



Monday, February 18, 2008 Vol. 47 No. 39

the ct

News

Board of visitors tackles
VCU growth spurt · 3

Sports

Women's tennis stays
undefeated · 7

Spectrum ▶

Top-10 flicks of this
past year · 11

Opinion

Love letter to VCU · 16



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

commonwealthtimes.com

Home-winning streak snapped

Old Dominion tops VCU —Page 6



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

Inmate re-entry

Faced with rising prison populations and a projected need to build at least two prisons in the next five years, state legislators exchanged bills aimed at reducing recidivism, the relapse of criminal behavior, of Virginia prison inmates.

According to a Department of Corrections' study, one in three people released from a Virginia prison returns within three years.

Senate Bill 200 and House Bill 651 call for societal re-entry plans for every new inmate admitted into a Virginia prison. Both bills passed their respective chambers unanimously and have crossed over to be considered a second time.

"The goal is to reduce the recidivism rate. If we can do that, it will make productive citizens and be less prisons we have to build," said Delegate Thomas C. Wright, R-Victoria, who introduced the House bill.

Sen. Linda T. "Toddy" Puller, R-Mount Vernon, introduced the Senate legislation. Puller says the bill is the

product of a joint legal commission, which studies prisoner re-entry, and which Puller has chaired for the past three years.

Currently, new inmates are interviewed to assess their security and treatment needs. Counselors develop treatment plans for the inmates and track their progress each year.

Brief by Alexander Harris

Illegal-alien bail bill passes House

A bill that would determine if illegal aliens charged with a criminal offense are admitted bail was approved and passed to the Senate on the House floor this past week by a 98-0 vote.

Proposed by Delegate Thomas Davis Rust, R-Herndon, House Bill 440 would institute a presumption against admitting bail for any illegal aliens charged with certain crimes and subject to detention by the Law Enforcement Support Center. This center is a part of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs

Enforcement of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Delegate H. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, said many of those charged with crimes listed in the original bill are unlikely to receive bail. He said if the ICE gets involved, the suspect might pose a flight risk.

"Where ICE thinks it's serious enough that they're going to come get them (illegal aliens), there's a likelihood that they (the aliens) might not stay around," Griffith said.

Brief by Travis Lyle

Abuse victim fights for funds to catch predators

At 13, Alicia Kozakiewicz was kidnapped and tortured by a man she met through the Internet.

Today, Kozakiewicz is a college sophomore who lobbies the federal and Virginia governments to increase funding to fight sexual predators. This General Assembly session, she supports House Bill 1189, which

would increase funding to fight child exploitation in Virginia. The bill's sponsor is Delegate Brian J. Moran, D-Alexandria.

"With increased Internet access and increasing use, we're inviting these child sex predators into our homes," Moran said in a telephone interview. "It is an expanding problem, and the police need additional resources to investigate, arrest and prosecute these people."

However, the House Appropriations Committee tabled HB 1189 before the General Assembly's crossover day this past Tuesday,

On crossover day, each General Assembly chamber must finish work on its own bills. Normally, because the House did not approve HB 1189 by this deadline, the bill would be considered dead for this year's session. But Moran said he still is negotiating with the committee and he hopes to obtain at least partial funding.

"As long as the session is still going on, I'm not going to give up," Moran said.

Brief by Meredith Kight

cover photo by Rachel Larue

**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 BROSMER, 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 Desk Chief/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

VACANT, Advertising Representative

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

Up, up and a w a y

Board of Visitors: VCU's growth hitting new highs

RYAN BROSNER
News Editor

VCU is growing up and out.

The university's Board of Visitors met for its quarterly meeting this past Thursday. The board discussed the rapid growth and expansion facing the Monroe Park Campus as the university approaches its 40-year anniversary.

Board Rector Thomas G. Rosenthal began the proceedings with congratulations for the men's basketball team's victory over James Madison University. Then, VCU President Eugene P. Trani gave his report to the board.

Trani focused mainly on admissions demographics and how they are changing. Trani's report set the course for the rest of the meeting.

"We're going to have a lot of applications this year," Trani said.

VCU already has received a total of 17,370 freshman and transfer applications for the fall 2008 semester as of Feb. 13 with an acceptance rate of 62 percent. The number of applications received increases daily, sometimes by the hundreds, according to a document about freshman admissions released by the board.

VCU is receiving a record number of applicants and mainly from Fairfax County. Of the 25 high schools in Fairfax, 14 high schools currently contain more than 100 VCU applicants for the fall semester.

Trani said he thinks those numbers are amazing.

In fall 2007, 1,848 Fairfax County students applied to VCU and 375 were accepted to the university. Eight of those accepted ended up at VCU. So far for 2008, 2,336 Fairfax students have applied, 670 have been accepted and 18 of those offers have been accepted.

"We certainly have become socially acceptable in Fairfax County," Trani said.

Although the university is drawing large numbers from Northern Virginia and other surrounding areas, very few students in the Richmond area are sticking around post-high school to go to VCU.

Of all the high schools in Richmond City and Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico counties, as well as area private schools, the number of VCU applicants is barely higher than the number of Fairfax County applicants.

"We have got to get more aspiration from the people at Richmond City schools," Trani said.

The university constantly is pushing toward being part of the greater Richmond community. The board requested Trani find more data involving the graduation rates and post-college paths of Richmond high school students.

One initiative of VCU and the Richmond Police Department aims to help

bring the community and the university together.

Robert Holsworth, dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, discussed the program, which finds students who are interested in law enforcement in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods. The students both work and take classes at VCU and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and eventually would

become criminal-justice majors.

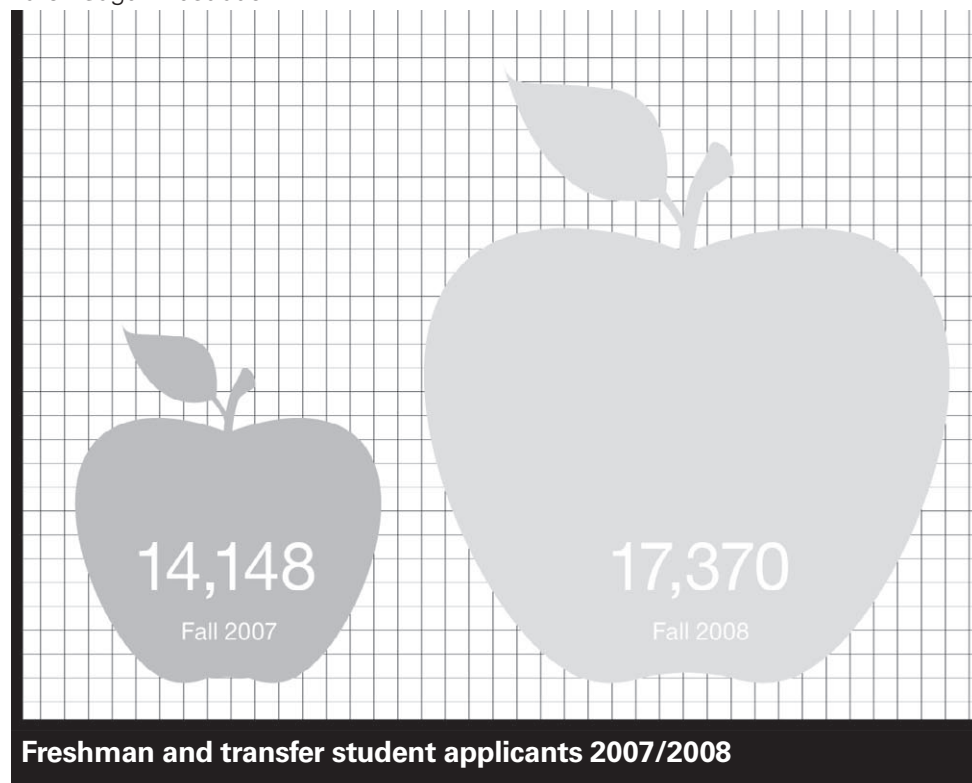
"We clearly want VCU to be absolutely in the middle of this," Holsworth said.

To get more involved with Richmond-area students, Trani said the university needs support from Richmond schools.

