



# the ct

## News

SGA members sworn in · 5

## Sports

The 800th time's a charm · 7

## Spectrum ▶

Check out when  
summer's big flicks drop · 12

## Opinion

A VCU opus · 16



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

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

# Swept up in the game

—Page 3

free



# briefs

## This week in the news

### First recipient of Tyler Binsted scholarship named

Freshman Conor Backman is the first recipient of the Tyler Binsted Endowed Scholarship in Sculpture and Extended Media.

The scholarship memorializes Tyler Binsted, a VCU sculpture major who was killed in March at Byrd Park.

The VCU School of the Arts designated the scholarship for the top student of the Art Foundation Program accepted into the sculpture department.

"This scholarship will honor the life and work of Tyler Binsted, who proved to be an outstanding student and artist during his time at VCU," said Richard E. Toscan, dean of the School of the Arts. "We will use this scholarship to reward exceptional students like Conor who have demonstrated the kind of talent and dedication we will always remember in Tyler."

Backman will receive \$1,000 from the scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year.

*Information provided by University News Services*

### Virginia unemployment rate on the rise

Virginia's March unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, up a percentage point from the same time a year ago, largely because of automotive-industry strikes and layoffs, the Easter holiday and an ongoing

residential-construction slowdown.

The Virginia Economic Commission's chief economist, William Mezger, says the general slowdown in economic growth also contributed to the increased jobless rate, up from 2.9 percent.

Also, the Easter holiday fell in March, versus April last year. There are always some layoffs before and after Easter.

March's unemployment was up 0.1 percentage point from February's rate.

The national unemployment rate in March was 5.2 percent.

Among Virginia's 134 counties and cities, Arlington County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.3 percent; Martinsville had the highest, at 11.7 percent.

*Brief by The Associated Press*

### Former UMW president arrested on drunken-driving charges

Ousted University of Mary Washington President William Frawley faces new drunken-driving charges after police discovered him asleep in his car, which was still running, and found open bottles of alcohol inside.

Police from Montgomery County, Md., charged Frawley with driving under the influence of alcohol.

He failed a field-sobriety test and had registered a .18 blood-alcohol level on a breath test, according

to a police report.

The incident occurred April 10, exactly a year after he was arrested for drunken driving in Fairfax County after flipping his university-owned car.

The following day, he was arrested in Fredericksburg and charged with a DUI after a motorist called to report Frawley was swerving into oncoming traffic and driving with his right front tire missing.

Frawley was fired April 30. Judy G. Hample, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in Harrisburg, will become the school's eighth president July 1.

*Brief by The Associated Press*

### Leonard Pitts, Chris Matthews will speak at ODU

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. and MSNBC host Chris Matthews will be Old Dominion University's commencement speakers.

Pitts is a nationally syndicated columnist for The Miami Herald. He was awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

Matthews is the host of "Hardball with Chris Matthews" and the Sunday talk show "The Chris Matthews Show."

Old Dominion's graduation ceremonies will be held May 10.

*Brief by The Associated Press and information provided by The Virginian-Pilot*

cover photo illustration by Rachel Larue

**the  
ct**

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

REBECCA LANDAU, Executive Editor  
editor@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

MELISSA SHOWALTER, Managing Editor  
managing@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-6056

CATHERINE MACDONALD, News Co-Editor  
TOM NASH, News Co-Editor  
news@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-6056

ROBERTO CURTIS, Spectrum Editor  
KEMI OWENS-HART, Associate Spectrum Editor  
spectrum@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-5317

STACEY HAMMAN, Copy Desk Chief/Staff Writer  
828-7660

RICH GRISET, Opinion Editor  
opinion@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-7660

JONATHAN HOWARD, Sports Editor  
MATT DOYON, Associate Sports Editor  
sports@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-2420

RACHEL LARUE, Photography Editor  
JASON GAREAU, Associate Photography Editor  
photo@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

MARY FRANKE, Production Manager  
production@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-7660

KAREN SAGUN, Graphic Designer  
graphics@commonwealthtimes.com, 828-4770

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

OLIVIA LLOYD, Business Manager  
ollloyd@vcu.edu, 827-1642

GERGANA BOBEVA, Accounts Manager  
ctaccounts@gmail.com, 828-2544

DAVID CANAVAN, Advertising Director  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-5019

ADAM GARDNER, Advertising Representative  
ctadvertising@gmail.com, 828-6629

JEFF GREEN, Webmaster  
webmaster@commonwealthtimes.com

ANDREW BAINS, Circulation Director

*The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you think we have made an error, please call Executive Editor Rebecca Landau at 828-4770 or e-mail her at editor@commonwealthtimes.com. Corrections will appear on the Opinion page.*

# news

Karen Sagun illustration



## Quidditch comes to VCU

CATHERINE MACDONALD  
News Co-Editor

The brooms can't fly and the snitch is a human player, but VCU is following in the footsteps of more than 130 other schools across the U.S., Canada and Argentina by forming a campus muggle quidditch team.

After weeks of grueling practice, the team will show off its skills at a game May 4.

Quidditch was invented in J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series, and the muggle version combines elements of rugby, dodgeball and pure imagination to create a sometimes dangerous sport.

"It's a very rough sport," said Heather Wright, the VCU team's captain, coordinator and chaser. "We've had a lot of injuries."

Wright, an English major, has been hit in the face with a bludger and nearly has broken her foot while practicing.

Amber Cummings, one of the team's keepers, said she almost had her teeth knocked out by a teammate's broom during practice.

"The brooms have a tendency to hit people in the face," Cummings said.

Despite the strenuous nature of the game, the "nerd" stigma surrounding the sport still exists. Several

members of the team have experienced a mocking response from other students.

"We'll be carrying around our brooms, and one person said, 'That's retarded,' to our faces," said English major Brooke Bernard, the team's co-captain and a beater. "People get weird about it. We're having enough fun that it doesn't bother us."

Britni Puccio, a mass communications major and a keeper, thinks because it's from the "Harry Potter" series, the sport is taken less seriously.

"I think a lot of 'Harry Potter' fans get the label of 'nerd' or 'geek.' People don't really consider quidditch to be a sport when really, it requires a lot more athletic ability than bowling—but yet that's national athletics," Puccio said.

Being a fan of the series is not expected of those who want to join the team.

"We have people who have not read the books or seen the movies," Bernard said. "It's a sport in itself."

Hassan Ahmed, the team's seeker and a chemistry major with a concentration in pre-med, said anyone can learn to play quidditch.

"The sport is simple to learn," Ahmed said. "It's easy to get used to; anyone can do it. You do look a little silly playing, but that's the fun of it."

The team's game May 4 will be held in Monroe Park at 12 p.m.

*"We'll be carrying around our brooms, and one person said, 'That's retarded,' to our faces. People get weird about it. We're having enough fun that it doesn't bother us."*

—Brooke Bernard, co-captain, beater

### Terminology

**Muggle:** a non-magical person in the world of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series

**Bludger:** a ball thrown at other players by the opposing team to prevent them from scoring or otherwise playing successfully

**Beaters:** two players who "beat" the bludgers at the opposing team's players and away from their team's players

**Brooms:** in Rowling's "Harry Potter" series, characters fly around on brooms as a mode of transportation and to play quidditch. In muggle quidditch, players must hold the brooms between their legs as they play

**Quaffle:** a ball thrown through the opposing team's goal posts to score

**Chasers:** two players who "chase" the quaffle, trying to score

**Goal posts:** in muggle quidditch, these consist of three hula-hoops attached to wooden posts

**Keeper:** player who guards the goal posts

**Snitch or Snitch runner:** in Rowling's books and movies, the snitch is a walnut-sized ball that flies around and is very hard to see. In muggle quidditch, the snitch runner is a person with a tennis ball encased in a sock hanging out of their shorts. The goal for the seeker is to snatch the tennis ball. In both versions of the game, catching the snitch ends the match.

