



Monday, January 31, 2008 Vol. 47 No. 34

the ct

News ▶

Cloned Cloned food food coming
coming soon soon · 3

Sports

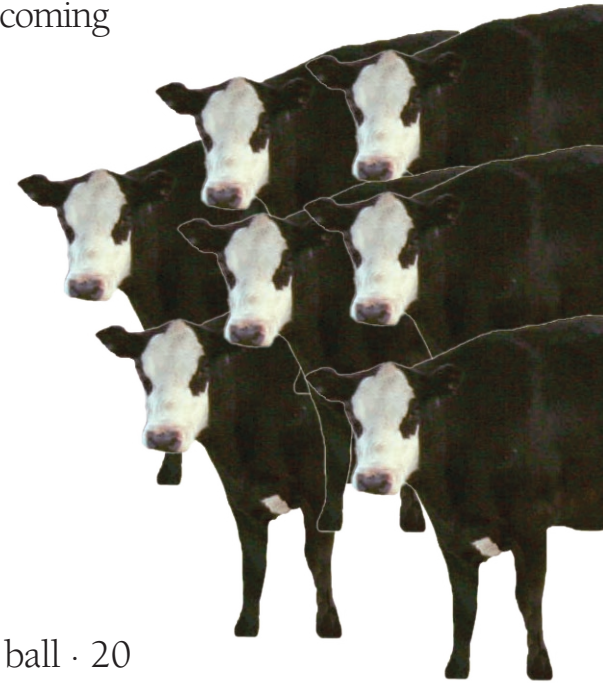
Men's basketball falls
at Mason · 6

Spectrum

Q-and-A with master
fiddler · 14

Opinion

Next president's fortune
foretold in Rich's crystal ball · 20



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

commonwealthtimes.com



Lupe Fiasco

bringing 'The Cool' to VCU

—Page 15

free



CNS briefs

Capital News Service is an advanced mass communications journalism class in which VCU students write, edit and distribute stories about the General Assembly to newspapers throughout the commonwealth. CNS was established in 1994. Below is a taste of just some of the stories CNS reporters have written for the 2008 legislative session.

General Assembly wrap up

Republican agenda

Illegal immigration is among GOP legislators' top priorities this General Assembly session, said Republican leaders at a news conference Jan. 23.

This year's GOP platform shows a renewed commitment among Republicans in both chambers to work together and stop fighting within the party, said Senate Republican Leader Thomas K. Norment Jr., R-James City County.

"Not only are we delivering on our promises from the 2007 campaign, we are also showing the unity of the House and Senate Republican caucuses," Norment said.

Illegal immigration is a key issue Republicans discussed at the press conference; legislators have proposed five different bills related to illegal immigration.

One bill directs local sheriffs to confirm an arrested person's legal presence in the United States using the nationwide databases of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Another bill is designed to ensure at least one

on-duty person in every jail is certified under Section 287(g) of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act.

This means there would be someone with federal authority available to detain and begin deportation proceedings following the positive identification of illegal immigrants who have served their sentences.

Another bill proposes to make the hiring of illegal immigrants a federal offense and grounds for the suspension of a Virginia business license.

The bill also would prohibit illegal immigrants from attending public universities and colleges without a valid student visa.

Brief by Stacy Tyler

Senate approves inmate rehabilitation bill

The Senate unanimously approved a bill this past Monday that mandates the creation of a plan to help every Virginia-prison inmate re-enter society.

Senate Bill 200 directs the Virginia Department of Corrections to develop a society re-entry plan

for every new inmate as soon as possible from the date of incarceration.

The plan would allow inmates to complete drug-rehabilitation programs, vocational training and college courses in preparation for their productive return to society, said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller, R-Mount Vernon.

"They need to start some sort of program on every prisoner and get them ready for what they do when they get out, so they do not commit more crimes," Puller said.

Senators passed SB 200 on a 40-0 vote. It now goes to the House for consideration.

Puller said the bill is the product of a joint-legal commission, which she has chaired for the last three years, to study prisoner re-entry.

"The goal of the commission is to do certain things to make people able to get out and not do the actions that would have them come back to jail," Puller said.

The bill also is part of the legislative package supported by Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell.

Brief by Alexander Harris, CNS

ALSO FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Virginia Senate passed legislation yesterday to repeal the abusive driver fees.

According to a press release by the Virginia Democratic Caucus, Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Sen. Ed Houck, D-Spotsylvania, repeals section 46.2-206.1 of the Code of Virginia that was known as the

abusive driver fees. The fees were included as part of last year's transportation package.

The bill was passed 39 – 0 in the Senate with Sen. Ken Cuccinelli, R-Fairfax, not voting. It now moves on to the House of Delegates for passage.

cover photo by Lionel Deluy

**the
ct**

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

REBECCA LANDAU, Executive Editor
editor@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

MELISSA SHOWALTER, Managing Editor
managing@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-6056

RYAN BROSNER, News Editor
news@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-6056

ROBERTO CURTIS, Spectrum Editor
KEMI OWENS-HART, Associate Spectrum Editor
spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-5317

JONATHAN HOWARD, Sports Editor
MATT DOYON, Associate Sports Editor
sports@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-2420

RICH GRISET, Opinion Editor
opinion@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-7660

RACHEL LARUE, Photography Editor
JASON GAREAU, Associate Photography Editor
photo@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

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

STACEY HAMMAN, Copy Editor/Staff Writer
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

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

JEFF GREEN, Webmaster
webmaster@commonwealthtimes.com

ANDREW BAINS, Circulation Director

The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you think we have made an error, please call Executive Editor Rebecca Landau at 828-4770 or e-mail her at editor@commonwealthtimes.com. Corrections will appear on the Opinion page.



news

Planned Parenthood, VOX fight for ‘women’s right to choose’ at General Assembly

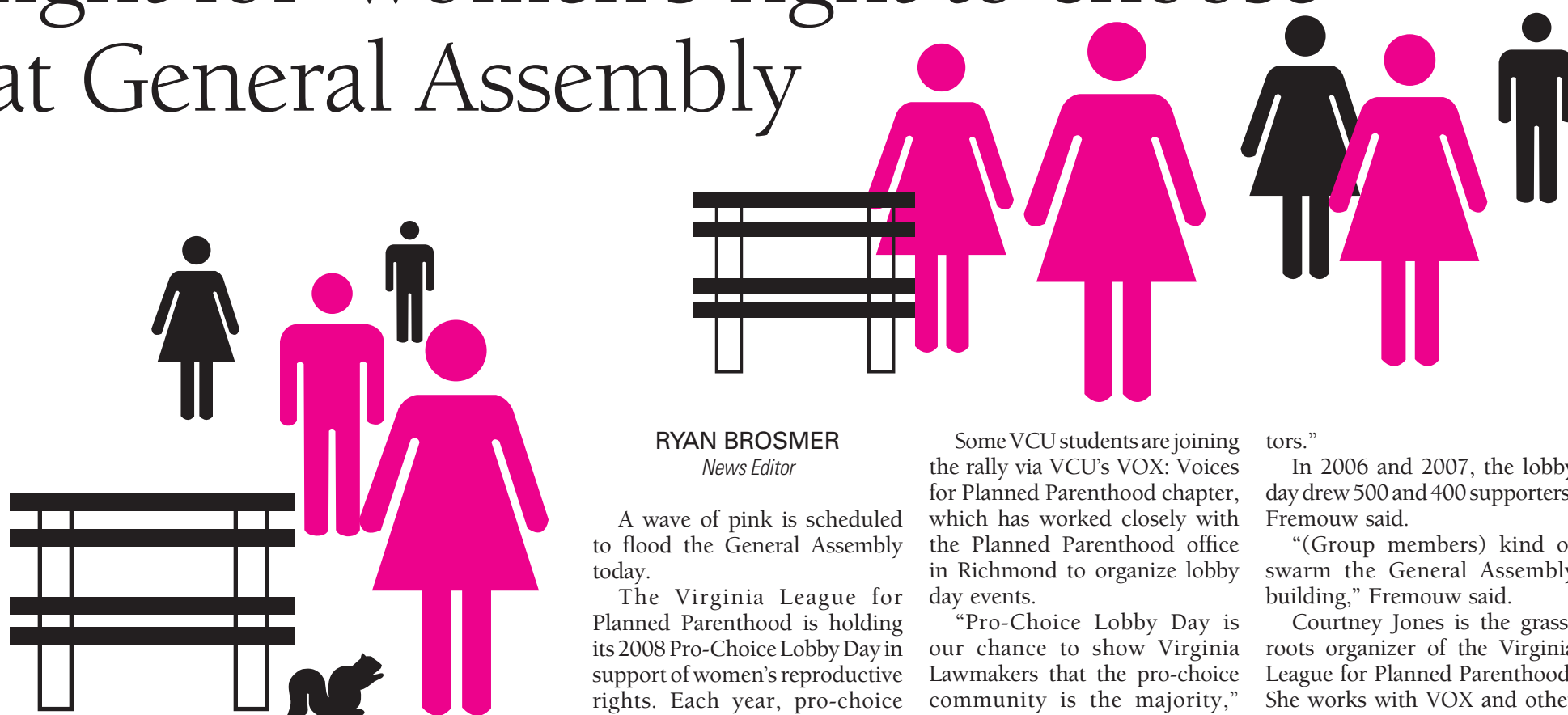


illustration by Melissa Showalter

RYAN BROSMER
News Editor

A wave of pink is scheduled to flood the General Assembly today.

The Virginia League for Planned Parenthood is holding its 2008 Pro-Choice Lobby Day in support of women’s reproductive rights. Each year, pro-choice advocates stand out against the monotone colors of Downtown Richmond with their neon-pink shirts, stickers and signs.

Some VCU students are joining the rally via VCU’s VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood chapter, which has worked closely with the Planned Parenthood office in Richmond to organize lobby day events.

“Pro-Choice Lobby Day is our chance to show Virginia Lawmakers that the pro-choice community is the majority,” said Leah Fremouw, VCU’s VOX president. “We’ll have hundreds of pro-choice supporters there to talk to and lobby their legisla-

tors.”

In 2006 and 2007, the lobby day drew 500 and 400 supporters, Fremouw said.

“(Group members) kind of swarm the General Assembly building,” Fremouw said.

Courtney Jones is the grassroots organizer of the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood. She works with VOX and other groups to organize rallies, such as the Pro-Choice Lobby Day.

CHOICE continued to CT4

FDA OKs cloned livestock

SEAN VASS
Contributing writer

Food products made from cloned animals are now considered safe to eat, according to a statement released by the Food and Drug Administration in late December.

The approval of this new generation of “superior farm animals” to be bred and sold for the food market has prompted a gamut of reactions in Richmond.

“It makes me feel scared,” said Deborah South, a 20-year-old waitress at the Village Café on West Grace Street. “I don’t know what the future holds in that technology. It’s going against the natural order of things.”

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, which advises the European

Commission, is required by law to consider the ethical criteria in approving new foods.

In a report, the group stated that cloned farm animals have an abnormally high prenatal death rate. There also has been a higher prevalence of birthing complications, which have sometimes led to the euthanization of the clones’ surrogate mothers.

“There may be no problems from eating this stuff, but there are problems producing it — ethical problems that are very important,” said Joyce D’Silva, representative of the international farm-animal welfare organization, Compassion in World Farming.

