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

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briefs



Local and VCU

VCU receives grant for minority disability research

The VCU School of Allied Health Professions has received a five-year National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research grant of \$1.8 million.

The grant will be used to identify and evaluate current practices and methods in the conduct of minority disability research and to begin to increase capacity in this area.

The project will involve a national survey examining the experiences of Americans with disabilities from underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups, and what research methods, practices and strategies are needed to advance the field in culturally competent research.

Brief by VCU News Center

Third-party voter-registration drives investigated

The State Board of Elections is investigating third-party voter drives after election officials across Virginia have raised concerns that such groups may have failed to deliver registration forms to the board.

Board officials said in a release Friday that potential voters may have lost the chance to cast their ballots on Tuesday because their registrations weren't turned in on time.

They're asking Virginia residents who registered in third-party drives but were turned away at the polls to send copies of their registration receipts to the Richmond headquarters and to safeguard the original receipts.

Brief by The Associated Press

6 states to cooperate on improving I-81 corridor

Virginia, West Virginia and four other states have agreed to cooperate in planning for rail and highway improvements along the Interstate 81 corridor.

The Virginia Department of Transportation announced Friday that Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York signed a memorandum of understanding to work together. The goal is to establish a seamless freight and passenger network along I-81 and its extensions.

All six states are members of the Interstate

81 Regional Commerce Corridor.

The agreement calls for the states to share and coordinate I-81 freight truck and rail study planning. They also will consider a joint work plan to identify long-term funding needs.

Brief by The Associated Press

Va. man sentenced to life for fire death

A man convicted of killing his former girlfriend by setting her on fire in Richmond has been sentenced to life in prison.

Richmond Circuit Judge Walter W. Stout III sentenced 41-year-old Stacey Carter for the crime Thursday. Carter had entered a plea that, while not admitting guilt, acknowledged prosecutors had enough evidence to convict him.

Authorities say Carter doused 33-year-old Angela Squire with gasoline and set her on fire on New Year's Eve after she broke up with him. Squire, a nurse and mother of four, suffered third-degree burns and died nine days after the attack.

Brief by The Associated Press

National and International

Monks brawl at Christian holy site in Jerusalem

Israeli police rushed into one of Christianity's holiest churches Sunday and arrested two clergymen after an argument between monks erupted into a brawl next to the possible site of Jesus' tomb.

The clash between Armenian and Greek Orthodox monks broke out in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which they revere as the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

The brawling began during a procession of Armenian clergymen commemorating the 4th-century discovery of the cross believed to have been used to crucify Jesus.

The Greeks objected to the march without one of their monks present, fearing that otherwise, the procession would subvert their own claim to the Edicule — the ancient structure built on what is believed to be the tomb of Jesus — and give the Armenians a claim to the site.

The Armenians refused, and when they tried to march the Greek Orthodox monks blocked their way, sparking the brawl.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police were forced to intervene after fighting was reported. They arrested two monks, one from each side, he said.

A bearded Armenian monk in a red-and-pink robe and a black-clad Greek Orthodox monk with a bloody gash on his forehead were both taken away in handcuffs after scuffling with dozens of riot police.

Brief by The Associated Press

Gay marriage supporters march in SoCal

As many as 10,000 people took to the streets in San Diego and similar numbers marched in Los Angeles Saturday to protest passage of a California anti-gay marriage ballot initiative, authorities said.

Demonstrators began marching through central San Diego at noon, according to police Sgt. Diane Wendell. The event lasted about 90 minutes and was peaceful, with no arrests.

The march in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles began at Saturday evening and lasted about four hours, said police Sgt. Jake Bushy. No incidents were reported as demonstrators marched down Sunset Boulevard carrying signs and waving banners.

The demonstrations were the largest of several marches that followed Tuesday's passage of Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages and

overturning the state Supreme Court decision that legalized such unions in May.

Brief by The Associated Press

Craigslist to crack down on prostitution ads

Under the watchful eye of law enforcement in 40 states, Craigslist pledged Thursday to crack down on ads for prostitution on its Web sites.

As part of Craigslist's agreement with attorneys general around the country, anyone who posts an "erotic services" ad will be required to provide a working phone number and pay a fee with a valid credit card. The Web site will provide that information to law enforcement if subpoenaed.

Craigslist filed lawsuits this week against 14 software and Internet companies that help people who post erotic service ads to circumvent the Web site's defenses against inappropriate content and illegal activity.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who brokered the agreement, said his office contacted Craigslist after receiving several complaints from users late in 2007 about photographs depicting nudity on the site.

Brief by The Associated Press

Natalie Allen cover photos

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The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you think we have made an error, please call Executive Editor Matt Doyon at 828-1058 or e-mail him at editor@commonwealthtimes.com. Corrections will appear on the Opinion page.

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news

“It looked like a pit of humans that just got pinned by a porch that just fell down. It was pretty nasty.”

— Sebastian Barrientos

Cary Street balcony collapses during party

ANNAYATES

News Co-Editor



The aftermath of a balcony collapse that injured approximately 20 people Friday.

Natalie Allen photo

Monday, November 10, 2008

A crowded second story balcony collapsed around midnight during a party Friday on the 1300 block of West Cary Street. About 20 people were taken to the hospital with broken bones and other injuries.

Lexi Fletcher, a criminal justice major, used to live in the apartment where the accident happened. She says she and her roommate had complained many times to their landlord about the balcony. Fletcher says nothing was ever done to fix the problem.

“The stairs were wobbly and the railing at the bottom was completely loose and wobbling,” Fletcher said.

Fletcher also went to the party Friday night and left about five minutes before the collapse. She said she and her friends left to go to a different party, but she could tell the balcony was not safe.

Fletcher says most people at the party were on the balcony.

“The whole thing was happening on the balcony,” Fletcher said. “The stairs were loose and people kept coming up. I didn’t think it would literally happen, but I was like, ‘It’s going to collapse.’ ”

Fletcher said after they left the party, one of her friends got a phone call when they were a few blocks away. That’s when they found out the balcony had fallen.

“It’s crazy to think I could have been on that balcony and everyone would have been falling around me,” Fletcher said.

Accounting major Sebastian Barrientos arrived at the party a few minutes before the accident and saw the balcony fall.

“It looked like a pit of humans that just got pinned by a porch that just fell down,” Barrientos said. “It was pretty nasty.”

He said the sound of the balcony falling was loud, but hard to describe.

“I’ve never heard that sound before,” Barrientos said.

Police began showing up, according to Barrientos, within 10 minutes of the collapse.

A Richmond Police Department spokeswoman said both the police and fire departments showed up to attend to the injured, who she said, had minor injuries.

“There were about 20 people who were injured and the most serious was an ankle fracture,” she said.

However, communication arts major Matthew Blissard – who showed up shortly after the balcony collapsed – said a friend of his was on the balcony when it collapsed and that her injuries were substantial.

“(She) was at the hospital with a broken face, three broken ribs and a fractured wrist,” Blissard said.

When he arrived, Blissard says many people were still in shock about the incident.

“Some people were crying, some people were fighting, some were just standing there not knowing what to do,” Blissard said. “It was pretty weird because that’s something you don’t expect.”

News Co-Editor Catherine MacDonald and Contributing Writer Jay Scarborough contributed to this report.

news · commonwealthtimes.com · CT3





Green Unity cleans up 'Hell Block'

NATALIE ALLEN

Photography Editor

Green Unity, an organization focusing on making VCU and the Richmond community more environmentally conscious, held its second clean up of the area known as "Hell Block" Sunday.

The 1100 block of West Grace Street got its reputation because it is host to many college students and is known as a central party spot in Richmond.

"Hell Block is like party central around campus and there is not a lot of landlord support for this area," said Green Unity President Brantley Tyndall, an environmental science major. "It's so close to campus and so close to other cultural centers of Richmond that I think it should be appreciated and taken care of."

The sidewalks are constantly filled with trash because of all the parties.

"There are no trash cans (on Hell Block) and people just don't give a crap," said Andrew Alli, a member of Green Unity and an environmental studies major. "If there was a recycling plan here, it would probably help a lot, but it's people partying a lot and they don't care when they're drunk."

Green Unity member Scott Miller agreed with Alli.

"It's young people partying that are drunk (and apartments that) are low rent and low quality," Miller said.

Green Unity is trying to adopt Hell Block, which entails cleaning it up a minimum of four times a year.

"We have to do (cleanups) at least twice a semester," Tyndall said. "This place gets dirty really fast."

Not all the trash Green Unity's members pick up is typical.

"We found 40s full of urine, a rotting couch, a crate of rotting eggs, a car



Members of Green Unity clean up "Hell Block."

Natalie Allen photo

stereo," Tyndall said. "We found broken televisions, lots of interesting things."

