

COMMONWEALTH *times*

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Thursday, November 19, 1992

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Sentencing rescheduled for athletes

by Brian Baer
staff writer

Two VCU student athletes scheduled for sentencing yesterday in Richmond Circuit Court in connection with the April 18 break-ins at the University of Richmond had their hearings rescheduled for Dec. 15.

Duncan Sheils, a senior cross-country runner majoring in business finance, and Bruce Berger, a sophomore member of the track and field team majoring in pre-physical therapy, had their sentencings moved due to what the defense said was an illness of Neil Stevenson, a defense attorney.

Both pleaded guilty Sept. 16 to one count each of breaking and entering, grand larceny and conspiracy to commit breaking and entering, according to a Sept. 17 article in the Commonwealth Times.

According to testimony at their trial by Thomas McNally, assistant commonwealth's attorney, the students entered a UR residence hall where they "took property valued at more than \$200."

McNally told the court that the defendants then went to Robins Hall where they entered several rooms and threw articles out of the windows before going outside to retrieve the articles and place them in the back of a pick-up truck, according to the CT article.

Derrick Rosser, defense attorney, told the court Wednesday that Stevenson was "in dispose" and had been expected back to work Tuesday. Rosser then asked Judge Robert L. Harris for a continuance of the sentencing.

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Is this a mirage?



staff photo by Andre Dupuy

The 1992 Stride for Life Camel Journey's purpose is to give appreciation and thanks to the American people for their help and support in the Gulf War and to introduce the culture of the Gulf to Americans. These camels are meant to symbolize soldiers in the desert and the victims of disease, homelessness, war and famine. The journey is co-sponsored by The World Charity Foundation and the Social Solidarity Foundation. Ahmad Eshaq, Hisham Alamar and camel trainer Geno Walker stopped in Monroe Park on their way to their final destination of Washington, D.C., as a part of their journey that started in San Francisco in September.

Crazy Charlie's renegs on 'Safe Sex' donations

by Jason T. Bonardi
staff writer

Crazy Charlie's, a bar on West Main Street in Richmond, sponsored a promotion this summer called Safe Sex Night, but another sponsor of the event, Vince Faulkner, said Charlie's never turned in the \$1,400 it made during the promotion. Profits, which came from the \$2 door donation, were to be donated to MCV's AIDS Benefit Fund.

"I went back to Charlie's about two weeks after the promotion had ended, because I wanted to know when he was going to present the check," said Faulkner, owner of Gotcha Covered Condoms, a store at 1515 W. Main St.

"They told me they had deposited the money into the wrong account and it had

'Don't you understand? I lost money. I can't donate anything' — Andy Edwards, owner of Crazy Charlie's on Main Street.

been spent," he said.

Andy Edwards, owner of Crazy Charlie's in Richmond, Charlottesville and Norfolk, said he hasn't given the money to the fund because he lost money on the promotion, which included a free condom.

But Faulkner, who donated the condoms, still contends that the promotion was for the MCV AIDS Fund and that at least some money should go to it.

"This is total mismanagement," he said. "People came because they thought the \$2 door donation was going to charity."

But Edwards said he never agreed to this.

"I told Vince (Faulkner) that I would donate a portion of the proceeds," Edwards said. "But I lost money on the deal."

Edwards said Faulkner knew that Charlie's would only donate if the event made a profit.

"I set this up," said Faulkner, who contacted MCV regarding the planned donation. "The deal was that we would donate the proceeds made at the door and that was \$1,400."

Edwards said he paid for the bulk of the advertising and spent more promoting the event than he made.

"I spent \$400 on printing the flyers," he said. "And then another \$600 on radio spots advertising the event. And that was just in Richmond."

Edwards also said the bar was no busier than it was on other nights. And because of lack of business, he closed down the promotion after just two weeks in Charlottesville.

"I had a five-week contract with radio stations in Charlottesville," he said. "And we only ran it two weeks. That's another \$1,000 right there."

Edwards said he does not plan to donate any money to the fund.

"Don't you understand?" he asked, "I lost money. I can't donate anything."

Inside...

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■ **Sports** — NCAA Final Four Championship this weekend.page 11

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Benefits for "domestic partners"

Cambridge, Mass. — Homosexual and unmarried heterosexual couples could register at City Hall as "domestic partners" yesterday for the first time to get recognition and benefits previously reserved only for husbands and wives.

Registering under the city's domestic partnership ordinance, passed in September, gives partners the same visiting rights at hospitals and jails as are given to spouses.

Registration requires just filling out a one-page form at the city clerk's office.

Sacramento, Calif., yesterday also started allowing unmarried couples to register their relationships under an ordinance adopted in October.

Police charged in fatal beating

Detroit — Two police officers were charged yesterday with murder and another with manslaughter in the beating of a black motorist, a case that drew parallels with the Rodney King confrontation in Los Angeles.

A fourth officer was charged with assault with intent to do bodily

harm. Three other officers who were suspended after the beating of Malice Green were not charged.

Green, 35, died of head injuries after he was beaten Nov. 5 on an inner-city street near a suspected drug house.

Three of the officers charged, including the two charged with murder, are white. The one charged with manslaughter is black.

Police Chief Stanley Knox said he did not believe the beating was racially motivated, and Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair said yesterday no racial epithets were used during shouting that witnesses said occurred during the beating.

A hearing was set for Dec. 14.

Ninth-grader sentenced to 20 years for rape

Norfolk — Randy Williams, 16, was one of five teens who surrounded a woman on a Norfolk street and raped her. Williams was the only one tried as an adult.

Circuit Judge Thomas McNamara said Williams' record — which includes breaking and entering, petit larceny and abduction with a firearm — shows the youth "is not a baby."

"This is not his first offense and society demands there be an end to such conduct."

Commonwealth College advertises non-existent degrees

Norfolk — A private business school has come under a barrage of complaints for giving misleading information to prospective students which was distributed in pamphlets that list a degree the school no longer offers.

The brochures given to high school students at a college fair also mentioned a career that graduates of Commonwealth College cannot train for.

State officials say the associate degree in business listed in the brochures has been dropped by the school.

Commonwealth also doesn't have a state-approved nursing aide program that is listed in the pamphlets.

Richmond continues to lose jobs

The Richmond area for the fourth straight month had the worst year-to-year job loss rate among the state's eight major metropolitan areas, the Virginia Employment Commission reported yesterday.

Non-farm employment in Richmond-Petersburg in September

NEWS BRIEFS

Win a holiday turkey in the Turkey Trot

A Turkey Trot will be held Nov. 21 in Rockwood Park, 3401 Courthouse Road. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. the day of the race. For more information call: 748-1623.

A Victorian Christmas

Christmas is coming to Court End on Nov. 29. It will be a Victorian Christmas with carriage rides, art activities, refreshments, Sgt. Santa and more. Entertainment will be held from 1-5 p.m. For more information call: 649-1861.

Residence halls close for holiday

From 5 p.m. Nov. 29 until 9 a.m. Nov. 29 Rhoads, Johnson and GRC residence halls will be

closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Also, from 6 p.m. Nov. 29 until 9 a.m. Nov. 29 the shuttle bus service to MCV will stop operating.

Speaker of the House roast to be held for diabetes research

"Under Tom's Thumb," a fundraising roast of Speaker of the House of Delegates, Tom Moss, will be held at the Richmond Marriott Wednesday, Nov. 18.

The event will benefit the research and education programs of the American Diabetes Association and will feature Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, U.S. Sen. Chuck Robb, Delegates Alan Diamonstein and Jean Cunningham, Sen. Warren

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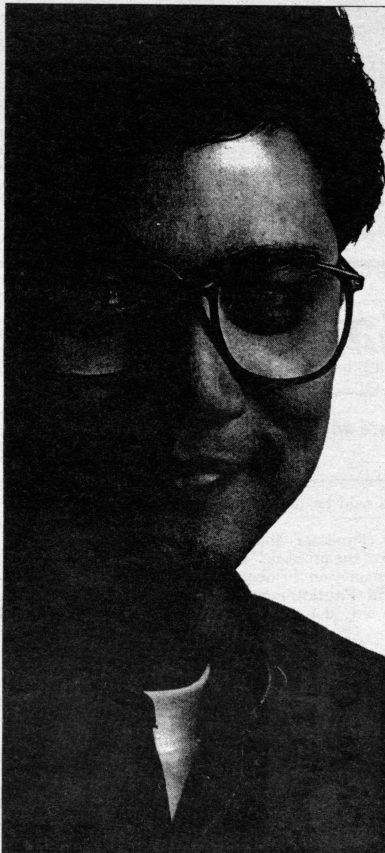
was 456,800, or 1.7 percent less than in September of last year. Since September 1990, employment in the area has declined 21,800, or 4.6 percent.

