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

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Local and VCU

Jake Cunningham
cover photo

the
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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 Roberto Curtis at 828-1058 or e-mail him at editor@commonwealthtimes.com. Corrections will appear on the Opinion page.

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

817 W. Broad St., P.O. Box 842010
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Monday, Oct 5, 2009

1 dead; 3 injured when boat capsizes near Hampton

The U.S. Coast Guard said one person died and three others were injured when a boat capsized near Hampton.

The Coast Guard received a call around noon that an 18-ft. boat had capsized about a mile east of Fort Monroe.

People in two boats pulled the four from the water and took them to a nearby marina, where they were taken to Sentara CareFlex Hospital. One man died, and the remaining three were being treated for minor injuries.

The Coast Guard is investigating the incident.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Police identify bus driver charged in fatal accident

The Richmond Police Department has charged the driver involved in a fatal GRTC bus accident that happened on Sept. 30.

Teresa L. Jones, 46, of Richmond, has been arrested and charged with reckless driving. Jones was operating a GRTC bus when it struck and killed a pedestrian at the intersection of 14th and Franklin Streets.

Richmond Police have identified the deceased as Loucendia Reed Lambert, 55, of Disputanta, Virginia.

The incident happened just after 8 a.m. Lambert was pronounced dead at the scene. The intersection was closed from the time of the accident until just before 11:30 a.m.

The incident remains under investigation.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Kaine announcing nearly 600 layoffs

Gov. Kaine is expected to announce major budget cuts Tuesday, two weeks after announcing a record shortfall in Virginia's estimated revenue.

Included in the cuts are the layoffs of nearly 600 state workers, and the elimination of nearly 350 other positions.

Brunswick Correctional Center will also be closed, forcing the relocation of nearly 1,000 inmates.

State workers will also take an unpaid day off on the Friday before Memorial Day in 2010. This furlough does not apply to critical personnel.

Kaine had already announced a \$1.5 billion shortfall in the two-year budget that ends next year. The cuts are the largest in the commonwealth's history.

Brief by Young Broadcasting, Inc.

National and International

Yale lab tech due in court to face murder charge

A former Yale University lab technician is due in court this week on charges that he strangled a graduate student and stuffed her body inside a wall.

Raymond Clark III is due in New Haven Superior Court on Tuesday. He has yet to enter a plea for the murder of 24-year-old Annie Le of Placerville, Calif.

Le, a pharmacology graduate student, vanished Sept. 8 from a Yale medical lab building. Her body was found five days later, on what was to be her wedding day, in a hidden utility access space behind the wall of a basement laboratory.

The 24-year-old Clark worked as an animal lab technician, cleaning floors and mouse cages in the lab where Le worked. His bond has been set at \$3 million.

Brief by The Associated Press.

8 US troops die in attack on remote Afghan outpost

The military says eight American soldiers and two Afghans were killed in an attack on two outposts in remote eastern Afghanistan.

The military statement Sunday said a tribal militia launched the attack from a mosque and a nearby village in Nuristan, one of the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan. The Americans and Afghans repelled Saturday's attack and "inflicted heavy enemy casualties."

In the U.S. statement, Col. Randy George, described it as "a complex attack in a difficult area."

The Taliban have claimed responsibility.

Brief by The Associated Press.

UN watchdog sets Oct. 25 for Iran inspection

The head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog said Sunday inspectors would be examining Iran's recently revealed nuclear facility on Oct. 25.

Mohamed ElBaradei spoke in Tehran following talks with Iranian officials over a recently revealed uranium enrichment facility that has caused consternation around the world over the extent and purpose of Iran's nuclear program.

ElBaradei, who sat along aside Iranian nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, said talks had been a success and he saw the possibility of defusing the international crisis over Iran's nuclear program.

Revelations that Iran had a second, previously unknown site to refine uranium has raised new international fears of the purposes of the nation's nuclear program.

The U.S. and its allies say Iran's program is seeking nuclear weapons while Iran says it is for peaceful purposes.

Brief by The Associated Press.

news

Governor nominees plan for higher education

ERICATERRINI
News Editor

The budget cuts affecting higher education institutions might be alleviated by state investment, according to a report by The Virginia Higher Education Council Thursday at The Virginia Summit on Economic Competitiveness and Higher Education.

The report was based on the study by The Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Gubernatorial candidates Creigh Deeds and Bob McDonnell along with Gov. Tim Kaine commented on the council's report. VCU President Michael Rao said VCU talked with both candidates.

"Both appear to be very committed to higher education," Rao said. "There's a lot of talk about public education and what it does."

VCU's budget was recently affected by withdrawals of \$25.2 million in state funding, which was announced by Kaine in September 2009.

The cuts will not be taken "across the board," said John Bennett, the senior vice president for finance and administration at VCU.

