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

commonwealthtimes.org



free

**Movement
with a
message**
—page 14





briefs

Local and VCU

Legislator: Disabled kids are God's punishment

State Delegate Bob Marshall of Manassas says disabled children are God's punishment to women who have aborted their first pregnancy.

He made that statement Thursday at a press conference to oppose state funding for Planned Parenthood.

"The number of children who are born subsequent to a first abortion with handicaps has increased dramatically. Why? Because when you abort the first born of any, nature takes its vengeance on the subsequent children," said Marshall, a Republican.

"In the Old Testament, the first born of every being, animal and man, was dedicated to the Lord. There's a special punishment Christians would suggest."

Marshall was among more than 20 people, mostly Christian pastors and clergy, who gathered for the press conference in the General Assembly Building.

They called on Virginia officials to eliminate state funding for Planned Parenthood.

Brief by Capital News Service

Cuccinelli challenges finding on global warming

Virginia Attorney General Kenneth T. Cuccinelli has filed a petition against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, challenging its findings on the effects of global warming on humans.

On behalf of Virginia, Cuccinelli is attempting to block a December finding by the EPA that states six greenhouse gases that emanate from cars, factories and power plants pose a threat to the health of humans and the environment.

Calling the EPA's data "unreliable, unverifiable and doctored," Cuccinelli says the federal ruling will hurt jobs in the commonwealth. He speculates that scientists came up with the findings to receive grants and more money for their industry.

Terming the findings "climate-gate," Cuccinelli wants the EPA to prove not only that the regulations would have an effect on man-made global warming but also that man-made global warming exists.

Brief by Capital News Service

Bill to repeal same-sex marriage ban dies

A resolution sponsored by Delegates David Englin, D-Alexandria, and L. Kaye Kory, D-Falls Church, to repeal Virginia's constitutional ban against same-sex marriage failed last week in the House Privileges and Elections Committee.

House Joint Resolution 55 sought to repeal the constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2006. The amendment states that marriage can be only between a man and a woman and that Virginia will not recognize any partnership or union between people of the same sex.

The House Privileges and Elections Committee did not act on the measure. So it died on Tuesday, the deadline for legislation to win approval from at least one chamber.

Englin had sponsored similar measures in 2007 and 2009; they met the same fate. But Englin said that will not stop him from pursuing the idea.

Brief by Capital News Service

National and International

Marines, Afghan troops converge on Taliban holdouts in Marjah

Marines and Afghan units converged on a dangerous western quarter of the Taliban stronghold of Marjah on Sunday, with NATO forces facing "determined resistance" as their assault on the southern town entered its second week.

Fighter jets, drones and attack helicopters hovered overhead, as Marine and Afghan companies moved on a 2-square-mile (5.2-sq. kilometer) area of the town where more than 40 insurgents have apparently holed up.

Insurgents are putting up a "determined resistance" in various parts of Marjah, though the overall offensive is "on track," NATO said Sunday.

Late last week, Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, head of NATO forces in southern Afghanistan, said he believed it would take at least 30 days to complete securing the Nad Ali district and Marjah in Helmand province.

Brief by The Associated Press

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Portugal landslides death toll rises to 38, emergency aid being sent

The death toll from mudslides and flash flooding on the Portuguese island of Madeira has risen to 38 people as emergency aid was being rushed to the tourist destination, authorities said Sunday. More than 100 others were injured.

Portuguese authorities initially said the death toll was 32 after Saturday's storm. It was not immediately clear how many people might be missing after heavy rainfall lashed the island, turning some of the streets in island capital Funchal into muddy torrents, regional social services spokesman Francisco Ramos told state news agency Lusa.

The weather improved Sunday, making it easier for rescue workers to move around.

Brief by The Associated Press

Israel unveils new drone fleet that can reach Iran

Israel's air force on Sunday introduced a fleet of huge pilotless planes that can remain in the air for a full day and fly as far as the Persian Gulf, putting rival Iran within its range.

The Heron TP drones have a wingspan of 86 feet (26 meters), making them the size of Boeing 737 passenger jets and the largest unmanned aircraft in Israel's military. The planes can fly at least 20 consecutive hours and are primarily used for surveillance and carrying diverse payloads.

At the fleet's inauguration ceremony at a sprawling air base in central Israel, the drone dwarfed an F-15 fighter jet parked beside it. The unmanned plane resembles its predecessor, the Heron, but can fly higher, reaching an altitude of more than 40,000 feet (12,000 meters), and remain in the air longer.

Brief by The Associated Press

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Monday, February 22, 2010





news

Uphill climb Students confront politicians on state support

CATHERINE MACDONALD
Managing Editor

After snow forced the event to be rescheduled, about 10 student participants finally made it down to the Capitol last Wednesday for Rams Day on the Hill.

Taylor Whitelow, a junior finance major, was one of the main organizers of the event and said it was a success.

"I think we made really good progress on letting legislators know that we're in the middle of a serious budget crisis and we really need more monetary support," said Whitelow, who is the Student Government Association's director of political affairs.

Mark Smith, VCU's assistant vice president for government relations, helped the group organize the event. He said rescheduling caused turnout to be lower than expected, but the event still "had nice representation."

"I think they were hoping for a few more (participants) ... but they got around; they met the legislators and they knew that VCU was there and that's the good thing," Smith said.

Whitelow said he was pleased with the turnout.

"Ten [participants] was a little better than I expected," Whitelow said. "I thought it was going to be a little lower than that."

Whitelow said the group was most concerned

about Senate Bill 15, which would issue bonds to finance revenue-producing capital projects at state universities, and House Bill 732, which would put a limitation on eligibility for in-state tuition.

"House Bill 732 got tabled, so it was a success before we even got there," Whitelow said.

Of all the legislators whom students spoke to, Whitelow said Delegate Rosalyn Dance, D-Petersburg, was the most relatable.

"She is a VCU alumni, so it was much easier to talk to somebody that really had an understanding of the university and all the things that go on there," Whitelow said.

Whitelow said his experience speaking to Delegate James "Jimmie" Massie, R-Richmond, was a good one.

"His legislative aide was a VCU basketball fan, so we had common ground from the get-go," Whitelow said.

The students who made it down to the hill enjoyed the experience, Whitelow said.

"Some were obviously a little nervous when they first went in and talked to the legislative aides or the actual delegate or senator," Whitelow said.

"But once they started having a little conversation, they became comfortable. For a lot

of people, it was a good learning experience, going into an unfamiliar environment and doing something good for the university."

Gabriel Walker, a senior marketing major and the SGA president, said it was important for students to go to the Capitol in order to "express that they're adamant about wanting change to occur in the state."

"We have probably one of the highest in-state populations out of all the universities in Virginia," Walker said. "Legislators should be looking out for the best interests of their constituents, which are us, the students."

Smith said students should get involved in local politics because, no matter what their career track, the experience is beneficial for their professional future.

"If nothing else, it's a civic commitment, but longer term, their professional associations are going to need capable and talented people to work with the legislative folks on these matters," Smith said.



Catherine MacDonald
photo

(Left to right) Niyant Jain, the SGA chief of staff, Taylor Whitelow, SGA director of political affairs and Robert Celis, SGA vice president, prepare bags of pamphlets to share information about VCU programs with legislators.