**Seeker:** player who tries to catch the snitch

### How to play

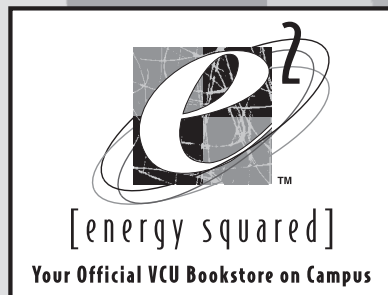
Muggle quidditch is played by a team of seven players who run around the field with (sometimes-decorated) brooms clasped between their legs. The goal is to score with the quaffle, while trying to catch the elusive snitch runner, and to do all this without being hit by bludger.

**NOW OFFERING**  
Cash for Books  
Prepaid MasterCard®!

# CASH FOR BOOKS

How much can I get? Your textbook is worth more if the same edition will be used for a class on this campus or at thousands of other schools across North America. But it doesn't pay to wait – textbooks are rarely worth more as they age.

Bring your textbooks back to us, no matter where you bought them. Get cash back now.



1111 W. Broad Street  
804-828-1678  
[www.vcu.bkstr.com](http://www.vcu.bkstr.com)



146

**STUDENT RELAXES FOR ELEVEN STRAIGHT MINUTES!**

**NAMEintheNEWS.COM**





Newly elected Monroe Park Campus Student Government Association senators being sworn into office.

Tom Nash photo

## SGA members sworn in Monday

ANNAYATES  
Contributing Writer

After a drawn-out election process for the Monroe Park Campus Student Government Association, most of next year's new legislative and executive branch members were sworn in Monday.

The 2007-2008 student body president, Jessica Lee, presented the State of the Student Body Address at the meeting.

Lee expressed pride in many of the accomplishments of the SGA. She cited the body's work with the administration to begin to build a more environmentally conscious campus, and its work to institute less-expensive meal plans and less-expensive, more-convenient academic services.

Lee said improvements still need to be made, and many of the SGA's accomplishments have treated the symptoms of the problems – not the causes – facing the student body.

"VCU is too young for its student body," Lee said. "Our population growth hasn't been matched by the resources we need."

Lee asked the new SGA line-up to be a more-effective voice for the student body by opening itself up and communicating what the SGA is doing more effectively with both the administration

and the students.

"Please, keep students first," Lee said. "That's why we're here. People have put you in this office to use your position to represent them ... Future generations are going to look back at this as a turning point."

Controversy trailed the election, which ended March 27. An error in the online ballot resulted in some write-in votes not being counted. Because many of the candidates were running write-in campaigns, there were complaints made about the error.

To reach a compromise, the first 17 seats were awarded to those whose names had appeared on the ballot and who had received the most votes.

Then, nearly a month after the election, a run-off election was held that determined the winners of the remaining eight senate seats and gave the write-in candidates a chance for their supporters' votes to be counted.

Another controversy arose when Joshua Ronk, one of the candidates on the losing executive ticket, filed a grievance against Jibril Muhammad, the new SGA president.

Ronk said people representing the Muhammad campaign had participated in tactics that constituted voter intimidation.

The judicial branch ruled in favor

of Muhammad, because no eyewitnesses could place any member of the Muhammad ticket at the scene of the incidents.

Adam Sowder, the newly elected SGA vice president, was not present to be sworn in at the meeting, because he was sick. Solle Taghavi, the newly elected executive director for university relations, was sworn in shortly after Muhammad.

Soon after, Muhammad delivered a speech that focused on the change he said could be achieved through teamwork.

"We have every reason to feel strong and optimistic," Muhammad said. "We begin with the largest mandate for positive change in history. Those who see that mandate as a product of intimidation underestimate their fellow students."

Muhammad said he wants next year to be marked by communication and cooperation among SGA members.

"When we differ, come to me, or I will come to you so we can discuss our differences and find better answers and become better friends," Muhammad said.

"For me, VCU is more than a place. VCU is a humanitarian idea. As we develop and shape ourselves, we can shape Virginia and we can change the world."

Advertisement



**The Common Cup**

**Happy 2008  
from The  
Common Cup!**

**Pizza & Drink  
Special**

Any pizza and 20oz. soda  
combination is  
**\$6 plus tax with this coupon.**

**7" Personal Pie  
Crust & Sauce are Homemade!**

**We look forward to serving you!  
Thanks for your business!**

**1211 W MAIN ST  
RICHMOND, VA 23220  
PHONE: 278 - 9333**

[WWW.THECOMMONCUP.COM](http://WWW.THECOMMONCUP.COM)



# The CT soon will be hiring!

Applications for editorial positions on next year's staff can be obtained at the Student Media Center at 817 W. Broad St. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Stacey Hamman at [editor@commonwealthtimes.com](mailto:editor@commonwealthtimes.com).



# sports



Kostin becomes the fifth Division I coach to reach 800 wins.

VCU Athletics file photo

## Kostin: 800 wins and counting

**JEROME FOSTER**  
*Contributing Writer*

VCU men's tennis coach Paul Kostin claimed his 800th victory earlier this month, making him the fifth head coach in Division I to reach that milestone.

The men's tennis team defeated the University of Denver 4-2 on April 12, rounding out Kostin's victory count.

While the wins are a great achievement, the coach isn't making a big deal of it.

"I don't feel any different now that I have 800 wins," Kostin said. "I just try to take it one match at a time and go from there."

Kostin said he never sought to win so many games and that 800 wins wasn't first on his list of things to accomplish.

"I honestly did not think that I would win 800 games. The goal is to try to win championships," he said.

Under Kostin, the men's and women's tennis teams never have had a losing season. Kostin has led the men's teams to 16 straight NCAA tournament berths. He has won 14 conference championships with the men's team and two with the women's team.

Kostin led the men's and women's teams back to the NCAA tournament this season. The men's team

received an automatic berth for winning the Colonial Athletic Association tournament while the women's team received an at-large bid.

Kostin, who has been coaching tennis for 27 years – the last 18 being at VCU – said the goal at the beginning of the season is to have a winning season, to win the conference championship and to win the national title. However, Kostin said it is his players, not he, who is most responsible for the wins.

"I have been blessed with great players. It doesn't matter how good a coach is, he can't win without the right type of players," he said.

Kostin said his players and the love of the game keep him going.

"I have been doing this a long time. I love to be around young adults, and I love what I do," he said. "For me, the most rewarding thing about coaching is seeing the players grow up and be successful in life outside of tennis."

Kostin also said he likes to be able to influence his players, and he enjoys the relationships he has with the players after tennis.

"I want to make sure the players reach their potential, on and off the court," he said.

### THIS WEEK

#### BASEBALL

May 2-4, vs. Towson, The Diamond

#### MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Sun., May 4, @ George Mason Invitational, Fairfax, all day

#### WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Sat., May 3, @ George Mason Invitational, Fairfax, all day

VCU sporting events are free to students with a valid student ID. for more info, visit [vcuathletics.com](http://vcuathletics.com) or call 828-3440.

