



Thursday, December 2, 2010 Vol. 51 No. 27

the
ct

Head Games

Anderson exhibit in a new frame of mind

News

Driver strikes student in front of Temple Building · pg 3

Sports

Men's basketball: tales from the road · pg 7

Spectrum

Photo & Film's psychological drama pushing limits · pg 10

Opinion

Pope gives condoms OK - sort of · pg 14

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

commonwealthtimes.org





briefs

Local and VCU

VCU board to receive review of Rao this week

VCU's board of visitors will meet Thursday in closed session to receive an outside consultant's performance evaluation of President Michael Rao.

Consultant Stephen Portch, former chancellor of the University System of Georgia, conducted the review last week. Portch was also the board's consultant in 2008 during the presidential transition and search process.

The board decided to bring Portch back for the review at its regularly scheduled meeting earlier this month. VCU Rector Anne G. "Panny" Rhodes said the board had always intended to have an outside review of Rao's performance early in his tenure.

The decision, however, followed the reorganization of the top level of Rao's administration and reports that his wife ordered the firing of a top aide.

Monica Rao was hospitalized at VCU Medical Center for nearly two weeks with an undisclosed ailment. VCU spokeswoman Pam Lepley said she went home on Friday.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Judge rules against Richmond noise ordinance

Richmond General District Chief Judge Robert A. Pustilnik on Tuesday declared the city's noise ordinance unconstitutional.

Pustilnik said the ordinance, which was approved unanimously by the City Council in February, is too broad and that it unconstitutionally promotes religion.

The case stems from music played by a band April 4. The defendants include three members of the band and a woman who lives in the home where the party was held, in the 1200 block of West Clay Street. Police arrived that night at about 11.

During daytime hours, the noise ordinance prohibits sound such as a television or the playing of a musical instrument if it is "plainly audible" inside someone else's home or at 50 feet away or farther. The ordinance also prohibits, from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., sound such as music that is "plainly audible to any person other than the operator."

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Attorneys for Outlaws president goes to court

Attorneys for Jack Rosga, national president of the Outlaws motorcycle club, were in court Monday asking for details about the prior misconduct of two federal agents and the cost of the two-year investigation of the gang.

More than two dozen members of the Outlaws and an allied gang, the Pagans, were indicted this year in a scheme in which the Outlaws allegedly planned an expansion into central Virginia. Undercover agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives infiltrated the group and set up a clubhouse in Petersburg.

Thus far, 15 Outlaws and Pagans have pleaded guilty. Last month, a jury acquitted two Outlaws, convicted a third and could not reach a verdict for Rosga. A second group of bikers go on trial starting tomorrow, including the retrial of Rosga, 53, of Milwaukee, Wis.

Rosga's lawyers argued before U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson yesterday that they were entitled to learn more about the agents' records and the cost of the multistate investigation including payments made to confidential informants.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

National and International

Elizabeth Smart defendant suffers seizure in court

A former street preacher on trial for kidnapping and assaulting Elizabeth Smart suffered an apparent seizure in the courtroom Tuesday and was rushed to a hospital.

The judge adjourned the case for the day after defendant Brian David Mitchell was removed on a stretcher and put in an ambulance.

Paramedics took Mitchell to a hospital, but neither court officials nor defense attorneys would identify it.

However, court officials said later in the day the trial would resume Wednesday.

Mitchell was sitting between two of his defense attorneys when he stopped his daily hymn singing and slumped over slightly in his chair. He cried out as his body twisted to the left.

Mitchell remained shackled as paramedics lifted his slight body onto a stretcher. Wearing an oxygen mask, he appeared pale and frightened. His eyes, which are usually closed in court, were wide and round, and both of his fists were clenched.

Woodridge said the first seizure she was made aware of was just after Christmas in 2009. She said Mitchell refuses all medical treatment because he doesn't like western medicine.

Brief by The Associated Press

Georgia police seize meth worth \$44.6m from house

Investigators have seized hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of \$44.6 million in suburban Atlanta, one of the biggest meth seizures in the country, authorities said Tuesday.

Investigators said the raid was conducted late Monday at a house in Norcross, just north of Atlanta, after authorities were told a large amount of meth was being produced there. They reported finding 150 pounds of crystal methamphetamine ready for sale and 200 gallons of liquid methamphetamine oil in a large drug lab.

"This would feed hundreds and hundreds of addicts and destroy who knows how many lives, countless lives," said Rodney Benson with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's field office in Atlanta.

No one was in the home at the time of the raid, police said.

Authorities said they suspect a Mexican-based drug trafficking organization in the drugmaking operation, but added investigators have not determined what group was responsible.

Brief by The Associated Press

China says avoid acts inflaming Korea tensions

China's foreign minister called Wednesday on all parties to avoid acts that risk further inflaming heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Calm and restraint are required and talks are now needed to cool down the situation, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Yang Jiechi as saying.

Nothing should be done to "inflame the situation," said Yang in the highest-level Chinese comment yet on the crisis sparked by Pyongyang's shelling of a South Korean island last week that killed four people.

"The parties concerned should keep calm and exercise restraint, and work to bring the situation back onto the track of dialogue and negotiation," Yang said.

China is North Korea's most important ally and has been accused of failing to use its diplomatic and economic influence to rein Pyongyang in while providing diplomatic cover for the impoverished hard-line communist regime at the United Nations.

China has issued no direct public criticism of North Korea since last week's incident. Beijing has said it is concerned U.S.-South Korean naval drills this week could lead to further clashes.

Brief by The Associated Press

the
ct

ERICA TERRINI
Executive Editor
editor@commonwealthtimes.com
828-6516

MEL KOBRAN
Managing Editor
managing@commonwealthtimes.com

FLETCHER BABB
News Editor
news@commonwealthtimes.com

ADAM STERN
Sports Editor
sports@commonwealthtimes.com

NICK BONADIES
Spectrum Editor
spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com

ROBERT SHOWAH
Opinion Editor
opinion@commonwealthtimes.com

KYLE LAFERRIERE
Photography Editor
photo@commonwealthtimes.com

DOMINIC BUTCHELLO
Art Director
graphics@commonwealthtimes.com

MARLEIGH CULVER
Graphic Designer
graphics@commonwealthtimes.com

HANNAH SWANN
Graphic Designer
graphics@commonwealthtimes.com

TRENT REED
Webmaster
multimediaeditor@commonwealthtimes.com

JACOB MCFADDEN
Advertising Manager
ctadvertising@gmail.com
828-6629

JAMES KLENTZMAN
Copy Editor

MONIQUE WILKINS
Associate Advertising Representative
ctadvertising@gmail.com
827-4562

JOHN MCWHORTER
Advertising Graphics Specialist
ctadvertising@gmail.com
828-6629

SMC STAFF

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

LAUREN GEERDES
Business Manager
827-1642

MARK JEFFRIES
Production Manager
mjeffriesVCU@gmail.com

The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you think we have made an error, please call Executive Editor Erica Terrini at 828-6516 or e-mail her at editor@commonwealthtimes.com. Corrections will appear on the Opinion page.

