



Monday, May 3, 2010 Vol. 50 No. 52

# the ct

## News

Drunken driver crashes into bus · 4

## Sports

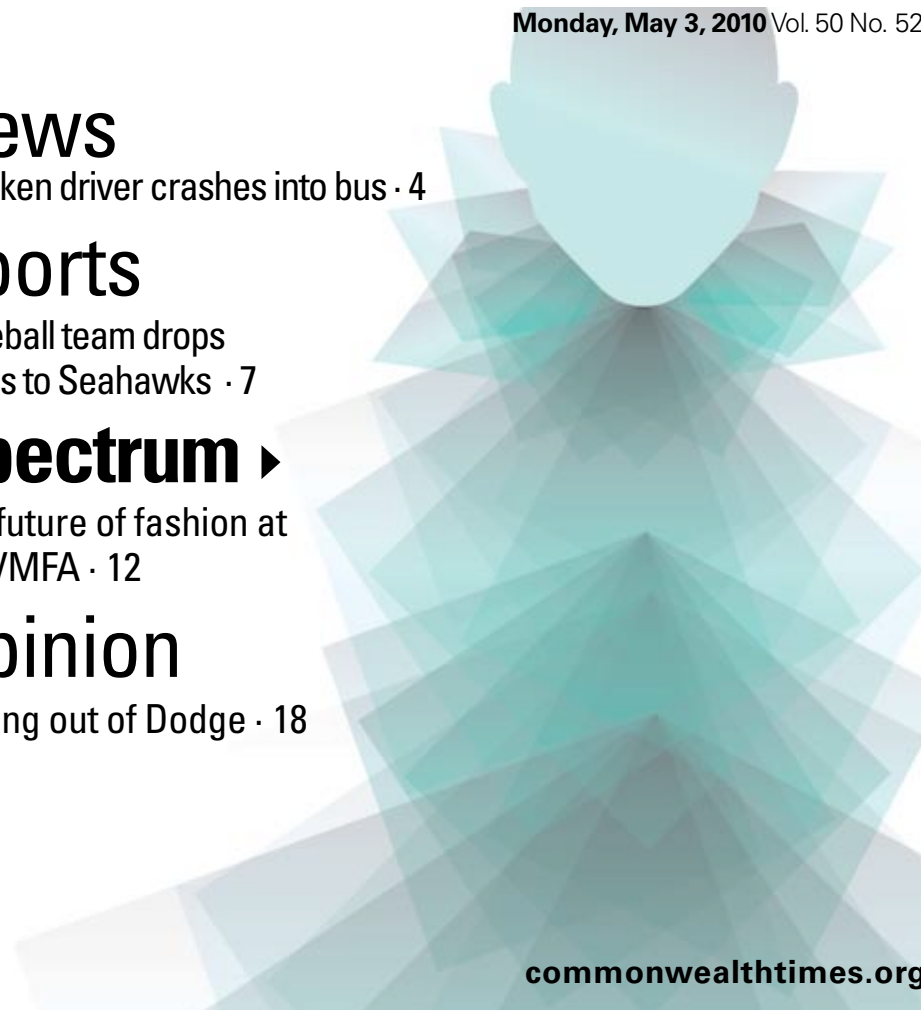
Baseball team drops series to Seahawks · 7

## Spectrum ▶

The future of fashion at the VMFA · 12

## Opinion

Getting out of Dodge · 18



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

[commonwealthtimes.org](http://commonwealthtimes.org)

## Taking to the streets for workers' rights

—page 3



free







JAKE CUNNINGHAM COVER PHOTO

# briefs

## Local and VCU

### VCU to create Richmond teacher residency program

VCU has received a \$5.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that it will use to put some of the nation's best teachers into Richmond Public Schools.

The grant will allow the university to create a teacher-residency program that will be modeled after medical residency programs. It is a four-year program that includes training and teaching. In the first year, individuals will be mentored under master teachers in their classrooms while doing coursework at VCU.

In the second year, they will become classroom teachers. The expectation is that they will remain at some of the city's neediest schools for three years. Teachers will have access to career coaches during their first and second years in the classroom. In the third year, the teachers will receive leadership training.

The grant provides money for the individual's tuition and a yearly living stipend, and low-cost housing.  
*Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch*

### VCU reaffirms nondiscrimination policy

VCU's board of visitors Thursday reaffirmed its nondiscrimination policy, which protects sexual orientation.

The action came in the form of a joint resolution by the board and VCU President Michael Rao, who said the university had taken a stand on the issue "in a very public way."

VCU held forums last month that drew more than 1,000 people protesting an opinion by Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli. His opinion said Virginia's public colleges and universities cannot prohibit discrimination against gays, because the General Assembly has not authorized them to do so.

Gov. Bob McDonnell later issued a directive stating that discrimination of any kind would not be tolerated.  
*Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch*

### Cuccinelli goes for a more modest version of the state seal

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is opting for a more modest depiction of the state's seal.

The seal depicts the Roman goddess Virtus wearing a blue tunic draped over one shoulder with her left breast exposed. But on the new lapel pins Cuccinelli recently handed out to his staff, her bosom is covered by an armored breastplate.

Cuccinelli has found himself at the center of political controversy numerous times since taking office in January. The conservative Republican was ridiculed on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" in March after advising state colleges and universities they lack the legal authority to protect gay employees from discrimination.

Cuccinelli spokesman Brian Gottstein said the attorney general has pointed out the "more modest attire," saying the rendition "hearkens back to an older version of the seal."  
*Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch*

## National and International

### Car bomb scares Times Square but fails to explode

Police found an "amateurish" but potentially powerful bomb that apparently began to detonate but did not explode in a smoking sport utility vehicle in Times Square, authorities said Sunday.

Thousands of tourists were cleared from the streets for 10 hours after two vendors alerted police to the suspicious vehicle, which contained three propane tanks, fireworks, two filled 5-gallon gasoline containers, and two clocks with batteries, electrical wire and other components, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said.

The bomb appeared to be starting to detonate but malfunctioned, top police spokesman Paul Browne said Sunday. Firefighters and witnesses said they heard a popping sound from inside the vehicle.

*Brief by The Associated Press*

### Tens of thousands march nationwide to protest Ariz. immigration law

Angered by a controversial Arizona immigration law, tens of thousands of protesters — including 50,000 alone in Los Angeles — rallied in cities nationwide demanding President Barack Obama tackle immigration reform immediately.

From Los Angeles to Washington D.C., activists, families, students and even politicians marched, practiced civil disobedience and "came out" about their citizenship status in the name of rights for immigrants, including the estimated 12 million living illegally in the U.S.

Protests elsewhere were largely peaceful. No arrests were reported at most demonstrations.

*Brief by The Associated Press*

### Israel's Netanyahu supports indirect peace talks with Palestinians

Israel's prime minister on Sunday welcomed the Arab nations' endorsement of indirect, U.S.-brokered peace talks with the Palestinians.

Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the prime minister still awaited a formal Palestinian statement on the resumption of peace talks, but renewed his willingness to restart them "at any time and at any place" while insisting they begin "without preconditions."

The executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, or PLO, was expected to meet Saturday to officially announce a resumption of the talks.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has said the talks were to start soon, and U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell was expected back in the region later this week.  
*Brief by The Associated Press*

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ROBERTO CURTIS, Executive Editor  
editor@commonwealthtimes.com,  
828-6516

CATHERINE MACDONALD,  
Managing Editor  
managing@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-6516

ERICATERRINI, News Editor  
news@commonwealthtimes.com

ADAM STERN, Sports Editor  
sports@commonwealthtimes.com

ERIKA WILKINS,  
Spectrum Editor  
RAINBOW BRACEY, Assistant  
Spectrum Editor  
spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com

ERIC HILL, Opinion Editor  
opinion@commonwealthtimes.com

JAKE CUNNINGHAM, Photography Editor  
photo@commonwealthtimes.com

CAROLINE EVERTZ, Production Manager  
graphics@commonwealthtimes.com,

FRANCES CORREA, Multimedia Editor  
multimediaeditor@commonwealthtimes.com

STEPHEN ACKLEY, Assistant Multimedia  
Editor  
multimediaeditor@commonwealthtimes.com

TRENT REED, Assistant Webmaster  
multimediaeditor@commonwealthtimes.com

VERONICA GARABELLI, Director of  
Social Media  
garabelliva@vcu.edu

MELISSA TABLANTE  
& PATRICE DALESANDRO,  
Production Assistants  
production@commonwealthtimes.com

GREG WEATHERFORD,  
Student Media Director  
gowweatherfor@vcu.edu, 827-1975

LAUREN GEERDES, Business Manager  
827-1642

PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ, Accounts  
Manager  
ctaccounts@gmail.com, 828-2544

CHRISTINA DICK,  
Director of Advertising Sales  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-5019

JACOB MCFADDEN, Advertising  
Representative,  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-6629

MICHAEL LARSEN, Associate  
Advertising Representative,  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 827-4562

MATT SCHMIDT, Creative  
Design Specialist,  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-6629

JOHN MCWHORTER, Junior Creative De-  
sign Specialist,  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-6629

BILL LEMMOND, Circulation Director

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*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  
Richmond, VA 23284-2010







# news

## May Day 2010

Hundreds rally, march for workers' rights

photo essay

JAKE CUNNINGHAM PHOTOS



ERICATERRINI  
*News Editor*

The citywide participation, including student organizations, in the national workers' rights movement began Friday with workshops in the William Byrd Community House and extended to Saturday, May 1, with a continuation of workshops at Gallery5, closing with a rally and march at Abner Clay Park.

According to student organizer Joseph "Daniel" Bickett, the rally and march were almost called off because city officials would not grant participants a permit to march. A petition with more than 350 signatures was drafted and the permit was eventually obtained days before the event.

MAY DAY continued to CT4

**ABOVE** Workers' rights advocates march down Clay Street holding signs, banners and puppets. Some chanted and made noise from homemade instruments.

**BELOW RIGHT** Entire streets and intersections were covered by the mass of people. An estimated 200 flooded the streets Saturday.

**BELOW** Some demonstrators wore costumes during the march to emphasize their stance against corporations.



Monday, May 3, 2010

news · [commonwealthtimes.org](http://commonwealthtimes.org) · CT3







# Safe ride bus hit by drunken driver

ERICATERRINI  
News Editor

A crash involving a private passenger bus, which shuttles students and city residents from the Fan District to Shockoe Bottom, and another vehicle occurred in front of a restaurant on the 1500 block of West Main Street at 12:59 a.m. on Saturday.

According to an e-mail advisory from the Richmond Police Department, the To The Bottom and Back bus was stopped in a travel lane of West Main Street in front of the Baja Bean Company when it was struck from behind by a Saturn station wagon. A passenger in the Saturn suffered non-life threatening injuries.

The Saturn was driven by Thomas S. Burt, 31, who has been charged with Driving Under the Influence and No Operator's License, according to the advisory.

"I heard a pop—it sounded like a water vein had broken," said Erin Swanson, an advertising graduate student. "That's what I thought it was but I came over and it was an accident. It took me a second to realize what had happened."

Swanson was at the restaurant during the crash. She said she did not hear any breaks before the crash and the police, ambulances and fire trucks arrived from all four streets at the intersection of West Main and Lombardy streets. Authorities on scene blocked off the 1500 block of West Main Street.

"We came outside and we saw the To The Bottom and Back bus and there was a car half-way under the corner of the bus," said Brian Buchwald, who plans to attend VCU in the fall. "They got the driver out and it looked like they were trying to get somebody out of the passenger side. They have an IV hooked up to her. Supposedly it was really quiet and then it hit pretty hard."

According to Jeff Currie, the battalion chief for the Richmond Fire Department, said emergency units arrived to what appeared to be a Saturn station wagon lodged under the rear of an old school bus, now being used as an activity bus, with one female passenger still pinned in the front passenger seat.

Currie said the call was dispatched at 1:10 a.m., units arrived on scene at 1:13 a.m., extrication began at 1:14 a.m. and extrication was completed at 1:40 a.m.

"It took us approximately 20 minutes to extricate her," Currie said. "We lifted the bus, which took the pressure off the car, which allowed us to cut the rooftop, remove the rooftop, remove the car from beneath the bus and then we could ... remove her from the vehicle."

Buchwald said after the crash, customers outside

BUS continued to CT5

## MAY DAY continued from CT3

May Day RVA 2010 organizers estimated hundreds of people attended the rally and march on May Day, or International Workers Day, which began at the park (at the intersection of Clay Street and Brook Roads in Jackson Ward).

Protestors played music and carried large banners, signs and hand-crafted puppets from the park, down Clay Street to Harrison Street and then headed back to the park, traveling down Broad Street and Brook Road. The Richmond Police Department blocked off the marchers' route.

Students for Social Action also hosted a workshop on Friday and its members participated in the rally and march on Saturday.



JAKE CUNNINGHAM PHOTOS

**ABOVE** Demonstrators chant protests. Ava Stone, a Students for Social Action member, holds a protest sign as she crosses the intersection of Broad and Belvidere streets.

**RIGHT** Two students march with hundreds of others Saturday. They were joined by a number of other students and community members.







## news

photo poll

# Students react to 24 percent tuition increase

An e-mail sent by President Michael Rao stated, "VCU cannot sustain its mission with a combination of low tuition and a low state appropriation. Therefore, on April 29, the VCU Board of Visitors approved a \$1,700 increase in tuition and mandatory fees for in-state, undergraduate students, for a total cost of \$8,817 in the upcoming academic year."

## What do you think about the tuition increase?



**Keauna Lyles, a freshman fashion major**

"I just feel like the university is not to blame but it's the fault of the government, because we're losing funding. I guess it's to be expected."



**Jeffrey Turner, a junior social work major**

"I think it's terrible. It's one of the largest public schools in Virginia and it can't get as much funding."



**Christina Willis, a junior homeland security major**

"I'm (an out-of-state student) so I was a little upset, obviously. I didn't realize the tuition was around \$8,000—it's pretty cheap compared to \$21,000."



**Samantha Bashore, a senior theater performance major**

"I'm not very happy about it, but what are they going to do? I didn't think they did a very good job explaining about how it's going to help."



**Hansal Gandhi, a junior biomedical engineering major**

"I understand the increase but it could have been a little less. Instead of \$1,700, it could have been \$1,000. We have 32,000 students so I'm sure they're going to get their share."

TUITION continued to CT6

## BUS continued from CT4



ERICA TERRINI PHOTO

**After removing the female passenger from the car, fire fighters work to unodge the car from under the bus.**

the restaurant moved closer to the sidewalk to view the incident. Units held up sheets to block the crowd's view of the driver and passenger being removed from the vehicle.

"We put up the sheets just for the purpose of, not modesty, but her comfort because we did have to expose some of her clothing to get an IV in there," Currie said. "We did start an IV while she was still in the car and that was to relieve any traumatic pressure on her."

Jim Porter, the founder of the To The Bottom and Back bus, was driving the bus at the time of the accident. He said he had stopped the bus to drop off and pick up passengers at the corner of West Main and Lombardy streets when the car ran into the back of the bus.

"We heard the noise (on) the bus but running into this bus is like hitting a Redwood tree—it's not going to move," Porter said. "It's got 20,000 pounds of steel. I mean these buses are designed to be hit, so we didn't really feel anything on the bus. We didn't hear breaks. The reaction was bad when we saw the car was under the bus."

According to the advisory, the Richmond Police Department is investigating the incident.







# Students find comfort in familiar face

**NANTURNER**  
*Contributing Writer*

She can be seen in her element swiping cards at Shafer Dining Court, and echoing greetings of “Hey baby!” and “I want you to have a great day!”

Beverly Sawyer, or Ms. Beverly to students, is a self-described people person, but those who encounter her every day say that is an understatement.

“Ms. Beverly is a breath of fresh air. She is an amazing woman,” said sophomore Stephany Guachamin. “Even when you’re having the worse day of your life, just hearing her voice and seeing her smile ... brightens up your day. She’s just an amazing woman. When I think of Shafer, I think of Ms. Beverly.”

Freshman Michael Spring said she brings an excitement every day to the dining court and always has a positive energy.

“I’ve never seen her frown, (she) always has a smile,” Spring said. “So it’s always nice to see that.”

Senior Anthony Spain said he thinks Sawyer’s friendly and caring demeanor makes her one of the best employees working at VCU.