Hospitals: Medicaid cuts hurt economy

KELSEY RADCLIFFE
Contributing Writer

More than 6,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion would be lost over the next two years if Virginia's Medicaid program is cut, according to the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association.

According to Sheldon M. Retchin, the CEO of the VCU Health System the Medicaid cuts would impact the VCU Medical Center. Retchin stated in a Richmond Times-Dispatch column that the portion of Medicaid and uninsured patients was more than 40 percent of MCV Hospital's total number of admissions.

"Last year we had more than 170,000 Medicaid and uninsured outpatient visits. And, because of the recession, we have seen an ever-increasing number of disadvantaged patients," Retchin stated. "We delivered more than \$23 million in health care to Medicaid and uninsured cancer patients last year."

The VCU Health System has approximately 7,200 employees, generates billions of dollars in direct and indirect benefits to the region and acts as a preeminent research center that attracts industry and business interests, Retchin stated.

According to Retchin, Medicaid cuts would affect resources that support research, threaten jobs and programs, limit opportunities to attract new corporate interests, create long queues for appointments for uninsured patients and divert resources from educational support.

Retchin stated the VCU Medical Center has more than 4,400 students in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and allied health, along with approximately 700 post-graduate residents.

Grace Callow, a sophomore pre-nursing major and volunteer in the Peri-surgical Unit of the VCU Health System, said she understands that most of the medical center's patients are supported by Medicaid but she did not expect the cuts to have such a large impact on students.

"You wouldn't think a cut in Medicaid would affect students, but it does and that's saying something," Callow said. "It surprises me that it does have a place in education and I don't know

if it should."

The Medicaid cuts are based on former Gov. Tim Kaine's proposed budget cuts and further "Medicaid proportionate" cuts result-

ing from Virginia's \$2 billion budget shortfall, according to Laurens Sartoris, the president of the association.

"Whatever is saved by the General Assembly in the Medicaid budget gets doubled up in its effect on provider rates and services that get delivered to Virginians because we lose an equal amount of federal matching money," Sartoris said.

Virginia could lose \$720 million in Medicaid funding. That would result in a total loss of \$1.4 billion when federal matching funds are included.

According to Sartoris, Virginia will also lose \$140 million in state and local tax revenues as a result of the \$720 million in cuts. An additional \$1.2 billion will be lost through lower health care wages, lost employment and reduced support to local businesses, bringing the total loss to \$2.6 billion.

"Virginia's Medicaid program already is extraordinarily lean. There comes a point when cuts of this magnitude will hurt all Virginians and cause long-term damage to Virginia's health care delivery system," Sartoris said.

Gov. Bob McDonnell introduced his state budget proposal the same day the association revealed its budget figures. McDonnell's budget reduces consumer-directed Medicaid services by \$63 million and Medicaid provider reimbursement by \$28 million, among other cuts to health and human resources.

Still, the House and Senate have the final call on Virginia's budget. Legislators were working on their budget plans this weekend.

James Dahling, the president and CEO of Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, said the hospital is the largest Medicaid provider of inpatient services in Virginia.

"Fifty-three percent of our patients

MEDICAID continued to C75



Caroline Evertz illustration

100 rally for health care at Capitol

JESSICA PORTER
Contributing Writer

About 100 people gathered around the Bell Tower at Capitol Square last week to urge legislators to move forward with health-care reform.

"We're here to send a message as clearly as possible that people are suffering, people are dying, for lack of coverage," said John Lindsay of the Virginia Organizing Project, which organized the rally. "The consequences are serious and grievous to real people who are suffering every day."

The project, an advocacy group for low-income Virginians, describes itself as "a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives."

Speakers at the rally were Sen. A. Donald McEachin, D-Richmond; Janice Johnson of the Virginia Organizing Project; Jill Hanken of the Virginia Poverty Law Center; the Rev. Jon Heaslet of the United Church of Christ; the Rev. Linda McGowan of Fifth Street Baptist

Church; and Tammy Rostov, a small-business owner.

Rostov employs five full-time and four part-time workers at her coffee shop, Rostov's Coffee. Her business offers its employees health insurance and retirement benefits.

"Being raised in a family of small-business owners, I was taught early on that you treat your employees not like paid staff but your family," said Rostov. "You take care of the family business, and you take care of them as your very own family."

But health insurance costs are soaring, and Rostov became teary-eyed as she said she might not be able to offer benefits much longer.

About 1.2 million Virginians lack health insurance, and 344,000 have more expensive, non-group insurance. The rally's purpose was to raise awareness among legislators about the need for health-care programs.

The rally came shortly after Gov. Bob McDonnell proposed \$2 billion in spending cuts, including reductions in health services, to balance the state budget.

"I thought it was ironic that on Ash Wednesday, we are being asked to give up certain things for Lent," McEachin said. "I'm not prepared to give up good health care. I hope you are not either."

On the Web

Virginia Organizing Project: www.virginia-organizing.org



Caroline Evertz illustration

Do you think guns should be allowed on campus?

photo poll



Marcos Da Silva, junior film major
“It’s irresponsible to let students have guns. I do have more of a problem with students having guns than adults. If something crazy happens we can’t always rely on law enforcement.”



Brittney DeRizzio, sophomore costume design major
“When you’re on a campus, there are people ranging from 18 to 30 years old and at 18 not everyone has control of their judgement.”



Chelsea Kunnecke, sophomore forensic science and chemistry major
“I don’t think they are necessary. I feel that VCU is a safe enough environment in which any normal person would not need to carry a gun on campus.”



Nathan Keelys, junior advertising major
“I think guns should not be allowed by anyone at VCU except for VCU cops.”

Green Unity hosts first street cleanup for semester

ERICATERRINI
News Editor

About 15 student volunteers cleaned up the adopted 100 block of South Pine Street Saturday with the student organization Green Unity.

The Saturday morning cleanup was one of the four opportunities Green Unity will provide this semester for students to collect litter from their two adopted blocks, which were chosen based on student nominations. Green Unity has also adopted the 1100 block of West Grace Street.

Chloe Santulli, a senior history major and Green Unity founder, said she and her co-founders like students to get involved in ways that affect community and student residents.

“Getting them involved is obviously better than just sitting in a meeting and talking about environmental things,” Santulli said. “It’s better to go out into the community and getting students involved in ways that they can see the effects.”

Sagid Elhillali, a senior biomedical engineering major, said he is enrolled in a service learning class that requires students to participate in different community projects.

“Richmond is kind of like our city while we’re here as VCU students,” Elhillali said. “We should do our best to make sure it stays clean and do what ever we can to help out.

Carolina Bartoletti, a senior exercise major and exchange student from Brazil, said she is annoyed by the trash piling up on the streets. She said maintaining a community’s condition is important. She advocates for cleanups in Richmond but said there is a lack of opportunity in Brazil.

“Conditions are pretty much the same all over,” Barotelli said. “I’ve never heard of people getting together to do it. I’ve volunteered but in other places and not in Brazil because I just don’t know of any organizations that do it.”

