

Prospective employers preparing for VCU visit

Martha Shelton
CT STAFF WRITER

Students interested in finding jobs may want to participate in the campus interviews beginning Tuesday, March 1, and ending Thursday, March 31.

"The interviews enable students to break into companies that they could not get into on their own," said Susan Spencer, interim director of the University Career Center. "It is also a skill development process. Students' interviewing skills get better with every interview."

The event offers students opportunities to interview with more than 40 companies looking for students to fill mostly entry-level positions.

"There is no cost to the students to participate in the interviews," Spencer said. "Having the interviews at VCU provides students with a more comfortable environment."

The interim director, however, advises students not to confine themselves to employment only in Richmond.

"Students need to be willing to relocate," Spencer said. "By remaining in the Richmond area, students limit their opportunities."

The Career Center, she said, encourages companies to participate in the interviews if they have immediate job openings or if they plan to hire within the next six months to a year.

Describing the campus interviews, she said these differ from the Career Fair that is a networking situation where students can ask employers questions about their companies.

The campus interviews are on-the-spot interviews where company representatives seek in-depth information about potential employees.

Spencer said the Career Center has sponsored the campus interviews for more than 15 years, and the interviews are convenient for participating companies.

During the monthlong schedule, some companies provide group presentations before interviewing students to provide an overview of their businesses and the type of employees they are looking for. Such presentations can save time and move the interviews faster, because representatives can possibly meet with 11 students each day (depending on the company).

"The campus interviews are an opportunity for quality time with potential candidates for employment," said Donna Webb of Carpenter Co.

In contrast to previous years, Spencer said fewer companies are coming to campus for these interviews—a decrease that follows the national trend because of the country's weak economy.

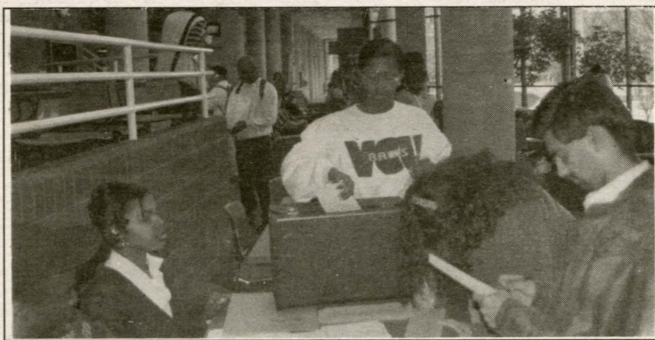
Camilla Jones, assistant director of the Career Center, said many students only look for the big names when applying for jobs, "when actually it is the young, innovative companies that are doing all of the hiring."

One company's representative said today's job market demands that applicants have good communication skills.

"The combination of interpersonal and technical skills are important to have," said Michael White, managing senior partner of the Virginia Asset Co., which handles insurance and financial services for businesses.

John Jacoby, a partner in the Deloitte and Touche CPA firm, agreed that applicants need good people skills.

"Applicants must be able to present themselves in a positive manner in interviews as well as to prospective clients," he said.



Jonathan Black/Commonwealth Times

DECISIONS, DECISIONS – Necola Pierce casts her vote in this year's SGA election.

SGA Election Results

School of the Arts

Stacey Bellamy
Corey Brooks-Giles
Gregory Curtis
Tamika McCorty
Eric Miller (write-in, pending acceptance)

Holly Hulen

School of Social Work

Amy Novotny
Ellen Young (write-in, pending acceptance)

School of Business

Tremayne Bunaugh
Clifton Davis
Gregory Neal
John Tuba
Carla Williams
Tie: Sean Dennison
Brian Wells
(a run-off election will be held)

College of Humanities and Sciences

Chukwuma Anyadike
Jonathan Bartee
Marcus Beersingh
Tamara Briggs
Phyllis Brown
Cathaleen Bryant
Era Carroll
Jason Hill
Duane Kay
Jeffrey Kraus
Kevin McCleave
Daryl Robinson
LaWanda Rogers

School of Community and Public Affairs

Latisha Baker
Mufeed Said
Thurlow Stenson

Special Students

Thomas House Jr.