“At present the European Group on Ethics does not see convincing arguments to justify the production of food from clones or their offspring,” stated a

LIVESTOCK continued to CT4



photo by Melissa Showalter

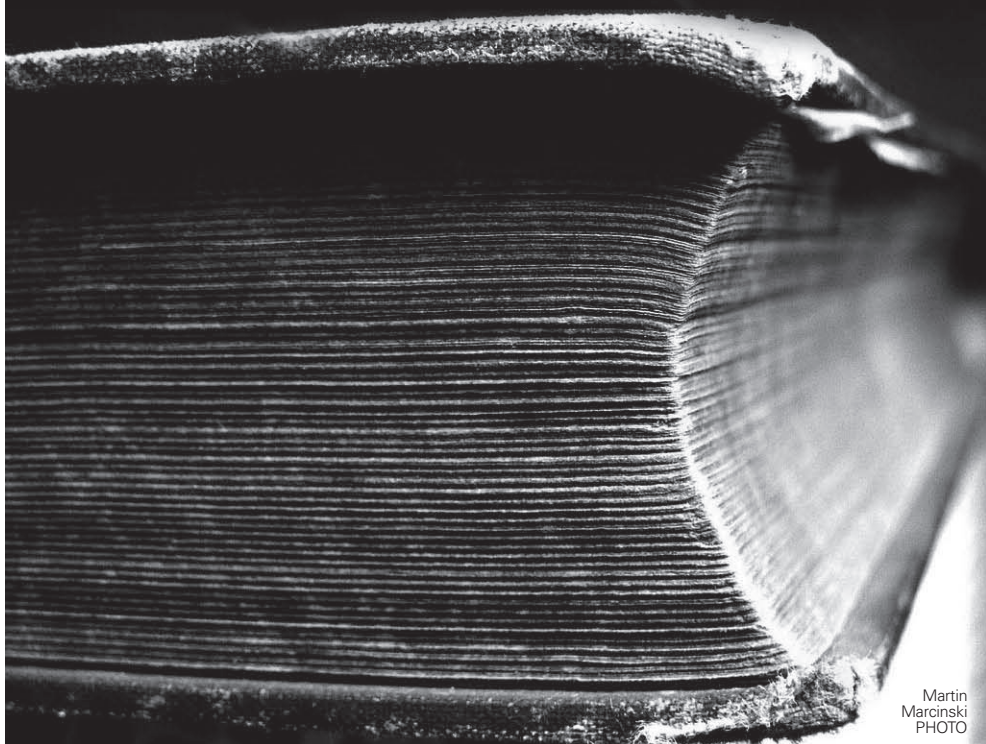


POICTESME LITERARY JOURNAL

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES FEBRUARY 18

more info?

[www.has.vcu.edu/eng/
resources/poictesme/](http://www.has.vcu.edu/eng/resources/poictesme/)



Martin
Marcinski
PHOTO

news

CHOICE continued from CT3

“Ultimately, our goal is to make moderate legislators feel comfortable about voting with us and uncomfortable about pursuing restrictions on reproductive health and education ... especially attempts to restrict access to prevention-birth control, EC (emergency contraception), medically-accurate and comprehensive sex education, and Medicaid,” Jones said.

The lobby day is structured with formal appointments set up to lobby various legislators. Fremouw said VOX and Planned Parenthood also work to provide constituents with the chance to talk one on one with their representatives. Jones said the lobby day group will target “mixed-choice” legislators.

“This means that they have taken one or two good votes on prevention legislation ... but also vote anti-choice at times,” Jones said. “Our goal is to sway them by lobbying them, having constituents meet with them and continuing to educate them on our issues.”

This year, the Planned Parenthood group will give recognition to “special-constituency groups.” Jones said those groups include parents, educators, health care professionals and pro-choice people of faith.

The group encounters very little counter protest from pro-life groups, because those groups hold their own General Assembly lobby day. Pro-life group Life and Liberty Ministries held its Pro-Life Lobby Day at the Virginia State Capitol yesterday.

When it comes to who – pro-choice or pro-life – is winning the attention of the General Assembly, Jones and Fremouw see things a little differently.

“While Virginia is still a fairly conservative state in terms of choice,” Jones said, “I believe we are winning. During each legislative session, we are able to kill all of the anti-choice legislation.”

Fremouw said the fight for legislators’ attention is an uphill struggle.

“I think that there’s a lot of opposition and a lot of dangerous bills that could take rights away,” she said. “I think we have to stay on our toes to ensure that that doesn’t happen.”

LIVESTOCK continued from CT3

report released earlier this year by the Center for Food Safety.

But not everyone is crying over cloned milk. Paul Cruser, co-owner of Butcher’s Block Market in Oilville, Va., said he sees a benefit in artificially reproducing some of the best cattle, sheep and other barnyard eats.

“I have no objection. I’m all for providing a variety and consistent product,” Cruser said. “I think giving the consumers more choices is always to their benefit ... that as long as the FDA approves it, it should be acceptable.”

Currently, the FDA does not require products from clones to be labeled, because they have no apparent difference from conventionally bred animals. However, producers can ask for voluntary labeling, such as “this product is clone-free,” to

be placed on non-cloned meat and other products.

Barbara Glenn, director of animal biotechnology at the Biotechnology Industry Organization, takes the side of nutrition. Glenn said she thinks the quality of food should affect the government’s decision.

“As long as there is hunger ... Animal cloning is one of the tools to allow farmers and

ranchers to continue to produce the healthier livestock that produce healthy foods,” Glenn said in a Washington Post article, Jan. 18, about the ethics of cloned food.

And without required labeling, it is unclear whether cloned food could soon appear on people’s plates.

“I wouldn’t doubt it (at) all,” said VCU student Sam Ebdel Halim. “I could be eating cloned meat right now in Shafer (Dining Center).”

“I wouldn’t doubt it (at) all ... I could be eating cloned meat right now in Shafer (Dining Center).”

**–VCU student
Sam Ebdel Halim**

*\$25 Tax Preparation for VCU Students

*\$25 for unmarried student with Form 1040 EZ with VA full-year resident tax return with 1 W-2. Valid student ID required at time of service. Not valid with other offers or refund products. All other VCU students and employees qualify for 20% Group Tax Discount.

- You'll pay the least tax or get the biggest refund legally possible
- Free e-filing for both Federal and Virginia returns for faster refund
- Triple Guarantee ensuring accuracy, year-round assistance and satisfaction!

peoplesTAX

www.peopletax.com
12 Locations • Call 204-1040



They could solve
nature's biggest mystery
if they only had a clue.

STRANGE WILDERNESS

StrangeWildernessMovie.com

LEVEL 1 Happy Madison PRODUCTIONS

R RESTRICTED
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN
NON-STOP LANGUAGE, DRUG USE, CRUDE AND SEXUAL HUMOR

Copyright © 2008 by Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved.

IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 1

KAPLAN TEST PREP AND ADMISSIONS

Double your MCAT prep—for *free*!

up to a \$1,849 value

Not sure which of the 23 MCAT dates is right for you? Enroll in an MCAT course in January and prepare for *any 2008 test date*. You'll have unlimited access to online resources and can take a second course—**FREE!**

MCAT Class at VCU
Starting Soon!!

Mon/Wed night class starts 2/4

Enroll by January 31st!

Higher MCAT score guaranteed or your money back.*

1-800-KAP-TEST | kaptest.com/mcat

MCA01461 *MCAT is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges. †Must enroll in an MCAT Classroom, or Online Course, or 15-, 25-, or 35-hour tutoring program between January 1 and January 31, 2008 in the United States, Puerto Rico, or Canada. Tutoring students may repeat the classroom course only. Cannot be combined with any other offer, rebate, discount, or promotion. ‡Conditions and restrictions apply. For complete guarantee eligibility requirements, visit kaptest.com/hsg.

KAPLAN STUDENTS RECEIVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ALL 8 AAMC EXAMS.

\$30 OFF Tax Preparation

Present this coupon to your tax preparer and Liberty Tax Service will prepare your return to your satisfaction, guaranteed.
Good at participating locations. For new customers. Not valid with other offers. Expires 4/9.



Call 1-866-871-1040
for the office nearest you.

916 N BOULEVARD
Corner of Broad & Boulevard
Across from Chanell's & CVS

804-358-1040

*Loans Made by Santa Barbare Bank and Trust. Interest & Fees Apply.

EDUCATIONAL CREDITS
STUDENT LOAN INTEREST
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
TAX TREATIES (EX: INDIA)
MULTI-STATE TAXATION
REFUND ANTICIPATION LOANS*

www.libertytax.com

Thursday, January 31, 2008

commonwealthtimes.com • CT5



sports

PREVIEW

Super Bowl XLII



This year's Super Bowl is a battle of quarterbacks from across the spectrum. Tom Brady has been almost invincible this year and has led his team to a flawless record. Eli Manning's season and career up to this point have come under much scrutiny. Manning has turned up his play and has three road playoff wins under his belt.

Under the bright lights in Arizona, it will be a test of which quarterback can keep his hot streak going. After finishing the regular season undefeated, the Patriots won two tough home playoff games against the Jaguars and the Chargers. The Giants rolled through Tampa Bay and Dallas before beating Green Bay in overtime.

Because New England was a higher seed in the playoffs, they are considered the home team.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rams struggle late defensively in road loss to Patriots

MATT DOYON
Associate Sports Editor

The Rams were outscored 20-4 in a key stretch of the second half, resulting in a 63-51 loss to the Patriots Tuesday at the Patriot Center. A George Mason University-record 2,061 students attended the rivalry game.

Will Thomas paced the Patriots with a game-high 21 points and 15 rebounds.

"Last year, they double-teamed me every time I touched the ball, and this year, they just played me one-on-one," Thomas said. "Once I saw that, I just had to go to work. When they did double, I could throw it back out to our guys for drives and open threes."

The game was 25-25 at halftime with the Rams on pace to give up 50 points. The team had previously won all five games when allowing 50 points or less.

"It was a typical VCU first half. They defended the heck out of us," George Mason coach Jim Larranaga said.

Eric Maynor (Raeford, N.C./Westover), who led the Rams with 18 points per game, was limited to just one field goal in the second half.

"I credit all that to John Vaughan. He took it upon himself there, he wasn't going to let him (Maynor) take over there,"

BASKETBALL continued to CT9

THIS WEEK

Men's Basketball

Sat., Feb. 2, vs. Towson, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Thu., Jan. 31, vs. Towson, Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 3, @ George Mason, Fairfax, 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Fri., Feb. 1, @ Virginia, Charlottesville, 6 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 3, vs. Oklahoma, Norfolk, TBA

Women's Tennis

Sun., Feb. 3, @ Clemson, Clemson, S.C., 6 p.m.

Women's Track and Field

Feb. 1-2, @ UNC Invitational, Chapel Hill, N.C., TBA

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.





THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

Friday, February 1st vs. Jacksonville Barracudas

First 2,000 fans will receive a poster courtesy of Graffiti's Ink Gallery

Saturday, February 2nd vs. Jacksonville Barracudas

Nascar Night-First 2,000 fans receive player cards courtesy of wellnesshealthcoach.com

STUDENTS RECEIVE \$4.00 OFF ANY SEAT WITH A VALID ID

CALL 644-PUCK FOR TICKET INFORMATION

All Home Games Start at 7:35pm

ATTENTION FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES:

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR VERY OWN **FREE** BEVERAGE PARTY AT AN UPCOMING RENEGADES GAME??? ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BE THE GROUP TO SELL THE MOST TICKETS (OVER 100) TO A WEDNESDAY NIGHT GAME. CALL THE RENEGADES OFFICE AT (804) 644-PUCK TO REGISTER YOUR GROUP. MUST BE 21 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BEVERAGE PARTY.



www.rrenegades.com



LIVE EVENT



**BRIAN
IN CONCERT
REGAN**

**THURSDAY
APRIL 3**

**ON SALE THIS
SATURDAY AT 10AM!**

LANDMARK THEATER

Tickets available at the Landmark Theater Box Office, all Ticketmaster Outlets or charge by phone at 804-262-8100. For more information call 804-646-4213. A service charge is added to each ticket.

COMEDY CENTRAL.COM
BUY AT **LIVENATION.COM**

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

DISCOVER REC SPORTS

WWW.RECSPORTS.VCU.EDU

FITNESS/WELLNESS

ACE CERTIFICATION EXAM 02.16.08

CERTIFICATIONS INCLUDE: GROUP FITNESS INSTRUCTOR, PERSONAL TRAINER, LIFE STYLE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT, & CLINICAL EXERCISE SPECIALIST.

