

# The Commonwealth Times

Free

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(804) 828-1058

## Lessons Learned



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# WEIRD NEWS

## CALENDAR MARCH 24 THROUGH MARCH 26

Thursday, March 24	Friday, March 25	Saturday, March 26
Need to find a new apartment? Stop by the University Student Commons Commonwealth Ballroom for the <b>Off-Campus Housing Fair</b> . The event runs from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information call Martha Harper at 828-6500.	Ready to show off your dance moves? The <b>VCU Dance Department auditions</b> will run from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the VCU Dance Center. The auditions are open to the public, but you do have to sign up for an audition time. Contact the department at 828-1711 for more information.	Join APB and UnCommon Cinema as they present <b>"Spongebob Squarepants."</b> The movie starts at 7 p.m. and runs until 9 p.m. in the University Student Commons Theater. For more information call LaTonya Dunaway at 405-6297.

### CAMPUS FORECAST



**Thursday**  
**47/42**



**Friday**  
**71/48**



**Saturday**  
**65/45**



**Sunday**  
**56/45**

Compiled from wire reports

### Woman marries clay pot

After her groom was late for their wedding, an Indian bride married a clay pot. The woman took her vows with the pot after her husband, an officer with the border police, was delayed by heavy snowfall. A photograph of the groom was placed behind the pot to represent the missing groom.

### Pigeon lover wins jackpot

A pigeon lover won Germany's largest lottery jackpot ever. The man plans to use part of the money to build the world's largest pigeon loft. The man is described as an outdoors lover and he plans on buying a remote house in the countryside to build the giant loft. He hopes to breed pigeons without bothering neighbors.

### Expensive luggage

A Chinese man bought a plane ticket for his luggage. The man was stopped for a safety inspection because his luggage weighed over 100 kilograms. He was then told that he had to leave the suitcases behind or pay for the extra ticket. Since his luggage contained a large amount of cash, the man paid for the extra ticket and then made his journey sitting next to the suitcases on the plane.

### Thief chased down

After stealing a girl's money, a man was quickly chased down by his victim. The would-be thief never thought his target would turn out to be a champion runner. After he stopped his victim while she was walking, he quickly grabbed her purse and ran off. She then chased the thief down. After she caught up with him, the man quickly threw the purse at her.

### Man survives fall from mountain

A Czech man lived after falling 1,000 feet down the side of a mountain. Twenty-year-old Martin Tlustý was climbing with friends when he slipped and fell. Tlustý said the trail had ended and as he turned to return down he slipped. Rescue teams said the man suffered only cuts and bruises and would soon recover. Tlustý plans on climbing again as soon as he is able.

### Formula for good relationships

A German scientist has calculated what he calls a formula for a happy relationship. The man said that criticism in a relationship can be cancelled out by five different compliments. He claims that couples should compliment their partners five times for each single criticism they cite. He said that when

people feel good from the compliments, they are more likely to be happy in the relationship.

### Man grows larger penis on arm

A Russian man has successfully grown a larger penis on his forearm. The 30-year-old man, who had a two-and-a-half-inch penis, agreed to have it removed and reattached to his forearm where they added tissue allowing it to grow to six-and-a-half inches. It was then successfully sewn back to his groin area in an 11-hour operation. Surgeons say the man should be able to return to normal sexual activity in a few months.

### Firemen set fires for fun

Two firemen from Chile were arrested for setting fires. The two are accused of setting fire to houses and shops in Isla Chiloe, Chile, out of boredom. After setting the fires, the two would then run back to their fire station. The firefighters would then compete to see who would arrive at the fire in the fastest time. No one was injured in the blazes.

Front cover photo by Pat Kane.

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# NEWS

## Philosophy, religious studies professor remembered *Coleman entertained students with magic tricks as well as lectures*

**SHANNON HICKS**  
Staff Writer

"Philosophy is often a difficult subject for students... despite that I think Earle always found ways to engage students to help them understand the struggle for big ideas."

These words were expressed by Stephen D. Gottfredson, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, while describing Earle Coleman, a professor emeritus of philosophy and religious studies who died March 1, 2005, at age 63.

Coleman often engaged his students with magic.

"Earle was a man of surprises, sometimes using magic to illustrate points in class," said Gottfredson, who served as dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences during part of Coleman's 33-year tenure at VCU.

Ashley Inglehart, a junior philosophy major, remembered some of Coleman's tricks.

"When class attendance was really low," she said, "he would do magic tricks at the beginning as a reward for those who came to class. He really had a gift of sleight of hand. It was really an incentive to go to class."

"They (magic tricks) weren't central to his lecture – it was a treat. He did at least one trick for each semester."

Eugene Mills, associate professor of philosophy, said this talent helped Coleman become one of the most popular

professors among students in the department as well as with his colleagues.

"At every departmental party the highlight was always having Earle do magic at the end of the party. All of us

*"They (magic tricks) weren't central to his lecture – it was a treat. He did at least one trick for each semester."*

— Ashley Inglehart, former student of Coleman

were his victims at one time or another," Mills said.

John Smallie, a former student and fellow entertainer, said Coleman always had something new at magician events.

"Which is not easy to do. It's no small accomplishment," he said.

Coleman belonged to the magic world as a "cardician," meaning someone who performs close-up-card magic.

As a young boy, Coleman often would practice his magic while sitting in the art museums of Chicago, where, Smallie said, Coleman developed his appreciation of aesthetics.

This was before he taught classes and published books that aimed to connect art, philosophy and religion.

"He discussed (magic) as an art in the hopes that everyone would take it a bit more seriously," Smallie said, referring to Coleman's book "Magic: A Reference Guide," which can be found in the James Branch Cabell Library along with his other books.

"Magicians in the end will be remembered in spite of ourselves," Smallie said, while sitting in Divine Magic & Novelties, a shop Coleman also frequented.

Remembered most as a kind, studious and contemplative man with a great sense of humor, Gottfredson said VCU will remember him as "a great citizen of the university. Earle is one of the people who made VCU what it is today."

A March 12 memorial service honored Coleman.

### Books by Earle J. Coleman

- Magic: A Reference Guide
- Creativity and Spirituality: Bonds Between Art and Religion
- Philosophy of Painting by Shih-Tao: A Translation and Exposition of his Hua-Pu (Treatise on the Philosophy of Painting)

Available at the James Branch Cabell Library

## Paralyzed yoga teacher discusses mind-body connection

**CLIVE WHITE**  
Staff Writer

Yoga teacher, writer and founder of Mind Body Solutions, Matthew Sanford, recently lectured to 90 people about how to cross the boundaries between the mind and body. Sanford, who is 39 years old, is paralyzed from the chest down.

"If you think about the boundaries between you and the person sitting next to you – if you were to turn right now and look back and stare at the body next to you, not at their eyes, not where mental consciousness comes up but at their body – things will get suddenly uncomfortable," he told the audience. "Your mind would be crossing to their body in a way our social walls don't."