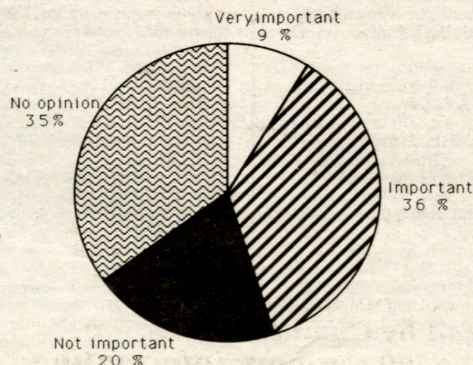
School of Education

There were several write-in candidates. Results are pending.

And the survey says ...

This week the CT
asked 100 VCU
students,

**"How
important do
you think the
Student
Government
Association is
on campus?"**



Student learns border politics

Matthew Dobias

CT STAFF WRITER

It is not every day that students find themselves nearby when inflamed tempers threaten to worsen relations between two countries.

Mary Elizabeth Clark, a VCU honors student now studying in El Paso, Texas, however, finds herself in just such a spot. Clark is taking part in "The Mexico-U.S. Semester: Crossing Borders," a program co-sponsored by The National Collegiate Honors Council and The University of Texas at El Paso.

The only student representing VCU, Clark is involved in field-based learning experiences focusing on the social, economic, political and cultural borders that separate and join the two countries.

El Paso was chosen because of its prox-

imity to its sister city, Juarez, Mexico.

"It is a good, viable location," said John Berglund, director of VCU's honor program. He added that he knew immediately Clark would be interested in the program. "I had no doubt about her," he said. "She is particularly the right one for the program."

The program became more timely because of the recent increase of militarization along the border.

U.S. Border Patrol Chief Silvestre Reyes last December announced a controversial plan proposing the building of a 1.3-mile solid-steel fence along the open border between El Paso and Juarez.

The announcement, which drew opposition from residents of both cities, came on the heels of the toughest stance by U.S.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Women's History Month

• Pornography: violent effects debated

"Sex, Violence and Videotape in the Modern Workplace" will be the topic of VCU's 1994 Honors Assembly at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, in the business building auditorium. Rodney A. Smolla, author of "Free Speech in an Open Society" will lecture. Smolla will concentrate on the debate of pornography and its supposed effect of violence against women.

• When it rains it ...

Annie Sprinkle, renowned performance artist and "sexologist" will speak about "post-porn modernism" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, in the business building auditorium about the things she does to make her famous. Sprinkle has appeared in 150 X-rated movies. Eighteen and older only. Bring ID.

• Changing roles

"Victims, Vixens and VIPs: The Changing Roles of American Women" as depicted by Karen Edelmann will be the subject of a slide and video discussion from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, in the VCU Meeting Center at the corner of Harrison Street and Floyd Avenue.

Get real (estate)!

Rho Epsilon, a professional real-estate fraternity, will meet from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28, in Cap-

itol Room A of the University Student Commons. The topic will be: "Careers in Estate Sales and Leasing." Guest speakers will appear.

Summer, summer, summer!

Students interested in registering for summer classes can pick up copies of the Summer Studies '94 bulletins in Room 104 of Founders Hall at 827 W. Franklin St.

Freshman follies

VCU's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, a national honor society for college freshmen, will hold its annual induction April 17 for about 125 students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Members can apply for more than 32 scholarships to be awarded this year to graduate and undergraduate students.

Oh, to be a leader!

Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, is sponsoring the "1994 Student Leadership Summit" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, in the Commonwealth Ballroom.

Secret agent man!

FBI Special Agent Ed Sallsback will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of VCU's American Criminal Justice Association chapter. The group will meet at 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 2, in Capitol Room D at the University Student Commons.

Hasley targets funding guidelines for changes

SGA vice president wants activities fees to cover all events open to VCU students

Sherry Jones
CT SENIOR WRITER

During Monday's meeting of the Student Government Association's Executive Committee, SGA Vice President Mike Hasley questioned how student-activities fees are allocated for campus events.

Hasley said campus events that are open to all students ought to be covered by student-activities money to pay the cost of such events.

"I want to change the guidelines," he said, citing the committee's recent approval of an event featuring Annie Sprinkle, a performance artist and former adult-film star.

Hasley continued that religious organizations such as the Baptist Student Union ought to be able to request funding from the Appropriations Committee to pay for lectures that are open to all VCU students.

William H. Duvall, dean of student affairs, said that this could be a problem, however, in terms of its legality, and the



dean offered to check with VCU's legal advisers and report back to the SGA.