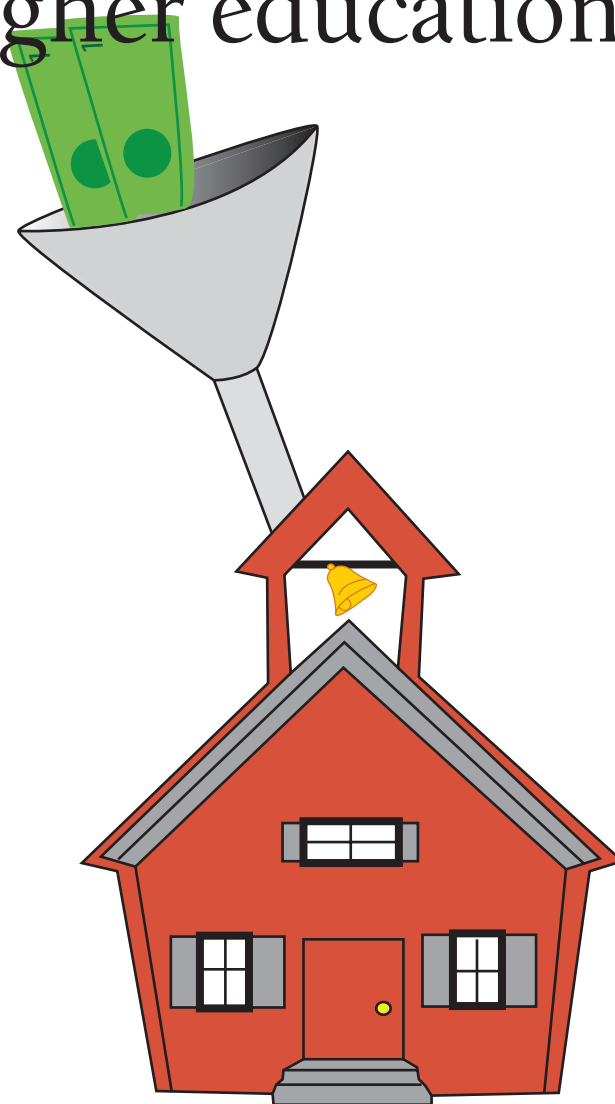
"The instructional portion of the budget is about half of the total," Bennett said. "That's where the state cuts are coming and that's where the reductions are but of course, that's the core part of the institution."

Rao said the budget cuts have been a "tremendous burden" for the university but those cuts may be better than making equal cuts for every department and program.

The study states, "Virginia receives \$1.39 in state tax revenue for every dollar it invests in public higher education." It also states "\$2.5 billion in annual tax revenues are generated for the state" and "144,550 jobs are created by higher education operations."

These benefits were taken into consideration when Deeds and McDonnell proposed their plans for higher education. Deeds' plan follows the council's, which calls for adding 70,000 degrees in the next 10 years while McDonnell plans to add 100,000 degrees in the next 15 years.

"We're working with the current governor because he has another few months," Rao said. "We're working with the legislators because we know that many of them will be here and then, once the governor is elected, we'll also work with that new person."



Deeds' plan for higher education:

- Create an additional 70,000 degrees over the next 10 years for two- and four-year programs.
- Make education and job training more affordable.
- Guarantee loans for Virginia community college students.
- Increase need-based tuition assistance by at least \$40 million.
- Offer loan forgiveness for teachers who work in high-need areas or in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects.
- Establish a "Virginia Promise Fund" to curb tuition increases during tough economic times.
- Add \$10 million in job training grants

associated with the Governor's Opportunity Fund.

- Make college and job training more accessible.
- Expand career-training programs at community colleges.
- Expand capacity at four-year colleges, with a special emphasis on increasing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degrees.
- Pursue public-private partnerships that connect job training at our colleges, universities, and high schools with the local business needs.
- Institute a biannual state review to ensure that Virginia is targeting the programs and jobs in high demand.
- Increase the number of high school seniors graduating with either a

semester's worth of college credit or 18 weeks of job training.

Plan provided by www.deedsforvirginia.com

McDonnell's plan for higher education:

- Add 100,000 additional associate's and bachelor's degrees over the next 15 years.
- Restructuring the system for affordability and employability.
- Targeting science, technology, engineering, mathematics and other high-income, high-demand sectors.
- Comprehensive workforce training/re-training led by our community colleges.

Plan provided www.bobmcdonnell.com

Loophole legislation costs Deeds NRA endorsement

JOSH PRICE
Contributing Writer

Gubernatorial candidates Creigh Deeds and Bob McDonnell both have received National Rifle Association A-ratings in the past. But campaign officials say Deeds' legislative attempts to close Virginia's gun-show loophole may have prevented the NRA from backing Deeds in the governor's race.

The NRA chose to endorse Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob McDonnell. Four years ago during the race for Attorney General, the NRA endorsed Deeds.

"As a lifelong gun owner and hunter, Creigh Deeds is a committed supporter of the Second Amendment," stated Jared Leopold, spokesman for the Deeds campaign, in a written statement. "While it appears that his work on closing the gun-show loophole following the Virginia Tech mass murder may have lost him this endorsement, Creigh looks forward to working with the NRA as governor to continue to protect our Second Amendment rights."

The NRA Institute for Legislative Action's Web site states the gun-show loophole is a myth, and gun shows are not the source for guns used to commit crime.

"The term 'gun-show loophole' is a misnomer," said Crystal Cameron, press

secretary for the McDonnell campaign. "All registered gun dealers must run background checks for any buyers. Bob McDonnell supports background checks for all purchases with licensed Virginia gun dealers at Virginia gun shows."

