4

The Camel: Physics of Meaning and Prabir and the Substitutes, 8 p.m., \$5. 353-4901.

Commercial Taphouse: Margoux LeSourd (jazz), 9:30 p.m., free. 359-6544.

First Friday gallery openings

1708 Gallery: "Salt and Earth," by Young Kim. 7 p.m. Through Dec. 1. 319 W. Broad St. 643-7839.

Art6 Gallery: "ThinkSmall4," an international miniature exhibition. 7 p.m. Through Dec. 22. 5 E. Broad St. 343-1406.

Artemis Gallery: "Salon des Refuses V," featuring artwork rejected by other galleries. 5 p.m. 1601 W. Main St. 254-1755.

Gallery5: "Big Bang," by Lucien Dulfan. 7 p.m. Through Dec. 27. 200 W. Marshall St. 644-0008.

Ghostprint Gallery: "Perros Negros," art by Juan Perdiguero. 7 p.m. Through Dec. 1. 220 W. Broad St. 344-1557.

Ginger Levit Atelier: "Icandescent Luminescence," the paintings of Christine Lafuente. 6 p.m. 1607 W. Main St. 740-1471.

Main Art Gallery: "Strictly Drawing II," work by 12 local artists. 7 p.m. Through Nov. 30. 5:30 p.m. 1537 W. Main St. 359-3499.

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Page Bond Gallery: "Wedges, Ducks and Heroes," paintings by Stephen Clark and "Scrittura," mixed media by Kathleene Markowitz. 7 p.m. Through Dec. 1. 1625 W. Main St. 359-3633.

Quirk Gallery: "Sparkle Plenty3," art jewelry and metal work by 22 artists. 6 p.m. 311 W. Broad St. 644-5450.

Reynolds Gallery:

"New Paintings," by Richard Roth and "Glass Box Paintings: 1995-2007," by James Hyde. 7 p.m. Through Dec. 15. 1514 W. Main St. 355-6553.

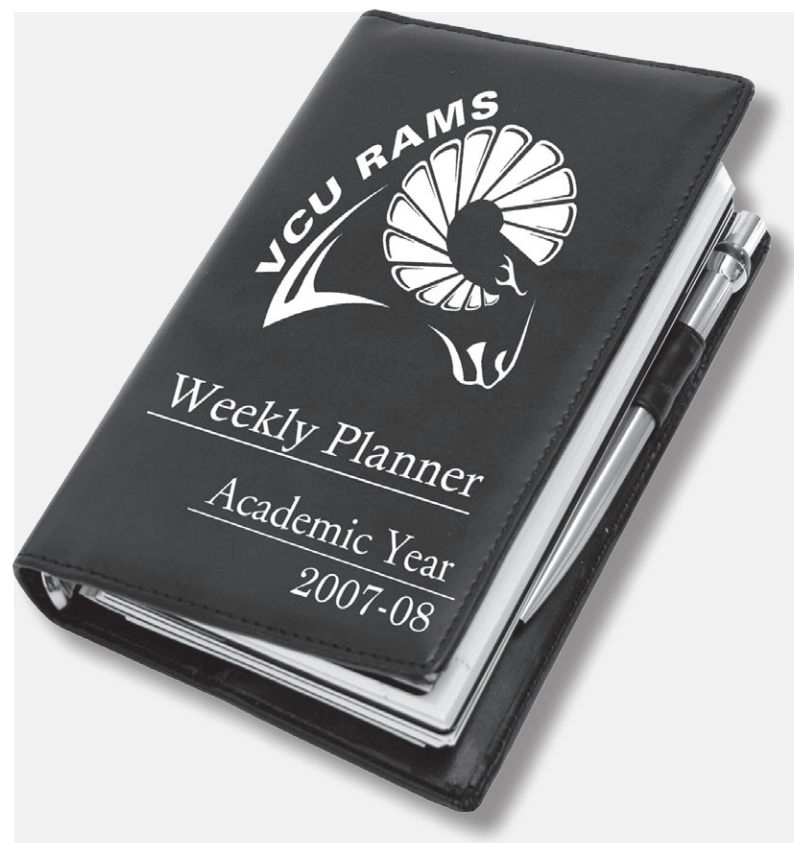
Uptown Gallery: All Media Exhibit by the Metropolitan Richmond Artists Association. 5 p.m. Through Dec. 7. 1305 W. Main St. 288-8843.

Visual Art Studio: "In My Brother's Memory," a benefit exhibition for Good Neighbor Village. Through Nov. 30. 208 W. Broad St. 644-1368.



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Thursday, November 1, 2007



THEATER continued from CT11

the courthouse storeroom visits with Jefferson. That, or the shallow character is simply jealous that a teacher was picked over a preacher to watch over the death row inmate in his final weeks.

Wiggins also is supported and scrutinized by his counterpart, the vivacious Vivian Baptiste. Whitney Tymus does well in letting her emotions surface while playing this character, though her sales pitch lacks development, and her Nine West shoes lack historical accuracy.