In other business, the SGA approved budgets for the Executive, Appropriations, Publicity and Activities Programming Board committees.

Group pushes Americans' right to travel to Cuba

Sherry Jones
CT SENIOR WRITER

Three representatives from the Richmond chapter of the Peace for Cuba Appeal discussed Monday night the United States' 33-year-old economic blockade of Cuba.

The group argued in the University Student Commons' Forum Room that this blockade should be eliminated, and Americans should be free to travel to Cuba.

One of the representatives, Teri Brown, who has visited Cuba three times, told the audience of about 15 people that travel to Cuba is illegal for Americans. "It is clear that our job is to force a change in U.S. policy," she said, adding that, if prosecuted, she could face a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The two other representatives, Susanne Kelly and Dave Boothe, also visited Cuba in defiance of the U.S. policy.

Kelly, who has traveled to Cuba twice, said the U.S. government has not only isolated Cuba economically but also prevents information about the island nation to come into the United States.

She said only three categories of Americans are permitted to go to Cuba: journalists, professionals doing research and families with relatives in Cuba.

The group said they oppose the blockade because it is harming Cubans, who, Brown said, have been struggling for independence for 500 years.

"Cuba was the last country in Latin America to gain independence from Spain," she said. "As soon as they gained independence, the United States moved

in to take over the role of the Spanish."

Kelly argued that while Cubans suffer because of the blockade, so do Americans.

"One of the impacts of the blockade is that we don't have access to some of the things Cuba has developed such as medications," Kelly said, adding that health care is free and available to all Cuban citizens.

Boothe, who also has been to Cuba twice, said the Cuban health-care system has led to a low infant-mortality rate. It is lower in Cuba than in Richmond, he said.

In addition, the representatives stressed the emphasis that is placed on education in Cuba.

Kelly said Cuba has almost eliminated illiteracy, and it receives just as much attention as health care.

One of the audience members, Ace Allmond, who is not a VCU student, said Cuba has become a symbol for communist thinkers.

He said the best way to ease some of the tension would be to convince the U.S. government to have a hands-off policy where Cuba is concerned.

"We cannot ask the U.S. government to be friends with the Cuban government," Allmond said.

Brown said the policy of the Clinton administration is "to starve the Cubans into submission." Cubans are defending principles such as egalitarianism, fraternity, solidarity and self-determination, she said.

Asking the audience to compare the Cuban situation with that of Vietnam, Kelly said Cuba is not a country motivated by profit. Allmond said he thinks people, including Cubans, just want opportunities to lead successful lives. Cuba and America are the same in this respect, he said.

HONORS

continued from page 1

Border Patrol agents against the illegal entry of Mexican into the United States.

Called "Operation Hold the Line," the blockade began in September as a human barrier along the border. More than 400 agents, who were ordered to stop the flow of immigrants, lined a 20-mile stretch of the Rio Grande on the American side of the border.

"Hold the Line," Clark said, capitalizes on the growing anti-migrant sentiment in America.

"Immigrants seem to be the new scapegoats of problems in America," she said from her dorm room at UTEP, noting that many Mexicans are not anti-American. "They have just cause to be bitter because of the border situation."

Clark, who is four weeks into the program, said she is constantly enduring a language-culture shock.

"I have never had to accommodate a different culture before," she said, adding that she is grateful the Mexican people are understanding and helpful when it comes to the language barrier. "They are honored by my attempt to speak their language."

A senior anthropology and English major, Clark was eager to enroll in an interdisciplinary study and for the opportunity to travel and handle a budget. She will earn 16 credits for her border study.

Regardless of learning more about the border problems, Clark said the fieldwork interests her the most.

From her fieldwork, she must develop a directed-study thesis for which she will submit a paper for credit. She is considering an ethnographic study of the non-profit sector on the border.

"The study," Clark said, "will look at the non-profit vs. the profit communities in regards to their responsibilities to housing and protecting illegal immigrants and political immigrants."

To be included in her study are the low-wage implications on culture and gender and the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the area. Clark sees NAFTA as a step toward more cultural business.

"My heart is always interested in culture and looking into its richness," Clark said about choosing the program.

She will return to Richmond after completing the program on May 8.