Sanford cited examples of the crossing and how it often relates to him. Because of his disability, Sanford said people look at his body and he endures any comments with politeness.

But with children he becomes more patient because they are so honest.

"When a kid asks you a question," he said, "it comes from such an honest place you can't give them crap."

He also discussed the mind-body relationship and its relationship to social and environmental factors. Nonetheless, he focused most on how he integrates his own mind and body.

"My conception of mind-body integration is quite expansive," he told the audi-



Pat Kane

**Matt Sanford gets the crowd moving with a quick yoga exercise.**

ence of VCU faculty, staff and students. "It's not just personal connections – it's connections all around."

Sanford also read excerpts from his soon-to-be-released book, "Waking: A Passage into Body," and read passages relating to his childhood and rehabilitation after the car accident that left him paralyzed 26 years ago.

Katie Parker, a 26-year-old occupational therapy major, said she attended the lecture to learn more about the holistic side of therapy.

"I am really interested in hearing the speaker because with occupational therapy we work a lot with people with disabilities, especially paraplegia, and we are really holistic (in) looking at the whole person,"

Parker said. "I just wanted to get his point of view on everything."

Sanford said he achieved his current level of mind-body relationship through his experiences since the paralysis.

"I want to get across to you that my experiences with trauma (and) me being paralyzed give a unique window to the mind-body relationship," he said.

Reading a descriptive excerpt from his book, he described the pain he felt when screws were placed in his head to fit him with a halo, which then was the most advanced neck support available.

The yoga teacher said out-of-body experiences should only come from serious trauma, clearly stating that he favors the mind-body connection instead of out-of-body experiences.

"A potential of dislocation within the mind-body relationship was dramatically revealed. The insight, however, was not the ability to (disassociate) – it was the silence that I experienced," he said. "I live (with) an overt mind-body problem, and obviously you can see that I think we are all leaving our bodies."

Sanford talked to the audience about his yoga practices explaining that yoga helped him integrate the mind and body.

"I encountered a medical model that doesn't exasperate me – it makes me worse," he said. "I lived for 12 years before I went to yoga, trying to overcome my mind-body relationship. And I'll tell you right now you cannot overcome (it)."

David Vairo, an applied mathematics major, said he attended the lecture to earn extra credit for his religious class. Still, he said he attended for another interest besides the extra points.

"(I came) to see how he does yoga, which is supposed to be (a) very physically demanding activity, with his disability," Vairo said.

Sanford taught the audience yoga lessons during his lecture. For instance, he asked the audience members to stand so they could perform a yoga move that focused on the inner thigh, which he said is the most forgotten place on the body.

After reading the metaphorical excerpts from his book, the author described his thoughts on the correlation of the lack of mind-body integration to some of today's social problems.

"Our conception of productivity is not to feel," he said, because it does not bring people's bodies to work.

Having this mindframe – this separating mind from body, he said, contributes to obesity and pollution problems. Thus, the goal for his nonprofit corporation-Mind Body Solutions- he said, concerns reaching the right person's ear with the message of mind and body integration. To do this, his corporation promotes the program called "Bring Your Body to Work."

"All I am really trying to do is save the world," Sanford said of the mind-body connection. "It is the root of compassion; it is also the root of self-destruction."



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## NEWS

# Campus connector changes

## Buses take more direct route between MCV and Monroe Park campuses

**ANNIE MCCALLUM**

Staff Writer

Students who ride the campus connector, the bus that takes students to and from the medical and Monroe Park campuses, have discovered they no longer can step out at several corners of Grace Street or near the Coliseum.

This direct route with fewer stops pleases some students including Michelle Winslow, a sophomore criminal justice major and connector rider. She rated the route as more efficient with fewer stops.

"It involves less stops and lights," she said. "The campus connector takes Leigh Street all the way to Third Street and Grace."

Asha Sheth, a junior chemistry major who also

rides the connector, agrees with Winslow's comments. However, Sheth said she thought the university stopped the connector dropoffs because no one used them rather than the city needing to block traffic.

Gregory Rentz, manager of the parking and transportation office, said the parking and transportation office did not make the decision to change the route, which became necessary because of the city's construction area.

"It's something happening with the city. . . We just kind of have to do the best we can with what's going on in the city."

One stop at Grace and Third streets now replaces the three previous stops at Grace and Fourth, Grace and Seventh streets and the Coliseum Deck because

of a roadblock on Grace Street.

Work related to Carpenter Center renovations and construction in the area have Grace Street blocked off, said James Harmon, Richmond's Department of Public Works surveys superintendent.

Officials with VCU parking and transportation office and business services department said the stops reflect the student need and their feedback.

"If they like the stop that it is now I don't know why we couldn't keep it," said Diane Reynolds, director of the business services department.

Parking and transportation officials, however, said they expect the initial route to return in mid-April. If students propose changes that include keeping the temporary route, their suggestions will be considered.



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## 'Fight Night Round 2' tournament to take place March 28

**CHRISTINE UNDERWOOD**

Staff Writer

How would you like to put your boxing skills to the test?

You can on Monday, March 28, at the Stuart C. Siegel Center if you participate in the "Fight Night Round 2" boxing tournament, a videogame played on the Playstation 2.

Monday's game is the follow-up to a previous "Fight Night" game, and "Round 2" allows players to create their own boxers who have total boxing control during the game.

"Last year we held this same tournament but not a lot of people came out to participate so it was canceled. Hopefully, the turnout will be better this year," said Constantine Alexakos, coordinator of informal recreation and special events.

Students, faculty, staff and others pay a \$3 entry fee for the competition.

Montas Pierce, a junior business major, said he is excited and ready to play in the tournament.

"I have been playing 'Fight Night' for the past two years, but I like 'Fight Night Round 2' better," Pierce said. "I play the game at

least twice a day and I am ready for some competition."

Individuals play in the tournament with their names chosen randomly from a hat. Four players compete simultaneously with

*"I have been playing 'Fight Night' for the past two years, but I like 'Fight Night Round 2' better. I play the game at least twice a day and I am ready for some competition."*

— Montas Pierce, VCU Student

two playing each other on the big-screen television, while the other two compete on the regular-sized television. Everyone plays at least two games.

"First bracket of games is played by

everyone, and then the brackets are broken down based on winners and loser," Alexakos said, adding that a player is eliminated after losing two games.

After the tournament, Alexakos said, the first-place winner receives a \$50 gift certificate to the VCU bookstore and a T-shirt. The second-place winner receives a T-shirt.

LaTasha Rawlings, a junior clinical lab major, said she cannot wait to compete against some males in the tournament.

"I like playing videogames just like males do," Rawlings said. "I am sure some males are going to be surprised to see at least one female playing in the tournament because they probably think only males are going to participate."

Alexakos, who has served as the program's coordinator for the past two years, said he tries to offer at least six different tournaments for the school year. Past tournaments included "Madden '05" and "Major League Baseball."

