

University fares well with General Assembly

by Lisa L. Brownlee
staff writer

If the Virginia General Assembly's budget decisions survive gubernatorial vetoes in April, VCU's academic campus administrators probably could see more than \$1.02 million of the \$44 million the legislators earmarked for the university.

Jeffrey S. Cribbs, associate vice president of budget research analysis for the university, said he expects the General Assembly's budget decisions to escape the governor's veto session next month.

"Basically, it (the Assembly's overall budget decision) was what the governor had recommended," Cribbs said, explaining that the House and Senate passed the education portion of the governor's budget bill without amendments.

Donald J. Finley, associate director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, said the state budget reflects legislative commitment to higher education.

"I would say higher education fared very well (in the state budget)," Finley said.

Cribbs pointed out that there were, however, some differences between the

governor's and the legislature's spending decisions.

The governor recommended a \$5.3 million general-fund budget cut during each year of the biennium, but the General Assembly increased the cut to about \$5.5 million per year, Cribbs said.

The General Assembly also budgeted a 2 percent salary increase for university faculty and staff effective Dec. 1, 1992, straying further from the governor's initial budget plans.

The university, Cribbs said, will increase tuition and fees to offset general-fund cuts and other costs like building maintenance and improvements and library books.

Finley identified three areas where he thought VCU and other state institutions benefitted most:

"(First,) we obviously are pleased about the bond issue. Secondly, there was a big increase in student aid The third thing is obviously the salary increase."

Finley said salary increases will help VCU compete nationally for quality faculty, and bond-issue projects will help meet the university's physical plant needs.

As for the state's \$1.2 million increase in student financial aid, Finley said he sees it as helping "with the tuition increases that have to come."

Donald C. Gehring, VCU's assistant to the president for government relations, said even though the academic campus will receive millions of dollars less than the Medical College of Virginia during the next budget biennium, nobody should consider state-funding differences between VCU's two campuses an example of disparity.

"It would be unfortunate to just compare the two," he said. "What is good for one campus is good for the entire university."

Gehring pointed out that within the General Assembly's budget, students on both campuses could share in a \$1.2 million financial-aid increase during the next two years.

Gehring also said the General Assembly reduced spending on both campuses: \$9,166 from remedial education on the academic campus and \$45,000 from the center for aging on the medical campus.

In addition, he said legislators set aside \$5 million through a bond issue for classroom, laboratory and faculty office improvements benefiting both campuses.

The bond issue, scheduled for a Nov. 3 statewide referendum, also would fund new, academic-campus-based labor and economic development centers.

If voters approve the issue at election polls, Gehring estimated that groundbreaking for the center could come within two years — in 1994.

"Right now, there is no labor center in

One man's trash ...

Volunteers search through mounds of garbage last Thursday looking for recyclable materials. Out of the approximately 2,600 pounds of garbage collected, more than 1,700 pounds of recyclable material were salvaged, said organizer Chris Maxwell.



staff photo by Derrick Washington

About this issue ...

This issue is the result of a year of planning. After more than 20 years of printing once a week, the Commonwealth Times will publish Mondays and Thursdays during fall and spring semesters.

Readers can see some content and design changes starting with today's paper.

- The Folio section becomes Spectrum.

- Folio didn't represent what the section really was," Spectrum Editor Jim Johns said. "We try to cover a little of everything. The name Spectrum describes what we do more clearly."

- Campus Briefs can be found on page 4, the last page of the News section.

- The Calendar page and the Sports statistics page will go in Thursday's edition.

- In future issues, CT readers can read briefs about state, national and international happenings through the use of the Associated Press wire service.

Publishing twice-weekly allows the staff to provide the campus community more timely news. Comments and suggestions help staff members produce a better product.

Let us hear from you.

--The Commonwealth Times staff

New president seeks greater visibility for SGA

by Arthur Mills
staff writer

"We need more publicity," Mike Stanley, newly elected Student Government Association president, said during his election speech last week. "We need to be more active and involved with the students."

All of the candidates for president, vice president, executive secretary, ad-hoc coordinator and training coordinator, which make up the executive committee, echoed Stanley's words.

While the student body elects individual SGA senators, the senate picks its own executive committee members.

In addition to Stanley, the senate settled on John Wilkins, vice president; Cindy Green, executive secretary; Mike Halsey, ad-hoc coordinator; and David Bates, training coordinator, as the people who could improve the SGA's relationship with the students.

Both Wilkins and Stanley said the best way to improve SGA recognition is

to use the Commonwealth Times as a device for letting the students know what the senate is doing for them.

"The SGA is the only organization that represents all students," Stanley said, talking about his idea for having a column in the Commonwealth Times where students can see what the SGA works on. "We (the SGA) cover such a variety of issues that they need to be covered so students know what we are doing."

Wilkins said the SGA's job is "to lobby for student concerns and interests," and the best way for them to know that is to use the media on campus.

"VCU is different than other college campuses (being a urban school) since there is nothing central," he said. "It takes a lot more paper (pamphlets and flyers) to get anything done, and I think it is important to take the largest publication on campus and use it effectively."

"A CT column would be a great idea. It would give (the SGA) a chance to tell the students the issues and explain that this

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Dean finalists propose changes in college

by Cynthia Murphy
staff writer

The selection committee for the dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences completed on-campus interviews of three finalists before spring break.

The committee is in the process of selecting one or two candidates to recommend to Eugene P. Trani, university president, and Charles P. Ruch, provost and vice president for academic affairs. Ruch is also the chair of the selection committee.

Trani and Ruch will select one candidate to present to the Board of Visitors for approval. There is no deadline for the board's decision.

David Hiley visited campus most recently two weeks ago. Hiley is the acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. He earned his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Georgia.

Susan Forman, the second finalist to visit campus, is associate provost of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. She earned her doctorate in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Herman Saatkamp, the first candidate to visit campus, is a professor and head of the Department of Philosophy and Hu-

manities at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He earned his doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

Each candidate attended a meeting with students during the on-campus interview process. Directors of departments and schools in the College of Humanities and Sciences invited the students who attended the meetings.

In addition, each candidate met with Trani and Ruch.

The finalists also met with other deans, directors of departments and schools and Elske v. P. Smith, the dean of the college.

Hiley, the final candidate to visit campus, often referred to his experiences at both Auburn University and Memphis State University during his meeting with students on March 3.

He founded and directed the humanities research program at MSU before becoming the associate dean for research at Auburn.

"I miss the urban university environment," Hiley said, explaining that Virginia Commonwealth University has demographics that are similar to MSU's.

Hiley said he likes the type of students urban universities attract.

"Diversity is what we (universities) are about. We live in a pluralistic society and a global world," he said.

"I miss that energy (of urban universi-

ties)," he said. He enjoys the intellectual activity that is produced when diverse points of views are expressed.

Jon Waybright, a religious studies and history graduate who attended both Hiley's and Saatkamp's meetings, said, "It's hard to get a feeling for anybody with only 45 minutes to talk to them."

"You look for how he interacts with the students," he said. "(Hiley) was very interactive and direct."

Waybright said he liked the way Hiley used experiences from other institutions to talk about multiculturalism at VCU.

"We (VCU) are not keeping up with the times," Waybright said. "We just need more options."

Hiley suggested VCU "indirectly change the intellectual environment of our students" by having faculty development seminars that explore multiculturalism.

Auburn is implementing a similar series of seminars, he said. The world history instructors at the university are periodically meeting to discuss Latin American history, African-American and Caribbean history as well as gender issues.

Forman also proposed changes in the college during her meeting with students Feb. 24.

"My job (if chosen to be dean) would be

to move every unit in the college forward," she said.

This will lead to increased support in the community and particularly in the Virginia Legislature, Forman explained.

"Central administration needs a lobbying force in the state legislature," in addition to Trani who has been an active presence during this General Assembly session, she said.

Odell McCants, a political science senior who attended Forman's student meeting, said he was pleased that she addressed VCU's reputation in the state.

"People need to know what our faculty are doing in terms of research and teaching," he said. "I had a really good impression of her."

Forman said she is seeking the dean position because she wants to work with all parts of the school rather than continue to work exclusively with psychology.

"I see the liberal sciences as the heart of the university," she said. "I am interested in focusing my energy into this area."

Saatkamp also touched on the "centrality" of humanities and sciences during his meeting with students Feb. 20.

"The humanities and sciences should be seen as the central college of all great universities," he said.

COMMONWEALTH times

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Unlicensed motorist hits 7-year-old

by Millard K. Ives
staff writer

An unlicensed motorist struck a 7-year-old pedestrian at the intersection of Cherry Street and Cathedral Avenue at approximately 7 p.m. last Tuesday.

The pedestrian, Jason Zinter of South Laurel Street was rushed to MCV hospital for tests, and was discharged with only leg bruises.

Mary Zinter, the youth's mother said her son was more "shaken up" than any thing else.

Jeffrey Lowndes, 31, of Strawberry Street, was driving approximately 5 mph on the VCU campus when Zinter ran out

in front of his vehicle.

Ms. Zintner said she was taking her son to choir practice when he walked out in front of her and was struck by Lowndes' vehicle.

"Jason told me that he looked one way but not the other," Ms. Zintner said.

Ms. Zintner did not witness the accident, but arrived on the scene seconds later.

Lowndes was not charged in the accident, but was issued a ticket for driving without a license, said Robert Jones of the Richmond police bureau's traffic division.

General Assembly budget decisions

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the commonwealth," Gehring said. He predicted that the center, designed to function as a continuing education facility where professionals can learn and practice labor-management concepts, will draw interest from professionals throughout Virginia.

And the economic development center, designed to study urban development issues, Gehring said, will be "a breeding ground for solving economic problems of cities."

The legislature budgeted \$107,000 for the labor center and \$200,000 for the economic development center, he said.

In addition to the \$44 million appropriation, Gehring said, the university has \$4 million in central appropriations for general maintenance like building repairs, campus lighting and asbestos removal.