Current federal law requires criminal background checks only for guns sold through licensed firearm dealers. A loophole in the law listed on the web site for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives allows individuals not engaged in the business of selling firearms to sell guns without a license.

These transactions are called private sales and can occur at gun shows, but also can include guns sold through classified newspaper ads or the Internet.

Following the Virginia Tech mass murder, Deeds supported a bill that would have closed the gun-show loophole, but the bill failed to pass the state Senate.

According to Cameron, the McDonnell campaign said the actual loophole that allowed Seung-Hui Cho to legally purchase his two firearms was related to the lack of mental-health reporting in Virginia's background system.

"What this issue is really about is mandating government regulation of private sales of firearms," Cameron said. "Currently, the commonwealth does not regulate private sales of firearms between citizens, and Bob McDonnell does not support such an expansion into the private affairs of law abiding citizens."

Erica Terrini photos

Campaign officials speculate democratic gubernatorial candidate Creigh Deeds lost support from the National Rifle Association based on legislative attempts to close Virginia's gun-show loophole.

What are your thoughts?



Tucker Blandford, photography and film major

"It's a big issue but it shouldn't be on their top priority."



Ayodele Oladipupo, public relations major

"I don't think it would decide the governor election, it's not as relevant. It's important but I don't think it will be a deciding factor."



Andrew Frenkel, biology major

"I think that guns should be controlled and that if you don't control it people will just take advantage."



Sean Reddy, political science major

"I generally don't vote for socialists. I can understand taking a platform and running with it when it's popular."



Saad Shaukat, biology major

"The NRA is a pretty big interest group. I'm sure they give him a lot of money along with support and if there's a big interest here, I'm sure he'll lose a lot of voters."



Ausha Espiet, English major

"Unfortunately, gun control is an issue we must be concerned with in the upcoming election. I find it disheartening the government must impose greater restrictive measures on society, however with the increasing vulnerability it seems like a necessary evil."

VCU libraries reach milestone



Erica Terrini photos

VCU libraries, James Branch Cabell Library and Tompkins-McCaw Library acquired their two millionth volume Friday. A milestone celebration was held at the Cabell Library to mark the addition of Marvel Comics "The Amazing Spiderman, 583" featuring Barack Obama.

Michael Rao, VCU president, addressed the crowd about the impact the Libraries' additions will have on VCU.



President Barack Obama is featured on edition 583 of the Marvel comic 'The Amazing Spider-man.'



Stephen Gottfredson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, made the opening remarks at the two millionth volume celebration.

Did you know?

James Branch Cabell was a Richmond author known for his works about medieval Romanticism. By the end of his life, he had written 52 volumes of work. Cabell was known as one of the first contemporary writers of the South.

Information found on libraries.vcu.edu.

sports

Women's soccer has winless weekend

TAYLOR HOWSMON

Sports Editor

After last weekend's thrilling home win, the women's soccer team had an opportunity to get a huge leg up in the CAA standings with two home matches against conference teams this weekend.

Unfortunately for the Rams, the weekend went by without a victory as they tied Georgia State Friday night and lost to UNC Wilmington on Sunday.

The Rams had many chances to get on the board Friday night, but could not capitalize in a scoreless draw with Georgia State.

Freshman Gabby Wilson (Woodbridge/Osbourn Park) had seven shots, four of which were on goal in the tie.

VCU moved to 5-4-2 and 1-1-1 in conference.

Sunday the Rams faced off with one of the hottest teams in the CAA: UNC Wilmington, who was coming wins over Old Dominion and James Madison. This one did not go in the Rams' favor either, as they lost 4-1.

"I think we were outfought, outworked," coach Tiffany Roberts-Sahaydak said. "We just got to get better."

The Seahawks did not take long to jump out to the lead on the Rams.

Just four minutes in, at the 41:07 mark, sophomore Kelly Dodd came streaking down the left side of the box and hit a brilliant cross to Erica Rodgers, who was wide open at the top.

Rodgers made good on the opportunity and placed a ball in the upper-left-hand corner of the goal.

Wilmington scored again in the half with just about 17 minutes left.

This time Megan Novak received a cross from Stephanie Rose and poked it past VCU keeper Kate Hudson (Clarksville, Md./University of Richmond).

The Seahawks continued their dominance on Sunday.

VCU pushed its streak to 155 consecutive minutes without a goal as the Seahawks' defense kept them to only one shot on goal in the half.

The second half story was not too different from the first.

UNC Wilmington continued to dominate on the defensive side of the ball, and maintained possession for the majority of the time.

Wilmington capitalized on a VCU mistake as Rodgers received a lead pass into the box, beating the Ram defense.

Rodgers was fouled and received a penalty shot. She nailed the shot and put her team ahead 3-0 for her second goal of the season.



ABOVE Breiana White wins the ball against Georgia State.

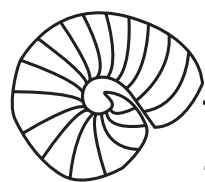
Jake Cunningham photos

BELOW Striker Jasmine Riley beats her marker during Sunday's scoreless game against Georgia State.