“Ms. Beverly brings enthusiasm; she always has a smiling face for the students and things like that,” Spain said. “And she’s really approachable.”

James Butler, the location manager at Shafer, said it is her relationship with the students that stands out.

“Oh they love her,” Butler said. “She pretty much knows everybody who comes through the door and if she doesn’t, she will. Pretty much she lets it be known that Ms. Beverly is the first person they need to see before they can go anywhere else in Shafer.”

Sawyer has worked at the dining hall since 2003. She was previously employed for more than 20 years by the city of Richmond in the Department of Social Services. The river city has been her home since she was 5 years old. Sawyer is a graduate of Armstrong High School and briefly attended nearby Virginia Union.

When she is not behind the front desk at Shafer, Sawyer said she can be found in Carytown at the dessert boutique For the Love of Chocolate or shopping at Short Pump Town Center, where she said she enjoys seeing people walk their dogs. At home she cooks, crochets and listens to music.

“I love to play a little music,” Sawyer



KYLE LAFERRIERE PHOTO

**Sawyer greets a student entering the dining court with a smile.**

said. “I love to do the Tennessee Waltz. I play a little music, but it would be music like back in the day. Every once in a while I hear the students come in here and sing a little rap music.”

Sawyer said one student made her a CD of him playing guitar.

“I listen to it every other day or every weekend. I love it,” Sawyer said.

Sawyer usually does not work during the summer and said she uses the time to catch up with family and go on vacation. Her relatives sprawl across the country from Greensboro, S.C. to Minneapolis. She said her favorite vacation spot is Myrtle Beach, but she would jump at the chance to go to Los Angeles or overseas.

“When (students) come in here a lot of them are yelling, ‘I love you Ms. Beverly,’ ‘Have a nice day,’ ” Sawyer said. “I’m not really that surprised, no. I love the responses because I have given them the same in return.”

Currently Sawyer has a group of students who bring her a glass of water between 12:30-1 p.m., but this semester her popularity took on a new level. There is a Facebook page dedicated to the Shafer fixture and her charismatic greetings. Sawyer said she has seen the page and is grateful to the students who made it.

“A lot of times they confide in me, just little things, and we share a little insight on things,” Sawyer said. “Maybe mostly it’s me because I’ve been where they’ve got to go, and they’ve got to come where I am. But all of them are very intelligent kids and I love them dearly.”

Sawyer said she believes students should carry kindness and respect with them throughout their entire lives, not just as they walk up the stairs to dinner in the dining hall.

“I hope in years to come the mementos of me will be there and the next person to take this position will get the same kindness and respect that I do,” Sawyer said.

## TUITION continued from CT5



**David Cascante, a senior Spanish major**

“I think it makes it difficult, especially for those who don’t have money. We need financial aid and a lot of people can’t apply or qualify as the tuition keeps increasing.”



**Shervonne Thomas, a freshman accounting major**

“I understand why they’re doing it but I just think it sucks.”







# sports

## Wilmington woes

Baseball drops second consecutive series



STOCK PHOTO

**ADAM STERN**  
*Sports Editor*

Halfway through the conference slate two weeks ago, VCU was riding high on the back of an 11-1 start that saw the Rams storm to first place. Their opponents over those first 12 matches however, were a combined .500 and included the two statistically worst teams in the league.

Two weeks and two much better opponents later, the Rams have now won only one of their last six games and dropped out of first place for the first time since they gained it this past weekend after dropping two out of three games to UNC Wilmington in Wilmington, N.C.

The Rams got the weekend off to a superb start, rallying for a 4-3 win that was anchored by sophomore slinger Seth Cutler Voltz (Richmond/Henrico), who threw his third complete game of the season. However the Rams dropped the final two games of the series, and now sit 1.5 games behind James Madison with two conference series left to play in the regular season.

### **Game one**

UNC Wilmington took the lead in the top of the third inning after senior Ben Thielsen singled to start the inning before eventually being driven in to go up 1-0.

The Seahawks then added two more in the fourth after a wild pitch allowed the second of the two runs to score, leaving VCU down 3-0.

The Rams cut into the lead in the fifth by scoring two runs of their own, with seniors Matt Leskiw (Plains, Pa./James) and Richie Gonzalez (Caguas, Puerto Rico/PRBA) driving in the runs. They then took the lead in the sixth when Greg Fujii (San Jose, Calif./San Jose City College) drove in two runs on a bases-loaded single.

The Seahawks would threaten mightily in the ninth, loading the bases before CAA homerun leader Robbie Monday stepped up to the plate however, the senior couldn't deliver and left the Rams game one winner.

### **Game two**

VCU gave up seven runs in the first inning and could never recover in the Monday, May 3, 2010

second game of the series.

Freshman pitcher Kyle Haynes (Chesterfield/Manchester) allowed five of Wilmington's first six batters to reach base, culminating in four runs off of five hits.

The Rams responded in the top of the second with three runs to bring them within one. With the bases loaded, sophomore Paul Nice (Powhatan/Powhatan) delivered an RBI groundout before catcher Taylor Perkins (Dinwiddie/Dinwiddie) drove in two more.

However, for all intents and purposes, the Seahawks ended the game their next time up to bat with three more runs. Red-shirt junior Mike Graham came on in relief of Haynes but fared no better than the freshman, walking in a run on his first batter faced before giving up a further two.

VCU would scatter two more runs over the game's final seven innings but couldn't recover from their slow start to even out the series at 1-1.

### **Game three**

In the series' rubber match on Sunday, VCU took the lead in the top of the third after Gonzalez and fellow senior Doug Otto (Jefferson City, Mo./Johnson County CC) drove in two runs to give the Rams the advantage.

Wilmington would halve the lead in the third when they earned a run off freshman Ryan Farrar (Mechanicsville/Atlee), who was making his first conference start of his career. The Seahawks then took the lead for good in the fifth after plating three runs to go up 2-4.

Perkins would drive in a run for VCU to get the Rams within one in the top of the seventh but Wilmington closed the door in the bottom of the frame when they responded with a further three runs to go up 7-3.

Farrar finished the game with four runs given up on four hits in five innings pitched, but the southpaw only allowed one run in the first four innings.

### **Postgame**

With the loss on Sunday, the Rams dropped their second series in a row after winning their first four to start the season.

VCU will return to action on Tuesday when they go to Charlottesville to face what will surely be their toughest opposition of the season in No. 1 UVA.

sports · [commonwealthtimes.org](http://commonwealthtimes.org) · CT7







sports briefs

## Women's soccer

Following a disappointing 2-8-1 season, which saw the team finish second to last in the conference, VCU's women's soccer team began its trek back toward the top with the announcement of a seven-player recruiting class.

The signings include another player from the U-20 Canadian National Team, two players who were teammates throughout high school and a goalkeeper to help fill the void left by the graduation of the team's only goalkeeper on the roster, red-shirt senior Kate Hudson (Clarksville/River Hill). The class also includes another child from a Virginia family famous for producing soccer stars.

Brianne Moore, a multi-positional player out of Halifax, Nova Scotia, will join fellow Canadian nationals Myriam Bouchard (Quebec City, Quebec/Cardinal Roy) and Molly Allen (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada/Halifax West) to take the Rams' tally of players on Canada's U-20 National Team up to three.

"Bri shares many of the same qualities we have seen in some of the other Canadians who have contributed to our program," co-head coach Tiffany Roberts Sahaydak said. "She has a terrific competitive spirit and real grit about her. She has an incredible work ethic and skill on both sides of the ball."

Shay Haddow (Bingham, Utah) and Jordyn Rolling (Northridge, Utah) join the Rams from the other side of the country, both of whom played on the same club team that saw them get recruited to VCU, the Utah Avalanche. The Avalanche are three-time state cup champions and amazingly, every single player on their roster signed for a Division I school.

Sami Kuykendall (Vienna), a midfielder, signed for VCU after making sizable impressions on both her club and high school teams. Perhaps more interesting however, is her family's knack for putting out soccer stars in the D.C. metropolitan area. Sami's father, Kurt, was a player in the old NASL soccer league and also played at American University, where his two sons played as well.

"Sami is an extremely talented in-state player, who comes from a winning environment," co-head coach Tim Sahaydak said.

