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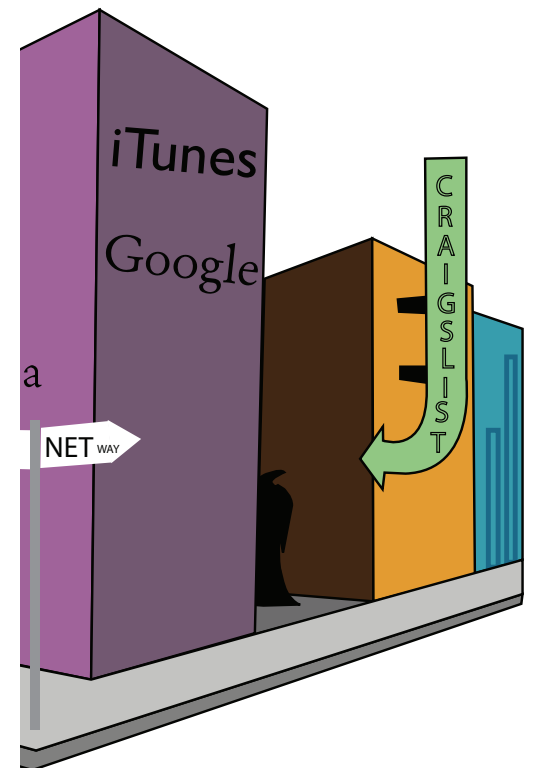
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The **independent** student press of Virginia Commonwealth University

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free



briefs

Mel Kobran
cover photo

Local and VCU

31 arrested in prostitution sting

Richmond police arrested 21 women and 10 men in four citywide prostitution stings over eight days.

The operations were conducted along Chamberlayne Avenue, Hull Street and Jefferson Davis Highway between Aug. 20 and Aug. 28. The women charged with prostitution ranged in age from 23 to 57 and listed addresses in Richmond and Chesterfield County, according to police.

The men charged with soliciting a prostitute ranged in age from 23 to 61 and gave addresses in Richmond, Mineral and the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, police said.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Richmond police set curfew initiative

With capital-area public schools set to open next week, Richmond police are planning a “curfew initiative” this week to remind juveniles not to violate curfew.

School resource officers, who work with youths throughout the school year at city schools, will be deployed to enhance police presence on the streets after 11 p.m.

The city’s code bans anyone under 18 years of age from being in public places between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. the following day unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, engaged in an employment activity, engaged in a government, civic or religious activity, involved in an emergency situation or are within 25 feet of their residence.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

City councilman’s nephew held in VUU shooting

A Richmond city councilman’s nephew is being held without bond today in the malicious wounding of a Virginia Union University student early Sunday.

Jamir Jewell, whose uncle is Councilman E. Martin Jewell, was arrested Sunday at approximately 1:15 a.m.—minutes after a student was shot in front of Newman Hall, an all-female dormitory on the northern edge of campus near Brook and Graham roads. Jamir Jewell is not a VUU student.

University police confirmed yesterday the shooting occurred as they tried to deal with a crowd that had grown to as many as three dozen people.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

National and International

Indonesian quake kills 32, flattens homes

A disaster management official said the death toll from a powerful Indonesian earthquake Wednesday has more than doubled to 34.

Social Affairs Ministry official Mardi said more than 700 houses and buildings have been badly damaged in the 7.0 magnitude quake.

Scores of people have been injured.

Many of the victims died when their homes were buried in a landslide triggered by the temblor.

The official Antara news agency reports about 30 people are trapped under rocks and dirt from the landslide in one village.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the quake struck at 2:55 p.m. off the southern coast of the main island of Java. A tsunami alert was issued but revoked less than an hour later.

Brief by The Associated Press

Best-selling Bible to undergo revision

The top-selling Bible in North America will undergo its first revision in 25 years, modernizing the language in some sections and promising to reopen a contentious debate about changing gender terms in the sacred text.

The New International Version, the Bible of choice for conservative evangelicals, will be revised to reflect changes in English usage and advances in Biblical scholarship. The revision proposal was announced Tuesday, and is scheduled to be completed late next year and published in 2011.

Past attempts to remake the NIV for contemporary audiences in different editions have been plagued by controversies about gender language that have pitted theological conservatives against one another.

The changes did not make all men “people” or remove male references to God, but instead involved dropping gender-specific terms when translators judged that the original text didn’t intend it.

Brief by The Associated Press

Israelis, Palestinians resume high-level talks

Israel and the Palestinians held their first high-level talks since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in March, sharing ideas on how to shore up a fledgling Palestinian economic recovery.

The meeting between Israeli Vice Prime Minister Silvan Shalom and Palestinian Economics Minister Bassem Khoury was the latest sign of a thaw in frosty relations. Last week, both sides said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas could soon hold his first meeting with Netanyahu, despite Israel’s refusal to freeze settlement construction.

The meeting Wednesday at a Jerusalem hotel was the first Cabinet-level encounter between the Netanyahu and Abbas governments.

The agenda included easing restrictions on the entry of Palestinian businesspeople and VIPs to Israel, boosting Israeli meat exports to the West Bank and dairy imports from the West Bank to Israel, allowing more Palestinians to seek medical care in Israel, and joint industrial parks, Israeli officials said.

Brief by The Associated Press

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Limit one CT per person. Additional copies may be purchased through the Student Media Center for \$1 a copy.

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Four swine flu cases presumed at VCU

AMELIA REDDINGTON
Contributing Writer

Since the fall semester began, VCU has had four possible cases of the H1N1 influenza virus in addition to the four cases reported during the summer. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the H1N1 virus is the only strain of influenza in circulation at this time.

"If a patient tests positive for influenza, A, the health department recommends assuming its H1N1 since the majority this spring and summer were H1N1," said Dr. Margaret Roberson, the director of University Student Health Services.

According to Roberson, only patients who require hospitalization will be tested for H1N1.

The regular flu season will not begin until later this fall.

Three of the students went home and one stayed in their dormitory, according to Pam Lepley, the director of VCU Communications and Public Relations. The latest case was diagnosed over the weekend.

The Centers for Disease Control has identified universities and colleges as "points of spread" for the H1N1 virus. On Aug. 25, the National Geographic Web site cited the World Health Organization as estimating that one out of every three people will

be infected by the H1N1 virus before the pandemic runs its course.

H1N1 symptoms include fever, chills, runny nose, body aches, headaches, fatigue, cough or sore throat, diarrhea and vomiting.

Students are at a higher risk than the general population for such contagious illnesses because they travel often and attend many social activities, according to the Virginia Department of Health Web site. The provost of VCU issued an e-mail alert on Aug. 26 to students and faculty detailing symptoms and recommended precautions.