Thomas G. Snead Jr., chair of the academic and health affairs policy com-

BOARD OF VISITORS continued to CT4

Karen Sagun illustration



NAACP Founders' Day celebrates past, sees hope in future

SEAN COLLINS-SMITH
Contributing Writer

Celebrating 99 years of advancing the rights of blacks in the U.S., the 2008 NAACP Founders' Day Celebration banquet took place this past Monday evening at VCU's Commonwealth Ballroom.

More than 50 people attended the event, which was hosted by the VCU chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

VCU's NAACP focused on the importance of advocacy groups and knowing the history of your culture. The chapter expressed the promising possibilities for Sen. Barack Obama as he seeks the Democratic nomination for president.

Keynote speaker David Hicks, a former commonwealth's attorney for Richmond, said he was excited for Obama's chance to win the presidency.

"We're here to celebrate 99 years of history," Hicks said. "Hopefully, the 100th

anniversary will take place a month after we have sworn in the first African-American president in this country's history."

The banquet opened with "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which was adopted as the "Black National Anthem" in 1919. The banquet's theme stressed the importance of knowing that racism not only existed in the past, but also in the present.

"If we do not understand our history, how on earth can we look to the future?" Hicks said. "It's time for a new generation and a new culture. This is a new era, an exciting era. You are all living history right now."

Jennifer Black, president of VCU's NAACP chapter, explained the purpose of the organization, which still endures after nearly 100 years of working toward equality for blacks.

"I'm here to continue the work that began in 1909," Black said. "There are still some subtleties going on, subtleties that we might not have noticed in the '60s and '70s, because of everything else that was going on. Until all of these are gone, we still have work to do."

A few of the banquet attendees discussed what would result if Obama were to be elected.

"Electing Obama would be a big leap for America, period," VCU freshman Tamarra Wilkes said. "There is still racism here, and electing Obama would help to break through some of those barriers that still exist."

VCU freshman Edward Taylor agreed.

"Not only would it break that barrier, but, in the process, it would allow us to look past that barrier, to other more important things," he said.

Since Super Tuesday two weeks ago, Obama has won primaries in Nebraska, Kansas, Louisiana and Washington, and most recently in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Although minority presidential hopefuls Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson had media coverage in the past for their attempts to run for the presidency, neither had the level of support Obama possesses.

"This is a win for us," said VCU freshman Kolby Keene. "(Obama's) come this far. He's gone farther than (Jesse) Jackson. He has a very strong chance to win it all."

Jackson ran in both the 1984 and 1988 primaries as a Democrat, winning five primaries in '84 and 11 in '88. Sharpton received a total of 27 delegates during his bid in 2004, and he ran as a Democrat.

To date, Obama has 1,262 delegates. Clinton trails Obama with 1,213 delegates. A majority of 2,025 delegate votes is needed to win the Democratic nomination.



Photo by Melissa Flood

Former Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney David Hicks is presented a plaque by the VCU NAACP.

BOARD OF VISITORS continued from CT3

mittee, proposed the establishment of a number of new Ph.D. programs, including tracks in chemical biology and neuroscience.

"This will enable some really smart kids to enter into this new and exciting field," Snead said, referring to another proposed Ph.D program in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Snead said all his proposed plans have one thing in common.

"If you've picked up a theme," Snead said, "it's the interdisciplinary theme."

Through interdisciplinary tracks, students are exposed to and are taught a broader spectrum of skills and ideas.

Snead – who with his wife donated \$1 million to the school in 2004 – is the namesake of the newly opened Snead Hall, the School of Business Building for which his donation was utilized.

Snead Hall is just one of the expansions VCU planned for this year.

"In the spring, we're going to have a number of new buildings coming online," said John M. Bennett, senior vice president for finance and administration.

According to Bennett, there will be an additional residence hall open by August 2008 – in time for the start of the fall semester.

The number of first-year freshmen enrolled in fall 2007 was 3,882. Trani said 2008 would be similar.

"It'll be somewhere between 3,700 and 4,000," he said.

According to Carol Shapiro, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, the number of incoming students has risen.

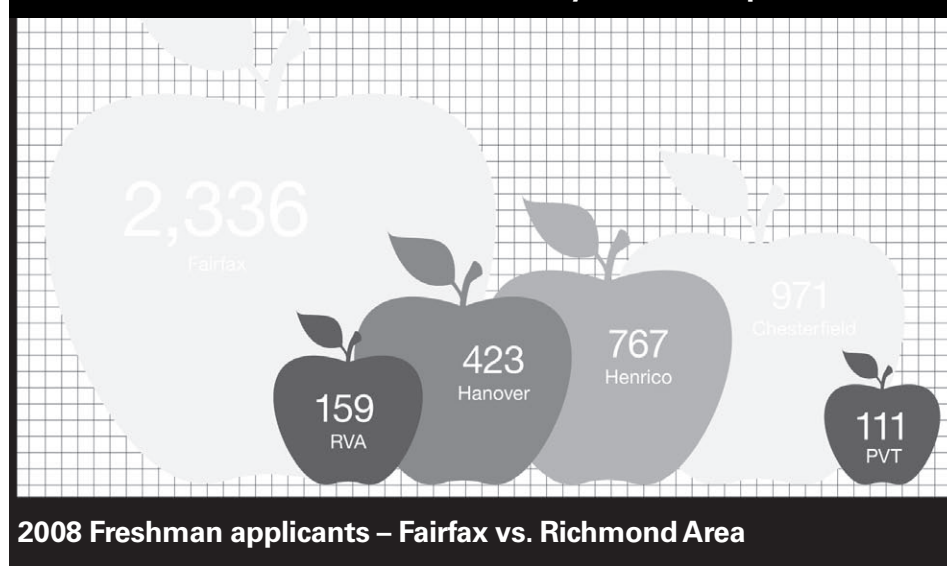
"Not only are we getting more students, but higher SAT scores," she said.

Shapiro said incoming VCU freshmen are averaging 10 points higher on their SATs than in previous years.

One issue on the horizon for the Board of Visitors is how to deal with balancing large incoming classes with those that are already present. According to Stephen D. Gottfredson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, 83 percent of freshmen return to the university the following year.

Karen Sagun illustration

RVA=Richmond City; PVT= Area private schools



'Beersicles' to be allowed in restaurants, if bill passes

CHRISTEN DUXBURY
Capital News Service



Bars and restaurants would be free to serve beer popsicles and similar alcohol-spiked foods, if House Bill 1075 passes.

The bill, sponsored by Delegate Terrie L. Suit, R-Virginia Beach, states the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control cannot prohibit the sale of food products containing alcohol as long as those products are being sold to people older than 21.

The bill was proposed after the VABC tried to prohibit the sale of beer popsicles at a Northern Virginia restaurant.

The "hop-sicles," as some called them, have generated widespread discussion, prompting videos about how to make the popsicles to be posted on the Internet.

The VABC attempted to prohibit the sale of alcoholic foods because it violated current laws, which state alcohol must be served in its original container or be poured from a tap.

After the buzz, the VABC has yet to take a stance on the bill. "We don't have a position on it," said Curtis Coleburn, secretary of board members at the VABC.

The topic of beer popsicles did not generate as much hype in the General Assembly as it did online, said Delegate Adam P. Ebbin, D-Arlington, a co-sponsor of the bill.

"It didn't come up in detail," Ebbin said.

Supporters of the bill worry that a law outlawing beer pops would ban other popular food items, such as tiramisu or rum balls.

The bill is here "to make it possible to serve desserts with alcohol in them," Ebbin said.

The bill was skipped this past Friday during an early morning meeting of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services.

"That means that there are things that probably need to be straightened out," said Sandy Richards, a legislative aide who spoke on behalf of Suit.

POICTESME LITERARY JOURNAL

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES
FEBRUARY 18

more info?

www.has.vcu.edu/eng/resources/poictesme/

FREE Practice Test

LSAT
GMAT
GRE
MCAT
DAT
OAT
PCAT*

Take a **FREE** practice test at this event and you'll receive a detailed score analysis and exclusive strategies to help you prepare for Test Day!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

AT VCU

MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!

**Sign up today! Call 1-800-KAP-TEST
or visit kaptest.com/practice.**

KAPLAN

TEST PREP AND
ADMISSIONS

*Test names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.