Santulli said the core objectives of the cleanups and Green Unity is to get

more students involved in sustainability and become aware of sustainable practices.

“A lot of people just don’t know about sustainability issues,” Santulli said. “We just want anyone who wants to get involved to be able to. We try not to be political and try to get everyone interested.”

Student volunteers organized into smaller groups, picking up trash off the street and in residents’ yards.



Zach Gibson photo

MEDICAID continued from CT4

are covered by Medicaid. The next closest provider in Virginia is at 28 percent,” Dahling said. “Any cuts to Medicaid threaten our very existence.”

Hospitals across the state will feel the impact of Medicaid cuts. According to David Darden, CEO of Clinch Valley Medical Center in Richlands, the hospital already cut jobs last year

to offset the impact of the recession. Further cuts would lead to more job loss and threaten access to health care services, Darden said.

“Our citizens depend on us not only for their health care needs but also to strengthen the well being of the community,” Darden said.

On the Web

Gov. Bob McDonnell’s budget proposals: www.governor.virginia.gov/docs/10-02-17_Gov_Recs.pdf

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association: www.vhha.com

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sports

Student bests teacher

Rams take temporary break from CAA, dispose of Akron for third season in a row

TAYLOR HOWSMON
Sports Editor

VCU coach Shaka Smart has called Akron coach Keith Dambrot, his former boss and mentor, a best friend and has compared him to a brother.

Dambrot also considers Smart to be a great friend and even jokingly said he probably talks to Smart more than he talks to his wife.

But Saturday, the two men had a different name to call each other: opponent.

Putting the off-the-court relationship aside, Smart's Rams defeated Dambrot's Zips at the Stuart C. Siegel Center Saturday, 70-53, beating the Zips for the third straight season.

It was also VCU's 16th consecutive non-conference home win.

"That game was hard; I really don't like playing (or coaching) against Keith," Smart said. "But I was proud of our guys really for the way we defended for the whole game."

The Rams' defense was stifling, holding the Zips to 31 percent shooting and only 53 points, Akron's second lowest output of the season. It was also the eighth time VCU has held its opponent to under 60 points in a game.

Smart's knowledge of the Akron team, which has some players that he himself recruited when he was there as an assistant from 2003-2006, was evident from the opening tip.

After going down 2-0, the Rams

quickly responded with an 8-0 run and led for the remaining 39-plus minutes of the game. VCU's first-half effort was a picture of defensive tenacity as the Rams held the Zips to only 22 points.

Also, the black and gold did not allow two of Akron's top five scorers to get on the board in the first half.

With a comfortable 34-22 halftime lead at home, some would think the same demons that have haunted past VCU efforts during the season wouldn't affect the Rams' lead in the second.

Well, some were almost wrong.

Despite the 12-point deficit, Akron came storming out of the halftime gate to the beat of a 10-0 run, which got the Zips right back in the ballgame at 34-32. But thanks in part to Brandon Rozzell (Richmond/Highland Springs) and the success of the VCU press, the Rams wouldn't let this lead slip away.

All of a sudden the VCU offense, which had turned the ball over four times and not scored in the opening four minutes, outscored Akron 18-12 in next seven minutes to close the door for good.

"We overcame the adversity this time, which is something we have been



VCU's Brandon Rozzell was a spark plug for the Rams in the second half.

Kyle Laferriere photo

working on and it worked out today for us," Rozzell said.

Rozzell scored eight of those 18 and greatly contributed to the defensive effort. The hometown junior has been overcoming a lot of adversity over the past two weeks after being taken out of the starting lineup for his fellow "energy brother" Ed Nixon (St. Petersburg, Fla./Lakewood).

"Ed is a great player and playing behind him is a problem for me. I didn't

lose my confidence through the slump; I just kept shooting," Rozzell said.

The "energy brothers," as coach Smart has called the duo, shut down the Akron guards and kept the VCU train rolling although leading scorer Larry Sanders (Ft. Pierce, Fla./Port St. Lucie) was on the bench for most of the half with foul trouble.

The VCU cause was also greatly helped by the play of junior big man

BASKETBALL continued to CT7
Monday, February 22, 2010



BASKETBALL continued from CT7

Jaime Skeen (Charlotte, N.C./Wake Forest University), who had nine points and three rebounds in the 14 minutes he played in the second half.

VCU got up 54-44 after that seven minute period and held a double-digit lead the rest of the way. When it was all said and done, the Rams walked away with the 70-53 victory.

Sanders led all scorers with 15 points in only 20 minutes on the floor.

The Rams put four other players in double figures: Rozzell (13), Skeen (11), Nixon (10) and freshman Darius Theus (Portsmouth/Norcom), who scored 10 as well.

The Rams shot 58 percent (28-48) from the floor for the game and won the points in the paint battle, 44-24.

The VCU defense did not allow any Akron player to score double digits. Steve McNees and Anthony Hitchens each scored nine to lead the Zips.

For VCU (19-7, 10-6 CAA) it is back to conference play as the CAA tournament looms and teams begin to jockey for position.

The Rams face James Madison, against whom they blew an eight-point halftime lead in Harrisonburg on Feb. 13.

Another noteworthy item is the fact the VCU senior T.J. Gwynn (Burlington, NC/Cummings) tied Eric Maynor for most wins in VCU history with 95. If the Rams win Wednesday, Gwynn will become the most victorious player to ever wear the black and gold of VCU.

By the numbers

Akron (20-8,10-3) McNees 9, Cvetinovic 5, Hitchens 9, Conyers 6, Marshall 2, Steward 4, McClanahan 0, Roberts 5, Carroll 0, B. McKnight 4, C. McKnight 7, Bardo 2.

Totals: 21 7-15 53

3-pointers: McNees 3, Roberts 1 (team: 4-20)

VCU (19-7,10-6) Sanders 15, Rodriguez 3 Burgess 8, Skeen 11, Nixon 10, Grayson 0, Saintil 0, Theus 10, Pishchalnikov 0, Daniels 0, Rozzell 13, Gwynn 0.

Totals: 28 10-16 70

3-pointers: Theus 1, Rozzell 3 (team: 4-11)

ESPN Bracketbusters ... the stupidest thing in sports?

TAYLOR HOWSMON

Sports Editor

Since 2003 ESPN has set aside one weekend during the college basketball regular season so that they can match up the top non-BCS school teams in the country to play one another in a series of glorified exhibition games.

When it started, the idea was that the Bracketbuster series would give exposure to those lesser-known teams in the country to give fans different "Cinderella candidates" for March Madness.

In my opinion, what started as a great idea in theory has become a ridiculous stunt in which only ESPN, the one to blame, benefits.

With "magical" runs through the NCAA tournament for teams such as Gonzaga, Creighton, Butler and George Mason, among others, the Bracketbuster game was a logical way to get teams national television before we hit the big tourney.

But since 2003, this good idea has completely lost its luster and has even become somewhat of a hindrance for the teams it is supposed to help. The major reason for this is the timing.

For some odd reason that this particular journalist will never understand, "the evil four letter" (ESPN) decided that playing these games at the end of February would be something positive.

Obviously for any true basketball purist this sucks because ESPN schedules random games in the heat of the conference schedule.