However, the area's job loss rate

in September was not as bad as its 2.5 percent loss in August.

Since the recession began in October 1990, the smallest year-

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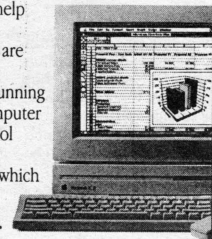


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in touch

Community colleges to bear brunt of student influx

by Patricia Woods
staff writer

More high school graduates wanting higher education means turning up the heat on community colleges as well as senior-level colleges to meet the expected 65,000 student influx by the year 2002.

While some states consider drastic measures to accommodate the influx of students, Arnold R. Oliver, chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, said Virginia fares pretty well for the moment, but state officials consider some new proposals.

"The bond bill assures the minimum faculty required for future students," Oliver said, referring to the Nov. 3 passage of the Virginia General Obligation Bond Bill.

Joan Walker, acting director of admissions at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, said administrators could not hire new people before classes started this semester but hired three more English and two more math instructors for the spring semester.

Oliver said, however, that state officials are looking at proposals similar to plans considered in Florida.

According to an article in a summer issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, community col-

leges in Florida, Utah and California presented proposals to state legislators for attracting students to the two-year schools to ease crowding at senior-level institutions.

The article described the plans of each state:

- State officials in Florida are considering providing grants to private colleges that agree to accept transfer students from community colleges. They may also consider following the Utah plan.

- Utah Valley Community College administrators presented plans to state officials to offer baccalaureate degrees at the junior-level institutions to help crowding at senior-level universities.

- California legislators are looking at a policy that would allow students accepted into the state's public universities to be "redirected" to community colleges. When applying, students would indicate whether they would consider beginning their secondary education at a community college. If so, space in a California senior-level college would be held for their upper-division work.

While Oliver likes the Florida plan, he said, he's unsure of the

effectiveness of the California proposal and is "vigorously opposed" to the Utah plan.

"Offering four-year degrees changes our mission," he said. "It would create difficulties."

Two-year associate of arts degrees have become common at community colleges.

Oliver explained that to suddenly add senior-level degree programs would raise questions about how officials equip community colleges, about where faculty commitments lie and about the purpose community colleges serve.

"We're very heavily focused on teaching the first two years of a program," he said. "If you start offering majors, you have to look at different faculty and have certain departments that operate in different ways."

Oliver explained the differences between people who enroll in two-year programs vs. those who enroll in senior-level institutions.

"There are a number of different considerations (in choosing between such institutions)," he said. "One is that a lot of people make decisions based on what it costs and based on what point they are in their lives."

Community college tuition usually costs less per credit hour than that of senior-level institutions

with the added advantage of fewer required courses.

Oliver said non-traditional students think they must obtain a degree more quickly. Others, he said, don't want the general education part of the degree.

For example, older students usually return to school so they can find a higher-paying or steady position and say they don't have time to take courses in math or grammar required at senior-level institutions.

Another factor he mentioned is where people live.

"In a lot of areas you cannot just commute to a university, so the community college becomes the only choice."

Programs such as nursing and computer science at community colleges allow students the option of obtaining an associate's degree and joining the work force or continuing in a bachelor's degree program at a senior-level university.

Either way students can end up with certificates as licensed practical nurses or registered nurses, but only at a senior college can they earn a bachelor of science in nursing.

Regarding the California plan, Oliver said, he doesn't "have a good feeling" for it.

"The program might have some

effect if there was a monetary incentive," he said, adding that he hoped parents already considered the cost factor of sending students to a senior-level college as opposed to a community college.

Oliver said Virginia community college students experienced a very steep increase—more than 14,000 enrolled full-time this year.

"That's the size of some four-year universities," he said.

Oliver pointed out that he saw a substantial increase in students enrolled in associate degree programs with the intent to transfer because many senior-level colleges have trouble accommodating more freshmen.

At Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, Mary Jane King, coordinator of college relations, said 52 percent of the 1992 graduating class plan to transfer to a senior-level program.

But, she explained, that doesn't tell the whole story.

"Many nursing students (enrolled in the associate degree program) aren't listed as transferring students but go on to get bachelor's degrees," she said.

Walker said 39 percent of this year's students at Reynolds enrolled in programs that allow them to transfer to upper divisions at senior universities.

VCU and former Soviet states maintain student exchange

by Cyndra T. Flynn
staff writer

What can one institution do to help another nation's higher education system?

When it comes to working with the former Soviet Union, VCU already sponsors faculty and student exchanges with institutions.

VCU President Eugene Trani visited the former Soviet Union three times within the last year to develop relationships between its institutions and VCU.

Trani, who taught at Moscow State University in 1981, said VCU accepts Russian faculty and students, and some VCU students attended schools in the former Soviet Union through special programs with St. Petersburg University and Moscow State University.

Two such programs involve the School of Basic Health Sciences and the School of Business.

"We have — at the level of a school — a working arrangement that has brought both students and faculty in the area of life sciences," said Jan Chlebowski, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics.

The program was established with St. Petersburg University's biology faculty (faculty being analogous to school).

During the last three years, Chlebowski said, approximately 15 students — undergraduates, graduates and other post-degree students — attended VCU from St. Petersburg.

"We are trying to identify people that can take skills back to their country to reinforce what's taking place. The intent is really to help them." --Charles Gallagher, associate dean of external affairs.

grams," Chlebowski said.

In the last three years, five to six St. Petersburg faculty members also visited VCU, Chlebowski said.

In turn, three or four of VCU's faculty simultaneously visited St. Petersburg.

"We would like to end up with this being a two-way street," Chlebowski said, adding that he hopes for a reciprocal benefit.

Students and faculty visiting VCU, Chlebowski said, referred to their experiences as having a "stimulating effect" on their work.

In the life sciences program, Russian participants compared and contrasted their country's scientific developments during the Communist Party's regime to that of the United States.

The major difference, Chlebowski said, exists in the area of computers where hardware is limited in the Soviet Union.

After the School of Business established its program this year, young Russian professionals interned with sponsoring companies around the Richmond area, said Charles Gallagher, associate dean for external affairs.

These students study undergraduate

time at their sponsoring businesses, which include Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Virginia, Virginia Power, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant owned by The Restaurant Company.

"We are trying to identify people that can take skills back to their country to reinforce what's taking place. The intent is really to help them," Gallagher said.

Helping the institutions in the areas of hard science and business, as well as politics appears to be the major concern of those involved in the programs.

The concern lies not only with the Soviet Union but with the other eastern bloc countries, where some faculty see additional needs.

For instance, Frank Belloni, director of international studies and associate professor of political science, said he thinks all areas are equally important and identified eastern bloc countries such as Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland as needing assistance.

"We should help them with the democratic system," Belloni said.

Belloni, who taught on a Fulbright Schol-

arship to the former Soviet Union and other countries may not be able to apply what they learn at VCU to their home institutions.

Belloni used his exchange as an example. He taught four classes consisting of about 30 students each.

Even though it was a beneficial experience, he said he could not use what he learned overseas about teaching in a small classroom environment, because at VCU he teaches to as many as 200 students in one room.

"Everything isn't convertible," he said. A two-fold program, Belloni said, where European faculty teach at VCU, and VCU faculty teach at European institutions would benefit the European institutions on both ends of the spectrum.

"What we (VCU) could do is to set up institutional relationships with perhaps a half-a-dozen eastern European countries," Belloni said, referring mainly to those eastern bloc countries other than the former Soviet Union.

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Mondays, 9 p.m.

Lecture tracks 'mangled view' of African society

by Patrick Bodsford
staff writer

A mixed crowd of faculty and students gathered in the Commons Theater last night for a lecture given by Dorothy C. Ukaegbu, a visiting instructor of Afro-American Studies and the department of sociology and anthropology. Her speech, "Africa and Africans: The Politics of Representation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities," focused on the images of Africa and Africans developed by Western scholars—images that have distorted the realities of Africa.

"The politics of representation refers to the struggle between Western scholars, the representers, who try to maintain and control power over the people represented. And the represented themselves, who are trying to share, if not control, this power to represent," she said in defining her topic.

She went on to discuss the "mangled view" of Africans as well as the African continent left behind by Western scholars and Western writers. These views, she explained, portray Africans as savages and attempt to excuse Westerners' attempts to hold back Africans.

