

The Commonwealth Times

Free

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(804) 828-1058



Record number of students vote in SGA election Page 3

Sports

Frykberg takes down another school mark with performance at UR. / Page 9

Editorials & Letters

Warning: mature audiences only
Today's opinion section contains adult themes and explicit references to public figures. / Page 15

Spectrum

French films invade Richmond, Stephen Vitiello: a sound concept / Page 12

WEIRD NEWS

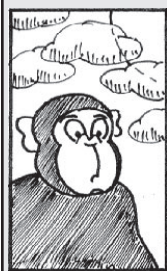
CALENDAR MARCH 28 THROUGH MARCH 30

Monday, March 28	Tuesday, March 29	Wednesday, March 30
Join student affairs as they present the Fight Night (Boxing) PS2 Tournament from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Stuart C. Siegel Center. Compete against other gamers to see who will win. There is a \$3 registration fee. For more information call Constantine Alexakos at 827-1100.	Struggling with term papers? Stop by the University Student Commons Forum for the Academic Success Workshop for International Students: Organizing and Writing a Paper. Jinhee Kang will instruct students how to put together a research paper. Register at www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/academicsuccess/ . For more info call Darlene Pantaleo at 828-6200.	Stop by the University Student Commons Virginia rooms A-D for International Student Coffee Hour. This event is sponsored by the Office of International Education, and it takes place from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. For more information contact the reservations and events office at 828-9502.

CAMPUS FORECAST



Monday
64/50



Tuesday
67/47



Wednesday
76/47



Thursday
74/47

Compiled from wire reports

Chocolate egg tasters

Jeff Pyne and Rahul Patel have eaten 350 Easter eggs over the last six months. The two work for Tesco as professional Easter egg tasters. The two have been eating chocolate eggs round the clock to sample the quality of the company's product. The two have been employed by Tesco for the last 10 years and have eaten close to 6,000 chocolate eggs and 4,000 boxes of chocolate. Although the two said their job might sound too good to be true, they said there are some downfalls to this line of work. They said they can never give chocolates as a gift because people know they get it for free, and they routinely are forced to go to the gym to work off the excess calories. Rahul said he did not like the taste of chocolate before he took this job.

Prisoner returns home

A Czech prisoner was set free and allowed to go home to his wife after suffering from a permanent erection. The 37-year-old man was serving a six-month sentence for theft when he realized he had an erection that would not go away. The prisoner said it was very painful and prison doctors were brought in to take a look at the situation. Unable to help, they sent the man to a local hospital where a medical

staff had to operate to solve the problem. The man was suffering from a condition called priapismus. After surgery, the man was allowed to go home to recuperate with his wife rather than spending that time in the prison hospital ward.

Giant egg

A city in Belgium created the world's biggest Easter egg ever. Guinness has declared this egg to be the largest Guylian: A Belgian chocolate producer donated 50,000 bars to produce the egg which was over 27 feet in height. Guinness has declared this egg to be the largest, beating the previous record holding egg which was just over 25 feet high. It took 26 workers and 525 hours to build the Easter egg and they used almost 4,300 pounds of chocolate. Although this egg may sound tasty, a city official said it would never be eaten because after one week outside in a variety of weather conditions it would not be very appetizing.

Prison mix-up

Two brothers from Brazil secretly changed places while in prison. The twins had been convicted of different crimes, and when one twin finished his sentence his brother presented himself as the soon-to-be freed twin. The mix-up was only discovered when inmates told the guards about the situation and tests were run on the remaining brother to verify his

true identity. Police were able to apprehend the erroneously freed brother, however the brother, who had remained in prison, lost his right to leave and was promptly moved to a different cell.

Advertising revives funeral home sales

Some Romanian undertakers have found a new way to drum up business. A company called Eternity has started leaving pamphlets at retirement homes to find new clients. The company has shown record sales since distributing the literature that advertises special discounts on coffins, funerals and graveside crosses. Many people from the homes have taken the company up on its offers.

Cockroach records

Ramesh Kumar, an Indian man, hopes to break a record by eating 50 cockroaches in one minute. Kumar said he has eaten the insects since he was a child and said he has developed a taste for them. The current record for cockroach-eating is 36 in a minute, but Kumar is confident he can beat the record. Kumar also plans to stay in a glass case filled with 25,000 cockroaches for three days in an attempt to break another record.

Front cover photo by
Pat Kane.

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NEWS

SGA election winners discuss plans

ALYCE ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Eddie O'Leary, a political science major, and Mark Brewster, a biomedical engineering major, will head the Student Government Association beginning April 25, while Katherine Cappocelli, a mass communications and business major, becomes the association's executive director.

"The first steps will be recruiting," O'Leary said. "I have to fill my cabinet of 15 students, appoint over 40 students to university committees and make appointments to the judicial branch. It will keep me very busy."

O'Leary's opposition, Sheena Davis, ran on the same ticket as Joel Harris for vice president and Omar Noor for executive director.

"I'm just glad it's over," Davis said of

the election. She also said she does not plan to serve in next year's SGA.

"I'm focusing on graduating on time and finalizing my post-college plans," Davis said. "I will still be involved in a few campus activities though."

Some 1,624 students voted in this year's election. Although with a student population nearing 28,500 the figure may not seem large, but it ranks as the highest voter turnout in VCU's history.

"Voter turnout was excellent," O'Leary said. "This year we have had more people than ever before."

Despite this election having the highest voter turnout, O'Leary and Davis agreed that room for improvement exists and that flaws occurred on the voting Web site.

"We also are having some elections reforms that will include changing some of the elections rules and also making the

elections Web site easier to understand," O'Leary said.

Davis described the students' concerns about the Web site problems.

"A number of people expressed the fact that they had difficulty voting, especially for the executive tickets," she said. "Some students said that they could only find the names of the Senate candidates. It was probably just a Web site flaw."

Along with O'Leary and his team, 41 senators, including Emily Reijmers, who is a political science major, are scheduled for induction into their respective offices April 26.

"I'm very happy with the overall results of the election," Reijmers said. "I think the candidates this semester for senator really went out and worked hard for it, and the overall turnout for voting seemed larger than ever before."

Visiting faculty member gives painting and printmaking pointers

SHANNON CONWAY
Staff Writer

Much like the Department of Painting and Printmaking, Virgil Marti's work incorporates a variety of artistic techniques and media. Just as the department fosters artists' experimentation with everything from the staid paint-and-canvas to computer imaging, Marti's work studies integrative innovation.

Ron Johnson, assistant professor and administrative director in the department, cites Marti's artistic ambition as one main quality the department seeks when hiring visiting faculty.

"We want an interesting individual — someone with energy, someone unruly," Johnson said, describing some characteristics of an ideal visiting artist.

The Philadelphia-based artist, whose installation work has shown in many galleries nationally and abroad, said his eclectic use of materials and designs reflect the way his mind works.