From a VCU perspective, the Rams, who should be focusing on the JMU game Wednesday, had to step outside the CAA and play Akron in a game which gives no benefit to either club.

In the 2010 series I believe that no

team was benefited by these games.

In fact, with the exception of one Bracketbuster game in 2006 (George Mason's win over Wichita State), nobody has been helped into the NCAA tourney by a win and in some cases has destroyed any chances for some.

Akron coach Keith Dambrot said it best Saturday.

"In the grand scheme of things it really doesn't matter. It really doesn't matter ... but the next three (games) do (referring to the three remaining Mid-American Conference games left on Akron's schedule) ... we need to move on," Dambrot said.

Dambrot also gave the example of his 2005-2006 team which had to play at Nevada and because of the trip, the team never recovered.

That team had won 19 games coming in and looked to have a legit shot at the NCAA tourney in mid February. Then they lost four of their last seven games, including the one in Reno, and ended up in the National Invitational Tournament, a lesser post-season tournament instead.

To me, it makes no sense.

The brass at ESPN is so bold that they decided to put this irrelevant non-conference game right smack in the middle of the most important part of the season.

Why can't these games be played in mid-January?

It is still an important enough time that it could benefit teams, but it is not at a time where they are thinking primarily of conference tournament seeding.

I know the bottom line for ESPN is money, but to openly hinder some of these teams should be criminal. It gives no benefit to anyone in any capacity.

The pro-ESPN guy could say, "but what about the exposure for these

teams?"

I understand that point, but I believe exposure is less important than the conference season because we all know that 95 percent of these teams would have to win their conference tournaments to get a bid to the tournament.

Way too many games are televised to begin with to justify that argument.

For example, in VCU's case, four games have been or will be nationally televised this season, with the ODU game next Saturday being on ESPN 2. So the "exposure idea" is a croc.

That is why, in my opinion, Bracketbusters is possibly the stupidest thing in sports along with the World Baseball Classic.

Both serve as terrible distractions to the athletes of each sport and they grow stupider and more irrelevant by the year. Again, good idea in theory, but I just don't understand how it helps anyone.

However, I shouldn't be surprised that it is ESPN who is doing something that I just don't get.

The same network that beat a dead horse to powder on the Tiger apology, the Terrell Owens suicide rumor and the Brett Favre un-retirement crap, has again shown that they have no sense or shame.

If I have say that the "evil four letter" should be ashamed of itself again, I might go hoarse.

As an avid sports fan, I have been banging on ESPN for a long time because I see what they are doing to "the little guy."



T.O.
with T.H.

Do you think for one second that ESPN gives a crap about VCU's CAA tournament thoughts?

The answer you're searching for is no.

ESPN cares about the promotion of itself and itself alone.

I just hope no more teams have to be left out in the cold, or even slightly hindered in their dreams because some idiot wants to make a buck.

Let the disagreements come raining down, but I think it is the stupidest thing in sports.



VCU Baseball Preview

sports

Coach Keyes says...

13

Leskiw

"Senior who had a good fall, we're expecting big things from him."

23

Dimino

"One of the best base stealers in the league, he is a catalyst for us."

11

Gonzalez

"Has a lot of experience and had a great summer. Hopefully can be better offensively, always reliable on defense."

6

Otto

"Played last year with a broken hand and played well with that. He's got to be one of our best players."

4

Van Meter

"Had a good year offensively, this year should be better. Also he might be our closer."

"Had limited time last year, he is going to be one of our question marks this year, but he has to do well."

27

Mikionis

7

Furry

"Catcher is his job to win or lose, and he has to do very well for us but we're looking for good things."

Head coach



Paul Keyes
(14th season,
478-279)

Starting pitching rotation for opening series:

Friday: Seth Cutler-Voltz
Saturday: Blake Hauser
Sunday: Michael Graham

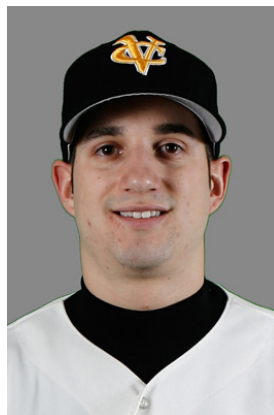


Bating lineup

9

"Junior college All-American, he'll probably be hitting in the five hole."

Lenherr



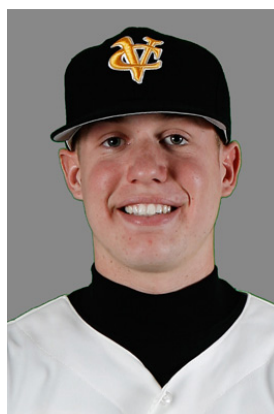
#23
Andrew Dimino



#11
Richard Gonzalez



#6
Doug Otto



#27
Brent Mikionis



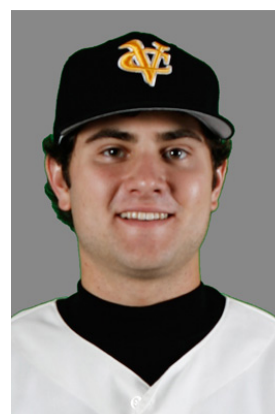
#9
John Lenherr



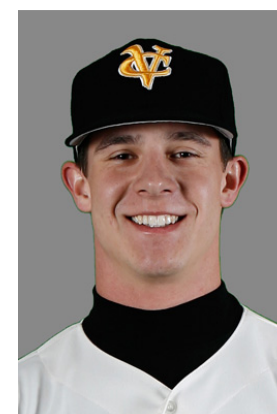
#4
Joe Van Meter



#13
Matt Leskiw



#15
Michael Cheatham



#7
Nathan Furry

VCU 2010 baseball schedule

Feb. 19 Friday @ Charleston Southern 2 p.m.
Feb. 20 Saturday @ Charleston Southern 2 p.m.
Feb. 21 Sunday @ Charleston Southern 1:30 p.
Feb. 23 Tuesday LIBERTY 3 p.m.
Feb. 26 Friday FAIRFIELD 3 p.m.
Feb. 27 Saturday FAIRFIELD (DH) 12 p.m.
Feb. 28 Sunday FAIRFIELD 1 p.m.
March 2 Tuesday @ Liberty 3 p.m.
March 5 Friday CLEVELAND STATE 3 p.m.
March 6 Saturday CLEVELAND STATE 2 p.m.
March 7 Sunday CLEVELAND STATE 1 p.m.
March 9 Tuesday RANDOLPH MACON 6 p.m.
March 10 Wednesday QUINNIPIAC 3 p.m.
March 12 Friday @ Bethune-Cookman 6 p.m.
March 13 Saturday vs. Wagner 2:30 p.
March 14 Sunday @ Bethune-Cookman 12 p.m.
March 16 Tuesday NORFOLK STATE 6 p.m.
March 17 Wednesday @ Longwood 6 p.m.
March 19 Friday WESTERN KENTUCKY 7 p.m.
Monday, February 22, 2010

March 20 Saturday WESTERN KENTUCKY 3 p.m.
March 21 Sunday WESTERN KENTUCKY 12 p.m.
March 24 Tuesday LONGWOOD 7 p.m.
March 26 Friday NORTHEASTERN 7 p.m.
March 27 Saturday NORTHEASTERN 3 p.m.
March 28 Sunday NORTHEASTERN 11 a.m.
March 30 Tuesday @ Maryland 6 p.m.
April 2 Friday WILLIAM & MARY 7 p.m.
April 3 Saturday WILLIAM & MARY 4 p.m.
April 4 Sunday WILLIAM & MARY 2 p.m.
April 6 Tuesday RICHMOND 7 p.m.
April 9 Friday @ Towson 3 p.m.
April 10 Saturday @ Towson 1 p.m.
April 11 Sunday @ Towson 1 p.m.
April 14 Wednesday @ Richmond 3 p.m.
April 16 Friday @ Hofstra 3 p.m.
April 17 Saturday @ Hofstra 2 p.m.
April 18 Sunday @ Hofstra 1 p.m.
April 20 Tuesday @ VMI 6 p.m.