*\$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





sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Monarchs get revenge on Rams

JONATHAN HOWARD
Sports Editor

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. For VCU, its home-winning streak against Old Dominion is that good thing. Brian Henderson hit a late 3-pointer and stripped Eric Maynor (Raeford, N.C./Westover) of the ball as time expired to lead ODU to a 67-66 victory Saturday night, its first at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

The Score

ODU 67
VCU 66

The Rams beat the Monarchs 78-68 in Norfolk Jan. 19.

"I'm really happy for Brian Henderson – a senior from Richmond – to have the late game performance that he had," said Monarchs head coach Blaine Taylor.

Henderson scored 18 of his team-high 20 points in the second half, including what proved to be the game-clinching shot. After Brandon Johnson put Old Dominion ahead 64-63 with a pair of free throws with 1:03 remaining, Maynor drove into the lane and attempted a layup that would have put VCU back on top. The shot went in, but Maynor was called for charging, thus negating the basket and giving the ball back to the Monarchs. On the ensuing possession, the Monarchs held the ball until late in



Eric Maynor is stripped of the ball by Brian Henderson (right) as time expires in Saturday's loss.

Photo by Rachel Larue

MEN'S BASKETBALL continued to CT9

THIS WEEK

Men's Basketball

Wed., Feb. 20, @ Northeastern, Boston, 7 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 23, @ Akron, Akron, Ohio, 11 a.m.

Men's Track and Field

Feb. 22-23, @ Virginia Tech Invitational, Blacksburg, TBA

Men's Tennis

Wed., Feb. 20, vs. Old Dominion, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 3 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 24, @ North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C., 4 p.m.

Baseball

Feb. 22-24, @ Texas, Austin, Texas

Women's Basketball

Thu., Feb. 21, vs. Old Dominion, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 24, @ Hofstra, Hempstead, N.Y., 2 p.m.

Women's Track and Field

Feb. 22-23, @ Virginia Tech Invitational, Blacksburg, TBA

Women's Tennis

Sat., Feb. 23, vs. Richmond, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 11 a.m.

Sun., Feb. 24, vs. Georgia State, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 11 a.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.





Rams remain undefeated

FROM STAFF REPORTS

No. 23 VCU improved to 9-0 and earned its sixth shut-out victory of the season, 7-0 over Maryland (1-4) Sunday afternoon at the Thalhimer Tennis Center.

Senior Tatsiana Uvarova (Minsk, Belarus) and senior Viktoria Konstantinova (Hanskovo, Bulgaria) combined to take down Michal Amir and Lisa Miller in the third and decisive doubles match on Court 1. Senior Vera Petrashevitch (St. Petersburg, Russia) and sophomore Laura Burns (Hertford, England) teamed up to beat Adela Matejkova and Karin Lundmark in the other doubles victory.

In singles action, Burns defeated Maggie MacKeever 6-2, 6-1 on Court 4, Kateryna Yergina (Kiev, Ukraine) defeated Julia Huschke 6-2, 6-1 on Court 3 and Uvarova beat Amir 6-4, 6-1 on Court 1, giving the Rams the 4 points needed for victory.

VCU next faces cross-town rival University of Richmond Saturday and CAA-rival Georgia State Sunday. Both matches are at the Thalhimer Tennis Center at 11 a.m.

HOW THEY FINISHED

Doubles:

1. Uvarova/Konstantinova (VCU) d. Amir/Miller (MD) 8-6
2. Petrashevitch/Burns (VCU) d. Matejkova/Lundmark (MD) 8-3
3. MacKeever/Huschke (MD) d. Yergina/Malakhova (VCU) 8-4

Order of finish: 2,3,1

Singles:

1. Uvarova (VCU) d. Amir (MD) 6-4, 6-1
2. Konstantinova (VCU) d. Lundmark (MD) 6-2, 6-0
3. Yergina (VCU) d. Huschke (MD) 6-2, 6-1
4. Burns (VCU) d. MacKeever (MD) 6-2, 6-1
5. Petrashevitch (VCU) d. Miller (MD) 6-1, 6-3
6. Malakhova (VCU) d. Krutiyyenko 8-4

Order of finish: 4,3,1,2,5,6

SPORTS BRIEFS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VCU lost for the third time in five games Thursday at home against UNC Wilmington, 64-58. The Rams committed 25 turnovers that led to 26 Seahawk points and played the game's final 11:13 without junior Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake/Great Bridge), who injured herself on a defensive rebound. The team bounced back Sunday at Georgia State for a 76-43 win. The Rams jumped to a 13-3 lead over the Panthers and never looked back. Senior Krystal Vaughn (Baltimore, Md./ Lake Clifton-Eastern) scored a game-high 18 points. Freshman Jessica Taylor (Northumberland/Woodbridge) and senior Vera Chistova (St. Petersburg, Russia) scored their first points of the season. The Rams are 19-5 overall and 9-4 in the CAA.

MEN'S TENNIS

The Rams took to the court Saturday for the first time since rising to No. 20 in the nation and beat defending conference champion Georgia State 5-2. VCU swept all three doubles matches, as well as singles play on Courts 2 through 5. Thirty-third-ranked Damien Lacombe (Perigueux, France) defeated Anze Cevka, 6-0, 6-1. The win was the fourth in a row for the Rams, who are now 8-1 this season.

Advertisement

SMOKERS CAN EARN \$\$\$

If you are a smoker, 18-50 years of age,
and smoke at least 15 cigarettes per day
you may be eligible for a research study.

CALL 827-3562

Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm
for more details

This study will be conducted in McGuire Hall
on VCU's Medical Campus

Principal Investigator: Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D.



The CT Sports Editor sounds off

NBA

If the Mavericks still are able to get Jason Kidd from the Nets, look for Dallas to immediately become a front-runner for the NBA title. Dallas can't compete with the front lines of Los Angeles, Phoenix or San Antonio, but the addition of Kidd would solidify the point guard spot. Devin Harris is a great player, but Kidd is on another level. Kidd is one of the main reasons for the Nets' success in recent years and probably would have brought a title to New Jersey had the Shaq- and Kobe-led Lakers not been in their prime.

MLB

I'm tired of the issue of steroids in baseball. I'm tired of Roger Clemens and I'm tired of Jose Canseco and John Rocker coming out of the woodwork every three years. Andy Pettitte did things the right way – he admitted his steroid use, he apologized and he walked away. Clemens could learn a thing or two from his teammate. The point has been made that if Clemens just had done the same thing Pettitte had, this entire investigation would be over. I don't know if it's pride or if Clemens really thinks he didn't take anything out of the ordinary, but there are way too many

people who say Rocket took banned substances for Clemens to continue to plead innocent. My advice – just say you did it, Roger. Even if you didn't, everybody thinks you did, which makes you guilty in the public eye. Also, I don't want to know how much of the general public's tax dollars are going toward these congressional hearings. This shouldn't be an issue in Capitol Hill anyway.

AROUND CAMPUS

I try to avoid being superstitious (I'm very bad at this), but after the men's basketball team lost to Old Dominion Saturday night, I say, do away with the yellow jerseys. This is hard for me – those jerseys looked sweet (and I really like yellow) – but when the Monarchs break a streak of never winning at the Siegel Center, along with handing VCU its first conference loss at home, it's time to put those jerseys away and stick with the home white. On another note, it was good to see the Wheelchair Posse honored at halftime. Ryan and Eric were two loyal VCU basketball fans and two great representatives of Virginia Commonwealth University. The circles on the floor in their honor are a perfect touch.



JON
ATHAN
SAYS

MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

team	conference	overall	games back	streak
VCU	12–3	19–6	–	L1
George Mason	10–5	18–8	2	L1
UNC Wilmington	10–5	17–10	2	W3
William & Mary	9–6	13–12	3	L3
Old Dominion	9–6	14–13	3	W3
Northeastern	8–7	12–13	4	L1
Delaware	8–7	11–14	4	L1
Towson	6–9	10–15	6	W1
Hofstra	6–9	9–16	6	W1
James Madison	4–11	11–14	8	L3
Drexel	4–11	11–16	8	W1
Georgia State	4–11	7–18	8	W1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

team	conference	overall	games back	streak
Old Dominion	13–0	22–3	–	W16
James Madison	10–3	17–7	3	L1
VCU	9–4	19–5	4	W1
Drexel	9–4	14–10	4	W2
Towson	8–5	16–8	5	L1
UNC Wilmington	6–7	15–9	7	W4
Delaware	6–7	7–18	7	W1
William & Mary	5–8	11–14	8	L3
Georgia State	4–9	7–17	9	L1
George Mason	3–10	9–15	10	L2
Northeastern	3–10	8–15	10	W1
Hofstra	2–11	4–20	11	L5

MEN'S BASKETBALL continued from CT7

the shot clock when Henderson caught the ball in the corner, pump-faked, then hit a 3-pointer with the shot clock dwindling to put ODU up 67-63.