# Good guys will finish down in this year's NBA coaching carousel

Round and round the carousel goes in the NBA, so fast it sometimes feels like a blur. With only 30 horses on the carousel, coaches are lucky to have a saddle. Along the ride, though, each horse makes its ups and downs. This offseason is likely to conclude with the wrong coaches riding high.

We learned, this past week, that Isiah Thomas will not return to the sidelines for the New York Knicks next season. That decision came about two years late, except in the minds of James Dolan and other higher-ups at Madison Square Garden.

What's puzzling about Thomas' departure is the timing. The Knicks would've suffered severe pains if they dared to crane their necks at the Eastern Conference standings early in the season, and Thomas wasn't fired then. That led you to think nothing could get him fired—even a sexual-harassment scandal. Now, suddenly, 43 games out of first place isn't good enough. What was the problem before? Didn't want to disrupt that "chemistry" in New York? Thomas shouldn't have trouble using his charisma and success as a player to land a job elsewhere.

Larry Brown, Thomas' predecessor

with the Knicks and the man who set the turbulence in motion, just filled the coaching vacancy of the Charlotte Bobcats. Brown is like the modern-day traveling salesman. He goes from town to town pocketing undeserved cash under the pretense that he'll deliver a reliable product. However, he ultimately leaves the customer feeling conned.

The Bobcats are Brown's ninth victim. He has accomplished plenty in his coaching career but is now more of a team killer than curer. He alienates superstars and turns them against the team—most notably, Allen Iverson in Philadelphia. This story is bound to end with the Bobcats buying out Brown from his contract with the promise that he won't destroy any more of their team.

How does Brown plan to unite with Michael Jordan — someone whose expansive talents don't reach front-office management — to turn around a team in its infancy with no winning tradition? (And no winning season, for that matter.)

Well, coaches you don't want coaching your team usually come in threes. Pat Riley completes the trifecta. Riley, another coach with a winning legacy, cannot bear

to rebuild a team or to be responsible for losing. Riley hired Stan Van Gundy to bring the Miami Heat to prominence, then forced him out so he himself could claim the championship as coach. Now that the Heat is the worst team in the NBA, Riley bails back to the front office. It's likely the next coach either will be fired for losing too much or will be forced out for winning too much so Riley can take over.

Then there are guys, such as Avery Johnson with the Dallas Mavericks, at the other end of the spectrum. Johnson was the fastest ever to reach 100 wins as an NBA coach. He had the Mavericks two wins away from an NBA championship just two years ago. Last season, they were the Western Conference's top seed and have been among the class of the West throughout Johnson's tenure.

Now, despite his team winning 51 regular-season games, Johnson got the boot because of another first-round playoff exit. A word to the wise in Dallas: The West, in case you haven't realized, is ultracompetitive—not everyone can dominate. Johnson is the kind of coach with the tools to win, and the team shouldn't want to see him go.



## ON MATT'S MIND

### Sports Briefs

#### BASEBALL

Both of VCU's midweek games were cancelled because of rain. The Rams were scheduled to play at home versus VMI Tuesday and versus Norfolk State Wednesday. The Rams are back in action this weekend in a home series against Towson.

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Rams were recognized as one of the most-improved teams in Division I by the NCAA earlier this week. VCU finished the season with a school record, 26 wins with only

eight losses, after finishing last year 17-13. The Rams were one of only 25 teams to improve their record by seven or more games.

#### TENNIS

Both the men's and women's teams will head to the NCAA Tournament as announced Tuesday. The men earned an automatic bid after winning the CAA tournament and will face Penn State in Charlottesville May 10. The women earned an at-large bid after finishing the season 18-5 and will face South Carolina in Athens, Ga.

## Capital Garage Apts.

Large 1 Bed 1 Bath apartments starting at \$850. Large 2 Bed 2 Bath apartments starting at \$1700. Basic Cable Internet and utilities included. Two blocks from VCU School of the Arts. Call today to reserve your new home!! EHO

804-649-0202

Advertisement

**KAPLAN** TEST PREP AND ADMISSIONS

## MCAT classes starting soon!

**Upcoming MCAT Classes in Richmond**

**T/Th/Su nights starts 5/11**

**M/W nights starts 5/17**

**T/W/Th mornings starts 6/10**

Call or visit us online today to enroll!

**1-800-KAP-TEST | kaptest.com/mcat**

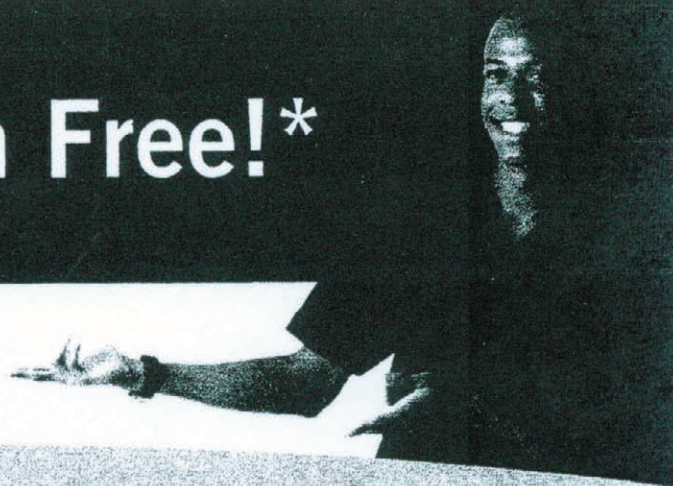
**Higher MCAT score  
guaranteed or  
your money back.\*\***

1MCA0056 \*MCAT is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges. \*\*Conditions and restrictions apply. For complete guarantee eligibility requirements, visit kaptest.com/hg. The Higher Score Guarantee applies only to Kaplan courses taken and completed within the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and France.



# Get Your First Month Free!\*

## Extra Space Storage® of Richmond



### Visit the most convenient storage facility in the area.

Come into Extra Space Storage® and experience the most exceptional storage experience available. Extra Space Storage offers extra secure facilities, extra professional staff and extra convenient locations. Notice the difference a clean, well-lit facility can make. Plus, get your first month FREE!\* You deserve Extra Space.

## Extra Space Storage of Richmond

5202 West Broad St  
Richmond VA 23230  
(804) 285-2587

6100 West Broad St  
Richmond VA 23230  
(804) 288-4501

3600 West End Drive  
Richmond VA 23294  
(804) 527-0777

Here's what's included with the most exceptional storage

Experience available:

- Climate controlled units
- State-of-the-art security
- Online and auto payment plans available
- Professional on-site management



## FIRST MONTH FREE!

Come into Extra Space Storage to experience our hassle-free, secure, self-storage facilities - yours to rent FREE for your first month.

Hurry, offer expires July 31, 2008!

Reserve online at  
[www.extraspace.com](http://www.extraspace.com)



\*Offer is based on unit availability on new rentals by new customers only. This offer is only valid with presentation of this coupon upon rental. Offer excludes applicable administration and insurance fees. Not valid with any discount offers. Offer has no cash value. Features vary by location. Void where prohibited. See manager for details. ©2008 Extra Space Storage LLC. Marketing Code: FLYER Offer expires July 31, 2008.



Make Your Mark

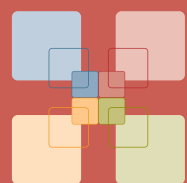


Minimize your environmental impact with these tips.