\$160 FOR VCU STUDENTS/STAFF & \$200 FOR ALL OTHERS

TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.ACEFITNESS.ORG. FOR VCU DISCOUNT, EMAIL EWWEST@VCU.EDU

VCU IS AN EEO/AA INSTITUTION



FULL PROGRAM DETAILS, SCHEDULES & COSTS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.RECSPORTS.VCU.EDU OR CALL 827.1100

DISCOVER REC SPORTS

WWW.RECSPORTS.VCU.EDU

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE:

DAY DOWNHILL SKIING 02.17.08

KAYAK PRACTICE-POOL SESSION 02.19.08

REGISTRATION ENDS TUESDAY BEFORE THE TRIP

VCU IS AN EEO/AA INSTITUTION

FULL PROGRAM DETAILS, SCHEDULES & COSTS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.RECSPORTS.VCU.EDU OR CALL 827.1100





Which team has the advantage? ←

New England's pass versus New York's secondary:**NEW ENGLAND**

A simple equation: Tom Brady + Randy Moss + Wes Welker + Donte' Stallworth + Ben Watson + Kevin Faulk = Too much for New York to account for.

New England's run versus New York's front seven:**IT'S A TOSS-UP**

Laurence Maroney is capable of tearing up defenses, but New York's defense ranks eighth in the NFL at stopping the rush, allowing less than 100 yards per game.

New York's pass versus New England's secondary:**NEW ENGLAND**

Beyond Burrell, who else is going to beat the Patriots deep? The Giants also lack a big presence over the middle without Jeremy Shockey.

New York's run versus New England's front seven:**NEW YORK**

Only a slight advantage for the Giants, which finished the season fourth in the NFL in rushing. The Patriots also have a top-10 rush defense, which could complicate things.

Special teams:**NEW ENGLAND**

Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes is lucky to be alive after almost costing the Giants the game against the Packers ... twice.

GAME FACTS

Records: New England: 18–0 (16–0 regular season), New York: 13–6 (10–6 regular season)

Location: Glendale, Ariz.

Game time: 6:30 p.m. **TV:** FOX

The line: Patriots by 12

————→ **Bottom line:** New England 38-24

COMMENTARY

The CT sports editors speak their minds



MATT DOYON
Associate Sports Editor

The Giants aren't the opponent the Patriots should be facing Sunday.

The Pats, after winning their 18th game two weeks ago, deserve much better than what the G-Men can offer. But make no mistake, the Giants deserve to be in this game.

They've won 10 straight games on the road – including the last three in the playoffs – and have exposed the top teams in the NFC on the way. No one – not Dallas, Green Bay or whoever else in the conference – would mount any more of a threat than New York.

New England will use the big stage in Glendale to underscore the growing disparity between the AFC and NFC. We don't need to bother with questions like "which Patriots team will show up?" It will be the good one. The best game film

DOYON continued to CT9



JONATHAN HOWARD
Sports Editor

I'm not saying the Giants are going to win the Super Bowl. I don't expect them to. After week two, I don't think anyone outside of New York thought there was a chance to get there.

I expected to see a Patriots-Packers title game when the playoffs began. However, if there is a team that has a lot to prove in this game – it's New York.

This is the Giants' chance to prove that the first half of week 17's nail-biting loss to the Patriots wasn't a fluke. This is Eli Manning's chance to be more than Peyton's baby brother (or in Mississippi, Archie's son). This is the defense's chance to stop the best offense in the league.

Will it happen? Probably not. Could it happen? Yes. Brandon Jacobs and Plaxico Burress provide one of the better 1-2

HOWARD continued to CT9



BASKETBALL continued from CT6

“We knew he (Maynor) is a great player, a very talented player and can take over games,” Smith said.

Maynor was three for three from beyond the arc in the first half, but struggled offensively when the Patriots switched to a four-guard lineup.

“We decided to go with four guards so that we could at least handle the ball and what we actually ended up doing was playing great defense,” Larranaga said.

The Rams opened up their largest lead of 6 points after a pair of Jamal Shuler (Jacksonville, N.C./Jacksonville) free throws with 11:30 remaining in the second half.

A missed layup by Larry Sanders (Fort Pierce, Fla./Port St. Lucie) and turnovers in transition prevented the Rams from widening the lead. The Patriots came out of a timeout and finished the game with 30 points in the final 11 minutes to take the lead and put the game away.

“Our offense was really stagnant. We did a lot of standing and the ball movement wasn’t good,” VCU coach Anthony Garnt said. “We weren’t making shots. We struggled offensively, and we allowed that to carry over to the defensive end.”

Shuler led VCU with 21 points and Joey Rodriguez (Oviedo, Fla./Lake Howell) added 8 points. Rodriguez, Shuler and Maynor were the only Rams to score more than 2 points.

The loss snaps VCU’s seven-game winning streak and gives George Mason the tiebreaker against VCU because the schools only meet once during the regular season. The Rams’ lead is now one game over the Patriots in the conference. George Mason maintains an undefeated record at home this season, now 10-0. The Rams host Towson Saturday for homecoming in a 7:30 tip-off at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

COMMENTARY

DOYON continued from CT8

available for the Giants to study is actually their Week 17 matchup with the Patriots in the Meadowlands.

Burruss has already asked for double coverage all night through his prediction of a 23-17 Giants win, putting a lot of pressure on Amani Toomer and the offensive line.

Manning will have to wait longer in the pocket to find receivers open down the field. He could try short dump-off passes like the Ravens did against the Pats, but New England’s defense is flexible enough in coverage to snuff that out and shut it down.

Fortunately for the Giants, they aren’t one-dimensional on offense. That being said, count on the Patriots to cover the spread.

HOWARD continued from CT8

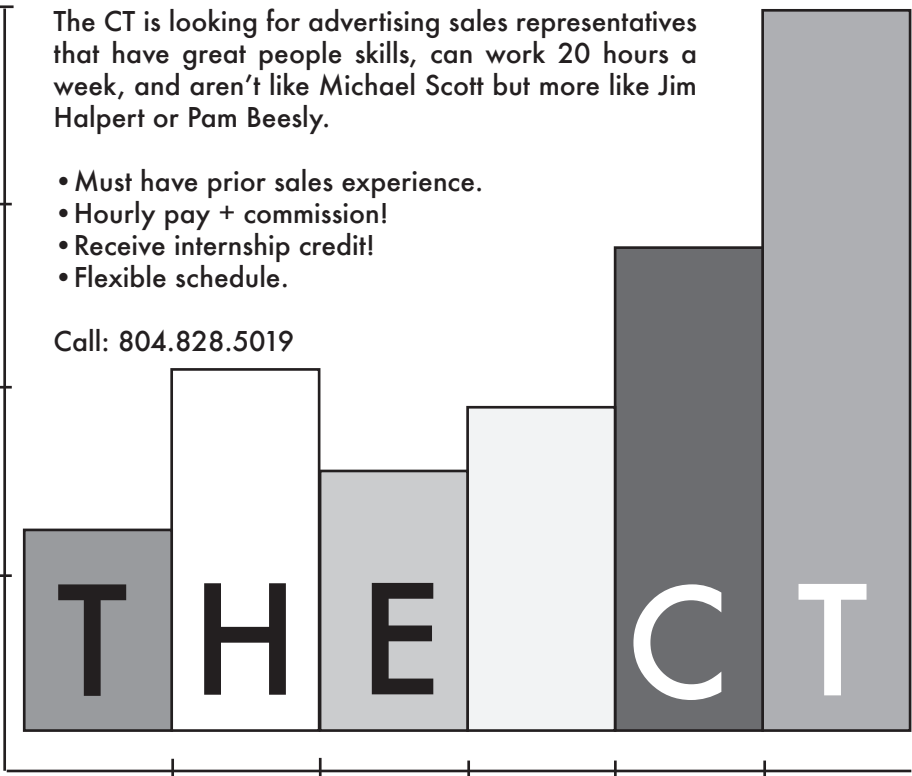
punches in the league on offense.

Michael Strahan and Justin Tuck can cause havoc for New England’s solid offensive line. In short, it will take a great effort on both sides of the ball for the Giants to pull off the upset.

They were close in week 17, but not close enough. To win, New York will have to play 60 minutes of solid ball. What better time to do it than against an undefeated team looking to make history?

Dunder Mifflin sells paper.
The CT sells ads.

And we want your help for 20 hours a week.





save a tree RECYCLE THE CT



BOOKMARK *Bistro*

Located in the middle
of the VCU e² Bookstore



Featuring all of your
favorite Quiznos[®] subs,
sandwiches, salads & great
tasting Starbucks[®] brand
specialty coffees



Monday-Thursday
7:30 am - 6:30 pm
Friday
7:30 am - 4:00 pm



VCU Dining Services
www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcufood

CONVENIENCE

in a handy location

1st Floor of Grace E. Harris Hall
Open Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 10:00 pm and Friday 7:30 am - 2:00 pm

Rams-on-the-Run Sandwiches, Salads & Snacks, Candy, Energy Drinks,
Munchies, "We Proudly Brew" Starbucks[®] Brand Drip Coffee, and frozen
entrées with a microwave on site!

Everything you need for a quick break between classes! **VCU** Dining Services



WVCW

VCU'S
INDEPENDENT
STUDENT STATION
MUSIC. NEWS.
SPORTS. TALK.

FROM INDIE,
METAL, HIP HOP,
SOUL, AND EVERY-
THING ELSE YOU
WANT TO HEAR.

YOUR MUSIC.
YOUR STATION.

WWW.WVCW.ORG



V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h

The University College congratulates Fall 2007 D

-A-

Shukri Abdullahi
Rushna Abreu
Misha Adams
Evan Adams
Alyssa Adkins
Diana Adzovie
Ankita Agarwala
Toshie Ahluwalia
Umar Alam
Lauren Albee
Jane Albertson
Kristen Albicker
Khalifa Al-Haddad
Osman Ali
Omer Ali
Arafat Alim
Steven Aliyetti
Bilquis Allassan
Margaret Allen
Entesar Alrubaiian
Kanwar Bir Anand
Kanwar Bir Anand
Paris Anderson
Aerial Anderson
Nicholas Andres
FrancisA Aaron Antonio
Roxana Anvari-Tehrani
Kanishkah Anwari
Nelofar Anwari
Melanie Archer
Abigail Luthien Arches
Dasha Arhangelsky
Kristine Armour
Marie Armstrong
Sara Arnold
Gordon Arnott
Tanvi Avasthi
Alyson Aversa

-B-

Conor Backman
Laura Bacon
Bridget Baidoo
Sean Baker
Sarah Ballard
Charniece Ballou
Heidi Bandino
Jonathan Bane
Raymond Barefoot
Ashle' Barfield
John Barger
Leah Barley
Brittany Barnes
Priya Barot
William Barrow
Caitlin Bartgis
Brittney Bartlett
Shanice Battle
Lia Bayless
Samantha Beard

Nika Bejou
Thomas Bell
Kaila Bell
Lindsi Bellomo
Caitlin Bennett
Anna Bezemer
Puja Bharucha
Neeladri Bhattacharyya
Joseph Bickett
Lauren Birkelbach
Alana Black
Abigail Blannarik
Ashley Blanks
Amanda Blatnik
Anna Blevins
Christina Blouir
Rachael Bohannon
Michael Boiteau
Michael Boiteau
Tania Bolden
Amber Bonner
Tonya Bost
Yossera Bouchtia
Samantha Boyd
Adrian Boyes
Afton Bradley
Keira Branch
Keely Breeden
Adrian Brinkley
Amanda Bristow
Zachary Bromseth
Andrew Brown
Aaron Brown
Joshua Brunet
Michael Bryant
Erika Bumala
Douglas Burn
Bryan Burns
Kevin Bussing
Brittany Butterfield
Michael Button
Rachael Byrd

-C-

Ra Nise Caldwell
Kristen Cameron
Elizabeth Campbell
Rachael Campbell
Laurn Cannon
James Carr
Victoria Carroll
Shannon Carter
Mary Carter
Michael Cary
Justin Cashbaugh
Shayla Cashwell
Joya Casso
Janine Castle
Bryan Castro
Vilma Celis
Hilary Cerkey