Tyndall is working on a way to communicate with students about how to party without harming the environment.

"We are kind of toying with the idea of how to party green, as in which kind of containers to buy your alcohol in and what to do with them afterwards,"

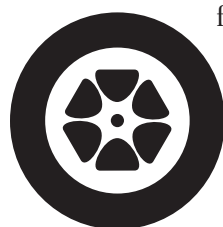
Tyndall said. "Since we know that this is a party-prone area, after we adopt the street we are going to put some Green Unity recycling bins out for people."

Tyndall says awareness is important to the organization.

"We are trying to reach out into the community," Tyndall said. "We want students to pay attention to the environment and their actions."

Students respond to Obama's environmental, energy plans

- One reversal is in regard to the Bush administration's decision in December to deny California the authority to set regulations on carbon dioxide emissions from automobiles.



The regulations would essentially require cars to have a fuel economy standard of at least 36 miles per gallon within eight years. Seventeen other states have shown support for the plan and intended to follow it.

"I think if every state does it, it definitely will have some sort of impact. It's got to be a group effort," said Mike Butler, an alumnus with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry, currently taking classes as a non-degree seeking student.

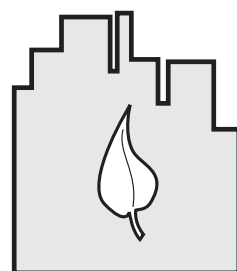
JAY SCARBOROUGH

Contributing Writer

Although he will not take office until Jan. 20, President-elect Barack Obama is already positioning himself to make significant changes in environmental policy. Many of his proposed changes are direct reversals of the Bush administration's policies.

Here are four aspects of Obama's energy plan and what some students think about them:

- Obama also aims to make energy conservation a top priority within his administration. The federal government is included in this proposal; all new federal buildings will be 40 percent more efficient within five years.
- The creation of an energy-based youth jobs program has been proposed by Obama. This program will focus on giving participants the opportunity to improve energy conservation within their communities, while also providing work experience in a rapidly expanding field.



"I think that improving stuff like that is a good idea, but I don't think it will be as easily done as said," said Kristi Totoritis, a craft/material studies major.

"That sounds like a good thing. That's creating skilled labor. It's kind of like back to LBJ and the Great Society, not giving hand outs ... giving jobs," said Margo Perretz, an interdisciplinary studies major.



- Another proposal by Obama is the implementation of a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions. Under this system, a national cap on carbon emissions would be established and the emissions allowed would be divided into individual allowances and sold to companies.

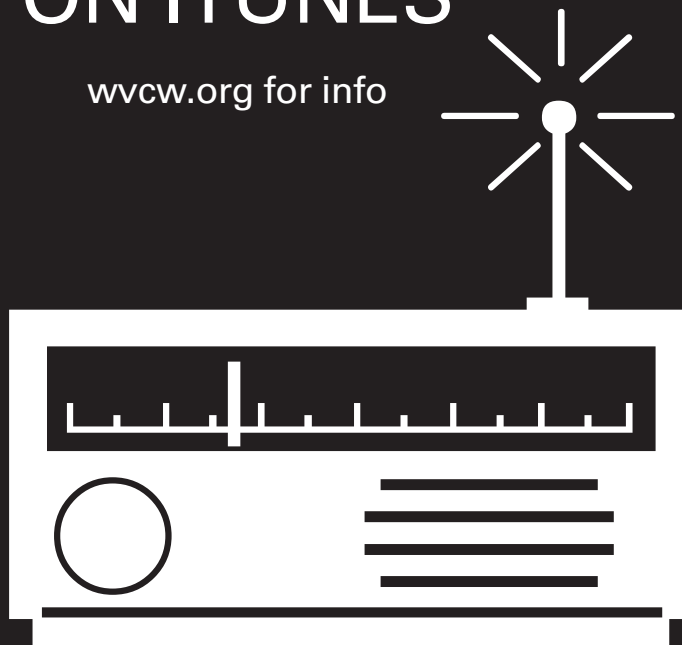
Some of the revenue generated by the selling of emissions allowances would be invested in the development of clean energy sources as well as improvements in energy efficiency. The number of allowances for emissions would be reduced each year to meet annual reduction targets.

"I think that the potential problem there is that you're kind of creating a conflict of interest ... Now you're basically giving an incentive for people to pollute. Doesn't it seem like the government would kind of want you to pollute in order to sell that privilege?" said Graham Pickren, an alumnus with a sociology degree.

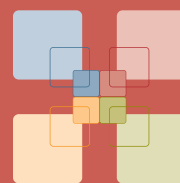


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V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

Law to strengthen penalties for illegal file downloads



ERIC BLACKSTOCK
Contributing Writer

An anti-piracy bill signed into law this past month has members of the VCU community questioning the legality of music downloading and the need to regulate Internet piracy.

The PRO-IP Act, which was signed into law by President Bush Oct. 13, increases penalties for movie and music piracy at the federal level and strengthens criminal laws against piracy and counterfeiting.

The law also creates the position of an intellectual property czar who reports directly to the president with suggestions for improvement of both domestic and international copyrights.

Mike Garrett, general manager of WVCW, the student-run radio station at VCU, says the music industry should

look at alternative ways to combat piracy rather than introducing stricter laws.

"(The music industry is) entrenched in doing things the old way and I have yet to see any major label try to do things differently," Garrett said.

Garrett says the industry needs to utilize the Internet more and investigate non-traditional forms for generating revenue.

"The album has to be a promotional tool for the artist, so they need to look into finding the cheapest way to distribute the music," Garrett said. "CDs are out; vinyl is coming back in."

Chris Gorman, a business major, says he finds the law unnecessary and thinks file sharing and downloading pirated music shouldn't be an illegal practice.

"I think even though the artists are technically receiving less money, they should enjoy the fact that it makes them vastly more popular and opens up their material to a greater mass," Gorman said.

VCU Technology Services states on its Web site that the university agrees with court rulings that downloading copyrighted works without permission is illegal.

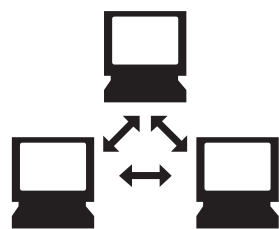
"The courts have ruled that Peer-to-Peer and other unauthorized uploading and downloading of sound recordings, pictures, software or written text inherently amount to copyright infringement and therefore constitute a crime. The punishment for this crime can be very stiff," the Web site states.

The Web site cites examples of when use of copyrighted media is legal and when it is illegal. For example, making copies of music and distributing them to others is a violation of copyright law, while transferring a legally purchased CD to a computer hard drive for personal use is legal.

Downloading illegal files onto a university-owned computer or using university network resources to do so is a violation of VCU's Computer and Network Resources Use Policy.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, counterfeiting and piracy cost the United States approximately \$250 billion annually.

Examples of acceptable use of copyrighted material and copyright violations are available on the VCU Technology Services website at <http://www.ts.vcu.edu/security/student.html>.



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sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rams drop Union with second-half surge

MATT DOYON
Executive Editor

Senior Eric Maynor (Raeford, N.C./Westover) posted a game-high 25 points for VCU, and the rest fell into place as the Rams won their exhibition opener, 91-63, Friday against the visiting Virginia Union Panthers.

VCU set the tone early with outside shooting. Maynor followed up a missed 3-pointer by Brandon Rozzell (Richmond/Highland Springs) on the same possession with a 3-pointer of his own for the game's first score. The Rams then missed their next seven 3-point attempts. They finished the game making nine of their last 19 3-pointers.

The biggest hurdle for the Rams in last season's exhibition schedule was acclimating eight new players to the team. This year, there are only three freshmen.

"The freshmen we have this year have done a great job adjusting," said VCU Head Coach Anthony Grant.

Freshmen Bradford Burgess (Midlothian/Benedictine) and Terrance Saintill (North Miami, Fla./Monsignor Place) didn't start the game, but entered in the first wave of substitutions. They immediately made their presence felt. Burgess reached into Branden McDonald's passing lane and pushed the ball upcourt to Saintill, who converted a layup and evened the score at 10.

"The coaches always tell me to just affect the team," Burgess said.

Virginia Union was able to match the runs of VCU and held a brief lead early, but never extended it to more than three points. The Rams outscored



Eric Maynor looks upcourt to start a fast break.

Natalie Allen photo

the Panthers 18-12 in the paint in the first half, but much of that came from perimeter players penetrating for layups.

"In the first half, our big guys didn't do a good job of making themselves available," Grant said.

The Rams' offense opened up after halftime and led to more second-chance points. VCU outscored Virginia Union 53-21 in the half and opened up its largest lead of 31 three times in the last five minutes. The Rams tallied 24 turnovers and turned the ball over just 12 times.