These perceptions also highlight African cannibalism. Ukaegbu argued that cannibalism has passed through many other societies and has not been pointed out as much as it has been in African societies.

In her speech she talked about an African named Ota Benga, who was brought to

America in the early twentieth century. Benga was displayed in a cage with an orangutan. The cage was filled with bones to suggest cannibalism.

A book written by the grandson of the man who brought Benga to America chronicled the journey of the African from "the bush to the ground." Ota Benga later killed himself as a result of his mistreatment.

She discussed other distorted views of Africans saying that many had views of Africa and other Third World countries that were degrading. In her opinion, these Western conceptions reinforced the feelings of Western superiority.

Ukaegbu discussed the problems with some of these portrayals. Her main concern was with the use of the West as a model by which Third World countries should compete. She said that social scientists feel that the West is the best example for the Africans in terms of politics and economics. Her question was, why should Western models be used for African concepts that are different?

"The trumpet has sounded to overturn all falsehood," she said with an emphatic tone.

Questions from the audience dealt with themes of African misrepresentation and education. One member of the audience disagreed with her anthropological views, and she wasted no time in striking down his disagreement.

"The time has come for us to make a firm resolve," she said, concluding her lecture.

Students

continued from page 1

Harris agreed to the continuance saying it would be better for both defendants to be sentenced at the same time.

Wayne Morgan, attorney for the defense, said he met with Judge Harris Tuesday and had already arranged the continuance prior to Wednesday's hearing.

"This is just a formality," he said.

Steven Buck, assistant commonwealth's attorney, said he did not

mind the continuance. "I do expect them to be in jail, however, by the holidays." He paused briefly before adding, "Let them see that in the paper."

Sheils and Berger face maximum sentences of 20 years for each of the breaking and entering and grand larceny charges and 10 years for the conspiracy charge. McNally said at their trial.

Briefs

continued from page 2

Barry and Old Dominion University President James Koch.

The 9th annual gala will include cocktails, dinner and the roast. Prices are \$100 per person and \$1000 per table.

For additional information call: 1-800-582-8323.

Area musical performances

"A Little Night Music," Stephen Sondheim's perfect romantic musical comedy known for its enchanting waltz melodies and brilliant lyrics will be playing Nov. 23-Dec. 27 at Theatre Virginia, 2800 Grove Ave.

For more information call: 367-0840.

Entre Nous, the newly named duo of Karen Haid, flutist, and Lynne Abbey-Lee, harpist, is scheduled to perform in the Midday Music Program at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 E. Grace St. (Capitol Square).

Midday Music is open to the public and free. Off-street parking is available.

Lyric-soprano Myung Hee Pak, accompanied by pianist A. Grant Hellmers, will perform in the Midday Music Program at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 25 in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 E. Grace St. (Capitol Square).

FYI and Briefs are compiled using the Richmond Times-Dispatch, wire reports and press releases sent to the Commonwealth Times offices.

Home gardening?



staff photo by Derrick Washington

As part of the Commons Phase II construction, workmen tore out old bushes and trees so they could plant new ones. Students could see their money hard at work on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Rub-a-dub-dub ...



staff photo by Derrick Washington

On Monday afternoon an unidentified man lost his bathtub off the back of his truck at the intersection of Main and Harrison streets. The tub caused the bus to come to a sudden stop. No one was injured.

FYI

continued from page 2

to-year job loss rate was 0.2 percent in April of this year. However, the gap had widened during spring and summer.

In September, non-farm employment in the state was 2.82 million, 14,700 less than in September, 1991.

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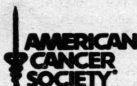
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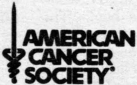
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Editorial

Parking Problems Might Get Worse Before They Get Better

Last week we promised to explain how University Fees are spent. We also mentioned the "Report of the University Parking Task Force."

One of the guiding principles of the task force was that "Parking operations should be financed primarily by user fees, and reliance on subsidies from student fees should be substantially reduced or eliminated."

It would be difficult to imagine a substantial reduction in the amount of University Fees allocated to parking.

Academic Parking received less than 5 percent of the total \$8.5 million distributed by the 1990-91 University Fee budget.

For the proposed 1992-93 budget the percentage swells to less than 15 percent, and is reduced by less than six-tenths of a percent for 1993-94. But this increase is deceptive.

It includes a new MCV parking deck scheduled to open next January and a "major repair program" in 1993-94 for the MCV Patient/Visitor Deck.

Although neither of these projects will do much to improve the quality, or quantity, of parking on the academic campus, the cost to park in the deck of the academic

campus increased in fiscal year 1992-93 and is projected to increase by 10 percent in 1993-94. Translation — MCV benefits and everyone pays for it.

This is not the worst news the report contains for academic campus students.

The task force estimated that the academic campus parking shortage will increase from 1,340 spaces in 1992 to 1,660 in 2002, a 1 percent per year increase.

Despite improvements and additions to the parking supply at MCV, its parking shortage will increase 2 percent a year.

These figures were obtained by hiring a firm to go around on- and off-campus parking lots and count the number of cars parked in both areas.

In other words, the university determined how many people are not able to find parking by counting the number of people who found parking.

What?

In effect, academic campus students will pay, in large part, for additions at MCV and see their own (perhaps underestimated) parking problems continue to worsen.

Guess what else?

There are no improvements currently planned for academic campus parking.



Letters to the Editor

Student Criticizes Food Lion

In all of the noise over Food Lion's label/date tampering and similar consumer-oriented scandals, something has been forgotten. This is the original attempt by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union to make the company pay for wage and hour violations.

Food Lion has made a practice — to perfection — of requiring eight hours of work to be done in four hours of scheduled time. The threat of a lost job has compelled many employees to work hours off the clock to complete their assigned tasks. This means time worked without pay, the pay being below industry standards anyway.

Contrary to the claims of certain television spots, Food Lion employee benefits are also below standard. Working conditions also leave much to be desired.

Food Lion has been taken to court about many of these problems. This fact, however, has largely been ignored.

It has been said that when Upton Sinclair's book "The Jungle" came out, people reacted to what was done with their food during preparation and processing more than the overall conditions in the plants, which were Sinclair's main concerns.

This seems typical. I do not downplay people's health and economic concerns, but hope that they would consider their fellow Americans, their fellow

human beings, who must work in the kind of conditions that will result in these problems.

James Robert Jackson
Non-traditional Studies

Student Defends Professor

I am writing in an attempt to clear up a few things regarding the Nov. 22 CT article "Dance instructor's remark sparks student's protest."

The writer of the article quoted students saying African dance groups "would laugh at males who dance feminine and not allow them to perform."

I was one of those interviewed and I understood the statement to be "... [They] would not allow them to perform that particular dance" rather than not allowing them to perform altogether.

The reason for not allowing males who dance too femininely to perform in this particular dance is that it is, among other things, a flirtation dance. It is important for a man to dance masculinely and a woman to dance femininely.

Also, the article said that I criticized the protestors for not confronting the teacher or department first.

This is half true. Leave out the department. The student should have gone to the teacher first.

If he had, this would not have gone this far. He would have found that he didn't hear the teacher correctly and that

he misinterpreted what she said. After all, his protest signs did misquote Ms. Walker.

Before you protest, be sure you have a reason to. Be sure you have the facts so you're not just slandering someone.

Kathy Stefanowicz

Paper Missed Veterans Day

As I thumbed through the Nov. 12 CT issue, I noticed that something very important had been left out. It wasn't the latest development in the freshman dope scandal. Nor did I see it in Dr. Trani's "multiculturalism" topics. And thank goodness, it wasn't mentioned in the articles concerning the plight of oversensitive homosexuals.

What I'm talking about is VCU's most silent minority — the 500 or so veterans we all go to class with, or who teach us every day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, was their day to remember and their day to be remembered. Whether they served in peace or war, they've made the ultimate sacrifice: themselves.

One day a year certainly isn't too often to remember, and even a paper like the Commonwealth Times has an obligation to keep its readers informed. A society that forgets its veterans forgets the essence of giving, sacrifice and the price of freedom.

Barry B. Davis
School of Business
Graduate Studies

"... we seldom speak of tradition, though we occasionally apply its name in deploring its absence." — T.S. Eliot

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Op/Ed

Max T. Furr

What Are the Ethical Views of Secular Humanism?

What, exactly, is secular humanism?

We hear the thundering words of fundamentalist preachers and pugnacious radio talk-show hosts denouncing secular humanism as the evil that is destroying our schools and our nation.

According to these prophets of doom, this amoral movement is invading classrooms, entrenching itself as a state-sponsored religion and poisoning the minds of the students.