Senior guard Jamal Shuler (Jacksonville, N.C./Jacksonville) answered with a 3-pointer of his own with seven seconds remaining to bring the Rams within 1 point at 67-66. Maynor fouled Darius James before the inbound pass could be made, sending the Old Dominion freshman to the line for two shots. James missed both attempts, giving the Rams a shot to win the game. Larry Sanders (Fort Pierce, Fla./Port St. Lucie) rebounded the second miss and gave the ball to Maynor, who quickly dribbled up the court inside the 3-point line before being stripped of the ball by Henderson as he went up for a shot. The Siegel Center erupted in boos and yells from Rams fans and the VCU bench, both wanting a foul on the last play. VCU coach Anthony Grant declined to comment on the play.

"I haven't seen it yet; I probably need to review it before I comment on it," Grant said.

The first half was a back-and-forth battle that was eventually won by the Rams. VCU trailed



Coach Anthony Grant argues a call from the sidelines.

photo by Brett Tignor

photo by Rachel Larue



Guard Jamal Shuler attempts to put back a shot over Old Dominion's Frank Hassell.

33-29 with two minutes left in the half before Maynor buried a 3-pointer, T.J. Gwynn (Burlington, N.C./Cummings) tipped in his own miss and Shuler threw down a dunk on an alley-oop pass from Maynor to give the Rams a 36-33 lead at the break.

The battle flooded into the second half as two ties and four lead changes occurred in the first 10 minutes. VCU appeared to have taken control after a pair of Joey Rodriguez free throws capped a 10-0 run that gave the Rams a 58-51 lead. A pair of Maynor free throws with 2:10 remaining gave VCU what appeared to be a solid lead, but the Monarchs staged a 10-0 run of their own, including Henderson's clinching shot to take control.

Maynor led all scorers with 25 points and also had a game-high eight assists. Shuler scored 19 points and hit five of VCU's season-high 11 3-pointers.

Coach Grant was unhappy with his team's defensive effort in defeat.

"We've got to be able to defend better," Grant said. "We've got to find a way to get ourselves to the free throw line and rebound the basketball."

Shuler thinks the team will get past the loss and continue to improve.

"Tomorrow we'll move on from it. We're not a team that lives in the past. We're No. 1 in the conference still. We'll get a new momentum and move on," he

said.

A sellout crowd of 7,592 witnessed the Monarchs win at the Siegel Center for the first time in nine tries. The sellout was the fourth of the season, a VCU record. The game included seven ties and 13 lead changes.

By the numbers:

Old Dominion (9-6 CAA, 14-13):

Lee 13, Hassell 4, Finney 8, James 5, Henderson 20, Lidonde 0, Johnson 14, Harris 0, Carter 0, Adams 3. Totals: 26 9-20 67. 3-pointers: Henderson 2, Johnson, James, Adams.

VCU (12-3, 19-6): Pishchalnikov 4, Anderson 0, Maynor 25, Rodriguez 5, Shuler 19, Sanders 2, Fameni 2, Rozzell 3, Kearse 4, Gwynn 2, Nixon 0. Totals: 23 9-10 66. 3-pointers: Shuler 5, Maynor 4, Rodriguez, Rozzell.



BLEECKER ST.

School of Business - Snead Hall
301 West Main Street

It's Back!
NORTHERN ITALIAN BAGUETTE
Authentic...Fresh...Delicious!

\$4.99

50¢ OFF YOUR NEXT BLEECKER ST. SANDWICH OR SALAD

cut here

Virginia Commonwealth University



Start Now!

Early in the semester is the perfect time to make sure you have the skills you need to do well in your classes.

Check out the **FREE** learning support services offered by the Campus Learning Center:

- Tutoring
- Supplemental Instruction
- Foreign Language Conversation Groups

VCU University College
an equal opportunity/affirmative action university

(804) 827-8108
www.vcu.edu/uc/clc



save a tree
recycle
THE CT

Virginia Commonwealth University

VCU University College

Enhancing Your Success at VCU

Writing Assistance

Choosing a Major

Summer Reading Program

Orientation

Focused Inquiry

Tutoring

Supplemental Instruction

Help Adjusting to College

Course Schedules

FIA Workshops

The University College:
Academic Advising
Campus Learning Center
Writing Center
New Student Programs & Orientation
Core Curriculum

www.vcu.edu/uc



spectrum



TOP 10 FILMS OF 2007

SEAN COLLIN-SMITH
Contributing Writer

With the Academy Awards just weeks away, it's time to list my top 10 films of the year. Some didn't do that well during their theatrical run, but financial success isn't always an indication of quality. Case in point? "Transformers" grossed

more than \$300 million. Last year saw a record box-office performance of close to \$10 million.

The top 10

10. "Stardust"—This adult fairy tale starring Claire Danes was a welcome late-summer surprise. The film's plot

— involving flying ships, falling stars and evil witches — is pretty detailed for a special-effects-heavy movie. But director Matthew Vaughn holds it all together, and Robert De Niro's small part elevates the movie to an entirely new level. "Stardust" was a box-office disappointment but garnered favorable reviews and has done well on DVD.

9. "Grindhouse"—Directors Robert Rodriguez ("Desperado," "From Dusk Till Dawn") and Quentin Tarantino's ("Pulp Fiction," "Kill Bill Vol. 1 and Vol. 2") dream project — filming two 90-minute movies and releasing them in a back-to-back package called "Grind

TOP TEN continued to CT12

Monday, February 18, 2008

spectrum · commonwealthtimes.com · CT11



REVIEW

There will be milkshakes

RICH GRISET

Opinion Editor

Quite possibly one of the greatest cinematic events of my life, “There Will Be Blood” is an exploration of power, oil and how greed can completely overtake a person. And it is amazing.

At the risk of sacrilege, I will be bold enough to say Daniel Day-Lewis’ performance as Daniel Plainview is even better than his Bill “The Butcher” Cutting in “Gangs of New York.” Bill the Butcher is a static character throughout “Gangs of New York.” Bill is crazy, but he is consistently crazy throughout the film. With Daniel Plainview, Day-Lewis begins as an ambitious but loving single father who slowly descends into madness and greed. If Day-Lewis does not receive the Academy Award for this movie, there is no justice in the world.

Paul Dano delivers a great performance as Eli Sunday, the town’s resident crazed-evangelist preacherman. Dano should receive a medal just for being able to have acting chops that measure anywhere close to Day-Lewis’ (unlike Cameron Diaz in “Gangs of New York”). Dano might even have gotten a nomination had he not been overshadowed by Day-Lewis’ performance.

In my book, Day-Lewis officially has taken the “actor’s crown” from Robert De Niro. Whatever doubt I had officially has been erased from my mind. De Niro hasn’t starred in a decent movie since “Ronin,” and that was 10 years ago. I’m sorry, but “Meet the Fockers” just doesn’t cut it. Day-Lewis is very picky about his work (in my lifetime, he’s only been in 12 movies), and that is because of the quality of his acting. You won’t see him starring in the likes of that miserable film “Hide and Seek” anytime soon.

The soundtrack of “There Will Be Blood” is composed by Radiohead guitarist and resident noisemaker Jonny Greenwood. What Greenwood does with the string orchestra is extremely impressive; he makes a sound that is both alien and fits the period setting.

At first the score seems out of place, but about halfway through the movie (probably when Plainview strikes oil), I adjusted to the experimental nature of the score and couldn’t wait to download it to my iTunes when I got home.

“There Will Be Blood” is not a masterpiece entirely. It has a few problems, but it is definitely one of the best movies to come out in a while.