Set design and lighting were remarkable considering the oddly shaped space and select working lights.

Although Count Basie was played to death during the nightclub scenes, the authentic blues guitar interludes provided the right spice for the evening.

Even though the acting was generally oversold, the message and current relevance of such a play was delivered in full force. The notes from the director highlighted the connections between Jefferson's character and the Jena 6, a group of black high school students who were charged with second-degree attempted murder for beating a white kid at school. Director Derome Scott Smith poses the question: "Are we going backwards?"

Grade: C

"A Lesson Before Dying" by Romulus Linney, based on the book by Ernest Gaines, will run until Nov. 18 at the Pine Camp Cultural Arts Center. For more information, visit africanamericantheatre.org or call (804) 355-2187. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Unequal Justice Fund to benefit the Jena 6 and other victims of unfair treatment in the justice system.

'LARS' continued from CT13

isn't familiar with that genre – he also directed "Mr. Woodcock," starring Billy Bob Thornton – but Gillespie proves he can be serious, as well.

The movie maintains a believable tone thanks to the strength of Nancy Oliver's script and the heartfelt performances of the cast. In fact, there are rumors that Gosling might receive an Oscar nomina-

tion for his turn as Lars.

"Lars" runs for one hour and 46 minutes, but its pace and tone are just right. It's amusing and absurd when it needs to be, and serious at the right times. Its only downside is you'll be emotionally drained when it ends – I just wanted to give Gosling a really big hug.

Grade: A

'DARJEELING' continued from CT13

this connective thread, but ultimately, the direction feels forced and unnatural, and the plot does not seem to reasonably fit the setting.

Perhaps this is because Anderson's signature style is no longer novel, not even to him. Had Anderson decided to leave the dysfunctional family plot behind and maybe make a feature-length version of "Hotel Chevalier," the end result might have been a fresher film.

To be fair, though, "The Darjeeling Limited" has its moments. Schwartzman, featured before in Anderson's "Rushmore,"

prompts a dozen laugh-out-loud moments, mostly because of his endearing line delivery and his talents as a physical comedian. And Brody, in his first appearance in an Anderson film, brings good timing and a gently emotional performance to an otherwise cold endeavor.

Though truly devout Anderson fans might be content with "The Darjeeling Limited," the film's failure to meet expectations make it the least notable film Anderson has made during his remarkable career.

Grade: C



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Opinion

Thanks, writer's guild

Karen Sagun illustration

RACHEL VAMENTA
Opinion Editor

If you're not happy with "Heroes" or "Grey's Anatomy" this season, you can blame a lack of quality TV on a potential Writer's Guild of America strike.

Members of the WGA might strike as early as this morning, according to trade Web sites and magazines, such as *Variety*. Writers want more royalties from DVD sales and Internet distribution. The royalties are part of a clause in the WGA contracts, which expired at midnight on Oct. 31.

Despite what you might think, popular shows, such as "Heroes," "Grey's" and "Lost," rely heavily on their writers, as do late-night comedians David Letterman and Jay Leno. Both new and returning shows – for example, "Pushing Daisies" and "Law & Order: SVU," respectively – this fall are performing dismally in

ratings. We won't know if they'll get a better without their writers.

So what does the WGA strike mean for us faithful TV viewers?

Next year, our TV schedules could look very different. We might get reruns, game shows or, even worse, a slew of new reality shows. Honestly, how many of us can stomach another season of "A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila," let alone a full episode?

The last major Hollywood strike took place in 1988 and lasted

22 weeks. This strike resulted in a \$500 million loss for the entertainment industry. Given the state of television these days – it's bad – the strike does not particularly bode well.

However, the strike might not be so bad for the film industry. According to *Entertainment Weekly*, Sony hired James Vanderbilt to write "Spiderman 4."

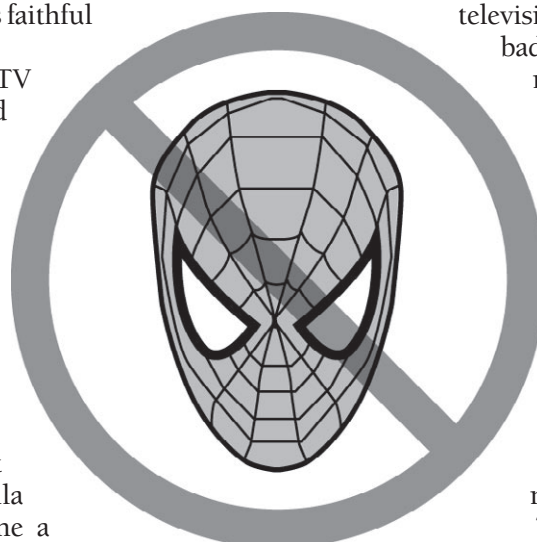
That's right, we might be getting another "Spiderman" movie.