This festering evil, they wail, causes the loss of religious values by teaching that — because there are no universal moral values — the individual is free to do whatever feels good; there are no limits.

The secular humanist, then, feels free to commit any transgression in pursuit of personal gain and pleasure without fear of divine retribution.

Is this description sufficient to form a true definition of secular humanism? For those who do their own thinking, the answer is of course not.

The above is a one-sided, narrow description touted by the misinformed and the self-serving. Yet, possibly the vast majority of people in this country have only this definition with which to draw an opinion. Few are they who do their own research.

So, by what code of ethical behavior does the secular humanist live?

According to *The Affirmation of Humanism*, a list of beliefs and commitments published in *Free Inquiry* magazine, the humanist believes in the cultivation of moral excellence and the application of reason and science to understand the universe and to solve human prob-

lems.

Humanists "attempt to transcend divisive parochial loyalties based on race, religion, gender, nationality, creed, class, sexual orientation or ethnicity, and strive to work together for the common good of humanity."

Humanists, then, are *individuals* who dare to stand apart from the security of the huddled herd and attempt, through objective observation, to understand the problems afflicting community and humanity.

The secular humanist dares to question entrenched traditions that limit human freedom and perpetuate discrimination and intolerance.

They dare to openly examine the beliefs taught to them as children and reject those that might breed intolerance, fear

and hatred.

The humanist understands that the only way to create social harmony is to foster understanding among cultures and to remain fully open to new ideas.

Therefore, the humanist places cross-cultural education among the highest of priorities.

These are some of the basic values of humanism. In these, we find no great Satan, no destructive forces and no repression. We do find tolerance and freedom.

It is not a utopian philosophy because the humanist understands that entrenched prejudices are a fact of life and are not likely to go away for a long time — perhaps never. But the humanist will remain an optimist.

Thoughts on a Father Turning Fifty

by Richard Foster

Richard Foster is a staff writer for the news section.

Dad is turning 50 this week.

It seems strange but a lot of my friends are encountering this phenomenon also. What is it about our fathers hitting this milestone that seems to make me and people my age act more neurotic about this birthday than the people who are actually having it?

My father seems calm, almost accepting about it, while I am going totally nuts.

Maybe it's the spectre of role reversal.

Somewhere, deep in the fuzzy stuff that makes up my memory, I dimly recall, "Hey, weren't Grandma and Granddad about this age when I was little?"

It's funny and frightening.

I keep asking him, "Don't you want something to mark this? Don't you want a big party? Lots of black balloons and Geritol?"

What? Am I really nuts? Of course he doesn't. He keeps saying it's just another birthday, it doesn't feel any different to him, he doesn't notice anything.

It's me who's noticing everything.

He's starting to discuss retirement. Not in the hazy sunshine of some far-off futuristic Florida, but in two years, five years; *soon*.

He wants to sell the house. It's too big for my step-mother and him — too much yard — and he wants a small place, he wants to travel.

A small *grandparent*-type place. Hold on. What does this make me?

And then it hits me: I'm a year older than he was when he married my mother. I can't be that old.

I go home and pull out a black and white picture of their wedding. Yep, there they are cutting the cake, same as always.

I think to the picture, you can't be younger than me. You look so confident, you've got it together. You look so much more adult. No, no, you're not younger than I am now.

But I look a little closer. At their eyes — they *do* look a little nervous, facing a future they will have to build on their own.

I start to think about things rapidly from there. I am

starting a career with my writing. I am working hard at getting published. I'm the last kid in college and I was the last to move out.

The nest is empty and things have come full circle now.

He is alone with his wife and planning a new future, a new chapter in his life and I'm doing the same thing he was 25 years ago and maybe we're both a little nervous about these first steps. I don't think I've ever felt as empathetic with the man.

But other things are preying on my mind, too.

One of my best friend's fathers died of natural causes recently. His father was my father's age. I hurt for him so badly.

I'm not ready to face anything like that (and I certainly know my father isn't).

Both of Dad's parents died young — each at around age 65. I still remember my dad caring for my grandfather when I was too young to know he was becoming caretaker for the man who had raised him. Shaving his father, feeding him.

Ten years later, I would do similar things for my grandmother during her illness and would realize how hard it was to see someone who I had always thought was so strong be so very weak.

But somehow we found the strength and we both grew.

The cycle draws us in to become child, parent, grandparent and child again.

But before anyone thinks I'm really getting too morbid here, I'm not planting my dad six feet under, okay? He's in great health and will be around to bug me for a long time (as he constantly reminds me).

The whole point is that there are never any guarantees — for me, my father, my friend's father or anyone.

People often joke about suddenly waking up and finding they've turned into their fathers, but it's really no joke. It happens. I sound like him, I sometimes catch myself in the mirror and think it's him. I've been told I *snore* like him. It's the cycle.

I just want him to know it's not so bad. There's a lot worse people I could be and I couldn't hope for much more when I turn 50 than to have a family who loves me and a community that respects me like he does.

My mom and dad divorced when I was 5, but they set

aside their differences on the first Christmas afterward and celebrated it together for me. That's the kind of parents I have.

When Dad remarried a couple years later, he taught me that family means more than a blood type. My brother and sister had their father leave when they were very young and my dad became their father in every way, coaching Little League softball for my sister, being best man at my brother's wedding.

I think about all these things and I want to measure up.

Half the reason I want to be a reporter (besides having a masochistic compulsion for writing long essays like this one) is that I have always wanted to be a good guy like my dad; to protect truth and to safeguard the innocent.

My dad's been a policeman for some 25 years now and my earliest memories are how strong he looked in that blue suit, how the badge gleamed.

I can remember all the times duty called, day or night. I remember my father's ashcan face after hunting for a kidnapped child only to find him murdered. I remember neighbors huddled in pajamas in our house while my father dashed into the night with a flashlight and service revolver to chase burglars who usually turned out to be mice.

I think about the times he picked me up from school and bought me ice cream or took care of me when I was sick. Or bailed me out of trouble.

I think more and more about all the boneheaded things I did in high school. All the stupid rebel stunts I pulled. All the times he had to come to school and explain no, he didn't mean to break the window and yes, we'll pay for it.

No, Mr. Pike, I don't know why he stole the flag either, but we'll pay for it.

I think about the time he was trying to sell his house and I dyed my hair — and the bathtub — bright blue-black. Arrgh.

I just hope he knows I'm sorry and he knows I'm proud of him now.

All sons try to escape it, try to rebel against it, but they have to realize, eventually, they will resemble their fathers. Hopefully.

You were always kind of my hero, Dad, even then. Here's hoping we have 50 more together.

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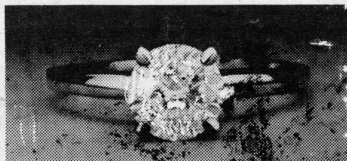
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Spectrum

FloodZone overflows with sounds of 'band rotation'

by Millard Ives
staff writer

This past Saturday night, approximately 400 people saw the term "band rotation" take on a whole different meaning as musical groups performing different styles of music -- rock and soul, reggae and rap -- hit the stage of the FloodZone.

"Roots, Rock and Rap Rotation for the Nation," was the name of the show.

The show was unique in that instead of the usual concert format where bands play the same type of music, there were three distinct types of music.

Although the styles have been combining on records for the past several years, it is rare that contrasting musical groups perform together on stage.

"This is the first time I've seen something like this," audience member Gregory Dinkins said.

"I would have never thought anyone would try something like this," he said, adding that he likes all types of music.

Described as "Soul food for the spiritually undernourished," the music ran the gamut from blues to rock 'n' roll, from roots reggae to dance-hall, from rock and soul to hip-hop.

Good Guy's Jimmi Gore said he came up with the idea after playing a show with

Funkoholic last year.

"I thought it would be real interesting if all three of us played at the same time," he said.

To add to the uniqueness of the show, there was no headliner.

Instead of a group performing all of songs at one time and leaving the stage for the night, all three just kept rotating.

The night started off with all three musical groups on stage at the same time performing "Partytime."

After the song Funkoholic and AAE left the stage while the Good Guys rocked the crowd with "Wang Dang Doodle."

After finishing they left while AAE returned, sung a song and left.

Afterward the Funkoholic returned and rapped a tune ending the rotation.

Afterward the Good Guys started the second rotation with a blues song.

In addition to the rotation, the groups shared the semi-circular stage, playing off the vibes of the crowd and each other several times.

According to the crowd's response, the best performance of the night had to be "Inner City Blue," a tune previously recorded by Marvin Gaye.