In contrast to academic work, Alexakos said he likes offering students activities that get them away their books and out of their dorms.



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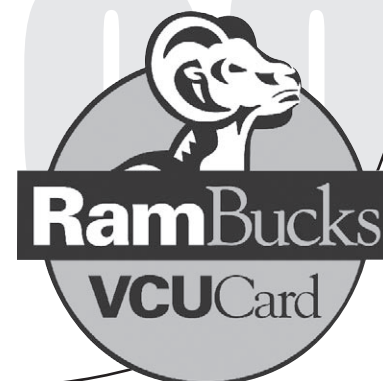
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Earn entries from **March 21 - April 29th**.

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# Can you fill these shoes?

The Commonwealth Times is accepting applications for the executive and managing editor positions for the fall 2005 semester.

This is an elected position and includes two weeks paid training. Applicants must campaign and present a platform before the April election.

If interested, contact Jonathan Robbins at 828-1058, e-mail [CTEditor03@yahoo.com](mailto:CTEditor03@yahoo.com) or stop by Temple Room 1149 for an application.



# SPORTS

## Upcoming Sports EVENTS

### Baseball

**March 25:** BA at Towson, 3 p.m.  
**March 26:** BA at Towson, 1 p.m.  
**March 27:** BA at Towson, 1 p.m.

### Men's Track and Field

**March 25-26:** at Richmond/Ra-  
leigh Relays

### Women's Track and Field

**March 25-26:** at Richmond

### Men's Tennis

**March 25:** at Duke, 3 p.m.

### Women's Tennis

**March 27:** WT vs. Winthrop, 10  
a.m.

To post events on the  
sports calendar email  
benbowjj@yahoo.com

For more information  
contact the VCU sports line:  
828-7000. VCU sporting  
events are free to students  
with a valid student ID.

# Altered Trai-jectory

*Outfield sees improvements from offseason adjustments*

**JULIAN BENBOW**  
Sports Editor

Apologies to opposing pitchers, but by the time VCU outfielder Trai Harris digs spike marks into the batters box, it's too late.

He already knows.

He's scanned the scouting reports and made a mental Xerox. He knows which side of the plate you're working. He's looking for your strikeout pitch. He knows that you probably don't want to throw it to him because of where he hits in the order. So, he knows to look for fastballs early.

Don't get out of control, though, and try to sneak a breaking ball by him. He's got that possibility tucked in the back of his head, and he's waiting for you to do anything—even the slightest twitch of the fingers—that might tip a pitch.

By the time you deliver the ball, Harris said, "It's just seeing the pitch and reacting to it."

The results: a .358 batting average (third on the team through 16 games of his second season in the outfield for the Rams).

Sophomore slump? Forget it. Harris said success in his second year is all about a state of mind.

"I'm more comfortable as a player and as a student of the game," Harris said, comparing this season with his rookie season last year. "I don't try to get outside of myself as a player. I'm more in tuned to myself.

"My swing is where I want it to be. My timing is better than it ever has been and I feel more dangerous as a hitter than I ever have."

Despite cracking the starting lineup early in the season and eventually hitting .271 with 13 runs scored and eight RBI, Harris' freshman season was admittedly overwhelming.

Harris ripped through Peninsula District competition as team captain of the Woodside Wolverines in Newport News, but that was nothing like the game in the Colonial Athletic Association.

"The talent level is so much better," Harris said. "I think maybe at the beginning of the year that I was trying to prove myself that I belonged, and I was getting out of the things that I know I did well. I was trying to do more than I was capable of."

Harris spent the first few games adjusting to D-I competition, pinch-hitting, playing different spots in the outfield and even filling in as a designated hitter.

He eventually carved himself a spot as a regular in the lineup, starting 30 games. But cracking the lineup wasn't something Harris had to worry about heading into his



second season.

He spent the offseason in the batting cage, training with coaches on every part of his swing from pitch recognition to what they call "muscle memory."

The effects went beyond changing his game, changing his attitude as well. Harris came into this season with a newfound confidence and with less than a third of the Rams games in the books he's either reached or eclipsed his 2004 totals.

If you want, you can flip through the box scores to find the point where Harris says everything finally came together for him. (Hint: it wasn't his 4-for-5 performance in the season opener.)

Harris said he felt the best when the team traveled to Alabama to battle the Auburn Tigers, even though in three games that weekend Harris was just 2 for 12 with only a single run scored.

The numbers don't show how hard he was hitting the ball against a team that's

spent most of its season floating around USA Today's College Top 25. He got at-bats from teammates as he smacked liners across the field, and it was then he said he could feel himself maturing as a hitter.

"I couldn't be mad because I knew I was swinging well," he said. "It's just that the results weren't there. Coaches kept telling me, 'don't be worried about results. Just get the process down.'"

Since the series with the Tigers, Harris is hitting .387. In the Rams last full series, he abused the Richmond Spiders, hitting .352 (6 for 17) for the weekend with six runs scored and five RBI. An 0-fer in the third game of the set was the only sign of the Spiders possibly being able to keep him off the basepaths.

"That's the best feeling in the world as a hitter," Harris said, "when you feel a pitcher cannot get you out. And that's been happening more this year than any other time in my career."

Harris said the Rams sweep of Richmond could have been a combo of the Spiders declining and the Rams surging, but for him, it was certainly an indicator of the potential noise VCU could make as conference play starts this weekend.

"A couple of games there we played how we're supposed to play and it was evident that we were the superior team on the field," he said. "And that can happen a lot. We have the talent to do it. We have the coaching to do it. We have the drive. It's just a matter of putting all the pieces together all the time."

"If we play how we're capable of playing we'll be playing deep into the postseason this year."

### Down the lines Trai Harris

2004		2005
.271	<b>Avg.</b>	.358
13	<b>Runs</b>	13
8	<b>RBI</b>	10
.313	<b>SLG</b>	.453
14	<b>BB</b>	5
.372	<b>OB</b>	.424
14	<b>SO</b>	8
1-1	<b>SB</b>	4-4

## SPORTS

# Lambert, Frykberg championship bound

*Manning, Frierson scorchin 100 and 200 in Rams lone home meet of season*

**JULIAN BENBOW**  
Sports Editor

A pair of VCU athletes are headed to the NCAA outdoor championships this summer after performances at last weekend's Ram Invitational.

Brett Frykberg and Davion Lambert earned trips to Sacramento to compete against college track and field's elite from June 8-11.

Frykberg punched his ticket to California on Saturday and set a school record in the process, winning the high jump with a 6-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

While coach Ron Jones' long jump record of 25-7 $\frac{1}{2}$  remained in tuck by the end of the meet, sophomore jumper Davion Lambert's 24-4 $\frac{1}{2}$  was enough to send him to the NAAs.

Lambert also placed in the triple jump. His 48-2 $\frac{3}{4}$  was good for a second-place finish, behind Maryland TC's Jeremy Pierre.