- \* Use water sparingly.
- \* Turn off water while brushing your teeth.
- \* Walk, ride a bike, or take public transportation.
- \* Choose products that are not overpacked.
- \* Bring your own bag when shopping.
- \* Turn off unneeded lights.

green thread

Virginia Commonwealth University



It isn't too late to get the grade you want.

Check out the FREE learning support services offered by the Campus Learning Center:

- Tutoring
- Supplemental Instruction
- Foreign Language Conversation Groups

VCU University College

an equal opportunity/affirmative action university

(804) 827-8108

[www.vcu.edu/uc/clc](http://www.vcu.edu/uc/clc)



# Pulling all nighters and eating mac and cheese is about to pay off.

If you're graduating from college in the next 6 months, or graduated less than 24 months ago, VW will offer you up to \$800 towards your first month's payment\* and other great benefits that make getting behind the wheel of a VW a smart move. But you already knew that, Mr. College graduate. Check out [vw.com](http://vw.com) for details.

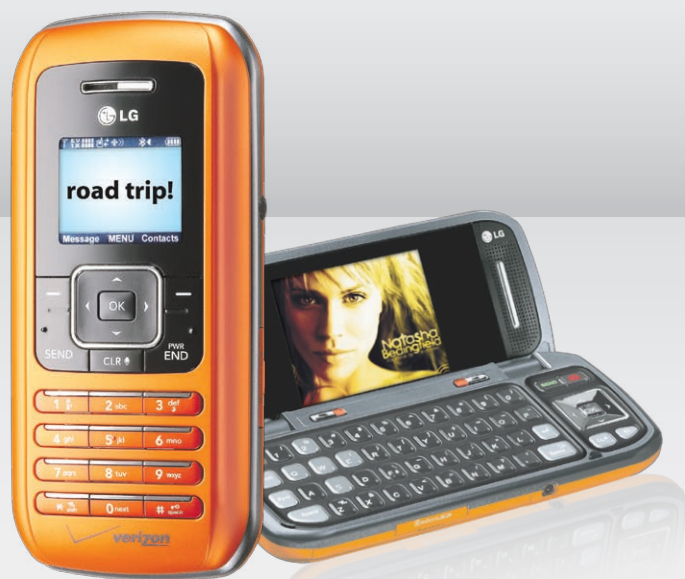


\*Subject to credit approval. No previous derogatory credit. In a lease agreement there may be additional charges based on excess mileage, wear and damages. Program period good through December 31, 2008, but subject to change. Graduate of two-year or four-year, accredited college. Information is subject to change without notice. See your local VW dealer for details. ©2008 Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.





# Be the enV of your friends.



Get the enV and see what it can do!

**enV™** by LG  
**\$79.99** after rebate  
LG VX9900: \$129.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate. With new 2-yr. activation.

**connect in more ways:**  
txt, pix, video, email & IM  
**know what's going on:**  
download new music & video on the go, get the game score and keep an eye on social networking sites

## Win a hybrid!

Sign up for service at a participating Verizon Wireless Communications Store and ask how you could win a brand new hybrid car! Your friends — and the planet — will love you!



Switch to America's Most Reliable Wireless Network®

For sweepstakes details go to [vzwcarr.com](http://vzwcarr.com).

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES Open Sundays. See store for Return/Exchange Policy.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Alcatel-Lucent

#### COLONIAL HEIGHTS

798 Southpark Blvd.  
In Park South  
Shopping Center  
Across from Sam's Club  
804-520-4900

#### MECHANICSVILLE

7264 Mechanicsville Tpke.  
804-559-8544

#### MIDLOTHIAN

Hull Street  
Cloverhill Retail Shoppes  
13904 Hull St.  
804-639-7012

#### RICHMOND

Broad St.  
Across from the Stein Mart  
Shopping Center  
7720 W. Broad St.  
804-755-6760

Pocono Crossing  
10454 Midlothian Tpke.  
804-272-5500

#### NOW OPEN!

Short Pump Station  
11301 W. Broad St.  
804-360-1028

Short Pump  
11591 W. Broad St.  
Across from  
Short Pump Towne Center  
804-360-8930

Virginia Center Commons  
Next to The  
Children's Place  
804-266-8384

#### WILLIAMSBURG

Windsor Meade  
Market Place  
(In front of PetSmart  
and Office Depot)  
4950-11A Monticello Ave.  
757-221-0955

**Sweepstakes: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** Visit a Verizon Wireless Communications Store (BJ's and Circuit City not included) and activate a new line of service on a calling plan \$39.99 monthly access or higher w/ 2-yr. Agmt, then register online by May 31st to enter. Enter for free by completing an entry form at the store. New line of service must be active for at least 30 days to remain eligible. For official rules and participating locations go to [vzwcarr.com](http://vzwcarr.com). Sweepstakes begins on 4/14/08 and ends on 5/31/08. Must be 18 yrs. of age with valid driver's license and legal U.S. resident. Void where prohibited. Limit one entry per person.

**Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan® lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).**

**IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION:** Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line & other charges & \$1.99/MB (incl. Mobile Web ads). Offers and coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. V CAST Music: per song charges req'd; airtime may apply for music downloads. Rebates take up to 6 weeks. Limited-time offers. While supplies last. Network details and coverage maps at [verizonwireless.com](http://verizonwireless.com). © 2008 Verizon Wireless.

54636

# spectrum

## Summer movie guide

ROBERTO CURTIS  
*Spectrum Editor*

With flicks hitting the silver screen every Friday from now until the start of the fall semester – except for the week of Independence Day, when movies will hit the screen July 2 – there almost always is going to be a good excuse to run to the theater and drop \$10. If titles such as “Hellboy II: The Golden Army” and “Sex and the City: the Movie” make you a little queasy, there’s always the free and invigorating bike ride to Belle Isle.

May 2

### **Iron Man**

Directed by Jon Favreau (“Elf,” “Zathura: A Space Adventure”);  
Starring Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard, Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeff Bridges

May 9

### **Speed Racer**

Directed by Larry and Andy Wachowski (“The Matrix Trilogy”);  
Starring Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci, John Goodman, Susan Sarandon and Matthew Fox

May 16

### **The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**

Directed by Andrew Adamson (“Shrek”); Starring Georgie Henley, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Ben Barnes, Warwick Davis

May 22

### **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**

Directed by Steven Spielberg (“Jurassic Park,” “Saving Private Ryan”);  
Starring Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf, Cate Blanchett, Karen Allen, Ray Winstone and Jim Broadbent

May 30

### **Sex and the City: The Movie**

Director by Michael Patrick King;  
Starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon and Jennifer Hudson

June 6

### **Kung Fu Panda**

Directed by Mark Osborne and John Stevenson;  
Starring Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan, Lucy Liu and Ian McShane

### **You Don’t Mess with the Zohan**

Directed by Dennis Dugan (“Saving Silverman,” “The Benchwarmers,” “I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry”);  
Starring Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider, Alex Luria and Emmanuelle Chriqui

June 13

### **The Happening**

Directed by M. Night Shyamalan (“The Sixth Sense,” “Signs,” “The Village”);  
Starring Mark Wahlberg, Zooey Deschanel, John Leguizamo and Spencer Breslin

### **The Incredible Hulk**

Directed by Louis Leterrier (“The Transporter,” “Unleashed”);  
Starring Edward Norton, Liv Tyler, Tim Roth, William Hurt and Tim Blake Nelson

June 20

### **Get Smart**

Directed by Peter Segal (“Naked Gun 33 1/3,” “Anger Management,” “50 First Dates”);  
Starring Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway, Dwayne Johnson, Terence Stamp and Alan Arkin