The movie is rather long, running 2 hours and 40 minutes. Normally I have trouble with long movies (I thought I would kill someone during “Mystic River”), but I honestly didn’t even notice the length of this film.

The milkshake scene is one of the funniest scenes ever in a dramatic film (comparable to the “You think I’m funny” scene in “Goodfellas”), and the ending is one of the most satisfying in cinema history.

Grade: A-

TOP TEN continued from CT11

house” – ended up bombing at the box office. Blame the marketing, because the process itself yielded a decent product. If there was any fault, it was making Rodriguez’s action-packed “Planet Terror” the first film in the one-two combo. The explosions and gunplay in “Terror” get your adrenaline pumping from the first shot, while Tarantino’s slower-moving but equally engrossing “Death Proof” takes time to get started. The last 30 minutes of “Death Proof” contain some of the most breathtaking stunts on film.

8. “28 Weeks Later”—In his list of the top movies of the year, Stephen King said “28 Weeks Later” was “scary as h—, one of the best two or three zombie movies ever.” King was spot on. This sequel to 2003’s “28 Days Later” upped the ante by increasing the population of the affected area—thereby increasing the number of potential victims. “28 Weeks Later” boasted great acting from Scottish actor Robert Carlyle as a failed husband and father; and the exceptional performances of the two main children make this a zombie flick to remember. Most horror movies attempt to make viewers fear the dark. This one flawlessly succeeds in one of the most viscerally terrifying opening scenes in recent memory.

7. “Superbad”—Juvenile-humor expert Judd Apatow (“Knocked Up,” “The 40 Year Old Virgin”) produced this teen comedy, a \$20 million flick that eventually made more than \$120 million at the box office. The plot revolves around best friends Seth and Evan as they attempt to survive 24 hours of partying, sex and crazy cops. Seth Rogen (star of “Knocked Up”), who also shares credit for the script, and Bill Hader are hilarious in their roles as cops. The audience’s response to the movie was incredible—I haven’t heard equal levels of sustained laughter in a theater since Halle Berry donned a leather suit and bombarded us with bad acting in “Catwoman.”

6. “The Bourne Ultimatum”—Matt Damon reprised his role of the amnesiac spy in the best action flick of the year. In one of the most consistently engaging film trilogies of this past decade, Bourne’s attempts to find out who he once was – and how he became what he is now – makes for some of the most imaginative action scenes in a long time. This last installment is arguably the best with amazing fight choreography and truly satisfying story closure. How a cast of such magnitude was assembled, I’ll never know. Albert Finney, Julia Stiles, Joan Allen, Scott Glen and David Strathairn all are aboard. Some found the handheld camera to be a distraction, but I found it to be a great method of echoing the sense of chaos on screen.

5. “Ratatouille”—Pixar Animation Studios went eight for eight with their release of last summer’s “Ratatouille,” a wonderful concoction of culinary facts and finely crafted characters. The magic of Pixar is in its methods. Instead of casting famous stars to voice its characters, whomever is appropriate is cast. With “Finding Nemo,” it was Ellen DeGeneres and Albert Brooks; in “Monster’s, Inc.” it was Billy Crystal and John Goodman; here, it’s Janeane Garofalo, Brad Garrett (“Everybody Loves Raymond”) and Peter O’Toole as the sinister critic Anton Ego. What Pixar is doing now is equivalent to Disney’s streak 15 years ago with its traditional 2-D animation movies. Let’s hope their dominance continues.

4. “3:10 to Yuma”—“Walk the Line” director James Mangold successfully revives the western genre with this heartfelt and action-packed remake. Russell Crowe (“Gladiator”), as the sinister but charming Ben Wade, and Christian Bale (“Batman Begins”), with his shameful limp and sense of familial duty, give classic performances.

The strength of the supporting cast is just as prominent. Peter Fonda, pushing 70, gives a gutsy performance as an elderly-but-tough bounty hunter, and Ben Foster almost steals the show as Wade’s right-hand man, Charlie Prince. The aged plot, a pretty straightforward yarn about getting a prisoner from point “A” to point “B,” still manages to incorporate some very 21st-century topics, such as torture and patriotism. And the unconventional ending only adds to the allure of “Yuma.”

3. “Lars and the Real Girl”—Judging by the box-office returns – a paltry \$6 million – almost no one saw this movie. But reviews were glowing and writer Nancy Oliver was rewarded with an Oscar nomination for her original screenplay, which concerns a man so disconnected with the world that he dates a life-sized doll. The premise sounds like something out of an Adam Sandler seminar, but Ryan Gosling (“Remember the Titans”) gives a sincere performance that points the movie toward quirky humor instead of more common toilet-themed fare. The casting is impeccable, showing the advantage of hiring talented actors who just look like ordinary people. All the laughs are earned. This is what smart dialogue is all about.

2. “No Country for Old Men”—The Coen brothers (“Raising Arizona,” “Fargo”) return from an almost decade-long drought of middling movies to adapt and direct this gritty tale of greed and vengeance. A trio of brilliant performances propel the film to greatness. Tommy Lee Jones is never flashy as an intelligent-but-aging sheriff, but he still commands respect. As an avenging “angel of death,” Javier Bardem lights up the screen with an inhumanly deep voice and spectacularly bad hair. Josh Brolin, as an ordinary man whose impulsive greed endangers his family, is tragic to watch. The carnage and sheer chaos of the drug trade in and around Mexico during the 1980s is conveyed impressively, resulting in some graphic but stunning sequences of barbaric violence.

1. “Juno”—The surprise winter hit from first-time writer Diablo Cody and gifted director Jason Reitman (“Thank You For Smoking”) is a perfect example of what happens when a good movie gets the word of mouth it deserves. Fueled by an impressively subtle performance by Ellen Page (“Hard Candy”), “Juno” is a great film all around—the writing is smart, the cast is pitch-perfect and the soundtrack is the best of the year. If all was right in Hollywood, small-budgeted movies like “Juno” would be released much more frequently.

Some argue movies like “Juno” don’t make back much money for the movie studios. But this film had a budget of \$7.5 million dollars and has made more than \$115 million to date. That’s a return ratio of 13 to 1, much higher than any blockbuster released last summer. No more excuses, studios. Put more faith in your art-house branches like Fox Searchlight, and the profits, while maybe not as steady as with films such as “Transformers,” will still come—at a much cheaper price.

Government Notice:

Student Loan Alert

PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT HAS ADOPTED THE NEW YORK ATTORNEY GENERAL'S NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DIRECT MARKETING OF STUDENT LOANS.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT GIVES STUDENTS IMPORTANT PROTECTIONS WHEN THEY SHOP FOR STUDENT LOANS DIRECTLY FROM MARKETERS AND LENDERS. HERE ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN SHOPPING FOR STUDENT LOANS:

1. Make sure to consider all of your federal loan borrowing options before turning to more expensive private loans.
2. Don't be fooled by mailings from marketers or lenders that are designed to look like they come from the federal government.
3. Don't be enticed to take out loans from marketers and lenders who offer you prizes or sweepstakes. These incentives could distract you from learning the key terms of the loans these marketers and lenders are offering.
4. Beware of "teaser" or introductory interest rates; find out the actual interest rate and whether that rate will change.
5. Make sure a lender answers the following questions before you take out a loan:
 - ✓ What will my interest rate be? Lenders often advertise their "as low as" rates, but that may not be the rate you will get.
 - ✓ Will the interest rate change? If it will change, is there a cap on the interest rate?
 - ✓ What fees must I pay when the loan is disbursed?
 - ✓ What is the Annual Percentage Rate (APR)?
 - ✓ What will my estimated monthly payment be?
 - ✓ What is the total amount I will have to repay?
 - ✓ Is there a penalty if I repay the loan early?
 - ✓ Can I defer payments when I am in school, or if I am having financial difficulties?
 - ✓ How is unpaid interest capitalized (that is, added to the principal amount of the loan) during periods when I am not paying interest?
 - ✓ What benefits or rate discounts are offered, and what conditions do I have to meet to obtain the benefits?
 - ✓ If benefits are offered based on a certain number of "on-time" payments, how is "on-time" defined?
 - ✓ What will happen if I am late with a payment?
 - ✓ Will my loan be sold to another lender?
 - ✓ If my loan is sold, will the borrower benefits and interest rate discounts be lost?