"I've always been into architecture, and I've always had an eye for interior design," Marti said. A visiting professor in the painting and printmaking department, his "eye" imbues the room in such work as his 2002 installation "Grow Room" that incorporated reflective Mylar wall panels, an antler and Plexiglas chandelier and weblike arrays of flowering vines, among other things.

As the visiting artist this spring, Marti collectively meets with graduate students Wednesday night's to critique their individual work. This semester, Marti works exclusively with graduate painting students.

"It will be nice to just talk painting," he said.

At the Wednesday critiques, Marti leads graduates to discuss each other's works and assigns readings on such topics as sentimentality and irony in art. When Marti reviews students' work, he offers advice and refers each student to different artistic pieces that might help that particular student's own project.

"He told me to break away from old references and make my own (using) my recollections," said Mike Martin, a sec-

MARTI continued on page 6

VoIP could offer VCU community new telephone service options

JESSICA CHAPIN
Staff Writer

Voice over Internet Protocol, also called VoIP, enables people to make telephone calls through an Internet connection instead of a telephone line. It could be the next telephone service available for VCU students and administrators.

"What you would get is a better quality of service," said Mark Willis, assistant vice president for administrative information technology. He said VoIP offers many conveniences.

For instance, administrators and students could check their voice-mails and e-mails in the same package and could call friends and family via telephone handsets or through microphones and speakers connected to their computers. They could also speak to and watch someone on video through the computer similar to teleconferencing.

Some students including Kathleen Miltner, a sophomore nursing major, cited their concerns about learning to use the technology.

"I think it's an interesting idea," Miltner said. "Not too sure how it would work, especially since everybody is used to using regular phones, so it's something they'd have to teach students how to use."

On the other hand, students such as Joseph Norris, a junior English major, suggested learning the new system could come easily.

"A lot of the students would adapt pretty well," Norris said.

Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services, said he welcomes the idea of introducing technology into VCU.

"Students are always pushing the edge in technology, and sometimes we play a little catch-up because each year each

"Students are always pushing the edge in technology, and sometimes we play a little catch-up because each year each freshman class that comes in has a better knowledge of technology and comfort in using it. I think the university should be responsive to that."

— **Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services**

freshman class that comes in has a better knowledge of technology and comfort in using it," he said. "I think the university should be responsive to that."

Willis and others recommending this change first must submit a proposal to the several budget committees that include the university's oversight committee and another at the state level review.

William Jones, director of VCUnet, the university's telecommunications division that provides telephone service for on-campus students, said if the plans were approved, changes could begin in the summer 2006. Administrative offices, he said, would be the first to have the service, which later could be provided to the dormitories.

NEWS

MCV-SGA president seeks to unify different majors

COREY W. BOONE
Staff Writer

For nearly a year, Gaurav Agarwal, a senior dentistry student, has led the Student Government Association on the VCU Medical Center Campus.

"I like to be involved and serve the student body — the best way to do so was in a leadership role," said Agarwal, the former MCV-SGA treasurer and now president, explaining his reason for seeking the presidential position. "My first goal is to have more interaction among the different schools."

Agarwal said he would like to see the five schools on the medical campus — allied health, dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy — share in a more interdisciplinary relationship. If this were possible, he said the student government could address many issues with the support of students and faculty from each school.

During his presidency, he said, the MCV-SGA has dealt with such matters as parking and university recognition, while calling these issues to the attention of VCU's administration. These issues, Agarwal said, will be addressed in the Medical Center Campus plans for the next three to five years.

A member of the Virginia Dental Association, Agarwal said he wants to become a pediatric dentist, then teach at an educational

2004-2005 MCV-SGA Officers

President	Gaurav Agarwal
Vice President, Student Life	Ryan Foley
Vice President, Social	Rozelle Baltazar
Vice Presidents, Philanthropy	Thomas Ridder & Ashley Hall
Treasurer	Michael Webb
Secretary	Ryan Foley
Honor Council Chair	Thomas Turner
Chief Yearbook Editor	Candy Reyes
Faculty Adviser	Dr. Geoffrey H. Young, dean of student affairs
Larrick Student Center Director	James Miller

institution. He graduates in May along with other MCV-SGA officers including Ryan Foley.

Foley, vice president of student life and secretary of the organization, said that this year's group has improved the student group.

"For the longest time very little change was happening with our organization," Foley said. "With this year's board, a lot of improvements have been made."

For instance, the 22-year-old nursing student said the medical center's administrators are more open-minded to the student government's ideas and goals.

"No one is stopping us," he said. "It's like a snowball effect — we're rolling now."

Geoffrey Young, associate dean for

student affairs on VCU's Medical Center Campus and the group's faculty adviser since August 2004, said he also sees the group expanding in the future and was very impressed with the MCV-SGA.

"I (am) impressed with their level of professionalism and commitment to serving the MCV campus . . . (and) preparing events," Young said, explaining that some of this year's events were new since the previous years. "I see the (group) increasing the level of service they provide to the student body."

Young said he also sees the MCV-SGA becoming a more recognized resource for all students on the Medical Center's campus.

To better integrate the different schools, the student government sponsors charitable

and social events, including the yearly MCV Campus Winter Formal, where some 1,300 guests attended the ball at the Jefferson Hotel.

"It was the largest event in SGA history," Agarwal said. "It brought pride and joy to the SGA."

The association will maintain its tradition of producing its annual free yearbook, that is included in the SGA's budget.

With the help of the student government representatives and other executive officers, Agarwal helped serve students coffee and assisted with study breaks during last fall's final exams. The group also sponsored a Halloween Ball that offered discounted tickets for those who brought canned foods.

Furthermore, SGA members conducted a toy drive, organized a pingpong tournament, sponsored teams in the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k Run and Walk event plus contributed in Richmond's Habitat for Humanity house-building efforts.

"I want more recognition for SGA," he said. "I want to make SGA more visible."

In doing this, the 27-year-old is tackling his next goal of making the SGA more accessible to students.

"I want (students) to know that SGA is not just a figurehead," he said. "I want them to know that SGA is there to help them and serve them."



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NEWS

Will VCU add a homeland security major to its degree choices?

BENNETT DOWDY
Staff Writer

Shortly before the Christmas holidays, the VCU community and others read about a homeland security degree on the school's Web site.

So what is the status of that degree now?

Robert Holsworth, interim dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, said VCU has one more step to take in the process of gaining approval for the homeland security major. That step is the stamp of approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

"This is an exciting new program for our students," Holsworth said, "And it is a powerful program. I think that it is going to

be a first-rate program in the Wilder School that has a good shot at being approved by SCHEV."

William Newmann, an associate professor in the Wilder School, said this program, positioned in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government, will link together security studies, criminal justice and emergency planning in ways that meet society's needs.