Larissa Chan
Darrell Chan
Althea Chan
Alexander Chang
William Chau
Walid Chaya
Stacy Chen
Michelle Chiang
Olivia Chin
Padma Chitnavis
Elisabeth Chop
Brian Cioffi
John Cipriani
Ian Clare
Erica Clark-Covert
Hillary Clausen
Sci Clements
Laura Coleman
Lauren Coogle
Courtney Cook
Emily Cook
Ada Cooke
Vanessa Couldrey
Loran Couton
Britni Cox
Ryan Cox
Charles Cox
Gary Cravey
Blair Crawley
Crystal Cregge
Robert Cridlin
Robert Cridlin
Justin Criner
Daniel Crudup
Jaclyn Cummings
Ryan Cummins
Nicholas Czatt

-D-

Margaret Dang
Krystle David
Diamond Davis
Callie Day
Floris De Vries
Alonso De Leon
Michael Deane
Therese Declue
Perri Dejarnette
Erika Del Cid
Anastasia Demson
Kevin Dendtler
Samantha Denney
Rose DeRatto
Rebecca Desmond
Shuborna Devanath
Jeena Devasia
Hadja Diallo
Curtis Diesselhorst
Elise Dipace
Melissa Dishman
Charles Ditsler

Jessica Dodd
Sami Dodhy
John Dombroski
Jasmine Domfort
Jackie Donaghy
Timothy Douglas
Robert Draper
Steve D'Souza
Rebecca Duffy
Christina Duong
Emily Dye

-E-

Jacob Easter
Ian Edwards
William Eggleston
Katherine Eggleston
Vanessa Elam
Whitney Eldridge
Andrea Elkovich
Alex Ellis
Nicole Epp
Kimberly Epps
Matthew Esherick
Janna Eubank

-F-

Zainab Fadlu-Deen
Titilope Fajuyigbe
Briana Fann
Brittani Fanz
Brandon Farmer
Michael Farrell
Brittney Feeney
Ramon Fiol
Suzette Fischer
Michael Fisher
Samantha Fleming
Shannon Flowers
Brittany Forehand
Jenny Fornoff
Savannah Foster
Timothy Fox
Laura Francis
Timothy Franzak
Dana Frawley
Rachel Freeman
Lucas Fritz
Karanita Fuller

-G-

Naomi Gage
Linda Gannon
Juan Garcia
Maximillian Garland
Eric Gawalt
Natalie Gear
Patrick Genova
Akeem George

Anne Gerace
Rinke Ghadia
Christine Gillett
Gregory Gilliam
Veronica Glennon
Aneesh Goel
Sparsh Gola
Samarth Gola
Andrew Goode
Vinodhini Gowda
Jeff Graham
Alexandra Gray
Patrice Gray
Leonard Gray
Demetrius Green
Nicole Groome
Angela Guerrera
Jose Guevara
Sonul Gulati
Shivani Gupta

-H-

Amber Hackett
Aluan Haddad
Cescile Hall
Sarah Hall
Fran Hall
Kristi Hall
Christina Hallman
Robert Hammack
Emily Hardt
Allison Hardy
Candice Hardy
Kimberly Harris
Matthew Harris
Gabrielle Hartman
Lillian Hartmetz
Carla Haurand
Natasha Hawkins
Brittany Hayes
Timothy Headen
Kenneth Heising
Kendra Hendrix
Stephen Henning
Kassandra Hensley
Lauren Hidalgo
Chadwick Hildebrandt
Annabelle Hiler
Ashley Hines
Leila Hinton
Victoria Hirsch-Straus
Qui Ho
Brian Ho
Mirae Hobbs
Ashley Hochstrasser
Leanne Hodge
Stacie Hoelker
Danielle Hoffmann
Alyssa Holland
Cory Holm
Kristen Horan

-J-

Stuart Jackson
Erica Jacobs
Armaghan Jahangiri
Shankari Jaitly
Joohyuk Jang
Mark Jargren
Erika Jeter
Matthew Jewell
Rizwan Jivani
Me'Shel Joe
Jennifer Johnson
Atossa Johnson
Sarah Jones
Kathleen Jones
Tess Jones
Nicole Jones
Josette Justice

-K-

Cedric Kamani
Yusufa Kamara
Gerald Kane
Adah Kanter
Sonja Karsner
Emily Kauffman
Sukhpreet Kaur
Hennock Kebere
Kathryn Kell
Alisha Kellam
Graham Kelly
Charles Kessinger
Rebecca Key
Farah Khalid
Alisha Khan
Naveen Khokhar
Michele Khurana
Kun Kyu Kil
Joshua Killinger
Ka Yeong Kim
Laura Kim
Steven Kim
Sara Kim
Nathan King
Austin Kinneberg
Naveed Kolia
Sneha Kondragunta
Lyudmila Korenman
Sudhinder Koushik
Autumn Kovacich
Willem Krumich

www.vcu.edu/uc





Commonwealth University

the First-Year Students who made the Dean's List

Laura Krupacs
Grace Kunkel
Tricia Kupec

-L-

Shanaye La Beaud
Henry Lai
Charmian Lam
Patrick Lambdin
Christopher Langley
Laura Laperle
Farren Larson
Nelson Lavayens
Chelsea Lavell
Austin Laverty
Sara Lecure
Won Jae Lee
Joeran Lee
Juyoun Lee
Kanghyun Lee
Lap Lee
Eleana Legree
Rebecca Lehr
Michael Leonberger
Elizabeth Lewanowicz
Michelle Lewis
Michelle Lewis
Laura Li
Melanie Libbey
Matthew Lillis
Kristin Lindgren
Lauren Littlejohn
Agneta Liubinaite
Kathryn Llewellyn
Erik Loftis
Lauren Lomaka
Michele Lombardi
Kelley London
Gary Longest
Emilynne-Kay Losinio
James Lovato
Justin Lowenhagen
Paul Lu
Elizabeth Lundberg
Samantha Luper
Geneva Lutomski

-M-

Ian Mabley
Emma Manganaris
Ashley Mangus
Fahimeh Manjili
Samer Mansour
Jordan Marcus
John Marshall
Kiersten Marshall
Sarah Maslov
Temilola Matey
Megan Mathews
Samuel Mattox

Jordan May
Mark Mayo
Deanna Mays
Joseph McAlhany
Maria McClintock
Adele McClure
Tiffany McCoy
Katherine McDonald
Sabrina McGill
Alex Mehra
Christopher Meier
Kurt Meissgeier
Benjamin Melton
Melanie Menninger
Rachael Mercer
Jacob Mertz
Pabel Miah
Vania Michelini
Elizabeth Middleton
Colleen Miehme
Krystal Mignat
Taylor Milford
Rachel Miller
Logan Miller
Devon Miller
Jenna Miller
Nathan Mills
Brittany Miranda
Aisha Mondal
Jasmine Moon
Kristen Moreno
Christopher Morgan
Andrew Morgan
Sophia Moshasha
Ankita Munjal
Laura Murden
Ryan Murray
Kelly Murray

-N-

Tara Nagaraja
Yanggee Nam
Sirish Nama
Aya Nasif
Buhlebenkosin Ndlovu
Amy Neale
Sarah Nelson
Chenae Nelson
Kayla Newberg
Stephanie Newing
Olivia Ngadjui
Duy Nguyen
Nguyen Nguyen
Tien Nguyen
Lanvi Nguyen
Christina Nguyen
Thomas Nicholas
Jennifer Nigh
Plamen Nikolov
Nnena Nkole
Craig Noe

Cameron Noel
Stephanie Norfleet
Elizabeth Norman
Fauzia Nusrat
Beverly Nyokabi

-O-

Travis Obannon
Scott Odell
John Ojumu
Sarah O'Leary
Jennie Onisk
Kwaku Osei
Erica Osei-Asibey
Stephanie Osei-Tutu
David Osnoe
Eliseba Osore
Laura Owens
Nana Owusu

-P-

Pamela Palma
Katherine Palmer
Kriti Pandey
Christopher Pang
Alicia Pappas
Bruce Park
Jessica Parker
James Parker
Lindley Parrish
Radha Patel
Krishna Patel
Charvee Patel
Elizabeth Peace
Apyrl Pecht
Natalie Peck
Philip Pemberton
Natalia Pereira
Lauren Perry
Brittany Person
Charlotte Phillips
Danielle Pierce
Justin Pierce
Sara Pine
Sasha Powell
Rachel Powell
Prateek Prakash
Kristin Presley
Porsche Preston
Ruth Proctor
Carmen Proctor
Richard Proffitt
Britni Puccio

-Q, R-

Samah Qutubuddin
Caroline Radom
Nimah Rahman
Susan Raimo

Supraja Rajagopalan
Taylor Ramsey
Sequoia Ray
Moshea Rease
John Reaves
Leonid Reshko
Lucian Restivo
Elliott Richardson
Justin Richie
Sarah Riddick
Jonathan Riffle
Sergio Rivera
Corey Robbins
MaryAnn Roberts
Cicily Robertson
Kelsey Robinson
Lindsay Rogers
Albert Rogers
Emily Rosko
Emily Ruf

-S-

Stephanie Sabota
Harvey Samaco
William Sammler
Cameron Sanborn
Sharonjit Sandhu
Rajbir Sandhu
Brandon Sanford
Courtney Saw
Ashliey Scarlett
Christina Scheibe
Sara Schmatz
Sean Scinta
Janelle Scott
Jessica Selby
Eunho Seo
Thomas Seo
Samrawit Sereke
Tejas Shah
Mrudangi Shah
Sagar Shah
Pooja Shah
Rushabh Shah
Priya Sharma
Suzanne Shaver
Nyssa Shaw
James Shelton
Annelise Shepherd
Allison Sheppard
Landon Sheriff
Paul Sherwood
Anirudh Shetty
Christopher Shim
Mohammad Shirazi
Christopher Shores
Danielle Shrader
Sana Siddiqui
Sydney Siek
Alvaro Silva
Melanie Simmons

Deepak Singh
Harjas Singh
Natalie Sloane
Katherine Smith
Allison Smith
Sade Smith
Cara Smith
Jennifer Snell
David Soma
Peter Soroka
Caitlin Southworth
Audra Sowers
Stephanie Speidel
Tamana Spingher
Christopher Staats
Matthew Stahl
Rachael Starbuck
David Starling
Gregory Starr
Jillian Stemmler
Brandi Stepp
Melissa Stewart
Emily Stickford
Rebecca Stier
Erica Storrs
Cosima Storz
Elizabeth Strauss
Gene Stroman
Wei-Li Suen
Hayley Sykes

-T, U-

Melissa Tablante
Jamil Tadlaoui
Sarah Taylor
Andrea Taylor
Lydia Teffera
Muna Telsem
Ha Thiet
Ashley Thilkey
George Thomas
Reena Thomas
Stefa'nie Thompson
Stacey Tibbs
Kelsey Tolson
Joshua Top
Lauren Tosi
Rachel Trahan
Jeannie Tran
Chi Tran
Huyen-Tran Tran
Hieu Tran
Hieu Tran
Adam Tremper
Jordan Truda
Melanie Truong
Dat Truong
Sher Tucker
Aime Tudor
Matthew Turner
Charles Updegrove

Amy Urban

-V, W, X, Y, Z-

Saulius Valaitis
Libbe Van Ness
Amanda Vander Zanden
Wilson Ventura
Andrew Voegel
Benjamin Waldron
Sarah Waldron
Elizabeth Walker
Sarah Walker
Aaron Wallace
Michelle Wang
Rachel Ward
Garrett Ward
John Watt
Camille Webber
Brittany Webster
Lillian Webster
Isaac Wegbreit
Fatima Wehelie
Rachel West
Sam White
Adam White
Lucy White
Thomas White
Michael Wierzbicki
Karsten Wildeus
Jessica Wilkerson
Adam Williams
Julia Williams
Dennis Williams
Ashten Williamson
Sara Wilson
Thomas Winter
Kelsey Womack
Amy Wong
Katharine Wooldridge
Sarah Workman
Walter Worsham
Hannah Wray
Nakia Wynn
Jennifer Yau
Amritha Yellamilli
Sophie Yuth
Huma Zaman
Patrick Zebal
Whitney Zentgraf
Yan Zhang
Nina Zhdanyuk
Mark Zimmerman
Ranna Zirakparvar

VCU University College

an equal opportunity/affirmative action university

spectrum

Fiddle while you work

Internationally renowned musician to visit VCU

KEMI OWENS-HART
Associate Spectrum Editor

VCU is by no means a stranger to hosting musicians of international prestige.