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

**817 W. Broad St., P.O. Box 842010
Richmond, VA 23284-2010**

Thursday, December 2, 2010

COVER PHOTO BY CHRIS CONWAY





news



PHOTOS BY ERICA TERRINI

Some witnesses said they saw the driver speeding towards the crosswalk.

Driver hits VCU student on Main Street crosswalk

Fletcher Babb
News Editor

A car struck a female VCU student riding her bike across the Main Street crosswalk in front of Temple building just after noon on Tuesday.

According to Mike Porter, a spokesman for VCU's University Relations office, the student was transported to the MCV Hospital with head injuries.

Porter said he was unaware of the student's name and current medical condition.

The name of the driver is also unknown. The driver's white Ford Explorer stayed in the road for about 30 minutes with the mangled bike trapped underneath.

Kat Farley, of J&K's Mobile Munchies, said the student flew about 15 feet after being hit.

"She landed on our cone," she said, referring to an orange traffic cone behind their stand on Main Street.

"It sounded awful," Farley said. "It sounded like it happened right behind (me)."

At press time, it was unclear whether the student had the right-of-way.

Talha Makhdoom saw the accident from the corner of Harrison and Main streets and did not think she had the right of way.

Makhdoom, a criminal justice junior, said, "The road was pretty empty. I think she just didn't see the only car."

While responding to the struck student, a Richmond police cruiser was involved in a separate accident on Belvidere and Grace streets. No injuries were reported. **CT**

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Police have not yet released the name or the medical condition of the student.





Social work students travel to Ghana

Lindsey Deebo
Contributing Writer

Students from the VCU School of Social Work will travel across the globe during winter break to bring aid to children in Ghana.

The team of 15 students will be led by two former VCU students, Cameron Carter and Kelly McCall. The group will embark on a two-week journey into Africa on Dec. 28.

Kelsey Cunningham, who is in her first year in the master's program for social work, will be part of the team traveling to Ghana this winter.

"I've always loved Africa, and I love helping people," she said. "It's going to be a great experience."

The group will partner with Global Sovereign Mission – a nongovernmental organization – to provide aid to children living in the Cocoa Marketing Board area, an impoverished settlement made up of countless children, many of whom are without parents or caregivers.

The team of VCU students will participate in a weekly feeding program and administer basic medical aid to children.

Continuing construction on a child-development center is another task the VCU team will participate in. The child development center has been in progress for several years. Since opening in the fall of 2009, the school has space for children up to the first-grade level. Adding a second level to the school will make it

possible for the building to accommodate students up to the fifth grade.

"Children in Ghana want more than anything to go to school, and now some will be able to do so," VCU School of Social Work Assistant Director of Field Instruction Randi Buerlein stated in an online article.

The VCU students will meet with children and families in the area to gain a better understanding of the culture and the needs in Ghana.

"This gets people engaged in the community at a root level, to understand social issues," Carter said. "A lot of people come back and say OK, how can I create change in my community."

Prior to the trip, the team is receiving training to acclimate participants to the cultural, social and traditional issues they will encounter in Ghana. The team will continue preparations by packing medical and school supplies for the children.

While most of the trip will be dedicated to working on the school and spending time with local children, there will be time for exploration of Ghana's landscape. Students also will spend leisure time in Kakum National Park walking through a rainforest canopy and visiting a historic castle that was part of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. **CT**



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAPO KASALI

Dapo Kasali, 33, is one of many traveling preachers that visit VCU's campus.

Open-air preachers use Compass as makeshift pulpit

Ashley Chapman
Contributing Writer

VCU's public, diverse campus is open to students from all cultures, backgrounds and religious beliefs. This freedom, though, also extends to on-campus visitors.

Traveling preachers come to VCU to preach the Christian message to students. Student reactions to the presence of these preachers are mixed. Some say they find the preachers annoying but harmless, while others say they appreciate the message. However, some students find the sermons offensive and hurtful.

Dapo Kasali, one of the preachers that frequent VCU's campus, says he chooses VCU because it's logical to spread the word of Christ where the most people congregate. He also says students are the best audience.

"There are a lot of students who are lost," Kasali said. "Christ can find them. If I touch even just one soul – and send them to God – I have done my mission."

Many students, however, don't warmly welcome this "mission."

VCU student Corey Scott says he agrees a college campus is an effective place to spread a message, though the sermons are not inspirational to him.

"Many students are looking for something," Scott said. "For some, religion fills that."

Not all of the preachers send the same message. For some students, the content of some of the sermons is offensive. VCU student Paula Wallace said she thought she was being attacked when one of the preachers criticized her race.

"The sermons make me very uncomfortable," Wallace said. "Telling me I am going to hell for being biracial. I almost cried when he said this. My race is so essential to who I am as a person. I was appalled, confused, angry and upset."

Wallace and other students said they resent being attacked based on lifestyle

and they shouldn't be made to feel uncomfortable while trying to get an education. A college campus should be a safe environment.

VCU student Stephanie Herman agrees with Wallace. She says the preacher's messages are inappropriate for a college campus setting.

"I have heard men from the sermons say the words 'slut,' 'faggot' and other extremely offensive terms throughout the course of their sermons," Herman said. "This is not an appropriate setting anywhere, much less a setting where there are young and impressionable adults."

Other students say they are not offended by the presence of the preachers, only annoyed. Perla Corona, VCU student, says the preachers should stay on the outskirts of campus because they are distracting.

"I think of that man as an obnoxious vendor," Corona said. "If I want to buy your product, I will go to your store."

Scott says he thinks having the preachers here is a testament to the level of freedom of speech and expression that exist on campus.

"The fact that there are evangelists who come to campus only enriches the already diverse environment," Scott said. "It makes me proud to know that I can go to a university where men stand in the heart of campus trying to preach their message. Many universities would publicly frown upon this type of behavior."

Kasali says he is here because this is where the Lord has told him to go.

"The Lord says go into the world and preach the gospel," Kasali said. "So that's really my goal; to tell people about Jesus. I'm kind of like an advertisement booth for the Lord Jesus Christ." **CT**



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID DUBBEN

The School of Social Work is traveling to Ghana over winter break to administer food and medicine aid to children.



Crime Log

11/24

- On the 300 block of West Cary Street, a male visitor was arrested for hit and run of unattended property.
- At the VCU Police shed, 918 1/2 W. Franklin St., a male employee advised that an unknown person(s) vandalized a building.
- At 401 W. Grace St., a male visitor was arrested for drinking in public.
- Outside 7-Eleven, 1003 W. Grace St., a male visitor was arrested for drinking in public.
- At the corner of South Pine and West Cary streets, a male visitor was arrested for willfully discharging a firearm in public.