April 23 Friday GEORGIA STATE 7 p.m.
April 24 Saturday GEORGIA STATE 4 p.m.
April 25 Sunday GEORGIA STATE 2 p.m.
April 28 Wednesday VMI 7 p.m.
April 30 Friday @ UNC Wilmington 7 p.m.
May 1 Saturday @ UNC Wilmington 4 p.m.
May 2 Sunday @ UNC Wilmington 2 p.m.
May 4 Tuesday @ Virginia 6 p.m.
May 5 Wednesday @ Norfolk State 4 p.m.
May 14 Friday @ George Mason 3 p.m.
May 15 Saturday @ George Mason 2 p.m.
May 16 Sunday @ George Mason 1 p.m.
May 21 Friday JAMES MADISON 7 p.m.
May 22 Saturday JAMES MADISON 4 p.m.
May 23 Sunday JAMES MADISON 2 p.m.
May 26-29 Wednesday-Saturday CAA Tournament
TBA



BASEBALL PREVIEW continued from CT9

VCU baseball statistics by the numbers

- 1: Players on VCU's team last season that made either of CAA's first, second or third teams (Pitcher Ian Thomas).
- 2: Seasons since VCU won the CAA championship.
- 3: Rank the Rams finished in last season in the CAA in times hit by a pitch—65 in all.
- 4: VCU's rank last season in total bases stolen. The Rams stole 77 bases last season.
- 4: CAA Championships won by VCU in the last decade, the most of any team.
- 5: The team's rank in 2009 in home runs given up, 52 in all.
- 6: Spot VCU finished at in the CAA last season in team batting percentage at .298.
- 7: Number of saves by the Ram's bullpen last season.
- 7: VCU's predicted finishing rank in the CAA this season, according to a vote by the conference's head coaches.
- 8: VCU's pitching staff ranked 8th in the CAA in 2009 with a ERA of 6.40.
- 9: The Ram's rank in the CAA last year in on-base percentage. (Third worst in the CAA)
- 10: Rank of VCU last season in slugging percentage at .407 (second worst in the conference).
- 11: VCU's dead-last ranking in walks drawn (153—140 less than Georgia State, who finished first in the category)
- 16: Number of seasons Coach Keyes has been skipper of the Rams.
- 23: Homeruns by VCU last season, second worst in the CAA.
- 25: Steals last season by VCU's Andrew Dimino, the most in the CAA.

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sports

2010 CAA baseball preseason predicted order of finish (2009 Record)

1. James Madison (30-24, 12-11) Coach Keyes on the Dukes: Very experienced, should have a chance to be the best in the league.
2. UNC Wilmington (31-23, 10-8) Coach Keyes on the Seahawks: Very stockpiled in pitching, typical Wilmington team
3. Georgia State (22-8, 12-9) Coach Keyes on the Panthers: Very similar to where we have been in the past, have a chance to be a good team
4. Old Dominion (22-27, 13-11) Coach Keyes on the Monarchs: Very similar to us, very senior-laden team. They will have a huge margin of error because they have good pitching, but not great depth. Could be a sleeper.
5. Delaware (28-20, 11-10) Coach Keyes on the Blue Hens: I like their starting pitching. They are a pretty good match up team against a lot of people.
6. George Mason (42-14, 19-5) Coach Keyes on the Patriots: Lost a lot of pop in the middle of the lineup, also lost a lot of pitching depth. They will need some guys to step up.

7. Towson (28-25, 12-12)

Coach Keyes on the Tigers: A team that always seems to hit, they have been better the last couple of years, I think they'll be better this year.

7. VCU (20-26, 8-16)

9. Northeastern (28-25, 13-11) Coach Keyes on the Huskies: Always good in the pitching department, it is always tough to go up to Boston so they'll always be in the middle of the pack.

10. William and Mary (24-25, 9-14) Coach Keyes on the Tribe: Sort of in a rebuilding mode, fairly young. I look for them to struggle a little bit.

11. Hofstra (11-32, 6-18) Coach Keyes on the Pride: They always play extremely hard, they are not the push over they have been in recent years.

This week

Upcoming events

Men's basketball

Wed. Feb. 24, James Madison, Stuart C. Siegel Center

Sat. Feb. 27, Old Dominion, Norfolk, 4 p.m. TV: ESPN 2

Women's basketball

Thurs. Feb. 25, at James Madison, Harrisonburg, 7 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 28, Old Dominion, Siegel Center, 2 p.m.

Men's track and field

Sun. Feb. 28, Mason Last Chance, Fairfax

Women's track and field

Sun. Feb. 28, Mason Last Chance, Fairfax

Men's tennis

Wed. Feb. 24, Old Dominion, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 3 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 28, North Carolina, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 5 p.m.

Women's tennis

Sat. Feb. 27, Penn State, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 4 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 28, Iowa State, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 12 p.m.



spectrum

theatre review

'Grapes' evokes wrath

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Jay Paul photo

Joseph Carlson and Martha Rainer in 'The Grapes of Wrath' at the Barksdale Theatre.

ERIKA WILKINS

Spectrum Editor

To its credit, the production of “The Grapes of Wrath” at the Barksdale Theatre in conjunction with Theatre VCU has incredible technical execution. The planks of unevenly assembled wood that stretch across the floor, back wall and sides of the stage immediately draw you into an America of hard times, hard workers and family struggles (sound familiar?). The light fog that seeps through the gaps in the wood on the left enclave of the stage further intensify the dreamy, dusty rural atmosphere. Artistic Director Bruce Miller did well by incorporating grime-covered props, soiled costumes and ambient lighting. It’s a strikingly realistic and incredibly sensational visual masterwork. Had it been recorded in still photographs, it would be visual perfection.

That is not, however, all that goes into the appreciation of a play. Fortunately for all who subjected themselves to “The Grapes of Wrath,” Theatre pedagogy graduate student Joseph Carlson as Tom Joad gives a staggering, heartfelt, remarkably realistic performance. As an unyieldingly moralistic, headstrong young man fresh from prison, Carlson is the staple of the entire production. His portrayal of Joad doesn’t patronize the audience’s level of empathy or intelligence. Instead of over-selling his character and his country accent – like

many actors did – he anchors himself firmly in reality. The other exception to the prevalence of un-enjoyable actors is Martha Rainer as Ma Joad, the indestructible life force of the Joad family. Rainer’s representation emits all the unbending love of a firm-handed but compassionate mother—despite the difference in accent from rest of the actors. Her and Carlson’s characters were the most developed of the cast.