Cribbs said he could not compare or contrast VCU's appropriations to other institutions' appropriations.

"The state won't put a whole lot of

Damaged electrical cord causes fire

by Patricia Woods
associate editor

An apartment fire late Thursday evening in the Treehouse complex forced two Virginia Commonwealth University students into new living quarters.

Lt. C.J. Griggs of the Henrico County Division of Fire said a frayed extension cord connected to a lamp caused the fire.

Although it was contained in the bedroom where it had started the blaze resulted in \$15,000 damage, "mostly smoke damage," Griggs said, to the building.

Nancy Just, VCU residence coordinator for Treehouse, said no one was hurt, but there was damage to the students' belongings.

She also said there had been "minimal inconvenience" to residents.

"We are working on getting the women (in the apartment) relocated."

Other student residents said they didn't know much about the incident.

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News

A landslide victory for political reform

South Africa's whites back de Klerk

by Patricia Woods
associate editor

Sixty-nine percent of South Africa's white voters endorsed the referendum to continue negotiations with the black majority for a multiracial government last Tuesday, according to media reports.

President F.W. de Klerk, who has been working toward a multiracial government since early 1990, won 14 of 15 electoral districts in an election that drew 85 percent of the voters.

"Today, we have closed the book on apartheid," he said.

Frank Belloni, associate professor of political science at Virginia Commonwealth University, said the overwhelming majority vote in support of de Klerk's negotiations is the "most extraordinary development in the past several decades."

He admits, however, it will be "touch and go," because South Africa is still "a long way from the goal of creating a non-racial society."

On the other hand, L. Victor Collins, director of Minority Student Affairs at VCU, said too much attention has been given to the passing of this referendum, but "in reality nothing has really changed. Indigenous blacks still have no right to vote."

All reports indicated that blacks welcomed the affirmative vote to the referendum but remain unconvinced that apartheid has ended. Major conflicts still remain, because as Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, said, blacks still cannot vote.

"Apartheid is still very much alive," he

said, warning the people that this vote must be the "absolute last" whites-only election.

W. Avon Drake, director of Afro-American Studies at VCU, said Mandela supports the referendum but doesn't want the international world to stop pushing for reform.

"Even after blacks get the vote, how (they can) translate that into helping blacks economically," will be the next issue, he said.

Collins points out, "It is ironic that a man that was in jail for 27 years may be the only man who can provide meaningful leadership ... I hope de Klerk has the vision to understand that and cooperate with him."

Since the vote on the referendum, right-wing groups continue to threaten violence because they say they will not accept a black government.

"If Mandela and de Klerk want to hand all of my country over to the blacks, there will be a war," said Frank Katz, a member of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement.

Besides the white right-wing conservatives, the media reported some radical black groups also denounced the vote and threatened violence. "The all-white referendum is an obscenity and an insult to the dispossessed masses of our country," said members of the Pan Africanist Congress.

Some of the statements African leaders made last week included one by Andries Treurnicht, leader of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party.

"Mr. de Klerk won his referendum, just like Gorbachev won his. Gorbachev

Chronology of Major Changes in South Africa since President F. W. de Klerk took Office in August 1989

1990

- Feb. 2: de Klerk legalizes the African National Congress and more than 60 other opposition groups.
- Feb. 11: Nelson Mandela is freed after serving 27 years in prison for trying to overthrow the government.
- June 7: de Klerk lifts a 4-year-old nationwide state of emergency.

1991

- Feb. 1: de Klerk calls for abolition of the last major apartheid laws, which are repealed in June.
- Dec. 20-21: The government, ANC and other political groups begin constitutional negotiations.

1992

- Feb. 20: de Klerk calls a referendum on his reforms.
- March 17: White voters overwhelmingly support the president's reforms in the referendum.

SOURCE: Washington Post through Associated Press, Reuter

is today out of power ... and Mr. de Klerk is negotiating his own government out of power."

What's in store for South Africa?

Drake said, "It is the Convention for a Democratic South Africa."

"This will include the white government and the 18 or 19 black groups including the African National Congress. The question will be how can they move to

another South Africa, either one person, one vote (as Mandela proposes), or by power-sharing that de Klerk supports."

It is "too early to tell" what will happen, Drake said, but he suggested that within the next three to six months "either a black majority government" will arise or the country will be "thrown into a civil war."

Students, staff mourn loss of John Horvath

by C. Murphy
staff writer

John W. Horvath, 39-year-old coordinator of residence education of Rhoads and Johnson halls, died March 12 of an apparent heart attack.

Horvath, who had been CRE since 1986, had a heart attack in December and returned to work part-time in February.

His funeral was March 14 in Tellertown, Pa. A memorial service also was held March 18 at Pace Memorial United Methodist Church in Richmond.

At the service here, the church was filled to capacity with Horvath's family, friends, residence education staff and students.

Several people at the service spoke about Horvath, including Richard I. Wilson, vice provost for student affairs, Henry G. Rhone, assistant vice provost for student affairs, and Harry R. Hester, former assistant dean of student affairs and coordinator of university housing.

"(Horvath) had one of the toughest jobs in the university," Wilson said.

Horvath's sense of humor and "open-door policy" are the characteristics most

remembered by the resident assistants he coordinated, said Karen Suchsland, a third-year RA in Johnson Hall.

He encouraged RAs to come by his

office and talk about "your personal life or just what was going on on your floor," said Suchsland. "He had an ability to get along with everyone."

FUN WITH JOHN



Part of a collage showing the life and times of John Horvath, the Coordinator of Residence Education, who died March 12 of an apparent heart attack.

"I have learned so much from him," she said. "I think he touched every person he worked with in a very special way."

Heather Oden, also a third-year RA, agreed, "He was one of my best friends. I just loved the man. He gave me all of his strength to go on."

Both Suchsland and Oden agreed they decided to be RAs for a third year because Horvath was their CRE.

Horvath "pretty much made up my mind" to return as an RA last fall, Suchsland said.

Nancy Asai, director of residence education, will act as CRE of Johnson and Rhoads halls for the rest of the semester.

"It's going to be difficult to fill his shoes," Asai said. "He brought a lot of new ideas and energy to the (CRE) position. He was fun to work with."

"You Can't Always Get What You Want," by the Rolling Stones, a special song to Horvath, was chosen as the recessional music at the memorial service.

He is survived by his wife, Stacy L. Hovis, and his mother, Virginia Wagner of Bethlehem, Pa.

Horvath's family asked that memorial contributions be made to the American Heart Association.

Staff photo by Joy Byrne

SGA President seeks publicity

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is what position the student government thinks the students want to take but we need to know what they think."

Rob Crosby, executive editor of the Commonwealth Times, said it is unlikely the paper would publish a column written by members of the SGA, but that the Commonwealth Times wants to cover the SGA better.

"In the future, plans are to have a column in one issue a week covering the student government both here and at MCV that would be written by one of our writers," he said. "It would damage our credibility to allow the SGA to write its own articles because it couldn't be written objectively."

Crosby said he agrees that the SGA should have been covered better in the past but expects to make up for it in the future.

"We should be covering them (the SGA) more and I can understand their frustration," he said, explaining the difficulty of covering all that needs to be covered. "It's hard to cover everything on campus with a small news staff, but the SGA is

one of the more important organizations on campus (and we will do a better job of covering them.)"

Wilkins said another way of improving the SGA's relationship with the students is something for which senators must be responsible by being more aggressive in letting students know who they are.

"People in the student government need to talk to the classes that they are in," Wilkins said. "Students don't know who the senators are. Some might recognize a name but we have to give students a face to go with it."

Also, Stanley called for students to become more active within the university by serving on student committees dealing with universitywide concerns.

"Any student interested in getting involved with the university and serving on one of the committees should come by the SGA offices on the second floor of the Commons," he said in trying to dissipate student apathy on campus. "One thing I've noticed is that we have enough spaces (on committees) for students. We just don't have enough students for the spaces."

Harter, Hirsch to take top positions

by Maliya Reed
staff writer

Gage Harter, sports editor, and Dee Hirsch, managing editor, will fill the Commonwealth Times' top two positions next year.

In early April, the two will name next year's section editors including news, sports, spectrum (entertainment) and editorial page editors who will work the rest of the semester with those now in charge.

Harter and Jim Meisner, both juniors in the School of Mass Communications, vied for the position of executive editor at the newspaper's last staff meeting. At that same meeting Hirsch ran unopposed for the managing editor's slot.

A graduate student in risk adminis-

tration and justice, Hirsch received her bachelor's degree last year in the School of Mass Communications. Her concentration was news-editorial, which is print journalism.

Harter replaces Rob Crosby, executive editor, who graduates in August with a degree in journalism. He, too, studied in the news-editorial track.

Under Crosby's direction the newspaper started publishing twice a week with this issue. Students can pick up copies around the campus on Mondays and Thursdays through April 30, the date of the last edition for the spring semester.

"This is something we've wanted to do for about a year," Crosby said. "We're also redesigning the paper to make it more reader friendly and more like a real (professional) newspaper."

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Correction

In the article "Chlamydia running rampant on college campuses," in the February 11, 1992 issue of the Commonwealth Times, a few clarifications need to be made.

In the paragraph that says "Men are also susceptible to Chlamydia," the accompanying statistic should read, "Although exact figures are hard to find, up to two-thirds of men with chlamydia may have no symptoms." In regards to the VCU Chlamydia study, 8.6 percent of women with no symptoms present for a routine gynecological exam were found to have Chlamydia.

At Student Health routine testing for Chlamydia is done on nearly all women having gynecological exams, but it is not routinely done in women with non-gynecological problems.