11/25

- At the Academic Building, 500 N. Harrison St., a male and female visitor were arrested for being drunk in public.
- At the Gladding Residence Center, 711 W. Main St., two male students were arrested for possession of marijuana.
- At the School of Engineering, 401 W. Main St., a male employee advised that an unknown person removed various items from a secured location.
- At an ABC Store, 1217 W. Broad St., a male visitor was arrested for petit larceny.

11/26

- At the corner of South Belvidere and West Cary streets, a male visitor was arrested for being under the influence of alcohol.
- At the corner of North Harrison and West Marshall streets, a male visitor was arrested for being under the influence of alcohol.

11/27

- At the corner of West Grace and North Belvidere streets, a female visitor was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- At 7-Eleven, 1003 W. Grace St., two female visitors were arrested for disorderly conduct and damage to personal property.

11/28

- At the BP Gas Station, 600 W. Grace St., a male visitor was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- At 7-Eleven, 1003 W. Grace St., a male visitor was arrested for assault on a police officer and obstruction of justice.
- At an ABC Store, 1217 W. Broad St., a male visitor was arrested for petit larceny.

11/29

- At Main Street Parking Deck, 801 W. Main St., a male visitor was arrested for possessing a stolen inspection sticker.
- At Main Street Parking Deck, 801 W. Main St., a female student was arrested for underage possession of alcohol.
- At Cabell Library, 901 Park Ave., a male visitor was arrested for making threats and trespassing.

Does your current
banking relationship
leave you with
less money?



You belong with us at
Virginia Credit Union.

Fewer fees, good rates
and helpful service.

Find out about Richmond-area
locations including:

DMV - 2300 West Broad Street
Downtown - 720 East Broad Street
Tower - 101 N. 14th Street



Virginia Credit Union

www.vacu.org • (804) 323-6800

Federally insured by NCUA.

2 ways to get paid at **BookHolders**

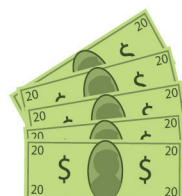
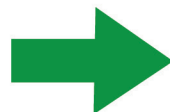
ADVANTAGE ^{OR} CASH ^{NOW}



Drop off Books



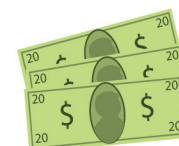
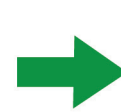
Books Get Sold



Get Paid More



Sell Now



Get Money Now

GET UP TO 3x THE MONEY WITH MORE OPTIONS TO SELL

BookHolders.com

720 W GRACE ST -- (804) 767-1699

Prepare for speed.

Get the best of both networks. Increase your productivity on the nationwide Sprint 3G network now. Be ready for 4G when traveling to a 4G service area or when 4G service is available in your area. Get it on the Now Network.TM Offers for students of Virginia Commonwealth University.

\$99.⁹⁹

OverdriveTM 3G/4G Mobile Hotspot by Sierra Wireless

After \$50.00 mail-in rebate. Two-year price \$149.99. Requires eligible upgrade (or new line activation) and new two-year Agreement.

3G/4G Connection Plan

\$59.⁹⁹

Existing customers can switch without a contract extension. New lines of activation require a new two-year Agreement per line. No plan discounts apply. Other monthly charges apply. See below.**



Free

After \$50 mail-in rebate. Two-year price \$50.

3G/4G USB 250U by Sierra Wireless

Requires eligible upgrade (or new-line activation) and new two-year Agreement.

Sprint is bringing you the first wireless 4G network from a national carrier. Get 4G speeds up to 10 times faster than 3G.[†] Hurry! Offers end 11/10/10 or while supplies last.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH 4G?

Sprint
The Now Network[™]

Have you heard about Blackboard Mobile? Visit www.sprint.com/blackboard for more information!

Bring your ID or pay stub and mention this code:
Corporate ID: GBKBD_ZZZ

[†]Up to 10x Faster[™] based on download speed comparison of 3G's 600 kbps vs. 4G's 6 Mbps. Industry published 3G avg. speeds (600 kbps-1.7 Mbps); 4G avg. speeds (3-6 Mbps). Actual speeds may vary.

**Monthly charges exclude taxes, Sprint Surcharges [incl. USF charge of up to 13.6% (varies quarterly), Administrative Charge (up to \$1.99/line/mo.), Regulatory Charge (\$0.40/line/mo.) and state/local fees by area]. Sprint Surcharges are not taxes or gov't-required charges and are subject to change. Details: Sprint.com/taxesandfees.

May require up to a \$36 activation fee/line, credit approval and deposit. Up to \$200 early termination fee/line applies. **Mobile Broadband Card/Overdrive 3G/4G Mobile Hotspot:** Offer ends 11/10/10. While supplies last. Taxes and service charges excluded. No cash back. Requires activation at the time of purchase. Mobile Broadband Card data plan required. **Mail-in Rebate:** Requires purchase by 11/10/10 and activation by 11/25/10. Line must be active 30 consecutive days. Allow 10 to 14 weeks for rebate. **Upgrade:** Existing customers in good standing with service on the same device for more than 22 consecutive months currently activated on a service plan of \$39.99 or higher may be eligible. See in-store rebate form or sprint.com/upgrade for details. **3G/4G Connection Plan:** Offer ends 11/10/10. **3G Usage:** Includes 5GB of data usage. Add'l data usage \$0.05/MB. Add'l off-network usage \$0.25/MB. **3G Usage Limitation:** Sprint reserves the right to limit throughput speeds or amount of data transferred, and to deny, terminate, modify, disconnect or suspend service if usage either exceeds (1) 5GB/month in total or (2) 300 MB/month while off-network roaming. 1,024 KB equal 1 MB. 1,024 MB equal 1 GB. 3G Data Usage Limitation does not apply to 4G usage. No plan discounts apply to the \$59.99 plan. **First 4G Claim:** Sprint 4G is available in 30 markets and counting. See sprint.com/4G for details. **NVP Empl. Discount:** Discount available to eligible employees of the company participating in the NVP program. Subject to change according to the company's agreement with Sprint. Available on select plans only for eligible lines. Discount applies to monthly service charges only. No discounts apply to add-ons \$29.99 or below. **Other Terms:** Coverage not available everywhere. The Sprint 3G network (including roaming) reaches over 273 million people. Not all services avail. on 4G and coverage may default to 3G/separate network where 4G unavailable. Offers not available in all markets/retail locations or for all phones/networks. Pricing, offer terms, fees and features may vary for existing customers not eligible for upgrade. Other restrictions apply. See store or sprint.com for details. ©2010 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. Other marks are the property of their respective owners.