With Lambert and Frykberg's invites, the Rams now have athletes at both the indoor and outdoor championships.

Tanika Brown competed in the NCAA indoor championships in Arkansas earlier this month, finishing 19<sup>th</sup> in the high jump with a 5-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Brown, a junior, did not compete in last weekend's meet, but performances in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes from seniorsprinter Cheri Manning highlighted the weekend for the women's team.

Manning, blazed the 200 in 26 seconds to earn the victory on the second day of competition.

She also ran the 100 in 12.25 seconds to earn third place.

The women's team dominated the triple jump. Sophomore Yvette Simmons claimed the victory with a 38-3 $\frac{1}{4}$ , while freshman Sheemeca Berkely and junior Brandy Butler took second and fourth place respectively.

Along with Berkely, two more athletes placed for the women's team on Friday.

Berkely made the best of her outdoor debut by winning the long jump with a 18-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Fellow freshman Courtney Sanders placed third, jumping 17-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Shaunté Barber finished the 400-meter hurdles in 1:06.78 to earn third place.

Junior Emily Thompson was one of several Rams to achieve personal bests at the only home meet of the season.

She went into Friday night eyeing a

## TRACK & FIELD

Fred Hardy  
Invitational  
March 25-26



Senior sprinter Cheri Manning, above, won the 200-meter dash for the women, while sophomore James Frierson, below, won the 100 on the men's side last weekend at the Rams Invitational.

Pat Kane

18:30.00 in the 5000m. She got that and then some, running a 18:28.73 to finish sixth in the field of 41 athletes.

After being sidelined for more than a month with a hamstring injury, sophomore sprinter James Frierson didn't miss a step in his return to the track.

Frierson won the 100 and the 200 with times of 10.60 and 21.96 respectively. Frierson had Rams freshman sprinter Jackie Deshazo breathing down his neck. Deshazo finished second with a 10.65.

For his comeback efforts, Frierson split this week's CAA track and field Athlete of the Week honors with Lambert.

The Rams travel west this weekend for the University of Richmond's Fred Hardy Invitational.

The meet is the first in what the Spiders will make an annual event. The field will include 10 teams, including Virginia, William & Mary and James Madison.

The first event is scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday at the Fred Hardy Track and Field Facility.



Pat Kane



## SPORTS

## Upset with the way the balls bounced? Blame Paul



Pat Kane

No one's more upset with the way the balls bounced than N.C. State's Julius Hodge, but plenty of teams have a reason to be. Maybe Wake Forest guard Chris Paul is responsible?

**JULIAN BENBOW**  
*Sports Editor*

Not even a month ago, the list of people that packed right hands with more negative repercussions than Wake Forest guard Chris Paul was short.

1. Mike Tyson
2. Ike Turner
3. Three or four Indiana Pacers tied

Then, Paul hit North Carolina State guard Julius Hodge in the jimmy, setting off a Chernobyl-like chain of events in this year's NCAA tournament and effectively low-blowing every wannabe bracket guru in the country.

Hodge and the Wolfpack stunned Connecticut 65-62 over the weekend and snuck into the Sweet 16.

Paul's Demon Deacons were bounced back to Winston-Salem after a second-round loss to West Virginia.

So Paul, who will probably be a lottery pick if he enters the NBA draft, will have plenty of time to think about the impact his Andrew Golata impersonation had on a (sports) nation.

But just in case he doesn't, I will.

For starters, N.C. State shouldn't have made it to the tournament.

The Wolfpack finished 7-9 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, a game behind last year's runner-up Georgia Tech and a Virginia Tech team that must have prepped for its first season in the ACC by watching every John Wooden instructional tape ever recorded.

Anyway, if Paul never hits Hodge with the G.I. Joe karate chop, then the school doesn't suspend him for Wake's first ACC tournament game, which was, of course, against N.C. State.

The Wolfpack, which hadn't beaten the Deacons in either of its regular season games, probably lose again if Paul dresses out. Instead, he's on the bench wearing a suit he apparently borrowed from Bishop Don Magic Juan, and Wake loses by 16.

(Note: Check with any VCU starter, but

Paul is usually good for that many points from the free-throw line.)

If Paul plays and Wake wins, N.C. State probably switches places with Virginia Tech, going to the NIT instead of going dancing.

Despite a great season in the ACC, Tech probably would have helped keep everybody's brackets clean by taking an "L" to UConn in the second round, if not to Charlotte in the first.

Wake, despite probably being hemmed up nicely by Duke in the ACC tournament, would have got the No. 1 seed that everybody said Sweet 16-bound Washington didn't deserve.

Then the Huskies would have been the ones struggling through the bottom half of the Albuquerque bracket instead of the Demon Deacons, who would have pounded on Montana and Pacific like Washington did.

Meanwhile, N.C. State would have been running up and down the East Coast putting the hurt on teams like Temple, Memphis and Wichita State.

None of this happened, however, and Bracketville can blame Paul.

He single-handedly or closed-fistedly or wind-up, reach-aroundedly ruined half the tournament, leaving red eraser marks or ugly whiteout blotches on every bracket except maybe Digger Phelps'.

As a matter of fact, blame Paul for all the upsets this year—Kansas losing to Bucknell, Vermont beating the Syracuse, Wisconsin-Milwaukee ousting Alabama and Boston College.

It's like he upset the cosmic balance of the NCAA tournament or something.

And the NIT, too, come to think of it.

Who knows where VCU would be if Paul doesn't make a bajillion shots from the free-throw line last November?

Instead of back-to-back CAA championships and a NCAA tournament run, the Rams end up losing to Davidson in the first round of the NIT.

Why?

Because of Paul's right hand.

## Rams begin conference play Friday with road series against Towson

**JULIAN BENBOW**  
*Sports Editor*

VCU outfielder Kwan Evans should have had at least two at bats in by 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, but by that time he hadn't even stepped into the box.

Evans was actually sitting in Shafer waiting on a pizza, because rain postponed the Rams midweek game against the Hartford Hawks.

So instead of getting crucial ABs with the start of conference play just days away, Evans and the Rams sat out for the eighth straight day.

With a 12-4 record, VCU abused its early schedule, but they haven't played a game since losing 11-9 to Fordham on March 15.

## BASEBALL

VCU at Towson  
Friday, 3 p.m.

By the time VCU heads for Towson, Md. for this weekend's CAA series against the Tigers, breaks and bad weather will have kept the Rams out of their unies for about a week and a half.

It remains to be seen what all the rain will do to a Rams team that has been on fire at the plate. VCU is hitting .319 as a team, the second best clip among CAA schools and within a rounding error of George Mason's .320 average) led by sophomore second baseman Scott Sizemore, who is hitting an unhuman .500 in 16 games.

While Towson (8-6) isn't at the top of the Rams hit list this season, Evans said that as their first conference opponent, they are "public enemy number one."

Here's the short list of a few other teams VCU is looking to blow by on their run to the conference championship. in Wilmington, N.C.