My Richmond 'Bucket List'

KEMI OWENS-HART

Associate Spectrum Editor

As winter, if we can call it that, marches on with spring nipping at its heels and midterms on the horizon, for many, the upcoming seasonal change will bring more than just blooming flowers and warmer weather.

For those who have filled out their graduation applications and are fashioning creative responses to the inevitable questions inquiring about their post-graduation plans, spring might usher in a close to the Richmond chapter of their lives.

With graduation on the horizon (I'm keeping my fingers crossed, you should, too), I've naturally become more introspective about the time I've spent in this city.

Richmond is an entity in itself, a living creature that rarely sleeps – just ask anyone who has ever lived on “Hell Block” – and is in a constant state of change. Hailing from Northern Virginia, I am no stranger to residing in a place where one can practically choke on the inundation of culturally enriching opportunities that are readily available each day. Washington, D.C. is a 10-minute drive from my parents' house and was often a “last resort” for weekend plans.

Richmond, I've found, has just as many opportunities – possibly more – and with the invaluable asset that most are within walking distance.

Only recently, upon really beginning to take advantage of the resources that Richmond provides, I realized that a veritable to-do list was starting to manifest. With the end to my, ahem, five-year journey through college

rapidly approaching, the urgency of my project was augmented. I immediately was reminded of the movie “The Bucket List,” starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. The movie, released last month, chronicles two men who escape from a cancer ward to try and do everything on their life's wish-list before succumbing to their terminal illnesses.

This is my “bucket list.” This list isn't comprehensive, nor is it solely for those whose Richmond sojourn is seeing its last days. It simply will serve as a gentle weekly reminder to all Richmonders to take advantage of the artistic riches this city has to offer and not to take for granted the time in which we have to experience them. Someone once aptly noted to a friend that was thinking of seeing “The Bucket List” that, although probably humorous and heartfelt, the movie almost certainly would end sadly, given the nature of its subject matter.

This “Richmond Bucket List” is intended to do quite the opposite, possibly ensuring that the day in

which you decide to embark finally on that next chapter, that your suitcase is full of souvenirs and your head is full of fond, vivid memories of our River City.

And now, in absolutely no order ...

See a movie at the Byrd Theatre

Since its opening in 1928, the Byrd Theatre has been one of Carytown's and Richmond's main attractions. The theater, which seats 1,400, has an admission fee of only \$1.99 for afternoon and matinee shows and usually shows a wide variety of popular and independent movies. Special events at the theater throughout the year include a live Christmas show, a ball drop on the roof on New Year's Eve and the French Film Festival in the spring. Also, check out midnight movies — “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas” was, personally, an amazing experience.

The Byrd is located at 2908 W. Cary St.

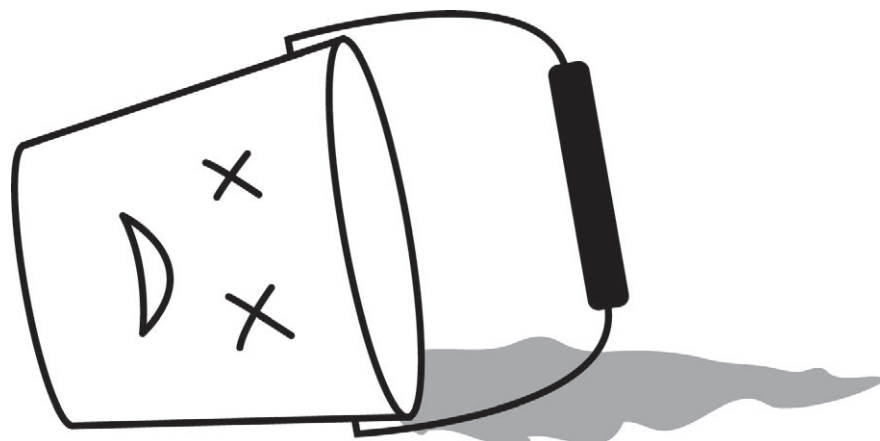
Go to a house show

Although many are unaware of it, there is a huge, underground musical faction in Richmond. A group of individuals have opened their homes to throngs of bands and strangers that come to listen to them. Boasting names like “Full Slurpee” and “Fortress of Solid Dudes,” these homes – some of which have been disbanded for one reason or another – have hosted a wide variety of genres. From screamo, to punk, to hip-hop to acoustic sets, there is something for everyone. Its underground nature, although adding to its intrigue, might prove a slight disadvantage for some. Given that loud, musical events are notoriously not a favorite of the Richmond police, shows are found on MySpace.com or by word-of-mouth. My advice? Ask around but don't miss out.

Check out the music department

VCU has a wealth of musical talent and much of it can be found at 922 Park Ave. The W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts hosts a different, free, musical event almost daily. Junior and senior recitals are common, especially in the latter part of the semester, with performances on a number of different instruments offered. VCU's internationally renowned faculty, along with ensembles such as the Symphony Orchestra, two Jazz orchestras and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, provide a chance to whet anyone's musical appetite. A daily calendar of events can be found at <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/artweb/music/index.html>.

To be continued...



Karen Sagun illustration

WEIRD NEWS

British cartoon creates controversial character

“Mr. Men,” a comedic cartoon for children has introduced a new character that might have some people talking.

“Mr. Rude,” the newest addition to the series that began in 1975, is a red triangular-shaped creature that breaks wind and speaks with a heavy French accent.

The spokesperson for Channel Five, the channel on which “Mr. Men” is airing, says that the characterization for Mr. Rude was meant to be tongue-in-cheek and inoffensive. It is hard to gauge the sentiment of the 300,000 French citizens who re-

side in Britain toward the character. The French Embassy in London has declined to comment.

Newly freed prisoners abandoned by bus driver

A Greyhound bus full of freshly paroled or released prisoners was en route to Dallas, Texas, this past week when the bus driver pulled over 60 miles from their destination.

The bus driver informed her passengers that her shift was over and another driver would be along to finish the trip. A clerk was working in a convenience store adjacent to where the bus was parked. The clerk called the police, who

describe the passenger's behavior as “exemplary.” Eventually, three drivers arrived, among them, the driver who'd left the bus in the first place.

Man mistakes bar patrons for bears

Daniel Pement was charged with six counts of misdemeanor assault after allegedly spraying patrons with bear repellent spray, twice.

On Saturday, after being escorted out of the bar, Pement allegedly returned a few minutes later and began spraying other bar attendees. After the police arrived, they confiscated the bear spray – only to be called back Sunday for the same offense. Pement had acquired another can of spray.

Say Something! We're Listening

We at Technology Services know that the services we provide are crucial to your educational life at VCU. We are always working to make sure technology is working for students, faculty and staff at VCU. That includes changing things that don't work. But we don't know what's not working unless you tell us. We can't make every change you request—sometimes there are other issues we must bear in mind. But we will consider every request.

You got a problem with something? Tell us. Just send an email to techserv@vcu.edu. Say something. We're listening.

VCU Technology Services
www.ts.vcu.edu



Asthma Study



Do you have Asthma?

Volunteers (ages 18 to 40 years old) are needed for a study about asthma and the common cold. The goal is to improve asthma care. You must have asthma and not smoke. Screening will involve 2 visits (\$40 per visit). Based on the results, those who qualify can enroll in a 7-week study with payment up to \$1250. A 4-day stay in a hotel is an important part of this study. All study-related testing, medications and the hotel stay with room services are provided at no charge.

Screening near VCU, along with reimbursement for travel costs, will be available.

For more information and questions, please call or email.

UVA Asthma and Allergic Diseases Center
434-982-3510
hts@virginia.edu
IRB-HSR #13236



www.uvahealth.com

FOR RENT

Garage at 421 North Boulevard – Spacious garage for storage space in the Fan District. Available now. \$75 month plus SD. No dogs.

209 South Boulevard – Available February 8, 2008. \$1040.00/month plus security deposit. No dogs. Fan District. Spacious, renovated two bedroom apartments. Spacious kitchen features maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances.

401 North Boulevard – Available March 7, 2008. \$890/mth plus SD. Renovated apt. across the street from the VA Museum of Fine Arts. Kitchens with new appliances including dishwasher, gas range, and frost free refrigerator. Utilities include sewer, water and trash. No dogs.