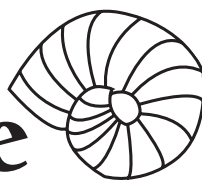
Soccer continued to CT 7

Kate Hudson



Ram profile

Q&A



Sport **Women's soccer** | Hometown **Clarksville, Md.**

Age **21** | Year **Redshirt senior** | Major **Graduate student in social work**

Q: Why did you choose soccer as your sport?

A: "I've played since I was 6 years old; my dad played goalie during his high school career so I wanted to be like him."

Q: What sport would you play if you weren't playing soccer?

A: "I like distance running, so cross country or something like that."

Q: Who has influenced you the most?

A: "My parents. My dad has coached me from a technical side, and my mom has always been the emotional support."

Q: If you were your coach, what would you say you bring to the team?

A: "A lot of passion and fire to the team and the sport."

Q: What has been your best moment in sports (not necessarily at VCU)?

A: "Coming here; coming into a

program where I could really believe in the way it was built."

Q: What is your worst moment in sports?

A: "Right now is pretty bad (after Sunday's loss to Wilmington) ... that'll do it."

Q: Who is your favorite professional athlete?

A: "Michael Jordan, just because he represents everything, or Cal Ripken ... It's a close tie."

Q: How would your teammates describe you off the field?

A: "Probably nerdy ... I am always doing schoolwork."

Q: What are your plans after you graduate?

A: "I'm hoping to work in a pediatric ward of a children's hospital in social work."

SOCCKER continued from CT6

VCU finally broke through on the scoreboard with 7:07 left in the game.

Sophomore Heather Hovanesian (Centreville/Westfield) attempted a cross to Jasmine Riley (Arlington/Wakefield), but somehow found the back of the net.

The goal broke a streak of almost 183 minutes without a goal.

But the thrill of a goal was temporary as Wilmington took the ball right back down the field and scored on an Ashley Myers header.

Time ran out on the Rams and the scoreboard read 4-1.

"Today in the second half I think they lost their belief a little bit ... It's almost like they gave up, and I think when you give up it's concerning," Coach Roberts-Sahaydak said.

The loss is VCU's first at home this season, and dropped the Rams to 5-5-2 and 1-2-1 in the conference.

The Rams face Drexel on the road on Friday.

This week

Upcoming Events

Basketball

Tues., Oct. 6, Washington Wizards vs. Memphis Grizzlies, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.

Field Hockey

Wed., Oct. 7, at Longwood Farmville, 6 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 9, at James Madison, Harrisonburg, 7 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 11, Davidson, Cary Street Field, 1 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Wed., Oct. 7, James Madison, Sports Backers Stadium, 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 10, William & Mary, Sports Backers Stadium, 7 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Fri., Oct. 9, at Drexel, Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 11, at University of Delaware, Newark, Del., 1 p.m.

Volleyball

Wed., Oct. 7, George Washington, Siegel Center, 6 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 9, UNC Wilmington, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 10, Georgia State, Siegel Center, 7 p.m.

We want to hear from you!



Send your comments to editor@commonwealthtimes.com

VCU sports September review:

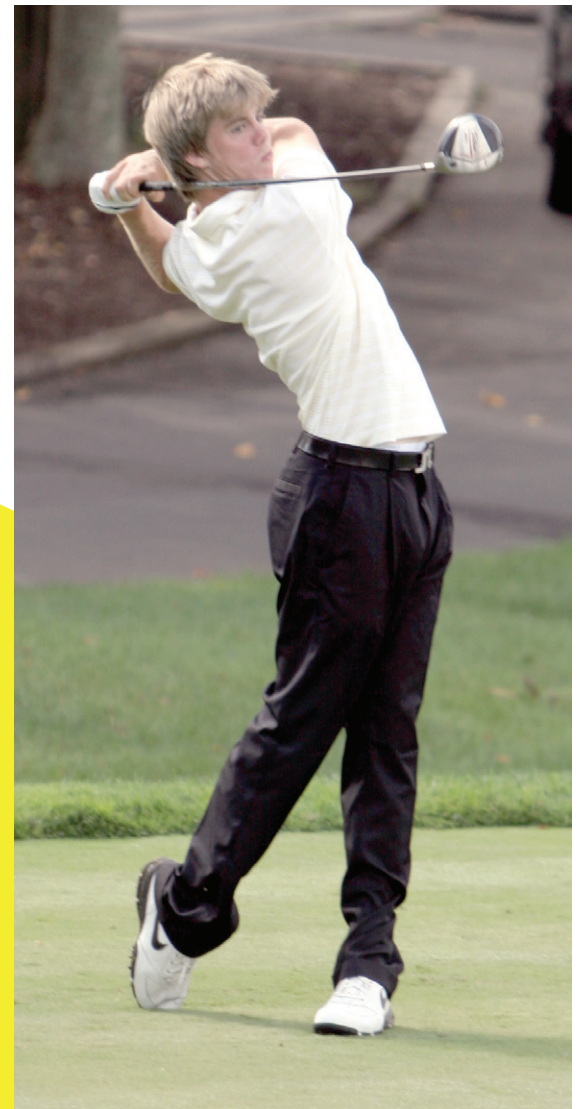
TAYLOR HOWSMON
Sports Editor

file photos



Men's basketball

Scheduled to officially start practice on Oct. 16. First-year-coach Shaka Smart has a talented cast of returning players including Joey Rodriguez (Olviedo, Fla./Lake Howell), Larry Sanders (Fort Pierce, Fla./Port St. Lucie), Bradford Burgess (Richmond/Benedictine) and Brandon Rozzell (Richmond/Highland Springs), among others. Newcomers Jay Gavin (Seat Pleasant, Md./Marist) and Jamie Skeen (Charlotte, N.C./Wake Forest) already have division one experience and Smart has brought in a talented freshman class. The Rams tip off the 2009 season with an exhibition game against Virginia Union on Tuesday Nov. 5, at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.



Golf

Played in three tournaments last month: The Golfweek Conference Challenge (Riverside, Iowa), the University of Maryland Invitational (Cambridge, Md.) and the VCU Shootout (Hermitage C.C.). They finished 8th in Iowa, 2nd in Maryland and 7th in Richmond. Rafael Campos (Guayano, Puerto Rico/Baldwin School) won CAA Player of the Week honors after his performance in Maryland. The next tournament for the Rams is the Brickyard Collegiate Championship in Macon, Ga., on Oct. 10-12.



Men's soccer

Started 3-1 before finishing September 0-2-1. They are coming off a 1-0 loss in double overtime on Sept. 29. Romario Blandon (Tegucigalpa, Honduras/Montreat College) leads the team in goals with five and five other players are tied for second with one goal a piece. The Rams broke into October Saturday night with a 3-2 loss at Hofstra.



Field hockey

Got off to an impressive 7-2 start, its best since the 2004 campaign. The Rams won the biggest game in school history on Sept. 11 against No. 17, Iowa. The team has dominated in two of their three home games, with the exception of an overtime loss to Delaware. Freshman Kelsey Scherrer (Chesapeake/Cape Henry Collegiate) and junior Marle Van Dessel (Oisterwijk, The Netherlands/Odulphus Lyceum) lead the team in goals with eight apiece during the month. The team rolls into October with conference season in full swing. Their next home game is on Oct. 11 against Davidson.



Women's soccer

Have a 5-4-1 record, but finished September with a bang in a thrilling overtime victory over George Mason to open the conference season. Jasmine Riley (Arlington/Wakefield) leads the team with five goals; June Hartman (Virginia Beach/Tallwood) and Heather Hovanesian (Sterling/Dominion) have three goals respectively. The Rams had a big weekend to open October, playing two home conference games.

Volleyball

After starting 5-0 on the season in August, the Rams posted a winning record in September and after a road win at Georgetown, they sit at 12-5. The team has also won five of its last six matches. Ivana Rich (Cumberland/Cumberland), Mariel Frey (Lititz, Pa./Manheim Township), Kelsie Clegg (Boise, Idaho/Boise Senior) and Lenka Melicharkova (Zlin, Czech Republic/Arkansas-Little Rock) are all veterans having huge seasons to lead the Rams. Freshmen Michala Kvapilova (Liberec, Czech Republic/Gymnasium Pripotocni) and Kristin Boyd (Wilmington/Hoggard) also have become key contributors. After a long schedule on the road, the Rams return to Richmond on Oct. 7 to take on George Washington.



spectrum

preview

b ig bands make b ig waves



Trombonist Matt Niess will hold workshops and perform along with Jazz Orchestra I, II and the VCU jazz faculty for this year's Fall Jazz Fest.

Photos courtesy of
mattniess.com.

VERONICA GARABELLI

Spectrum Editor

VCU's Jazz Orchestra I and II and jazz faculty will perform at the Fall Jazz Festival, alongside guest artist Matt Niess Thursday at 8 p.m.

Brendan Schnabel and Connor Thompson, members of Jazz Orchestra I, said they were looking forward to playing Frank Foster's "Shiny Stockings." Director of Jazz Orchestra I, Antonio Garcia said "Shiny Stockings" is an iconic piece that rings a bell with students. He said the piece involved a lot of concentration and team work. Schnabel enjoyed the shout section of the piece or the climax of the song.

"It's one of those real classic, big band sounds," Schnabel said. "If you pull off (the shout section) it gets the audience really into (the song)."

Guest trombonist Matt Niess will hold workshops that are open to the public that same day. Garcia said guest artists made it possible for students to learn to be flexible and work with different musicians since it is something they will need to do in the real world.

Schnabel said one of the challenges the jazz orchestra faced was trying to have a cohesive interpretation of the songs rather than different visions.

"I've learned a lot about how to kind of fit into the big group sound," Schnabel said. "There are certain things in the kind of music we play where everyone has to pull it off to make it sound like a professional band."

Thompson said he had to learn Freddie Green style, which he will play throughout the show. He also said the particular guitar style ended up being more subtle than he initially thought. Freddie Green was a Count Basie Orchestra

guitarist who was famous for simple, quarter-note "chunking."

"(Freddie Green style) wasn't something I could pick up right away," Thompson said. "I had to kind of re-evaluate how I was approaching it."