More importantly, how many sequels

is enough? The "Spiderman" movies are some of the latest examples that established franchises don't have to be well-written to make money. The first "Spiderman" movie had an estimated \$139 million budget and grossed more than \$821 million worldwide. With an estimated \$200 million dollar budget, "Spiderman 2" grossed more than \$783 million worldwide, while "Spiderman 3," released this May, had an estimated \$258 million budget and grossed more than \$890 million worldwide.

"Spiderman 4" would probably get an even bigger budget than its predecessors and will probably break box office records. However, Vanderbilt, who penned "Zodiac," might actually come up with a good script.

Perhaps the TV industry should start hiring new writers too. Who knows, we might get a "CSI: Detroit" out of this. (Just don't cancel "Pushing Daisies.")



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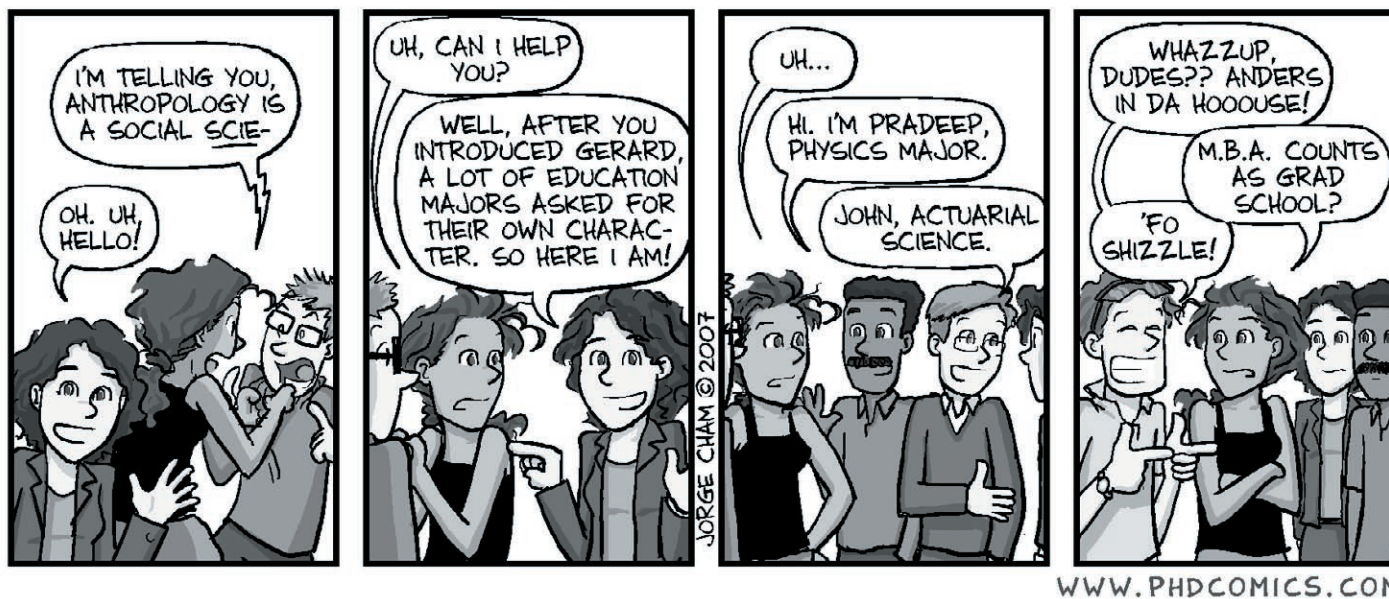
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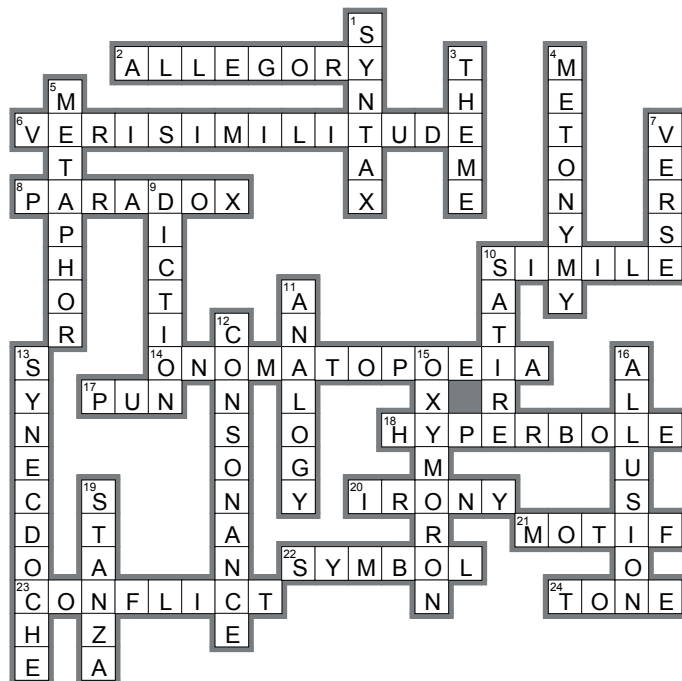


Digits

Geoffrey Cook



Crossword answers from Oct. 29 edition



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