William Parrish, former U.S. Department of Homeland Security senior official who will oversee the program, said the Wilder School will depend on the existing faculty and heavily upon the adjunct faculty so the school can bring in some practitioners from the field who have been working in this area.

"I would anticipate besides the adjunct

side," Parrish said, "that there will be three or four additional folks that will be used to provide some of the teaching as well as drawing upon some of the other expertise that reside here in the school of government."

Students earning this degree, Parrish said, will be able to explore career opportunities in local, state or federal government, as well as the Justice Department or the FBI. In addition, a graduate could work for the Department of Homeland Security for profit, nonprofit and private organizations.

A student will gain knowledge in emergency planning and management principles, the nature and effects of natural disasters, counterterrorism policies, plus prevention of terrorists' attacks through

surveillance.

Studies, he said, will combine theoretical and practical knowledge that will prepare them for further study in international affairs, government, law enforcement, policy planning and law.

Newmann said he wants to ensure that the students enrolling in the program learn the issues involving homeland security.

"The degree," he said, "will include courses in terrorism and emergency management, risk analysis and strategic planning, as well as and legal and ethical issues involving homeland security."

Overall, the program is designed to approach the study of law enforcement, the nature of terrorists' threat to the United States, the nature and effects of natural disasters and policy-making topics.

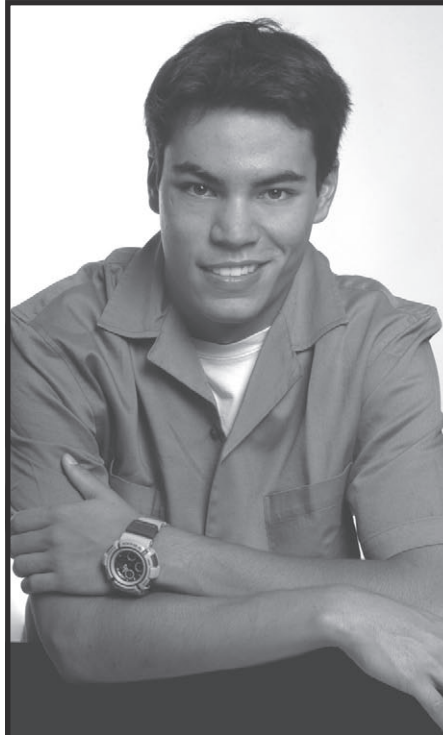
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MARTI, continued from page 3

ond-year graduate painting student. Martin and others cite Marti's sensitive approach to each student's work as a quality that makes it easy for them to work with him.

Joe McSpadden, a first-year graduate painter, said Marti wants to know where each student is coming from and what they care about before he offers criticism.

"I think this is a great opportunity to develop a relationship with an artist who is doing great work," McSpadden said. "(These) relationships help extend the art community to Richmond from cities like New York and Philly."

Marti serves as the part-time project coordinator at Philadelphia's Fabric Workshop. This studio emphasizes fabric wallpaper as a medium for graphic art and houses a large printmaking facility.

"I think this is a great opportunity to develop a relationship with an artist who is doing great work."

— Joe McSpadden, graduate painter

"Wallpaper bridges art and domestic life and makes the art more accessible to everyone," he said. "While you are in school, take risks," Marti said. "There is no better time to push the envelope."



Pat Kane

Visiting professor Virgil Marti stands in front of a work by VCU student Mike Martin.

Can you fill these shoes?



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

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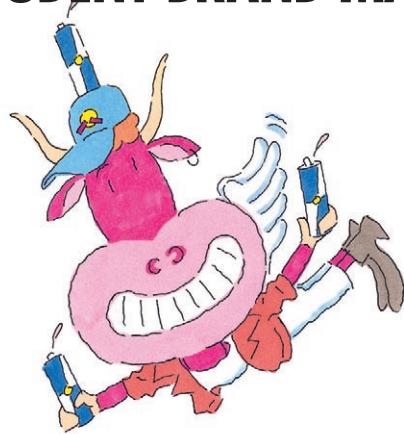
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For more information, please call customer service at (804) 828-8726.



SPORTS

Upcoming Sports EVENTS

Baseball

March 29: at Radford, Radford, Va., at 3 p.m.

April 1: at James Madison, Harrisonburg, Va., 2:30 p.m.

April 2: at James Madison, Harrisonburg, Va., 1 p.m.

April 3: at James Madison, Harrisonburg, Va., 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis

March 31: North Carolina, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 2 p.m.

April 3: at Old Dominion, Norfolk, Va., 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis

March 30: at Old Dominion, Norfolk, Va., 3 p.m.

April 1: vs. Fresno State, Williamsburg, Va, 11 p.m.

April 3: vs. South Florida, Thalhimer Tennis Center, 10 p.m.

Women's Track and Field

April 1-2: University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.

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.

Correction

A story on page 8 of the March 24 edition of the Commonwealth Times said men's track and field athletes Davion Lambert and Brett Frykberg qualified for the NCAA championships in Sacramento, California with their performances at last weekend's Rams Invites. The pair actually earned spots at the NCAA regional meet in New York. If they make the top six in their respective events then they will qualify for nationals in California.

Frykberg breaks second record in as many weeks

Rams experiment at Fred Hardy Invitational

JULIAN BENBOW
Sports Editor

If anything, last weekend's Fred Hardy Invitational gave VCU's track and field teams a chance to see a few things.

There was the new face keeping up an old habit.

Senior Brett Frykberg, in his first year with the Rams after being a standout at

Tennessee, removed another VCU record from the books.

Frykberg, who toppled the school's high jump record at last weekend's Ram Invitational, buried the school's javelin mark with a throw of 61.19 meters (200 feet 9 inches).

John Alexander set the school's old mark last year with a toss of 193 feet 4 inches. Frykberg's record-breaking throw was only the third best of the day, however, behind Pittsburgh's, Corey Kuehner (62.77 meters or 205 feet 11¼ inches) and Nick Slotterback (62.51, 205 feet 1 inch), who participated unattached.

Coming off last week's record setting high jump, Frykberg won the event at UR by leaping 2.05 meters (6 feet 8.76 inches). He beat out fellow Ram Davion Lambert, who finished second, jumping 1.95 meters (6 feet 4.8 inches).

The Rams also saw the familiar faces, like Lambert, put up equally familiar performances.

Along with the second place finish in the long jump, Lambert, the reigning CAA Field Athlete of the Week, dominated the long jump, surpassing Virginia's Trumaine Pendleton by more than a foot with a leap of 7.18 meters (23 feet 6.72 inches).

West Chester's Eric Broadbent edged

TRACK & FIELD

Fred Hardy
Invitational
March 25-26



Pat Kane

Running the steeplechase for the first time, junior Emily Thompson jumped hurdles and treaded waters to finish third with a 12:02.03.