Garcia said one of the approaches the department used was playing the classical recordings of pieces for the jazz orchestra students so they understood the traditions associated with it.

"(The pieces) are not something you hear on most radio stations," Garcia said. "You have to hear it. As I'm fond of saying 'You can't draw a tree until you've seen one.'"

Thompson said the jazz orchestras try to incorporate their own spin on the songs they play.

"Even when we do the famous pieces, we do them a little bit differently than the famous recording," Thompson said. "It's always a little bit of something you have never heard before. That's what makes the music exciting, that's what jazz is all about."

Fall Jazz Fest: at the Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall

Thursday 10/8

Matt Niess Improvisation

Clinic: 3:30 p.m. Free.

Matt Niess Clinic: 5:30 p.m.

Free.

Fall Jazz Fest: Soloist Matt Niess, lead trombone US Army Jazz Band. 8 p.m. \$5, free with VCU I.D.

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theater review

'Much ado' earns laughter and applause

ROBERTO CURTIS

Executive Editor

"Much Ado About Nothing," Richmond Shakespeare's debut play for the 2009-2010 season, is a happy and humorous affair that seems to correlate with the optimism of the company. Finally in its new space in CenterStage's Agecroft Hall, Richmond Shakespeare flew out the gates this weekend with a cast bursting with experience and vitality.

Artistic Director Grant Mudge had nothing but praise for his cast, both during and after the show. With good reason, too; The comedic brilliance of Shakespeare translated wonderfully.

Set in Messina, Sicily, the comedy focuses on two lovers, Claudio and Hero, who are set to be married, but treachery on the part of Claudio's illegitimate brother Don John soon forces Claudio to call off the wedding, severing ties with many close to him.

Particularly strong performances from Constable Dogberry (Bob Jones) and the bumbling Verges (Thomas Cunningham, Master of Fine Arts candidate), had the audience bursting into applause and laughter on several occasions. The two stole the show as they marched around stage, interrogating characters while the clueless Dogberry made a clever mockery of the English language.

The chemistry between Beatrice (Sarah Johnson) and Benedick (T.J. Simmons) added a sappy touch that complemented the mood. The star-crossed lovers eventually end up getting tricked into confessing their love for each other. Simmons, a Theatre VCU alumnus, seemed particularly comfortable and confident no matter what mood or situation was thrown at him.

While it took me a little while to warm up to Jonathan Conyers playing an overly enthusiastic Claudio, the actor turned the performance around in the second act with renewed perspective and just the right amount of expression. His convincing reaction to the apparent death of his beloved Hero cast a dark mood onto the audience, who likely found it easy to empathize with the tormented protagonist.

Much respect must be given to choreographer Becki Jones, whose light-hearted dance numbers and fancy curtsies and bows added a bright element to the production.

A lovely set design brought the rustic Mediterranean setting to life, with quaint wooden doors and two balconies from which the play's musicians and stars could project their art. Transitions flowed smoothly, and minimal props

allowed for creative and interactive scene changes with the characters.

All in all, Richmond Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" was a delightful affair with plenty to laugh about and to be moved by. Strong performances across most of the cast and nearly flawless technical aspects made for a clean, fun and exciting evening. If there was any doubt at the end of the second act about whether the crowd was pleased, the near-standing ovation at the end was evidence enough.

'Much Ado About Nothing' will play at CenterStage's Agecroft Hall through Oct. 25. Tickets are \$15-\$38.



Caroline Evertz illustration



Benedick (T.J. Simmons) and Beatrice (Sarah Jamillah Johnson) are tricked into confessing their love for each other in Richmond Shakespeare's production of 'Much Ado About Nothing.'

David White photo

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comics

Pizza from Scratch

Bill Lemmond



Opinions expressed within the comics pages are those of individual artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Commonwealth Times or Virginia Commonwealth University.

Add your voice

The comics pages of The Commonwealth Times are open to the VCU community. Contributors are welcome by email at graphics@commonwealthtimes.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
Production Manager