12649



sports

Women's basketball preview: VCU vs. East Carolina

VCU

Projected starters:

Junior guard Jennifer Lane (11 ppg, 4.3 rpg)
Junior forward Courtney Hurt (23.7 ppg, 12 rpg)
Redshirt-sophomore forward Sonia Johnson (4.7 ppg, 6.3 rpg)
Senior guard Jessica Taylor (3.3 ppg, 2.3 rpg)
Junior center Chelsea Snyder (4.3 ppg, 7 rpg)

East Carolina

Projected Starters:

Senior guard Allison Spivey
Redshirt-senior guard Kelly Smith
Junior forward Chareya Smith
Senior forward Kim Gray
Junior guard Ashley Clarke

What:

VCU (2-1) vs. East Carolina (3-3)

When:

Thursday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.

Where:

Verizon Wireless Arena at the Stuart C. Siegel Center

Tickets:

Students admitted free with student ID
Non-student adults: \$5
Youth/seniors: \$3
Children (under 5): free

Notes:

-VCU will be playing their first game in 10 days after not participating in a Thanksgiving break tournament, but the team now has to play five games in a 20-day span, including tonight.

-The matchup between VCU and ECU will be the seventh straight matchup in as many years, as well as the 23rd all-time matchup.

-The school's have split the last two match-ups, with ECU taking last season's game 88-85 and the Rams taking the 2008 match up 78-67.

-VCU started off 2-0 before dropping their first match of season to Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. The Rams were able to force overtime in a back and forth struggle but saw the Hokies ultimately emerge winners, 63-61.

-VCU junior forward Courtney Hurt – the only Ram selected to any of the Preseason All-CAA teams as a Second Team selection – is averaging a double-double per game with 23.7 points per game and 12 rebounds per game.

-ECU is coming off a 14-point victory over UMass on Sunday after the Pirates hit a school-record 13 three-point field goals.

-If ECU can defeat VCU, it will be their first time winning back-to-back games thus far this season.

-ECU leads the all-time series over VCU 12-10; the Rams are 6-3 all-time at home against the Pirates.

Rams drop overtime game to USF

Staff reports

VCU led for all of a couple seconds versus University of South Florida Thursday night, but they still had a chance to win it come the final possession.

Unfortunately for the Rams, they couldn't capitalize.

Junior guard Bradford Burgess missed a driving, contested layup with less than two seconds left in overtime and VCU down one point, dropping the Rams top 4-2 on the season overall.

VCU played perhaps its most sluggish game of the young season in Tampa; the Bulls – out of the Big East Conference – played much better.

USF jumped out to a 10-2 lead to start the game and went up by 17 points at one point midway through the first half. VCU, though, used a late-half surge to cut the halftime lead to 10.

The Rams kept it close for most of the second half but couldn't get over the small cushion the Bulls held for nearly the entire game. Senior point guard Joey Ro-

driguez hit a three-pointer with 41 seconds remaining in the second half to give the Rams their first lead of the game, but they'd surrender it again on the very next possession, never to reclaim it.

The Rams return to action Saturday when they kick off conference play with a noon tilt versus William & Mary at the Stuart C. Siegel Center. **CT**



Diversity Thrift proudly announces



Our second store -- located
on Main Street in the heart of the Fan.

**Now Open! Come by for
cool stuff at great prices!**

2219 West Main St, Richmond, VA 23220 | 804-562-4143
The original Diversity Thrift: 1407 Sherwood Avenue,
Richmond, VA 23220 | 804-353-8890

DiversityThrift.org | Furniture pick-up: 353-8890

**PRESENTS ARE
COMING EARLY
THIS YEAR**

SELL YOUR BOOKS & ENTER TO
**WIN A WHOLE SEMESTER
OF FREE TEXTBOOKS**
(OR \$1,000 CASH, IPOD TOUCH, NIKON COOLPIX & MUCH MORE)

BookHolders
720 W. GRACE ST. (804) 767-1699

CT8 · commonwealthtimes.org

**NOW LEASING
STUDENT
HOUSING**

**8 1/2
CANAL
STREET**

**The
next
level
of student
housing**

SONEHALFCANAL.COM

Need a place to live? We've got a room.

COMMUNITY AMENITIES:
Tone: Over the top 24 hour fitness center
The Zone: Video gaming center
The Channel: TV viewing lounge
Hush: Single and group study rooms
Two interior landscaped court yards with BBQ
WIFI in all common areas
Electronic access building
Garage parking

APARTMENT AMENITIES: Flat panel TVs in every unit
All utilities included (*with Green Cap)
Faux wood style flooring
High speed internet and cable in every unit
Deluxe modern furniture in every unit
Washer and dryer in every unit
Students first residence life program
Sophisticated roommate matching program

8 1/2 CANAL STREET, RICHMOND VIRGINIA 23220
LEASING CENTER: (888) 476-0562 900 WEST BROAD STREET

The CT: Puppies since 1967



Thursday, December 2, 2010



Travel agent extraordinaire



ILLUSTRATION BY MARK JEFFRIES

Jim Swing
Assistant Sports Editor

When men's basketball head coach Shaka Smart and Director of Basketball Operations Kyle Getter first began working together, it was 2002 and Smart was Director of Basketball Operations at the University of Dayton. Smart bought occasional lunches for Getter, a graduate assistant learning the tricks of the trade.

Eight years later, Getter has traveled in the footsteps of his mentor, fulfilling multiple duties, including the ever-so-important role of formulating travel arrangements for the VCU Rams. In his second year as Director of Basketball Operations at VCU, Getter assembles team travel, lodging, practice scheduling and meals for games on the road. Planning as early as August before the upcoming season, Getter begins by laying out potential hotel options that best accommodate players and coaches alike.

"It's like traveling by yourself, but you have 26 people in your travel party," Getter said. "We go out and map out the whole year, kind of what we're wanting to spend throughout the year."

While searching for the most suitable hotel that best accommodates the team, tax-payers money is also taken into consideration for budgeting.

"We're using state money, tax-payers money so we really try to watch what we spend," Getter said. "So this year we're staying in some different places than we did last year because the rates change."

When deciding whether to drive or fly to a destination, time becomes a crucial piece to the traveling puzzle. In the 2010-2011 season, the Rams will travel the airways to such places as Birmingham, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga.; Boston, Mass. and recently to Tampa Bay, Fla.

"Typically if it's a five or six-hour trip, we'll bus," Getter said. "Anything outside of that we typically try to fly because of the time factor."

Aside from transportation and lodging, perhaps one of the most essential parts to any road trip is team meals. Getter alongside athletic trainer Eddie Benion and strength and conditioning coach Daniel Roose strategize specific team meals along the lines of proper foods for the athletes to consume before and after games.

After a complimentary breakfast buffet, pre-game meals take place four hours prior to tip-off, proving to be the most vital.

"We talk about what these guys should be eating and then kind of formulate a menu from there," Getter said. "And also we want to get stuff that these guys like to eat, so they will be actually eating."

While planning for road trips might begin months before the start of the regular season, a recent trip to New York City for the semifinals of the Dick's Sporting Goods NIT Tip-Off arrived after a 90-69 win over Wake Forest, leaving one week for an already prepared Getter to put plans in the making.