Unfortunately, the compliments stop here. When watching any theatrical rendering, each performance needs to carry a certain level of credibility. I’m not interested in straining my imagination to make characters a reality. The remainder of the cast lacked the depth and vehemence needed to portray their roles. The deficiencies only continued when the script demanded competence in comedic timing.

Jim Casy, the wayward ex-preacher was neither prolific nor believable. It was difficult to identify with his struggle or his triumph. The other actors raised the same sentiments.

“The Grapes of Wrath” is a poignant story, which stirs the pots of patriotism, family loyalty and religious understanding in times of strife. It’s about families of blood, brotherhoods of man and the fabric of a youthful America. For it to be appreciated, a production must be more than technically sound. Each character should be a fully realized

‘THE GRAPES OF WRATH’ PREVIEW
continued to CT14





ABOVE
College style 101

It seems everything about Paul Lewis (graphic design major) is strategic. From his dreds to his beard, to his oatmeal-colored knit scarf and blue plaid shirt: he's a blueprint for collegiate men's style.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Alien venus

With the popularity of "Avatar" and Planet Pandora running rampant, beautiful aliens are unavoidable. Hannah Swann's (graphic design major), pale blonde hair, piercing blue eyes and gray hoodie certainly qualify her. She could rival Neytiri any day.

TOP LEFT

Definition: chic

Making a popped-collar look dapper instead of pretentious, Joshua Moos (fashion merchandising major) is so pulled together, so chic, so elegant he's almost painful to look at.



Kyle Laferriere photos





Upcoming events in Richmond

ERIKA WILKINS
Spectrum Editor

Virginia Independent Film Festival

On Feb. 28, the Virginia Film Office will present the Virginia Independent Film Festival at the Byrd Theatre. The event will host 12 films ranging from four to 97 minutes in length. For \$2 (with a valid student ID) audiences can experience everything from an American soldier finding her identity in Islam to a stick figure coming to life to save a friend and enemies working together on a backwater planet. The festival will feature two VCU-affiliated filmmakers. African-American Studies Department Chair Sean Utsey directed a documentary about African-American burial grounds in Richmond and student Alexander Germanotta directed a film of interviews exploring people's views on death and the afterlife. For ticket information call 353-9911.

Sit In, Stand Out

On Monday, Feb. 22, Richmond CenterStage will host Sit In, Stand Out at 7 p.m. The event will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Richmond 34 Sit-in at the Thalhmer's Building. The evening will feature performances by R&B musician John

Legend and Amaranth Contemporary Dance Company, led by dance and choreography faculty Scott Putman. For ticket information call 327-5752.

Duchess of York at The National

On Feb. 25 at 8 p.m., Richmond's own Duchess of York will perform at The National. The band, which has a plethora of singles, released an E.P. in February 2009. Now, working on new material for an upcoming album, this performance marks the band's long-awaited return to Richmond venues. If you can't make this concert, the band will next perform at a Haiti relief benefit Feb. 27, at Gallery5. For ticket information call 612-1900.

The Colors of Veil



Monday, February 22, 2010

fashion briefs

The rundown off the runway

ERIKA WILKINS
Spectrum Editor

The perfect antitheft system: Nike Air Max 95

Nike re-released, Nike Air Max 95. The shoe boast "maximum" impact cushioning, carbon rubber outsole for enhanced durability and most impressively, personal ID customization. On the Nike Web site you can design the panels, soles, and laces and even stamp your name on the side of the Air Max 95. To own a show unlike any other, you'll have to shell out \$160. You can decide if it's worth it.

Gucci Group plans to continue Alexander McQueen's Label

Gucci Group, the financier behind Yves Saint Laurent, Stella McCartney and of course Gucci, announced in a conference Wednesday that they would continue the late Alexander McQueen's label. After the designer's recent suicide, the industry has been a buzz with worries that the label would disappear, and curiosity as to whom, if anyone, will be able to continue it. Time will tell.

iPhone Owners: Dolce and Gabbana want you

On Feb. 23, Italian design house Dolce and Gabbana will be livestreaming their Milan fashion show on the iPhone. The designers, who've been broadcasting their show via their Web site since 2005, have naturally progressed to the "in vogue" technology. For those who don't own an iPhone, the show can still be viewed live at 9 a.m. EST on their Web site or Facebook page.

Playing catch up

No one —apart from Anna Wintour—tells the fashion industry when or how to operate. It has notoriously moved on its own slow-paced schedule of once-monthly magazines and four-hour late fashion shows. Fashion's finest have always operated on a more than leisurely gait. As of late, however it seems the fashion industry has finally issued itself into the 21st century. Embracing the ever-growing trend of fast fashion, New York designer darlings Proenza Schouler, Cynthia Rowley and Henry Holland, immediately released parts of their collection in the days after their Fashion Week shows to savvy shoppers. All the while, Style.com launched Fashion Feed, a revolutionary breaking news source for the fashion industry.

NY Fashion Week recap: velvet crush

It seems not even New York designers are impervious to the vampire craze that's swept the nation. They took a cue from Dracula's velvet covered bat cave and draped models in the luscious, heavy fabric from neck to foot. Whether you view it as tacky or succulent, prepare to see it in every store from Barney's to Forever 21, this coming winter.

FASHION BRIEFS continued
from CT14

spectrum · commonwealthtimes.org · CT13





'VCU Dance NOW' features faculty works, dancers deliver

ROBERTO CURTIS
Executive Editor

The department of dance and choreography enjoyed another successful weekend of pirouettes and pliés through "VCU Dance NOW," its sixth concert of the 2009-2010 season.

The approximately 90-minute concert ran Thursday through Saturday night and featured exciting works choreographed by six of the department's faculty set on their students. And while it's difficult to discern a message from any individual moment or from the evening as a whole, rest assured the emotion was not lost on the audience.

Melanie Richards' "Faces" set the bar pretty high with a percussion station consisting of mallet instruments. Bells and drums sat up stage against a white background, manned by three black-clad musicians. Reminiscent of a Blue Man Group performance, the three music majors laid down a play mat of music for the 12 monochromatic dancers. The dancers began with a drawn-out ensemble in unison with their faces completely obscured by identical, expressionless white masks. With masks off, however, they burst into colorful trios and pairings, each with their own

flamboyant vocabulary.

Robbie Kinter's contrasting "Triple Crossing" was a strong yet sensual piece regarding the relationship between three people, all of whom dealt with their own internal and external struggles. The dancers slowly rolled over one another with great control and plenty of groundwork. Kinter set the tribal feel of the piece through recorded music of his band, Rattlemouth.

Kinter said his inspiration for the piece was based on the downtown triple crossing of train tracks, which is believed to be the only one in North America and is a popular tourist attraction among train enthusiasts.