TRACK continued on page 11

The contenders: Three schools vying for the men's title in April



VCU

Between the 100, the 200, the 4x100 relay and the 4x400 relay the Rams will be able to hold their own in sprints. Figure in the high jump, long jump and triple jump and the Rams have three more events they can lock up. The X-factor will be the throwers the team added, after seeing William & Mary build a 24-point lead at last year's CAA championship.



William & Mary

Distance. Long distance. The Tribe, two-time defending champions, has a tight grasp on distance events. In last year's championship, 69 of its 185 points came from long runs. Matt Kally and sophomore Steve Hoogland picked up 18 alone for the Tribe in the 10,000 meters. The scary part—one was a sophomore and the other was a freshman at the time.



UNC Wilmington

The Seahawks did not participate in the Fred Hardy last weekend. Instead they stayed home and crushed in the Cape Fear classic. UNCW took the top three spots in both the 100 and 200-meter hurdles and left its mark on the relays, winning the 4x100, the 4x200 and the 4x400, convincingly.



SPORTS

Above-average Joe lifts Rams past Tigers

JULIAN BENBOW
Sports Editor

Joe Meador may be the only student on campus who enjoyed last weekend more than the weekend of spring break.

The junior center fielder hit .733 (11-for-15) in the Rams' three-game set with at Towson, scoring six runs and driving in another four for VCU, which took two games from the Tigers in the opening Colonial Athletic Association series for both teams.

The Rams sandwiched a pair of wins around Towson's 11-9, victory on Saturday, beating the Tigers 12-9 Friday afternoon at Schuerhols Park and 6-3 on Sunday.

The series win puts the Rams (2-1 CAA, 14-5) a game behind defending CAA champion UNC Wilmington, which shut down the typically explosive offense of visiting William & Mary for a sweep in its first weekend of CAA play.

Meador upped his season average to .427, going 4 for 5 in Friday and Saturday's games and 3 for 5 on Sunday. Meador, the Rams leadoff hitter, is hitting at the second-best clip on the team behind sophomore second baseman Scott Sizemore (.485).

Sizemore, who paces the Rams in 10 statistical categories through 18 games this season, continued his tear going 4 for 12 for the series, including a grand slam in the 7th inning of

Saturday's game albeit in a losing effort.

Rams' pitcher Harold Mozingo earned his fourth win of the season despite allowing his highest run total all season. The Rams, however, provided their ace with more run support than the three runs per game he had been getting.

The Rams and Tigers combined for 21 runs in Mozingo's start.

Towson's Pat Fields and Mark Chiccini stung the sophomore right-hander with homers in the Tigers' three-run fourth inning, and first baseman Jason Maxey took him deep in the fifth.

VCU then tagged Towson for a pair of homeruns, one in the fifth inning by catcher Pete Farina, who went 4 for 4 that game with two RBI and four runs scored, and another the next inning off Meador's bat to give the Rams a 7-6 lead, which they never relinquished.

Mozingo then got things under control in the sixth and seventh innings, striking out three Tigers before leaving the game with a season-high 11 Ks.

Third-day starter Marcus Davis (3-0) kept his record flawless, allowing 10 hits, striking out five batters and walking just two to pick up his third straight win without a loss.

Davis left his team with a 5-run lead when he hopped off the mound in the seventh inning, and freshman right-hander Brett Walker closed the door as Towson tried to rally late, striking out Tigers' catcher Ryan Schreiter to earn the first save of his career.

The Rams will travel to Radford Wednesday for a midweek game before heading to Harrisonburg on Friday for a three-game set with CAA foe James Madison.



Pat Kane

Outfielder Trai Harris went 5 for 14 in the Rams first CAA series of the season. VCU is one game out of first place after taking two of three from Towson.

ion 1: Patriots starter Brett Hits put the clamps on the Monarchs bats for seven innings, striking out five while allowing only one run on eight hits in George Mason's road win over the Monarchs. Three runs in the fourth inning was all Hitz needed to earn his third win of the season.

Hofstra 9, Delaware 6: The Pride poured five runs on the Blue Hens in the ninth inning, then fended off Delaware's late spurt to earn a win on the road to avoid being swept. Hofstra's second in three games with the Blue Hens. Hofstra third baseman Ricky Caputo was 4 for 4 with three RBI and a run scored for the Pride, which snapped a four game skid with the win.

Penn State 1, James Madison 0: Dukes pitcher Jacob Cook threw 7.2 innings, striking out five and allowing just four hits, but Nittany Lions catcher Aaron Greenfield made him pay for a mistake in the seventh inning, hitting a solo shot that ended up being the difference in the Dukes final game before opening conference play this weekend against VCU.

Baseball standings (through March 27)

	Conference			Overall					
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	H	A	N
UNC Wilmington	3	0	1.000	16	11	.593	15-7	0-3	1-1
George Mason	5	1	.833	15	6	.714	7-0	5-4	3-2
VCU	2	1	.667	14	5	.737	10-1	4-4	0-0
Delaware	2	1	.667	9	12	.429	6-8	3-4	0-0
Towson	1	2	.333	9	10	.474	6-4	2-5	1-1
Hofstra	1	2	.333	8	13	.381	3-4	5-9	0-0
William & Mary	1	5	.167	14	11	.560	14-5	0-6	0-0
James Madison	0	0	.000	7	13	.350	5-6	1-3	1-4
Old Dominion	0	3	.000	15	16	.484	12-13	1-3	2-0

In other CAA games:

UNCW 7, William & Mary 6: The Seahawks rallied in the ninth inning behind a two-out single by catcher Chris Hatcher that drove in centerfielder Jason Appel for the Seahawks winning-run in their 7-6 victory over the Tribe. Hatcher was 2 for 4 with plus the game-winning RBI. Outfielder Chris Rahl went 3 for 4 for the Tribe with 4 RBI and two runs scored in a losing effort. With the win, the Tribe completed a three-game sweep and took first place in the CAA.

George Mason 3, Old Domin-

TRACK continued from page 9

out Lambert's jump of 13.83 meters (43 feet 4.44 inches) to win the event.

On the women's side, Cheri Manning followed up a huge Ram Invitational with top 10 finishes in both the 100 and the 200. Manning finished fifth in the 100 with a time of 12.37 seconds, trailing a pack of four Pittsburgh Panthers that included winner Shanea Calhoun (12.13).

Her run of 25.23 put her in sixth place in the 200 as Calhoun and the Panthers again locked up the top four spots.

After sitting out last weekend's meet, Tanika Brown showed her face at the Fred Hardy Track and Field Facility.

Brown finished 13th in the 200, but did expected damage in the high jump, leaping 1.65 meters (5 feet 4.92 inches) to take first place. Teammate Frankie Moore gave VCU the top two spots with a second-place jump of 1.60 meters (5 feet 3 inches). Michelle Jones finished sixth for the Rams with a 1.50 (4 feet 11.04 inches).

Coming off the best performance of her

young career, freshman Shemecca Berkely placed for the second straight week, jumping 18 feet 1.75 inches to earn third place in the long jump.