"We were confident that we would be going, so we put some 'feeler' plans out there to say that this might be happening," Getter said. "We had just a short amount of time."

The stress of planning a trip to an away game for an entire college basketball organization can be trying at times, Getter said. Whether it's having a meal prepared on time or a bus ready for shuttle, Getter said all his hard work pays dividends towards the master plan – winning.

"The guys sometimes laugh at me because I'm always running around," Getter said. "On the road we want to do everything we can to get a competitive advantage in terms of winning the game, and if there is no hiccups in terms of our travel experience, then I think that adds to our competitive advantage." **CT**



PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERRIERE

VCU Director of Basketball Operations prepares most of the Rams' travel plans months in advance but only had a week's notice for the team's trip to Madison Square Garden.





spectrum

Dream on: Anderson Gallery explores human subconscious reflection

Mechelle Hankerson
Assistant Spectrum Editor

"The Nameless Hour," the latest exhibit from the Anderson Gallery at 907½ W. Franklin St., features at least one piece visitors are encouraged to lie on.

Piplotti Rist, a Zurich- and Los Angeles-based artist, showcases the video and sound piece "Gravity Be My Friend" through sensuous natural imagery projected onto a ceiling-mounted screen – "best viewed," according to an artist's statement, "by reclining on the carpet sculpture below."

The exhibition, which began on Nov. 19, takes up all three floors of the gallery as well as the carriage house next door to the gallery's main building. Featuring sound, video and sculpture, "The Nameless Hour" seeks to explore dreaming as a complex phenomenon of human nature. The title comes from French philosopher Gaston Bachelard, who studied dreams, psychoanalysis and imagination in his book "The Poetics of Reverie."

In addition to the work of one VCU professor – Stephen Vitiello of the Department of Kinetic Imaging – the exhibition features the work of artists such as Stephen Cartwright and Janine Antoni.

Vitiello is a sound and media artist whose travels to the Australian outback are used in a pair of installations as artistic soundscapes.

Vitiello began work on his piece "The Sound of Red Earth" when John Kaldor, an Australian patron, asked him to cre-

ate a piece on the Australian outback. Kaldor arranged for Vitiello to stay in a remote area of the Australian outback to record.

The "Red Earth" featured at Anderson Gallery, however, is actually only a piece of the larger whole: The original work took up three entire buildings.

One building coupled red earth spread on the ground with wildlife sounds; another, golden sand and water sounds; and another, black rock and sounds of wind.

"For Richmond, there was no way to transport 13 tons of red earth as I did in Australia," Vitiello said. He decided to present the wildlife sound piece and the water piece and invite Jeremy Choate, a lighting designer from Houston, Texas, to create a lighting environment to reference the red earth and the blue of the water.

Vitiello began his sound art career out of his involvement with music.

"I grew up playing in bands and then started to do soundtracks for video artists and choreographers," he said.

"From there, I moved on

to my own career as a sound artist. As a musician, I was also excited but not necessarily that skilled. With sound art, I've been able to find other ways that for me are more natural and intuitive, to record and process sounds."

Cartwright, who presented a lecture last month for the Department of Sculpture + Extended Media, took a total of 12 years to complete "Fort Peck." Every hour of every day, he marked his exact location using longitudinal measurements and used the data to create a large-scale sculpture that physically manifests his movement through space as well as time.

Antoni, who has showed her work with VCUarts previously, joins a large film projection of a human eye to a real live wrecking ball. As the wrecking ball lies still in the space, the eye blinks in tandem to a deafening audio track of the

ball in action.

The exhibition also includes New York photographer Spencer Finch, who explores themes of "covering and uncovering, revealing and concealing" through a series of 60 photographs taken at one-minute intervals of fog moving over a densely wooded area. **CT**

The Anderson Gallery will display "The Nameless Hour" until Feb. 20, 2011. Admission, as usual, is free of charge.



PHOTO BY CHIRS CONWAY

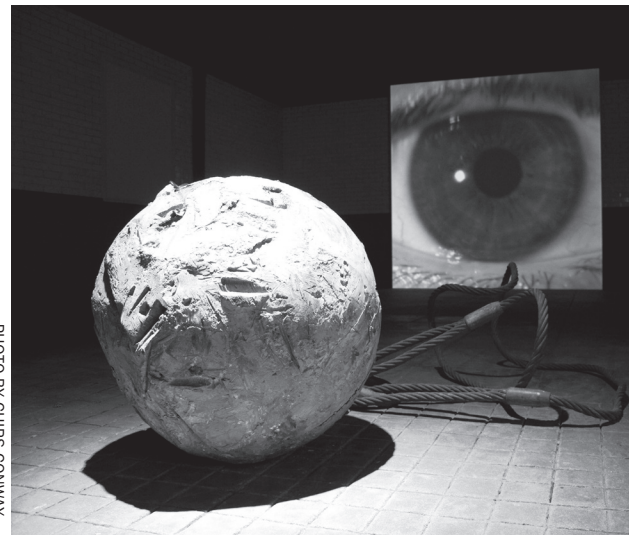


PHOTO BY CHIRS CONWAY

"Tear" by Janine Antoni displays a film of an eye following the movement of a 4,132 lb. wrecking ball. Antoni has lectured in VCU's Department of Sculpture and Extended Media prior to her current display at the Anderson Gallery.



PHOTO BY CHIRS CONWAY

TOP: "The Nameless Hour" takes up all three floors of the Anderson Gallery as well as the carriage house next door. It features film, sound, and sculpture installations.

ABOVE: Stephen Cartwright's piece, "Fort Peck" took him 12 years of plotting his location with longitudinal measurements to finish. Now, it is an interactive piece to show his movement.



Student feature-length film asks, 'can you ever really know who you are?'

Nick Bonadies
Spectrum Editor

Shooting is set to begin this weekend for a film that began as a class assignment and grew to demand a \$15,000 budget.

A group of student filmmakers in the VCU Department of Photography and Film originally conceived "Metanoia" – "Maybe (like) if 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind'" was directed by Terence Malick," according to producer and junior film major Tommy Bell – as their project for the two-semester Film Workshop course.

"As we progressed ... we realized we had something more than just a class project on our hands," said the project's website.

The film centers around a man named Ryland, who checks into a mental health institution after having lost all recollection of his past.

The opening sequence features the character "not really knowing where he is, in the city, wandering about," director Gwenyth Gaba, sophomore and double major in film and painting and print-making, said. "There's some humor in that, the idea of a character who doesn't really know himself – kind of childlike, almost."

As he begins a course of experimental pharmaceuticals intended to jog the memory of amnesia victims, Ryland sees himself – through brief, fragmented glimpses of his past – suddenly cast in a not-so-favorable light. He must decide

between quitting treatment and never quite knowing his true identity, or re-obtaining his past – and having to live with it.

"There's kind of this good and bad you have to accept in any human, and he's learning to accept that in himself – to realize that who he was wasn't all perfect," Gaba said.