**George Mason (2-1 CAA, 12-6):** Last season's regular season champs have already jumped out to a two-game lead in the CAA, and a ninth-inning collapse against William & Mary was all that kept them from taking three. The Pats get on base. They just don't stay there long. GMA has plated 47.6 percent of the 304 batters that have reached base.

**William and Mary (1-2, 13-8):** The Tribe loses balls almost habitually (CAA-high 27 longballs in 21 games) They just have trouble keeping the ball in the park. Tribe pitchers have given up 20 long balls so far this season.

**UNC Wilmington (13-10):** The road to the CAA title has to go through defending champ UNCW. The Seahawks start their CAA season against the Tribe. They try to keep the Tribe's big "O" at bay with the CAA's stingiest pitching staff (3.50 ERA).



# Spectrum



Eleanora Alberto

## Dancer-Comedienne Claire Porter to perform 'Namely, Muscles'

**JOANNAH NWOKEABIA**  
*Spectrum Editor*

Growing up in Connecticut, Claire Porter danced, sang in her high school performance group and attempted to choreograph for her dog. With her PORTABLES, a series of solo comedic movement monologues, the New York-based dancer and comedienne combines her humor and knowledge of movement. Finding the absurdity, humor and emotion in seemingly normal themes gives Porter fodder for her widely acclaimed satirical pieces.

In "Namely, Muscles," a part of Porter's PORTABLES series, she plays Dr. Nickle Nom, a world-renowned Forensic Orthopedic Autopsy Muscular Anatomical Surgical Specialist. Dr. Nom reads more than 30 poems from her new book of poems, "Namely, Muscles," while enacting 68 major muscles, -and then some. The one-hour, one-woman play pokes fun at the extravagant and inexplicable names of muscles, their origins and meanings.

Her character's poetry bear titles such as "Psoas - The Tender Bender," "Gluteus to my Ears," "Long in the Head," "Just the Meat," "And Now a Word From Our Tendons," "The Rotator Gang," "Names on your Nerves," "Tongues."

During her residency at VCU Dance, Porter will also perform "Fund Raiser," a skit about a club president who solicits money and support in every way possible at several Richmond venues. Porter has been performing PORTABLES all over the country and the world for more than a decade.

Claire Porter performs Thursday, March 24, 8 p.m. at the Grace Street Theater, 934 W. Grace St. Free for VCU students with valid VCU ID. General admission tickets are \$15. To buy tickets call 828-2020.

## Army hits Panhandle beach as part of recruiting drive

**BILL KACZOR**  
*Associated Press Writer*

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP) - Young men and women crawl across the sand, climb over a plywood wall and swing from overhead bars on an obstacle course as a sergeant in a camouflage Army uniform barks orders.

Basic training? No, spring break.

The Army is hitting the beaches in search of volunteers among throngs of frolicking college and high school students. It's been an annual ritual for the Army in recent years, but a slump in enlistments amid mounting casualties in Iraq has put added emphasis on the effort.

Spring break offers a unique recruiting opportunity, said Staff Sgt. Kenneth McCarn, who oversees the obstacle course.

"We have to humanize ourselves as soldiers, and coming out here talking to the youth of America does that," said McCarn, an Iraq veteran from Columbia, S.C. "They see we're real people."

Some students need little convincing, but they are a distinct minority. Douglas Caveney, 22, of Oswego, N.Y., a student at the State University of New York at Oswego, said he may consider the military once he graduates because of the training, benefits and respect.

"You go out anywhere, 'U.S. Army, hey, good for you,'" Caveney said after climbing a 75-foot training tower.

Rutgers University student Milo Pierwola, 21, of Princeton, N.J., also scaled the tower, topped with three U.S. flags, and said he's considering the military in the future.

"It's a great way to go around and explore and kind of guarantee yourself something for the rest of your life," Pierwola said. He added, "I kind of want to go into the Marines."

Pierwola said the war in Iraq wouldn't discourage him, but an August 2004 study done for the Army, which has suffered most of the casualties, showed it is a turnoff to many potential recruits.

That was evident on the beach, where most students interviewed said they're not interested in the military.

Eastern Illinois University student Bridget Gibson, 20, of Chicago said she once had thought about the Reserves or National Guard to help pay for college, but no longer.

"The whole war thing, I'm against it," Gibson said after attempting to climb the Army's tower. "I understand helping them (Iraqis), but I think it shouldn't be going as long as it is."

University of Texas advertising major Christopher Garza, 21, of San Antonio praised the Army's spring break effort from a market-

ing standpoint even though it failed to sway him.

"I don't know if it's necessarily a persuasion tool," he said. "More than anything else it's to draw attention to the Army and attract people who might be interested in the first place."

Few if any students sign up on the beach. Instead, they are asked to fill out forms with information that gets forwarded to their local recruiters and ROTC units.

The Navy and Air Force are meeting recruiting goals and the Marines have narrowly missed theirs. The Army, however, was about 6 percent behind schedule for meeting its 2005 goals through the first five months of the budget year that began Oct. 1.

Sgt. Dana Brewton of Douglas, Ga., said the Army sees spring break as an effective way to advertise through one-on-one exposure and by offering interesting diversions including the tower, obstacle course, video games and a mechanical bull.

The Army's Golden Knights parachute team also attracts attention with jumps at Panama City Beach and South Padre Island, Texas.

Then there are the freebies.

"You get 10,000 kids to wear the Army T-shirt and have the Army towel, that's pretty good advertising," said 1st Lt. Christian Mills of Port St. Joe.

## 'Tekken 5' gets better with age



**LOUIE CORBO**  
*Spectrum Writer*

"Tekken 5" hit the PlayStation 2 console with the fury of an iron fist. Tekken 5 commemorates the 10-year anniversary of the Tekken franchise.

The Tekken series, notable for its one-on-one martial arts fighting using cutting edge 3D graphics, is considered an arcade staple. The series, produced by Namco, has been one of the must-buy titles for PlayStation.

PlayStation included a demo of the first Tekken with it. While it wasn't playable, "Tekken" was still considered one of the highlights of the disc and "Tekken Tag Tournament" became one of PlayStation 2's launch titles. Instead of one-on-one fighting, each player picked two fighters, and could switch them. The game looked like "Tekken 3" with more characters and a gimmick. The gimmick worked and so did the game.

"Tekken", one of PlayStation's most popular franchises, is considered the fight-

ing game to which all others are compared. Is "Tekken 5" the next step in fighting evolution or is it put down like a three-legged greyhound?

Cocky from the success of "Tekken Tag Tournament", the folks at Namco decided to play Emril and "kick it up a notch." "Tekken 4" came onto the scene with wildly improved graphics and many new control changes. Jumping was almost eliminated to allow easier side-to-side movement. With the improved graphics came less character choices. While the game was considered successful, much of the fan base felt like the game had strayed from the true path.

So what's new, what's old and what has returned? The game features three brand new characters — each with a new style, but still fitting in with the other characters.