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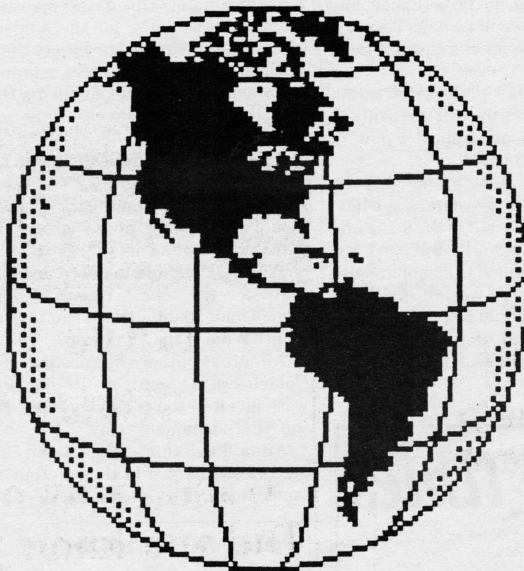
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Editorial

Celebrating Women's History Month

In the generous tradition of recognizing groups other than white males by designating them one month out of the year, March is Women's History Month.

Women's History Month originated in 1979 as National Women's History Week after a congressional resolution was introduced by the National Women's History Project. By 1981, the National Women's History Project became a non-profit, educational group and during the 1980s, as chapters of the National Organization for Women and the American Association of University Women grew, it became apparent that one week was not enough. In 1987, Congress expanded the resolution to cover the entire month of March.

To celebrate the roles women have played throughout history and continue to play as they make history, the Women's Services division of University Counseling Services is sponsoring several events.

Today, in Commons Room D from noon-1:30 p.m., Njeri Jackson, associate professor of political science, will present "The Politics of Reproductive Choice: Women of Color." This lecture will focus on women's struggles for reproductive freedom across the globe and will include a display of various birth control methods available in the United States.

Also today, three films will be shown in the Business Building Auditorium. "One Fine Day" celebrates women in history, "Out in Suburbia" follows the lives of lesbians in America and

"Choosing Children" looks at lesbians who decide to have children.

•A workshop examining the various roles women play from mother to student to daughter to wife will be held from noon-1 p.m. in Commons Room D on Tuesday, March 24.

•The film "Adam's Rib" will be shown in the Cabaniss Hall Piano Lounge on Wednesday, March 25, from 7-9:30 p.m. The movie stars Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy and explores relations between the sexes.

•On Friday, March 26, a concert entitled "Woman's Life and Love 1992," with original music and songs by Dika Newlin, a professor of music, will be held from 4-5 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

•"The Color Purple" will be shown from 7-10 p.m. on Monday, March 30, in the GRC Community Room.

•A workshop on body image and eating disorders will be held Tuesday, March 31, in Commons Room A from noon-1 p.m.

•Later that day, professor of sociology Dorothy Smith will present "A Feminist Sociology" from 2-4 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

Women have come a long way (no "baby") in the last 20 years, some having chosen to move out of the home and into the corporate world. But don't just recognize their contributions one month out of the year — women and their achievements should be celebrated every day. After all, if it weren't for a woman, you wouldn't be here to read this.

Keith E. Lennon

You Lose — You Cruise

While many VCU students were basking on some sunny beach or repairing strained family relationships, I spent my spring break in snowy Louisville, Ky.

The occasion was the Metro Conference Tournament.

Within a four day period, I watched VCU basketball teams play four games and saw the VCU Cheerleading Team compete. Although none of our teams were able to bring home a Metro title, each performed at a level that made me proud to be a VCU student.

Throughout the season the teams invest hours of work in improving their abilities with the goal of competing in the conference tournament.

Louisville was the showplace for this competition.

At no other time of the year are teams from all of the Metro schools gathered together.

Unfortunately this gathering is not seen by many to be for the student-athletes that work so hard to get there. Rather, it is for the boosters, administrators and athletic departments that take credit for the success of the programs.

The day after a difficult loss to the Louisville Lady Cardinals, VCU's Lady Rams were on a plane back to Richmond, even though the women's championship game had not yet been played.

Was VCU unable to afford an extra night for the team? Wasn't enough money budgeted for the entire tournament? What if they had won?

After the Southern Mississippi Lady Golden Eagles won the title, awards were given to those players named to the All-Tournament team.

Anna Pavlikhina, first team All-Metro, was named to the All-Tournament team. She didn't receive her

plaque before the largest crowd ever to see a Metro women's game — she was in Richmond.

Beth Mollerup, second team All-Metro, and Stacy Agee both set records in route to the Metro Tournament. They didn't get to see the championship trophy awarded — they had been sent home.

This is of course not the first time that teams have been sent home after losing a tournament game.

In fact, it is the norm.

None of the losing teams were present for the women's championship game. Virginia Tech, Tulane, South Florida, UNC-Charlotte and VCU had all left town before the final game.

Basketball is not the only sport in which this happens.

After losing in the first round of the Colonial Athletic Association Field Hockey Tournament, VCU's field hockey team came home before the final game took place. Four seniors played their last game that day and then were sent home.

Granted, these are not revenue sports and funding is tight. But for these athletes the experience is as valuable as it is for any athlete.

Why not let them enjoy the culmination of a long, hard season?

College athletics are trying desperately to escape the image that they are obsessed with money. Allowing the athletes to join the tournament "party" rather than be the entertainment, would be a good first step.

As long as this "loser go home" mentality persists in college sports, athletes will remain only jesters in a court of administrators, athletic departments and "big money" boosters.

But maybe that's what they want.

COMMONWEALTH *times*

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Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Commonwealth Times' Editorial Board.

*"A little Madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King."*

— Emily Dickinson

Peter D. Schaller

Fetal Feuds

Science. It's nearly impossible to escape this university without being subjected to it on some level. So where do non-science-oriented students turn when it's time to submit to science requirements? Well, since frightful numbers and symbols seem always to be looming around chemistry and physics, biology tends to be the safest bet.

Even to the spacey art and literature types, biology can hold some interest. Learning about the world we live in and its inhabitants is beneficial to everyone, but there must be boundaries.

Upon entering the lab section of

Biology 110, the second semester of general biology, unknowing students will be rudely awakened by the stench of formaldehyde. The last several weeks of the course are dedicated to the dissection of worms and fetal pigs.

"They're just unborn fetuses from the slaughterhouse," said one instructor, indignantly, as I raised opposition to the presence of the pigs. "They were already dead."

Animals who arrive via the slaughterhouse have more than likely been prisoners on factory farms before being slain. As most of

continued on page 7

Glyn Robertson

What Exactly Was That Thing?

Sometime in the not-so-distant past, VCU students found something resembling two dinosaur turds impaled on metal poles stuck in the lawn outside the Business Building.

This appearance spawned, in keeping with the liberal arts tradition at VCU, a new generation of critics and speculators.

Comments overheard: "It looks like a giant liquor still. My grandfather had one of those. Incredible moonshine!"

"Well, maybe they mash hamsters up in those cocoons and sell the puree as a delicacy to the Japanese ..."

"Diametrically opposed, those two oblong shapes speak to the soul of the struggle between management and labor during a recession."

If the sculptor's intent was to incite dialogue, he or she certainly succeeded. If the sculptor's intent was to offend the eye, he or she certainly succeeded in that respect as well.

That "whatever-it-is"

outside the Business Building even went so far as to question the democratic integrity of VCU, if only by its mere uncalled-for presence.

Might the student population of this school have a say as to the artwork it will be forced to endure? A pictorial spread in this newspaper accompanied by a cut-out ballot for best piece would be nice, and feasible.

Competition is what that sculpture needs, the presence of an audience's opinions. When Nabokov started writing for an audience, he produced "Lolita." When Michelangelo had to start searching for commissions, he produced the ceiling of Sistine Chapel.

If a sculptor knew that he or she must take students' aesthetic sensibilities into account for his or her work to be shown on school grounds, then the end product might be a little more, shall we say, meritorious.

Maybe that monstrosity outside the Business Building owed its existence to unknown forces, like the ones that made those giant heads

on Easter Island. Maybe the thing was a cosmic joke aimed at future accountants. Whatever it was, its existence must be questioned.

There was once an ancient civilization in Meso-America known as the Olmec Dynasty. The only evidence of Olmec civilization left to modern man is some giant stone heads. These heads, in addition to bearing the mark of time's passage, had been defaced by human hands. It was the first known incidence of vandalism in the Americas.

Paleoanthropologists theorize that the near destruction of the Olmec heads was the result of an uprising against the ruling classes of that society. During the revolt, the mobs attacked the oppressor's symbols.

If the students at VCU are continually oppressed by a fascist public sculpture selection process, the same sort of thing just might be liable to happen.

"Blow torch, anyone?"

Fetuses, don't fail me now

Continued from page 7
us should be aware, factory farms are responsible for extensive environmental damage and are guilty of brutally mistreating animals. In fact, many vegetarians, including this columnist, have rejected meat in boycott of factory farming practices. There is a great deal to be said about factory farms, but perhaps in another breath.

If a student should happen to oppose the use of fetal pigs in the lab and the inevitable waste of these creatures on English and psychology majors, there is a solution. However, some detective experience might be necessary in finding it.

The biology department does offer an alternative, "meatless" lab section. For this they should be commended; but it is not readily accessible. The course is not one that a student can register for, nor are the requirements the same. In fact, anyone who doesn't look at the small printing in the far corners of the lab blackboards might not be aware such a class exists.

In addition to attending an equal number of lab sessions

and covering identical material through the use of models, students in the alternative lab section are required to write a five-page paper on a human body organ. Now, it's not as if a five-page paper will push these students into neurotic frenzies, but it seems that it is perhaps a political ploy to deter students from choosing the extra lab section (which consequently creates a bit more work for the department). Kinda sketchy.

The use of animals in the laboratory should be restricted, at the very least, to biology majors. (Even then, does the biology department really need pigs?) This would cut down considerably on waste and lend less support to the factory farming industry. If a course is to include dissection, it should be stated clearly in the registration book. Under no circumstances should a student be obligated to dissect an animal. Without question, students should be offered a socially conscious lab section during registration. We are, after all, paying for these courses.

Liberate the fetal pigs!

Letters to the Editor

SGA Senator Responds To Editorial, Columnist

When I found out that only 545 students voted in the Student Government Association election for senators, I was concerned but not surprised. I felt this low turnout should interest the entire VCU student body because the opinions expressed by the SGA represent all VCU students.