The Rams recently wrapped up their spring season of play, which included five spring-season games featuring wins over both Richmond and Georgetown.



## Men's soccer

VCU's new men's soccer head coach Dave Giffard is reportedly holding off on releasing his recruiting class because the former Akron assistant is finalizing the signings of a couple more players.

Giffard, who was hired a month and a half after the end of the Rams' season on New Years Eve, stated in a prior interview with The Commonwealth Times that he would be introducing a sizable and impressive recruiting class when he does unveil it.

In an interview on Ram Radio during VCU's men's basketball's season, VCU Athletic Director Norwood Teague gushed about the team's upcoming class when asked about it, and stated that included in the class will be an unspecified national team player.

The anticipation surrounding the class has been heightened because of Giffard's reputation as a recruiting guru. During his four-year tenure at Akron, he helped bring in a top-five recruiting class every season including 2009 when the Zips signed the top class in the nation.

"I think recruiting is what it's all about. You can be a good coach. You can be a bad coach. You can be doing a lot of things—but if you don't have good players it's irrelevant," Giffard said.



SPORTS BRIEFS continued to CT9

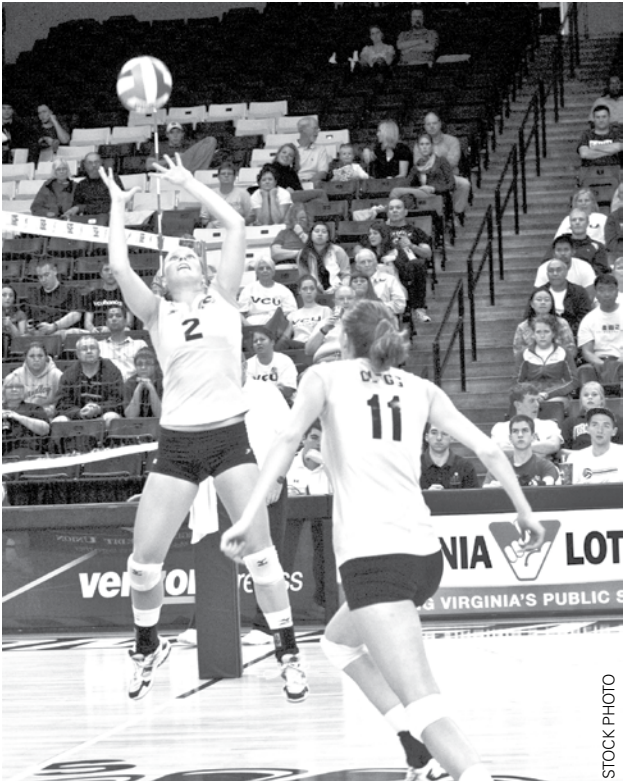


STOCK PHOTOS





SPORTS BRIEFS continued from CT8



Women’s volleyball

Considering VCU’s women’s volleyball team finished 27-9 last season and captured their first ever CAA regular season title in the process, it’s no surprise that head coach James Finley has responded by scheduling an extremely testing schedule for the fall season.

The lineup includes eight NCAA Qualifying teams, highlighted by three-time defending National Champions Penn State, who have won an NCAA record 101 matches in a row.

“After making a big step toward becoming a nationally known volleyball program, we carefully put together the 2010 schedule to challenge our young talented team while presenting the opportunity for success at a higher level than before,” Finley said.

The team will kick off the season with the Black & Gold classic Aug. 23 before starting the regular season four days later when they travel to Columbus, Ohio to face Ohio State. The Rams will then begin conference play on Sept. 24 when they face Northeastern at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

In total, five of the teams the Rams will face next season finished the year ranked in the top 25 nationally.

“This is the kind of competition our team has asked for and needs to continue moving forward,” Finley said.

Remaining schedule

Baseball

Tues., May 4, Virginia, Charlottesville, 6 p.m.  
Wed., May 5, Norfolk State, Norfolk, 4 p.m.  
Sun., May 9, Virginia State (double header), 1 p.m.  
Fri.-Sun., May 14-16, George Mason, Fairfax, various times  
Tues., May 18, Liberty, Lynchburg, 3 p.m.  
Fri.-Sun., May 21-23, James Madison, various times  
Thus.-Sat., May 27-29, CAA Tournament, Wilmington N.C., TBD

Men’s tennis

Fri.-Sun., May 14-16, NCAA First and Second Rounds, TBA, TBA  
Thus.-Tues., May 20-25, NCAA Championships, Athens, Ga., TBA  
Wed.-Mon., May 26-31, NCAA Individual Championships, Athens, Ga., TBA

Women’s tennis

Fri.-Sun., May 14-16, NCAA First and Second Rounds, TBA, TBA  
Thurs.-Tues., May 20-25, NCAA Championships, Athens, Ga., TBA  
Wed.-Mon., May 26-31, NCAA Individual Championships, Athens, Ga., TBA

Men’s track & field

Fri.-Sat., May 14-15, IC4A Championships, Princeton, N.J.  
Fri.-Sat., May 28-29, NCAA Regionals, Greensboro, N.C.  
Thurs.-Sat., June 10-12, NCAA Outdoor Championships, Eugene, Ore.

Women’s track & field

Fri.-Sat., May 14-15, ECAC Championships, Princeton, N.J.  
Fri.-Sat., May 28-29, NCAA Regionals, Greensboro, N.C.  
Thurs.-Sat., June 10-12, NCAA Outdoor Championships, Eugene, Ore.

The Commonwealth Times now formally announces elections for the following positions:

- Executive Editor
- Managing Editor

Nominees may apply by filling out an application at 817 W. Broad St. All applications must be submitted by April 9.

For further inquiries, please contact [editor@commonwealthtimes.com](mailto:editor@commonwealthtimes.com)  
All students who have contributed articles, letters to the editor, artwork or photographs are eligible to vote. Votes will be accepted from Wednesday, May 5 until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, May 12.

Requirements

1 Must have completed MASC 300, MASC 303 and MASC 305 or demonstrate equivalent experience.

2 Must have served as managing editor, section editor, associate editor, copy editor or in the business department for at least one semester or demonstrate equivalent experience.

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# spectrum

fashion show preview

## TWENTYTEN: department pushes fashion forward

NICK BONADIES

Staff Writer

The department of fashion will present their annual juried fashion show, TWENTYTEN, May 7 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The show will be the first non-museum-related event hosted by the gallery. Usually the event takes place on the department's home turf at the University Student Commons Ballroom.

"The venue has so much to offer our show this year because it has this clean-lined futuristic look—extravagant, tall ceilings. It really goes with our theme," said Director Emily Perkins of the VMFA's newly built Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochiane Atrium.

"TWENTYTEN" seeks to examine the present and future of fashion, featuring such categories as "Personal Space," "End of the World," and "Japanese

Anime," in addition to the usual segments like Menswear and Eveningwear. According to Perkins, TWENTYTEN is light years ahead of MUSE, last year's VCU fashion show in forward thinking design.

"(MUSE) was very cultural and kind of history-based ... but TWENTYTEN is really looking toward the future. It has this really cool overall message of looking at the year 2010 and what it means and where we're going."

High-profile industry specialists, VMFA representatives and VCU fashion alumni working in the field were flown in from New York and surrounding areas. The professionals have juried in approximately 125 pieces by junior and senior fashion design students.

"Usually we like to have designers (as judges)," Perkins said. "They're the best judge of what a good garment is, or what a garment should be."

Alumna and Harper's Bazzar executive Patricia

Honeycutt Cantor, for example, will serve as the show's commentator.

Perkins and Greer said they were glad to bring visibility to VCU designers, despite the unremitting effort it has required.

"We spend every waking moment not doing school and work doing the fashion show," Greer said. "We're already sold out, and we've only had tickets on sale for 10 days, not even 10 days. ... This is something people are excited for, every year, and it's just good to keep putting it out there, to be our own thing, and true to what we are."

"It's really about educating the community about what we're about, and what we do," Perkins said.

Greer added, "And how great the designers are. They're amazing. I mean, I could never do ... what they do."