"In the second half, VCU showed they were the bigger, better team," said Virginia Union Head Coach Willard Coker. "They dominated us."

Five Rams were unavailable against the Panthers. According to Grant, T.J. Gwynn (Burlington, N.C./Cummings) strained his back during practice Thursday, Lance Kearse (Fort Myers, Fla./Fort Myers)

has not yet been medically cleared to play and Myk Brown (Gainesville, Fla./P.K. Yonge) was in Florida, but is expected to return this week. Franck Ndongo (Yaounde, Cameroon/Montverde Academy) and Jay Gavin (Seat Pleasant, Md./Bishop McNamara) are out for the season because of a knee injury and transfer eligibility, respectively.

Despite the absences, the Rams had some experience to rely on.

"They have great depth," Coker said. "They keep fresh people there on you."

The Downtown Showdown was the third consecutive win for VCU over nearby Virginia Union.

"It's a game that helps us and it helps them," Grant said. "It's good for the city."

VCU will host Virginia State on Wednesday before opening the regular season Sunday against The Citadel.

THE SCORE
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VCU 91
VUU 63

This week

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wed., Nov. 12, vs. Virginia State (Exhibition), Siegel Center, 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 16, vs. The Citadel (Cancun Challenge), Siegel Center, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Fri., Nov. 14, @ Liberty (Preseason WNIT), Lynchburg, 7 p.m.

Nov. 16-20, TBA (2 WNIT games)

VOLLEYBALL

Fri., Nov. 14, @ Hofstra, Hempstead, N.Y., 7 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 16, @ Northeastern, Boston, 1 p.m.

Rams blow out Panthers

JEROME FOSTER
Associate Sports Editor

Juniors La'Tavia Rorie (Charlotte, N.C./Harding University H.S.) and D'Andra Moss (Atlanta/Norcross) each scored 19 points in a 93-48 victory over Virginia Union this past Friday night.

Even though the Rams scored 93 points, it was defense and rebounding that were the key to victory. The Rams defense forced the Panthers into committing 25 turnovers. Most of the turnovers were caused by the Rams jumping into passing lanes and coming up with 13 steals. The rest were caused by man-to-man defense and forcing the Panthers into traveling viola-

tions and offensive fouls. VCU's defense held Union to 25.8 percent (16-62) from the field. The Rams also came up with eight blocks. VCU dominated the glass, grabbing 23 more rebounds than the Panthers.

The Rams jumped on the Panthers quickly in the first half. VCU started the game on a 9-0 run sparked by the defense, which held the Panthers scoreless for the first four minutes. With about 17 minutes left in the first half, Rorie intercepted a Union pass and made a layup at the other end. After the Rorie layup, Union called a timeout to slow the VCU run. After the timeout, the Panthers were finally able to score on a layup off of a VCU turnover.

After Union scored, VCU got back to playing good

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

defense. The Rams forced the Panthers into taking bad shots which the Rams were able to convert into points.

With about 12 minutes to go, Union's Tanzania Bridgett missed a wild jumper. Rorie got the rebound and hit Moss streaking down court for the layup to give VCU a 15-4 lead.

With about nine minutes left in the half, senior Quanitra Hollingsworth (Chesapeake/Great Bridge) made a steal which led to another Rorie layup. On Union's next possession, the Panthers missed a 3-pointer, senior Radoslava Bachvarova (Varna, Bulgaria/Daytona Beach C.C.) got the rebound and hit Rorie with an outlet pass for another layup, giving VCU a 23-8 lead and forcing the Panthers to take another timeout.

About five minutes later, a Chelsea Snyder (Greendell, N.J./Newton) block down low led to a Bachvarova 3-pointer in the corner, capping an 8-0 VCU run. VCU went into halftime with a 43-21 lead.

The second half was a mirror image of the first half. The Rams' defense and ability to rebound held the Panthers in check. The defense held the Panthers scoreless for a five-minute stretch in the second half. During that stretch, VCU scored 19 unanswered points en route to a 93-48 win.

VCU Head Coach Beth Cunningham liked what she saw on the floor.

"I was pleased with the game. I was happy with the depth and the versatility that we showed," she said.

She also credited practice for the way the Rams played defense.

"We spent a lot of time playing tough man-to-man defense. We expect it to show up every night," Cunningham said.

THE SCORE
.....
VCU 93
VUU 48



Jennifer Lane goes up for a layup as Rhonda Watts (32) looks on.

Natalie Allen photos



Jessica Taylor brings the ball up the floor.

Monday, November 10, 2008

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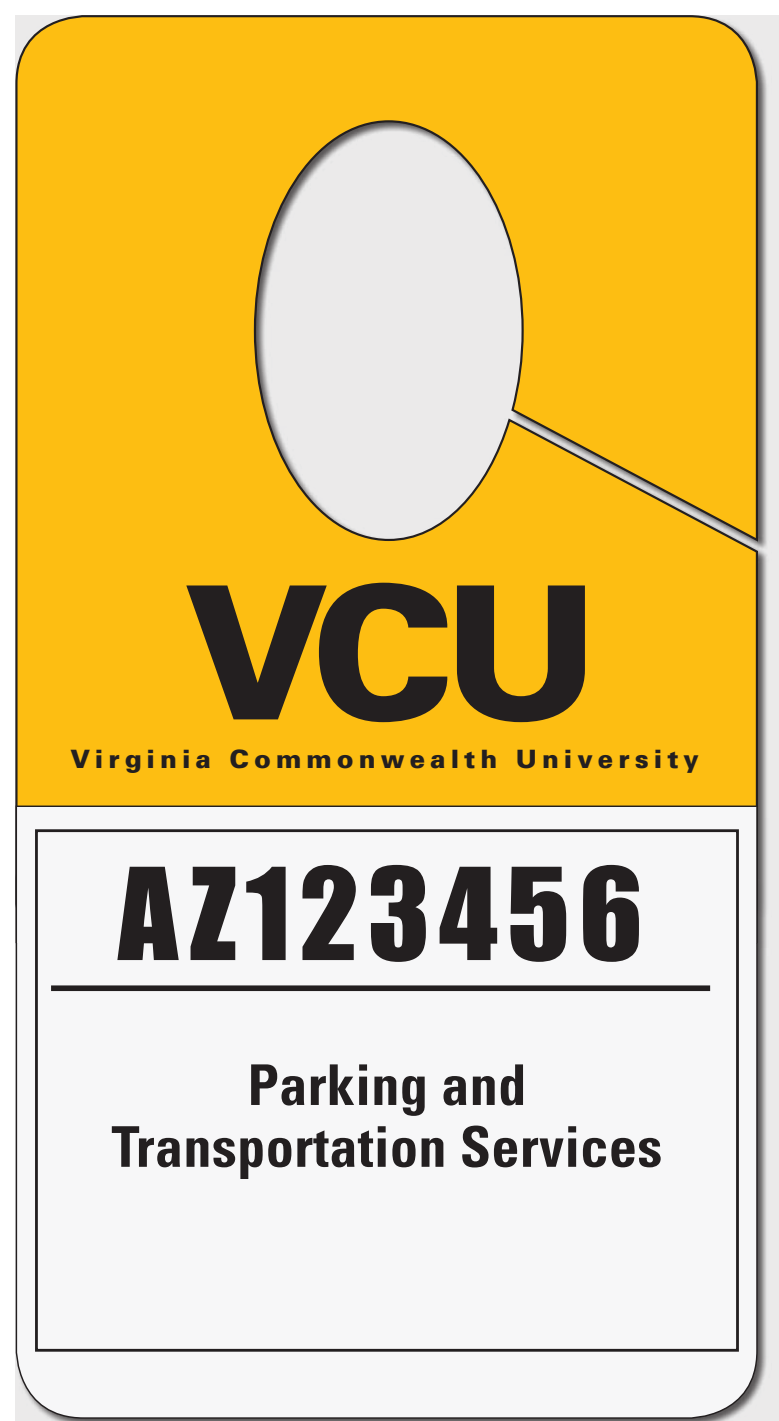
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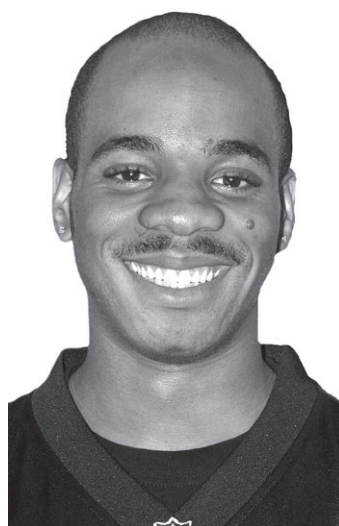


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JEROME FOSTER
Associate Sports Editor

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

I would like to send my sincere apologies to Joe Paterno and his Penn State Nittany Lions because I must have jinxed them. People who read my commentary know that I put the Nittany Lions in the championship game a couple of weeks ago because of their "easy" schedule. Well, it turns out their schedule wasn't so easy after all. Penn State lost to Iowa 24-23 this past Saturday. The loss destroyed any hopes of Penn State getting to the title game. The Nittany Lions were going to have a hard time getting to the title game. Even if they went undefeated, they were still in danger of being jumped by a one-loss Big 12 or SEC team. With the perceived weakness of the Big Ten, Penn State will fall too far back in the rankings to make another run at the title game. I would like to think that the Rose Bowl will be a nice consolation prize for JoePa and the Nittany Lions, but

I don't think they will feel so good after they suffer a blowout loss to Southern Cal in Pasadena.