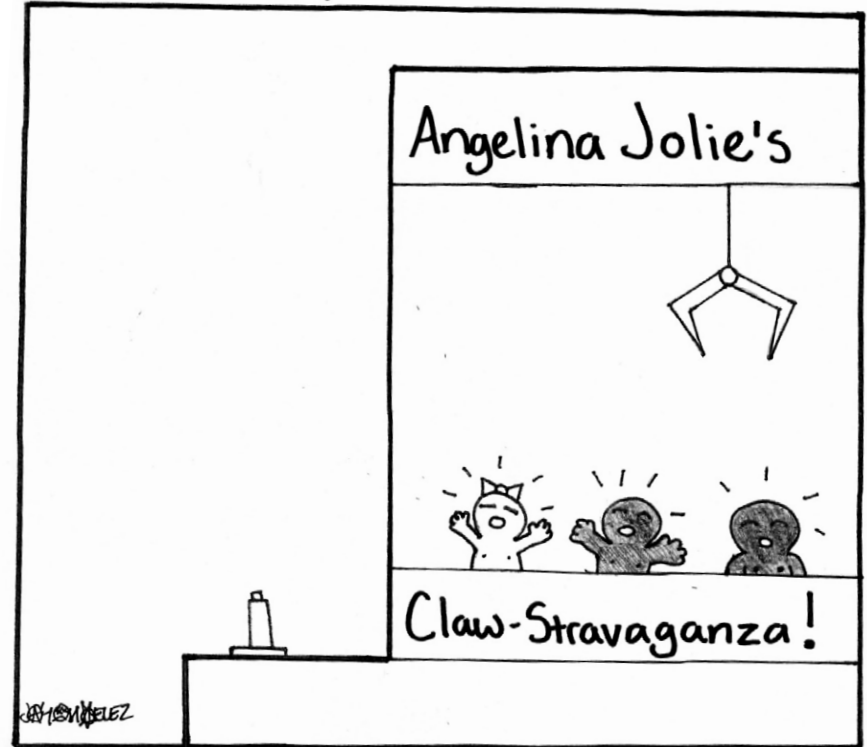
Forget Fairytales

Christine Stoddard



TIME TO KILL

Jason Velez



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Climbing at Manchester Wall

Enjoy an evening of outdoor climbing right here in Richmond at Manchester Wall. The OAP will supply all necessary equipment and will set up the routes for you. Sign up in advance at the OAP.

Date: October 13, 4:30pm - 7:00pm
Location: Manchester Wall, Richmond
Cost: FREE - \$3 for shoe rental

Kayak Practice Pool Session

Come to open pool kayak practice time. This is not an instructional clinic. The pool will be open to kayakers to come and practice their rolls and other kayak skills. You must bring your own boat and sign up in advance. Boat rental can be arranged for a limited number of individuals who have taken VCU roll clinics.

Date: October 20, 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Location: MCV Campus Aquatic Center
Cost: \$5 per person



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Virginia Commonwealth University

opinion

Atrocious attack ads

Making the worst of a hard decision

ERIC HILL
Opinion Editor

Attack advertisements have been around since people were yelling political slogans from horse carts. Everybody intends to make one or two jabs at the competition but in earlier days this was used as a genuine campaign tactic. With the influence of mass communication, invested voters can simply check the record of a politician. So why has the Virginia gubernatorial election been dominated by smear campaigns?

According to recent transmissions through the omniscient glowing tell-a-box, I have been told that Republican candidate Bob McDonnell is a backwards woman hater who wants us to throw away all of our condoms. I have also heard that Democratic candidate Creigh Deeds is a blithering idiot and a liar who doesn't know how to simultaneously fund a government and not raise taxes. Neither person sounds like a decent public representative, but for some reason these seem to be our two best options.

I am being facetious to make a point. Any intelligent person can determine these attack ads and outrageously out of context. It takes time and energy to understand a person and know their motivations, especially when you considering whether they are worthy to hold public office. That requires effort, which is something neither candidate wants voters to expend.

Let us consider the reasoning behind attack ads such as the "Bob McDonnell doesn't support women's rights" ads. Clearly these ads are targeted toward women voters, in one dramatic spot a woman simply asks, "Why would you vote that way?" They intend to brand McDonnell as someone who is attempting to subvert women's rights by defending unequal wages, denying rights to contraception and taking away a woman's "right to choose." If this is the case (which it isn't) then all of the female voters will vote for Creigh Deeds because he is not Bob McDonnell. Wait a second. What just happened there?

Logic was overruled by immediate emotional conclusions.

The governor doesn't have the power to restrict women's rights, and I think he would have a hard time keeping wages unequal when 46 percent of the work force is now female according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Women's rights are still progressively moving forward but overall it is unlikely that one conservative governor is going to divert the course of half of the people in the U.S.—not to mention this is an attack ad. All of these statements are created by the opposition and are not truly informative. The truth is most of this advertisement was pulled from a master's thesis that was written by can-

didate McDonnell more than 20 years ago. The Washington Post discovered the paper after McDonnell mentioned it in passing at an interview.