James Frierson, the CAA Track Athlete of the Week, ran the 100 and the 200 for the Rams, despite still being bothered by a hamstring injury suffered more than a month ago. Still, the sophomore took third place with a time of 11.06, behind Virginia's Rueben Jones (10.83 seconds) and Pittsburgh's Chris Anderson (10.93).

One face that Frierson has to be getting used to seeing right behind him is freshman Jackie Deshazo.

An injury set Deshazo back last season, but he still has a reputation among teammates for leaving lanes with burn marks.

For the second straight weekend, Deshazo finished milliseconds behind Frierson, this time crossing the finishing line just one one-hundredths of a second behind his sophomore teammate.

"Strictly a sprinter," Lambert described

Deshazo after he closed the gap for the Rams 4x100-meter relay team, which went on to a first-place finish. "One (hundred-meter dash), two, four."

There were also old faces in new events.

Emily Thompson, in her third year as a distance runner for the women's team, was a familiar face for the Rams. The steeplechase, however, was uncharted territory for the junior, who was last seen setting a personal record in the 5000 meters last weekend.

Still, with a rain drizzling down lightly but consistently all afternoon, Thompson hopped over hurdles and splashed through the one small trough on her way to a third-place finish with a time of 12:02.03.

Riad Ouled ran the steeplechase for the first time this season, finishing with a time of 9:46.32, good enough for third place behind a pair of Pittsburgh Panthers, first place finisher Mike Long (9:25.35) and Jesse Mang (9:45.78).

Finally, and maybe most importantly, VCU got a chance to eye their Colonial Athletic Association competition. Three CAA schools, including two-time defending champion William & Mary, competed in the first of what the University of Richmond will make an annual event.

Last season's men's CAA championship came down to the Tribe's long distance runners and its throwers, according to assistant coach Ron Jones. Jones said Tribe still has the distance events "on lock," but the Rams may have pose a threat this year in the throwing events.

The Tribe took seven of the top nine spots in the men's 5000 meters on Friday—a given, while VCU scattered athletes in the top 10 of the shot put, discuss throw and javelin.

Two meets remain before the CAA championship at George Mason.

Said Paul Henderson, who finished second in his heat in the 400 and ninth overall, "We'll put it all together by conference."

Spectrum



Paula Court

Arts professor explores sound in new exhibit

JOANNAH NWOKEABIA
Spectrum Editor

In 1999, before terrorist attacks destroyed the World Trade Center towers, Stephen Vitiello, assistant professor of kinetic imaging in the School of the Arts, held residency in a studio on the 91st floor of tower one. For six months the native New Yorker recorded sounds of the building moving. The irony is hard to escape.

That single residency, he said, changed his professional career. The soundtrack artist who composed music for movies, performing artists and the likes of Mikhail Baryshnikov earned recognition as a sound artist as well.

The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York acquired his sound installation—its first sound piece purchase in 30 years. In 2000 he also curated the sound

art part of the Whitney Museum exhibition *The American Century: Art and Culture 1950-2000*.

Vitiello, who moved to Richmond last August, has shown his sound pieces at solo exhibitions around the country and in Paris and recorded around 10 albums, including “Bright and Dusty Things.”

Vitiello said he is also proud of his work with the Yanomami Indian tribes in Brazil, where he recorded hummingbirds.

In *Surround Sound*, his latest multi-channel exhibit showing in the School of the Arts

Gallery, Vitiello explores the perceptual and physical properties of sound as a sculptural form. He said he uses a darkened room and a 5.1 sound system to “create sculptural works with concepts in sounds.”

“Partly, it’s an interest in the physicality of sound and the way sound changes our perception of a room,” Vitiello said.

“Surround Sound” is on exhibit through April 3. VCU School of the Arts Gallery, 1000 W. Broad Street, 1st floor. For more information call 828-7176 or visit stephenvitiello.com.

Women’s History Month still unfamiliar to students

HEATHER ALEXANDER
Spectrum Writer

Few may know that National Women’s History Month is celebrated in March. A number of students around campus were clueless to the celebration, and the few that did know about it credited the VCU activities calendar.

“I didn’t know there was one,” said Chris Riccobono, a freshman mechanical engineer major, referring to the celebration.

Riccobono said National Women’s History Month should receive promotion like Black History Month.

Yolanda Cox, a pre-med sophomore at the university said, “It’s sad that you don’t see a lot about it. It’s sad it’s looked over.”

Shonda Easley, a freshman and criminal justice major said, “It should be known.” Easley went on to explain that “women did more than give birth,” and that there should be a better focus on women’s issues this month.

In 1980 President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation asking Americans to celebrate the contributions of women. Congress and the president in 1987 declared March as National Women’s History Month.

This March marks the 25th anniversary of the women’s history movement. This year’s theme, “Women Change America,” focuses on women’s roles in changing culture, history and politics.

This year also marks the 85th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in America.

With all that history and national coverage, some students were still unaware of National Women’s History Month.

James Williams, a senior business administration major, said he knew about the celebration because of the VCU activities calendar. The holiday, he said, needed more recognition and exposure.

Williams, pointing to women’s contributions and their adaptation to heads of

the household, said even today women continue to excel and gain more power and equality. He gave the example of Hilary Clinton in politics, saying, “women are not letting men stop them.”

Deshonda Overby, a sophomore mass communications major, agreed that women’s roles have changed throughout history. She said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is an example of how powerful women have become.

Raphaella Teschner, a sophomore and psychology major said she knew about National Women’s History month because her professor mentioned it and because of the academic calendar.

“You don’t really see it,” said Teschner. “If I hadn’t read it on the VCU calendar, I wouldn’t have known.”

Teschner thought there should be a bigger awareness, especially in the public education system.

“They are what instill ideas, virtues, and values into people,” she said.

She explained the importance of women in American society, saying one of their most important contributions is their ability to be more than caregivers. Women are “very flexible,” she added.

Lonell Prince, a senior studying broadcast journalism, said if National Women’s History Month got more exposure it would also get more appreciation.

“If you create a voice, people will listen,” Prince said.

Jesse Kirk, a freshman business major, said he didn’t think National Women’s History Month is that important.

“I like women, but I don’t know if they deserve an entire month,” he said.

Kirk also said that the biggest contribution women have made to America is the Victoria’s Secret fashion show.

Even as the end of the month nears, it is never too late to learn, psychology major Teschner said.

“As long as we keep on teaching, making people more aware it will get recognized.”

Happenings

March 28 through March 30

Monday, March 28

Looking to liven up your evenings? Rock with **Definace**, and **Action**, 5 p.m. at Nanci Raygun. \$8. At 10 p.m., kick back with **Sacrosanct**. \$5 for the 18-20 crowd and \$3 for the 21+ crowd.