NFL

Only the Raiders could sign a guy to a seven-year, \$72 million contract and cut him eight games into the season. The DeAngelo Hall fiasco is just a microcosm of the problems in Oakland. Bad management is killing the Raiders. You can say what you want about the players; in the NFL you will not win if you have incompetent management. I know that Al Davis wants to keep control of the team, but if he ever wants to see the Raiders have another good season, he needs to relinquish control to someone else. Davis just simply can't get the job anymore and the Hall situation is proof of it. There were several problems with the Hall contract:

1. Davis traded away a second and fifth-round draft pick to the Atlanta Falcons to acquire Hall.

2. The Raiders already had a cornerback that is ten times better than Hall that they refused to give a long term contract to. Nnamdi Asomugha is known as one of the best corners in the game. Everyone in the NFL would agree Asomugha is better than Hall but Davis thought it would be better to give that money to Hall instead.
3. Hall is overrated. There was a reason the Falcons were willing to part with Hall. With an increasing number of teams in the league going to three-wide receiver sets, you can never have enough defensive backs on your team. Would the Falcons trade Hall, a former first-round pick, if they thought he was that good? Probably not.

At least, someone in the Raiders organization saw what they should have seen before they made this deal. I just wish they would have seen it before they paid Hall \$8 million for eight games. A million dollars per game, that would make even A-Rod jealous.

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spectrum



WEEKLY ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Stephanie Power photo

Bugs Raleigh member Andrew Parkinson performed Friday night at Nara Sushi's monthly hip-hop showcase.

Friends embrace life, freedom, hip-hop

VERONICA GARABELLI
Associate Spectrum Editor

Amidst a cloud of smoke and beer-wielding hip-hoppers, Bugs Raleigh, a hip-hop group from Alexandria, stood on the porch of Nara Sushi waiting to perform for a packed house on Friday night.

Earlier in the day, Andrew "Lou Tully" Parkinson, a member of Bugs Raleigh, could not have hoped for a better turnout – a crowd of more than 120 – as he spoke about the group's history and future.

Bugs Raleigh member Zach Brown met Parkinson when Brown was 12. Three years later, he introduced Parkinson to his skater friend Marco "Chungo" Murillo.

When Parkinson was 15, he began to write rhymes, and the fol-

lowing year began to make beats and produce. It was not until their junior year at T.C. Williams High School that they started collaborating.

"We started messing around—recording in my bathroom with a stage mic," Parkinson said. "We kept working on songs and just started doing shows this year."

Upon returning to VCU for a second time after a break in December 2006, Parkinson started concentrating vigorously on Bugs Raleigh. This time around, Parkinson said he took school more seriously, as well as the group.

Bugs Raleigh started working together again this summer while Brown finished a six-month jail term, he told Murillo and Parkinson of his wishes for the group to perform upon his release.

"One of the things he told us was 'You have to get your (expletive)

together so I can have something to look forward to when I come home," Murillo said.

"The last couple years we're all just like, 'Why don't we just start working on this thing?'" Parkinson said. "We're all chillin' anyway. We might as well be faithful to the music we know we want to do."

Murillo agreed it was time for Bugs Raleigh to move forward.

"It felt like we've been doing songs forever," Murillo said. "To not perform in front of a live audience is not productive."

Parkinson said his music must be original and not follow current trends like hipster hop.

"You have to find a way to kind of stand out," Parkinson said. "I don't want to be generic, but want to make popular songs everyone can

RAP continues to CT14

Missed Halloween? Round Two! Cosplay!

REED S. ALBERS
Contributing Writer

As a fashion buff would say, "One day you're in, the next day you're out."

Shelby Day knows this as she steps onto a floor surrounded by thousands of people looking at her outfit, snapping photos as she walks by.

Only, her floor isn't a New York runway. Instead, it's a convention center in Hampton Roads, and her outfit is a costume of Nia, a character from the Japanese anime series "Tenga Toppa Gurren Lagann."

Day, a fashion design major, is just one of many young Americans who have embraced the Japanese cosplay culture.

"It's dressing up as your favorite character from movies, books, video games, anything," she says.

This sub-culture spawned from Japanese animation – commonly referred to as anime – and video games.

The name cosplay is short for costume play. The trend started in Japan when fans of anime movies and video games attended conventions dressed as their favorite characters.

As the popularity of anime, video games and Japanese culture rose with American youth, cosplay became a part of the American convention scene.



Shelby Day's alter ego, 'Nia' frequents cosplay conventions.

Alex Reynolds
photo

Virginia hosted two conventions in October, which Day attended to show off her latest labors.

The costumes worn by the cosplayers require months of work and can be expensive.

Day's most recent costume, a replica of Dante, the main character from the popular "Devil May Cry" video game series, took months to complete.

"It was the costume from hell," she said.

The reason the costumes take so much time, she says, is the attention to detail that is required to impress those at conventions.

"People might dress up in something they may look bad in," she said. "(People) judge you on how well it's made, how innovative it is and how much you look like the character."

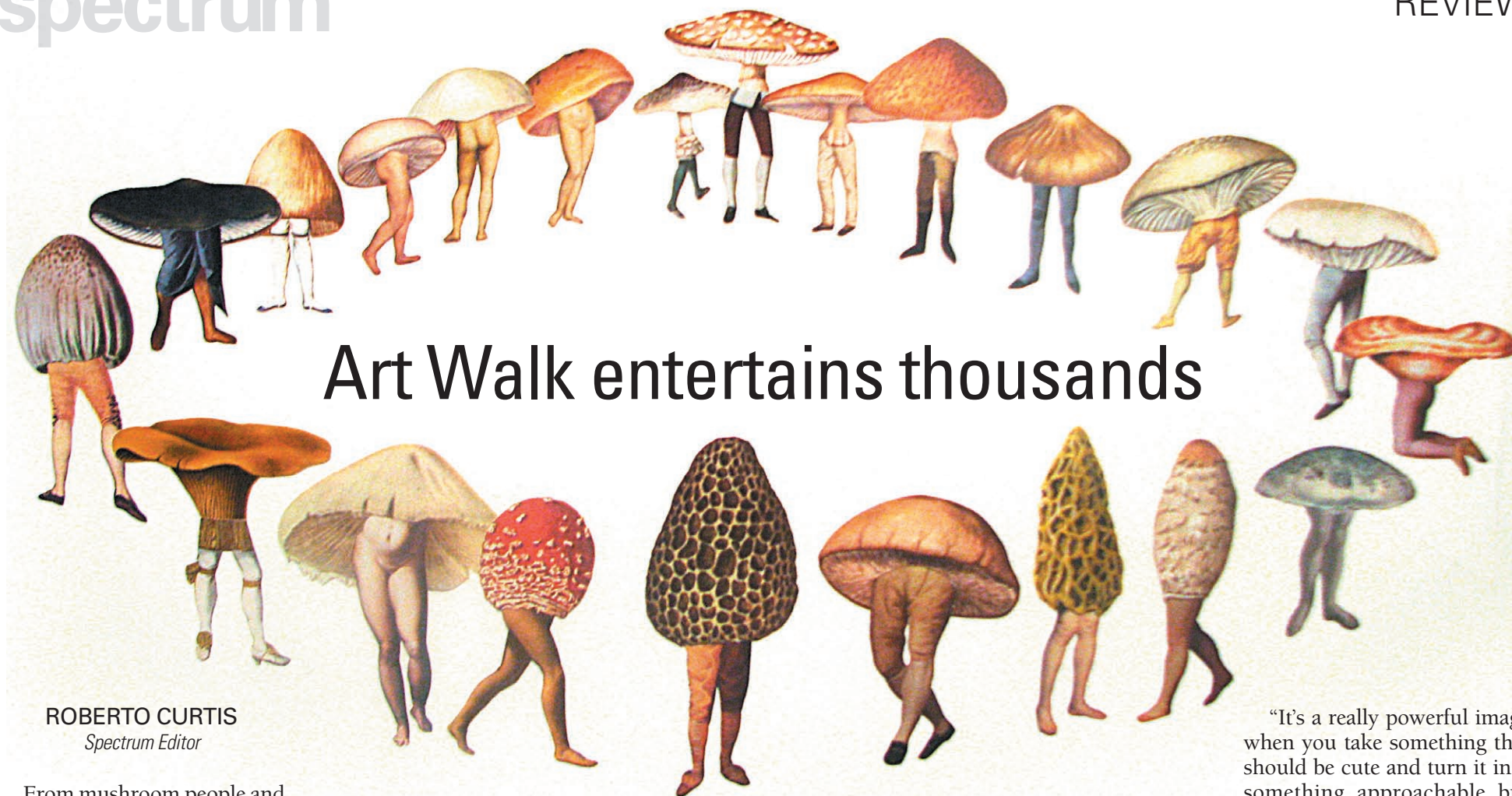
Day's work has not gone unrecognized. She was featured in Anime Food Magazine and has earned the title of intermediate cosplay designer.