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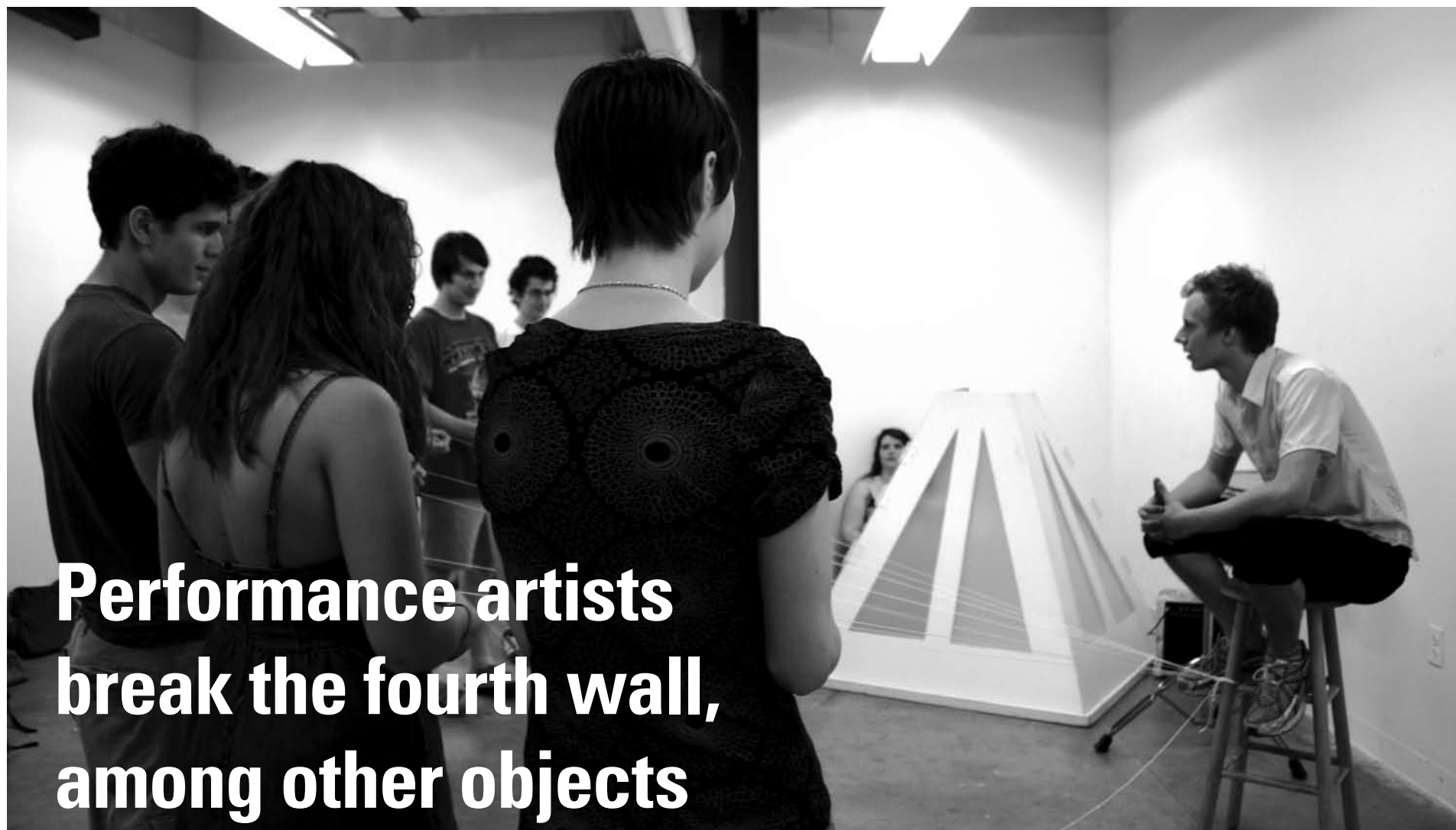


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COSIMA STORZ PHOTO

# Performance artists break the fourth wall, among other objects

Performance artist Andrew Kotsch constructing a 'human harp.'

NICK BONADIES

Staff Writer

The concrete hallway of the Fine Arts Building's third floor echoes with anxious footsteps, shifting props and the cool and collected voice of Cosima Storz (a junior painting and printmaking major) as she doles out orders. From the looks of it, curating is hard work. She's flying up and down the hallway faster than one can hope to follow.

The evening's exhibit, "People: of, by, for," is Storz's brainchild: a series of performance art pieces by fellow art students. Aside from reserving the space, "of, by, for" has been organized and run by Storz entirely independently of VCU involvement, professorial or otherwise. So naturally Storz has a lot on her plate.

"Aaaah, look at all these people! I'm so happy."

By the time she's allowed a spare minute with me, Storz has noticed an early trickle of visitors.

"It means a lot to me, when people come," Storz said. "This is done out of love, as cliché as that sounds."

Storz is vividly impassioned when discussing "time-based art—art that's not gonna last forever," for which she's considering pursuing graduate studies at Carnegie Mellon University.

"I really like art that you can't 'buy.' The thing I like about performance is that it's public; it's for people," she said. "Art shouldn't have to cost money, and it shouldn't be too far out of reach for people to have it in their lives and to enjoy it."

Though a performance artist herself, Storz' role this evening is that of MC. When the evening commences, she's leading the crowd like a herd of sheep. "Go in the fishbowl. Go. Go in the fishbowl. Fishbowl, fishbowl, fishbowl." She looks like an air-traffic controller.

Andrew Kotsch's segment begins by constructing a sort of human harp. Nine volunteers hold the end of a string and "play" a word of their choice when Kotsch plucks their string. What follows is a surreal 10 minutes involving wind-up sushi, a large cage, ukulele music and a chipmunk.

Later, while listening to Ashton Hudgins's music (which was performed the entire two hours, filling the space with shimmering waves of otherworldly roaring that reminded me of Marilyn Manson on fire) I talk to Kotsch about his piece. Kotsch explains his performance was mostly an extemporaneous reaction to pre-selected props.

"So you hadn't actually planned to throw an audience member in

the cage?"

He laughed.

Over the course of too many performances to list, a trend seems to emerge in fascinating breakages of the fourth wall: Katie Palmer, humming absently and plucking at flower petals, makes such deliberate eye contact with her audience as to almost compel them to say, "Hello." The tension is delicious during Cameron Robinson's piece. She's straddling a helium tank under her frilly pink skirt, repeatedly inflating balloons until they burst like a gunshot as the audience holds their ears, grimacing, waiting. Later Robinson resorts to inhaling the helium and giggling, but our apprehension is never quite lost.

Béranger LeFranc sits on a pedestal in a black leotard and heels with a huge plate of chicken wings between her legs. Slowly, methodically, she goes about eating them. When she's done with a greasy bone, she flings it at an audience member, who tend to scoot away. Over about 15 minutes she grows visibly ill and finally shoves the plate away to shatter on the floor.

One piece by Rebecca Henderson invites viewers on an astral projection to Saturn. She instructs the audience to close their eyes and follow a slow, steady, mantra-like incantation:

"Think about your family dog. The family dog is dead. Forget about the family dog. It is not real."

"Think about all the people in the room you find attractive," she intones. "Think about all the people in the room they find attractive. Forget about the people in the room you find attractive."

By the end of the evening, my consciousness has slipped many more times than I expected it to. In a way somehow different from the way you'd experience a painting or sculpture, I frequently found myself acting not as a passive observer of the artistic act, but as something of a participant. The experience derived from this exhibition has depended in large part on the viewers' interaction and engagement with the performance, not simply their interpretation of it.

"One of the things I think is most compelling about this form is the possibility for artistic production that puts the artist in direct contact with their viewer," said Hope Ginsburg, Storz's professor and a frequent performance artist. "There's an unmediated connection between the artist and the viewer. I think that's one of the most powerful affordances of this form."





# 3D, vampire-love sequel with lots of explosions: summer movie preview

SEAN COLLINS-SMITH AND  
JEREMY CLEMMONS

Staff Writers

It's almost summer at the movies, and that means two things: sequels and explosions. No fewer than 20 sequels will be gracing the silver screen in the next four months: From the 3D kids' films "Shrek Forever After" (You have to be kidding) and "Toy Story 3," to the more grown-up "Sex and the City 2" and "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," this season offers plenty for those seeking more of the same.