Tuesday, March 29

What effect does eating a diet of nothing but McDonald’s fast food for a month have on your health? Watch **“Supersize Me,”** 7 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Free to students with VCU ID. Two guest limit per VCU student. Catch a performance by the **VCU Jazz Orchestra**, 8pm at the Singleton Center for the Performing Arts. 922 Park Ave. 828-6776.

Wednesday, March 30

In **“House of Flying Daggers,”** a policeman tries to rescue a blind woman and infiltrate the secret revolutionary group to which she belongs. Love, betrayal and tragedy ensue. 7 p.m. Commons Theater. Free to students with VCU ID. Two guest limit per VCU student.

Spectrum

VCU French Film Festival to bring language, culture to Byrd

J. ADAM WRIGHT
Spectrum Writer

The time has come for VCU to host its annual French Film Festival. In the past years VCU and The Byrd Theatre have welcomed hundreds of feature and short French films, most of which make their United States debut at the festival.

Now in its 13th year, the film festival has been accredited by the Cannes Film Festival as well as other festivals.

Peter and Françoise Kirkpatrick, VCU professors of French literature and culture, created the French Film Festival in 1993 with hopes to educate and enlighten the public about French culture and art. Since then the festival has grown at an exciting rate. Originally, the directors or actors introduced their films to the Byrd Theatre audience via teleconference. Now either directors or starring actors

VCU French Film Festival shows April 1-3 at the Byrd Theatre. For ticket prices and movie times call (804) 827-FILM or visit www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu

introduce most of the films in person to the audience.

This year the VCU French Film Festival offers 13 feature length films and 13 shorts.

Two films starring actor Jacques Villeret are worth noting. Villeret, who showed films in the festival for four of the past five years, died January 28 this year.

Villeret stars this year in "Malabar Princess," the story of a boy's search for his mother in the Glaciers of Mont

Blanc when he comes to live with his grandfather for the school year. The film is based on the actual 1950 crash of The Malabar Princess, an Indian airplane.

The other film starring Villeret, "Vipere au poing," is notable not only for Villeret's involvement, but also because its director, Philippe de Broca passed away in November of last year. The film is based on a very famous childhood novel, "Viper in the Fist" by Herve Bazin.

The "tragicomedy" chronicles the war between a 10-year-old boy and his mother.

Many more films show next weekend — from love stories and thrillers to a feature-length animated film. All of the films are subtitled, so a knowledge of the French language is not necessary.

VCU and the French department encourage all of Richmond to attend and take part in this festival to celebrate French culture and language.

Mac and Kutcher pack weekend theaters with \$21 million 'Guess Who' debut

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Two guesses on who topped the weekend box office. The Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher comedy "Guess Who," an update to the 1967 classic "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," debuted at No. 1 with \$21 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Sandra Bullock's sequel, "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous," opened in second place with \$14.5 million for Friday to Sunday. That brought the movie's total to \$17.6 million since it opened Thursday to get a head start on Easter weekend.

The previous weekend's top flick, "The Ring 2," slipped to third with \$13.8 million, lifting its 10-day total to \$58 million.

It was a solid but unremarkable Easter weekend, generally a slow time at theaters because families are preoccupied with holiday gatherings. The top 12 movies took in \$90.1 million, off 7 percent from Easter weekend last year, when "The Passion of the Christ" was No. 1.

"Guess Who" stars Mac as a black father who learns his daughter's boyfriend, Kutcher, is white. It is a reversal of the scenario of "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," which starred Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn and Sidney Poitier in the story about a white woman engaged to a black man.

While the original was heavy on social commentary amid the civil-rights movement, "Guess Who" plays the interracial romance angle for slapstick laughs.

"'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' is the inspiration, but

this is very broad comedy that plays really well in kind of the buddy mode as well as the romantic comedy mode," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony, which released "Guess Who."

In "Miss Congeniality 2," Bullock returns to her role as a tomboy FBI agent who gets a fashion makeover. This time, she is teamed with a surly partner, Regina King, to track down a kidnapped beauty queen.

The sequel had a better opening weekend than the original, which debuted with just over \$10 million on Christmas weekend 2000, then hung on through word of mouth to become a \$100 million hit.

Woody Allen's comedy-drama hybrid "Melinda and Melinda" had a strong expansion from its debut at one New York City theater the previous weekend. The film, which stars Radha Mitchell in dual roles, widened to 95 theaters in 12 cities and took in \$790,000.

"The Ballad of Jack and Rose," starring Daniel Day-Lewis, debuted well in limited release, taking in \$60,461 in four theaters. Written and directed by Rebecca Miller, Day-Lewis' wife and the daughter of playwright Arthur Miller, the film centers on the relationship between a dying environmental idealist and his troubled teenage daughter.

The blood-soaked South Korean vengeance thriller "Oldboy," runner-up to "Fahrenheit 9/11" for the top prize at last spring's Cannes Film Festival, debuted solidly in limited release with \$75,000 in five theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

WHAT'S the BUZZ

The buzz is the rapper Nelly lost his sister Thursday after a two-year battle with leukemia. After his sister's relapse in 2003, Nelly launched a campaign to find a bone marrow donor match for her and other leukemia patients.

During promotion for his latest movie, "Guess Who," Ashton Kutcher commented that racism still exists in America and he has witnessed it first hand. The actor said many people perceived his friendship with hip-hop mogul P. Diddy as odd and suspicious, motivating him to do the movie.

"American Idol" judge Paula Abdul's latest hit didn't happen on the charts, but in the courtroom. She was sentenced to two years probation, fined \$300 and ordered to pay damages for hitting a car with her Mercedes and fleeing the scene.

Oprah will live a month in a Chicago public housing unit for a documentary on the problems facing inner-city housing. She will also have her security guards present.

Thomas Hayden Church of "Sideways" fame has reportedly signed on to play Venom, the villain in "Spiderman 3," scheduled for release in May 2007. Britney Spears is pregnant, according to US Weekly. And that's the buzz . . .

EDITORIALS & LETTERS

Opinion In Brief

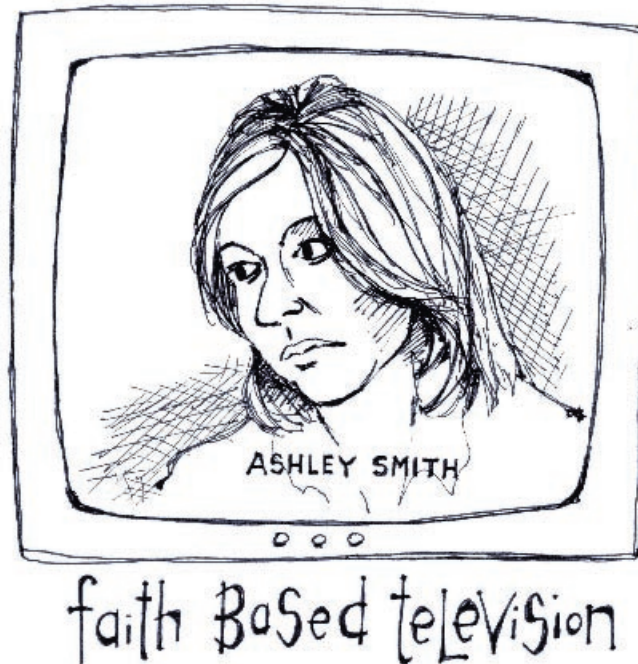
Connecting the campuses

An article in the Mar. 24 Commonwealth Times reported on the rerouting of Campus Connector shuttle due to the closure of Grace Street for downtown redevelopment. Some liked the new route, pointing out that its passage through Leigh Street by the Coliseum cuts the number of traffic lights, making the trip between the Monroe Park and MCV campuses that much shorter.