Metanoia's 12-member crew emphasized a collaborative effort from the beginning, "(making) it a point that none of our ideas or opinions on our film should go overlooked," according to the website.

"It took a long time to write the script," Gaba said. "12 people's ideas into one script? Kind of hard to do."

Seeing a Film Workshop class push this far on a project is uncommon, ac-

cording to crew members.

"A lot of that is due to the fact that with these projects ... (students are) directing, they have to film it, cast it, write it, get funds if they need it, get locations and everything," Bell said.

"And so it's hellish, in a way."

It also makes for a hefty budget – at rough estimate, \$15,000.

"It's just us," Gaba said. "We have to earn our money."

Considering the shopping list that goes into making any film – especially one filmed on industry-grade 35mm stock – \$15,000 is actually "a tight budget," according to the website. Funds will go into raw film stock; film development and transfer; camera, lenses, and grip gear; set building and location rentals; boarding for out-of-town actors; costume and prop rental; and submission fees to film festivals.

As of Wednesday night, the donation counter on Metanoia's fundraiser website had reached \$536 out of the \$15,000 goal.

"Every summer and winter holiday season we see the same old shlock come through the theaters," their website states. "We want to see some actual creative value in films again and not some resurrected classic or ... unnecessary sequel or adaptation."

"If you contribute you won't just be making a donation towards the return of creative cinema, you'll be giving a bunch of great students access to equipment, cameras, and talent that we wouldn't have otherwise."

At \$10, donators are given a link and password to view the film online; at \$25, they can download it to their hard drive. Donators who break the \$100 mark nab a "Special Thanks" in the credits.

A slew of high-grossing films in the recent past, like 2004's "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" or this year's "Inception," have highlighted a trend in the film industry that plays with the fabric of reality and the way its characters perceive, or misperceive, it – utilizing the exponential capabilities of modern special effects.

"It's a popular topic, but we're trying to do a different spin on it – more about the character, less about the drugs," Gaba said. She described her own dissatisfaction with the way she's seen themes of dreams and memory vs. reality handled in mainstream cinema: primarily as a showcase.

"It's a way to use these fantastic images and have a reason for it ... But it's nice when there is something more concrete to it than that."

"I feel like with ours ... it was like, 'This is exciting, this is actually gonna give people something to talk about.' ... We have an opportunity to inspire people – whereas some films are just like 'eh, money.' That's just my take."

Filming for "Metanoia" is set to continue until March, with the finished product premiering in multiple Richmond theatres and venues in May. **CT**

Check out more information on "Metanoia," its creators, and how to contribute at the film's IndieGoGo page <<http://www.indiegogo.com/metanoiaR-VA>>, or join the cause on Facebook at <<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=172191389475733>>.

Film Review: “127 Hours,” a stunning exercise in desperation and willpower

Jordan Wilson
Staff writer

Director Danny Boyle’s follow-up to his 2008 triumph “Slumdog Millionaire” proves once and for all that he is a true cinematic visionary.

James Franco stars as Aron Ralston in “127 Hours,” based on the true story of an engineer and adrenaline junkie who bikes across deserts, wedges himself into canyon crevices and dives into subsurface pools. It’s these flashes of spontaneity that nearly get him killed after his arm gets pinned and crushed under a boulder while hiking in Blue John Canyon in Utah.

The real horror of the situation is that Aron failed to mention to a single soul where he was going on that particular day. He is in the middle of nowhere in a subterranean crevice with little food and water and even less hope of rescue, kept suspended only by the boulder wedged between the canyon walls.

And, of course – spoiler alert if you missed real-world Ralston’s tour of primetime cable television in 2003 – he eventually has to blunt-trauma his own arm off with a dull rusty pocket-

knife. Thus does the portrait of a fearless mountaineer quickly evolve into a gut-wrenching story of survival.

Boyle is working here again with cinematographer Anthony Dod Mantle, and a second cinematographer named Enrique Chediak. That these guys have envisioned and developed such a simultaneously invigorating and draining film out of a story previously thought unfilmable is a miracle.

Rather than stepping back and observing Aron’s predicament from afar, as many other filmmakers may well have approached it, Boyle is right there with him for nearly the entire running length. He also electrifies the screen with fascinating shots, like from inside of the straw from which Aron sips water (and later urine), or from the inside of his arm where – again, spoiler alert – the knife scrapes the bone after Aron stabs it in a rush of adrenaline. In the form of fractured hallucinations, we also find simple moments to be, in dire times, cherished.

This has to be the most intensely driven performance that Franco has given in his career. His work in the stoner-comedy “Pineapple Express” and more

notably in Gus Van Sant’s “Milk” in 2008 has been fairly consistent, but he has risen to new heights in “127 Hours.” It is a one-man show of frustration, rage, disbelief, regret, despair and anguish, and he plows through it with exceptional skill and dedication. There are moments where it is evident that Boyle said “action,” and Franco had to act honestly and naturalistically without any words, as when he attempts with all his might to move that boulder off of his arm, to no avail.

He has a camcorder with him, and at one point he hosts a talk show with himself as the guest, and scolds himself for being the lone wolf that he is, and for not telling anyone where he was going. It is a lighter moment in the film, but it is also revealing of Aron’s revelations and regrets about himself, and his desire to change should he ever make it out alive.

But Boyle and fellow screenwriter Simon Beaufoy do not make Aron an undisputed hero. His words are not heroic, nor are his actions. The restraint of sentiment here is admirable in that it avoids a sappy tale of triumph over the cruelty of nature. Boyle is not interested in that. Yes, it is amazing that he cut his arm off and managed to survive the whole

ordeal – but the journey that the audience takes is exhausting and terrifying, and the amputation is exceptionally realistic and graphic. Nothing is softened up for commercial appeal – a trademark of Boyle’s career.

Boyle has unquestionably taken on some fascinating, risky and imaginative projects in his career – some of which have worked (“Millions,” “Trainspotting,” “28 Days Later”) and some have not (“Sunshine,” “A Life Less Ordinary”). What can never be said of his work is that it is ordinary. Here, he has once again proven himself to be a genuine filmmaker, one who will be forever remembered for the brilliant work that he has done, and hopefully will continue to do. **CT**

GRADE: A



“This has to be the most intensely driven performance that Franco has given in his career.”