What is old is probably what makes the game so good. It plays more like "Tekken 3" and less like "Tekken 4".

In the latest installment the graphics are just as good, if not better, than the previous one. All the new characters from the last game, except

that stupid robot, -are back as well.

At first the game is a little overwhelming. Last time, it offered around 10 characters. Now you start with twice that amount and more to unlock. Also, each character really seems exceptional; there aren't really any redundant characters. Some of the unlocked ones are a somewhat similar, but they still differ in some ways.

The game disc provides some bonuses, the latest trend in fighting games. Namco executives had a meeting and started brainstorming what they could throw in that Tekken fans would not expect. First off, Tekken 1, 2 and 3 are included. Fans don't have to unlock them or do anything special to play the previous editions.

Secondly, the game features a dress-up mode: playing the game earns you "gold" and "gold" allows you to buy new clothes for your characters. If you've ever wanted to watch a character do karate in a cowboy hat, you are empowered to do so.

Tekken 5 is still a good deal at \$50.

★★★★★  
(out of five)

## Happenings

## March 24 through March 27

### Thursday, March 24

Learn how to transition from a student organization, job or life event with Transitioning to Success, 7 p.m. Richmond Salon IV in the Commons. Free.

Listen to Richmond's rock bands at **Local X-posure**, presented by New Rock 102.1 the "X." 8 p.m. The Canal Club. Free. 1545 E. Cary St. 643-CLUB.

### Friday, March 25

**Women's History Month Band Bash** features Encircle, Lucy Woodard and Antigone Rising. All proceeds from the concert go to the Battered Women's Shelter. 7-11 p.m. Commonwealth Ballroom. Admission is \$3 for VCU students with valid ID and \$5 for non-VCU students.

### Saturday, March 26

Dress to impress at **Player's Ball**. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Richmond Salons. Casual attire not allowed. Prizes go to the best-dressed male and female. Listen to old school jams and current hits. Come early for food. Admission is \$3 for VCU students with valid ID or Greeks with paraphernalia or, \$5 with non-VCU college ID.

### Sunday, March 27

**Easter on Parade** takes place on Monument Avenue between Davis Street and Allen Avenue, 1-5 p.m. The festival features The Marna Bales Band, and salsa, jazz, acoustic rock, pop and gospel music.



# COMICS

**ltr** "MORNING RITUALS" **080**

MILD MANNERED WYLIE BRUSHES HIS TEETH. NEVER EXPECTING THAT TODAY HOLDS A TWIST OF FATE FOR HIM.

IN THE DEPTHS OF SPACE, A STAR HAS GONE NOVA, SENDING BURSTS OF GAMMA RAYS ACROSS THE UNIVERSE! ONE OF THESE VERY RAYS HAS STRUCK WYLIE'S BREAKFAST!

POP!

THE FATED MOMENT ARRIVES!!

WHAT POWERS DO THE WAFFLES HOLD?!

**GAMMA WAFFLE POWER UP**

RRRRRAAAAARRR!

AND THIS THEY DISCOVERED WHERE ALL THE GREEN FOOD COLORING WAS GOING.

POK POK POK



**THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES  
NEEDS YOUR SKILLS!**

**IF YOU DRAW COMICS, SUBMIT THEM  
TO US OR WE'LL SEND NINJAS!**

The Commonwealth Times is looking to expand our comics page. If you would like to contribute, drop by Temple Room 1149 or email [andrew@toolatetorun.com](mailto:andrew@toolatetorun.com)

We print comics at 200 dpi.

**GET IN THE GAME**

**The Commonwealth Times**

**CT Sports** is looking for student with skill to cover all the VCU sports action this semester.

The section is looking for beat writers for:

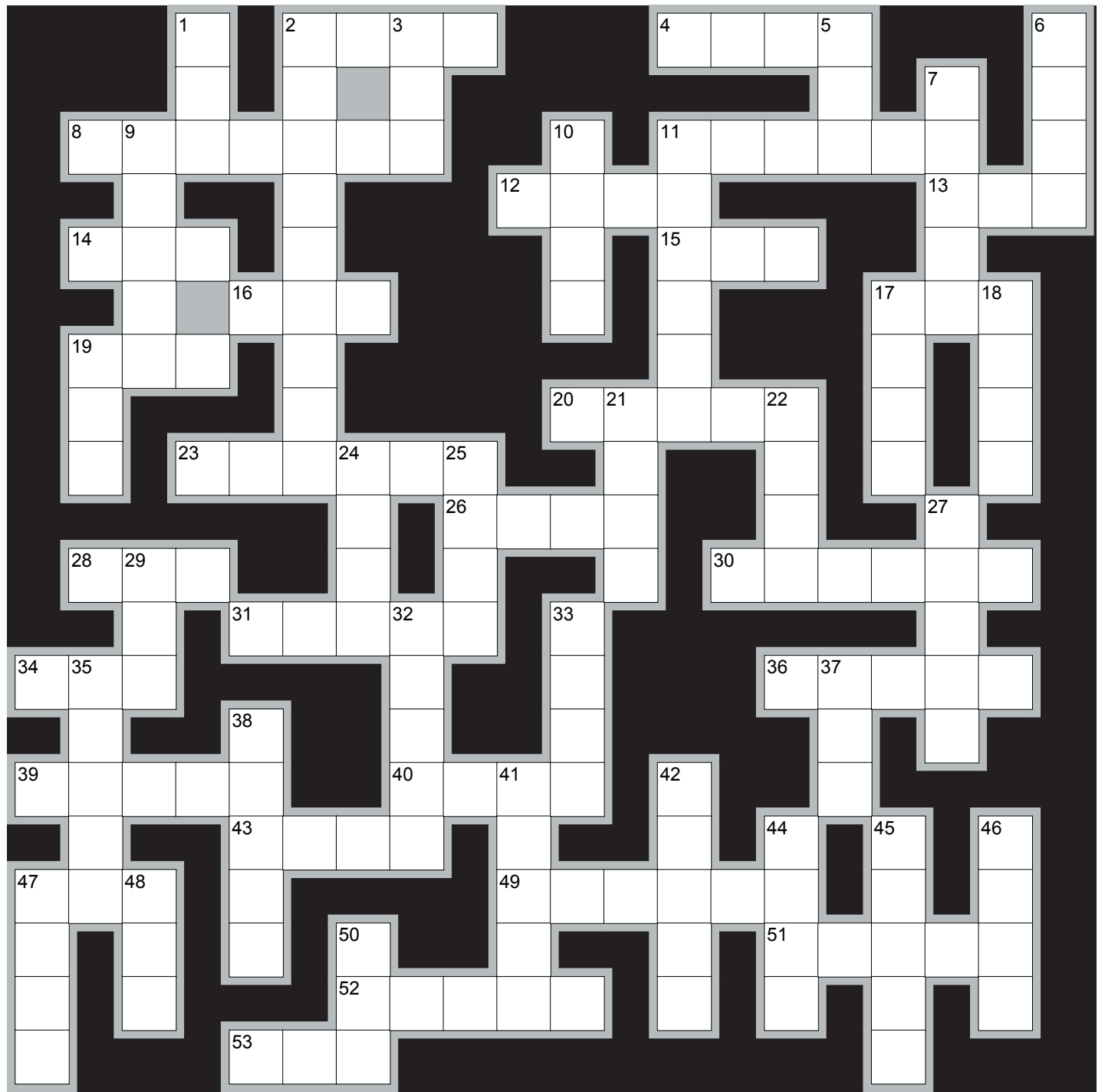
- Baseball**
- Basketball**
- Track and Field**
- Tennis**

For more information, contact Sports editor Julian Benbow by e-mail at [benbowjj@yahoo.com](mailto:benbowjj@yahoo.com) or by phone at (804) 828-1058.