The downside? Some stops on Grace Street are no longer being serviced.

Our suggestion: the Campus Connector should live up to its name and do a better job of making a seamless connection between the campuses. That could mean a shorter trip such as the new route provides, or how about providing an express route with no stops at all?

Since VCU and MCV merged in 1968, the two campuses still remain relatively isolated from each other. If people could have an easier time getting one campus to the other, more people might make the trip. If nothing else, it would make it easier to grab a lunch at the Wendy's and McDonald's at MCV – the university's only decent fast food.



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Editorial Cartoon | By Phil McKenney

Your Turn *Letters to the Editor*



Why I came to VCU

If you ask a student why they came to VCU, there's a good chance they won't know what you're talking about. That's because most students don't go to VCU. But ask a VCU student why they're here, and expect to hear how they weren't accepted to any other colleges. Maybe it's because they didn't do much (voluntary) community service, or maybe it's because they began their sentences with "but" in high school English.

I came for the great educational experience VCU offers. I also came for the thrill of Richmond. This university endures plenty of abuse from its students and staff, but it has my support, my loyalty and my major. My only concern about VCU was the overcrowding, but I quickly saw that this was a solvable problem.

VCU is one of America's great universities, in one of America's great cities. Richmond has the ninth most murders per capita in the country. It may not be number one, but it's still top ten, crushing other college towns like Princeton, Berkeley and Amherst. Richmond's homicide rate has international standing, far ahead of Europe's foundering crime statistics. Even the great metropolis of London, which at one time could produce such prolific murderers as Jack the Ripper, can only muster 2.4 murders per 100,000. This is woefully inferior to Richmond's 35.8 per 100,000.

One can hail the academic accomplishments of European cities all they want, but Richmond will still be more dangerous. There are several advantages to this.

Virginia Commonwealth University is expanding rapidly, and classes are getting crowded. Regularly sought-out overrides are nuisances for professors and an obstruction to the educational process. A little thinning out of the student body would improve VCU's academic quality without any additional facilities or faculty, as well as give real hands-on experience to medical students at the university's MCV Campus.

"Richmond has the ninth most murders per capita in the country... crushing other college towns like Princeton, Berkeley and Amherst."

Barring other variables, with VCU enrolling nearly 30,000 students, we can expect only about 10.7 students will be murdered, or 10 murders and a severe maiming. This could open up an entire class, though only 15% of classes have less than 10 students. Federal funding through the Americans with Disabilities Act will ensure adequate facilities will be available in the new class for that one maimed student. Though these factors are not accounted for in the university's budget, I believe they can significantly alleviate problems of overcrowding and served as an incentive for me to come here.

Though VCU itself formed only 37 years ago, they already offer courses about the

university itself. VCU 101 and VCU 102 are part of the "college success program" which, contrary to popular belief, has nothing to do with the success of the college, but that of the program itself. I was fortunate enough to land a spot in the 8 a.m. VCU 102 class, where I and my classmates have an opportunity to learn skills we might have missed in high school, such as homework, note-taking and learning to write "my classmates and I" instead of "I and my classmates."

I am taking my VCU 102 class very seriously, and I intend to major in VCU-ology. I could make great contributions to the understanding of VCU as one of the world's best-trained VCU-ologists. Of course, the University of Richmond has a better VCU studies program, but I couldn't resist coming to learn at a place that has fascinated me since childhood.

Virginia Commonwealth University prepares students well for the rigors they must face in real life. Gunshots and police sirens merely blend in with an urban symphony after a semester in the Fan. The hassles of arbitration and redundancy are mere chores after mastering VCU's academic advising program. The scavenger hunt for where the lecture really is will prepare you for those days where "they just had to move the office." Located in the prosperous city of Richmond, VCU has been preparing Virginia's third and fourth best students for decades. That's why over 40% of freshmen decide to graduate from VCU.

I always knew that after attending VCU, I'd be ready for anything – that's why I came to VCU.

Sincerely,
John Hewitt

The Commonwealth Times

The independent student press of
Virginia Commonwealth University

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Executive Editor

OMAR YACOUBI

Editor of the Editorial Pages

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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.

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We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should be no longer than one single-spaced typed page, must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.

OP/ED

Anatomy of an industry

Pornography, often reviled by conservatives, has made positive social contributions

MIKE DICKINSON
Op/Ed Writer



The perception many have of the adult entertainment industry, popularly known as pornography, is that it is a dirty business fueled by sex and drugs that preys females who are young and naïve. Here in the religious-leaning South, these myths have infiltrated the minds of many who fail to know the truth.

I wanted to know the truth, so over winter break I escaped the sexually repressed South for liberal Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Adult Video News Convention and Awards show. The convention is a place where fans meet the stars, retailers exhibit their products and production companies sell their films to distributors. It is a once-a-year celebration of sin.

Getting to talk to some of these actresses, producers and directors, I quickly learned that every dirty myth I had ever been taught about pornography was false. It was not dirty, there

were few drugs and with industry revenues over 10 billion dollars last year, it was more of a business than I had ever imagined.

A direct part of this commercial success comes from two of the most recognized names in the adult industry, Larry Flynt's Hustler Magazine (and the one-finger salute it gives to conservative America) and Jenna Jameson for her widespread mainstream popularity.

Talking to representatives of each, I learned that porn actresses are not the powerless victimized women conservatives make them out to be.

Jameson's "Club Jenna" brand is a million-dollar empire full of Web sites, novelties, clothing, and lingerie. The beneficiary of that empire is Jameson herself, as she makes millions of dollars a year from it. This trend of self-ownership and profitability has filtered down, as many adult film companies are female owned and operated, which stands in total contrast the trends of traditional America, where males own the majority of businesses.

Besides the money women make from the industry, they are not unintelligent like so many conservative leaders would have us

think. One actress, 21-year-old Kimberly Kane, took the step so many young people don't and took action after seeing the movie Fahrenheit

"Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said he planned to continue the battle on pornography and obscenity . . . what should be obscene is that women cannot earn the money they do in pornography in regular jobs."