The CDC is recommending students, faculty and staff with flu-like symptoms stay in their homes, dormitories or residence halls for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of fever.

Did You Know?

Best-selling novelist Tom Robbins attended VCU in the early '60s when it was still known as Richmond Professional Institute. The fictional protagonist of Robbins' most well-known book, "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," is from South Richmond, and a portion of the novel takes place there. While at RPI, Robbins was the editor of Proscript, the precursor to The Commonwealth Times.

Influenza A H1N1 Virus

Transmission: You can acquire swine flu through the coughing and sneezing of affected persons. Swine flu can also be contracted by touching infected objects, then touching the nose or mouth.

Symptoms: Fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Symptoms also include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

CDC Recommendations:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap

and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, as germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

Those with questions regarding swine flu can call the Virginia Department of Health at 877-ASK-VDH3.

"We have to wait to determine the prevalence and severity of the cases," Roberson said. "It's too soon to say yet."

SWINE FLU continued to CT4

Phones a-Twitter with VCU alerts

CHRISTIAN WRIGHT AND RICH GRISET
Contributing Writer and News Editor

The university tested new additions to its VCU Alert system Wednesday, sending out an alert message through Facebook and Twitter for the first time. The additions accompany VCU's system already in place, which includes 10 sirens, more than 400 classroom alert beacons, e-mail and text messaging alerts.

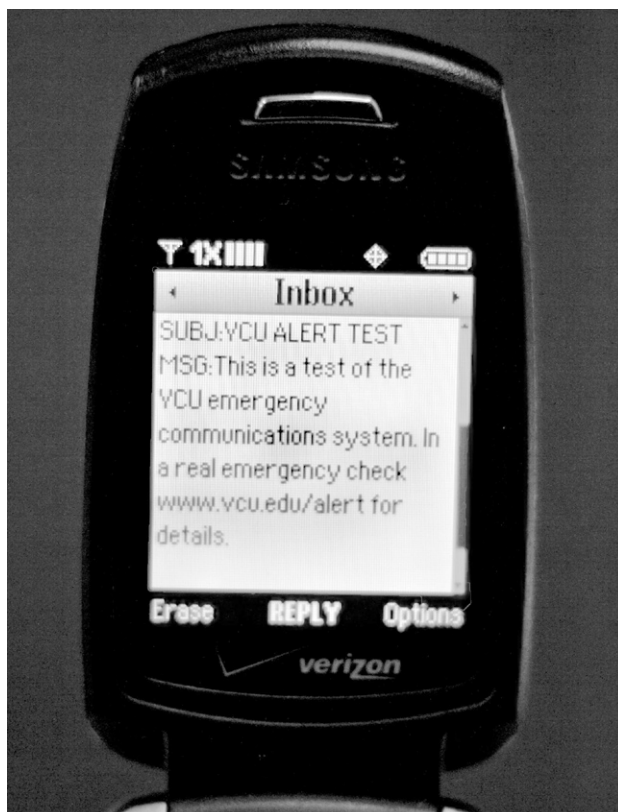
According to Pam Lepley, the director of VCU Communications and Public Relations, the move to add social media to the alert system developed from contingency plans.

"At another university, they used Facebook to send out their alert system after their power outage," Lepley said. "After that success, VCU decided to do the same and add Facebook and Twitter."

Last semester, when the sirens went off by mistake during repairs, the university used its public relations Twitter account to spread the message quickly. Currently, there are 1,776 followers of VCU PR on Twitter and 870 on Facebook.

"We feel that the social media communication is just a niche way to get the message out," said John Bennett, the senior vice president of Finance and administration.

According to Bennett, 29,226 phones are currently



Those signed up for VCU text alerts received this message Wednesday, Sept. 2. Mel Kobran photo

signed up for text message alerts. Of those, 27,482 received messages Wednesday, equaling a 94 percent delivery rate.

Of the more than 400 Alertus brand alert beacons, Bennett said 96 percent of them worked as intended. The beacons were brought in to fix a flaw in the text messaging system. If phone ringers were left on during class to receive alerts, they would also receive many non-emergency messages and calls, creating a constant interruption in an academic setting. With the Alertus beacons, phones could be off and classrooms would still receive the emergency information.

Altogether, Bennett said the whole system cost approximately \$1 million to implement, with an additional cost of roughly \$28,000 per year for the text message system.

For freshman who had never experienced a VCU alarm, hearing the 130-decibel emergency siren was as alarming as could be predicted.

"I thought it was a fire truck," said Lauren Vance, an undeclared freshman. "Then there was this noise coming from the sky."

Vance said she knew about the alarm because of VCU's e-mails and received a text just after the siren went off. She signed up for her text service during her freshman orientation.



the crime blotter

MCV Campus

Aug. 26	3:20-3:30 p.m.	Martin Luther King Bridge	Damage to State Property – A male employee advised that a vehicle was damaged.
	6-9 p.m.	Lyons Dental Building, 520 N. 12th St.	Petit Larceny – A female employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from its location.
Aug. 26-27	1:30-12 p.m.	VCU Insurance Verification, 411 E. Franklin St.	Tampering with Property – A female employee advised that an unknown person(s) tampered with property.
Aug. 28	12:40-1:35 a.m.	Sanger Hall, 1101 E. Marshall St.	Grand Larceny – A female employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from its location.
	6:50-6:58 p.m.	Sanger Hall, 1101 E. Marshall St.	Assault – A female employee advised that a known person assaulted her.
	8-9:30 p.m.	Main Hospital, 1250 E. Marshall St.	Petit Larceny – A female visitor advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from an unsecured location.
Aug. 28-29	7:30-1:45 p.m.	Cabaniss Hall, 615 8th St.	Grand Larceny – A female student advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from its secured location.
Aug. 30	3:23 a.m.	West Hospital, 1200 E. Marshall St.	Trespassing – A male visitor was arrested for trespassing.
	4:03 a.m	Gateway Building, 1200 E. Marshall St.	Trespassing – A male visitor was arrested for trespassing.