# COMMONWEALTH TIMES CROSSWORD: NO THEME

## Across

- 2. **COPY**—Kinko, Xerox...
- 4. **STAR**—Not a star-fish, but a sea \_\_\_\_.
- 8. **SARDINE**—Tiny canned fish.
- 11. **CHEESE**—If ravioli isn't filled with meat, then it's probably stuffed with this.
- 12. **DOME**—Round roof
- 13. **ALI**—Born Cassius Clay.
- 14. **DAM**—Hoover, water.
- 15. **RUM**—Demonic alcoholic beverage.
- 16. **GUN**—Bang! Bang!
- 17. **KEY**—Low island, reef.
- 19. **PEN**—Writing utensil that uses ink.
- 20. **VALID**—Proper, correct.
- 23. **ROBOTS**—Villians of this summer's Will Smith movie.
- 26. **ASHE**—Professional tennis player. Born on July 10, 1943, in Richmond, Virginia
- 28. **POT**—The demonweed, wacky-tobaccy, MJ.
- 30. **REAGAN**—Once likened the Soviet Union to the Empire of "Star Wars," encouraged a missile-defense program of the same name.
- 31. **WHALE**—Large aquatic mammal.
- 34. **CID**—He's in every Final Fantasy.
- 36. **ROBIN**—Boy wonder.
- 39. **WASTE**—Decline, deteriorate.
- 40. **ODIN**—The norse chief of the gods.
- 43. **RAMS**—vcu mascot
- 47. **SEA**—Caspian, Baltic.
- 49. **INDUCE**—To cause or bring on.
- 51. **SHOES**—Snow versions of this apparel sometimes look like large tennis rackets.
- 52. **WRATH**—The emotive part of "Dies Irae."
- 53. **OIL**—You can process this to make petrol products.

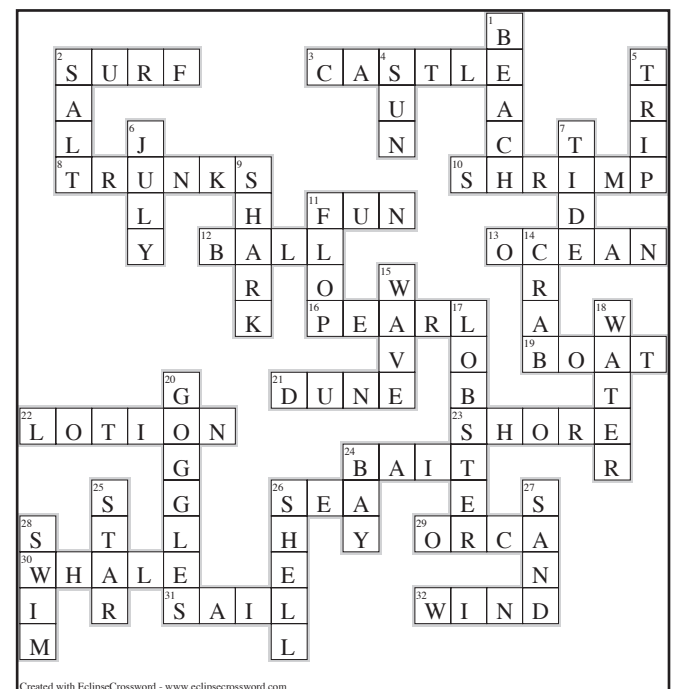


Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

## Down

- 1. **ERR**—To be wrong, human, usually both.
- 2. **CHICXULUB**—Yucatan crater from a suspected dinosaur killer
- 3. **PIE**—Cherry, apple, mincemeat...
- 5. **RUE**—Regret
- 6. **DELI**—Meat market.
- 7. **SEALE**—One of the original Black Panthers.
- 9. **ADAGE**—Proverb
- 10. **BOOM**—A sound explosions make.
- 11. **CEREAL**—Dry versions of this are commonly mixed with milk.
- 17. **KINE**—Cattle.
- 18. **YARD**—Lawn
- 19. **PET**—A domesticated animal kept as a companion.
- 21. **APEP**—Tried to eat the sun boat of Ra, sometimes managed to do it.
- 22. **DUNE**—Sand hills.
- 24. **ORCA**—"Killer" whale.
- 25. **SATE**—Satisfy
- 27. **RAPID**—Quick
- 29. **OLD**—Ancient
- 32. **LAVOS**—The creature that ends the world in "Chrono Trigger."
- 33. **LAWN**—\_\_\_\_ mower.
- 35. **IMAGE**—Created by creators who wanted to own their creations.
- 37. **ONE**—How many punches did it take Batman to knock Guy Gardner out?
- 38. **BERRY**—He is considered among the most influential figures in the development of rock and roll music.
- 41. **IDIOT**—Stupid fool.
- 42. **ERUPT**—a volcanic action.
- 44. **MESH**—A net, to become interlocked.
- 45. **SPORK**—Combination fork and spoon.
- 46. **GUSH**—To suddenly flow
- 47. **SEAT**—Someplace you sit.
- 48. **ASH**—Covered cars miles away from Mount St. Helens in 1980.
- 50. **OWL**—Who? Who?

## Answers to March Beach Edition

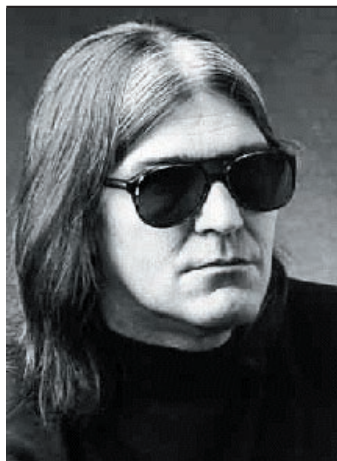


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# EDITORIALS & LETTERS

## The true test of freedom

*Offensive opinions deserve the greatest protection by the First Amendment*



**LOUIE CORBO**  
*Spectrum Writer*

Why is free speech so messed up in this country? And I'm not just talking about smear campaigns by politicians—every time someone exposes a dirty little secret or even the fact that the FCC has declared an all-out war on edginess on radio and television.