The musical groups gave the smooth R and B tune a whole different aspect.

The Good Guys, a rhythm and blues band with a touch of rock, set the tone with grooving tunes and tempos.

Meanwhile the Awareness Art Ensemble, a reggae group, provided the audience with a strong, syncopated rhythm with a calypso touch.

As if these 11 musicians playing on stage at the same time wasn't enough, "Johnny Quest" and "The Big Dipper" of Funkoholic, a rap group straight out of Virginia Commonwealth University, added a final touch by strutting across the stage chanting rhymed verses while their discjockey, "Quick J" backed the rappers up as well as the other bands with forceful and repetitive rhythms.

It was several decades ago when the original idea of band rotation was created. Several bands -- with similar styles of music -- were put together to give a concert.

The least popular bands would come on stage and play several songs and leave.

Their opening would warm up the crowd for the headliner -- the most popular band -- who would come on last and play their songs.

This was considered the perfect format for a concert.

The crowd consisted of rock 'n' roll, R & B, reggae and hip-hop fans.

The audience, which consisted of blacks

and whites, received a special hip-hop moment when Funkoholic's Quick J took command of the stage with a solo performance and gave the audience several "mixes" and scratches on the turntables.

Mixing L.L. Cool J's "I'm Bad" with other funky tunes gave the hip-hoppers a taste of back home.

Meanwhile some audience members seemed bewildered by the scene.

Shirley Houston, a self-admitted rock 'n' roll fan, said she has always heard scratching and mixing on the radio, but had no idea how it was done.

"He was quite fascinating," she added. Jason Reed, who said he loves rap, reggae and R & B, said he looks forward to the show setting a precedent.

"It was the best concert I've been to in a long time," he said.

Gore, who put the show together, said it was the first-known time in Richmond that this type of show has been put together.

After one week of practice the musical groups were able to perform together.

Jimmi added that the show went well enough to plan for similar shows and take it on the road.

Quest said he had a lot of fun and is looking forward to doing it again.

Arts Commentary

Problematic, challenging 'Orpheus' worth a look

by Clint White
associate editor

A handful of strong scenes, convincing performers and powerful though fragmented elements saved Theatre VCU's current production of Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending" from going down in flames.

Plagued by failed lighting effects and an overall foggy, inconsistent dramatic presentation that never really paid off, watching it was like working with a slightly malfunctioning machine: When it was working, it was beautiful; when it was on the blink, the audience was in trouble.

Sometimes last Saturday night, it was broken.

Like most of Williams' work, "Orpheus" took place and was concerned with matters in a small Southern town.

In its two hours and 35 minutes, a shy loner named Val (played unevenly by David Daniel) breezes into Moon Lake, Miss., and somehow, in the course of a couple months, becomes the catalyst for a rather operatic tragedy. The course of the drama is strange and perhaps unnecessarily complex; it is obviously a real challenge to direct and produce.

The misunderstood rebel Val (representing the mythological musician/poet in the title) possesses some sort of ambiguous supernatural power that he obtained as a child living on the "bayou."

This influential force is somehow manifested through his guitar, which he hugs whenever a stressful situation befalls.

According to some, Moon Lake is an accurate fictional representation of a small town in the deep South. I hope I never have to find out.

Imbued with secrets that everyone knows, gossip, deep racism and xenophobia, Moon Lake is an evil place where ill-fated things happen.

At the crux of the play is the emotionally tortured Lady Torrance (played well by Pamela K. Good). A married woman who falls in love with the magical drifter, Lady seems doomed to being miserable. Val's presence puts a flame to dynamite put in place decades ago. The tragedy explodes.

In a script full of symbolic language, director Scott Leigeber (a graduate student), tried to make his point with symbolic lighting and imaginative and sometimes successful interpretation of the power of "voodoo."

The company was most successful when straying from dialogue. For example, in an early scene, town hellion Carol Cutrere (Rhonda Keyser) falls pathetically under the unwitting spell of Val.

She finds herself magnetically and deeply sexually attracted to him; he resists, pleading that he is "not that way" -- promiscuous -- "anymore." Eventually though, he gives in.

What follows is one of the hottest and most theatrically convincing moments exploring the sometimes violent nature of sexuality I have ever seen.

This alone was a diamond in the relative rough of the play.

There were several standouts in the production. Matt Mitchell expertly played the suspicious and homicidal invalid husband Jabe Torrance who eventually darkens the day for Val and Lady.

Kirsten Ayn Hirsh and Robert Walker O'Brien were impressive in local color roles as well, staying faithful to the oh-so-true cliché of the southern small town.

Unfortunately though, one of the major technical aspects of the show -- the lighting and sound -- was grossly ineffective. Rather than relying on clever nuances and implication to gradually accentuate the importance of the "voodoo"-guitar power, the viewer was smacked in the face with a jab right out of televisionland.

Similar to the stock *This is going to be a dream sequence* music; heavy-handed spotlights and a woozy sound effect were employed to illustrate Val's black magic.

This type of overt directorial narration is unwelcome, in my opinion, in the theater.

The sum of the positive aspects of Theatre VCU's current production slightly outweigh its problems. "Orpheus" is a long and troubling play; it leaves the viewer with many leads upon which to follow up. If you're up to that task, it's worth a look.



photo courtesy of Theatre VCU

Lady Torrance and Val get caught up in the excitement of the VCU production, Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending."



The Critic's Eye

movie: "Bram Stoker's Dracula"

showing: West Tower, Cloverleaf Mall

our rating: ☆☆☆

(out of four)

'Bram Stoker's Dracula' has everything but scary stuff

by J.W. Barnes
staff writer

For many, the mentioning of Dracula invokes the image of a pale-faced man with dark, slick-backed hair, pointed teeth, a veelite accent and a black tuxedo.

However, a new film directed by Francis Ford Coppola attempts to paint the true picture of Count Dracula. And boy does it paint a picture.

"Bram Stoker's Dracula" (rated R) is a beautifully photographed movie that shows us the real story of the famous vampire. The movie sticks close to Stoker's original 1897 novel.

Basically, the story goes like this: Dracula (played by Gary Oldman) was an actual man centuries ago. He was a brave soldier who fought in a Holy War.

When his wife, Elisabetha, mistakenly gets word that he has died in battle, she kills herself. Grief-stricken, Dracula defies the God he has just fought for and, as a result, is cursed to roam the earth for eternity as a vampire.

Fast forward a few centuries to 19th century London where a young man (Keanu Reeves) is meeting with Count Dracula (who is now an old man) to help the count purchase some property. Dracula sees a picture of the young man's fiance, Mina (Winona Ryder). She is the reincarnation of Dracula's wife and the count becomes obsessed with making her his new bride.

What follows looks like a painting come to life. There are blood-red skies, 19th century carriages and gothic castles. The mood here is eerie and deliciously sinful.

Anthony Hopkins joins the story as Professor Abraham Van Helsing, a vampire expert who shows everyone the logistics of garlic, crosses and ye old trusty wooden stake.

Hopkins adds a light humor to the film.

During a funeral for one of the characters who might have been a vampire, Hopkins asks for some post-mortem tools. The deceased's friend asks if he is going to perform an autopsy right there. Hopkins responds no, he just wants to chop off her head and cut her heart out.

All of the performances are splendid. The believable British accents tickle the ear and the costumes and sets are gorgeous. Only Reeves seems a little lost in all the commotion. His character is interesting during the movie's first half-hour but by the end his character is non-essential.

So, if "Bram Stoker's Dracula" has all this going for it, what's missing?

Horror!

Isn't Dracula supposed to be one of the legendary horror monsters — right up there with Frankenstein and Wolfman? But this version of Dracula doesn't have chilling moments of terror. Instead, this is more of a gothic love story with a devilish twist.

I really don't understand how the movie can stay away from scaring the audience. Dracula turns into fog, a wolf, shadows and some really ugly creature-kind-of-things.

He kills a few people and leaves a few "love bites" on some ladies' necks. But, it's never scary ... just wonderfully done and interesting to watch.

Sadly enough, "Dracula" gets boring after its first hour. If there had been some suspense and "jump out of your seat" horror, this would have been a fantastic film.

Also, the ending is rather predictable. Coppola has made a gorgeous movie with great acting, directing and story, but he has left out the one thing so many of us were looking forward to — the scary stuff.

Without it, the movie is a nicely restored automobile whose novelty becomes boring after a few miles around the castle.