"I need to win two more competitions to move to master," she said.

The idea of cosplay supposedly started in Tokyo around the Harajuku train station. The true origin of the craft is debated, but Harajuku is commonly credited with its inception.

The Harajuku style is akin to costume design,

COSPLAY continues to CT14



Art Walk entertains thousands

ROBERTO CURTIS
Spectrum Editor

From mushroom people and fire spinners to Cold Toast and brass bands, Broad Street came alive for the third First Fridays Art Walk of the season. Hosted by Curated Culture, this First Fridays featured artwork and music by a wide range of artists and musicians and marked the first official inclusion of the Henry Street Gallery and the Grace Yoga Studio.

As Henry-goers and Turnstyle's electronica enthusiasts spilled onto Broad Street, thousands milled about enjoying ideal weather, diverse music and envelope-pushing expression.

No BS! Brass Band brought its funky brand of New Orleans street beat and jazz to the

Amy Ross' 'Fairy Ring' is on display at Transmission Gallery.

sidewalk in front of the ADA Gallery. The dry, low 60s weather was conducive to booty shaking as trumpet solos and tuba bass lines put smiles on countless passing faces.

Gallery 5 displayed its usual multimedia smorgasbord with "Not Fit For Human Consumption," an exhibition featuring unconventional ceramic and sculpture.

Curator and sculptor Adam Caldwell gathered a group of artists for the show whose mission was to "buck the traditions of ceramics."

"What you find in this room

is a lot different than what is going on in the traditional world of ceramics right now," Caldwell said.

In addition to Caldwell, artists Monica Vandendool, James Robertson, Jason Hackett (a crafts department MFA graduate), Max Rain, Shay Church, Chris Dufala, Elena Lourenco, Amanda Lynch, Adam Ellyson and Ben Eberle

showed off some downright weird installations that pushed the limits of scale. Works lacked glaze, dealt with inverted archetypes or blended dry wit with disturbing imagery.

Caldwell's wrinkle-faced babies and Rain's superbly crafted, blood-colored animals with exposed organs cast an innovative, unsettling mood on the upper floor of Gallery 5.

"It's a really powerful image when you take something that should be cute and turn it into something approachable but repellent at the same time," Caldwell said.

Danny Vogel, Genevieve Boutemy-Buchanan and G5 Fire lit up the crowd in front of the gallery with their kerosene-soaked, fire-spinning poi skills, while inside, music by Cold Toast and the Ilad lent itself to the esoteric mood of the gallery's exhibition.

A few doors down, artists Ryan McLennan and Amy

ART WALK continues to CT14



Roberto Curtis photos

ABOVE: Myron Helfgott's 'The Feel of the Thing, Not the Think of It' is on display at art6. RIGHT: Danny Vogel spins snakes in front of Gallery 5.



Monday, November 10, 2008

spectrum commonwealthtimes.com · CT13

ART WALK continued from CT13

Ross displayed their top-notch prints at Transmission Gallery. Entitled “Taxonomic Intoxication,” the environmentally proactive pieces featured hybrids of creative fungus, animals and plants.

“Where does the crossbreeding and human intervention in the natural world stop?” Ross said. “Maybe one day we’re going to be walking around with mushroom heads and animals popping out of plants.”

Ghostprint Gallery featured works by retired graphic design and illustration professor Chuck Scalin. Scalin, who recently completed a two-month residency in Paris, spent his time photographing textures of the City of Light. Entitled “Paris: Fragments of Urban Reality,” Scalin’s blown-up photographs featured a side of the city few are too busy to notice.

“Everybody photographs the City

of Light—the typical sites, the Eiffel Tower. Why would I even want to do that when so many people have done it much better than I would have?” Scalin said.

Gallery 6 and art6 featured works by John Walters and Myron Helfgott. Massive installation by Helfgott cluttered the walls and floor space of the downstairs art6. His work was tongue-in-cheek, sexual, informed and engaging, though, not al-



Max Rain’s ‘Tenderloin’ is on display at Gallery 5.

ways at the same time.

Upstairs in the Gallery 6 portion of the building, Walter’s tribute to pen and ink illustrator Virgil Finlay profoundly interpreted dot-patterned illustrations through the oil-on-panel medium.

While the First Fridays Art Walk brought quality artwork to nearly every gallery I saw, the next one might not be so warm.

RAP continued from CT12

get down to.”

Some people find their own meaning to Bugs Raleigh’s songs, however, like friend and fan Ben Callendar, who thinks “The Breakfast Song” is about eating breakfast after a night of having sex.

“That’s what they’re insinuating when they’re going to have breakfast,” Callendar said. “We (expletive) last night, now let’s have breakfast.”

While Callendar might interpret the lyrics as innuendo, Brown said people get a kick out of the music itself.

“I have an 11-year-old sister who absolutely loves it,” Brown said. “It’s just something they’ve never heard before.”

Jokes and fun aside, Parkinson is not only interested in writing tongue-in-cheek songs but serious ones too—ranging from political apathy, ex-girlfriends and immigration rights.

Murillo is especially interested in getting a bigger message out to the audience.

“I’ve always wanted people ... to just recognize if I have a message in one of my songs,” Murillo said.

Brown believes that at the end of the day, Bugs Raleigh works because they have grown up together and experienced

similar things.

“Everyone is on the same plane of thinking and experiencing life,” Brown said.

Austin Kincaid has been skating with the members of Bugs Raleigh since the were 15 years old and came from Northern Virginia to see the group perform.

“We’re glad they’re doing music,” Kincaid said.

“Sloppy Joe” Gallerano, who also performed Friday night, said Bugs Raleigh’s music had multiple aspects.

“They are smart people,” Gallerano said. “You can get down to them, but if you listen to them, they’re intelligent.”

Each week, the Spectrum Section selects a talented student from the School of the Arts (music, dance, theater and visual) and showcases his or her achievements both in and around the VCU community. Do you want your name and work in the CT? E-mail spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com for consideration.

For updates on upcoming Bugs Raleigh shows visit <http://www.myspace.com/bugsraleigh>.

COSPLAY continued from CT12

and cosplay was born from this odd fashion movement. Inspired by anime, and eventually video games and other media, fans began to craft costumes that were identical to those of the characters they enjoyed.

Some of these costumes include vampires, robots, soldiers, knights and other mythical creatures.

“Think of it as Halloween but not a costume bought at Kmart,” Day said. “The costumes are extremely intricate; they are almost like works of art.”

In addition to having to make a cosplay outfit that resembles the character, a cosplayer must also look the part.

Internet sites such as 4chan, which devote a whole section to cosplay, are notorious for ridiculing people whose outfits are poorly done.

“I always pick someone I can physically and emotionally pull off,” Day said. “I once saw my picture online and people were saying I wasn’t skinny enough to be that character.”

Some might consider this a harsh criticism because she is not over weight.

Day sees these sites as constructive criticism rather than Internet flaming.

“You can look at the comments and see what you could do better, or how you could have changed the costume,” she said.

To some, the idea of dressing up as a video game character would seem childish or immature, but for a cosplayer, it’s all part of the experience.

“It definitely is a fashion,” Conley said. “If it’s not ‘chic’ or popular in France, then they don’t call it fashion, but I believe (cosplay) is.”

The atmosphere of a convention is similar to that of a fashion runway show. The attendees are models, and as they pass one another, they snap photos of eye-catching costumes. The photos are then shared online with millions of cosplay fans. Some cosplayers have become famous for their costumes.

“People at the local conventions know me,” said Day. “I’m just doing it for myself though.”

While some may use cosplay to attain Internet celebrity status, for many it’s just a hobby. Conley, Day and Woodard enjoy cosplay as a social event, a way to bond with friends.

“In real life (my friends and I) have a bond, so we dress up as characters that have a bond,” Day said.

Woodard and Conley, who are dating, have used their relationship as a creative tool in choosing their cosplay costumes.