Monroe Park Campus

Aug. 13	9:04 p.m	W. Broad St./Ryland St.	Drug Offense – A male visitor was arrested for possession of marijuana.
July 15-Aug. 21	1:07 p.m.-8:46 a.m.	Lafayette Hall, 312 N. Shafer St.	Grand Larceny – A male employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from its secured location.
Aug. 24	5-6:30 p.m.	VCU Training Center, 10 E. Franklin St.	Petit Larceny – A female employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from its location.
	10:14 p.m.	1500 Moore St.	Drug/Weapons Violation – A male visitor was arrested for possession of marijuana and carrying a concealed weapon.
	10:14 p.m.	1500 Moore St.	Drug/Weapons Violation – A male visitor was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of a concealed weapon.
Aug. 25	1:46 p.m.	Shafer Court Dining Center, 810 N. Cathedral St.	Trespassing – A male visitor was arrested for trespassing.
	11:53 p.m.	Monroe Park, 620 W. Main St.	Trespassing – A female visitor was arrested for trespassing.
Aug. 24-25	8 a.m.-8 a.m.	Brandt Hall, 710 W. Franklin St.	Grand Larceny – A female student advised that an unknown person removed property from an unsecured location.
Aug. 26	8 a.m.	200 block of S. Laurel St.	Assault: Off Campus – A female student advised that an unknown person assaulted her. A report was filed with Richmond Police Dept.
	12:39 p.m.	Monroe Park, 620 W. Main St.	Drug Violation – A male visitor was arrested for possession of marijuana.
	4:01 p.m.	Monroe Park, 620 W. Main St.	Drug Violation – A male visitor was arrested for possession of marijuana.
	12-6 p.m.	West Grace Street Housing, 701 W. Grace St.	Grand Larceny – A female student advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from a secured location.
Aug. 27	12:40 p.m.	1 1/2 N. Vine St.	Robbery: Off Campus – Two students were robbed at an off-campus residence. A report was filed with Richmond Police Dept.
	7:54 p.m.	Grace St./Belvidere St.	Attempt to Elude/Unauthorized Use – A male visitor was arrested for felony attempt to elude and felony unauthorized use of vehicle.
Aug. 27-28	4 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Buford House, 922 W. Franklin St.	Grand Larceny – A female employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from an unsecured location.
Aug. 30	1:30 a.m.	921 W. Clay St.	Alcohol Violation – A female visitor was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol.
Aug. 31	2-5 p.m.	Pollak Building, 325 N. Harrison St.	Grand Larceny – A male employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from a secured location.

SWINE FLU continued from CT3

As of Aug. 31, there have been three deaths reported in Virginia that are known to be associated with the virus, according to the health department. All three patients had underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of complications from flu. As the flu season unfolds, the health department, according to their Web site, expects more deaths.

“We are developing plans to minimize class disruptions caused by faculty or students becoming ill, including the use of technology, adjusting deadlines, considering alternative assignments and so forth,”

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stated an Aug. 26 posting on the VCU Alert Web site. “We will be asking faculty members to inform their students about class flu plans.” The alert was signed by Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Stephen Gottfredson and Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration John Bennett.

According to the CDC Web site, students with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease, are at higher risk and should contact their local health care providers if they begin to have symptoms of H1N1.

Roberson said health officials are waiting to see

how H1N1 will react with the seasonal flu, and a vaccine as will be available to students later in the fall. VCU will be notified when these vaccines are available, and a seasonal flu vaccine is currently available. Students are encouraged to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

“If it gets to the point where the potential risks of swine flu – not just to us, but to our family members and to the population as a whole – outweighed the benefits of being in class, I would take the class online for the duration of an outbreak,” said Laura Holliday, a VCU professor of women’s studies.

Thursday, September 3, 2009



sports

Pick 'em:
week
one

Football season has arrived and with the new season, another edition of The CT Pick 'em is born. This year a titanic struggle will take place between an arsenal of former CT sports editors and the current sports editor. Because there are only college games this weekend, we will pick 12 games. Normally, we will pick 10 college games, and 10 pro games a week. Let's get it on.



TAYLOR
HOWSMON
Sports Editor



JEROME
FOSTER
Sports Editor 2008-2009



JONATHAN
HOWARD
Sports Editor 2006-2008



PHILIP
BOGENBERGER
Sports Editor 2005-2006

State games

Richmond at Duke, 7 p.m.	Richmond	Duke	Duke	Duke
William & Mary at Virginia, 6 p.m.	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia
#7 Virginia Tech vs. #5 Alabama, 8 p.m., ABC	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia Tech	Alabama

Games of Interest: Thursday

South Carolina at N.C. State, 7 p.m., ESPN	N.C. State	South Carolina	South Carolina	N.C. State
#16 Oregon at #14 Boise State, 10:15 p.m., ESPN	Boise State	Oregon	Oregon	Boise State

Saturday:

Minnesota at Syracuse, 12 p.m., ESPN	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Syracuse
#13 Georgia at #9 Oklahoma State, 3:30 p.m., ABC	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Georgia
Missouri vs. Illinois, 3:40 p.m., ESPN	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
#20 BYU vs. #3 Oklahoma, 7 p.m., ESPN	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
Maryland at #12 California, 10 p.m., ESPN 2	California	California	California	California
#11 LSU at Washington, 10:30 p.m., ESPN	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU

Monday:

Miami (Fla.) at #18 Florida State, 8p.m., ESPN	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
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sports

Six conferences in three weeks... Big East football preview

week three

TAYLOR HOWSMON
Sports Editor

Cincinnati surprised a lot of fans and won the Big East last season, earning a trip to the Orange Bowl. This season, third-year coach Brian Kelly has to replace 10 starters on defense but has pretty much every offensive starter returning. I think the Bearcats can win the conference again if quarterback Tony Pike stays healthy and the defense fills many holes.

Connecticut has turned into a winning team in the Big East. Two bowl games in a row is a big accomplishment and coach Randy Edsall is somehow still in Storrs, Conn. He has made the most of the talent that he can recruit to Uconn. The Huskies have some big names to replace, like running back Donald Brown and quarterback Tyler Lorenzen, but another bowl is not out of the question and they could be a huge surprise.

Louisville has fallen back to Earth after spending many years in college football paradise under Steve Kragthorpe in the last two seasons.

This year coach Krag had better figure out a way to win or he could be directly on the hot seat by the end of the season. I don't see much success in this effort.

Pittsburgh is in year four of the Dave Wannstedt era. Year three went quite well and ended up with a trip to the Sun Bowl. Pittsburgh hung around the race for a Big East title and that will be the goal again this season. There are some huge losses on both sides of the ball, but Pitt definitely has the talent to win this conference.

Rutgers went to a bowl game in 2008, so it cannot be considered a disappointing season. The Scarlet Knights finished the conference slate with a 5-2 mark and were in the mix for a BCS berth. This year they need to find a way to replace quarterback Mike Teel and wide receiver Kenny Britt. Greg Schiano is one of college football's best coaches so I see the Scarlet Knights in contention for a Big East title.