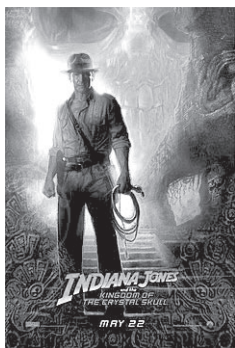
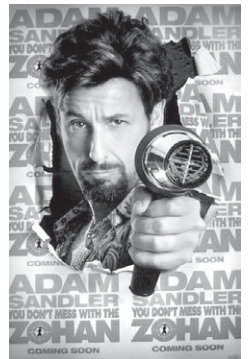
June 27

### **Wall-E**

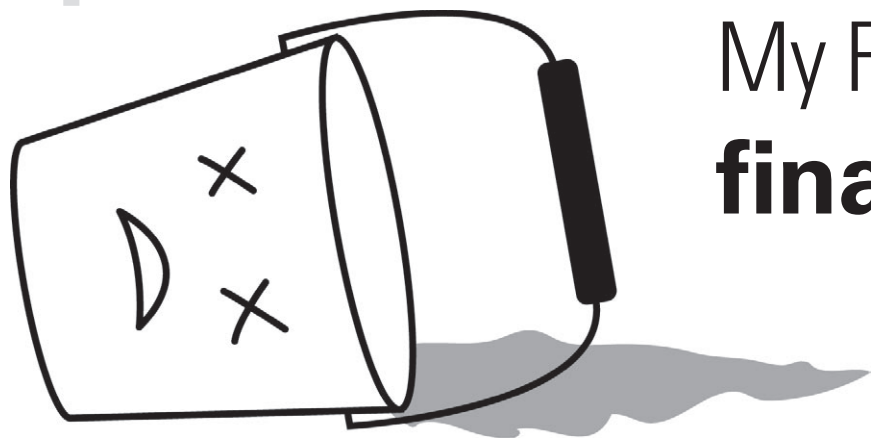
Directed by Andrew Stanton (“A Bug’s Life,” “Finding Nemo”);  
Starring Fred Willard, Jeff Garlin and Ben Burtt

### **Wanted**

Directed by Timur Bekmambetov (“Night Watch,” “Day Watch”);  
Starring James McAvoy, Morgan Freeman, Angelina Jolie and Common







# My Richmond bucket list: final installation

**KEMI OWENS-HART**  
*Associate Spectrum Editor*

The Monroe Park Campus has begun to show all the tell-tale signs of the impending finals week.

Conversations heard in passing are less frequently about the raging party from the past weekend and more frequently about final projects and curved grades.

Students have made the library their second home. On any late-night library stroll, one can find that person who has finally succumbed to the losing battle he was fighting with his circadian rhythm — the table obscured with piles of textbooks, the poor young scholar sleeping soundly in the glare of his laptop.

It is during this time that recreational

activities are farthest from the mind. It is important, however, to remember that “this too shall pass.” Those coming sunny days can be spent outside instead of under fluorescent lights hunched over a desk bubbling in hundreds of tiny circles with a No. 2 pencil.

For those who will be strolling across the stage with a degree in their hands this May, congratulations! For those who still will call Richmond home for a little while longer, take advantage of what this city has to offer, those four ... or five years will have come and gone before you know it.

#10 See some art in the park

The Carillion Civic Association hosts

“Arts in the Park,” an adjudicated show that takes place every May, in Byrd Park. This free event, which is in its 37th year, showcases the talent of more than 450 artists from all over the country.

With a wide variety of media on display — from glass to fiber to jewelry to woodwork — there is a little of something for every artistic taste. My personal advice: Be sure to check out the stained-glass pieces of Riverside Glass — with their dazzling colors and friendly artists, you won't be disappointed.

The event will take place this weekend: May 3 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free shuttles are available at the University of Richmond parking lot.

#11 Go for a walk

Sunny days are meant to be spent outdoors, and with the James River basically at your fingertips, you have the perfect location to enjoy the scenery

and to get a little exercise. Beginning at 14th and Dock Streets, a 1.25-mile walk traverses the banks of Haxall Canal and the James River and Kanawha Canal. Totally free and open every day of the year, this is the perfect place to take the dog, that special someone or a group of close friends, or to just enjoy a riverside sunset on your own.

Just in case you missed them ... (in no order, at all)

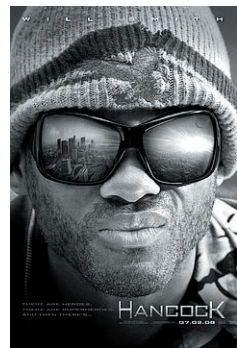
- #1. See a movie at the Byrd Theatre
- #2. Go to a house show
- #3. Check out the music department
- #4. Get on stage
- #5. Go to the river
- #6. Check out some museums
- #7: Lace up your running (or walking) shoes for a good cause
- #8: Meet some famous resident lectures, musicians, etc.
- #9: Go to a festival

## More summer movie guide

July 2

### Hancock

Directed by Peter Berg (“The Rundown,” “Friday Night Lights,” “The Kingdom”); Starring Will Smith, Charlize Theron and Jason Bateman



July 11

### Hellboy II: The Golden Army

Directed by Guillermo del Toro (“Blade II,” “Hellboy,” “Pan’s Labyrinth”); Starring Ron Perlman, Selma Blair, Doug Jones and Luke Goss

July 18

### The Dark Knight

Directed by Christopher Nolan (“Memento,” “Batman Begins,” “The Prestige”); Starring Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, Gary Oldman, Aaron Eckhart and Maggie Gyllenhaal



July 25

### Step Brothers

Directed by Adam McKay (“Anchorman,” “Talladega Nights”); Starring Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly, Richard Jenkins and Mary Steenburgen

July 25

### The X-Files: I Want to Believe

Directed by Chris Carter (“The X Files”); Starring David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson, Amanda Peet, Xzibit and Billy Connolly

August 1

### The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Directed by Rob Cohen (“The Fast and the Furious,” “xXx,” “Stealth”); Starring Brendan Fraser, Maria Bello, Jet Li, Michelle Yeoh and Luke Ford

August 8

### Pineapple Express

Directed by David Gordon Green (“George Washington,” “All the Real Girls,” “Snow Angels”); Starring Seth Rogen, James Franco and Amber Heard



August 15

### Tropic Thunder

Directed by Ben Stiller (“Zoolander”); Starring Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr. and Nick Nolte