2621 Stuart Ave. – Available March 18, 2008. \$620/mth plus SD. One bedroom apartment in a secured bldg with hardwood floors and ceiling fans. Includes heat, water, sewer and trash pickup. Window unit for air conditioning. Laundry facilities on-site. No dogs allowed.

Call Campus Pierce Arrow
to schedule an appointment
1-866-455-8061

The Common Cup

**Happy 2008
from The
Common Cup!**

Pizza & Drink Special

Any pizza and 20oz. soda
combination is
\$6 plus tax with this coupon.

**7" Personal Pie
Crust & Sauce are Homemade!**

We look forward to serving you!
Thanks for your business!

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

WWW.THECOMMONCUP.COM



opinion

Feb. 18, 2008

Warm beer and cold women a love letter

Hey Baby,

I know you've been hearing a lot of things about me these days. Some even say I'm untrue. I just want you to know: You're the only one on my mind. VCU, I love you.

At this point in my life, I can't imagine myself with anyone else. You're a diverse and urban campus. If we can't find something to do together, I'm obviously not looking hard enough.

Your campus is free and inviting. You're the epitome of tolerance (except when the crazy anti-abortion people come). But even with the anti-abortion people, their opinions and way of life are acceptable to display publicly, even if they are unpopular.

It is a sign of your tolerance that the best thing to do on a Wednesday night is to go to Godfrey's, a gay club, and watch a drag show.

I have no reason to cheat on you, VCU. I hear about schools like James Madison University, where getting drunk is the only thing to do. I hear about schools like Christopher Newport University, where you can't even do that. You have enough party in your system to not be prudish, but you're random enough to keep things interesting.

You're very artistic. There's a social event on the first Friday of every month—all the art galleries open and throw parties in the streets. VCU Theatre is always putting on productions, and when it's warm out, it's hard to walk around campus without hearing a guitar or drum circle somewhere.

You offer much more than academic learning. I've learned just as much (if not more) from being around campus as I have from being in class. We're learning life lessons together, VCU.

Some say the area around you is dirty and run-down. People who say this are usually those who go to small, secluded schools that have no place in reality. I don't even mind that your sidewalks are often overrun with street people looking for a quarter. This is life and this is honest.

I have problems with your administration, but who doesn't have problems with the big dogs at whatever college in which they are enrolled? It seems anytime a college administrator is good, he or she is unceremoniously kicked out (as was the case at the College of William and Mary).

Even for all the people I disagree with and think are crazy, I love you, VCU. For all the bums and broken sidewalks, I love you, VCU.



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.

LETTER continued to CT17

Monday, February 18, 2008



LETTER continued from CT16

For making my experience at college absolutely incredible, I love you, VCU.
You're a campus of mixed races, cultures, countries and sexual orientations.
And baby, I wouldn't have you any other way.

Love,
Rich Griset
Opinion Editor
(Your Lover-boy)

P.S. – I'll bring the champagne tonight, you bring the sexy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To all VCU students: a declaration of our SGA candidacies

In a few weeks, you will exercise your power to select new Student Government Association officers. At no time during the entire year will you be in a stronger position to change the way you experience the university and the way your \$90 annual student activity fee is spent. We have formed the Students for Positive Change party in the simple belief that better student government doesn't come from above—it comes from within. It begins with each of you.

So, we not only are asking for your vote. We are, more importantly, asking for your ideas – now and in the entire year ahead – about what you want from the university. As your personal advocates, we are asking you to share your dreams about what you would like the university to become so together we can determine the best path to achieve those dreams.

Jibran Muhammad is a candidate for SGA president. As a pre-law, Honors College political-science major, he is a two-year-veteran associate justice on the SGA Judicial Board. With two year's experience as a resident assistant, Jibran is currently serving in the 2008 Virginia Capital Semester as an intern to Delegate Jim Scott.

Adam Sowder is a candidate for vice president. His experiences as a legislative activist in Virginia politics and as a writer serve him well. As SGA deputy director of political affairs, Adam is an urban-studies junior aiming to do graduate work in international studies.

Soulmaz "Solle" Taghavi is a candidate for executive director. A sophomore in international relations, she serves in the SGA cabinet as director of political affairs. She also participates in a variety of other VCU organizations and activities, including the Persian Dance Team.

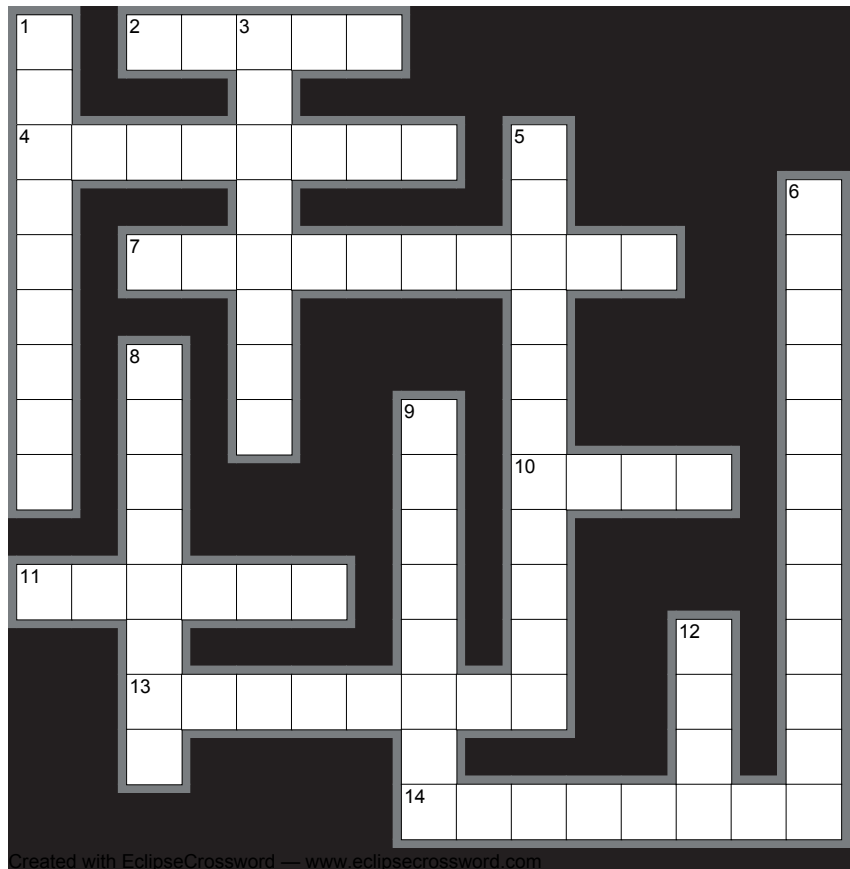
With both humility and enthusiasm, we are asking to represent you as your servant leaders to change the SGA to a more positive force on campus. The theme of our campaign is "ACTIONS COUNT@VCU!" We are optimistic about our young university, excited about its progress and amazed at the growth possibilities afforded hard-working students. The many problems facing a rapidly-growing institution represent great individual opportunities not to be found at older, well-established schools. Rather than fitting into their well-worn paths of the past, here our task is to shape new directions for the future. Like young people everywhere, our attitude is "YES WE CAN!"

Some of our major initiatives will be in the areas of, first, making the university more affordable and more user-friendly; second, increasing the focus on our athletic programs and on health maintenance; third, making the efforts of our talented musicians and artists a larger presence on campus; and fourth, creating an environment where the fraternities, sororities and residence halls play a more-active role in the social and political life on campus. Our program is detailed on our Web site, actionscount.com. In future issues of The Commonwealth Times, look for our positions on these issues and other important topics of interest. Log on. Express your ideas. Share your dreams. Join our high-energy team!

We must create the VCU of tomorrow. This is our time. We are ready!