9/11 by starting an organization, "Porn Stars Against Bush."

"Bush and his people live under the rock of sexual frustration," Kane said. "What they don't realize is that porn is not shot in scary, dark warehouses. It is shot on porn sets in beautiful homes that are as clean and safe as a professional movie set."

She went on to say that "People also don't realize that in porn we are paid with a check like a normal business with taxes taken out."

While the government taxes pornography

as a legitimate business, it refuses to end the countless number of political attacks waged by conservative religious do-gooders. Before being confirmed by Congress in February, Alberto Gonzales said he planned to continue the battle on pornography and obscenity as our nation's Attorney General.

What should be obscene is that women cannot earn the money they do in pornography in regular jobs, as men on average continue to earn more than women. In the adult industry, this role is totally reversed. Male talent earns little or nothing while female talent makes around \$500 a scene. This money can add up quickly – over \$2,000 a week and over a \$100,000 a year – if they work at least four days a week just like any other professional.

Safety and cleanliness is also an issue. Early last year, the Bush Administration derided porn as being an unsafe industry when two performers tested positive for AIDS after filming in Brazil, where the local talent is not subject to the same stringent regulations American talent is.

What the administration failed to tell the people was that actors and actresses in the industry are likely to be cleaner and safer than the next person that hits on you in a bar.

"Each and every person that performs signs a legal document stating they are of legal age and currently tested for sexually transmitted diseases with the requirements of a PCR/DNA HIV/AIDS test," said 23-year-old Gen Padova, who has been in the business over two years.

The testing requirements are strict, as each performer must be tested once a week, and then before performing in a scene must share the printed and signed test results with the person they are working with. It is far from the "show up and have sex" atmosphere others would have you believe.

One of the lasting effects of porn is very positive, as it has been on the leading edge of social change for the last 20 years. Hustler Magazine was the first to show the then-controversial interracial sex scenes between black men and white women. For that Larry Flynt took a bullet from a white supremacist – not for his porn, but because he broke that social taboo.

These days we think nothing of it when we see a woman embracing another woman, whether it is on the television or at the grocery store. Porn helped change the negative stigma around this, and still today encourages an open society free of prejudices and discrimination.

"Porn helps you realize that all people, whether they are black, white or Hispanic, are all as nice as the other and all have feelings and sexual desires," said Padova. "I never had the opportunity to be with and appreciate another woman until I had the opportunity to work with one. I was able to do things I have desired to do for a long time."

After meeting with a lot of people, learning a lot of things, and seeing things I never thought I would see, one thing is certain. The dirty myths surrounding pornography we have all been taught are all false.

Sex, lies and Republicans

Bedroom habits should not be an issue when confirming judicial nominees

MIKE DICKINSON
Op/Ed Writer

As one of Virginia's most socially conservative legislators, Delegate Robert McDonnell (R-Va. Beach) has made a name for himself as a proponent of injecting his religious beliefs into the lives of everyone else. Now, though, as McDonnell prepares for a run at the state Attorney General's office, we must examine the realities of his fake public image and the double standard he represents.

A little over two years ago, McDonnell was at the center of a controversy involving oral sex. A woman, Verbena Askew, was seeking reappointment to her judgeship and had to appear before McDonnell's Courts of Justice Committee. Rumors swirled around Askew's sexual orientation, as many believed her to be a lesbian. McDonnell sought to make her sexual preference and bedroom habits an issue by saying if she engaged in oral sex with her lover, she had violated a state law banning "crimes against nature," and that by being a lawbreaker, she was not fit to be a judge.

Proving that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones, when the tables turned and reporters asked McDonnell if he had ever participated in giving or receiving oral sex he arrogantly replied, "Not that I can recall."

For this comment McDonnell is either a blatant liar who has no business being the state's top law enforcement official, or he is not skilled in the art of oral sex, in which case I'll send him a signed copy of Jenna Jameson's book, "How

to Make Love Like a Porn Star."

This may be a cheap shot, but it's no better than what McDonnell did when he made sex an issue in determining Ms. Askew's fitness for the bench. I believe people can do what they want with whom they want in their own lives, and certainly their own bedrooms. But when McDonnell makes an issue out of someone else's sexual habits, that's when I make an issue out of his sex habits.

What is good for one is good for the other,

"When Rep. McDonnell makes an issue out of someone else's sexual habits, that's when I make an issue out of his sex habits."

and just because he is a state delegate does not mean he can chastise others while holding himself exempt. Simply put, if McDonnell had taken the same progressive attitude toward sex that I do, then his oral sex skills would never be publicly questioned.

Maybe McDonnell thought that by gruffly replying "Not that I can recall" the oral sex issue would shrivel up and go away. Well, it's not.

Maybe acting gruff and tough when confronted with one's double standard is what the law school at Regent University taught McDonnell to do, as his lack of a real legal education comes into play here.

Unlike the majority of lawyers who receive a legal education based on statutory law (laws

passed by the legislative branch), constitutional law (laws in the constitution) and case law (laws developed by time over how judges rule on cases before them) – McDonnell attended Regent University.

Regent University is a Christian law school founded by Pat Robertson that describes itself as being "distinctive among law schools...because of the integration of Christian Principles into our curriculum. It is this balance of professional legal training and the affirmation of biblical principles that enables our graduates to provide excellent legal counsel to their clients."

Clearly McDonnell learned the law marinated in Christianity, which is not only a biased view but also an extremely dangerous one. Putting someone in charge of the law for the state of Virginia who has such a limited and biased view toward the law would be like electing a witch doctor to become surgeon general.

To right these wrongs, McDonnell needs to attach himself to something called responsibility and own up to what he has done. If he has indeed engaged in oral sex, it's no big deal except for the one he makes it out to be with his outmoded "sex is bad" attitude.

The behavior of McDonnell is deplorable. However, it serves a purpose and proves a point in that if we had more sex education classes, our young people would not grow up to be like him.

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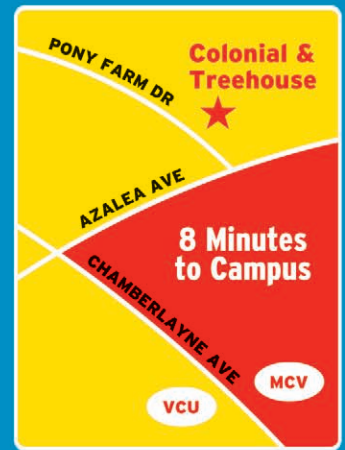
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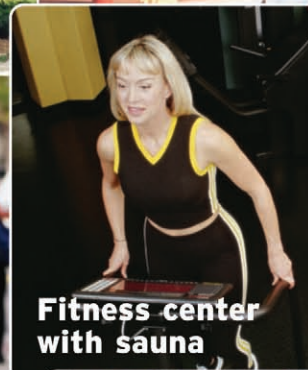
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