There is hope, though, for those yearning for some originality. "Inception," writer/director Christopher Nolan's first film since the critically-acclaimed "The Dark Knight," puts an all-star cast into a mind-bending journey in which dreams are stolen. "Grown Ups," a comedy starring Adam Sandler and every comedian you've ever heard of, looks to get big laughs as well as big numbers, while "Knight and Day" attempts to continue Tom Cruise's comeback after his solid performance in "Valkyrie" last December.

Despite whiffs of varying trends – blue people fighting Marines in December, the Queen of Hearts of doing her march in, erm, March, etc.—summer is still the time of year when it is best to take refuge from the sticky outdoors and enjoy a nice movie with your Pepsi-Cola. So, here's a sneak peek at some of the flicks hitting cineplexes over the next 12 weeks.



## "Iron Man 2" (May 7)

Not summer yet, you say? Well, Tony Stark has two tons of steel to prove you otherwise. Robert Downey Jr. returns as the infinitely sardonic Stark, having just revealed his identity to the world. This of course leads to big baddies like Sam Rockwell, as an

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ambitious entrepreneur, and Mickey Rourke, as the villain Whiplash, gunning for Stark's weaponry. Director Jon Favreau is at the helm again, though Don Cheadle replaces Terrence Howard as Stark's number two guy. The last film was met with critical and commercial success, so consider this one to be 100 percent critic-proof on opening weekend. Scarlett Johansson and Gwyneth Paltrow co-star.

## "Robin Hood" (May 14)

The men in tights return to deprive riches to the masses. Just teasing, that's "Wall Street 2." The last time Ridley Scott directed an epic action movie starring Russell Crowe the result was the Academy Award-winning "Gladiator." That was nearly 10 years ago to the day that "Robin Hood," a retelling of the famous English folk hero's exploits, comes to theaters. With a \$130 million budget and a spotty recent track record—their last film, "Body of Lies," fared mediocre at the box office—all eyes will be watching to see how this performs in its first weekend. "Gladiator" started a trend in sword-and-sandal epics, and if "Robin Hood" does poorly, that trend might be over.

## "Shrek Forever After" (May 21)

For the last decade "Shrek" movies have filled the coffers at DreamWorks Animation, with the first three films netting more than a billion dollars in domestic grosses alone. This final film sees Shrek (again voiced by Mike Myers) making a wish that goes so wrong it creates an alternate world in which Donkey (Eddie Murphy), Fiona (Cameron Diaz), and Puss 'n' Boots (Antonio Banderas) have never met him. It will be the final "Shrek" film, and it'll also be in 3D. Julie Andrews and John Cleese provide addition voices.

## "MacGruber" (May 21)

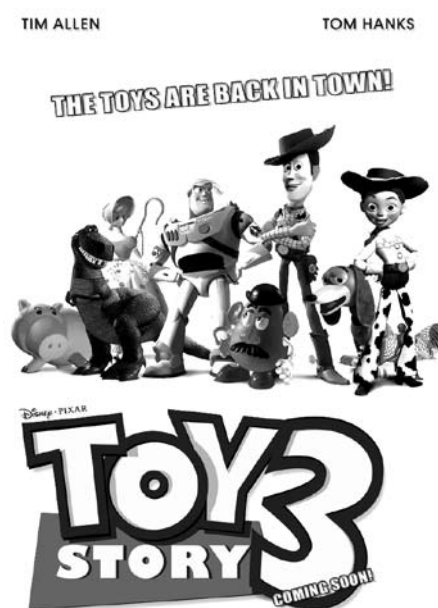
The Saturday Night Live parody of MacGyver has been extremely popular on sites like Hulu and YouTube, and it follows in the footsteps of many other SNL skits-turned-movies. "MacGruber" hits theaters with enough buzz to draw the coveted 18-25 age group in droves, more than earning back its comparatively slim \$10 million budget. Will Forte stars as the title character, a special operative who has been fighting crime since the tragic (comic) death of his fiancée 10 years earlier. Val Kilmer and Ryan Phillippe co-star, with several WWE wrestlers making cameos.

## "Sex and the City 2" (May 27)

Miley Cyrus, Penelope Cruz and Liza Minnelli? On the same screen with the Fabric Four? In the desert? It's about as puzzling a cast and setting as there's ever been for a film about a group of "middle-aged" (Hollywood standards) ladies since "Beaches." There aren't a lot of blockbusters aimed squarely at women, but rest assured that "Sex and the City 2" is one of them, and it will be one of the biggest movies of the year (we'll look past the fact that it's both written and directed by a man). Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda return for another round of sexual hijinks as they travel from New York to Dubai (actually Morocco).

## "The Karate Kid" (June 11)

When in doubt, remake a classic. At least this remake has some solid changes: The kid in question is played by Will Smith's son Jaden, his mentor is now Jackie Chan, and James Horner, of "Titanic" and "Avatar" fame, is scoring the music. Jaden Smith has been fairly successful in the past, having had costarring roles in "The Pursuit of Happyness" and another remake, "The Day the Earth Stood Still." If "Karate Kid" does well, expect to see a lot more of Jaden in the future.



## "Toy Story 3" (June 18)

Fifteen years after the first film launched Pixar into the animation stratosphere, "Toy Story 3" is returning with the same cast and crew that made fans fall in love with the first two. In their latest journey, shown in full 3D, Buzz and Woody are hauled away to a daycare center where they immediately seek ways to go back home. Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, John Ratzenberger, Joan Cusack and Don Rickles all return to voice their characters. One of the must-see family films of the summer.

## "Knight and Day" (June 25)

Tom Cruise tries his hand at a comedic-action role in this spy thriller opposite Cameron Diaz. The script went through several rewrites – and several actors and directors – until producers finally settled on Cruise and director James Mangold ("3:10 to Yuma"). The trailer is high on both stunts and hilarious one-liners (Cruise holds a gun to Diaz's head screaming "Anyone moves, I kill myself and then the girl!"), indicating it might be one of the more enjoyable films of the summer.

## "Grown Ups" (June 25)

Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, David Spade, Kevin James and Rob Schneider – among others – star as former high school buddies who get together after the death of their basketball coach. Not much happens in the trailer, though it manages a few chuckles. The question is whether all this comedic star power will yield a genuinely funny movie or merely a movie that gets laughs because of the celebrities who are starring in it.

## "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" (June 30)

When the "Twilight Saga: New Moon" premiered last November, it had the highest-grossing single day in film history. The buzz has only gotten louder in the six months since. Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart return as the vampire/girl love-duo, investigating mysterious deaths occurring in Seattle. Interestingly enough, David Slade, the director of the violent vampire film "30 Days of Night," takes over for Chris Weitz in an effort to make a darker, more visceral film.

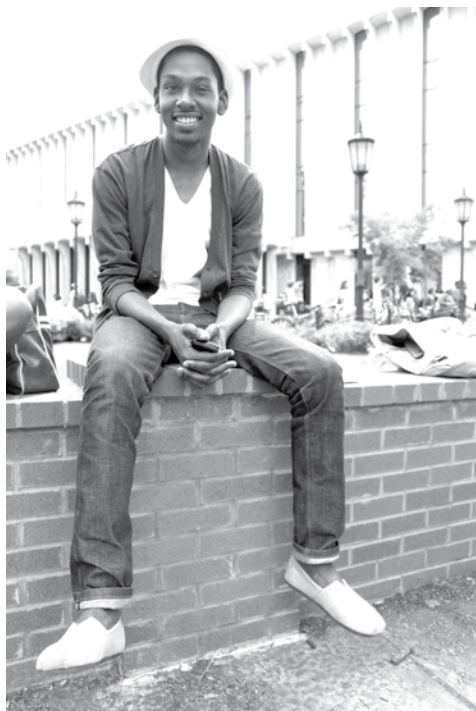
## "Inception" (July 16)

One of the most buzzed about movies of the summer is "Inception," a film so secretive in nature that the official trailers give us only glimpses of what it's about. "Your Mind is the Scene of the Crime," the posters tease, and indeed, that's really all that is known: Dreams are at the center of the film. Christopher Nolan, whose previous films include "Memento," "The Prestige" and "The Dark Knight," directs, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Ellen Page ("Juno"), Michael Caine, Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("500 Days of Summer") and Ken Watanabe. It was conceived as a small, independent-type film in between Nolan's Batman pictures, though it eventually ballooned into a \$160 million epic. Early reviews indicate this might be a front-runner for a best picture nomination in 2011.