It seems to me that every day, whether on the news or on the street, people seem not to get the basics about the First Amendment (or Second Amendment, but that's another rant altogether).

Why do we have freedom of speech? Why did we, the people, decide to declare on paper that the government can't intrude on our speech?

The answer is simple: when people get power, they strive to keep power. One way to keep power is to use it to silence anyone who criticizes your power. The more power you have, the more effective you are in silencing your critics and this leads to a corrupt society.

We knew this all too well when we started this country, and we realized that the only way to keep ourselves honest is to say the government can't tell us what we can and can't say.

There is another reason worth mentioning. Contrary to what some people think, the founding fathers were not all Christians — I'm sure some were, but some were Deist, and some were likely Atheists or Agnostics.

Essentially, they were varied in both beliefs and values. So to keep one value set from intruding on another, they set down both freedom of speech and freedom of religion. As both history and current events show, when the government enforces one belief system and set of values, corruption soon follows.

Now all this seems obvious, which is why I'm personally frustrated by the prevailing attitude that "Free speech is all well and good, but I don't mind

if the government tries to censor someone who is offending me."

This view, which seems float in just about everyone's mind to an unvarying degree, completely defeats the purpose of free speech. Speech that doesn't offend people doesn't need protection. To put it another way, the First Amendment is needed to protect the people we don't like.

The best recent example is the Colorado college professor who's been on the news lately. He wrote an essay basically saying the people working in the World Trade Center had it coming when terrorists flew a plane into the buildings. He also goes on to say that the terrorists are not cowards, and pilots flying stealth bombers are.

These statements are the verbal equivalent of snapping a puppy's neck on live television. As a result, the governor of Colorado is putting pressure on the professor's university to fire him, stating that since tax dollars partially pay for the school, they have a right not to support teaching offensive material.

It sounds logical, except that's not how taxes work. I don't support much of our foreign policy, military research, subsidies and countless other things our government does. My tax dollars do, however, pay for all of it. We pay for things we hate all the time, mainly because if we'd pay for it willingly it wouldn't need to be taxed.

Colleges are like academic and philosophical laboratories — in order to come up with a new idea, the more you put forward, the more you have to experiment in dealing with some pretty volatile

ideas.

The government gives money to all public schools and most scientific research labs — does that mean the government should get to declare what can and can't be taught in colleges or researched in labs? Some people think yes, but only because the government sides with them on specific cases. Their tune will change as soon as Big Brother disagrees with them on policy.

What it boils down to is the government trying to silence a man for stating his opinion.

Now, any reasonable person can see that his opinion is offensive, and people will all certainly debate its validity. I say this: if his statement didn't have reason or truth to it, it wouldn't have struck a nerve.

I personally don't agree with him, and I certainly don't agree with the way he presented his ideas. My question to everyone calling for his resignation is this: if he's so wrong, why do you care that he's saying it? Are you afraid people will agree? Do you think reasonable, well-educated people will agree with an opinion that has no validity to it?

In order to make any progress, professors need to be given the freedom to be dead wrong about things every now and again. If we destroy the careers of professors every time they're wrong, or just seem wrong, then we'll not only stop making progress, but we will slip backwards.

*Louie Corbo may be reached at corbolj@vcu.edu*

**University of Colorado Professor Ward Churchill has come under fire in recent months for his 2001 essay that compared some 9/11 victims to "little Eichmanns" — a reference to the Nazi-era German bureaucrat.**

(Photo: University of Colorado Department of Ethnic Studies, used with permission)

## Enough already — pull the plug

*Terri Schiavo's suffering — and the media circus — have gone on long enough*

**OMAR YACOUBI**  
*Op/Ed Editor*

It should never have come to this point. The fifteen-year struggle of a severely injured woman, her husband and her well-meaning parents have been thrust in the national spotlight as a center of intense media focus and national debate.

It happens all the time in hospital rooms across the country — someone becomes so severely injured that they need to be put on life support, and there comes a time to consider whether it would be humane to continue that treatment.

Ms. Schiavo is past this point. She has been lying in bed since 1990, when a chemical imbalance caused her heart to stop for a few minutes, depriving key parts of her brain with needed oxygen to function.

For the last fifteen years, Terri Schiavo's shell of a body has been withering away in a hospital bed. Her muscles have completely weakened, and most of her brain is deteriorating from the damage it suffered from the lack of oxygen.

Though Ms. Schiavo is able to breathe on her own, she must rely on a feeding tube to survive. Under Florida law, the decision rests with the husband whether to continue life support.

Despite this, Schiavo's parents have relentlessly opposed the husband's decision to end life support, instead waging a seven-year legal battle to keep their daughter "alive."

There must be great sympathy for the parents; no doubt they want every opportunity to keep their daughter in this world, but they have exhausted every legal means to do so, and the daughter they once knew is no more.

The parents can be excused in their grief for wanting to do everything in their power to extend their daughter's life. Sometimes laws are indeed unfair, and court decisions help to remedy the situation.

Less understandable, however, is the intervention this week by Congress, which passed a bill with the singular purpose of keeping Schiavo alive.

Both liberals and conservatives are troubled by this unprecedented measure, which raises states' rights issues and seems to violate the

Constitutional prohibition against *ex post facto* laws meant to influence such specific situations.

Instead of prolonging the Schiavos' suffering by passing ad hoc laws, we should find it within ourselves to have enough respect to let the situation come to its own logical conclusion silently, and with deep regard for everyone affected by the decision — including the husband.

By making the Schiavo case a partisan issue, Republicans have sought to turn this into a cut-and-dry case, with House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Tx.) having accused Mr. Schiavo of, among other things, "abuse and neglect."

Such elevated rhetoric is unnecessary and only heightens ill will where feelings are already strong on both sides.

This is already a painful ordeal for the family members involved. Opportunistic politicians and the media noise machine should stop fanning the flames.

*Omar Yacoubi may be reached at yacoubioa@vcu.edu*

### The Commonwealth TIMES

*The independent student press of Virginia Commonwealth University*

**DEVON MARROW**  
*Executive Editor*

**OMAR YACOUBI**  
*Editor of the Editorial Pages*

**WRITERS**  
*Michael Dickinson • Lyz Holder  
April Kung*

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

#### Add Your Voice

The opinion section of The Commonwealth Times is open to the public. Please send letters to CTeditor03@yahoo.com, mailing address: P.O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23238-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building. We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.

# Don't wait in line ... go online!

## Purchase your fall semester decal online

Student parking decals may be purchased via the VCU Parking Web site:  
**<http://www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark>** beginning **Monday, April 18, 2005, at 8 a.m.**

Fall semester decals also may be purchased from either Parking Office location (1111 W. Broad St. or 1000 E. Clay St.) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning **Monday, May 23, 2005.**

Online purchase options are available to students with valid VCU identification cards only. Assignments will be made based on availability.

For more information, please call customer service at (804) 828-8726.