From the Brentano String Quartet to jazz musician Wynton Marsalis to notable faculty within the music department, there have been, and always are, concert opportunities to whet one's musical appetite.

The addition of Roberto Díaz only augments the list of famous musicians for the department and the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts, which houses the Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall.

Díaz, who recently was named president and CEO of the Curtis Institute of Music, one of the foremost conservatories in the nation, has a cornucopia of awards and accolades. In addition to these honors, the Chilean-born violist also has worked with a number of notable composers and musicians, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Isaac Stern and Krzysztof Penderecki, to name a few.

In his forthcoming visit, Díaz will bring both his performing abilities and teaching capabilities to his Richmond audience.

Preceding his Saturday concert, Díaz will be leading a string master class tomorrow. It will provide music students with the chance for Díaz to critique their performances.

Attendees who might not be so musically inclined can witness, firsthand, the creative process that musicians go through when preparing a piece for performance. These methods range from effective practice methods to the performer's most beneficial physical placement on stage.

Following is a Q-and-A with Díaz:

Q: For those who might not be well-versed in modern classical performers, what are people's first reactions when you tell them you play the viola?

A: Do you mean people that don't know



Violist Roberto Díaz will be performing at the Singleton Center for the Performing Arts Saturday at 8 p.m.

anything about music?

Q: Sure.

A: There's always a sense of curiosity. People have always had an inherent curiosity about artists, be it poets or painters or musicians. When you tell them, their reaction is, "How lucky you are to be doing something you love for a living."

Q: When did you first begin playing the viola? Was it your first choice? When did you switch?

A: I started out playing the violin. In Chile,

there was no youth orchestra and no real need for young viola players. I switched to the viola when I got bigger, at 14. Also, my father is a violist. I heard the viola around the house from the very beginning. I've always loved the sound.

Q: How was your early music education in the viola approached? In my experience, the viola is often ignored in lower-level orchestral instruction.

A: I was living in Atlanta, Georgia at the time. There was a fine youth symphony ... I became principal in my high school years. There were wonderful opportunities ... (such as) master classes. The string orchestra in high school was quite good.

Q: What is the best part of being a professional musician?

A: You get to make a living doing what you truly love. I can't imagine anything better. There's a certain passion about it. It is hard work, but you love doing it.

Q: Things you wish you could change?

A: I wish the music we played was more important to society. We are all fighting hard to do that.

Q: What is the viola's role in the orchestra?

A: Not to sound funny, but I would describe it as the white stuffing in an Oreo cookie. It holds it all together. It plays a wonderful harmonic role ... the rhythmic aspect is wonderful. Some people say the bass is the backbone of the orchestra ... I think the viola is the cream that holds the orchestra together.

Q: Do you think we still need programs such as "Save the Music?" And do you think there is a danger of classical music falling to the wayside, moreso than it already has?

A: Classical music has always been in danger. It has never been for the masses. The society that likes classical music, (that is) is associated with classical music has always been relatively small. It is easy to talk about doom and gloom, but there are more symphonies, concert series, quartets ... to be too pessimistic.

Q: Finally, can you tell me a popular, non-classical musician you are listening to right now?

A: Non-classical?

Q: Yes.

A: (Pause) Santana.

Roberto Díaz will be leading the string master class on Friday, Feb. 1, from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts. This event is free and open to the public. Saturday at 8 p.m. Díaz will bring to the stage performances of Brahms, Hindemith and da Falla among others. Tickets are available at the Singleton Center box office. Student rates also are honored. Contact Tiffanie Chan at tschan@vcu.edu for details.

Homecoming concert sheds light on VCU hip-hop scene

JUSTIN DAVIS

Contributing Writer

VCU's homecoming week, designed for the "last of the '80s babies," might signify the beginning of a new era of hip-hop at VCU.

The VCU Homecoming Concert 2008 — scheduled for Fri., Feb. 1 — has fans excited about its headliner, Lupe Fiasco, a performer some herald as the man bringing about the second coming of hip-hop. Fans are eager to see Fiasco perform but are even more excited about what his presence means for VCU.

While students can get discounted tickets before the day of the show, the show is open to the public at full ticket price.

"It's been a long time since there was someone with so much real talent that came to VCU," said longtime fan Lucas Stewart, who was at the Stuart C. Siegel Center box office to buy tickets for the performance.

"He's quite simply one of the best rappers in the game."

Keena "Kaycee" Carson, 22, is a public relations major who hosts her own blog and runs a radio show dedicated to the "First and 15th" record label, which Fiasco himself operates.

"I decided to use my talents to promote music that I love, Carson said. "I love (Fiasco's) music, and I wanted to help promote that in any way possible."

Her hard work wasn't in vain, as her blog recently was mentioned in Fiasco's album, "The Cool," which was released in December.

One group in particular is betting the concert will shed more light on the growing hip-hop scene at VCU.

Advertising major Arnold Yun, 21, founded the VCU Student Hip-Hop Organization (SHHO) as a way to support the music he grew listened to growing up.

As the founder and current president, Yun is optimistic that the Lupe Fiasco concert will expose potential members to his organization.

"The concert will be great as far as awareness goes for our group," Yun said. "We can use this as a platform to get new members and be more visible on campus."

The hip-hop organization's mission statement stresses the importance of using the positive influence of hip-hop music to inspire its members to excel in their degrees.

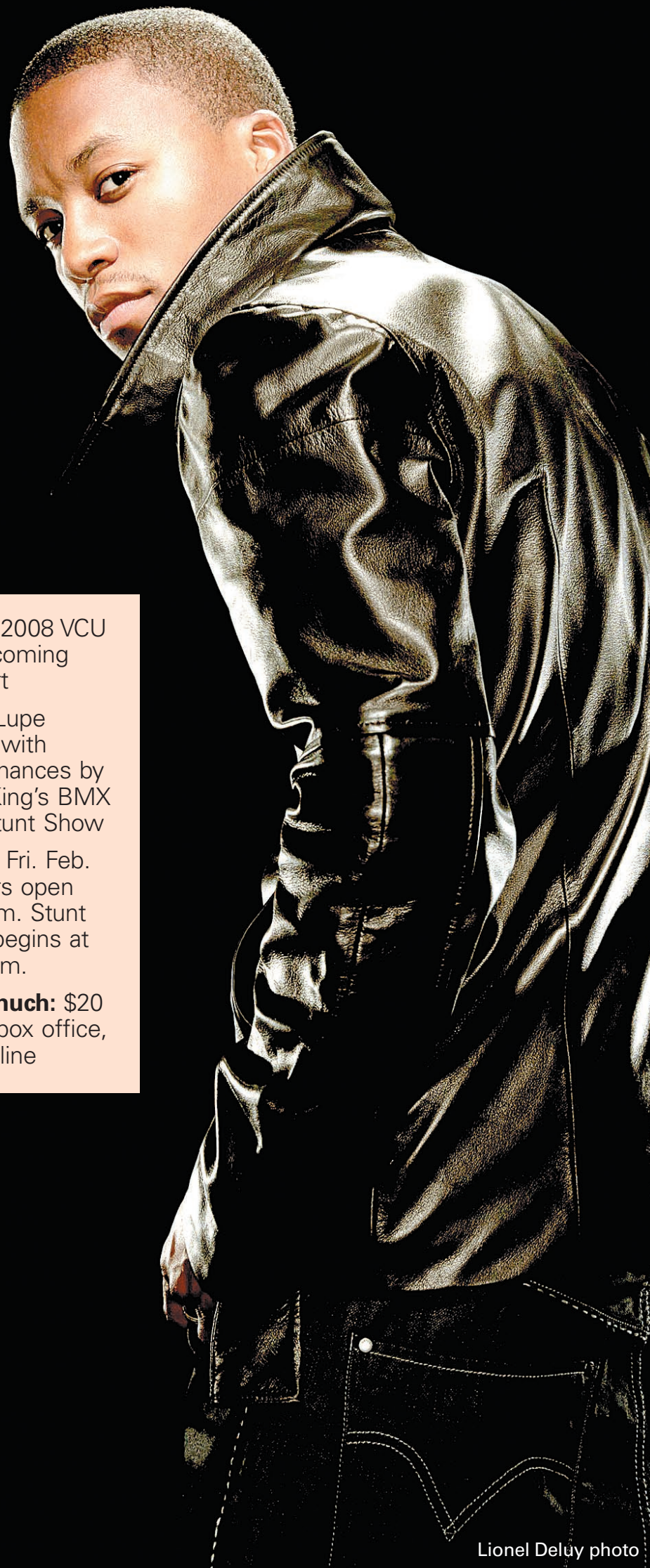
"I was always taught to pay my dues and work hard," Carson said. "It's the only way I know how to be successful."

What: 2008 VCU Homecoming Concert

Who: Lupe Fiasco with performances by Keith King's BMX Bike Stunt Show

When: Fri. Feb. 1, doors open at 6 p.m. Stunt show begins at 6:30 p.m.

How much: \$20 at the box office, \$22 online



Lionel Deluy photo



spectrum



CT file photo

Homecoming 2008 schedule

Thu., Jan. 31

Clash of the 80s/90s Dress Up Picture Day
CommonsTheatre 11-2 p.m.

Women's Basketball Game vs. Townson
7 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 1

Homecoming Concert featuring Lupe Fiasco
Siegel Center 7 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 2

Chill and Grill
VV Lot 1 - 5:30 p.m.

Homecoming game vs. Towson
Siegel Center 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 3

APB Super bowl Party
Richmond Salons

**Does your PMS
have you riding
an emotional
rollercoaster?**



Do you have severe premenstrual mood changes that disrupt your life at home and work, such as:

- Irritability or anger
- Mood Swings
- Feeling overwhelmed or out of control
- Fatigue
- Crying easily
- Sleep and/or appetite changes

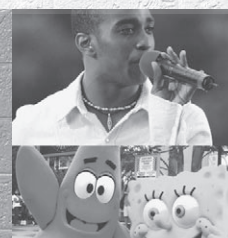
Dr. Susan Kornstein, a nationally recognized researcher of women's mental health, is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder, or PMDD, a severe form of PMS. Qualified participants must be between the ages of 18 and 45.

All research care is provided at no charge at our off-campus location with free and convenient parking.

**For more information, call:
VCU Mood Disorders Institute
828-5639**



Kings Dominion 2008 Entertainment AUDITIONS!



KINGS DOMINION IS SEEKING TRAINED, TALENTED, VERSATILE AND EXPERIENCED MUSICIANS, ACTORS, SINGERS, DANCERS, VARIETY ARTISTS, CHARACTERS, THEATRE ATTENDANTS, TECHNICIANS, COSTUMERS, STAGE MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS FOR OUR 2008 ENTERTAINMENT SEASON.