South Florida should go into the season as the favorite to win the Big East. Quarterback Matt Grothe is back to start for the third consecutive year and once again has a very talented core of skill position players to work with. Defensive

Big East predictions and awards:

South Florida (9-3, 6-1)
Rutgers (8-4, 4-3)
Pittsburgh (8-4, 4-3)
Cincinnati (8-4, 4-3)

Connecticut (6-6, 3-4)
West Virginia (4-8, 2-5)
Louisville (3-9, 1-6)
Syracuse (3-9, 0-7)

Player of the Year:
Matt Grothe, South Florida; Tony Pike, Cincinnati

Coach of the Year:
Jim Leavitt, South Florida; Greg Shiano, Rutgers

Game of the Year:
Thu., Nov. 12, South Florida at Rutgers

BIG EAST continued to CT7

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This week

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Fri., Sept. 4, VMI Invitational, Lexington

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Sat., Sept. 5, Virginia Tech Relays, Blacksburg

FIELD HOCKEY

Fri., Sept. 4, St. Joseph's, Philadelphia, Pa., 3 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 6, Penn, Philadelphia, Pa., 1 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

Fri., Sept. 4, St. Francis (N.Y.), Conway, S.C., 5 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 6, Albany, Conway, S.C., 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Fri., Sept. 4, Virginia Tech, Greensboro, N.C., 5 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 6, UNC Greensboro, Greensboro, N.C., 2:20 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Fri., Sept. 4, Campbell, Charlottesville, 10:30 a.m.

Fri., Sept. 4, Virginia, Charlottesville, 7 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 5, N.C. Central, Charlottesville, 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 3, 2009

It's the most wonderful time of the year

TAYLOR HOWSMON
Sports Editor

There are no words to describe my love for this week. After the extremely lame four months that are the summer sports schedule, the big f's officially return this weekend: fall and football.

Fall is my favorite season of the year. The weather gets cool, the leaves change color and everybody in this fast-paced world seems to slow down a little.

But two major sports phenomena also take their onset: The football season is born and basketball begins to come into view.

I am particularly excited about the fall of 2009.

This weekend marks the opening of college football. Not only is it the opening weekend, but one filled with fantastic football matchups.

First we kick off with South Carolina/N.C. State and Oregon/Boise State on Thursday night. Both should be outstanding football games. Then we get to Saturday where we will see three games between ranked teams, including the Alabama/Va. Tech game at 8 p.m. The weekend caps with a matchup between Miami and Florida State on Monday.

What a weekend. I am hoping nobody needs me because I'm not planning on getting a whole lot done.

After the weekend, another very exciting college football season seems inevitable—not to mention start of the NFL season when many questions will be answered.

These questions include: Can Brett Favre still play competitively? How do the Eagles work with Mike Vick? Will Matt Ryan and Joe Flacco have sophomore slumps? What rookies will make major impacts

this season?

These questions and more will be on the minds of fans everywhere.

Basketball season is also right around the corner and now that school has started, we around the VCU community are extra excited about that because we still have no football team.

This year will mark one of the best home schedules VCU has ever had. Not only do we have a new coach and a talented team seeking a third CAA title in four years, but we will also see home opponents like Oklahoma, Nevada, East Carolina and a bracket buster in February.

It is going to be a great year. And thanks to the beginning of September, the true sports season has begun.

Let the games begin.



a T.O.
with T.H.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's Soccer

Defeated Wofford 3-0 on Sunday. Senior June Hartman (Virginia Beach) tallied two goals, and Jasmine Riley (Arlington) added another for the Rams. Chenae Nelson (Alexandria) recorded her first career shutout, playing all 90 minutes. The Rams are back in action on Friday to take on Virginia Tech in the UNC Greensboro Invitational. Kickoff is set for 5 p.m.

Field Hockey

Defeated Miami (Ohio) 2-1 in Sunday's season opener. Senior Lindsay Jones (Springfield) scored off a rebound with 2:20 left to clinch the Rams' first victory. Freshman goalie Megan Botteri (Mount Bethel, Pa.) made five saves in her regular season debut. VCU is hits the field again on Friday, taking on St. Joseph's in Philadelphia.

BIG EAST continued from CT6

end George Selvie had a less-than-stellar 2008, but is one of the top defensive players in the country. The Bulls have some depth questions to answer, but have a massive amount of talent.

Syracuse has been a huge joke for the past four years. This season, the school that has Donovan McNabb and Jim Brown as alumni hired another alum, Doug Marrone, as coach to return the Orange to the top. Former Duke point guard Greg Paulus has been named the starting quarterback after being out of football for four years and I think the 'Cuse will struggle mightily. However, Marrone is a coach who has brought some excitement to the fan base so I will look at Syracuse in the coming seasons.

West Virginia came back to reality last year after three consecutive 11-win seasons. Quarterback Pat White has moved on, the offensive line is very young and coach Bill Stewart still doesn't have the confidence of the fan base. However, the defense is good and the spread offense is always a challenge to defend against. The Mountaineers will be an interesting team, but I think they will struggle to some degree this year.

spectrum

concert preview

Soulful singer/songwriter brings sass back to jazz

VERONICA GARABELLI
Spectrum Editor

Singer/songwriter Margaux LeSourd isn't scared of pop. Along with soulful, jazzy vocals LeSourd blends not only pop but rock, funk and jazz. The point, she said is to make her music accessible to a diverse audience.

"(The music I play is) groovy but it's also got a lot of elements that are interesting to people who may be in the music scene and people who study music a little more," LeSourd said. "It's a nice blend of jazz and pop."

LeSourd, a University of Richmond alumna, met Bungalo 6 member and VCU alumnus Mark Ingraham her junior year of college and started playing with the band soon afterward. LeSourd said she moved from Seattle to Richmond thinking she would pursue international relations, but instead said she couldn't stay away from music, a passion she has had since she was little.

"I realized in college my love is composing and performing," LeSourd said. "I can't not do it."

For the future, LeSourd is recording a new solo record this month and participating in Beast Wellington, a new band that has some members from Bungalo and a new female horn section. Beast Wellington includes VCU jazz studies majors Mary

Lawrence Hicks, Suzi Fischer, Chris Ryan and Devonne Harris as well as education major Maureen Wisniewski. Ingraham said the reason LeSourd worked with Bungalo 6 and now Beast Wellington is the chemistry the members had.

"She's got an incredible voice, great stage presence and is a super nice person," Ingraham said. "When you're performing with someone ... there's either a lot of chemistry or there's not."

Ingraham also said LeSourd connects with college audiences because she not only plays original songs, but covers songs that range from Amy Winehouse to Aretha Franklin. LeSourd said she likes to play good music, regardless of whether it's hers.