Affinity cards: another kind of credit at VCU

University logos on credit cards prove profitable for alumni groups, creditors

Libby Stephens
CT STAFF WRITER

If you are a member of the faculty, staff or alumni, then perhaps you are one of more than 1,000 VCU Alumni Association Visa cardholders. But if you are an undergraduate student at VCU, you don't have one of these credit cards — at least not yet.

"I have mixed feelings about trying to sell credit cards to freshmen, sophomores and juniors who are probably taking on a debt load from student loans," said Bill Iles, director of VCU's alumni activities.

The possibility of contributing to this debt, he said, makes him hesitant about marketing credit cards to students.

Bill Criddle, president of the Student Government Association, however, argued that it could benefit students and the alumni organization by offering the card to students.

"Overall marketing to the entire senior student body has not begun. It is still under consideration," Iles said, adding that the association may offer cards to seniors before they graduate this spring.

The article "War of the Credit Cards" in an October 1993 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that affinity credit cards first were introduced at major universities in 1987. Groups such as alumni associations used these to raise funds.

"With affinity credit cards, the colleges, alumni associations or other sponsors contract with a bank or other financial institution and get a certain proportion of a sale each time the card is used — usually 1 percent or less," reported Julie L. Nicklin,

author of the *Chronicle* article.

In September 1993, VCU's alumni association purchased its credit card program from the VCU Rams Club, a booster group for the university's athletic programs.

Jeff Cupps, associate athletic director for business affairs at VCU, said the Rams Club sold the Visa card partly because the club's financial dealings "were dissolved and brought into the university."

Iles said that First Union, the bank contracting the credit cards to the alumni association, promotes the cards through direct mail to a list of 12,000 pre-approved faculty and staff members. The bank also sends brochures to all dues-paying members of the alumni association.

VCU's cardholders pay a flat 11.9 percent interest rate, no annual fee the first year and a \$20 annual fee thereafter, Iles said.

Other credit cards such as the Citibank Visa use a "bait and switch" technique to promote, he said.

Iles described this procedure as one where the bank advertises an interest rate for its card in bold print on the cover of the brochure. Then, in smaller print inside the brochure it shows this interest rate is effective only for a six-month period before it increases to as much as double the advertised rate.

"When those cards start low and go up, it is a hook they put out. We have a more honest approach," Iles said. "There is a combination philosophy for our card. We offer a value service to alumni, and that service generates some revenue."

The monetary benefits the alumni asso-

ciation earns from the cards work on volumes.

"We retrieve a tiny percentage only to completed purchases," he said, noting that the association invests its profits in such alumni activities as admission and reunion programs.

David Scanzoni, a media-relations manager at First Union Bank, said the VCU Alumni Association collects 0.5 percent from each completed purchase made on the card and \$5 of every \$20 annual fee per cardholder.

Other Virginia alumni groups offering affinity credit cards include the University of Virginia and Old Dominion University.

Associate directors at UVa.'s and ODU's alumni associations said their groups offer cards to alumni and students but not to faculty and staff.

Cindy Garver of the UVa. Alumni Association said its Mastercard is not open to faculty and staff because the school's credit union offers them a card with an interest rate less than 10 percent.

"We didn't think there would be a lot of appeal," she said of faculty and staff applying for alumni cards when they can get lower rates through the credit union.

UVa.'s interest rate on the card is less than 15 percent for alumni, but it's 3 percent higher — at 18 percent — for students who have the card.

Criddle said policies of charging higher interest rates to students at UVa. are unfair.

"Whoever underwrites the credit card should offer credit under the same terms," he said.

Besides varying interest rates, some colleges run into trouble with the Internal Revenue Service when they neglect paying taxes.

The *Chronicle* reported that the Uni-

versity of South Carolina Alumni Association claims all income from its card as non-taxable, treating it as a royalty for use of the college logo on the card.

In the article, the group's manager is quoted as saying the association sets aside money each year in case the IRS finds the association liable for taxes.

Iles explained that organizations offering affinity credit cards are supposed to pay an "unrelated business income" tax on profits.

VCU, ODU and UVa. representatives said their organizations comply with this policy to avoid problems with the IRS.

Still, not only tax problems can arise in this business. Cupps said when interest rates increased, the athletic department decided to let outside groups sponsor the card.

The Rams Club Visa Card, Cupps said, earned about \$10,000 each year from its 1,000 cardholders. Each year \$1,000 to \$3,000 donations went to groups such as the Massey Cancer Center and the Presidential Scholarship Fund. The remainder went into the athletic department coffers.