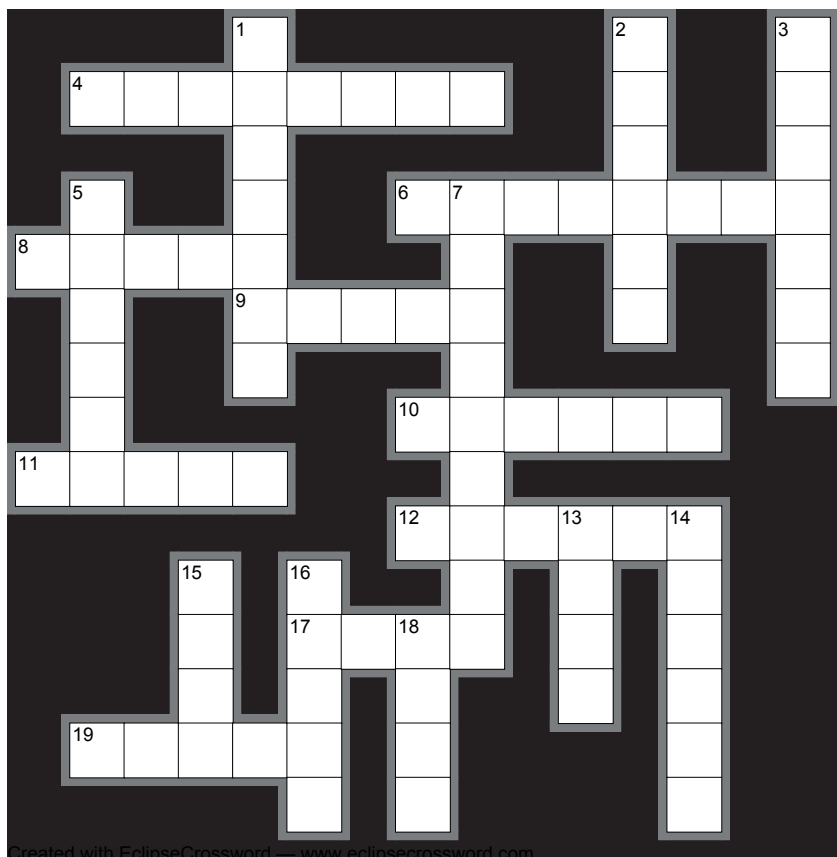
# The CT wishes you many wonderful adventures this summer



Look for the next edition of the CT in June!



## Toys and games



Created with EclipseCrossword — [www.eclipsecrossword.com](http://www.eclipsecrossword.com)

### Across

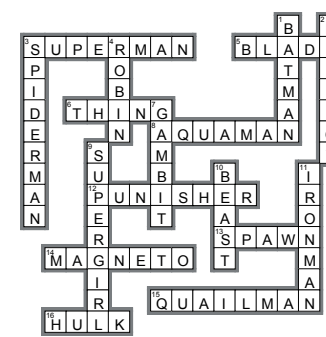
4. Create words with lettered tiles.
6. "Do not pass go. Do not collect two hundred dollars."
8. Pile on rectangular blocks until the pile falls over.
9. Military action figure.
10. Ken's counterpart.
11. Interlocking colorful, plastic blocks.
12. "Hungry, Hungry \_\_\_\_\_."
17. "Easy-Bake \_\_\_\_\_."
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Dolls come with crazy hair and a jeweled navel.

### Down

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Patch Dolls.
2. Teddy \_\_\_\_\_ came equipped with a built-in tape deck in his back. He

- told stories of his adventures as the tape played.
3. Colorful molding clay.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ babies.
7. Includes the Funny Bone, Wish Bone and Spare Ribs.
13. "My Little \_\_\_\_\_."
14. Rockem \_\_\_\_\_ Robots.
15. String with weighted disks.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Pocket.
18. Tickle Me \_\_\_\_\_.

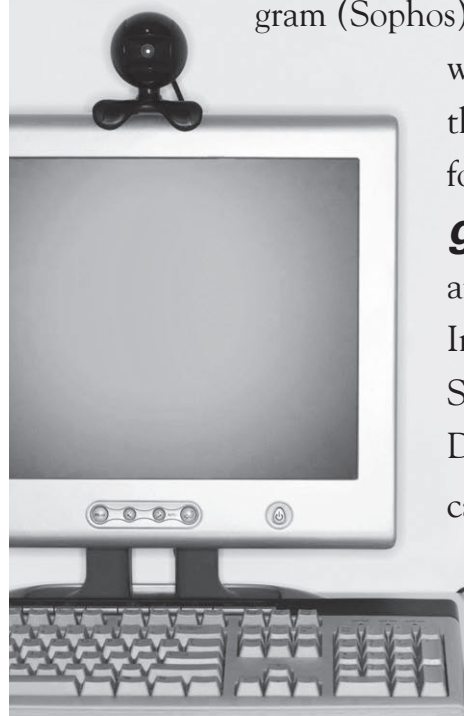
### Answers from April 28



Created with EclipseCrossword — [www.eclipsecrossword.com](http://www.eclipsecrossword.com)

## Your Last Homework Assignment May Be Your Easiest One Yet!

Before you go home for the summer, take a few minutes and see if you need to upgrade your copy of VCU's antivirus program (Sophos) on your computer. Upgrading will keep your computer safe throughout the summer and ready for next fall. Simply go to **[go.vcu.edu/sophos](http://go.vcu.edu/sophos)** and see if you need to upgrade. Instructions are there to help you. Still need help? Visit the Help Desk at [www.ts.vcu.edu/helpdesk](http://www.ts.vcu.edu/helpdesk) or call (804) 828-2227.



**Be Safe.  
Upgrade Today.**

**VCU** Technology Services • [www.ts.vcu.edu](http://www.ts.vcu.edu)

### Asthma Study



## Do you have Asthma?

**Volunteers (ages 18 to 40 years old) are needed for a study about asthma and the common cold.** The goal is to improve asthma care. **You must have asthma and not smoke.** Screening is in progress and involves 2 visits (\$40 will be paid to participants for each visit).

Based on the screening results, those who qualify can enroll in a 7-week study which will begin in the fall. Compensation will be up to \$1250. A 4-day stay in a hotel is an important part of this study. All study-related testing, medications and the hotel stay with room service will be provided at no charge.

**Screening near VCU, along with reimbursement for travel costs, will be available.**

**For more information and questions, please call or email.**

UVA Asthma and Allergic Diseases Center

**434-982-3510**

[hts@virginia.edu](mailto:hts@virginia.edu)

IRB-HSR #13236



[www.uvahealth.com](http://www.uvahealth.com)

# opinion

## The List

RICH GRISET  
*Opinion Editor*

It's spring again, and – alas – another school year is over. This is the part where I'm supposed to make you, the reader, all teary-eyed about this being my last editorial for The CT. Sorry—that's not my style. I'd much rather go out with guns blazing. I'll save the teary-eyed stuff for the series-finale cliffhanger of "Pizza from Scratch" (spoiler alert: Unca Lux gets cancer).

For my final editorial, I decided to hash out the list of problems I see at VCU. In retrospect, I wish I had spent more time focusing on VCU's problems instead of on the world in general. After a semester of ripping into everything from underage drinking to roflcopters, I figured this list might somehow redeem me.

1. James Branch Cabell Library should be open 24 hours on weekdays throughout the semester: It is absolutely wonderful that VCU keeps Cabell open 24 hours, seven days a week, during exams, but the school fails to realize students have exams they need to study for year-round.

The library is the brain of our institution, and it should be treated as such.

2. Overcrowding at the Stuart C. Siegel Center Gym: The turnout at the gym was fine until VCU shut down the Cary Street Gym for renovations. Fliers slyly apologize for the inconvenience of the temporary closing and state the gym will reopen in spring 2010. That's two years from now, and by that time, I will have graduated.

In the meantime, the students who used to go to the Cary Street Gym now pile into Siegel, and VCU has smushed all of the Cary equipment into the Siegel gym. Even if you manage to find a time

when the gym isn't packed, you still risk being smashed in the face by another workout machine located a half-inch away.

While I understand the need for new facilities, VCU has an obligation to keep its students healthy in the meantime. After a week or two of waiting 30 to 40 minutes to use a treadmill, I eventually just stopped going to the gym—as many of my friends did.