"I really do enjoy playing my own music," LeSourd said. "But if you do a cover and make it your own, I think it's just as gratifying as playing your own music."

In the end, LeSourd said she is living the dream.

"I've always been into music," LeSourd said. "I always wanted to do it as a career. It's cool I actually ended up doing it."

Margaux LeSourd will perform Tuesday, Sept. 8 from noon-1 p.m. at the VCU Commons Plaza as part of the Activities Planning Board Live Concert on the Plaza with special guest, Beast Wellington. Admission is free and open to the public.



Margaux LeSourd will perform at the VCU Commons Plaza on Tuesday, Sept. 8 from noon-1 p.m.

Don
Mears
photo

Students bring historic play back to life

theater preview



Matt Block (left) and Matt Lipscomb settle things the old-fashioned way in S.A.L.T.'s 'The Illusion.'

Mel Kobran photo

JESSICA PORTER
Staff Writer

The Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre, a student run theater program, will host the second of nine productions this semester. "The Illusion" will be performed by students and directed by graduate student Matt McKay.

"The Illusion" is about a father looking for his estranged son. As a final act of desperation he goes to a wizard, played by McKay, who conjures informative events from his son's life. This gives the father a glimpse into the son's experiences over the past 15

years, McKay said.

McKay said the show is a fun, light-hearted and poetic love story.

"The whole thing becomes a big allegory for theater and there's a nice surprise twist ending," McKay said.

The script was originally written by Pierre Corneille in the 17th century and was later adapted by Tony Kushner. McKay said he chose the script because it was the reason he changed his major from history to theater during his undergraduate studies at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind.

"It's what theater can and should be," McKay said, "We should go to the

'ILLUSIONS' continued to CT9

Thursday, September 3, 2009

CT8 · commonwealthtimes.com · spectrum

'ILLUSIONS' continued from CT8

theater to be entertained and moved in a positive direction."

S.A.L.T. was created four years ago and is an outlet for students to experience performing. Everyone in the theater department gets the opportunity to

participate in S.A.L.T. versus the few that participate on the main stage, said Elizabeth Popp, external communications director for S.A.L.T.

"With all the professional and commercial theaters in Richmond, it is an incredible learning experience for students to be in control ... it's real world application," said Evan Anderson, who plays Pridamant in the play.

The theater is laboratory style, meaning it is on the hands of eight actors to motivate the show. It is almost an empty stage and there are few props

or special effects, as is typical of S.A.L.T. plays, McKay said.

"The Illusion" runs Friday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 12 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Shafer Street Playhouse's Newdick Theatre. Admission is free and open to the public.



Shifting tectonic plates cause massive damage to the continent in '2012,' out Nov. 14.

Movie line-up spans spectrum

fall film offerings for all faces

fall movie previews

SEAN COLLINS-SMITH
Staff Writer

Coming off a summer movie season that saw more explosive fare than usual, the fall slate seeks to calm things down a bit. Not only will these films be clamoring for your well-earned dough, they'll be trying for a crack at the Academy's new best picture system, which will allow for 10 films this year instead of five. Heavier, special-effect-driven films will be released, too, with "2012" coming in November and "Avatar" in December. Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer prize-winning "The Road" finally gets a release after three date changes going all the way back to last November. 3-D filming also continues its rise in popularity, with no less than four movies slated for release in IMAX 3-D. Here is a partial slate of movies being released this fall.

"Gamer" – Gerard Butler ("300," "The Ugly Truth") returns to action-packed fare in this futuristic thriller. Video games in 2034 have evolved so that players can control actual humans instead of computer generated characters. Mass-scale death matches become the norm, until Kable (Butler) begins to turn against the system. The film stars Michael C. Hall and Ludacris. (Sept. 4)

"9" – Based on a 2005 short film with the same name, "9" is Focus Features' second animated film, following on the heels of the successful "Coraline." A group of rag dolls, whose only identifiable marks are numbers, traverse a post-apocalyptic world in which humans have vanished. 9, voiced by Elijah Wood ("Lord of the Rings"), leads them. Two high profile producers, Tim Burton ("Nightmare Before Christmas") and Timur Bekmambetov ("Wanted") helped bring this visually unique feature to the big Thursday, September 3, 2009

screen. "9" includes the voices of Jennifer Connelly, John C. Reilly, Martin Landau, and Christopher Plummer. (Sept. 9)

"Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" – Inspired by a children's book bearing the same name, this film expands on that work by adding new characters and explaining the bizarre weather that has struck the humorously-named city of Chewandswallow. Bill Hader ("Napoleon Dynamite") voices Flint Lockwood, a scientist who tries to solve world hunger and in doing so creates a method of converting water into virtually any type of food. The film features characters voiced by Anna Faris, Bruce Campbell, James Caan and Mr. T. (Sept. 18)

"The Informant!" – Steven Soderbergh ("Ocean's" Trilogy, "Erin Brockovich") adapts a non-fiction book based on the life of the highest ranked executive to



Disney steps back into the 2-D realm with the controversial 'The Princess and the Frog,' out Nov. 25.

turn whistleblower in U.S. history. So, of course, he makes it a dark comedy thriller. Mark Whitacre (Matt Damon) records hours of video and audio and reports his findings to the FBI, while simultaneously coping with bipolar disorder and acute paranoia. To play Whitacre, Matt Damon gained 30 pounds, in an attempt to replicate his paunchy physique. (Sept. 18)

"Fame" – MGM, once among the leading money-making movie studios, is in trouble. Much rides on their one theatrical release this year, a remake of the 1980s film that's seen subsequent reincarnations in both television and stage productions. If it can catch hold, the \$25 million venture could help to bring the studio that produced "2001: A Space Odyssey" out of its current financial mess. (Sept. 25)

FILMS continued to CT10

spectrum · commonwealthtimes.com · CT9



FILMS continued from CT9

"Toy Story"/ "Toy Story 2" (3-D) – Pixar is rereleasing the movies that made them a brand – only this time, they're in 3-D. The two-week only engagement features both the first and the second film, in the wake of Toy Story 3's release in June of 2010. (Oct. 2)

"Zombieland" – The latest zombie-comedy has been steadily growing in buzz since the humorous trailer debuted a few months ago. Woody Harrelson stars as Tallahassee, a man who meets up with other survivors of a zombie apocalypse that has engulfed the world. Jesse Eisenberg and Emma Stone co-star. (Oct. 2)

"A Serious Man" – From the Coen Brothers ("Burn After Reading," "Raising Arizona") comes a black comedy set in Minnesota in the year 1967. Michael Stuhlbarg plays Larry Gopnik, a Jewish husband and father struggling to look past his family's problems and live an ordinary life. In an attempt to set things right, he ventures to see three rabbis, each of whom have different responses to his inquiries. (Oct. 2)