"The alumni association wanted to take over the program and actively sought out that business," Cupps said, calling this change for the better.

"The athletic department probably didn't maximize their (alumni) support. People may feel more positively toward the alumni association."

And if one is not enough, members of the VCU community may want to keep their eyes open for another type of affinity credit card.

The alumni association, Iles said, is considering offering a long-distance calling card to alumni, faculty, staff and alumni-operated and alumni-owned businesses.

Speaker cites lead exposure as public health problem

Bill Buckman
CT STAFF WRITER

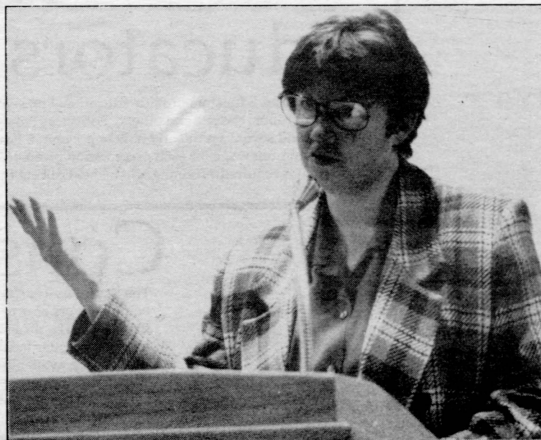
Lead exposure is a greater threat to humans, especially children, than previously speculated, said Dr. Ellen K. Silbergeld, professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland Medical School.

"Have we really reached a full understanding of the toxicology of lead and the risks associated with exposure?" she asked a VCU audience of 61 faculty and students Thursday night. "My own answer to that is, 'Perhaps not.'"

Silbergeld was on campus as part of an environmental-studies lecture series. The Center for Environmental Studies asked her to discuss lead toxicity as it relates to the environment.

Andy Lacatell, graduate-research assistant, said the center is compiling all current information from various federal, state and local agencies to find out "what's out there" relating to lead and the environment.

During her slide presentation, Silbergeld said that blood-lead levels have declined during the past 60 years but remain a significant public health threat.



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

HEAVY STUFF — Dr. Ellen K. Silbergeld, a professor at University of Maryland and an expert on lead exposure, lectures on the problems and progress concerning lead poisoning.

In 1930, for example, the acceptable blood-lead level — 150 micrograms per deciliter — was 15 times higher than what it was in 1991.

"However, studies in human populations show adverse effects in children right at that range of

10 to 15 micrograms per deciliter," Silbergeld said.

The speaker cited a recent study conducted in New Zealand that measured children's tooth-lead levels.

"As tooth-lead levels increase," Silbergeld said, "teacher ratings

get worse, the cognitive ability of the children gets worse and the percentage of children observed to be inattentive and restless increases."

Silbergeld, also a senior toxicologist for the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, D.C., said there is no threshold for lead exposure.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lead toxicity now reaches national epidemic levels.

"The most modern uses of lead in gasoline and paint pigment," Silbergeld said, "have resulted in the enormous public health problem we have in this country."

Restrictions placed on leaded gasoline and paint, she said, have not kept the "mountain of lead" from being dispersed throughout the country.

"Lead-based paint is found in older houses," she said. "Old paint is released in the form of dust and chips, which becomes readily available to young children."

Margot W. Garcia, associate professor of urban studies and planning and a member of the environmental studies advisory committee who attended the event, said lead is found in older homes as well as older buildings on the VCU campus.

Another problem Silbergeld pointed to in her speech involves lead-smelting plants.

"There are some 30 secondary lead smelting plants operating in this country — none of them meets current Environmental Protection Agency standards."

The physician also said lead toxicity can pass from parent to child maternally and paternally.

"Initially, the mother was believed to be the vehicle of lead exposure to the fetus," she said. But as well "lead is toxic to male reproduction and males contribute biologically to their offspring."

The male like the female could expose the embryo to lead substances at the moment of conception, and in turn, this genetic lead exposure could repeat itself for generations.

"This doesn't mean the maternal contributions are insignificant," Silbergeld said. "They are real and very important."

In concluding her speech, Silbergeld answered the question that also was the title of her speech, "Is it low enough?"

"I would suggest to you," she told the audience, "that we are not currently low enough either in public-health policy or the distribution of lead exposure in populations around the world."