—Students for Positive Change

Movies and quotes



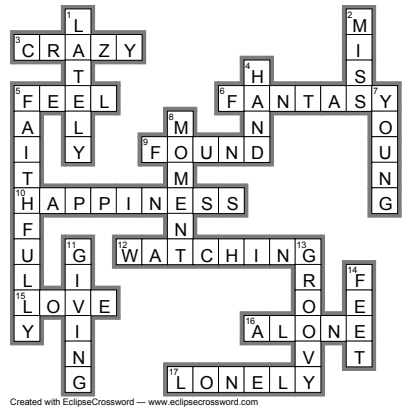
Across

- 2. "Yo, Adrian!"
- 4. "Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me. Aren't you?"
- 7. "Greed, for lack of a better word, is good."
- 10. "You're gonna need a bigger boat."
- 11. "Do you like scary movies?"
- 13. "I am serious. And don't call me Shirley."
- 14. "You're so money and you don't even know it."

tasted."

- 3. "As if!"
- 5. "I'm the ghost with the most, babe."
- 6. "I've been slimed!"
- 8. "I'm here to fight for truth, justice and the American way."
- 9. "Do, or do not. There is no try."
- 12. "That'll do, pig. That'll do."

Answers to Feb. 14 edition



Down

- 1. "Tomorrow will be the most beautiful day of Raymond K. Hessel's life. His breakfast will taste better than any meal you and I have ever

classifieds&comics

JOB

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.

Now Hiring Waitresses come work in the #1 tip industry in the world no experience necessary apply in person at the Paper Moon 3300 Norfolk St

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

JOB

SUMMER JOBS NO EVE/WEEKENDS 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

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

FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT

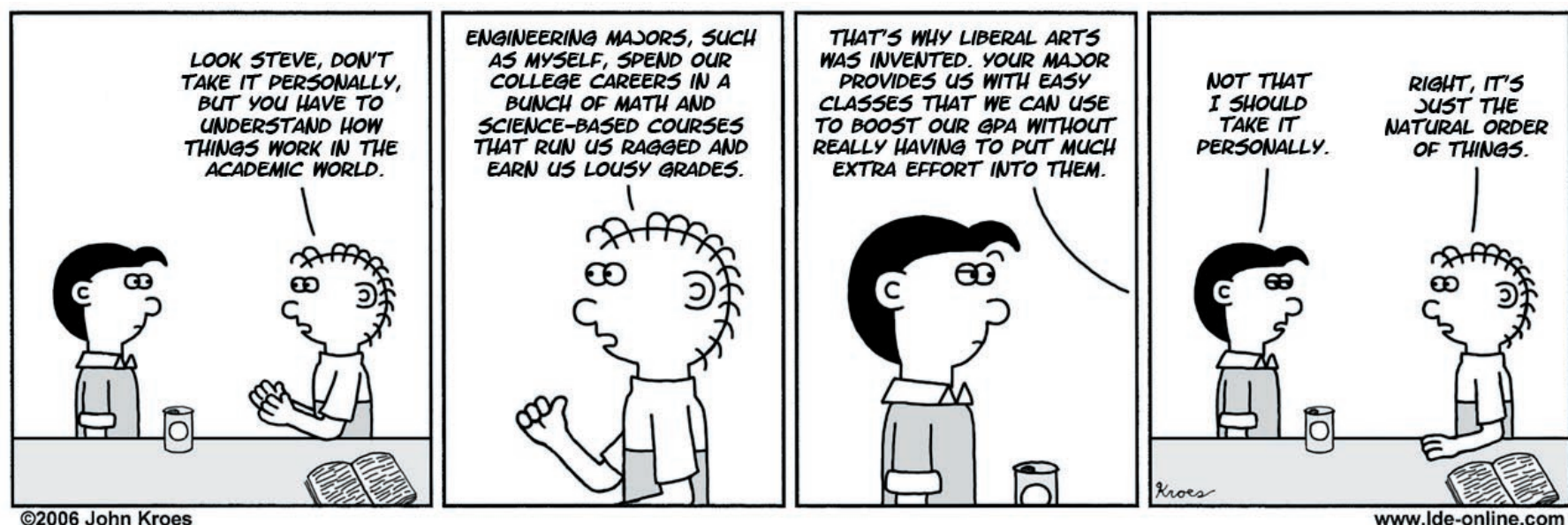
Church Hill-month to month 2 br, 1.5 bath, gourmet kitchen and more \$475 per br with all util. references required no pets. call 804-783-2272

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.

Last-Ditch Effort

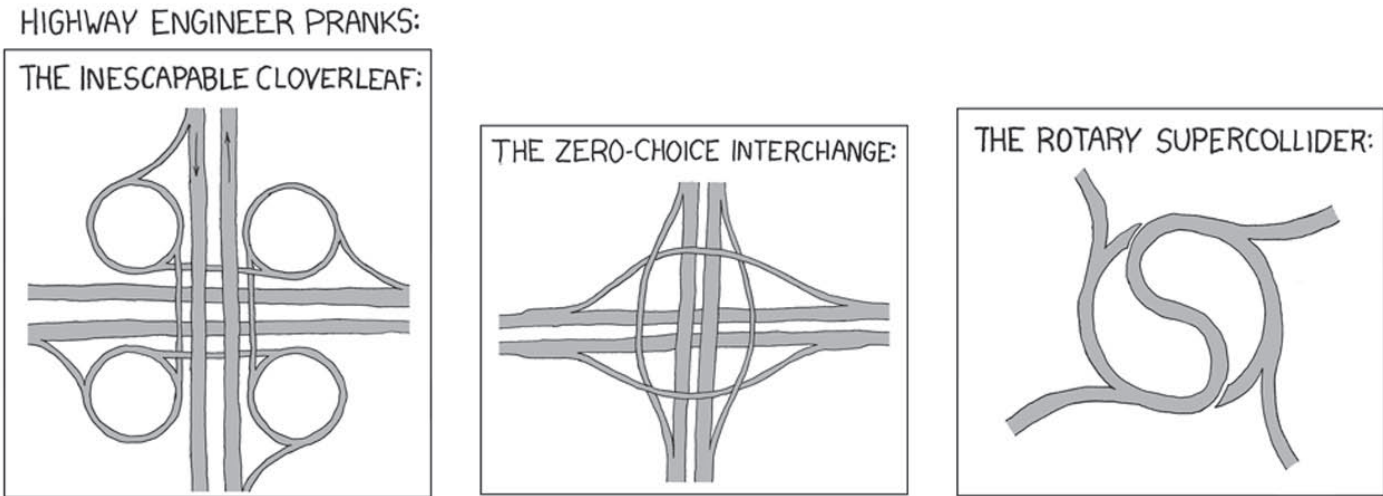
John Kroes



www.commonwealthtimes.com

xkcd

Jall Munroe



Clockstoppers

Cobb Dixon



Pizza From Scratch

Bill Lemmond





NOW
as low as

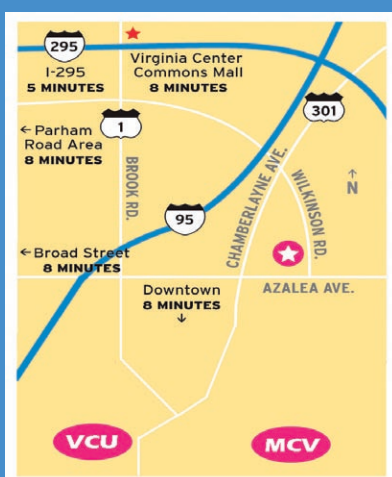
\$535 ~~\$643~~ for **1 bedroom** **\$607** ~~\$729~~ for **2 bedrooms**

Special price includes:

Up to 2 months FREE RENT plus FREE parking and FREE gas heat.

Free rent is prorated over a 12-month lease. Furnished apartments are available.

Ask about our Deluxe Package, which includes furniture and all utilities.



- 8 Minutes to downtown
- Express shuttle to campus available
- Two swimming pools
- Fitness center, tennis courts, volleyball
- GRTC bus stops in the community

- Spacious apartments with patio/balcony
- Separate dining areas, large vanity baths
- Mini-blinds, fully carpeted
- Laundry facilities open 24/7
- Pets welcome

PRE-LEASING FOR SUMMER AND FALL - RESERVE NOW FOR THE BEST DEAL!

COLONIAL

321-4840

colonial@gscapt.com

TREEHOUSE

321-3509

treehouse@gscapt.com

www.gscapt.com

Free locator service - 329-6666

1-800-368-7669, E-mail: valocator@gscapt.com

© GSC 2008 Limited availability. Subject to rent changes and normal leasing policies.