SATURDAY • JAN. 26

KINGS DOMINION
DOSWELL, VA • KINGS DOMINION THEATRE
(Please use Park Employee Entrance)

1:00pm - SINGERS, ACTORS, VARIETY ACTS, MUSICIANS, CHARACTERS

3:00pm - DANCERS, STAGE MANAGERS, TECHNICIANS, COSTUMERS, THEATRE ATTENDANTS

FRIDAY • FEB. 1

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY
WINCHESTER, VA • RUEBUSH HALL, RM 128

5:00pm - SINGERS, ACTORS, VARIETY ACTS, MUSICIANS

7:00pm - DANCERS, STAGE MANAGERS, TECHNICIANS, COSTUMERS, CHARACTERS

SUNDAY • JAN. 27

KINGS DOMINION
DOSWELL, VA • KINGS DOMINION THEATRE
(Please use Park Employee Entrance)

1:00pm - SINGERS, ACTORS, VARIETY ACTS, MUSICIANS, CHARACTERS

3:00pm - DANCERS, STAGE MANAGERS, TECHNICIANS, COSTUMERS, THEATRE ATTENDANTS

SATURDAY • FEB. 2

KINGS DOMINION
DOSWELL, VA • KINGS DOMINION THEATRE
(Please use Park Employee Entrance)

1:00pm - SINGERS, ACTORS, VARIETY ACTS, MUSICIANS, CHARACTERS

3:00pm - DANCERS, STAGE MANAGERS, TECHNICIANS, COSTUMERS, THEATRE ATTENDANTS

MONDAY • JAN. 28

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
HARRISONBURG, VA • FESTIVAL CONF. & STUDENT CENTER, HIGHLANDS ROOM

6:00pm - SINGERS, ACTORS, VARIETY ACTS, MUSICIANS

8:00pm - DANCERS, STAGE MANAGERS, TECHNICIANS, COSTUMERS, CHARACTERS

SUNDAY • FEB. 3

KINGS DOMINION
DOSWELL, VA • KINGS DOMINION THEATRE
(Please use Park Employee Entrance)

1:00pm - SINGERS, ACTORS, VARIETY ACTS, MUSICIANS, CHARACTERS

3:00pm - DANCERS, STAGE MANAGERS, TECHNICIANS, COSTUMERS, THEATRE ATTENDANTS

PLEASE NOTE

- All those auditioning should bring appropriate clothes and shoes for movement, a current photo and a one-page resume.
- You will be auditioned in order of arrival within your talent category.
- You must be 15 years of age to audition and/or interview.
- Auditions are limited to two minutes.
- The audition procedure may take a long time - please be prepared to wait.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. We strongly encourage participation from all cultural backgrounds.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS
PLEASE OR CALL OUR AUDITION HOTLINE AT:**

804.876.5377

KingsDominion.com

*TM, ® & © 2008 Cedar Fair Entertainment Company. RICKELSDEN and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Cedar Fair Entertainment Company. "Spectrum" is a trademark of Spectrum Media Group. All rights reserved.



Soulja Boy, Chris Brown, Bow Wow

blow up Coliseum



D.J. LETEMPS
Contributing Writer

A sea of teenyboppers flooded the Richmond Coliseum this past Tuesday night to see headliners Bow Wow and Chris Brown in 2008's Up Close and Personal Tour.

The Shop Boyz opened the show with two garbled songs that the crowd of nearly 5,000 barely understood. But the crowd started to feel the Boyz when a man with a red fro-hawk and patriotically colored guitar hit the stage to help perform their hit, "Party Like a Rock Star."

Soulja Boy was next on the program and came on stage wearing oversized sweat pants, a white T-shirt and signature white specs with his name written across the lenses.

Soulja Boy borrowed Hurricane Chris' "The Hand Clap" and "A Bay Bay" before performing his own, "Yahhh!"

"Where my Soulja girl at?" Soulja said, receiving a shrill response from the crowd of mostly females. He performed "Soulja Girl" and kept the ladies entertained as he humped the stage, sans shirt, to The Dream's "Falsetto."

It was pretty much a sure bet to see Soulja hit the crowd with his record-breaking hit, "Crank That (Soulja Boy)."

And "crank that," he did. The track "You'lllllll" played as audience members of all ages cranked their best Soulja Boy. It was amazing to see how well most of the audience knew the dance. The audience was left screaming for more.

This was Soulja Boy's best performance of the night, as all his other songs were heavily laden with the screaming of A-Rabbit, his hype man.

After Soulja Boy cranked the crowd up, a prop Gulfstream G400 private jet containing Bow Wow sunk down to the stage. The co-headliner jumped out, literally with a bang, and performed songs, including "Fresh Azimiz."

"I'm single now. I ain't with Ciara," Bow Wow said, changing the lyrics and publicly stating the status of his and Ciara's relationship – or lack thereof. The titillated ladies screamed, wanting to take advantage of his newfound single status.

With consistent energy, Bow Wow continued his set with "Bow Wow (That's My Name)," a song he recorded at age 13.

He partied with the crowd on "Let's Get Down," then showed a softer side as he tapped into some of his love songs, including "Let Me Hold You" and "Like You."

The highlight of his entire performance was when Bow Wow brought a little girl from the audience on stage and danced with her to "Outta My System."

Bow Wow's high-energy G-rated set was on point. It was remarkable to witness how much his showmanship has matured.

After Bow Wow thanked the parents and fans for their support, a 60-second countdown in laser lights was all that stood between the fans and Chris Brown. The crowd eagerly counted down as if it were New Year's Eve.

After an animation showed Brown fighting galactic haters, Brown descended onto the stage to do a well-choreographed performance of "Wall to Wall."

The stage was fully equipped with stairs, slides, poles, pyrotechnics, laser lights, drummer, projections of Brown playing various instruments and Dj Baby Dru on the

turntables.

Brown performed "Gimme That," featuring Lil' Wayne via a life-sized projection, then paid homage to the '80s in an Adidas track suit and shell-toed sneakers. A break-dance battle broke out, pinning the girls against the guys.

Rumors of a potential romance between Brown and Rihanna were only fueled when he gave a heart-felt performance of his version of her hit, "Umbrella," which he called "Cinderella." He sang to a projection of Rihanna while dancing with an umbrella in hand.

With the popularity of go-go music in Virginia, Brown's home state, he gave an explosive performance of the go-go inspired "Threwed." This was a performance received particularly well by the crowd as he danced in the difficult go-go style.

The whole night, a large circle-shaped object covered with a black tarp loomed in the back of the floor-seating area. Brown removed the tarp to reveal a round, rotating, platform that tilted with his every dance move during his performance of "Lottery." Even as the wall tilted to steep positions, he gripped it impressively like Spider-Man and held every note.

On most songs, Brown allowed the voice-over track to assist him with many of the notes, but he intimately gave it his all when he hit every note on "With You."

Brown danced into the night and wrapped up the show with a special appearance by Bow Wow, performing their song, "Shortie Like Mine."

Chris Brown and Bow Wow really got up close and personal, delivering what their fans expected.



spectrum

Finely cultured Krauss, Plant duo brings out best in Americana

ROBERTO CURTIS
Spectrum Editor

Led Zeppelin co-founder Robert Plant and Grammy-winning record-holder Alison Krauss have taken their profound understanding of rock, blues, country, bluegrass and folk and released an album that is truly worthy of Grammy contention for best album of the year.

In the album, “Raising Sand,” the duo grazes the emotions with the slightest touch of instrumental texture and vocal harmonies while letting the gravity of their musicianship hit hard. Krauss’ haunting voice in “Trampled Rose” induces goose bumps while flecks of banjo keep the feel grounded in Appalachian heritage.

Fans of Zeppelin will be pleased to know that Plant’s ability to stir souls is still present. While his vocal quality has matured like a fine Cabernet, Plant’s old style still defines songs such as “Fortune Teller” and “Gone Gone Gone (Done Moved On).”

The album features both up-tempo grooves and stalking ballads. Minimalism is the key to unlocking perfection in slower songs, which feature the best vocal blends.

The writing and arranging are spectacular. Spicy elements of the revolutionary rock of the ‘60s, of the Beatles, of bluegrass and of the Allman Brothers all blend to achieve a tasty end result.

The album tugs and thrashes emotions throughout with wicked guitar riffs a la Jimmy Page and sick violin and banjo commentary, especially on “Nothin’.”

Plant and Krauss surely live up to critics’ expectations with this album and most likely will please anyone with a willing ear, especially your parents.

Grade: A+

Download (don’t steal): “Sister Rosetta Goes Before Us” by Robert Plant and Alison Krauss



cd
review

Sun gazing with Panda Bear

Animal Collective’s Panda Bear goes solo

MATT STANGEL
Contributing Writer

Attempting to compare or compartmentalize Animal Collective member Panda Bear’s 2007 solo effort, “Person Pitch,” is misdirected energy.

Sure, you immediately can see vocal cues taken from The Beach Boys’ Brian Wilson, and the production technique is similar to Radiohead’s “OK Computer.” At times, the percussive elements are comparable to the more opiate-induced tracks of The Velvet Underground.

This album does fit under the labels of surf music, electronica, bubble-gum pop and noise music, but there consistently is a portion of this music that glaringly transcends the labels.

This portion demands to be different.

The textures within Panda Bear’s “Person Pitch” exist as one man’s glance into the solo project and its landscape of possibilities.

Much of the album sounds like it was recorded

in a cathedral or catacomb, with heavy reverb creating an otherworldly effect. There is the undeniable stamp of electronic music within Panda Bear’s efforts, recombining environmental sounds, looped guitar strums, boundless electronic sound blankets, tambourine claps, understated bass lines and airy, almost-transparent synth elements – collecting into moments what feels both like sun-gazing and like watching two TV’s at once. This music is certainly something pleasing to get lost in.

Five out of Five on
The Burn-O-Meter



cd
review





WEEKEND CALENDAR

→Thursday 1/31

VCUarts Anderson Gallery: “Gord Peteran: Furniture Meets Its Maker” exhibition. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

VCUarts Anderson Gallery: “Familiar Faces” exhibition. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

Alley Katz: Darkest Hour, Cephalic Carnage, Emmure, White Chapel and Immortal Avenger. 6 p.m. \$15. 643-2816.

Art After Hours: DJ Williams Projekt and Angela Vogel. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. 6:30 p.m. \$10. 340-1405.

VCU Music – Junior Recital: Alex Samawicz, trumpet. Grace E. Harris Hall Auditorium. Monroe Park Campus. 8 p.m. Free.

Cary Street Café: Aquabatics. 10 p.m. \$5. 353-7445.

Emilio’s: Existor. 10 p.m. \$5. 359-1224.

→Friday 2/1

OMSA Black History Month Poster Celebration: University Student Commons, Room 215. Monroe Park Campus. 3 p.m. Free.

VCU Music String Master Class: Roberto Diaz, viola. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts, Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall. Monroe Park Campus. 4 p.m. Free.

VCU Homecoming Concert: Lupe Fiasco and Keith King. Stuart C. Siegel Center. 6 p.m. \$10-\$20. 827-1000.

Swing Dancing Lessons: Hibbs Building, Room 431. Monroe Park Campus. 8-10 p.m. Free.

Alley Katz: Black Cash. 9 p.m. \$7. 643-2816.

The Camel: Pony Pants, Amoeba Men and Vytear. 9 p.m. Free. 353-4901.

→Saturday 2/2

Italian Film and Food Festival: The Richmond Moving Image Co-Op presents the fourth annual festival with films from Gillo Pontecorvo, Mario Monicelli and others. 11 a.m. Firehouse Theatre Project. 1609 W. Broad St. \$15-\$45. 232-7642.

Chill and Grill: Free food and drinks. VV Parking Lot (Floyd and Harrison). Monroe Park Campus. 1-3 p.m. Free.

Toad’s Place: Killswitch Engage, The Dillinger Escape Plan, Everytime I Die and Parkway Drive. 6:30 p.m. \$25-\$28. 648-8623.

Homecoming Court: Coronation ceremony half-time show. Siegel Center. 7-7:30 p.m. Free.

VCU Music: Reynolds Chamber Concerts: Roberto Diaz, viola.

Singleton Center for the Performing Arts, Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall. Monroe Park Campus. 8 p.m. \$10-\$32. 828-6776.

Capital Ale House: Bio Ritmo, Os Magrelos and Headquarter Samba. 8 p.m. \$10. 780-2537.

Alley Katz: Roots of Creation, Crucial Elements and Moossa Form. 9 p.m. \$10. 643-2816.

1st FRIDAY CALENDAR

Emilio’s Tapas Bar: 11th House. 10 p.m. \$5. 359-1224.

Zuppa: Pocket Brass Clique. 10 p.m. Free. 249-8831.

1708 Gallery: “Fanatic,” video, performance and installation by Jillian McDonald. Reception at 7 p.m. 319 W. Broad St. Through March 1. 643-1708.

ALBTech Paintings and Prints: Works by David Klemencic. Reception at 7 p.m. 1208 Main St. 347-7118.

Art6 Gallery: “Labyrinth” by John Bailey, “War’s Without End” by Lewis Bailes and new works by Brigitte Newberry. Reception at 6 p.m. 6 E. Broad St. Through Feb. 23. 343-1406.

Ghostprint Gallery: “Adele Cohen - A Life in Art,” paintings by Adele Cohen. Reception at 7 p.m. 220 W. Broad St. Through March 1. 344-1557.