“We dressed up as Tifa and Cloud from Final Fantasy VII,” Conley said. The two characters are part of a love triangle throughout the video game.


Despite the hard work required and the stigma of participating in a “geeky” hobby, Day’s love of cosplay remains strong.

“I hope when I am 30, I am still doing cosplay,” she said.

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comics

Pizza from Scratch: How about a philosophy class? It's how college began.

Bill Lemmond



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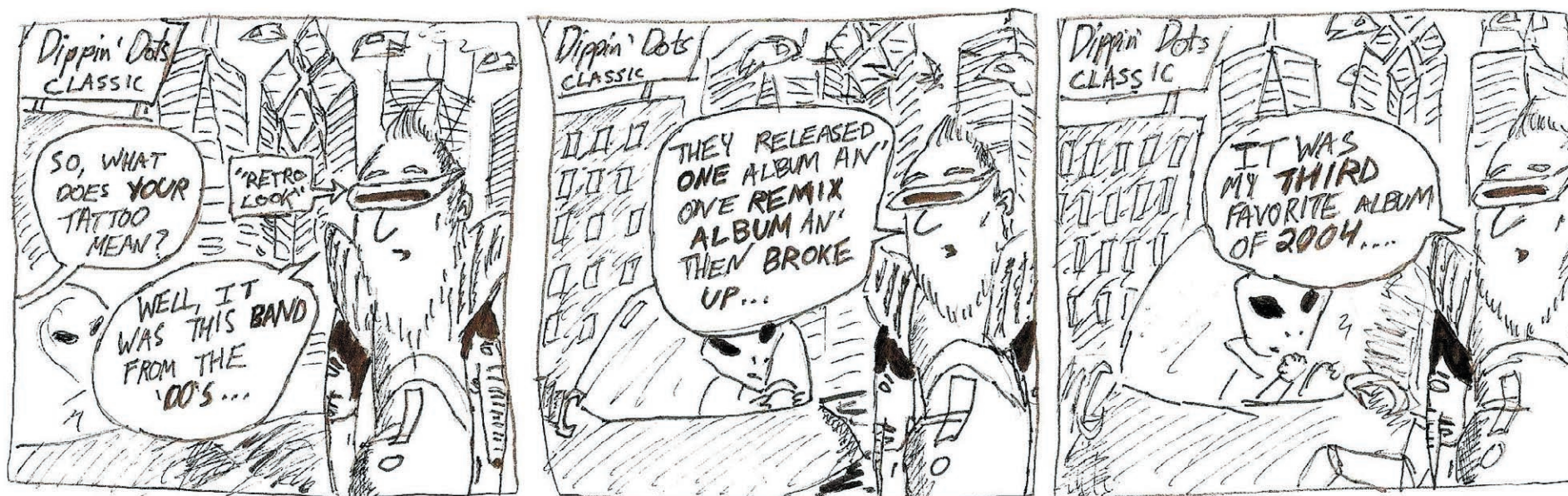
The Bum Diary

Rich Rose



Slippin' in the Tub

Nate Waggoner





opinion



America gets lucky

SARAH SONIES
Opinion Editor

We dodged a bullet, guys. Really. Wasn't it a relief to wake up Nov. 5 with knowledge that the United States has a vice president who knows the difference between a country and continent?

For the past few months, I have been quite hard on the Republican Party, especially everyone's favorite governor, Sarah Palin. Now that the whole 2008 election is said and done, I figured I would let the sleeping dog lie—and I will, after today. When politicians lack basic knowledge, it still shocks me. One usually subscribes to the belief that aspiring vice presidents should be smart to help run a country. Shouldn't we believe that now more than ever? Think about it.

According to a Fox News briefing aired last week on "The O'Reilly Factor," Palin did not understand that Africa is a continent, not a country, did not know how many countries were in the North American Free Trade Agreement

(NAFTA) and lacked basic knowledge about civics and government.

All of this information was said to be "off the record" until after the election. What if Sen. John McCain and Palin had won? Do we want someone who has to help make decisions that will affect all of us to have to sit through fifth-grade geography and government lessons on weekends?

The Republicans ran a bad campaign. That fact is regrettable, especially because when McCain conceded, the country saw a glimpse of the dignified candidate that McCain was before the election began. According to a Nov. 7 article in *The New York Times*, McCain staffers are blaming outside factors, including Palin, for their loss. This article is not about finger pointing, or even McCain. It is about America avoiding a mess by putting more another unqualified candidate in the White House.

It is now more obvious than ever that Palin is just power hungry. The *New York Times* stated in the same article that she tried to deliver her own speech

before McCain's concession—something that is not traditional on Election Night. Palin also scheduled and took a prank phone call from Canadian comedian Marc-Antoine Audette that she thought was an interview with French president Nicolas Sarkozy and told them she would make a good president in "maybe eight years."

When McCain received the presidential nomination, he appeared on "The Daily Show" and announced his vice-presidential pick was going to be Dwight Schrute from "The Office." Schrute, while wholly fictional, would have been a better vice-president choice than Palin. Also on my better VP list would be Michael Scott, Tracey Morgan's character on "30 Rock" and Jon Stewart.

No election campaign is ever perfect. There is a reason why campaigns come fully staffed with public resource representatives, spokespeople and even wardrobe staffers—although having strong candidates on the ticket is still crucial.

CORRECTION

In the article "Out of the shadows: Theatre VCU unveils years of cutting-edge collaboration" in the Thursday, Nov. 6 issue of *The Commonwealth Times*, senior Andrew Donnelly's name was misspelled. The online article now displays the correct spelling. The CT apologizes for the error.

the
ct

MATT DOYON
Executive Editor

SARAH SONIES
Opinion Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Ms. Sonies' Nov. 6 opinion essay is exceptional for its take on the Obama election. Over the past few months, she has presented thoughtful ideas consistently and supported them with clarity and intelligence. Any reader – Democrat, Republican or independent – involved in and connected to the present situation in this country (the economy, energy, health care, education, etc.) cannot help but be affected by her positive approach to our political diversity.

I have only one further thought to add to her otherwise excellent essay: to stress even more strongly that it is not just up to Obama and Biden to "to bring us the change that was promised." There is a pride of ownership that I sense in many Americans right now, ownership of our democratic process. Our voices were heard on Nov. 4 and they need to continue to be heard if the critical issues are

to be solved. I think Obama is going to continue to need our support, especially if politicians begin to slip back into their non-productive and obfuscating ways.

A message was sent Tuesday and many politicians still haven't quite heard it—especially some on the far right and the far left. "Obama has no mandate!" "Socialism is coming!" This is nonsense! All of us need to keep the dialogue focused on the issues. The issues are far too serious for cheap political rhetoric to distract us from those tasks. Democracy is a participatory activity and we all need to do just that: participate. I encourage Ms. Sonies to keep up her excellent opinion pieces and address this idea as the need arises. Voices are ineffective only when they do not speak up.