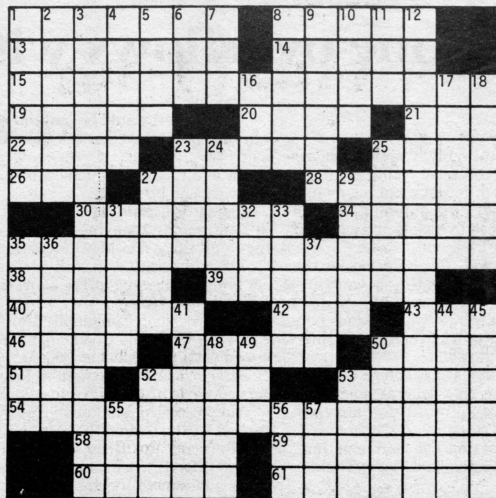


photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Mina (Winona Ryder) is seduced by Dracula's (Gary Oldman) eternal charms in "Bram Stoker's Dracula."

COLLEGIATE

crossword



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | | 46 Scrooge's words | 17 Prefix: layer |
| 1 Moscow-Washington connection (2 wds.) | 50 Girl's name | 47 Gathers in | 18 — of Galilee |
| 8 Cut short, as a takeoff | 51 " — on parole | 54 Relief from boredom (3 wds.) | 23 Former British singing star |
| 13 Crane of fiction | 52 Old Ireland | 58 Approaches | 24 " — in the hand..." |
| 14 Synagogue scroll | 53 Darn | 59 Dunk | 25 A la — |
| 15 Old Robert Conrad TV series (4 wds.) | 54 Relief from boredom (3 wds.) | 60 Common | 27 Dole and Byrd (abbr.) |
| 19 Part of TWA | 58 Approaches | 61 Skin swelling | 29 Young girl |
| 20 Iowa State U. site | 59 Dunk | | 31 Poet Pound, et al. |
| 21 Dixie (abbr.) | 60 Common | | 32 Mature |
| 22 March-command words | 61 Skin swelling | | 33 Civil rights organization |
| 23 — beer | | DOWN | 35 Fruit-derived acid |
| 25 Give a hoot | | 1 " — deck!" | 36 "Do I dare to eat —?" - T.S. Eliot |
| 26 Sixth sense | | 2 Yellow shades | 37 Japanese herbs |
| 27 Massage | | 3 U.S. mountain range (2 wds.) | 41 Judge and jury |
| 28 Siouan Indians of Nebraska | | 4 Grassy areas | 44 Loath |
| 30 Pertaining to the wind | | 5 Mating bird | 45 Finn's friend |
| 34 Fit to be tied | | 6 — pros. | 48 Uneven, as if gnawed away |
| 35 Mozart's birthplace (2 wds.) | | 7 Actor Byrnes | 49 WWI group |
| 38 Style of painting (2 wds.) | | 8 "Once upon —" | 50 Descartes and LaCoste |
| 39 — Scrolls | | 9 Ravel composition | 52 Actor Richard — |
| 40 Change the actors | | 10 Commands (abbr.) | 53 Ancient Gauls |
| 42 Pretending shyness | | 11 — deal | 55 Once named |
| 43 " — Kapital" | | 12 Rommel's battleground (3 wds.) | 56 Kinsman |
| | | 16 Move like a tail | 57 950, to Brutus |

See solution to crossword on page 14

A DISPATCH FROM SPY MAGAZINE

So You Want Your Kid to Be the Next Dalai Lama

Although the current Dalai Lama is only 57 years old and in good health, he will nevertheless need to be succeeded upon his death. The process by which this happens—Tibetan monks, alerted by portents, traipse off in search of the toddler thought to be the Dalai Lama's reincarnation—naturally has many curious, mystical underpinnings. Especially curious is that the child doesn't have to be born in Tibet, can be male or female and can be of any race or religion. In short, if you simply follow the five steps outlined below, your future Heather or Brian could actually be the next living Buddha to 14 million people.

- Between roughly one month and four years after the previous Dalai Lama's death, go **somewhere where people are really miserable, and conceive.** Successors to the Dalai Lama tend to be found in places where some kind of tragedy has happened, the notion being that an auspicious occurrence (e.g., the birth of the king of dharmas) should be offset by one equally dire (e.g., four years of crop failure).
- Give birth to a genetic curiosity. Some of the attributes the search team looks for are especially large ears, eyebrows that curve at the ends, tiger-like streaks on the legs, torso moles, and two vestigial bits of skin on the shoulder blades that suggest that the child formerly had an additional pair of arms (the better to be compassionate with).
- Get your child to inspire oracles and portents. The monks are guided toward the successor by oracles' visions and by natural portents such as unusual cloud formations, images seen in Tibet's visionary lakes and the appearance of crows.
- Encourage your child to be anxious, groggy

and bossy. Before Lhamo Dhondrub, the current Dalai Lama, was officially designated, the three-year-old's favorite activity had been to gather household objects and announce, "I'm packing to go to Lhasa [the Holy City]," then he would straddle a windowsill in his home—*U-haa, there, windowsill!*—and pretend to be on his way. Great emphasis is placed on the child's ability to recognize his predecessor's possessions; at the first visit from the monks, the two-and-a-half-year-old Lhamo Dhondrub pointed to one of the thirteenth Dalai Lama's rosaries and said, "I want this rosary," and he correctly identified a box in his predecessor's quarters as the hiding place of his dentures.

5. Ready your child for a name change. The new names bestowed upon Dalai Lamas tend to be both formal and lengthy. It is thus highly possible that the parent of the next Dalai Lama will be forced to address his son—named "Holy Lord, Gentle Glory, Eloquent, Compassionate, Learned Defender of the Faith, Ocean of Wisdom"—to say, close his mouth while chewing.

© Edward Julius Collegiate CMB728

Sports

NCAA Final Four Championship this weekend at VCU

Best teams in field hockey converge

by Jason T. Bonardi
editor

Field Hockey fans from all over the country will converge on Cary Street Field Saturday for the opening game of the women's

Final Four Championship. Old Dominion (23-0) will face North Carolina (14-6-1) in the first semifinal at noon on Saturday. The second semifinal game features Iowa (19-0) versus Massachusetts (21-1) at approximately 2:45 p.m.

VCU, the host of the tournament, will hold a press conference tomorrow to introduce the coaches and players of the teams.

"We're really excited about this weekend," site coordinator Alfreeda Goff said. "Everything is ready to go."

VCU head coach Pat Stauffer and some of the VCU players will be conducting a clinic Saturday as part of the NCAA's YES Program, a community program that will teach the sport to area youth.

ODU, the favorite to win the tourney, is the nation's top-ranked team and two-time defending national champions. The Monarchs have won 59 consecutive games.

The championship game will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. For more information on tickets to the event, contact the athletic department at 367-8188.

1992 NCAA DIVISION I FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

"Monarchs" is a fitting nickname for Old Dominion, which ruled Division I field hockey from 1982 to 1985 and is vying to repeat the feat this year. See if the Monarchs will retain their throne. Catch all the NCAA Action!

Cary Street Field
Richmond, Virginia
November 21-22
For tickets call 804-367-1726



USPTA names Kostin coach of the year

Announcement brings national attention

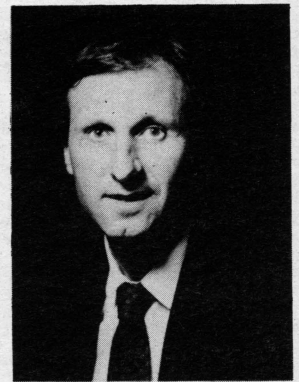
Rams head tennis coach Paul Kostin, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, was chosen the 1992 Mid-Atlantic Coach of the Year by the United States Professional Tennis Association.

Kostin will be honored at the USPTA annual fall workshop Dec. 5, where he will be presented the award.

"Kostin's achievements and contributions to tennis in the Mid-Atlantic region are outstanding and he is certainly deserving of this award," said Chip King, chairman of the awards committee.

Since coming to VCU four years ago, Kostin has put VCU on the map and recruited some of the top players in the game.

The Rams won the Metro Tournament Championship last season as well.



Paul Kostin

Student is en(Gross)ed in ice hockey

by Chris Pulley
staff writer

From basketball to football to soccer, following sports is a part of growing up for many around the country.

Hockey, however, doesn't have the same large following in the United States as baseball and football.

But Michael Gross, a 22-year-old VCU student, would like to change all that.

A hockey fanatic from age 5, Gross has started his own newsletter and kept volumes of statistics on past and present National Hockey League players since fall 1990. In the future he hopes to run a public relations department for an NHL team, he said. "Public relations will make or break a team," Gross said.