Glave Kocen Gallery: “Scenes from a Memory,” paintings by Daniel Robbins. Reception at 7 p.m. 1620 W. Main St. Through March 1. 358-1990.

Henry St. Gallery: “White Trash Comix Art,” work by David Rhodes, Seth Moreau, Keith Van Allen and others. Reception at 7:30 p.m. 422 W. Broad St. Through February. 247-1491.

Jennifer Young Studio & Gallery: “A Touch of Red,” paintings by Jennifer Young. Reception at 6 p.m. 16 E. Main St. 254-1008.

Main Art Gallery: “Chimera,” work by Christopher Brown, Madeline Hoch and Bret Payne. Reception at 7 p.m. 1537 W. Main St. 355-6151.

Quirk Gallery: Works by Arthur Hash and Fiona Ross. Reception at 7 p.m. 311 W. Broad St. Through Feb. 28. 644-5450.

Sound of Music: Totaro (Americana) and Blue Line Highway (acoustic rock). Works by John Totaro. 8 p.m. 321 W. Broad St. 788-0607.

Transmission: “Medium Love,” drawings by Monica Palma and monoprints by Ryan Wallace. Reception at 7 p.m. 321 Brook Road. Through Feb. 29. 200-9985.

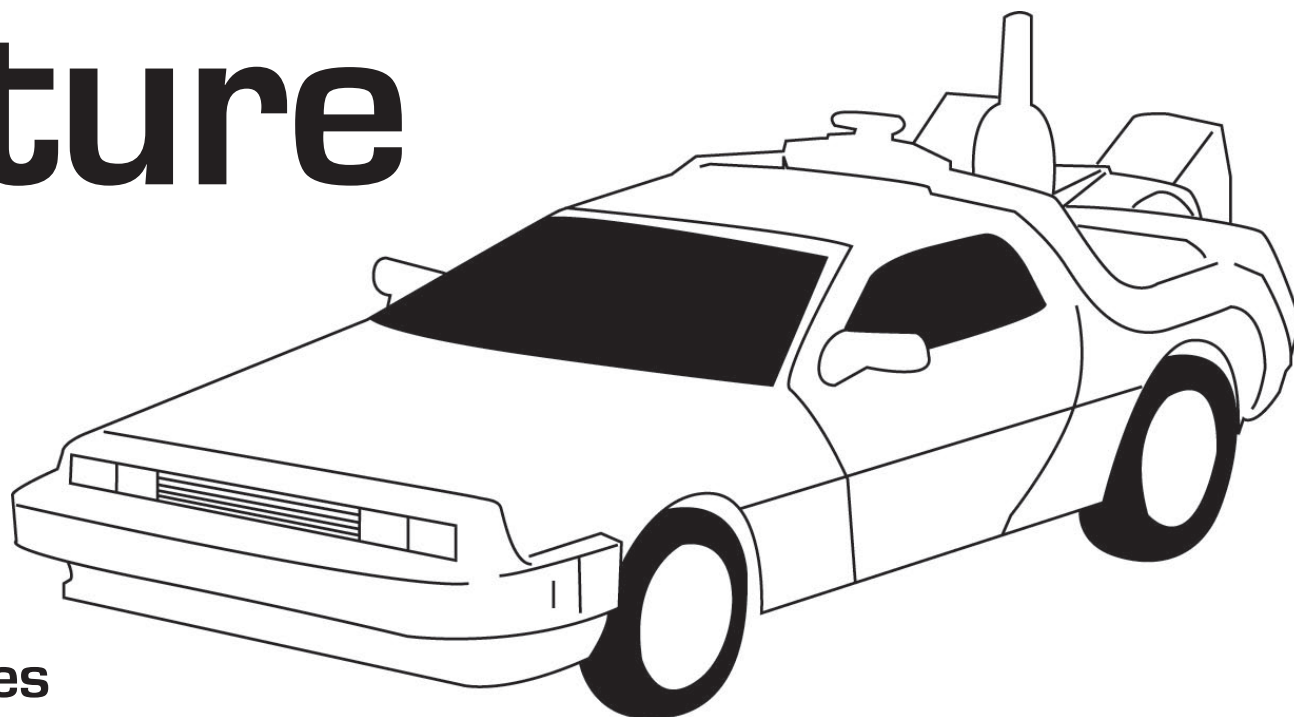
Visual Art Studio: “Encounter,” by Julia Hebner and “Dominoes Delivers in Guatemala,” by Anne Hart Chay. Reception at 7 p.m. on Feb. 1. 208 W. Broad St. 644-1368.



opinion



Barack to the future



The future of our presidential candidates

RICH GRISET
Opinion Editor

As candidates make many promises about what they will bring to their potential presidencies, how can any of us be sure of what they actually will achieve? In coordination with the VCU physics department and Dr. Alan Joseph Vannucchi, the CT has devised a method of traveling into the future via DeLorean. At great risk to my own life, I have stepped into the future multiple times to find out what will happen to the United States should each major (or imaginary) presidential candidate be elected.

→ Sen. Barack Obama: Many have compared the young and charismatic Obama to John F. Kennedy. These comparisons will ring true especially when Iran starts building nukes like the U.S. always feared it would. Obama will solve this with an embargo on President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Member's Only jackets. Also, continuing with the JFK comparison, Barack will avoid going to Dallas like the plague.

→ Sen. Hillary Clinton: Unlike what most chauvinists thought, Clinton will not go to war every 28 days. A talented and effective leader, she will have her presidency marred forever when she follows in her husband's footsteps and has an affair with Monica Lewinsky.

→ Mike Huckabee: With Chuck Norris as the new vice president, Huckabee will take over the world. His first act will be dropping Norris off into the hills of Afghanistan where he will locate Osama bin Laden and roundhouse kick him into the next millennium. Huckabee will return America to the Christian nation it never was, following

through with his promise to put "a God in every classroom and a Bible in every hand."

→ Sen. John McCain: After a strong first 100 days in office, McCain will slowly give into other people's opinions. His presidency will be plagued by traumatic experiences because of his old age. He will suffer four strokes during his term. Because of his prisoner-of-war survival skills, he will not give up and will finish out his presidential term to the end even while in a coma.

→ Rep. Ron Paul: Paul will take office and enact every policy he promised, such as eliminating the income tax and most government agencies, switching back to gold-backed currency and essentially taking America back to the 18th century. Americans will have trouble dealing with the off-kilter nature of the legalization of drugs, with having their abortion rights taken away and with the shock that Paul ever could be elected.

Matters will only get worse as Paul will shut down the Supreme Court, Congress and the White House. America's Second Civil War will begin, and Paul will use all the money he saved to erect a giant monument of himself made out of Jell-O.

→ David Hasselhoff: After his election to the presidency with the campaign slogan, "Don't Hassle the Hoff," Hasselhoff will bring peace the likes of which the world hasn't seen since the Pax Romana. Cruising around Washington, D.C., in his Knight Rider car, saving Queen Elizabeth II from choking Baywatch style and marrying Lindsay Lohan on the floor of the Senate will be other landmarks of his presidency. Even the leaking of another video of him drunkenly eating hamburgers on the floor won't hurt his approval rating.

the
ct

**REBECCA
LANDAU**
Executive Editor

**RICH
GRISET**
Opinion Editor

Opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Commonwealth Times or Virginia Commonwealth University. Unsigned editorials represent the institutional opinion of The Commonwealth Times.

Add Your Voice

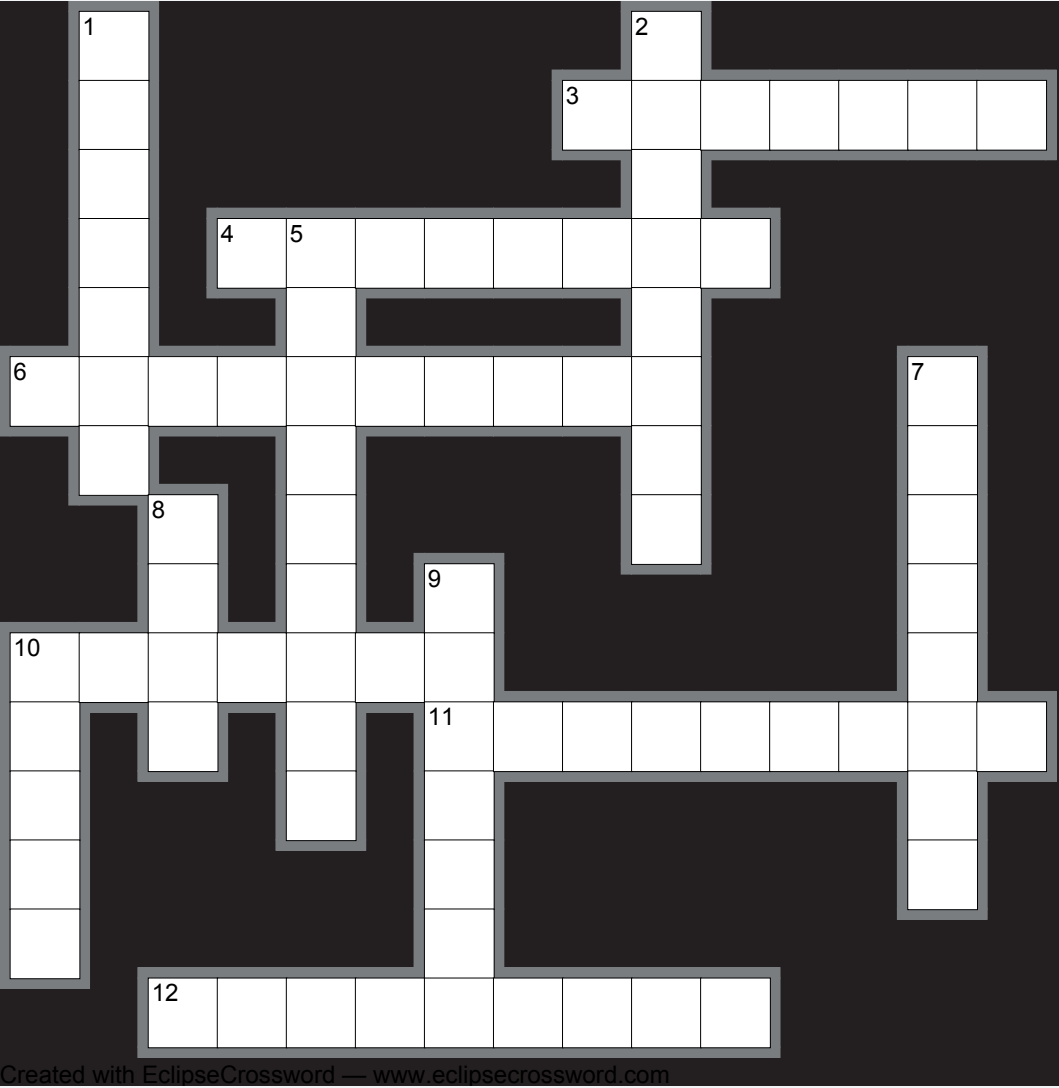
The opinion pages of The Commonwealth Times are a forum open to the public. Clear, concise and compelling contributions are welcome online at our Web site, by e-mail at opinion@commonwealthtimes.com, or by mail and in person at 817 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. 23220-3806.

Letters must be sent from a valid VCU e-mail address or signed with daytime and evening telephone contact. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, style and space.



crossword

Virginia Trivia



Across

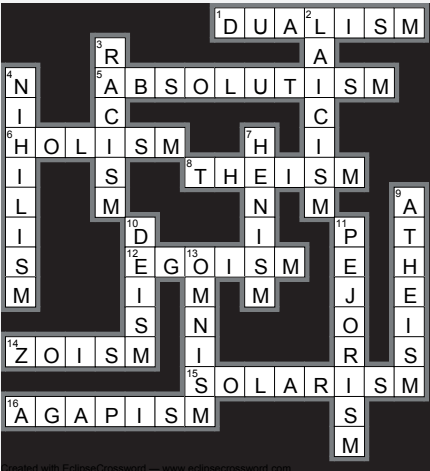
- 3. The major cash crop of Virginia.
- 4. The states of _____ & West Virginia were formed from sections of Virginia.
- 6. Thomas Jefferson designed his home and named it _____.
- 10. William and Mary is the second oldest _____ in the United States.
- 11. The Pentagon building is in the city of _____.
- 12. First capital of Virginia.