This concern grew when I read the editorial and column, because incorrect information was used to blame voter apathy on the Student Government ("SGA Election Draws 3.3%," "SGA Election is Flawed," March 3, 1992).

The accurate information could have been received easily with one phone call or visit to the SGA office. The mistakes were: Only 30 senators were elected, not 36; only 68.2 percent of those running were elected, not 81 percent as was stated in the column "SGA Election is Flawed"; and the maximum number of students appointed as senators-at-large is six and these six positions are available to all interested students.

If you want input into any SGA matters, you can always voice your opinion. You didn't miss your chance to get involved. At-large students can be appointed to be on SGA subcommittees. Also, senate meetings are open to all students.

The SGA always encourages students to participate in the governing process. Information about all SGA activities is available

at the SGA office.

As a member of the SGA publicity committee, I have discussed with one of the editors the possibility of increased news coverage of events by the Commonwealth Times, but no progress was made. The student government is willing to work with the CT to increase student awareness about accomplishments made during the senate meetings.

News about the SGA has always been available and with the cooperation of the student media, voter apathy can be lower in the future. Many efforts are currently being pursued to increase student awareness about student government. Unfortunately the image portrayed by the Commonwealth Times' Editorial Board is flawed.

I suggest the members of the Editorial Board get involved in the SGA. The experience is available to all students and increased awareness about the process will result.

Although I felt the true image of the SGA was not portrayed correctly, I do agree with some of the opinions expressed in the editorial and column. I regret the fact that mistakes were made, but we shouldn't forget that every student can get involved and the major concern is student apathy.

Larry F. Moore
SGA Senator

Ed. Note: The Editorial Board and Columnist Keith E. Lennon based their information on the Resource Guide and the SGA

advertisement that appeared in the Feb. 25 issue of the Commonwealth Times that said "36 of these 44 people will ..."

Reader Addresses Profound Ignorance

I want to address the profound ignorance of James Yates' thoughts about AIDS ("America's Newest Curse," March 3, 1992).

Yates is identified as a sociology major. That's encouraging — if he sticks with his major, perhaps he will learn one of the cardinal rules of attitude formation: The less one knows about a given subject, the more extreme one's views are. When he says "if anything, a demonic or divine hand is involved," along with airing completely unfounded crackpot theories about the origin of AIDS, he is only betraying his staggering lack of understanding.

Since he seems so eager to couch his ignorance in self-righteous biblical rantings (not an original idea, by the way), he would do well to remember that Jesus said the measure you judge others by is the same measure you'll be judged by.

When Yates piously announced that he prayed Eddie Murphy doesn't get AIDS, but it would serve Murphy right, he was only setting himself up for a fall.

I hope Yates stays in school. He has a lot to learn.

Steve Dukes
Humanities and Sciences, English

The Commonwealth Times welcomes readers' letters. We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced, typed page and must be submitted by 11 a.m. Thursday to be considered for the following Monday edition. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number. Our offices are located in room 1149 of the New Academic Building; our campus mailbox number is 2010. The editorial section of the Commonwealth Times is a forum open to all members of the Virginia Commonwealth University community. Students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit editorials expressing their opinions and concerns about university issues. All submissions to the editorial section must include a daytime phone number where the writer can be contacted. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth Times or VCU.



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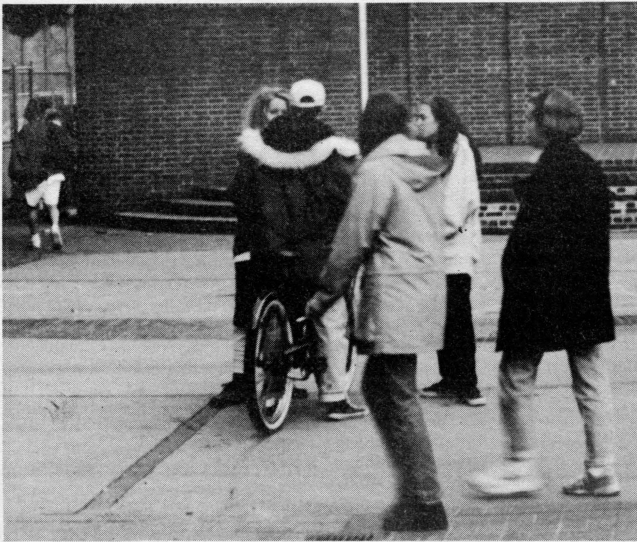
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Spectrum

Sure it was the first day of spring



staff photo by Jim Johns

Due to the cold weather the first Shafer Court Concert was cancelled. Weather permitting, musicians, the beer man and concert-goers will try again this Friday. See page 11 for the concert schedule.

Minutes precious for theater students at conference

Michael Dobbins
staff writer

A minute is not a lot of time. It's even shorter when you have to sell yourself to get a summer job like Virginia Commonwealth University theater students did earlier this month.

VCU students attended the 44th annual Southeastern Theater Conference in Orlando, Fla., the week before spring break.

To get there they endured a screening process that began with their professors. "We wouldn't send a student to compete if we felt that student couldn't meet the standards," said Elizabeth Weiss Hopper, associate professor of theater.

Students selected by the professors then went to the Virginia Theater Conference and competed against students from other Virginia schools, said Hopper. Those who were successful at the VTC advanced to the Southeastern Theater Conference.

The conferees represented the best the Southeast region has to offer in actors, directors, scene and costume designers,

said Richard Newdick, former president of SETC and chairman of the Theater Department.

"(VCU will) usually have 30 percent of the Virginia delegation. That's a lot for one university," said Newdick. "Southeastern Theater Conference is the biggest little conference coming down the pike."

He said that the three-day conference, which is held the first week in March, was sponsored by Universal Studios.

It included festivals, competitions, seminars, workshops, interviews with recruiters for undergraduate and graduate programs, and a job contact service, Newdick said.

Bleecker said that nearly 3,000 actors and designers from colleges and universities competed for 700 positions with over 70 theater companies.

Hopper said students were interviewed by companies including Universal Studios and Walt Disney World Co., and designers like Susan Szu, costume designer for the original "Godspell" production.

At the conference, students are identi-

See page 10

Finer Points

Virginia opera tops off season with 'Porgy & Bess'

by W. Clinton White III
staff writer

The Virginia Opera performed their last North American gig of the 1991-92 season last week at the Carpenter Center to a packed house.

The company's production of George Gershwin's "Porgy & Bess," often considered the definitive American opera, has not yet reached the end of its tour. By special invitation the cast and crew will be putting the show on in three South American countries in the upcoming months.

Taking place in a fishing village in Charleston, South Carolina, the opera mixes Gershwin's signature sense of orchestration with a poignant and humorous mix of drama and the exploration of American culture. It tells the story of Porgy, a benevolent and self-sacrificing fisherman, and his love for Bess, a woman with a bad reputation.

The strong cast is perhaps the most impressive aspect of this production. Brian Gibson, in the role of Porgy, and Keith Byron Kirk, playing the smooth dope peddler Sportin' Life, are both veterans of the international stage. Kirk's soulful voice was in top form throughout the show and was especially appealing in his interpretation of the familiar tune "It Ain't Necessarily So," which garnered him overwhelming applause during the curtain call.

The supporting cast also delivered fine performances, most notably Tyrone

Jolivet as the Crab Man, a humorous seafood vendor, and Patricia Saunders Nixon as the wise and wily Clara.

Equally well-received was Gibson for his portrayal of Porgy, the selfless cripple struggling to be accepted as a handicapped person and as a "real" man. This desire seemed to be the deep-rooted source of his passion for Bess; he had to prove to himself that he could love like the other men in the village and please a woman as well.

Bess' character, played by soprano Theresa Hamm (experienced on various national and international stages, including that of the Met) was, unfortunately, not fully discovered during last Wednesday's performance.

Hamm's voice was not as clear and expressive as the others, although she did offer most of the pathos and desperation that one expects from a woman addicted to drugs and badly treated by the community of the village, Catfish Row.

Hamm's aria (voice solo) "I Loves You, Porgy" was not particularly convincing and this was a critical point in evaluating her effectiveness in that role. She did, however, exhibit her true vocal power in leading the spiritual "Oh, We're Leavin' for the Promise' Land" in the middle of the first act.

"Porgy and Bess" is constructed similarly to traditional opera, but to the amateur patron, it seems a bit more down-to-earth and accessible than a Puccini or Verdi dramatic love story. This may be because it is sung in a fluent African-

American dialect that blends well with Gershwin's score, which is well-punctuated with percussion and woodwind flavor provided by the consistency strong Virginia Opera Orchestra.

In the end, I was left with the impression that Porgy is a universal symbol of dedication and strength.

Imagine a man unable to stand on his

own two feet, because of a handicap, going to jail for and later driving a goat cart from South Carolina to New York to find the woman he loves.

And I won't even walk to 7-Eleven in the rain to get a pack of cigarettes, let alone do hard time in the slammer for them.



photo by Kathy Kenney

Catfish Row in the Virginia Opera production of Gershwin's "Porgy & Bess."

Theater students at Florida conference

continued from page 9

fied by numbers, said Hopper, in order to reduce the potential for bias by judges, who may know a prospective player.

Joy Bleecker was one of 25 VCU graduate and undergraduate students attending the conference.

"When we got there, we all looked up on numbers on the bulletin board and got the room numbers of the companies that we wanted to audition for and signed up for time slots," said Bleecker, a senior theater major.

"We had a minute to audition and if you sang in your audition you were given a minute and a half," said Bleecker.

Bleecker's performance earned her 25 "call backs" for auditions from companies at the conference and one more has come through the mail since she returned to Richmond.

"It's a cruel business. You either do it in that minute or its 'next'," Newdick said.

In addition to the competition for jobs, VCU students competed for awards in stage and costume design.

This year there were a record number of entries, said Sherry Harper, a VCU graduate student who submitted costume designs for review.