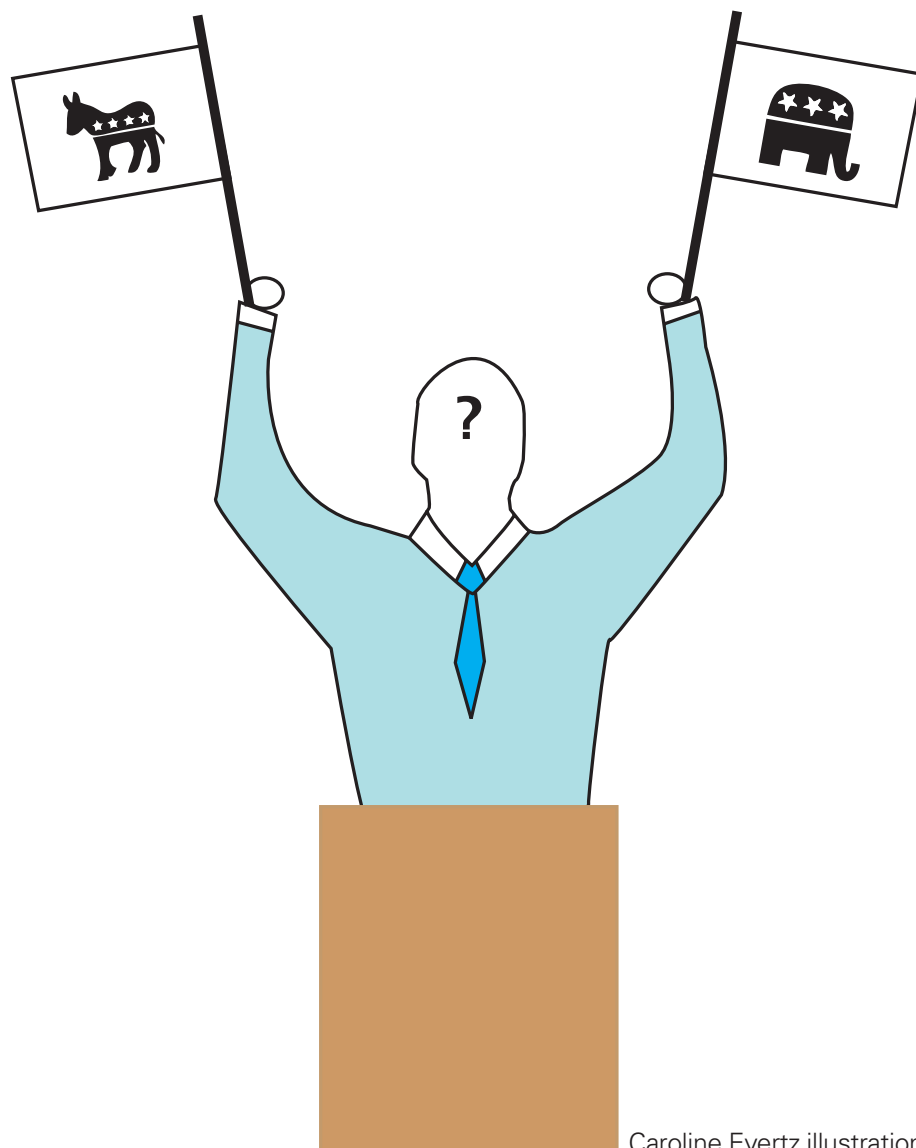
In the subsequent article by the Washington Post explaining McDonnell's current views and how they relate to his old thesis, the record shows that yes, he votes for initiatives that support traditional families. However, none of the allegations in the attack ad are factually on point. The ad glosses and gleans, citing a few lines out of an outdated, 93-page paper.

The truly sinister thing about this attack ad isn't so much that it insinuates and incites anger but that it wastes time and money. For those 30

seconds of airtime Creigh Deeds could have explained a future program in his proposed administration or explained a review of a tax code or a real state problem. Instead he lambasted the opposition because it would predictably gather a large swath of voters to his "side." When both sides do this, the voters get nothing but a bitter taste in their mouths, and campaign funds that could have been used to promote ideas are exhausted for the dispersion of insults.

Every time an allegation comes out in an attack ad, concerned voters have to meticulously sift through files to discover whether or not they're true.

ADS continued to CT19



Caroline Evertz illustration

the
ct

ROBERTO
CURTIS

Executive Editor

ERIC
HILL

Opinion Editor

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Editorial responses posted on the CT Web site

Who is editing the CT now? Fact check please. Moore has nothing to do with the creation of this image. It was created by two parties; one person who created the image as an experiment following along with a Photoshop tutorial on how to joker-ize a portrait. The second came across the image via Google searches and attached the word socialism for use in political rallies relative to health care reform town hall meetings.

Moore claims he has posted the image on his building to express his belief that President Obama should be seriously considered by Batman film director Christopher Nolan, as a replacement for the departed Heath Ledger.

It cannot as a result of this incident, be proven that Moore is a racist or bigot (by the way, the two are mutually exclusive) but it can be proven that Moore is a controversialist interested in promoting himself and his club, whatever the context: Unless of course you buy into the idea that he seriously hung the banner to raise awareness to his belief Obama has missed a calling in the dramatic arts.

Posted by S. Knack

Racist or bigot? How about PATRIOT?

And FWIW, I interpret the Joker image not as a direct comparison to the Batman character. Rather, its an expression of Obama being something much different than what he and you guys in the media sold to the voting public last year. Big government on steroids is not what most Americans thought they were voting for.

Posted by Robert



Tell us what you think at the commonwealthtimes.com!

ADS continued from CT18

It complicates the decision-making process and obscures the fact that neither party can set specific and attainable goals if it is elected. It requires effort to bear these unscrupulous wastes, which build up like so much noticeable trash. Candidates who put out attack ads like this should be disapproved of by both sides of the aisle, lest some boob actually believes they are an accurate representation of truth.

Correction for the Opinion Section

In the Thursday Oct. 1 issue of the Commonwealth Times, a correction stated the editorial staff did not know the review of “Psycho Beach Party” was based on a technical rehearsal. Both the Spectrum Editor and the writer knew it was a rehearsal and were invited to review the rehearsal by Theatre VCU. The CT has since instated a policy to not critique plays while still in rehearsal. The Executive Editor claims full responsibility for the miscommunication and apologizes to the staff, writer and theater community.



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