Down

- 1. The tree of the commonwealth.
- 2. The American Revolution ended in this Virginia city.
- 5. Virginia was named for England's "Virgin Queen," _____ I.

- 7. Was also the capital of the Confederacy.
- 8. Jamestown was founded for the cultivation of _____.
- 9. The first _____ grown in the United States were grown in Virginia.
- 10. More than half the battles fought in the _____ War were fought in Virginia.

Answers from Jan. 24 issue





The Common Cup

Internet down at your apartment?
Don't feel like going to the library?

We've got **FREE Wi-Fi** that generally works *all the time*.

We accept Rambucks.

We are just one block from campus.

Monday - Thursday
7:30 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Friday
7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturday & Sunday
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

1211 W MAIN ST
RICHMOND, VA 23220
PHONE: 278 - 9333

WWW.THECOMMONCUP.COM



Going to Homecoming?

Wanna know what's up?
Carry a CT with you.
We're on it.

classifieds & comics

JOB

SUMMER JOBS NO EVE/WEEK-ENDS Hanover County (20 Miles north of Richmond) is looking for seasonal Recreation Aides, Recreation Therapeutic Aides and Recreation Supervisors for their summer youth program. Great PAY and HOURS. To apply, go to www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804-365-6334 (tddæ365-6140). Positions are filling quickly, apply soon. EOE/MFDV

New Balance at Glenn Allen location is looking for full/part time sales associate. Flexible hours. Please e-mail ginger@newbalanceva.com or fax resume to 804-290-8009.

JOB

Sitters Wanted. Average \$10 per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com

Lifeguards / Pool Supervisors Premier Aquatics is now accepting applications for Lifeguards, Pool Managers, and Area Supervisors around the Northern Virginia area. Certifications are required, however training is available. \$100 sign up bonus is available to all who apply online by March 1st, 2008. Please visit our website to complete an on-line application at www.premier411.com. For more information, you may contact us at (703) 373-0350.

HOUSING

Econo Lodge, low daily and weekly rates, Free Breakfast, Free High speed Internet and laundry service on facility. Located near VCU campus. Call 8043531287.

SHARED HOUSE

Church Hill bedroom available in beautifully furnished home many amenities, \$550 including all utilities (owner travels extensively) no pets/smoking available immediately Call 783-2272.

TRAVEL

Spring Break '08 Mexico, Jamaica, Bahamas and Florida. STS has the Best Parties & Best Prices Guaranteed. Call for Group Discounts! 800.648.4849 www.ststravel.com

alb tech inc

New/Used PC/Laptop/Mac Sales
Computer Accessory Sales
Computer Repair/Virus Removal
Web & Graphic Design
Home/Business Networking
Training Courses

We mount flat screen TVs

www.albtechva.com 1208 West Main Street (804) 355-2491

STUDENTS: Have something to say? Keep it to 25 words, and it's FREE!

If you're a chatty type, the cost is just 10 cents per word after the first 25. (This rate is for personal use only — student organization and business use is \$5 for the first 25 words, the 10 cents per word. Call us at 828-1058 or stop by at 817 W. Broad St.

Last-Ditch Effort

John Kroes



Clockstoppers

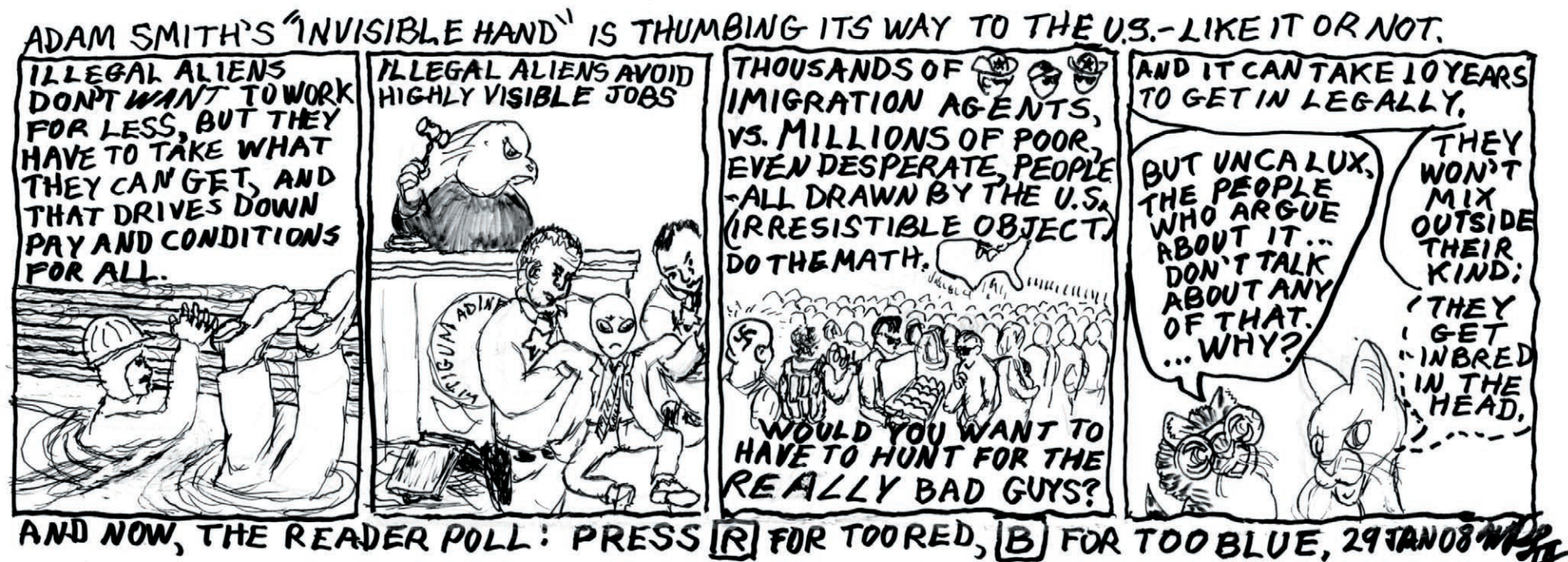
Cobb Dixon



comics

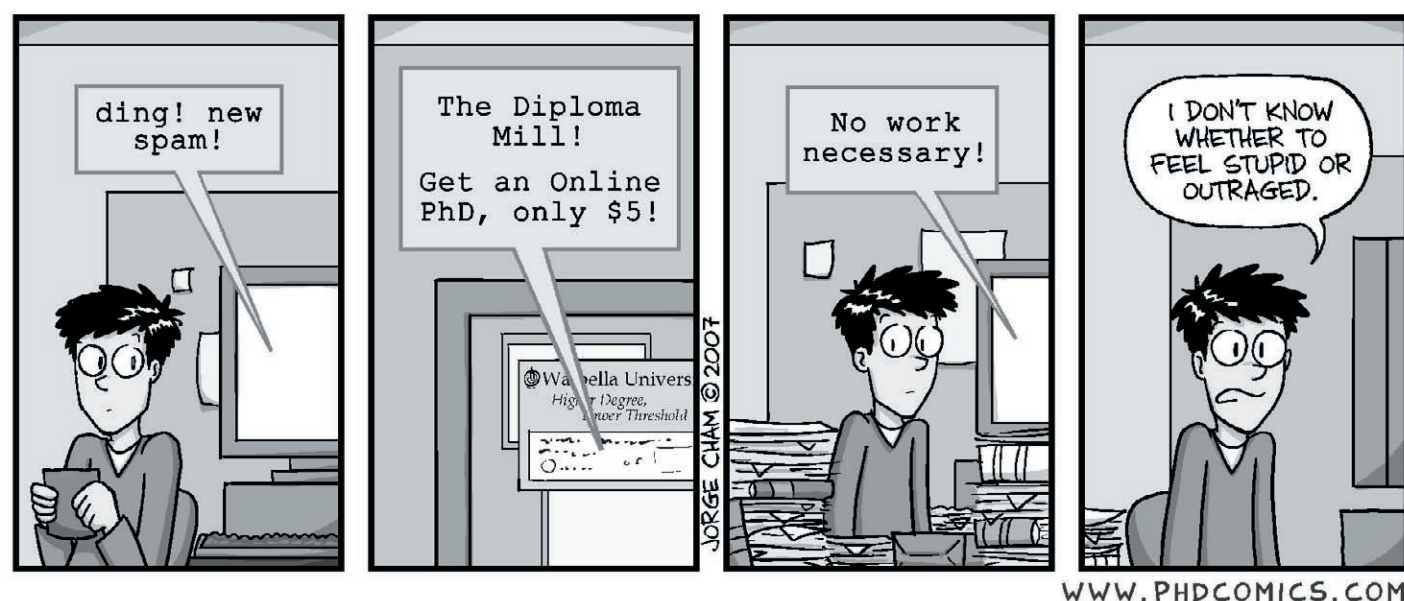
Purple Prose

Bill Lemmond



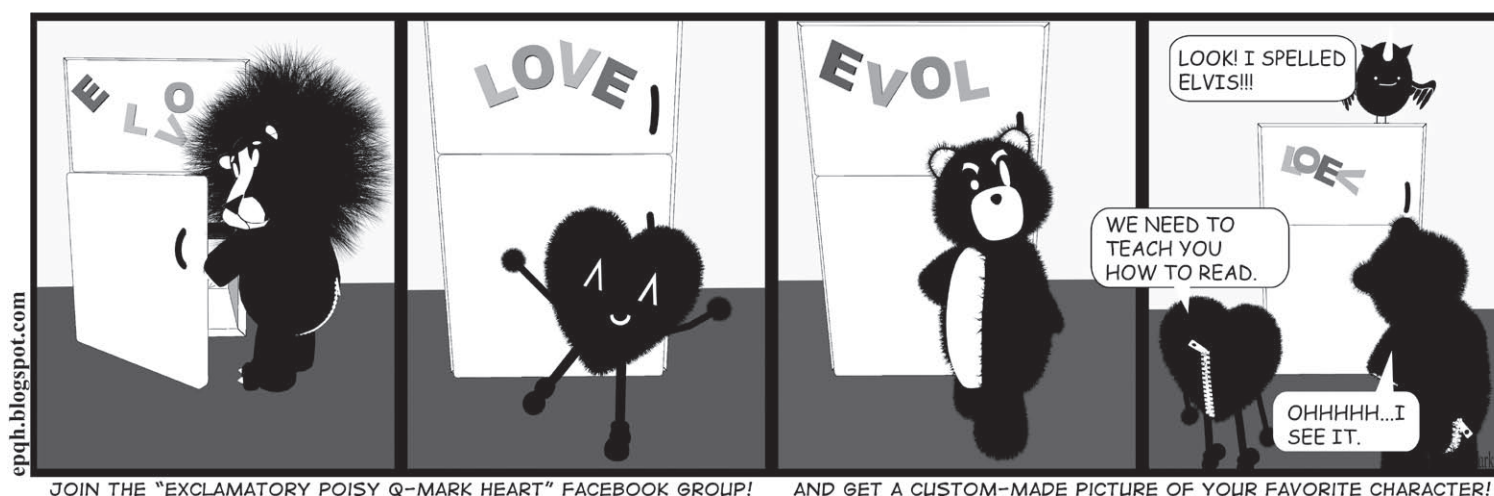
Piled Higher and Deeper

Jorge Cham



Exclamatory Poisy Q-Mark Heart

Adam Parker



**VCU Homecoming Committee & Activities Programming Board
Present
Homecoming Concert 2008**

Featuring

Lupe Fiasco

Also



Jason 804



**Roots of
Creation**

**Music Provided by
The Heavy Hitter DJ Lonnie B**

**Friday, February 1st, 2008
Doors open at 6pm**

**KEITH KING BMX
BIKE STUNT SHOW**

Alltel Pavillon at the Siegel Center

**Tickets Available at the Siegel Center Box Office
1200 W. Broad St, Richmond 23284**

AND

All TicketMaster Locations