VCU has another perfectly good gym on campus: the Franklin Street Gym. The only problem is, except for the pool, the gym facilities are reserved for athletes. Some of the excess equipment from the Cary Street Gym could be made available to regular students at the Franklin Gym, and I doubt that would make too much trouble. The idea that more than 31,000 students can work out when they want to in an exercise room that has a maximum occupancy of 98 people is preposterous.

3. The lack of concerts at VCU: Once upon a time, before there was a Shafer Court Dining Center, there was a little place known simply as Shafer Court. The Shafer Court offered a stage for bands like Red Hot Chili Peppers (wearing nothing but tube socks) to perform for students. Except for Lupe Fiasco – and a band of weird Beatles-wannabes in their 50s who performed next to the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts – VCU rarely lets outdoor concerts take place.

The school does allow some outdoor concerts, but only in their "allotted time" between noon and 2 p.m. VCU needs to host more musical events such as these for students. Shafer Court used to have a band perform every Friday night. We only get bands if there is a festival.



Karen Sagun illustration

4. VCU sculptures: VCU is currently rated No. 1 for its Master of Fine Arts sculpture program by U.S. News and World Report. You would think, with that ranking, VCU would select some cool sculptures to place around campus. Instead, VCU put out what looks like a castrated nutsack. The "Soft" sculpture next to Grace E. Harris Hall looks like testicles, and confuses most everyone who walks past it. Perhaps, when VCU eventually takes over Dogwood Dell, the sculpture will be relocated there with the Carillon as a phallus.

There was a cool sculpture next to the Singleton Center of a pair of jeans kicking midair, but just as quickly as it was put up, it was taken away. Does VCU have a sculpture fairy that runs around dropping balls from the sky and picking up sculpted jeans? Why not have the student body vote on which sculptures get placed on campus so we have the choice of whether to look at balls every day?

5. VCU TV/Radio: Though there have been rumblings of improvements in the works, there has yet to be an outcome. It is ridiculous that a school with more than 31,000 students would not have its own radio frequency or TV station. VCU HDTV hijacks the PBS station for two hours a day, and WVCW only is

LIST continued to CT17

the  
ct

REBECCA  
LANDAU  
Executive Editor

RICH  
GRISET  
Opinion Editor

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

### Add Your Voice

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

Letters must be sent from a valid VCU e-mail address or signed with daytime and evening telephone contact. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, style and space.



**LIST continued from CT16**

available on the Internet. VCU should have its own channel and frequency.

Imagine the entertainment that could come out of an independent channel. With all of the creativity and arts majors at VCU, with all of the cultural events and festivals, VCU TV could be amazing. Both “The Tom Green Show” and “The Whitest Kids U’ Know” started off as college radio and TV shows. VCU’s stations also would give communications students more experience with their field and would be their first time creating content unbridled by a department or grade.

6. Quality of education: In its rush to become some giant beast of a university and own all of Richmond proper, VCU seems to have disregarded completely any thought of making itself a better school. Couldn’t some of that expansionist energy have been put into making our educational experience at VCU better?

I’ll explain this in the best way I can. I took a course this semester about Shakespearean plays that was held in one of the huge lecture halls in the Eugene P. and Lois E. Trani Center for Life Sciences. When my friend took the class the semester before, it was held in one of the smaller lecture halls of the T. Edward Temple Building.

When I expressed my concern about the class size to my professor, he told me it was only going to get larger. Next school year, the course will be taught in Harris Hall’s humongous lecture room. VCU is creating

gigantic classes to make money, and the quality of our classes is going down the tube.

When I hear about a friend graduating in only four years at VCU, I am shocked. Because of all the confusion and barriers set up by the school, it nearly is impossible for students to graduate on time. According to a 2000 report from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the rate for earning a degree at VCU within four years is less than 20 percent. Only one in five VCU freshmen will complete college in four years. This is unacceptable.

VCU is running our school like a business instead of an institution of learning. VCU seems determined to retain students and to milk as much money out of us as possible. Numerous friends have cried in my arms because VCU had screwed them over.

I was sitting in the office of an adviser and overheard her on the phone speaking with another adviser.

“These kids—they just need to chill out and relax. They’ll get into all the classes they need; it just takes time,” she said.

What she fails to realize is the longer we stay in school, the more money we will have to pay off when we leave. For those of us at school on our own dime, the cost of an extra semester or two is not cool. The last thing we need to do is “chill out and relax.”

7. Campus safety: In the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings of last April, school administrators

across the country scrambled to prove their schools were equipped to respond to a similar tragedy. What VCU came up with was an expensive siren that sounds like a fire truck.

The siren is just something administrators can point out to visiting parents and prospective students to indicate VCU is safe. If VCU really wanted safety, it would install an intercommunication system throughout campus that could give detailed information as to what is happening and could provide instructions, accordingly. Texts are a great idea, but if your phone is silenced in class, it is hard to know you have a message. It is much quicker with an intercom system.

When siren tests took place (or when the alarm went off accidentally), students either didn’t care to respond properly to them or were uninformed as to what to do when they sound. VCU’s administration should work on a better system, then go to every class to explain how it will work.

For all of its flaws, I do love VCU and can’t see myself anywhere else. I love its diversity and its open urban environment. Writing this section has been a blast, and I hope you have had as much fun reading it as I did writing it.

*Cygnus Inter Anates,  
Rich Griset  
Opinion Editor*

**WORD OF THE DAY**

brought to you by The CT staff to educate and enlighten the VCU community



**aestival**

of or belonging to the summer

(P.S.—The CT wishes everyone a happy and safe summer!)



# classifieds&comics

## JOB

PT STUDENT ADVISOR WANTED Kaplan Test Prep & Admissions. \$8/hr. Office Assistant to assist with the overall administration of the Center, including classes and marketing initiatives, and providing friendly customer service. Great opportunity to gain a tremendous amount of multi-faceted business experience and provide a service that helps students achieve their educational goals. Part-time hours: evenings and weekends. Minimum one-year commitment. If you are interested in applying for the position, please forward your resume and cover letter to [gpo\\_Richmond@kaplan.com](mailto:gpo_Richmond@kaplan.com).

**Have something to say?  
Keep it to 25 words,  
and it's FREE!**

Students: If you're a chatty type, the cost is just 10 cents per word after the first 25. Call us at 828-1058 or stop by at 817 W. Broad St.

## FOR RENT

Shared House for Rent Church Hill. Perfect for MCV grad or med student. Furnished 3bd, 1.5 bath home with all amenities. On bus line to MCV, or bike \$675. includes all. Call 783-2272

## PERSONAL

Rachel! Met at Village; re-met at drug-law debate last year. please contact me. [IGaveYouARideHome@Yahoo.com](mailto:IGaveYouARideHome@Yahoo.com)