VCU students, who won first place last year, didn't place this year, Hopper said. "We were introduced to the school of hard knocks."

"We usually get honorable mention or place, so it's really unusual for VCU not to get anything," said Harper.

Newdick said VCU did not get shout out completely. He pointed out that the play that won the high school competition at the conference was directed by a VCU graduate.

"We're always going to come up with some kind of win or we better believe that because we've been doing this a long time," Newdick said.

While the students at the conference were competing for jobs and awards, the professors exchanged ideas.

Hopper, who gave two seminars on costume design, said that one day a bunch of the designers were sitting around discussing their work and came up with the idea to share props and sets.

One of the designers said that students at his university were going to do the play "On the Verge" but believed that building the required abominable snowman would be difficult with his theater's limited budget.

"Someone (from another school) mentioned that they had done that play earlier and still had their snowman and that he could rent it to the other university," said Hopper. "That was what sparked the idea of renting props to other schools within in the conference."

Even students like Bleecker, who has been going to the conference since her sophomore year, learned something new this year.

"I learned that the best thing to remember is to relax and be yourself," Bleecker said.

Next year the conference will be held at Crystal City, in Arlington County, Va.

SPECTRUM BRIEFS

Tickets Now On Sale For Richmond Ballet

Tickets are now available for the Richmond Ballet's March 27 and 28 Repertory Program at Carpenter Center for the performing Arts. The Repertory Program will feature George Balanchine's "Apollo", a portrayal of the young god learning the beauty of music and dance from three beautiful muses.

It has been described as an innovative and influential piece choreographed in classical style to compelling music of Igor Stravinsky.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Carpenter Center Box Office. For further information contact Michael Maloney at (804) 359-0996.

East Main Gallery's 2nd Annual Juried Exhibition

New York artist/writer Stephen Westfall will be the juror for 1708 East Main's 2nd Annual Juried Exhibition. Artists in all media may submit up to five slides. All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form available from the gallery.

Prizes include cash and a solo exhibition at the 1708 East Main

Gallery. Deadline for entries is Monday, April 27. Send SASE for prospectus, or pick up entry form at 1708 East Main, 1708 East Main St., Richmond 23223. The entry fee is \$12.

Area Performers/Artists Are being Sought

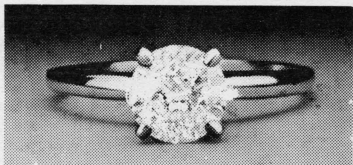
Richmond area artists are asked to share their work in "A Sunset Celebration," a multimedia performance to be held on Sat., May 3, at Fountain Lake in Byrd Park from 6 to 8:30 p.m.


"A Sunset Celebration" will provide performing and visual artists the opportunity to present their work to the general public in a celebration of Richmond's diverse community.

The total number of artists is limited to 120 and may include groups of up to 3 people. A few restrictions will apply: no amplifiers, electrical equipment, acts that destroy or harm the environment, acts in the water, selling and no sex.

If you're interested send a brief description of work along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, along with \$4 to: Cheryl Pallant, 217c Telden St., Richmond Va. 23221. Contact Cheryl Pallant at 359-3525 for further information.

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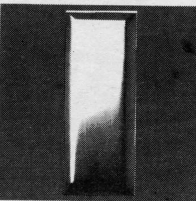
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School of the Arts goes palettes to pixels

by Michael Dobbins
staff writer

Hunched over a Macintosh IISI and listening to music through his headphones, Tyson Brown, a junior fashion advertising major, creates an image of a dragon on the screen of the new computer.

"I am using 'PixelPaint Professional' to color in the different parts of the dragon," said Brown. "I can choose any color I want and place it anywhere I want."

The computer Brown was using is one of 14 new Macintosh computers the Fashion Department bought using money from the Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund. That wasn't the only department to purchase computers.

The Communication Arts and Design Department also was able to buy 60 computers and the Sculpture and Dance/Choreography departments also will receive computers bought with money from the trust fund.

"(Getting the computers) was a very long and extended process related to State Council of Higher Education's Equipment Trust Fund," said John DeMao, chairman of the Communication Arts and Design Department.

The fund was established in 1986 when the Virginia General Assembly set aside \$90 million, said Mike McDowell, public information coordinator for the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia.

"It was created to overcome equipment deficiencies, to replace obsolete equipment and to maintain equipment in good working order or to replace it if it is broken,"

McDowell said.

The trust fund is the first fund in the country developed to help state universities and colleges keep up with changes in technology, said McDowell. "A lot of other states are watching us to see how it goes."

Don Hix, finance coordinator for SCHEV, said VCU received the largest portion of the \$20 million available to state universities and colleges for the biennium that ends this summer.

"Of the \$3.3 million allocated to VCU, \$1.4 million went to the Fine Arts program, by far the largest amount received by any department," Hix said.

VCU will receive another \$7.5 million from the fund for the next biennium that begins July 1, 1992.

The computers have changed the work habits of students, said Murry DePillars, dean of the School of the Arts.

"The other day I was here until midnight and [the students] were out there smoking cigarettes and drinking Coke, fueling up to go back into the lab," said DePillars.

He has seen how computers have affected the arts.

"The field has changed so drastically that if we had to go three or four years without them, we would have become obsolete," DePillars said.

Although the school has the new systems, they may not keep it ahead for long.

"I am scared," said DePillars, "I was at an IBM conference the other day and I saw what they will be offering."

"If my students are going to be com-

petitive I need to hustle," said DePillars. "The technology changes so quickly."

Before they received the new systems the fashion design students had to share the Macintosh lab in the School of Mass Communications, said Robert Antonelli, a graduate student who works in the new lab.

The new lab, still with empty computer boxes lying around, is on the fourth floor of the Pollak Building.

"The lab wasn't set up until a week before spring semester began. That was when we knew that we'd be over here," said Trish Hug, an adjunct professor in fashion design.

Hug said her fashion advertising students can do more on the new computers because they are so powerful.

"The students can scan illustrations into the computer, design an ad layout and see it in color," said Hug. "It's instant gratification."

The uncompleted Communication Arts and Design lab is on the second floor of the Pollak Building.

"Myself, the assistant chairman, several grad students and a couple of other faculty became construction workers last summer and actually built it," said DeMao. "We turned in our white collars and put on blue collars and became construction workers."

DeMao said they found out this fall that when all of the computers ran at the same time the building would experience brown-outs.

"Last semester we could only run it half-speed," said DeMao. "We have our own transformer now."

In the lab where the hum of computers and the murmur of students bounce off of the naked walls, Mel Caines, a graduate student in graphic design, works on his thesis.

Caines said the whole field of graphic design has changed because of computers.

"I have a friend who is the foreign editor for the Los Angeles Times. He does just about all of his layout and design on the Macintosh," said Caines.

DePillars said computers used to be reserved for the sciences but have since become so user friendly that once a student learns how to type he is limited only by imagination.

The rest of the trust fund money allocated to VCU went to the pre-clinical, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, allied health, biology and physical science disciplines, Hix said.

Shafer Court Spring Concerts

March 27 The Toasters and Chrome
Daddy Disco

April 3 The Good Guys and The
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April 24 To be announced

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— Aurelia Brito, PhD candidate, Anatomy '94

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Angie Gill



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Student fashion design show crosses cultures

by Mary Edwards
staff writer

The Virginia Commonwealth University fashion students' annual show will take place April 25 at the Richmond Center. Titled "Across Cultures," the show will allow students to design and demonstrate fashions that show the influence of other cultures on contemporary design.

The preview for the annual show was March 2 at the Women's Club on Franklin Street.

"The show was very well-presented," said Susan Black. "The designs were beautiful and the garments very well-constructed."

Sophomore, junior and senior students, with the help of a professor and a fashion critic, make designs, draft patterns and construct the garments. The critics are members of the New York fashion industry.

The evening wear, casual wear,

daywear, menswear, children's wear and sportswear lines will show influences from Asia, Africa, the South Pacific and Mexico.

"The students begin to work on the garments in September and finish in April," said professor Don Breitingger, who works with the senior students.

The first thing the students do is come up with designs to fit the theme chosen for that year.

"First I go to the library and do a lot of research," said Wendy Lew, senior. "I look at their background, culture and costumes. I then take some little design from their costumes and put them on contemporary designs."

The students do between 30 and 40 designs and these are narrowed down to six by the professor and other students.

Sketches of these six are then drawn with a lot of detail and sent to a critic in New York.

"The critic picks the one he thinks has the strongest design and best follows the

theme," said senior Maureen Maker.

When the students get the sketches back they drape muslin on a fashion figure.

"This is where we go through the problems," Maher said. "This process is a lot of trial and error to get the look you want."

"You want to get the fabric into the three-dimensional design," she added. "This is where you may have to make design changes to get the look you want."

The muslin design is tried on a live model and the critic makes any changes he thinks are necessary.

The garment is then cut from the fabric and constructed by the students. The critic checks the garments one more time and then they are

ready for the show.

"I haven't spent any all-nighters here this year, but last year I spent three days and two nights here," said senior Kim Coles.

The critics who helped the students throughout the process will serve as judges for the show.

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Sports

Metro Tournament: Rams shock Louisville, lose in semis

by Drew Geary
associate editor

LOUISVILLE — What goes up must come down...

With 4:12 left in VCU's semifinal game against Tulane at the Men's Metro Conference Tournament on March 14, the Rams had fought back within six points of the Green Wave. Freshman Tyrone McCoy had just scored a driving layup after Eric Atkins stole the ball at midcourt. The score was 68-62 and VCU was breathing down the No. 1 seed's neck.

Then the roof caved in. Tulane forward Anthony Reed drained an 18-footer from the right base line. After VCU coach Sonny Smith called a timeout to gather and rest his tired bunch, Reed's teammate, Carlin Hartman, made two fast break layups and two free throws. Tulane never looked back and beat the exhausted Rams 87-69.