Sincerely,
Stan Kustesky

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DOG, NORAH JONES, BAD RELIGION, RUFUS WAINWRIGHT, FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE, BEIRUT, FIERY FURNACES, SEA AND CAKE, IMPERIAL TEEN, SONIC YOUTH, CLOUD CULT, MGMT, WCFN, FOO FIGHTERS, ALBERT HAMMOND JR, PIEBALD, THE BLOW, BUSDRIVER, ART BRUT, TWO GALLONS, DNTL, HANDSOME FURS, PAGE FRANCE, TEDDYBEARS, BEN HARPER AND THE INNOCENT CRIMINALS, JOANNA NEWSOM, APOSTLE OF HUSTLE, FUJIYA AND MIYAGI, CYNTHIA ANTIBALAS, GRIZZLY BEAR, KLAXONS, AKRON/FAMILY, EISLEY, MUM, MANDO DIAO, BUDOS BAND, MARK RONSON, DAN DEACON, CINEMATICS, ELECTRELANE, IDLEWOMEN, LONELY, DEAR, MOST SERENE REPUBLIC, CAKE, CHROMEO, NEW YOUNG PONY CLUB, EMILY HAINES AND THE SOFT SKELETON, EL-P, LUCINDA WILLIAMS, NINE INCH NATIONS, CALVIN HARRIS, BETTYE LAVETTE, SAGE FRANCIS, FROG EYES, TIM ARMSTRONG, MEW, CAMERA OBSCURA, ENON, MAVIS STAPLES, CORNELIUS, AQUALUNG, BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY, RELIENT K, PJ HARVEY, JIMMY EAT WORLD, AQUEDUCT, ANBERLIN, PIPETTES, FRAMES, BISHOP ALLEN, PATRICK WOLF, BLITZEN TRAPPER, VEILS, STEREO TOTAL, MINUS THE BEAR, ALKALINE TRIO, BEIRUT, BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME, BIGBANG, BLACK KEYS, BLACK KIDS, BLACK MARKET, BLOC PARTY, BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY, BRIDGES, CAT POWER, THE CITY VEINS, COLD WAR KIDS, COLDPLAY, COLIN MELOY, COMEBACK KID, CONOR OBERST, THE CORAL, COUNTING CROWS, CRIME IN STEREO, DAATH, DAFT PUNK, THE DANDY WARHOLS, DEAD HEART BLOOM, DEAD MEADOW, DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE, DECEMBERISTS, DETHKLOK, DEVILDRIVER, DR MANHATTAN, EARLIMART, EELS, ELEMENTAL ZAZEN, ELF POWER, FEIST, FIERY FURNACES, FORWARD RUSSIA, FOR AGAINST, FOO FIGHTERS, FU MANCHU, GNARLES BARKLEY, GORILLAZ, GRADN OLE PARTY, HEALTH, THE HIVES, HOLD STEADY, THE HOOD INTERNET, HOT CHIP, HOTCHACHA, HYPATIA LAKE, I HEART HIROSHIMA, I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE, ICED EARTH, ISLANDS, JAGUAR LOVE, JESU WVCW, VCU'S STUDENT RUN RADIO, BROADCASTING ONLINE AT WWW.WVCW.ORG. WE ARE FREE-FORMAT, ALL VOLUNTEER, STUDENT-RUN, AND EVER CHANGING. WE PLAY THE SHINS, THE ARCADE FIRE, SPOON, MODEST MOUSE, OF MONTREAL, LCD SOUNDSYSTEM, WILCO, THE WHITE STRIPES, APPLES IN STEREO, BLOC PARTY, DEERHOOF, IRON AND WINE, PETER BJORN AND JOHN, FEIST, INTERPOL, TEGAN AND SARA, BRIGHT EYES, TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS, RILO KILEY, CARIBOU, ANIMAL COLLECTIVE, NEW PORNOPHILERS, GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE QUEEN, NATION, BAND OF HORSES, LILY ALLEN, JOSE GONZALEZ, BATTLES, WEAKERTHANS, MENOMENA, MINUS THE BEAR, ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI, BJORK, CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH, METRIC, PANDA BEAR, BEASTIE BOYS, I'M FROM BARCELONA, OKKERVIL RIVER, DINOSAUR JR, JUSTICE, BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB, TOM WAITS, YEAH YEAH YEAHS, RYAN ADAMS, AIR, POLYPHONIC SPREE, SLOAN, AGAINST ME!, RADIOHEAD, JENS LEKMAN, LOW, DUNGEN, EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY, THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS, GRINDERMAN, SHOUT OUT LOUDS, BLACK LIPS, YOUTH GROUP, 1990S, ROSEBUDS, LIARS, LAURA VEIRS, GOGOL BORDELLO, BIRD AND THE BEE, SMASHING PUMPKINS, FRATELLIS, AMY WINEHOUSE, VHS OR BETA, MATT POND PA, SON VOLT, PATTI SMITH, LES SAVY FAV, THURSTON, EDITORS, BAYSIDE, CLINIC, HOT HOT HEAT, SHARON JONES AND THE DAP KINGS, KAISER CHIEFS, ST. VINCENT,, MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK, SONDRER LERCHE, DEVENDRA BANHART, PINBACK, BROKEN WEST, JARVIS COCKER, CHEMICAL BROTHERS, POSTMARKS, BRAND NEW, BLACK MOTH SUPER RAINBOW, COCOROSIE, JOHN VANDERSLICE, SEA WOLF, SIX ARTS SEVEN, QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE, SUNSET RUBDOWN, CLIENTELE, OCTOPUS IN THE MOON, BONDE DO ROLE, VOXTROT, DECEMBERISTS, AESOP ROCK, DR. DOG, NORAH JONES, BAD RELIGION, RUFUS WAINWRIGHT, FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE, BEIRUT, FIERY FURNACES, SEA AND CAKE, IMPERIAL TEEN, SONIC YOUTH, CLOUD CULT, MGMT, WEEN, FRANCE, TEDDYBEARS, BEN HARPER AND THE INNOCENT CRIMINALS, JOANNA NEWSOM, APOSTLE OF HUSTLE, FUJIYA AND MIYAGI, CYNTHIA ANTIBALAS, GRIZZLY BEAR, KLAXONS, AKRON/FAMILY, EISLEY, MUM, MANDO DIAO, BUDOS BAND, MARK RONSON, DAN DEACON, CINEMATICS, ELECTRELANE, IDLEWOMEN, LONELY, DEAR, MOST SERENE REPUBLIC, CAKE, CHROMEO, NEW YOUNG PONY CLUB, EMILY HAINES AND THE SOFT SKELETON, EL-P, LUCINDA WILLIAMS, NINE INCH NATIONS, CALVIN HARRIS, BETTYE LAVETTE, SAGE FRANCIS, FROG EYES, TIM ARMSTRONG, MEW, CAMERA OBSCURA, ENON, MAVIS STAPLES, CORNELIUS, AQUALUNG, BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY, RELIENT K, PJ HARVEY, JIMMY EAT WORLD, AQUEDUCT, ANBERLIN, PIPETTES, FRAMES, BISHOP ALLEN, PATRICK WOLF, BLITZEN TRAPPER, VEILS, STEREO TOTAL, MINUS THE BEAR, ALKALINE TRIO, BEIRUT, BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME, BIGBANG, BLACK KEYS, BLACK KIDS, BLACK MARKET, BLOC PARTY, BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY, BRIDGES, CAT POWER, THE CITY VEINS, COLD WAR KIDS, COLDPLAY, COLIN MELOY, COMEBACK KID, CONOR OBERST, THE CORAL, COUNTING CROWS, CRIME IN STEREO, DAATH, DAFT PUNK, THE DANDY WARHOLS, DEAD HEART BLOOM, DEAD MEADOW, DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE, DECEMBERISTS, DETHKLOK, DEVILDRIVER, DR MANHATTAN, EARLIMART, EELS, ELEMENTAL ZAZEN, ELF POWER, FEIST, FIERY FURNACES, FORWARD RUSSIA, FOR AGAINST, FOO FIGHTERS, FU MANCHU, GNARLES BARKLEY, GORILLAZ, GRADN OLE PARTY, HEALTH, THE HIVES, HOLD STEADY, THE HOOD INTERNET, HOT CHIP, HOTCHACHA, HYPATIA LAKE, I HEART HIROSHIMA, I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE, ICED EARTH, ISLANDS, JAGUAR LOVE, JESU WVCW, VCU'S STUDENT RUN RADIO, BROADCASTING ONLINE AT WWW.WVCW.ORG. 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VINCENT,, MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK, SONDRER LERCHE, DEVENDRA BANHART, PINBACK, BROKEN WEST, JARVIS COCKER, CHEMICAL BROTHERS, POSTMARKS, BRAND NEW, BLACK MOTH SUPER RAINBOW.

Listen, Damnit. WVCW.ORG



November & December Events

University Student Commons & Activities :: Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Services

Get up and do something!