Scott Putman's "Two Sisters" made terrific use of lighting design and noise to convey death and subsequent lose. Seven female dancers somberly wandered the stage, transitioning through the stages of loss, wondering how to best preserve the memory of a loved one.

Cricket chirps and spooky nocturnal creatures typified Judith Steel's "Night Chatter." Seven dancers emerged from phases of sleep through sudden, sporadic pulses of energy. The white noise was the perfect backdrop for the moonlight mischief as the

dancers moved through playful yet bestial trios.

Fan favorite Martha Curtis has entertained audiences in such joyous ways in past years and this past weekend's piece was no exception. "A Little Tenderness," based on the Otis Redding "Try a Little Tenderness" featured three sultry dancers-turned-divas who sashayed and strutted seductively up and down stage in flowing gowns reminiscent of the Mo-town era. The piece received the most applause of the night since Richards' "Faces."

But Curtis' accolade of earning the loudest applause wouldn't last long. The final piece of the night, Christian Howard's "A Statement about Being," was an epic three-part story that featured spoken word, swinging ceiling lights, distorted choreography and unsettling moods that were masterfully conveyed. The eight dancers danced their hearts out through large circular movements and frantic seizures that emphasized the climax of Howard's work. Their efforts paid off as the stunned and delighted audience released a wave of cheers to close out the night. While one can't be sure the crowd understood what it had just seen, one thing was certain—it was good.

'THE GRAPES OF WRATH' REVIEW continued from CT11

person, with his or her complexities recognized and manifested. It just wasn't there.

After waiting more than three hours for the production to finally end, bewildered and irritated over the time wasted, I left the theatre failing miserably to understand what on Earth just happened.

The show runs for another month. Hopefully that's enough time to shorten the run-time, lose the final scene and bring the rest of the cast up to par.

FASHION BRIEFS continued from CT13

Brit Craze

The insanity has begun. London Fashion Week, the week famed for outrageous shows and flamboyant fashion is now underway. Even without the presence of Alexander McQueen, the show goes on. Topshop Unique and Sass & Bide have debuted their shows, with more extravagance on the way.

Monday, February 22, 2010





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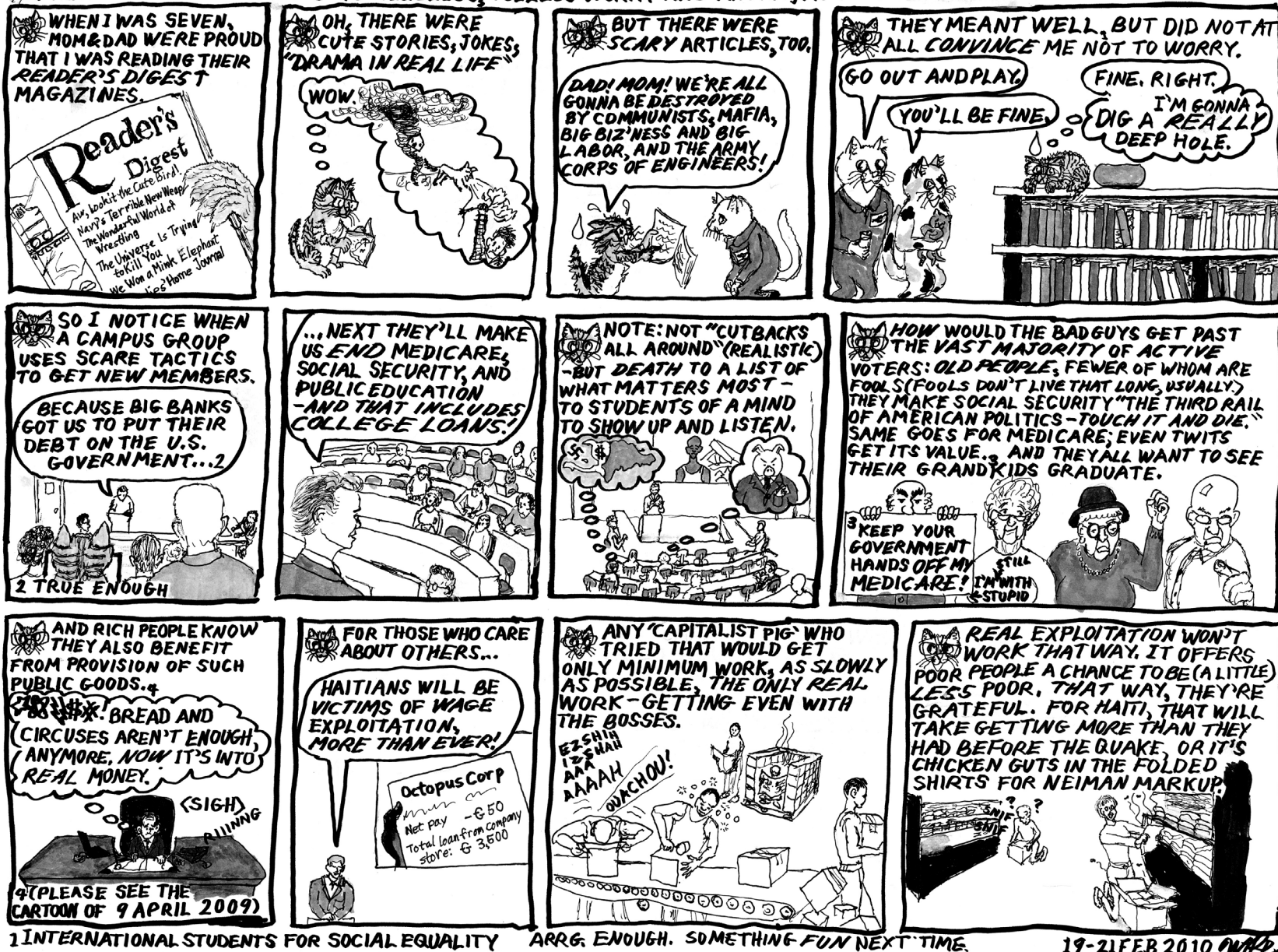


comics

Pizza from Scratch

© 2010 Bill Lemmond

SORRY, BUT THIS STUFF MATTERS TO ME BECAUSE THE ISSE, GOT A FRIEND OF MINE BELIEVING THEIR LINES. I DON'T WANT HER TO LOSE DECADES TO NEEDLESS, USELESS WORRY AND ANGER, AS I DID.



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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@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.

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Caroline Evertz
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opinion



Thou shalt only inhale from burning plant matter VCU study says electronic cigarettes are blowing smoke

ERIC HILL
Opinion Editor

As any VCU student knows, there is a noticeable population of smokers at this college. Now while the majority still refrains from coffin nails, according to the VCU Wellness Center's statistics, about one in five students have smoked tobacco. While these figures might decline with the new smoking ban in restaurants and bars passed last December and the possibility of new tobacco taxes filling the state budget gap, there is still a need for an effective solution to reversing or preventing the negative health effects that come with smoking.