Though the loss marked the third time this season that Tulane had bested VCU, it certainly did not spoil the tournament for the Rams, for they had done the impossible 24 hours earlier — they had beaten Louisville in Freedom Hall in March.

First, a little history lesson.

On Thursday, Jan. 9, VCU introduced itself to the Metro Conference by handing the Cardinals a nine-point loss at the Richmond Coliseum. The win was marked by the Rams' consistent free-throw shooting down the stretch and a bench contributing on both ends of the floor. Indeed, it was a glorious evening for VCU basketball.

Deja vu...

On Friday, March 13, in front of 16,000 screaming Louisville fans, VCU shocked Coach Denny Crum and his Cardinals, 74-65, in the tournament's first round. Hey, that's a nine-point victory. Imagine that. Consider these similarities between

the two games, though:

Louisville — Kendrick Warren led the Rams in scoring with 16 points.

Richmond — Warren led the team with 17 points.

Louisville — The VCU bench scored 14 points.

Richmond — Ram reserves tallied 15 points.

Louisville — VCU went 18-22 from the free-throw line down the stretch.

Richmond — VCU made 10 of 13 freebies in the waning minutes.

Louisville — Crum embarrassed in front of many Louisville citizens.

Richmond — Crum embarrassed in front of two Louisville police officers.

There was, however, one difference. Louisville led the entire first half and, frankly, looked liked it would breeze into the semis against Tulane.

The Cardinals stormed out of their nest in Freedom Hall and built a 9-0 lead four minutes into the contest. It was a long four minutes for Smith and company. Not only did the Rams fail to score on five consecutive shots, Warren was whistled for two fouls and had to leave the game at the 16:07 mark.

Atkins finally got VCU on the board when he hit a short jumper from the left side at 15:58. Junior guard Chris Brower, who was starting for just the sixth time this season, nailed a three-pointer 20 seconds later to make it 9-5 and build his team's confidence.

Both teams exchanged baskets for the next seven minutes, but it was then that Louisville decided to take control. Leading 18-16 with 8:14 left in the half, the Cardinals went on a 10-0 run that lasted another long four minutes. During that stretch VCU committed two turnovers and missed seven field goals. Meanwhile, Louisville was hitting jumpers and pounding the boards for easy second

chances.

The Rams were able break out of their slump, though, and scored the last five points of the half on a Rod Ladd trey and two McCoy free throws. They left the court trailing 31-24 after making only 38 percent of their shots.

"I thought if we could control their spurts that we had a chance to win it here," Smith said. "We controlled their second spurt and I think that was the key in the first half."

The crux of the second half? VCU was hungrier.

Slowly but surely, the Rams climbed

back by playing heads up, muscle defense and being able to beat the Cardinals' press. They took their first lead of the game at the 13:12 mark when Warren drove to the basket to put VCU ahead 40-39.

"In the second half we cut down on any second shot opportunities that they had by getting on the boards a lot better," Smith noted. "We also got really aggressive with getting the ball inside and either putting it in the bucket or going to the free-throw line."

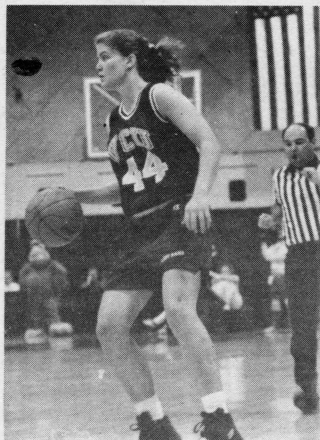
see page 14



Staff photo by Shawn Kitzmiller

Rod Ladd (12) and Henry Callins show how they feel as VCU puts the finishing touches on Louisville. The Rams, however, would lose their next game to Tulane.

Women reach semi-finals in Metro tourney



Staff photo by Shawn Kitzmiller

Jennifer Melton scored a career-high of 23 points in the game against Tulane.

by Jason T. Bonardi
staff writer

The Virginia Commonwealth University Women's basketball team proved that when it's tournament time it's anyone's game, almost.

After losing to Louisville by a total of 74 points in their two previous meetings, the lady Rams held their own against a physical Cardinal squad in a 88-80 defeat in the semi-finals of the Metro tournament in Louisville, Ky.

"VCU played incredible today, so much better than in the past. Our changing defenses didn't bother them, give them credit they played great," said Louisville Head Coach Bud Childers.

Playing their best game of the year, the Rams front-line duo of Dawnita Price and Niamh Darcy shot a combined 11-16 from the field and 5-6 from the line for 26 points against the biggest team in the conference.

Anna Pavlikhina showed why she was

voted first team All-Metro and voted on the All-Tournament team as she scored 40 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the Rams two games.

Against Louisville Pavlikhina started the game with a 3-pointer from the left corner as the Rams stayed close to the Cards in the early going.

The Rams found themselves down 12-11 five minutes into the game and then again down 27-26 with 8:14 remaining in the half.

The game broke open when Louisville went on a 15-5 run that ended with a VCU timeout at the 3:32 mark.

Jennifer Melton got the Rams back on track with two 3-pointers in a span of :42 seconds to bring VCU within 42-37.

Louisville free throws late in the half and a dry spell for the Rams gave the Cardinals a nine point edge going into the second half 48-39.

"Coming into the game we knew it was going to be physical, if we had any chance at all it was going to be to play hard and

not back down — I thought our girls did well," said Ram head coach Susan Walvius.

In the second half Pavlikhina started with a 3-pointer, two in fact, in the first two minutes to bring the Rams within 50-45.

But that is as close as the Rams would get as Louisville ran up leads of 65-49 and again at 73-57 with 11:01 remaining.

With 1:23 to go in the game the Rams faced a 83-76 deficit and had to foul.

With Mollerup and Pavlikhina fouled out, VCU lost a good chunk of its outside and inside game and was unable to get off good shots in the end.

"We played with a lot of heart and emotion out there. Our girls did not give up and played the entire 40 minutes tonight," Walvius said.

In first round action the Rams defeated Tulane by a score of 73-58.

Jennifer Melton led the way with 23 points off the bench, while Pavlikhina and Beth Mollerup chipped in 14 apiece.

Aspect

Rams made fans, Richmond proud

by Gage Harter
editor

LOUISVILLE — VCU guard Chris Brower didn't appear awed by Freedom Hall on March 13. He casually drained three-pointers after three-pointers during warm-ups as the junior and the rest of the team prepared to face the No. 25 Louisville Cardinals.

Somebody from the stands yelled down to Brower and asked how the Rams would fare against the host team. He turned to face the anxious fan and said smiling, "We're ready."

It was the smile that spoke louder than the words. It was as if he was saying, "We know something that Louisville doesn't."

That night, the Rams made a lot of people proud. Brower's wide smile was duplicated, after VCU's convincing 74-65 win, by Coach Sonny Smith, Athletic Director Dick Sander and the 100 or so loyal VCU fans that braved the snow.

It was a great victory. To put this performance in perspective, consider what the Rams were facing. They came into the contest with a four-game losing streak while Louisville won four of their last five. The Rams were facing the mystic of legendary Freedom Hall where the Cardinals were 10-2 on the season and have won 85 percent of their games. Out of the 16,992 fans in attendance, only a scant few cheered for the gold and black. It got really loud really fast when Louisville started the game with the first nine points.

But the Rams hung in there and

slowly crept back. The team exuded a silent confidence and when Kendrick Warren hit a short jumper with 13:12 remaining in the game, VCU had its first lead.

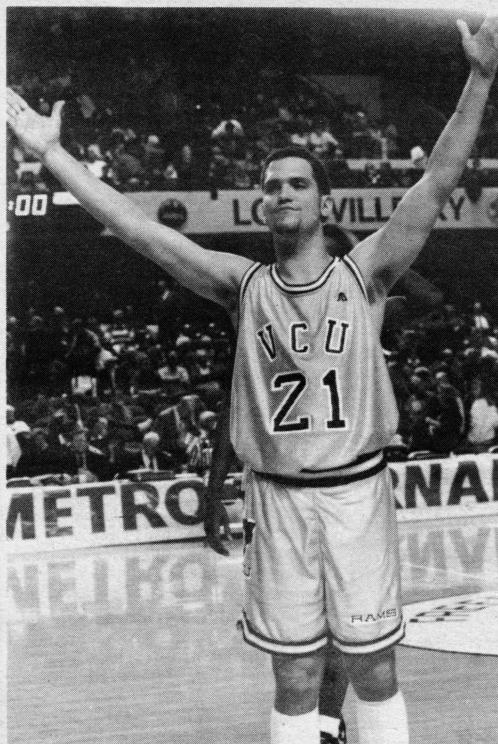
As the Rams gained control of the game, Louisville started to foul. Carl Weldon and Brower combined to hit 10-10 from the line in the last minute of play — something VCU supposedly couldn't do.

When the horn sounded to end the contest, the VCU players raised their arms in victory. Two players who rarely show any emotions, Warren and Sherron Mills, hugged and smiled. Coach Smith looked so excited he probably could have dunked.

But amid the Rams celebration, there was a stunned silence that loomed over Freedom Hall. It was like the spectators had just witnessed a traffic accident. They just couldn't believe their eyes.

The VCU team shook hands with the Cardinals and went inside to their locker room. There wasn't any taunting nor grabbing one's manhood nor finger pointing to targeted fans from the Rams. In fact, VCU was very gracious and demonstrated first-class sportsmanship.

A lot of coaches like to say that one game doesn't make a season. But this game left such a good feeling that when the Rams rooting section started to chant V-C-U, even unbiased witnesses couldn't help but join in (this reporter shed off his suit and tie and gave low fives on press row). This game was VCU's season, no matter what Coach Smith will say.



Guard Chris Brower celebrates VCU's victory over Louisville. Brower scored 15 points and made all six of his free throws.

Staff photo by Shawn Kitzmiller

Ram Notes

• Kendrick Warren was voted to the first team All-Metro Conference. Last year Warren was selected first team All-Sunbelt, as well as Freshman-of-the-Year.