"The Road" – Two years ago, Cormac McCarthy's "No Country for Old Men" was adapted into an Oscar-winning film. Now his most critically praised work – which won the Pulitzer in 2007 – comes to the big screen. The story follows a father and son who journey across post-apocalyptic Earth, which has been consumed by ash. Originally scheduled

for a November release last year, the film has been pushed ahead several times to allow time for extended post-production. Tom Chiarella of "Esquire" screened the film and said it was the "most important movie of the year." With Viggo Mortensen and Guy Pearce starring. (Oct. 16)

"Where the Wild Things Are" – Spike Jonze ("Being John Malkovich") wrote and directed this adaptation of Maurice Sendak's beloved short story, which tells the story of a little boy named Max and his imaginary world. The trailer is one of the most viewed online right now, backed by an addictive Arcade Fire track. James Gandolfini and Forest Whitaker are among those voicing the wild things. (Oct. 16)

"A Christmas Carol" – Robert Zemeckis ("Beowulf," "The Polar Express") continues his foray into CG motion capture techniques by adapting Charles Dickens' 19th century story. Jim Carrey embodies over a half a dozen roles, including Ebenezer Scrooge at different periods in his life and the three ghosts who eventually haunt him. It will be released in IMAX 3D and Disney Digital 3D. With Cary Elwes, Gary Oldman and Bob Hoskins. (Nov. 6)

"2012" – Writer/director Roland Emmerich loves destroying the world. From "Independence Day" to "Godzilla" to "The Day After Tomorrow," his films have always been about destruction and mankind's inability to stop it. Oh yeah, and there are expensive special effects. Tack another one up to that specialty genre, as he tells the story of a family man (John Cusack) trying to escape the Mayan-predicted apocalypse. Beware of shifting tectonic plates. (Nov. 13)

"The Twilight Saga: New Moon" – The vampiric sensation known as "Twilight" continues on the big screen with this sequel. A bigger budget and more production time almost certainly ensures better looking special effects, right? And maybe less wooden acting? They dumped director Catherine Hardwicke ("Thirteen"), even though she led the first film to gross more than \$350 million. We'll see what Chris Weitz ("American Pie") can do in her stead. (Nov. 20)

"The Princess and the Frog" – Disney braves what is for them a forgotten art form: 2-D animated films. With the rise in popularity of CGI and 3-D, traditional 2-D animation was considered archaic. Surprisingly, advertising this return to the old way hasn't been the company's biggest problem: The lead in the film is an African-American named Tiana, and she's already stirring up controversy. First, Disney had to change the name from "The Frog Princess" to its current title, because advocacy groups were claiming it was a knock toward the black community. Then, her original name of Maddy had to be altered to Tiana, with claims of racist insinuation in the name. Time will tell if the controversy equals hype for Disney Animation. Set in New Orleans during the 1920s jazz age, the film is centered around a princess who kisses a frog and is subsequently turned into one. Together, they must journey to find a cure that will turn them both back into who they really are. (Nov. 25)

"The Lovely Bones" – "The Lord of the Rings" writer/director Peter Jackson adapts this popular novel about a murdered girl who watches over her parents after her gruesome death. The preview presents a visually stunning rendition of heaven and what looks to be an Oscar-nominated role by Mark Wahlberg. Also starring Rachel Weisz, Stanley Tucci and Susan Sarandon. (Dec. 11)

"Avatar" – James Cameron, the self-proclaimed "king of the world," returns to the cinematic world nearly 15 years after his last film, "Titanic," became the largest-grossing motion picture of all time. And the hype is spreading like wildfire. A brilliant public relations stunt dubbed "Avatar Day," in which 20th Century Fox screened 16 minutes of footage on every IMAX 3D screen in the world free of charge, only fueled the flames. The story revolves around a paraplegic named Jake Skully who travels to Pandora, a planet full of lush jungles and alien life. There he is given an avatar, a 10-foot tall representation of the planet's main inhabitants called the Na'vi. With his motor functions restored, he begins to explore the hostile planet. Cameron has spent the better part of this decade realizing and filming his vision, to the tune of \$250 plus million dollars. The buzz preceding the film is not unlike what happened 12 years ago when "Titanic" was on the radar months before its release. (Dec. 18) planet. Cameron has spent the better part of this decade realizing and filming his vision, to the tune of \$250 plus million dollars. The buzz preceding the film is not unlike what happened 12 years ago when "Titanic" was on the radar months before its



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First Fridays Calendar

Friday 9/4

“Zoo Valdez”

New work by Marius Valdez. 7 p.m. Free. Through Sept. 26. Metro Space Gallery. 119 W. Broad St. 307-9420.

“A Show for a King”

Works on paper and prints by Edward Tookes. 7 p.m. Free. Through Sept. 26. “I Will Survive.” Works by various cancer survivors and fighters. Through Oct. 30. Visual Art Studio. 208 W. Broad St. 644-1368.

“National Art of Recovery Art Show”

Featuring work by the Substance Abuse and Addictions Recovery Alliance of Virginia. 6 p.m. Free. Through Sept. 27. Art6 Gallery. 6 E. Broad St. 308-2561.

“New Work”

Art by Benjamin Jones. Through Oct. 17. “Show Show.” Sculptures by Nicole Licht. Through Sept. 28. Quirk Gallery. 311 W. Broad St. 644-5450.

“Virginia Collage Society Exhibit,” “Labyrinth”

Large crayon drawings by John Bailey. “Voices for Change.” Mixed-media by Virginia’s foster-care youth. 7 p.m. Free. Through Sept. 30. Richmond Public Library. 101 E. Franklin St. 646-4740

“Embedded Narrative”

Featuring works by Elka Amorim and Isobel Milena. “Plushozoic,” featuring creature works by Phil Barbato. “When Dinos Ruled RVA.” 7 p.m. Free. Through Sept. 25. Gallery5. 200 W. Marshall St. 644-0005.

“Ghosts of Ink”

Works by Ink, Greg Aigner, Leigh Odom and Darin Leleux. 6 p.m. Free. Zephyr Tattoo and Things. 314 Brook Road. 355-8885.

“New Work”

Featuring art by mother and son Sheep Jones and Buck Jones. 6 p.m. Free. Through Sept. 30. Glave Kocen Gallery. 1620 W. Main St. 358-1990.

“Mary’s Planet”

Video work by Georgianne Stinnett. Through Sept. 28. Main Art Gallery. 1537 W. Main St. 355-6151.