Monday, May 3, 2010







STEPHEN ACKLEY PHOTOS

## STREET STYLE



Monday, May 3, 2010

**CLOCKWISE:**  
**The dancers who share everything**  
Dance and choreography majors Rachel Brady, Ava Lindquist, Nikolai McKenzie, Felix Cruz share floral print dresses, argyle socks, neon shades and an infectious zest for life.

**Lazy, southern lounging**  
Economic/finance major Travis Young with his straw hat and matching slip-ons makes you yearn for an iced tea and a fan.

**Fresh to Death**  
Munching on M&Ms and Gatorade, environmental studies major Randall Thompson

is pretty fly with his '80s geometric prints.

**High and Lo**  
Ever the stylish duo, fashion merchandising majors Dekota Waller and Silas Redd are each respectively stylish in their mix of vintage and mainstream fashion.

album review

## Another side of Love: Hole's latest

VERONICA GARABELLI  
*Director of Social Media*

Sometimes it's hard to remember that Courtney Love is 45 years old. Her countless battles in the media don't scream maturity. However, Hole's new album "Nobody's Daughter" (with Love as the only original member) proves Love is composed (for the moment) and legitimately deserves praise for an excellent comeback.

When the feuds are put aside (think Billy Corgan's recent Twitter rant where he accused Love of using his songs on "Nobody's Daughter") this is a remarkable album. Love says she penned the songs during a rehab stint, which explains the album's softer, reflective tone. Most of "Nobody's Daughter" is bare guitars coupled with Love's raspy vocals and "pity me" lyrics.

The opening track, "Nobody's Daughter," sets the moody vibe that is apparent for the rest of the album. It features some beautiful strings on top of elevating guitars that finally switch off to stripped vocals and chords. "Honey" has Kurt Cobain written all over it ("He goes down, down to his only friend/He knows now, now that you love him/He goes down, down to his bitter end/He knows now, now you can't touch him.") In "Letter to God" Love acknowledges her bad reputation ("I never wanted to be/Some kind of comic relief/Please show me who I am) and strives for something better. Though most of the tracks are low key, some are punk-inspired (the bonus track "Loser Dust" and the captivating single "Skinny Little Bitch").

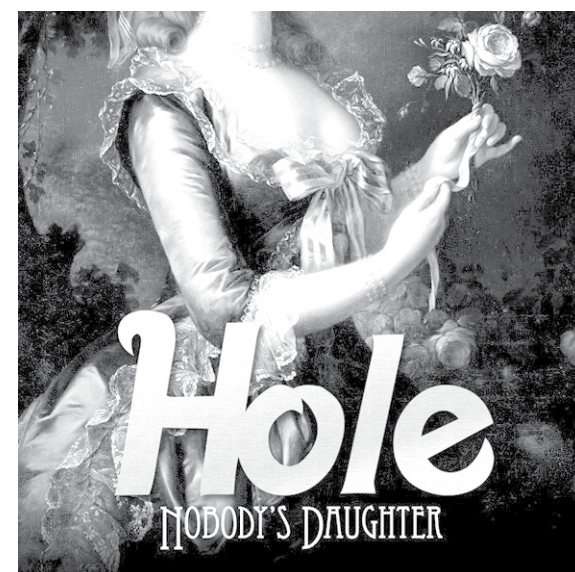
Although Love might easily be the most hated figure in rock and roll, more known for chasing money than music, "Nobody's Daughter" is surprisingly a lyrically mature album and cohesive body of work. It looks like Love is having the last laugh.

**Grade: A+**

**For fans of: PJ Harvey,**

**Smashing Pumpkins, Bush**

**Download (don't steal): "Nobody's Daughter" by Hole.**

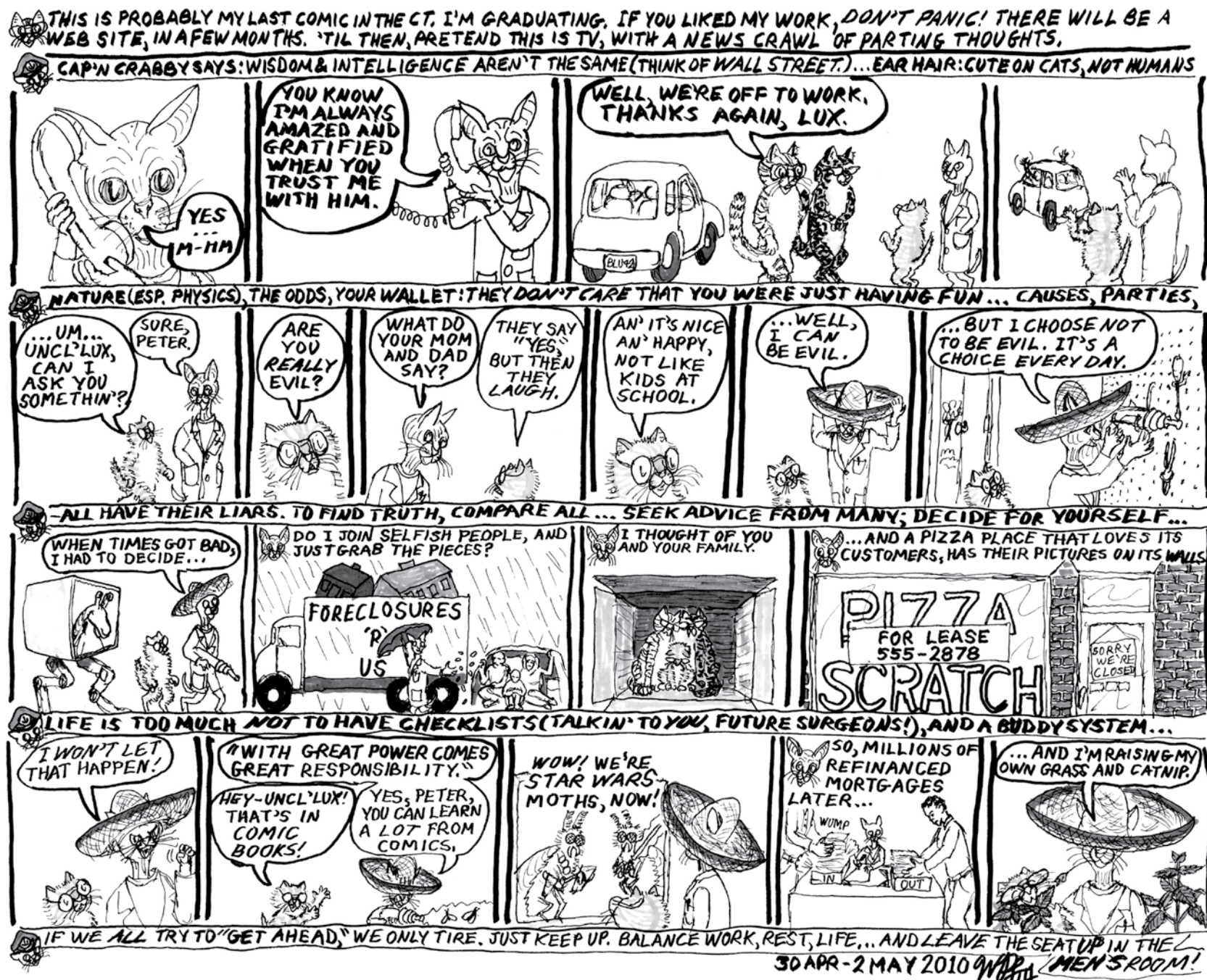




# comics

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Caroline Evertz  
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# comics

Forget Fairytales

Christine Stoddard



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# opinion

## Saying goodbye

Questions and hopes for next year

ERIC HILL  
*Opinion Editor*

This morning I woke up to discover that a car bomb was almost detonated in Times Square in New York City. A few weeks ago I woke up to discover that an oil tanker exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, leaking 210,000 gallons of crude oil per day. A few months ago I woke up to discover an earthquake hit Haiti, killing thousands and destroying a country. Every day I wake up, read the headlines and form an opinion about what has happened, why it happened and what should have been the course of action.