• The Rams defeated five teams that received bids to the NCAA Tournament this year: Murray State, Louisville (twice), UNC-Charlotte, Old Dominion and South Florida.

• VCU's upset victory over Louisville in the Metro Conference Tournament was the first time the Cardinals had ever lost in the quarterfinals.

• Ram basketball player Anna

Pavlikhina broke the single season scoring record in the Rams Metro Conference victory over Tulane. Pavlikhina scored 598 points in 29 games for the Rams.

• Beth Mollerup broke the single season rebounding record against Tulane. Averaging more than 10 rebounds a game, Mollerup tallied 309 boards for the Rams this year.

• Former VCU Coach Mike Pollio was on hand to witness the Rams victory over Louisville. Pollio is currently the head coach at Eastern Kentucky.

Deja vu

continued from page 13

The Cardinals managed to tie the game at 50 with 6:29 remaining, but VCU went on a run themselves, scoring eight straight points in three minutes.

Trailing 60-52, Louisville did what any other team would have done against the Rams — send them to the foul line. VCU ranked last in the Metro in free-throws made, converting on only 63 percent.

But Crum, his players and the sea of fans dressed in red sweaters watched in horror as VCU scored its last 18 points

from the charity stripe. Guards Carl Weldon and Brower netted all of their attempts.

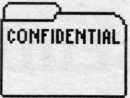

When it was all said and done, VCU had beaten a team that had never lost in the first round of a Metro tournament.

"We matched their intensity," Brower said. "When you're in a hostile environment, that's when you play your best. That was a hostile environment, but it was also a new season, a new chance for us. That was a big incentive for us."

Indeed, it was a glorious evening for VCU basketball.

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The winner for best supporting cast: VCU

by John Medeiros
associate sports editor

LOUISVILLE — When your season is on the line, you need the "role players" to step up and give that little extra.

Coach Susan Walvius' Rams gave that little extra.

Virginia Commonwealth University's "Big Three" received plenty of press this year. They etched their names all over the record books. Stacy Agee set both the school and Metro Conference marks for steals in a game. Beth Mollerup set the Rams record for rebounds in a season. And Anna Pavlikhina broke the VCU mark for points in a season. Each of these players led the Metro in those respective categories.

Down the stretch, the Rams found some new weapons. Heather Harlow closed out the regular season with 37 points in the last two games (both VCU wins). In the finale at South Florida, she led all scorers with a career-high 19 points.

Metro tournament time rolled around and VCU was to meet Tulane in the opener. The game was a little sloppy and the score remained close. Then Jennifer Melton decided to take charge.

She played an average first half at best (6 pts, 1 reb). Melton totaled just 20 points and six rebounds in the two regular season meetings between the teams. But she played the best minutes of her life in the second.

It was Melton for three, from the line, on the follow, from 17... Melton even started the break with a defensive board and outlet pass to Agee.

In a four-minute stretch, Melton outscored Tulane, 8-5. Her jumper at the

8:00 mark gave the Rams their first double-digit lead. VCU won by 15. Melton's final stats: seven rebounds and a career-high 23 points.

Next up was Louisville, the number one team in the Metro. The Cards are the tallest team in the league and have soundly defeated the Rams. Both regular season contests were claimed by Louisville, the margin of victory both times was 37 points.

This game was right on schedule. The Cards slowly extended their lead to seven just minutes into the game. Then the "Big Three" suddenly became the "Big Two." Beth Mollerup injured her right ankle, an event that would have demoralized most teams.

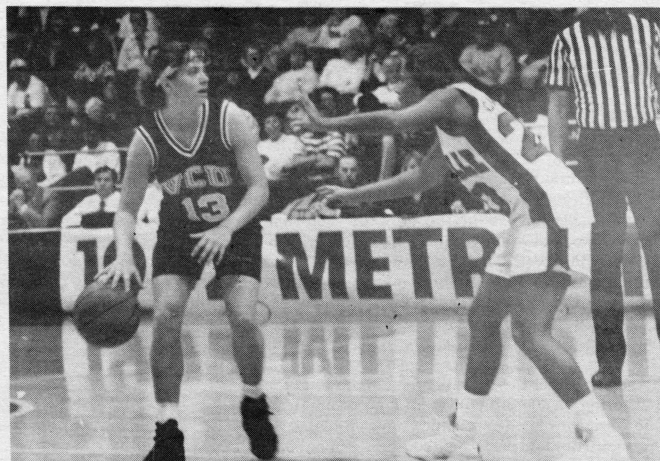
The Rams lost their inside game, on paper at least. Instead, Dawnita Price and Niamh Darcy took control on both ends of the floor. They scored, they rebounded, they had the crowd booing rather excessively. After all, Louisville was winning.

"Louisville is a better team than us...without any senior leadership, it shows me a lot about what we have inside," stated Walvius afterward.

The fact of the matter was that it should have been a blowout, but they kept us in the game. When Mollerup returned, the Cards lead was down to four. Darcy rang up six quick points and Price added two. The Rams showed some inside strength, and were able to do it with Mollerup on the bench.

"We play with a lot of heart and emotion. Our girls did not give up and they played the entire 40 minutes tonight," said Walvius.

Darcy had eight in the first half and



Staff photo by Shawn Kitamiller

Heather Harlow (13) is one of the many role players who contributed during the Women's Metro Conference Tournament. Along with Harlow, Jennifer Melton, Niamh Darcy, Dawnita Price and Stacy Agee also had good performances.

finished with 12, a personal best for a Metro contest. Price did her damage in the second half (10 pts) and ended up with a career-high 14 points. The two combined to shoot an unconscious 69 per-

cent from the floor.

VCU did lose, but the home fans were disappointed by the eight-point game.

And to think, this was the "supporting cast."

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Cheering squad stumbles, but is crowd-pleaser

by Jim Meisner
editor

In the morning hours of Saturday, March 14, while the Rams of Virginia Commonwealth University's men's basketball team basked in the glow of their upset victory over the Louisville Cardinals, VCU's cheerleaders were doing their best to pull off their own upset at the McDonald's Cheerleading & Dance Championships.

But when the cheering ended, VCU walked away empty-handed. Louisville's squad captured another in an ever-increasing collection of first place trophies, in addition to a \$1,500 check.

VCU cheerleader Sabrina Blount said the squad was concentrating on the difficult stunts, but stumbled on the one stunt they least expected to have problems with—a pyramid they had performed countless times before.

"We got our difficult stunts down to a 'T,'" she said, "if we hadn't messed up the one pyramid, we would have placed."

D.J. Branch, known to VCU crowds for his gravity-defying flips and spins, said everything else in the routine was flawless. But with only one walkthrough before the competition, Branch was limited in his choice of moves.

"I wish I could have done more, but with that space I kept it simple," Branch said. His full twist was still enough to gain accolades from members of other squads.

VCU's performance won the approval of the 700-plus crowd that filled the Louisville Gardens with cheers of support.

"We didn't think we would get as much support as we did," Blount said, noting the black and gold presence of the pep band. "We had a lot of support from other squads."

After the competition, a University of North Caro-



staff photo by Jim Meisner

lina-Charlotte squad member, clutching the first runner-up trophy, asked Branch if he "nailed" the flip he had practiced.

"We're all a happy family of cheerleaders," Branch said smiling, as the two slapped hands.

After such an enjoyable first appearance, the VCU cheerleaders are probably all thinking the old saying, "wait 'till next year!"

Impact player of the game A view from press row

by Jason T. Bonardi
staff writer

LOUISVILLE — As I was sitting on press row during Virginia Commonwealth University's quarter-final game against Louisville in the men's Metro Conference Tournament, I noticed I was sharing space with Lionel Bacon, a former VCU player. Bacon was providing color commentary for Terry Sisisky on "Rams Radio."

Knowing that Bacon had been in a few close games himself I decided to get some advice on this one.

But first, some background.

Two weeks earlier the Rams had made their way to Louisville for a stop at Freedom Hall, the Cardinals' home court, and walked away with an 89-71 defeat.

And considering that this was tournament time and Louisville had never lost in the quarterfinals and they were in Louisville, things didn't look so good.

But, as we have come to learn, when Kendrick Warren and the Rams are on the court, anything can happen and almost always does.

Warren gave the Rams their first lead of the game at the 12:50 mark to go up 40-39, and quickly regained the lead with a fall-away from 16 feet for a 42-41 advantage.

The Rams never looked back.

With the Louisville crowd stunned, Tyron McCoy gave the Rams a 52-50 lead off an inbounds steal with 5:30 to go.

Then I knew it was time.

I glanced over to Bacon. Noticing me, he looked back as I struggled for some word or gesture of encouragement.

He cocked his head as if to say maybe. My stomach quivered.

At the 4:12 mark the score was 56-50. I looked again and there was a smile, but with caution.

see page 17

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49'ers strike gold in a tournament of upsets

by Gage Harter and Drew Geary
sports editors

LOUISVILLE—The little people made the 1992 Men's Metro Conference Tournament so special this year—from sports information to the organizers to the citizens of Louisville. They worked behind the scenes and put on a first-class show.

The little teams made the Men's 1992 Metro Conference Tournament exciting. Upsets of Louisville and South Florida in the first round set the tone. Near upsets of Tulane and North Carolina-Charlotte in the semis caused no stir when No. 3 seed UNCC beat No. 1 Tulane in the finals.

UNCC 70, Virginia Tech 52, March 13

This was a game of two halves. The contest was close and the momentum was in the Hokies corner heading into intermission as the scoreboard read 37-30, in favor of UNCC. But coach Jeff Mullins was concerned.

"We shot 65 percent in the first half and we were only up by seven," Mullins said. "It's this team's style to shoot a lot of

perimeter jumpers. When you shoot as well as we did the first half, you've got to win the war in the paint. I told our guys the game would be won or lost inside the second half."

And dominate inside the 49'ers did. UNCC scored 22 of their 35 second half points from behind the three-point line and outrebounded a much taller Virginia Tech team by 18-13.