Weekend Calendar

Thursday 9/3

“It’s Only Natural: the Art of Stanley Boxer”

Art lecture by independent scholar and curator Elizabeth Stevens. 7 p.m. Free. The University of Richmond. Modlin Center for the Arts’ Cousins Studio Theatre. 28 Westhampton Way. 289-8276.

Sol Café:

8 p.m. Free. Aurora. 401 E. Grace St. 644-5380.

Jason Jenkins:

8 p.m. Free. Globehopper Coffeehouse and Lounge. 2100 E. Main St. 523-8083.

Pat O’Brien:

9:30 p.m. Free. Sharky’s Bar and Billiards.

Thursday, September 3, 2009

4032 Cox Road. 273-1888.

Friday 9/4

The Silo Effect:

8 p.m. \$5. The Camel Café. 1621 W. Broad St. 353-4901.

Beast Wellington:

9 p.m. \$6. Bogart’s. 1903 W. Cary St. 353-9280.

Improv Comedy:

ComedySportz comedy troupe presents a night of humor. 7 p.m. All ages. 9:30 p.m. Mature audiences. \$10-12. The Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen. 2880 Mountain Road. 261-2787.

Scottzilla and Acoustikat:

10 p.m. Free. City Dogs. 1316 E. Cary St. 343-3647.

Saturday 9/5

Foodstock Concert for Haiti:

The Big Guys, Moosa, Blue Light District, True Silver. 7 p.m. \$12. Capital Ale House.

623 E. Main St. 780-2537.

Open Mic Night Competition:

8:30 p.m. Free. Grandpa Eddie’s Alabama Ribs and BBQ. 11129 Three Chopt Road. 270-7427.

Soulgasm:

DJ Sayeed. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5. Tropical Soul Café. 314 N. Second St. 771-1605.

Sunday 9/6

Roger Carroll and Anthony Dowd Duo:

7 p.m. Free. Emilio’s Tapas Bar. 1847 W. Broad St. 359-1224.

Matt Kazam:

7 p.m. \$10. Funny Bone. 11800 W. Broad St. 521-8900.

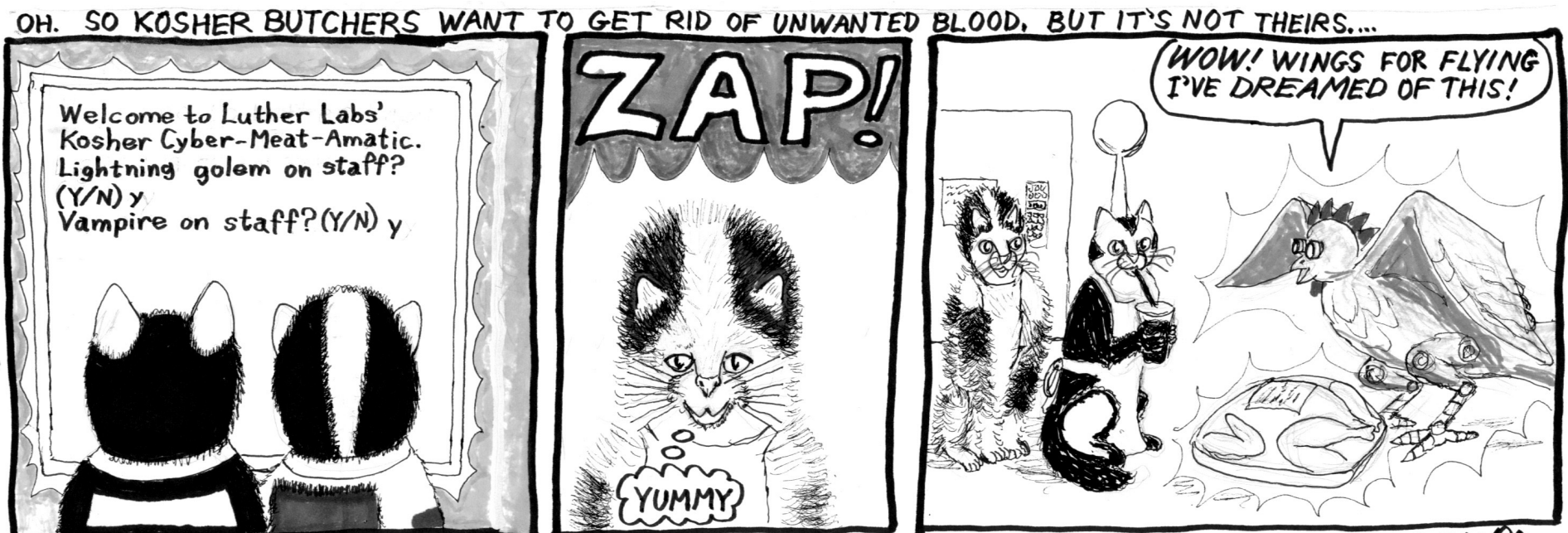
Haze and the Transients:

9 p.m. Free. Commercial Taphouse. 111 N. Robinson St. 359-6544.

comics

Pizza from Scratch

Bill Lemmond



NEXT WEEK: ARE THERE JOBS FOR MILLIONS OF ROBOT CHICKENS?

28-30 AUG 2009 *WPLT*

Forget Fairytales

Christine Stoddard



CT12 · commonwealthtimes.com · comics

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Add your voice

The comics pages of The Commonwealth Times are open to the VCU community. Contributors are welcome by email at graphics@commonwealth-times.com, or by mail and in person at 817 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. 23220-3806.

Comics 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.

Roberto Curtis
Executive Editor

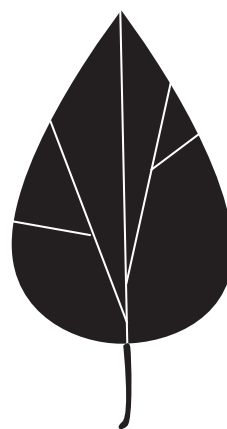
Caroline Evertz
Graphic Designer

Thursday, September 3, 2009

Time to Kill

Jason Velez

Isn't it great what cell phones
have done for Communication?



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opinion

The information superhighway has dark alleys Craigslist is one of them

ERIC HILL
Opinion Editor

Even under the best of economic circumstances, employment is not a given. Contrasted with a time when loans, jobs and opportunities are scarce, there is a taste of desperation in the mouths of most students. While the Internet has become a vital tool overcoming these obstacles, students must tread carefully when using social networking and listing services, such as Craigslist.

Craigslist, for those who are unfamiliar with the service, is a Web site that allows anyone to post job listings, goods and even romantic interests. It is, in many ways, the Internet's version of a completely free-market system. There are virtually no regulations and almost no oversight.