STILL COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

exam_winterhrs2010.pdf (application/pdf Object)

http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/exam_winterhrs2010.pdf

☆Google

WINTER BREAK FACILITY HOURS

VCU Recreational Sports

Exam & Winter Break Facility Hours

Dec 11-23, 2010

Sat, Dec 11 <small>*Graduation</small>	Cary Street Gym	
	MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center	
	Cary Street Field	
	Outing Rental Center	
	Thalhimer Tennis Center	
	Jonah L Larrick Student Ctr	9am-11pm
Sun, Dec 12	Cary Street Gym	9am-12am
	MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center	9am-10pm
	Cary Street Field	noon-5pm
	Outing Rental Center	Closed
	Thalhimer Tennis Center	9am-6pm
	Jonah L Larrick Student Ctr	9am-11pm
Mon, Dec 13-Fri, Dec 17	Cary Street Gym	6am-12am
	MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center	6am-10pm
	Cary Street Field	noon-5pm
	Thalhimer Tennis Center	9am-9pm

Please to refer to our website:
www.recsports.vcu.edu/facilities.html
for a downloadable schedule of our Exam and Winter Break hours for Recreational Sports facilities. Our schedules cover dates from December 11, 2010 to January 17, 2011.

VCU Recreational sports
Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services
VCU is an EEO/AA institution.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Thalhimer Tennis Center

9am-9pm

CT12 · commonwealthtimes.org **spectrum**

Thursday, December 2, 2010

12-2-10_HS.indd 12

12/1/10 9:16:10 PM



Byrd attracts big names to help restoration

PHOTO BY THOMAS ATTILA LEWIS



Julie DiNisio
Staff Writer

Wednesday night, Richmonders and movie enthusiasts alike united to preserve a historic landmark.

The VCU Anthropology and Archaeology Club hosted “Preserve the Byrd” at one of Richmond’s most well-loved landmarks, the Byrd Theatre. As the name would indicate, the event was targeted to raise money for the Byrd, renowned for its \$2 movie tickets and weekend movie showings.

“Preserve the Byrd” featured a variety of speakers including Grant Mudge, Director of the Richmond Shakespeare Company, who spoke on the importance of art and its role in the community. Bryan Green, Historic Architect for Commonwealth Architects, followed by emphasizing historical preservation.

While similar events have been held in the past to raise money, the Byrd Theatre still struggles. The website states that the necessary repairs will cost roughly 5 million dollars, not a surprising amount considering the building is 81 years old.

“There are a lot of things around the building that need attention,” Todd Schall-Vess, the general manager, said. “We’d like to improve the bathrooms, replace the seats in the auditorium, and replace damaged plaster.”

Though it might appear bleak for the Byrd, many Richmond organizations are involved with the preservation efforts. VCU’s Anthropology and Archaeology Club has held several events at the Byrd.

“We have a pretty well-established history with the theatre,” Alex Stein, the club’s president, said. “We decided that it’s our turn to give back to the theatre because they’ve helped us so much in the past.”

Other attention-grabbing events will be held at the Byrd: On Dec. 3, the theater will feature actor, director, and author Crispin Hellion Glover, who

will perform scenes from eight of his published books while the Byrd’s screen displays illustrations.

The Byrd will also screen his newest movie “It is Fine. Everything is Fine!” produced by his company Volcanic Eruptions. The public chiefly knows Glover for his roles in “Back to the Future” and “Alice in Wonderland.”

The James River Film Society chose Crispin Hellion Glover because of his work “outside or on the margins of the mainstream,” according to Parrish. He also said that JRFS values “films or filmmakers that challenge, inspire and represent the best of filmmaking as an art form.”

The James River Film Society, a non-profit organization, will hold “An Evening with Crispin Hellion Glover” at 9:30 p.m.

“We have a great relationship with the Byrd,” James Parrish, JRFS’s vice president, said. “They are the only independently run movie theatre in Richmond and the one that is most closely aligned with our mission to promote and support independent filmmaking and filmmakers in Richmond, Virginia.” **CT**

Tickets for this event are \$20 and will go on sale at the Byrd right before the event starts. They can also be purchased prior to the show at Chop Suey Books or Video Fan.

INTERESTING PEOPLE

JOSH COLEMAN – sophomore English major

We all have individual stories.

BOB AOAYO

Very individual stories.

ROY PILGRIM

And they’re all probably very long, so ...

By butting in between verses, the CT this past Tuesday managed to catch snippets of responses from this roving impromptu bluegrass band – which gathered in the Compass outside Shafer Court in surprise matching plaid – and whose members were somewhat reluctant to interrupt the music to chit-chat.

CT Are you guys a group?

JC We are the, uh, “VCU Compass Bluegrass Band.”

CT Really? How long have you been such?

JC We’re not ... we just met today. To be honest with you.

CT I see.

JC I mean, yeah, I just met these guys today. But we seem to, I don’t know, seem to have pretty good chemistry. ... I’ve been playin’ since I was like nine years old, bluegrass and jazz and ... rock and blues and, everything. So it’s good to just sit down and ...

BA ... have them stick us out on the corner!

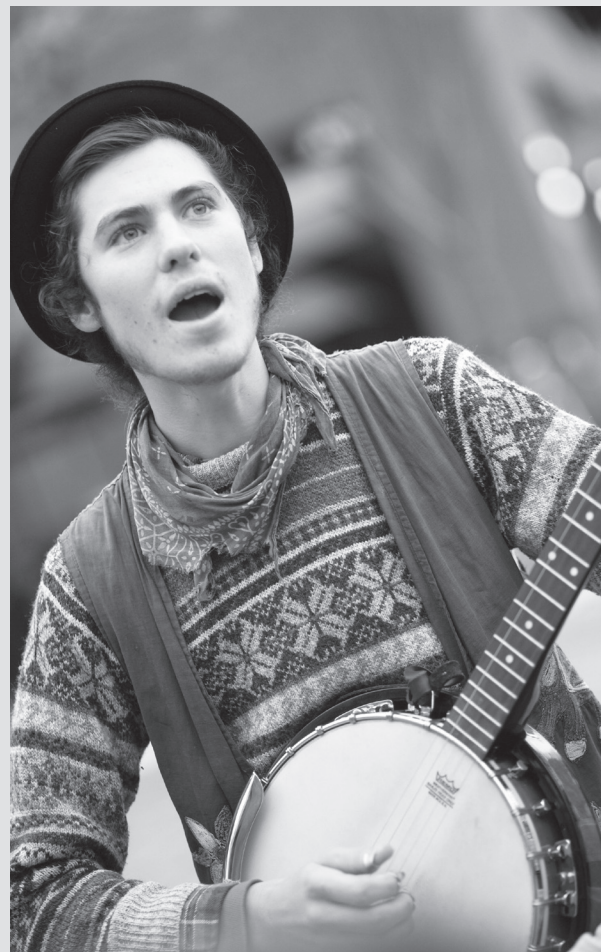
CT I’ve definitely noticed you guys out here for a while today.

JC Yeah, well. My class got canceled, you know? So I’m just ... chilling.

BA We’ve been out here a LONG time. We’ve had various people come up and jam with us all day.

CT And none of you had met before – let’s say this morning?

BA Well I met him (Pilgrim) about



PHOTOS BY KYLE LAFERRIERE

a month ago in Boston.

CT What was happening in Boston?

BA ... I dunno, what’s happening in Richmond?

CT It’s just – it’s a while from here.

BA I’d never been to Boston, so I just wanted to ... you know, I’m just traveling to explore.