Henry Williams led the way with 26 points while James "Trigger" Terrell pitched in 18. Virginia Tech senior Erik Wilson finished his career with a 17 point performance.

Southern Mississippi 92, South Florida 87 (2OT)

Probably the most exciting game of the tournament.

South Florida had won seven games in a row and was the No. 2 seed. But Southern Mississippi had Clarence Weatherspoon.

The senior and three-time Metro Player of the Year scored 27 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and broke the tournament record with eight blocks. He also played all 50 minutes.

Southern Mississippi outscored the Bulls 13-2 in the last 2:35 to send the game into overtime. Dallas Dale and Terry Cameron hit crucial three-pointers during this stretch.

With the score 81-79 in favor of South Florida and six ticks left on the clock, Dale hit Weatherspoon with a perfect inbound lob. Weatherspoon then turned and shot a short bank over two Bulls to send the game into a second overtime.

In the second extra session, South Florida went cold and the Golden Eagles took command with a 9-2 run to put the game away.

"That has to be one of the most exciting games in Metro Conference Tournament history," USM head coach M.K. Turk said. "The intensity level started out very high but continued to rise. I told my team I can ever remember of a team that showed more determination than we did today."

VCU 74, Louisville 65

Carl Weldon and Chris Brower combined for 28 points and 15-15 from the line as the Rams stunned a partisan crowd at Freedom Hall. Kendrick Warren led the way with 16 points and seven rebounds.

Louisville started the game with the first nine points and VCU didn't score until the 15:58 mark. The Cardinals also had a 10-0 run but VCU was able to respond to every Louisville spurt.

UNCC 76, Southern Mississippi 72, March 14

A close game from whistle to whistle. USM led by as many as seven points in the second half behind Weatherspoon's team-high 27 points. The 49'ers were shooting poorly from long range, but got great inside play from sophomore center Rodney Odom, who scored 10 points and pulled down 13 rebounds.

When push came to shove, though, it was UNCC guard Henry Williams who came through. Behind by one with 29 seconds remaining, Williams drained a driving jumper and was fouled in the process.

USM, down 74-72 in the waning seconds, missed three shots in a row to send UNCC to the finals. Williams finished the game with 29 points.

Tulane 87, VCU 69

The score did not reflect what happened on the court.

Tulane, the No. 1 seed, had a first-round bye and was a rested team. Meanwhile, the Rams were coming off an emotional contest with Louisville.

VCU's thin bench was no match for Tulane's "Posse," five young players with fresh legs who relieve the Green Wave starters and play stifling defense.

Down by six points at the 4:12 mark, VCU's huffing and puffing became too much for the Rams to handle. Tulane pulled away and sent the Rams back to Richmond.

UNCC 64, Tulane 63

A nail biter.

Henry Williams, the eventual tournament MVP, netted two free throws with six seconds left in the game to seal the 49'ers title. UNCC, a Sun Belt Conference team a year ago, joined the Metro for the 1991-92 season along with VCU and South Florida.

After the tournament, four Metro teams were invited to the NCAA Tournament: UNCC, Tulane, Louisville and South Florida. The Green Wave and Cardinals won their first-round matches.

Golden Eagles on their way to NCAA's

by John Medeiros
associate sports editor

LOUISVILLE—The University of Southern Mississippi, led by Janice Felder, claimed the Metro's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Felder led all scorers with 70 points in her three games. It was a team effort, however, and it was based on defense.

•USM 90, USF 66

Angie Snyder scored eight of the Bulls first 12 points, but as a team South Florida was overmatched by Southern Mississippi. The Golden Eagles never trailed in the contest and had three scorers in double-figures at the half.

Vera Perry led USM with 26 points and added nine rebounds. Janice Felder rung up 20 points and 13 boards. Renee Bellamy led the Bulls with 17 points.

South Florida coach Trudi Lacey summed up her first year in the Metro, "This year we learned what it takes to play in the Metro. Intensity — night after night after night."

•Va. Tech 67, UNCC 61

The upset of the tournament was pulled off by Virginia Tech. The Hokies trailed most of the game, but an offensive rebound and lay-in by Jenny Root gave Tech a lead they would not relinquish.

"We didn't want to take any quick shots," Hokies coach Carol Alfano said. "We knew we couldn't go up and down the floor with UNC-Charlotte."

UNCC led at the half but the 49ers were cold in the second, shooting just 30 percent. Lisa Leftwich and Lisa Griffith each had 17 points for Tech. UNCC's Charlita Davis led all scorers with 20. Marquee freshmen Christi Osborne of Tech and Markita Aldridge of UNCC both had 12 points.

•VCU 73, Tulane 58

The Rams did not play well, but they played well enough to win. VCU came into the game last in the Metro in team field-goal percentage. After 40 minutes on the court, the final stats showed the Rams shot just 28 percent from the floor.

The two keys for the Rams were Jennifer Melton's 23 points and their free throws. Melton posted a career

high as well as grabbing seven rebounds.

VCU also hit their free throws. They connected on 88-percent (28-32) from the "charity stripe." Beth Mollerup had 14 points and 16 rebounds for VCU while Kristi Pertuit led Tulane with 13 points.

•USM 76, Va. Tech 63

So, Mississippi had the press working and Tech was just too tired and injured in this contest. USM led most of the way, carried by Janice Felder's 20 points.

"I thought this was one of our better defensive games," said Kay James, the Golden Eagles coach. "From now on, it doesn't matter who we play, we have to press full court."

Christi Osborne led the Hokies with 20 points. The Hokies played without the injured Dayna Sonovick and with a less than healthy Sue Logsdon, who did not score in 23 minutes on the floor.

•Louisville 88, VCU 80

One of the most emotional games of the tourney, a crowd of 2192 gathered to watch the hometown Cards defeat the Rams. VCU's seven-player rotation was worn out by Louisville's depth and physical play.

Gwen Doyle led the Cardinals with 17 points. Tuonisia Cummings added 15 points and nine assists. The Cards had 11 players take the floor and they combined to shoot 60 percent for the game.

The Rams were led by Anna Pavlikhina, who had 26 points and five assists before fouling out.

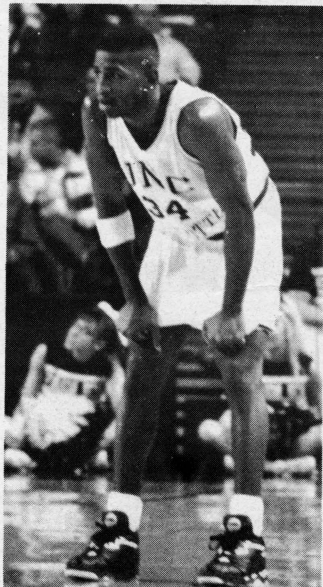
•Championship: USM 85, Louisville 75

Janice Felder's 30 points against the Cards easily made her tournament MVP. Tanya Bullock was also named all-tournament for USM. She scored 24 against Louisville.

The key to this game was turnovers, and the Cards had a lot of them (19). USM held a 26-13 edge in points off turnovers, using their pressure defense to guide them to an NCAA bid.

"I thought our fast break was the key to our win," Golden Eagle coach Kay James said. "We've had three tough games. I thought we held out pretty good."

Nell Knox and Gwen Doyle each had 20 points for Louisville.



staff photo by Shawn Kitzmiller

Metro Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player North Carolina-Charlotte's Henry Williams.

Sideline commentary from the Metro

continued from page 16

After a Louisville bucket, Carl Weldon and Warren hit four consecutive free throws to go up 60-52. Just two and a half minutes away ...

Bacon saw me writing and motioned to his watch as if to say there was still a lot of time. I eagerly nodded.

With less than a minute to go, Louisville was forced to foul.

Only 29 seconds remained when Weldon sealed the win with two free throws to pull ahead 70-59.

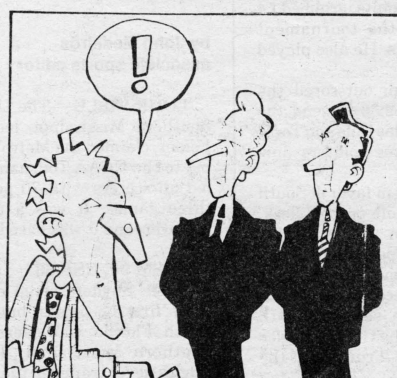
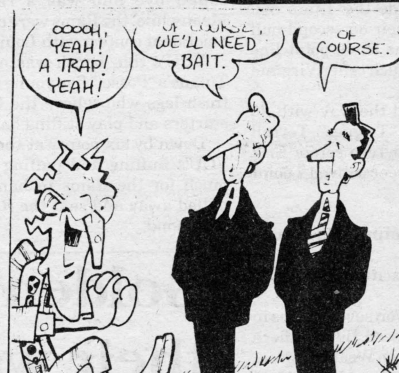
Even Sherron Mills cracked a smile.

Knowing that this lead would be enough, even for Bacon, I looked over a final time to witness a wink from his left eye as he extended his hand my way.

Comics

TWILIGHT

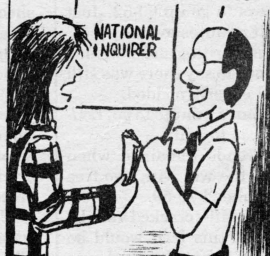
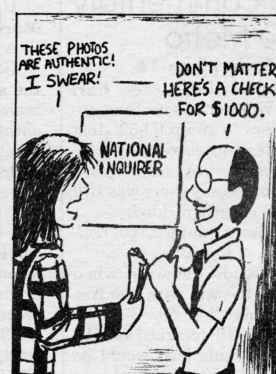
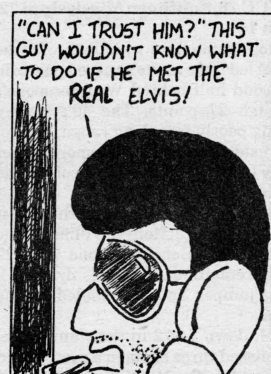
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Classifieds

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miscellaneous

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