Students troll Craigslist for jobs, free or used furniture, electronics, and even sex partners—sometimes it produces results. Unfortunately, there is a naïveté to most young adults that puts them at great risk when using this service. Like in any free market system, there are socially or morally corrupt people looking to take advantage of the uninformed or gullible.

Let us consider the case of Julia Brisman: According to police authorities Brisman was posting services as a masseuse on Craigslist. While the true nature of her services is questionable, it was not a factor April 14, when she was brutally beaten in the head and shot three times at close range in a Boston hotel. Brisman did not survive the attack.

On April 20 Boston authorities arrested 22-year-old medical student Phillip Markoff as a suspect in the Brisman murder when they traced the computer address of the last response to Brisman's Craigslist posting. Ac-

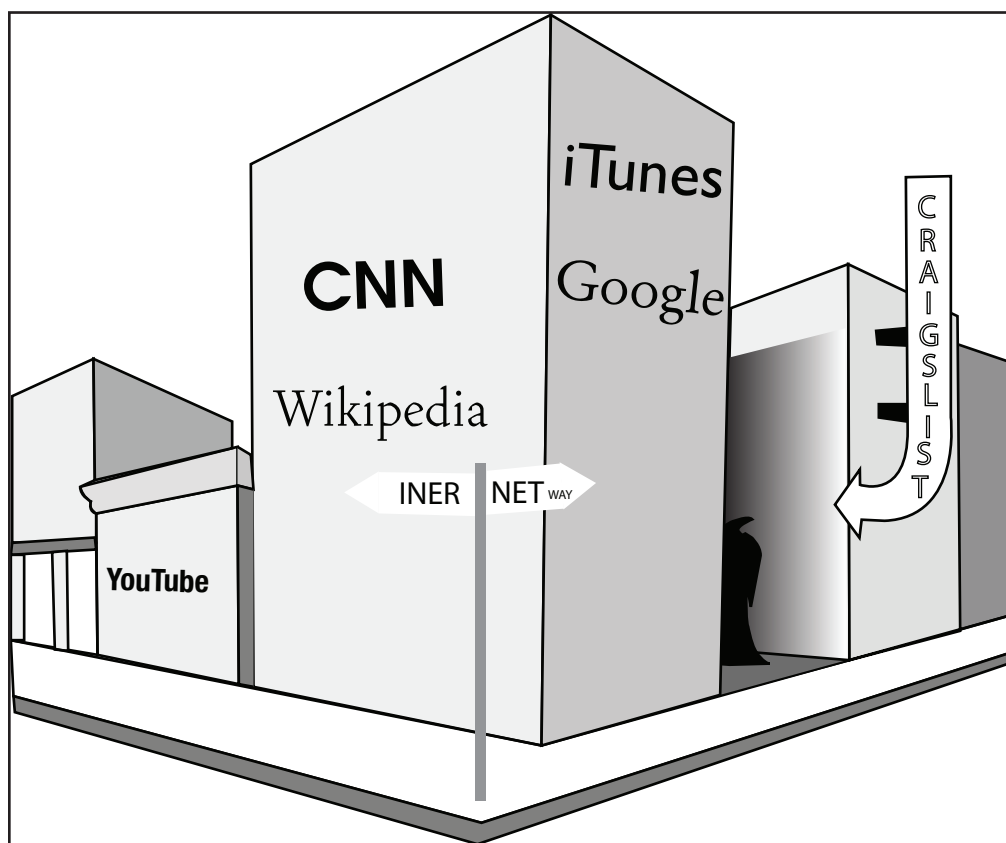
cording to reports by the New York Daily News, Markoff is suspected in the kidnapping, beating and robbery of two other Craigslist users who offered sexual services. Markoff is currently confined in a Boston jail cell and has warrants for his arrest in Rhode Island for crimes committed there. Material

heat for its involvement in the Craigslist Killer murder and other incidents. Being cited as a dangerous avenue, many citizens are calling for authorities and corporate entities to regulate the Internet to avoid future crimes. This is a misplaced sentiment. Craigslist is an unrestricted service and as such,

other police departments have seen a significant spike in the amount of crime tied to the service. Last March, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart made national headlines when he filed federal lawsuits asking for the government to force Craigslist to take down its erotic services section because it was known to facilitate prostitution.

While all of this information leads to the obvious conclusion that the Internet is unsafe, it does not warrant government officials regulating the Internet. It is evident that Craigslist needs to be retooled and monitored, but it should be done internally out of respect for the rule of law, not under its thumb.

CRAIGSLIST continued to CT15



"Roaming the streets"

Patrice Dalesandro illustration

evidence has been produced, including weapons, cash and stolen belongings of the victims.

What is most horrific about this suspected "Craigslist Killer" is that he appeared to have carried on a very convincing façade of normalcy. He was a promising medical student at Boston University Medical School, was engaged to a fellow student, and was regarded by his friends as a good person. The motive for his crimes is suspected to be a gambling addiction, which was fueled by the cash he allegedly extorted when he robbed his victims at gunpoint.

Craigslist is now taking considerable

the actions that take place through it will not be restricted to the confines of law. Anyone who uses the service has accepted, knowingly or not, that what takes place there cannot be regulated or guaranteed.

In a March 19 Richmond Times-Dispatch article, Karla Peters, the department spokeswoman for the Richmond Police Department said, "The Richmond Police Department has not had any incidents in the city that we are aware of involving prostitution (or) solicitation via Craigslist."

While the city might not be reporting connections to Craigslist,

the
ct

ROBERTO CURTIS
Executive Editor

ERIC HILL
Opinion Editor

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Thursday, September 3, 2009

opinion

CRAIGSLIST continued from CT14

Students might think they are protected on the Internet, but that is not the case. Like the city of Richmond itself, students might be safe if they stick to the main streets but they shouldn't get comfortable with the illusion they are protected everywhere, especially when they have mischief in mind.

In any city there are prowlers hiding in dark alleys looking to prey on the aloof. Even with massive policing efforts, they have yet to be removed. Safety comes from following your feet down the right roads, not looking desperately for dangerous shortcuts.

Opinion Section Notices

What Not News: The Environmental Protection Agency is debating whether or not to classify carbon dioxide as a pollutant. Apparently even breathing is now a crime.

A 17 year old is now the youngest person to sail around the world. Johnny Quest is furious.

I Have Issues: If same -sex civil unions had all of the privileges of "traditional" heterosexual marriages and were different in name only, would you consider civil rights served? Why or why not?

Respond to this issue on Twitter at www.twitter.com/TheOpEdRam or send an e-mail to opinion@commonwealthtimes.com.



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