As a child, Gross was enthralled with any sport he watched on television. But he wanted to be more than a spectator.

He had a deep desire to find a sport that he could identify with, follow and sink his teeth into. The sport he was searching for was hockey.

He was 5 when his mom worked for a team dentist for the now-defunct Richmond Robins, a farm team for the Philadelphia Flyers.

Gross attended games and met players, which sparked his interest in the sport.

But his interest was sidetracked unexpectedly when his family moved to Florida where there was no hockey. Frustrated and

bored, he decided to take up baseball to compensate for the loss.

Two years later, Gross' family moved to Georgia. Still hooked on hockey and with baseball not fulfilling his interest, he switched again.

This time it was football, but after two years the desire for hockey still lingered.

His family made another move, this time to iceless Texas, and then back to Richmond when Gross was 12. But by then the Robins had left Virginia.

"I was so upset that I decided to play

soccer," he said. "That was the closest thing to hockey."

Years later, Gross, now a sophomore, heard that Richmond was a potential site for another minor-league hockey team.

He sent a letter to the team's owner asking permission to establish a newsletter about the team. Gross' patience and persistence paid off.

Three months after his initial contact, he received a letter from team owner Alan Harvie authorizing the project.

The first issue of Gross' Renegade Report

was published in late 1990. It contained player profiles, facts about opponents and comments from the coach.

But when head coach Chris McSorley was fired in 1991, Gross stopped writing. His dream to become more than a spectator tumbled.

A close friend convinced Gross not to give up. He took the challenge and began collecting data on players throughout the NHL.

His volumes focus on players who work hard — those who hustle until the whistle blows.

"I like those players who aren't stars yet, but have the potential to be," he said. "Like 19-year-old Eric Lindros of the Philadelphia Flyers and Jamie McClellan of the Capital District Islanders, who is the best in the league."

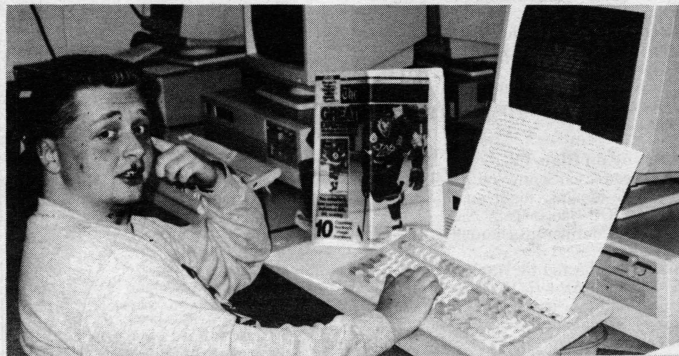
The volumes exploit the players' weaknesses as well as expound on their strengths.

Gross eventually wants to become a scout for an NHL team and put his volumes to good use. But he views scouting as a stepping stone to his ultimate desire, which is to handle the public relations for a NHL team. Gross considers himself his own role model.

"I try to shoot for the stars at all times," he said.

He acknowledges that his parents and coaches played a role in steering him clear of the elements that can impede progress.

Gross' philosophy is simple: "Life can't beat me if I beat it first."



Michael Gross, hockey fanatic.

photo by Erich Hartmann

Don't judge until you walk a mile in their shoes

by Arthur Mills
managing editor

The second retirement of Magic Johnson on Nov. 2 sparked a whirlwind of controversy on the issues of HIV-infected athletes participating in sports and whether all professional athletes should be tested for the virus.

A simplistic look at Magic's return would lead most to dismiss NBA players who criticized it due to a concern for safety as paranoid because it is thought to be nearly impossible to contract the AIDS virus through basketball contact.

An unthoughtful look at mandatory AIDS testing for professional athletes would cause the majority to say that since they already allow themselves to be poked for illegal substances they should consent to AIDS testing and if not, they should disallow the other.

These viewpoints are shared by the majority of writers who have discussed the topics and generally are considered to be the most politically correct stances.

Recently, the executive editor of the Commonwealth Times, Gage Harter, took the road most traveled writing two columns standing behind the politically correct point of view.

Unfortunately for Harter, his strong stylistic writing is hurt by his inability to formulate an original thought, while his strong belief that he understands his topic is countered by an uncanny ability to lose the point in a never-ending spiel of overblown righteousness.

This being the case, I couldn't let his foolhardy views be seen as the sport section's lone stance.

My feelings on the topic matches those expressed by Tim Green of the Atlanta Falcons and Hugh Millen of the New England Patriots, who discussed on "Nightline" that athletes in all sports have the right to protect themselves from unnecessary risk while retaining the right to protect their civil rights.

It might be true that the likelihood of contracting the HIV virus through athletic competition is less likely than a team plane crashing on the way to a game, it is also true that, at this particular point in time, you can survive a plane crash or at least die immediately, which is not the case if you have AIDS.

Also, taking a plane to a game is a necessary risk that professional athletes must take in order to do their job, while playing against someone with AIDS is a risk that athletes should not be required to take.

Studies have revealed many ways in which AIDS can be spread, yet the fact remains that no one knows for sure if the virus can be spread in other ways.

Arguing that there has never been a provable claim that an athlete has been infected with the HIV virus through athletic competition does not serve to alleviate a players concerns that just because it hasn't been documented doesn't mean that it hasn't occurred.

Choosing not to participate in a blood-letting, close-contact sport with someone known to be stricken with an unstable, ever-changing disease, must be accepted.

Still, athletes must have the same right to be left alone that the rest of society enjoys. Testing for illegal substances is not the same as testing for a disease that is perfectly legal to have.

There is a belief among most athletes that if someone finds out they are infected with the HIV virus, they will come forward, but if they don't, it is understandable because they have the same right to privacy as everyone else and it shouldn't be infringed upon.

Most athletes share the argument presented in this article, while most sportswriters take the opposing view. Personal feelings aside, I believe athletes have the right to make their own decision on these issues, sportswriters should cover the game.

The
sports
season
never
ends
at
the
Times



Charity Stripe

• Ram Notes •

compiled by Jason Bonardi

• **Women's basketball receives verbal commitments from three players.**

VCU has signed 5-6 point guard Ali Ault from Seton-LaSalle High School in Pittsburgh, Pa. Ault will begin her studies in fall 1993. As a junior at Seton-LaSalle averaged 10 points, five rebounds and four assists a game. She was named to All-Section teams by the Pittsburgh Press and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Ault chose VCU over Delaware, Pitt and New Hampshire.

Also committing to play for the Rams was Adrienne Beard, a 6-0 forward from Gaithersburg High School in Gaithersburg, Md. As a junior, Beard was selected to the All-County team after averaging 11 points, nine rebounds and five assists per game. Beard chose VCU over Syracuse.

VCU also received a verbal commitment from Jacinda Alston, however, information was not available at press time.

• **Athletic outreach visits MCV**

Athletic Outreach Director Lionel Bacon made two trips in the past two weeks to the pediatric ward at MCV Hospital.

"We went and played games with the kids and had lunch with them," he said. "I takes their mind off their illness."

Bacon was joined by Leroi Wilson of men's soccer, Rodney Ashby of men's basketball, D.J. Branch of the cheerleading

team and Heather Harlow of women's basketball.

• **Men's tennis fares well in South Atlantic Regional**

Head Coach Paul Kostin took four of his top players to the Rolex Intercollegiate Association tournament. Frederick Eliasson, who was seeded fifth in singles, received a bye in the first round and then defeated Ron Davis 6-7, 7-5, 6-1 to advance to the round of 16.

Boris Kodjoe, who won his first round match, lost to Willie Quest in round 32, 7-5, 6-3.

Isidro Lledo advanced to round 16 with a win over Bryan Stanton of Florida State, 6-4, 6-3.

Robert Pauliska, the fourth Ram singles player in the tourney, lost his first-round match 4-6, 7-6, 7-6.

The Rams doubles team of Eliasson and Kodjoe lost in the first round of the men's doubles.

• **Sonny on Blab-TV**

VCU head coach Sonny Smith took viewer phone calls Monday night on the season debut of "VCU Sports Talk", at 7 p.m. on BLAB-TV (Continental channel 7, Storer channel 8).

The show, hosted by Hank Dickenson, VCU Assistant Athletic Director for public relations and marketing, will air Monday evenings throughout the season from 7 to 8 p.m. Viewers can call 353-1111 if they have questions.