www.usca.vcu.edu

NOVEMBER

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| 3 | APB PRESENTS B-I-N-G-O! (THEME: MOVIE MADNESS!) 7 – 8:30 p.m., University Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom APB Extras present Movie Madness BINGO! Test your luck for a chance to win an assortment of awesome prizes, great for movie lovers! All VCU students are welcome. For more information on this event, please contact Krista Carson at 828-4554 or apbcodirect@vcu.edu. |
| 5 | NEW OFFICER TRAINING (MONROE PARK CAMPUS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS) 3 p.m., University Student Commons, Richmond Salon II New officer training is designed to enhance the skill set of newly elected organization officers and will cover topics such as Club Manager, advertising events, and resources available to student organizations. For more information, please call the Office of Student Organization Development at 828-3648. SHORT COURSE, BLOCK 3: TO THE KITCHEN! SESSION #2 5:30 – 7 p.m., University Student Commons, Richmond Salons Kitchen Food, food, glorious food, without it we could not survive! “To the Kitchen!” is a four week course that explores the culinary arts: cultural food, cake decorating, and quick tips will be the focus of these sessions. The series costs \$5 and you can still register at Break Point Games Room. By signing up and paying for this course one agrees to attend all remaining sessions. The remaining sessions will be held on Nov. 12 and 19. This event is open to all VCU students, faculty, and staff. This event is sponsored by the USC&A Programs Office and for more information, please contact Justin Castonguay at 828-4554 or castonguayjb@vcu.edu. |
| 6 | COMMUTER COFFEEBRAKE 8:45 – 10:45 a.m., Off-Campus Student Services, Commons Kiosk Off-campus students should visit Off-Campus Student Services at the Commons Kiosk for a BRAKE! Grab a hot cup of Joe and a breakfast treat while you find out what’s happening on-campus. This event is sponsored by USC&A Off-Campus Student Services along with Recreational Sports and Technology Services/G2G. Contact Martha Harper with any questions at harperma@vcu.edu or call Off-Campus Student Services at 828-7205. NEW OFFICER TRAINING (MCV CAMPUS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS) Noon, Dean’s Conference Room – Hunton Student Center New officer training is designed to enhance the skill set of newly elected organization officers and will cover topics such as how to register your student organization with the Office of Student Organization Development and the usage of Club Manager. For more information, please call the USC&A Office of Student Organization Development at 828-3648. CRAFT NIGHT: BANGLES AND BEADS 4 p.m., University Student Commons, Virginia Room A Come put together a bracelet, necklace, or earrings for you or someone special! We provide the beads – you provide the creativity! This event is open to all VCU students, faculty, and staff. This event is sponsored by the USC&A Programs Office and for more information, please contact Justin Castonguay at 828-4554 or castonguayjb@vcu.edu. |
| 7 | ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FRESHMAN? GAME SHOW 6 p.m., University Student Commons, Richmond Salons Are you smarter than a Freshman? Prove you are a lot smarter than you look at this humorous game show and interactive event. If you are skilled enough to make it to the end you could win a \$200 CASH PRIZE! This event is sponsored by the USC&A Programs Office and for more information, please contact Justin Castonguay at 828-4554 or castonguayjb@vcu.edu. MCV CAMPUS: DIVE IN MOVIE – IRONMAN 8 p.m., MCV Campus Recreation and Aquatic Center (10th and Turpin St.) Take a dip in the pool and enjoy a movie and door prizes too! This event is sponsored by Recreational Sports and USC&A MCV Campus Programs. For more information, please contact Meredith Schram at mschram@vcu.edu. |
| 8 | CHALLENGE DISCOVERY 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Meet in the University Student Commons. The actual event will take place at the Challenge Discovery location off site. An opportunity for student organization officers to experience a day long, outdoor program geared toward enhancing leadership skills. All registered student organizations are encouraged to apply to participate in this FREE program sponsored by the Office for Student Organization Development. Advance sign-up required. For more information, please call 828-3648. |
| 12 | APB CRAFT NIGHT – BUILD-A-BEAR! 5 – 7 p.m., University Student Commons, Virginia Rooms APB Extras presents their most popular craft night event – “Build a Bear!” Supplies are limited, so to make it fair we are offering 100 free tickets and two different arrival times to build your bear. You MUST have a ticket to be able to attend this event. Tickets will be available in the USC&A Programs Office, room 229 beginning Nov. 3. Please contact Krista Carson at 828-4554 or e-mail apbcodirect@vcu.edu with any questions. SHORT COURSE, BLOCK 3: TO THE KITCHEN! SESSION #3 5:30 – 7 p.m., University Student Commons, Richmond Salons Please see Nov. 5 description. |
| 15 | RICHMOND SUNTRUST MARATHON Volunteer to support the Richmond SunTrust Marathon! Two shifts are available, 8 – 11 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., or you can stay the entire time! We will be staffing a “junk food stop” within walking distance of VCU’s Monroe Park Campus. Help out at “America’s friendliest marathon,” while having fun! Register to volunteer by visiting www.usca.vcu.edu/volunteer/calendar or e-mail Beth Ward at bhward@vcu.edu. This event is sponsored by the USC&A Volunteer Opportunities Office and for more information, please call 828-3648. |
| 18 | APB CRAFT NIGHT – “BUILD YOUR OWN FISH TANK!” 5 – 6:30 p.m., University Student Commons, Virginia Rooms All materials will be provided for you to build a mini fish tank that has your own personal flare! You MUST get a free ticket to be able to attend this event. Only 50 tickets will be available in the USC&A Programs Office, room 229 starting on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Please contact Krista Carson at 828-4554 or e-mail apbcodirect@vcu.edu. |
| 19 | COMMUTER COFFEEBRAKE 4:45 – 6:45 p.m., Off-Campus Student Services, Commons Kiosk Off-campus students should visit Off-Campus Student Services at the Commons Kiosk for a BRAKE! Grab a drink and a snack while you find out what’s happening on-campus. This event is sponsored by USC&A Off-Campus Student Services, VCU Homecoming Planning Committee and the VCU Police. Contact Martha Harper with any questions at harperma@vcu.edu or call Off-Campus Student Services at 828-7205. SHORT COURSE, BLOCK 3: TO THE KITCHEN! SESSION #4 5:30 – 7 p.m., University Student Commons, Richmond Salons Please see Nov. 5 description. |
| 20 | WINTER LIGHTS CELEBRATION! Noon, MCV Campus: Patterson Memorial Garden • 6 p.m., Monroe Park Campus: Commons Plaza USC&A Programs Office is holding their nondenominational, secular annual holiday tradition. Help bring our communities together, join us for lighting celebrations at both the Monroe Park Campus University Student Commons and the MCV Campus Patterson Memorial Garden outside of Hunton Student Center. The celebration includes lighting the buildings, refreshments, an “Ice” Skating Rink on the Commons Plaza and music. This event is sponsored by USC&A Programs Office. For more information, contact Justin Castonguay at castonguayjb@vcu.edu for the Monroe Park Campus or Yolanda Jackson on the MCV Campus at yjackson@vcu.edu. APB LIVE AND THE SHHO (STUDENT HIP-HOP ORGANIZATION) PRESENT: KID CUDI! 7 – 9 p.m., University Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom KID CUDI’s style can only be described as the next level of music in our generation and for generations to come. Cudi fuses alternative rock, hip hop and occasionally R & B, to form feel good and emotionally conscious records. His content is filled with witty explanations about himself and his life’s journeys, with a twist of story telling scenarios. Check this artist out at www.kidcudi.com/bio . You MUST have a free ticket to attend this event. There will only be a limited amount available. If you are interested, please go to the USC&A Programs Office, Room 229 to get your ticket. Tickets will be available starting Nov. 3. Please contact Krista Carson at 828-4554 or e-mail apbcodirect@vcu.edu with any questions. |
| 21 | GHOST HUNTER LECTURE: JOHN ZAFFIS AND ROSEMARY ELLEN GUILLEY 6 p.m., University Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom Do you believe in ghosts? John and Rosemary do...and they have proof! Come listen to the Godfather of All Ghost Hunters and the Mistress of the Unknown discuss their experiences dealing with the supernatural. Following the event, John and Rosemary will take students on a personalized Ghost Tour around VCU. This event is sponsored by the USC&A Programs Office and for more information, please contact Justin Castonguay at 828-4554 or castonguayjb@vcu.edu. |
| 24 | APB SNACK DAY 1 – 2 p.m. (or when supplies are gone), University Student Commons, Virginia Rooms Pies, pies and more pies!! APB Extras wants to get you in the Thanksgiving Holiday spirit! Come and enjoy a slice of your favorite Thanksgiving style pie. We are offering a great assortment! Please contact Krista Carson at 828-4554 or apbcodirect@vcu.edu with any questions. |
| 27 – 30 | THANKSGIVING BREAK – UNIVERSITY CLOSED. |

DECEMBER

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| 1 | KICK-START YOUR STUDIES 7:30 – 9 a.m., Tompkins McCaw Library This is a FREE breakfast to help MCV Campus graduate/professional students get an energy boost before tackling exams! This event is sponsored by the MCV Campus Office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services. For more information, call Yolanda Jackson at 828-2754. APB PRESENTS: B-I-N-G-O FINALE! 7 – 8:30 p.m., University Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom APB Extras present the 2nd Annual BINGO FINALE!! Test your luck for a chance to win an assortment of awesome prizes! This event is the most outrageous BINGO of the semester! All VCU students are welcome. For more information on this event, please contact Krista Carson at 828-4554 or apbcodirect@vcu.edu. |
| 3&4 | MCV CAMPUS STUDY BREAK Noon – 1 p.m., Tompkins McCaw Library MCV Campus students, take a break from studying and enjoy FREE pizza and drinks! This event is sponsored by the USC&A MCV Campus Programs Office. For more information, please call Yolanda Jackson at 828-2754. |
| 4 | CRAFT NIGHT: HOLIDAY DECORATIONS 6 p.m., University Student Commons, Virginia Room B Whatever you celebrate during these winter months, we will help you decorate for the season! Come out and make something special to spruce up that dorm room or apartment. This event is sponsored by the USC&A Programs Office and for more information, please contact Justin Castonguay at 828-4554 or castonguayjb@vcu.edu. |
| 5 | LAST DAY OF CLASSES |
| 8 – 16 | FINAL EXAMS |

GOOD LUCK ON FINAL EXAMS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATING SENIORS!