This is my last entry as the opinion editor of The Commonwealth Times. Nearly 50 issues, about 150 pages of material and all I can think is “kuku-bara, that is a lot of bad news.” Financial crisis, environmental destruction, warring nations, corruption, scandal and death have been the subjects of my editorials. As a friend of mine once said, “I never want to watch the news again.”

They call good news “fluff” these days, because the media always puts the bad stuff out front. It’s like newspapers have become murder mystery novels, and we’re the detectives trying to figure it out. Was it the Democrats or the Republicans? Which cabal is responsible for this explosion? Can you spot the terrorist? It’s no wonder people sink into pop culture television and try to forget the world, pretending that celebrities are worth watching, and that life

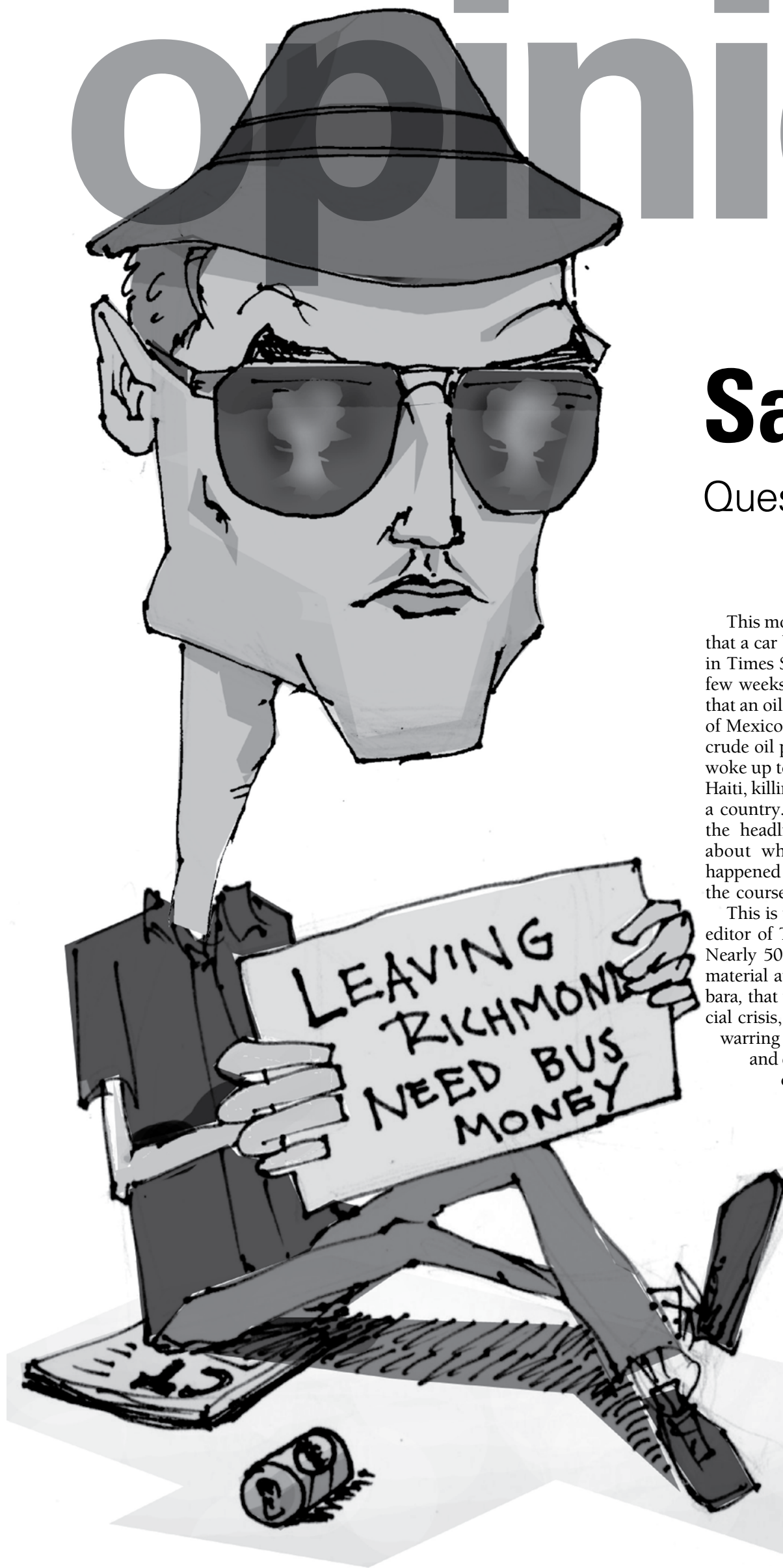
is just one big show.

I started in this position wanting to find answers to questions like, “What does the student body think about health care?” Just try talking to a sober person about politics. Most of the time they won’t say anything or they will give you a party line, or a sweeping generality like, “lower taxes are good for the American consumer, trickle down economics and beware a government takeover” or “I support Obama. It’s about time we got our fair share.” Well you know what? Those pathetic one liners aren’t good enough anymore. It’s a lie, and if you have any common sense you will do your own research and form your own opinions based on factual documents. No more Fox News and MSNBC bull. Go to the congressional budget office, read court documents, read foreign news and then tell me you aren’t being lied to.

I started this position wanting to find answers, and all I got were more questions. Why don’t people care about one another? Why do people use one source of information for everything? Why don’t people realize that no matter how good of a job you get, you will still be unhappy in a world where the headlines always read disaster? The answer I reached is that people are too busy—too busy to care, too busy to read, too busy to change the world. What you don’t realize is every time you nod your head, sign a slip, buy on credit, and tell your friends that party line, the more acceptable it is to continue living blindly.

This past year we have pretended our way through a lot of terrible disasters. We have pretended that our banks aren’t filled with robber barons, that the environment will continue to take our abuses without reply, that Jews and Muslims in the Middle East aren’t attempting to start

SAYING GOODBYE continued to CT19  
Monday, May 3, 2010



MATT SCHMIDT ILLUSTRATION







# opinion

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## SAYING GOODBYE continued from CT18

with their brinksmanship, and that you don't make a difference.

Let's stop pretending.

This is what I hope will happen next year, with your help. First, please vote. It's more important than you believe it is. Second, the next time someone says something outrageously ignorant, don't let them get away with saying it. The less you express yourself, the less you exist. Third, don't do something without knowing the reason why you're doing it. Most of your life you've behaved without knowing where your thoughts and opinions came from, a lot of the time they aren't even yours. Fourth, don't immediately believe the news. Most of the time the truth is buried, so check your facts. Fifth, believe in science. You might have a religion, you might not, but science is our best shot at improving the environment. Finally, do not ever believe that you are not partially responsible for everything that happens in the world. Every individual can change things, every individual can form an opinion. Yes, everyone is equal.

Well that about wraps it up, folks. Thanks for hearing me out this past year, I hope you all will write into the paper next year if you aren't graduating. If you are graduating, then write your local paper. It's a good way to vent at the very least. Take care, and good luck with all of your endeavors.

“ This past year we have pretended our way through a lot of terrible disasters. We have pretended that our banks aren't filled with robber barons, that the environment will continue to take our abuses without reply, that Jews and Muslims in the Middle East aren't attempting to start Armageddon with their brinksmanship, and that you don't make a difference.

Let's stop pretending.

”

## Corrections

On Monday, April 26 The CT ran a comic by Evan Sokal on the cover without an attribution. The CT regrets the error.

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CURTIS

Executive Editor

ERIC  
HILL

Opinion Editor

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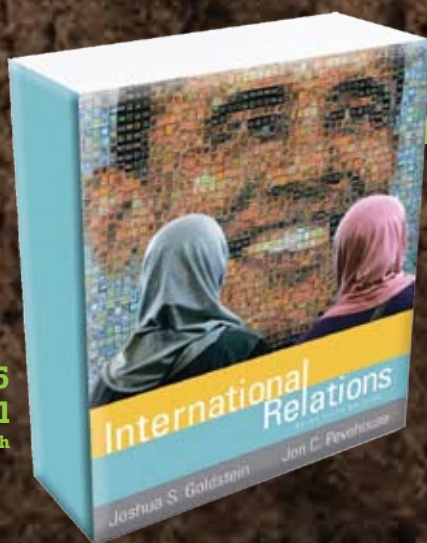






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