## Pizza From Scratch

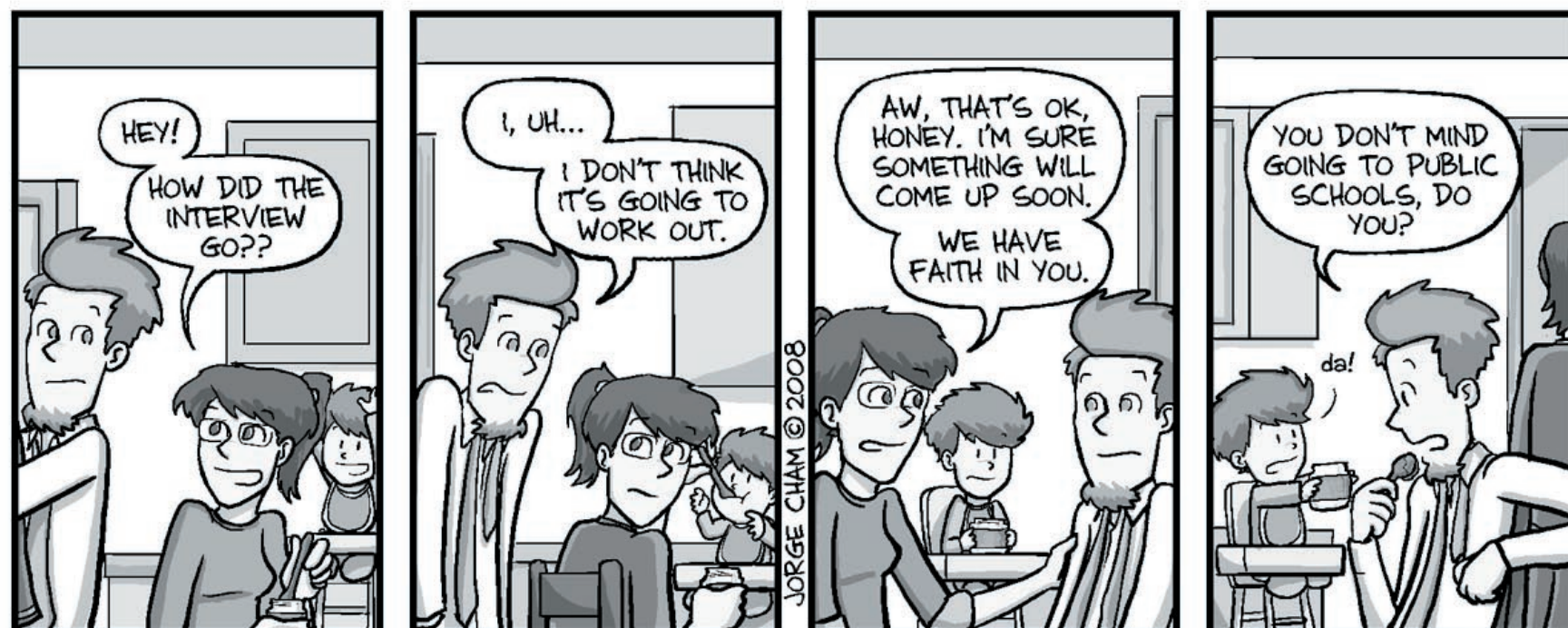
Bill Lemmond

THIS HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR FOUR YEARS.



## Piled Higher, Deeper

Jorge Cham

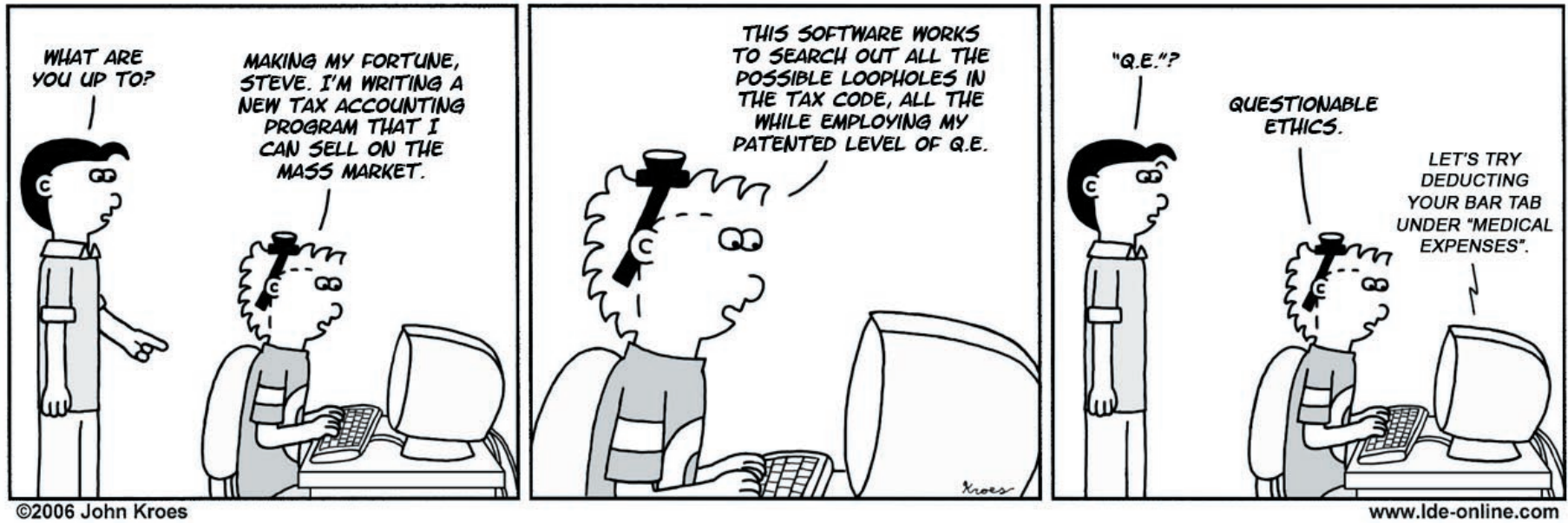


WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



Last Ditch Effort

John Kroess



©2006 John Kroess

www.lde-online.com

Slippin' in the Tub

Jonathan Scheer and Nate Waggoner



xkcd — "Geico" & "Snakes On A Plane 2"

Randall Munroe



Thursday, May 1, 2008

comics · commonwealthtimes.com · CT19





# Off-campus living...



## NOW

as low as

**\$535**

~~\$643~~ for **1 bedroom**

**\$607**

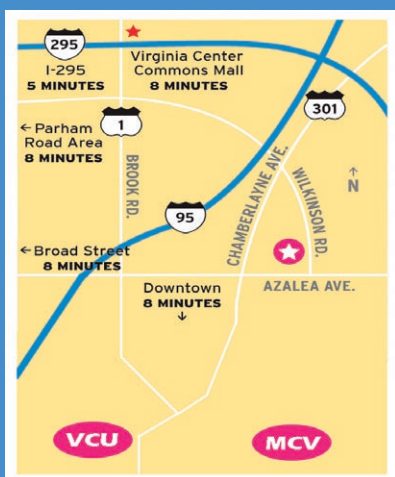
~~\$729~~ for **2 bedrooms**

Special price includes:

**Up to 2 months FREE RENT plus FREE parking and FREE gas heat.**

Free rent is prorated over a 12-month lease. Furnished apartments are available.

Ask about our Deluxe Package, which includes furniture and all utilities.



- 8 Minutes to downtown
- Express shuttle to campus available
- Two swimming pools
- Fitness center, tennis courts, volleyball
- GRTC bus stops in the community

- Spacious apartments with patio/balcony
- Separate dining areas, large vanity baths
- Mini-blinds, fully carpeted
- Laundry facilities open 24/7
- Pets welcome

**PRE-LEASING FOR SUMMER AND FALL - RESERVE NOW FOR THE BEST DEAL!**

## COLONIAL

**321-4840**

colonial@gscapt.com

## TREEHOUSE

**321-3509**

treehouse@gscapt.com

[www.gscapt.com](http://www.gscapt.com)

**Free locator service - 329-6666**

1-800-368-7669, E-mail: [valocator@gscapt.com](mailto:valocator@gscapt.com)

© GSC 2008 Limited availability. Subject to rent changes and normal leasing policies.