One "healthier" alternative to the old burning bush came à la "e-cigarettes" or cigarettes that electronically create nicotine vapor. With e-cigarettes, nicotine vapor is inhaled into the lungs, supposedly without all of the harmful carcinogens that accompany regular tobacco smoke. According to a CNN.com article released last July, e-cigarette shipments tested by the Food and Drug Administration have yielded results that do not entirely support the manufacturers' claims. Propylene glycol, which could potentially be harmful to humans, is found in the nicotine vapor; more study has been requested by both the FDA and the World Health Organization to ascertain more definitive results. Currently, propylene glycol is considered safe for human consumption by these organizations.

In a study conducted by VCU with a grant created by the National Cancer Institute, evidence is being compiled into a case that now says e-

cigarettes do not meet the necessary standards for safe human consumption. Principal investigator Thomas Eisenberg Ph.D. from the VCU department of psychology and director of the VCU Clinical Behavioral Pharmacology Laboratory made statements about his study in a VCU news release that claim the two brands of e-cigarettes which he tested did not deliver a measurable amount of nicotine.

While I have faith in the scientific method and the study conducted by Eisenberg, I have some qualms amount the circumstances of these results. While I am no statistician, there were only 16 test subjects in Eisenberg's study, hardly what I would call a sure number. As reported last year by various news agencies, Altria (formerly Philip Morris U.S.A) gave significant sums to VCU for tobacco research. Even though the study was funded by a National Cancer Institute grant, my skepticism detects an odd coincidence that VCU was chosen to conduct this study.

Currently no major U.S. tobacco manufacturer has produced an electronic cigarette, so there is no established, domestic lobby for this product. Most of these e-cigarette businesses are small or ship from overseas where the number of e-cigarette users is increasing. One could see how this "healthier"

cigarette alternative would threaten the hold that large companies have on the U.S. tobacco market.

One other political point of contention is that the FDA now has complete control of the regulation of traditional cigarettes, while electronic cigarettes are as yet unregulated. Arguably, even if e-cigarettes are found to be harmful to consume, it isn't like their competition is very stiff. Regular cigarettes are the leading cause of lung cancer deaths. When a consumer will take death as a side effect, simply putting a sticker that says "death-free" on a package of electronic cigarettes could topple the established cigarette market—especially when traditional cigarette manufacturers have to jump through regulatory hoops that the e-cigarette manufactures don't have to.

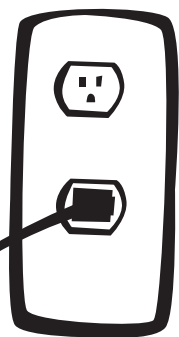
While e-cigarettes circumvent taxes, indoor

Monday, February 22, 2010





opinion



smoking bans and do not have the same odor as traditional cigarettes, they are still potentially addictive since they contain nicotine. The Electronic Cigarette Association, a group of several manufacturers who promote electronic cigarette technologies, say their products are fulfilling a consumer need and are a safer alternative to a proven killer. Even so, they profit at the expense of addiction, and they aren't marketing their products as a smoking cessation option (which also comes with FDA regulation.)

While these e-cigarette manufacturers are exploiting the addictive qualities of nicotine, and evidence shows that they do not deliver the same relief

of cravings that traditional smoking produces, it is unfair to paint them as unsafe when compared to the death dealers of traditional tobacco companies. While we do not yet know the long term effects of nicotine vapor, one could easily say the same thing of energy drink companies, coffee houses or herbal supplements that can all have addictive qualities. Until a more definitive conclusion is reached, the only other alternative for the 20 percent of VCU undergraduate students is to keep lighting up or quit. I say quit, but do your own investigation into e-cigarettes. For now, this study doesn't satisfy my craving for truth.

When a consumer will take death as a side effect, simply putting a sticker that says "death-free" on a package of electronic cigarettes could topple the established cigarette market.

The Third Party phenomenon

STEPHEN PROFFIT

Contributing Writer

When Ron Paul was interviewed on "The Rachel Maddow Show" last month concerning the rise of the national Tea Party among the common American demographic, he said, "I don't think you can talk about the Tea Party as a party. It's made up of a lot of different people, and I don't even see them as being Republicans."

Americans are becoming anxious that our president can't motivate our Congress to move beyond the stubborn partisanship and special interests which have tainted health-care reform since the legislation was introduced. This bill is a perfect example of how not to get things done in Washington. Paul went on in that interview to say the college campuses are tired of all of the gridlock, especially after electing a president who promised reform in Washington so sincerely. Paul said, "I do not think the real fight is between Republicans and Democrats. I see the Establishment Republican and the Establishment Democrat as being one, because the foreign policies don't differ and the monetary policy doesn't differ ... and the American people are just catching on."

As inspiring as it is to hear the Texan Gandalf preach about restoring the legacy of the Constitution and the founding fathers to the American government, the same doubt I have in President Barack Obama's ability to reform government tells me that Paul's words of wisdom are more a utopian fantasy than the reality of our present government.

Even Joe Biden realizes the stomach-cramping characteristic of the constipation dragging our two-party legislature

to the ground. "Speaking of intense partisanship in the capital," Biden said on CBS's "The Early Show," "I've never seen it this dysfunctional."

He said the message coming from the stunning Republican upset in the recent Massachusetts election was an instance of, "Hey guys, get your act together. Get something going." I guess there is a point where we have to treat our congressmen and women like babies again. Basically, the deal in Washington goes a little like this: One party proposes legislation, then the representatives on the opposite end of the spectrum pout, filibuster, attach pork and demand sweetheart deals until they feel that they have "gotten back" at the other side for composing a bill with which they disagree. Afterward the original party makes compromises to make it appear that they are persevering criticism. Six to 12 months later, we have a law that is twice as big as it began, but half as representative of its original essence. This must be treated as aversive behavior by our executive branch parents and then scolded so the children of our legislature do not repeat this bad behavior.

When it comes to politics, you don't have to be a parent to see what isn't going on with the whiney babies in D.C. The real intelligence comes when we, the status quo, take action. It is obvious that our president cannot hold the unruly schoolchildren accountable for the lack of productivity, so it is time for the students, the future of this country and world, to take action.

Ron Paul sees social change in the future. Our administration strives for baby steps toward domestic reform and innovative foreign policy not including war. Whether the Tea Party can gain

strength in the American public or not, I believe it is time for the students of our nation to protest the hypocritical pussyfooting and to vote third party. How can we develop as a nation if our only two parties have formed a conglomerated hernia in the belly of our country?

It is time for us, the students of America, to become aware of the future of our country. We, the students, must understand that we are a generation with a voice. We must understand that the stubborn kids we have elected to office are ignoring our best interests and substituting it for Wall Street, lobbying organizations and who knows what else. David Brooks said on "Meet the Press" last week, concluding, "I'm actually beginning to think for the first time in my life there's a prospect for a third party sometime in the near future."

Talk of this alleged third party continues, but until it gets elected and truly change the system of politics and role of government, we must continue to let Congress know that we are watching them. The American people are tired of the bureaucracy and desire transparency in the legislature instead of back room secret deals. Be aware of this important time in politics, which could be the revolution this country has awaited for over a century. In the next era of American politics, the hope for cleaner and more efficient government in an inter-cultural world will overwhelm the agenda, and perhaps drive our country to rebirth.

How can we develop as a nation if our only two parties have formed a conglomerated hernia in the belly of our country?

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