1992-93 MEN'S BASKETBALL HOME SCHEDULE

December	1	(Tue)	NEW HAMPSHIRE	7:30
	12	(Sat)	ODU(at Hampton Coliseum)	2:00
	22	(Tue)	MURRAY STATE	7:30
	30	(Wed)	*S. MISSISSIPPI (Prime)	7:00
January	2	(Sat)	GEORGE MASON	7:30
	5	(Tue)	LIBERTY	7:30
	16	(Sat)	SIENA	7:30
	21	(Thu)	*TULANE (Prime)	7:00
	23	(Sat)	LONG BEACH STATE	7:30
	30	(Sat)	*LOUISVILLE(Raycom)	1:00
February	4	(Thu)	*UNC CHARLOTTE(Prime)	7:30
	11	(Thu)	*S.FLORIDA (Prime)	7:30
	22	(Mon)	*VA TECH (Prime)	7:00
March	12-14	(Fri-Sun)	at Metro Conference Tournament (Louisville, KY)	

*Indicates Metro Conference game

1992-93 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HOME SCHEDULE

December	6	(Sun)	AUBURN	3:00
	8	(Tue)	OLD DOMINION	7:30
	22	(Tue)	WILLIAM & MARY**	5:00
	28	(Mon)	N. CAROLINA STATE	7:30
January	16	(Sat)	LIBERTY**	5:00
	23	(Sat)	*LOUISVILLE	12:00
	30	(Sat)	*TULANE	7:30
February	1	(Mon)	*SOUTH FLORIDA	7:30
	6	(Sat)	*S. MISSISSIPPI	7:30
	8	(Mon)	RICHMOND	7:30
	27	(Sat)	*UNC CHARLOTTE	7:30
March	1	(Mon)	*VIRGINIA TECH	7:30
	8-13	(Mon-Sat)	Metro Conference Tournament (Louisville, KY)	

*Indicates Metro Conference game.

** Played at Richmond Coliseum

Athlete of the Week

Sheryl Kemmerer

Women's volleyball player Sheryl Kemmerer has been named VCU Athlete of the Week for the week ended Nov. 16. Kemmerer, a 6-0 middle hitter, led the Rams to road victories against Radford and East Carolina last week, as VCU improved to 19-9. For the week, she posted 32 kills, a percentage of .373 (32 kills, seven errors, 67 total attacks), 40 digs, seven blocks, two aces and two assists.

Kemmerer is a senior from Williamsport, Md., and came to VCU last year after transferring from Hagerstown Junior College. She is majoring in radiologic technology at VCU.





NFL Picks



WEEK 12	Art "the Swami"	Bonardi "151"	"Jersey J" Medeiros	"Pick 'em" Harter	"Bellevue" Washington	"Go Colts!" Geary	"Coin Toss" Johns	"Dallas" Dave Ross
Sunday, Nov. 22								
Atlanta at Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo
Cleveland at Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Cleveland
Detroit at Cincinnati	Detroit	Detroit	Cincinnati	Detroit	Detroit	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Green Bay at Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Green Bay	Chicago	Chicago	Green Bay	Chicago
Houston at Miami	Miami	Houston	Miami	Houston	Miami	Miami	Houston	Miami
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants	Philadelphia	N.Y. Giants	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	N.Y. Giants	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	N.Y. Giants
N.Y. Jets at New England	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets	New England	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets	New England	N.Y. Jets
Dallas at Phoenix	Dallas	Phoenix	Phoenix	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
Denver at L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders	Denver	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders
San Francisco at L.A. Rams	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco	L.A. Rams	San Francisco	San Francisco	L.A. Rams
Tampa Bay at San Diego	San Diego	Tampa Bay	San Diego	San Diego	Tampa Bay	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego
Kansas City at Seattle	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City

Monday, Nov. 23								
Washington at New Orleans	Washington	New Orleans	New Orleans	Washington	New Orleans	New Orleans	Washington	New Orleans
*record through week 11	*97-43	*87-53	*86-54	*86-54	*82-58	*80-60	*75-65	*guest picker

Those following the Picks realize that our unyielding and revered leader has been undergoing a mini-slump during the past few weeks. The problem, according to sources close to the Swami, blame his excellency's latest troubles to his host body, Art. Recent weeks have seen the weak and vulnerable human adversely affect the Swami due to events that troubled him. Starting with problems with members of the rugby team, the Swami's alter persona has seen his man in the White House get booted, but that is not all. Inside sources have reported that the infidel lucky enough to house the Swami in his innards has been distressed by the performance of his beloved Redskins. The problem came to a head this week when the Swami, wise and omnipotent leader that he is, chose the Chiefs to beat the Redskins only to have the mutinous, emotional human choose Washington. Those in the know have gone on record to report that the loss devastated the foolish boy (not Geary) as he went into a stupor by drinking many a beer and listening to "melancholy music" in a dark room. The Swami pleaded with his host to keep his spirits up, if only in front of his staff of wide-eyed children. A 10-4 week by the amazing Swami has masked some of the internal conflict but a new controversy could cause the Swami trouble. Some have taken a gesture by the diety's host to one of his more cared for wide-eyed children as a sign that the host has other, Bonardi-like, things on his mind, but only time will tell if that is the case. Time will also be a factor in the guest picker race as the frisky policeman Dave "Buffalo Bill" Matteson still leads, but this week's contender has been boastful, though not as much as the ridiculous guest picker "Flyin" Bryan Ezell. "Dallas" Dave Ross has been seen asking the Swami if he has seen his "winning picks." Much could be said of Ross but to get an idea of how foolish he will show himself to be, one needs only to look at his bandwagon-jumping nickname.

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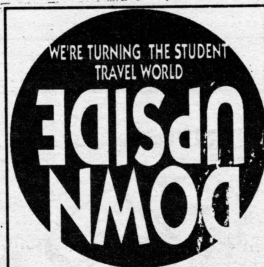
Monday Nov. 23

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8 p.m.

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miscellaneous

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Solution to crossword from page 10



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I	C	H	A	B	O	D	T	O	R	A	H			
T	H	E	W	I	L	D	W	I	L	D	W	E	S	T
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I	C	I	E	I	R	E	R	E	S	E	W			
C	H	A	N	G	E	O	F	S	C	E	N	E	R	Y
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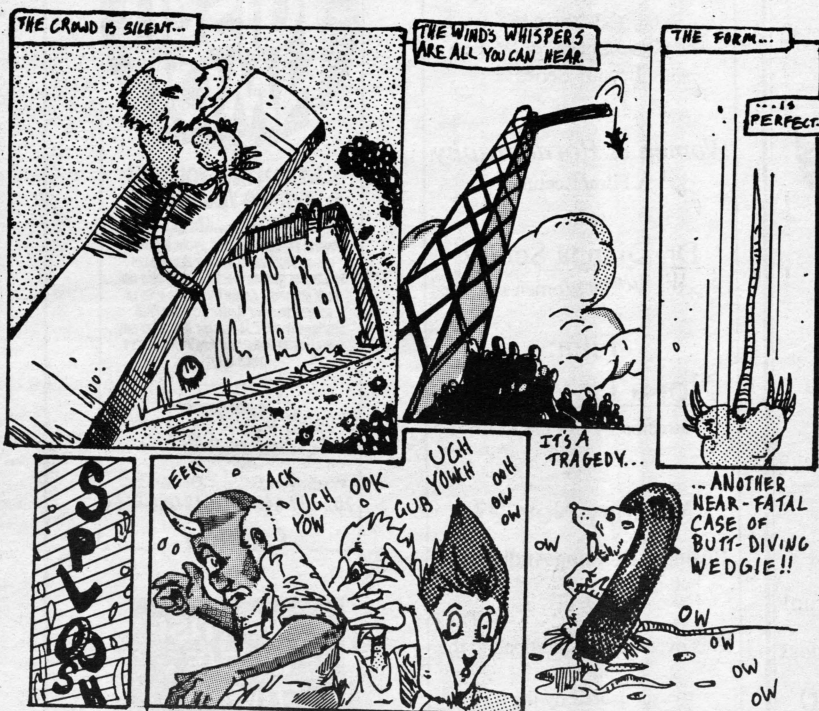
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I'LL JUST LEAVE IT HERE ON THE TABLE AND ASK HIM ABOUT IT LATER.

AND THERE IT WAS...

THERE IT SAT, LIKE EXCALIBUR WITHIN THE STONE. DESTINY WAS AT HAND....

HE WOULD HAVE IT?

HE WOULD POSSESS IT?

HE WOULD,

IF HE WERE ONLY A COUPLE OF POUNDS HEAVIER, AND COULD GET IT OFF THE CASE'S MAGNETIC STRIP.

The University by W. C. Cundiff

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