CT Are you from the area, originally?

BA Just passing through. I’m from San Diego.

CT That’s some distance. How did you wind up here?

BA Um, hitchhiking and freight trains.

CT Sorry, what was that second thing?

BA (yelling over music) FREIGHT TRAINS.

CT Is that as dangerous as everyone says?

BA Uh, listen, do you mind if I jam with them for this song? **CT**





opinion

Condoms and condemnation



ILLUSTRATION BY MARLEIGH CULVER

Shane Wade
Columnist

Hold your applause.

Last week, during a lengthy interview with German journalist Peter Seewald, Pope Benedict XVI recanted his position on condoms, stating that “in certain cases” condoms were justified to use in order to “reduce the risk of (HIV) infection.” However, his tacit acceptance of condoms does not constitute an endorsement of them. The Catholic Church remains wedded to their ideas, and while most changes in the Church’s position are for the better, too often these changes come far too late to be effective or relevant.

Take for example the Pope’s abolishment of the concept of Limbo just three years ago. Until then, parents of children who died before they were baptized were led to believe that their infants were sent to the edge of Hell.

In 1965, centuries after his death, the Church revoked its condemnation of Galileo for promoting the heliocentric theory, a scientific model accepted as fact by the majority of the public. In 1995, centuries after the acts occurred, the Church finally apologized for its involvement in the African slave trade. These apologies are merely a summary of the many atrocities committed, if not by the Church, then without outright condemnation by the Church.

We’ve only to be thankful that it didn’t take centuries for them to stop condemning condoms.

While the Church prides itself on its altruism and charity, for many years Vatican officials and bishops peddled one of the most dangerous things: that condoms do not help prevent HIV infections. During the Pope’s first trip to Africa in March 2009,

he even remarked that the AIDS epidemic was “a tragedy that cannot be overcome ... through the distribution of condoms, which even aggravates the problem.”

For it to have taken so long and so many lost lives for the Pope to realize what experts and laymen alike have known for decades, that condoms save lives, represents a moral failing within the Church. Thousands died while the Church stood in favor of religious dogma over the stark reality. The Pope’s commitment to the Church’s traditional teachings and the Church’s commitment to social justice are nothing short of admirable, but for a group dedicated to morality, it’s morally dishonest to suggest what experts have refuted in order to promote its own ideas and agenda.

People will always criticize conservative institutions like the Catholic Church for their idealistic stances, but popular opinion and public scrutiny should not shape their positions on controversial matters. A pressurized change is not and does not represent genuine change.

Change should come from within the institution if it is to be authentic and lasting. That’s why it’s critical that Pope Benedict XVI lead in a manner that respects the traditions and doctrines of the Church while dealing with issues like condom use to reduce HIV/AIDS infections in a pragmatic and practical way. The first step has been taken; now, not centuries from today, is the time for the Church to follow their proclamation with swift and deliberate action. If the Church wishes to remain a credible force for good in the world, they must lead with the honesty and humility that has been lacking for some time. **CT**



The end of the love letter

Ashley Major
Columnist

As a literary enthusiast, I feel it is my duty to point out that we have a crisis on our hands!

In contemporary times, our words have lost their meaning. So long are the love letters, the quintessential childhood passing of notes, the post cards from afar, and now the demise of the spoken word. Replacing our tangible treasures is the mindless revolution of texting, facebooking and e-mailing.

While technology has given us many conveniences and has become vital to our progression, it has likewise robbed us of our sentiment. Placed in a box for safekeeping under my mother's bed are letters, birthday cards and postcards from family and friends. I soon realize that my written memories are all virtually stored in abundance, retrievable only

via modern technology. I am troubled by this dying sentiment, unsettled that somewhere in cyberspace the words of my generation are left ambiguous and able to be deleted.

While various forms of social media have increased the volume and ability of our communication, they have diminished the substance of it. We live in a time where we can instantly communicate with anyone, anywhere and anytime around the world. This has allotted us substantial growth by means of information sharing but has nonetheless set us back in content.

The short, imperfect and informal nature of our communication has moved us into an age of personal thoughtless blather. Less is expected of us when it comes to communication; our tone is

understood through emoticons, extra letters accenting certain words, and an understood Internet code language.

The Zuckerberg revolution, also known as the creation of Facebook, has single-handedly changed the way our generation communicates. We have become cyborg-like in that our personalities can be understood by a quick glance at our profile and what we chose to electronically convey. Ironically, the more we text, post and chat the more interaction we lose.

Our words and their meaning are lost in the sending and receiving. While literary and communicative triumphs once expanded our world, such as the invention of moveable type and the postal service, the "at our fingertips" revolution that social networking promotes has

shrunk our literary culture to three simple forms: messaging, e-mail and chat.

Not to sound like a stone-age romantic, as I too guiltlessly indulge in modern marvels, but I find it saddening that writing "Happy Birthday" on a friend's wall is supplementary to a birthday card, text-flirting has replaced sweet phone calls and letters from far away friends are substituted by shapeless e-mails.

In a world where we are endlessly tempted to swap reality for the cyber, I believe we are losing our paper trail. While it may not sound detrimental to us now, I feel envious of my mother with her paper life neatly stashed under her bed for joyful reminiscing whenever she needs it most. **CT**



Bros by Will Barnes "Pizza"

the
ct

ERICA
TERRINI
Executive Editor

ROBERT
SHOWAH
Opinion Editor

Opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Commonwealth Times or Virginia Commonwealth University. Unsigned editorials represent the institutional opinion of The CT.

Add Your Voice

The opinion pages of The Commonwealth Times are a forum open to the public. Clear, concise and compelling contributions are welcome online at our Web site, by e-mail at opinion@commonwealthtimes.com, or by mail and in person at 817 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. 23220-3806.

Letters 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.

Thursday, December 2, 2010

comics • commonwealthtimes.org • CT15



8¹/₂
CANAL
STREET

The
next
level
of student
housing

SONEHALFCANAL.COM

Need a place to live? We've got a room.

8 1/2 Canal is a brand new student housing community located just a short walk from the center of The Monroe Park Campus. Complete with fantastic amenities and superb customer service, this community will be unlike any other in Richmond.



COMMUNITY AMENITIES:

Tone: Over the top 24 hour fitness center
The Zone: Video gaming center
The Channel: TV viewing lounge
Hush: Single and group study rooms

Two interior landscaped court yards with BBQ
WIFI in all common areas
Electronic access building
Garage parking

APARTMENT AMENITIES:

Flat panel TVs in every unit
All utilities included (*with Green Cap)
Faux wood style flooring
High speed internet and cable in every unit

Deluxe modern furniture in every unit
Washer and dryer in every unit
Students first residence life program
Sophisticated roommate matching program



8 1/2 CANAL STREET, RICHMOND VIRGINIA 23220
LEASING CENTER: (888) 476-0562 900 WEST BROAD STREET