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For more information contact Marigall Sexton, 828-2085.

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Global Citizens: Egalitarians or Individuals?

For years, people fighting the diseases of prejudice and racism urged the masses to be tolerant of other races, other cultures and other beliefs.

Mr. Webster gives us several definitions of tolerance, including, "sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing with one's own." But many times, one may not even know the beliefs or practices of another before he decides he cannot tolerate them.

So, as Bob Dylan might ask, how can we tolerate what we don't understand?

Perhaps because tolerance is a misguided goal, anonymous VCU students are encouraging another approach in the fight against prejudice.

The movement, "Global Citizenship," promotes this creed:

"... we are human and nothing more than human. We reserve the right to look past conventional borders and boundaries [race, gender, sexual divisions] that serve to contain and control us, we are residents of Earth and we reserve the right to live peacefully, free from participating in any form of political manipulation."

Their pledge continues, "We ask you to join us in this conceptual search for identity, denounce your concept of citizenship and embrace true reality; become a global citizen."

Unity.

On the surface, it seems to be the perfect solution. We are all human, all residents of

the same planet. We ought to concentrate on what we have in common. We ought to just ignore all those little differences.

Ignore?

Wait. If we ignore race, gender, sexual orientation or other "boundaries," aren't we taking away their significance?

If we reduce an Asian-American homosexual woman to a "global citizen" we do several things. We deny her a heritage and cultural background, take away her identity as a female and dismiss her sexual preference.

By doing this, we also say these things do not matter.

But they do. Characteristics such as these can have an

enormous influence in shaping individuals. And all individuals have the right to be proud of who they are.

If someone wishes to denounce their own characteristics, they are, of course, free to do so. But they cannot, must not, denounce the traits of others. By doing so, we will merely fall right back into the trap of prejudice, ignoring those things that are different, uncomfortable or offensive.

If our only choices are to tolerate or ignore, we will never overcome prejudice.

Understanding and respect are the only cures.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Commonwealth TIMES editorial board.

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Student Soapbox

Sprinkling fuel on the fire of irresponsibility

Catherine Pruden
SGA SENATOR

Ever sit down and wonder exactly how rape or teen-age pregnancy became such a problem? Or why sexually transmitted diseases are such a concern on college campuses?

Could it be that we have forgotten how to respect ourselves and others? Could it be that mixed signals are being sent out to people everywhere, coming even from institutions of higher education? I believe Annie Sprinkle, who will visit VCU later this month, will add fuel to the problems and to the concerns of many people.

Some say that Sprinkle is just another part of the multicultural spectrum. I agree.

There are, however, positive and negative facets of that spectrum. I'm all for the notion of bringing diverse cultures, ideas and personalities to VCU. Yet, when guests at VCU degrade or lower others, it is not a positive learning experience.

Annie Sprinkle does not respect herself. She prides herself in sex. She was a prostitute for many years, and considers "slutism" sacred.

Sprinkle uses handcuffs, ropes, chains and video cameras to enhance her entertainment. She was founder of Pornographers Promoting Safer Sex. And to top all of this off, Sprinkle believes peace on earth will come about only if we achieve a one-hour orgasm.

Meanwhile, resident assistants at GRC and Rhodes and Johnson halls are

trying to alert students about sexually transmitted diseases and rape on campus. Students are given hotline numbers to call about these matters. Still, STDs, rape and illegitimate pregnancies would not be the problems they are if people respected themselves and others.

Annie Sprinkle is a slap in the face to VCU's efforts or to the efforts of any other institution of higher education. Not only is her message disrespectful to male and female students (for example: "The Sluts and Goddesses Workshop"), her entire persona is, with her Madonna-like psyche.

At a time when sexually transmitted diseases are rampant on college campuses, the last thing needed is a half-naked woman with handcuffs and chains telling everyone to be a sex goddess.

So the next time the Alternative Films Committee (or anyone for that matter), wants to bring entertainment to VCU because it is "multicultural," look whether it is positive or negative entertainment. Just because it is multicultural does not make it right, and Annie Sprinkle is far from positive.

Submissions to Student Soapbox must be no more than 800 words. Typed submissions should be addressed to Christian-Boyles, Box 2010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010, or dropped off at room 1149 of the General Purpose Academic Building. The Commonwealth Times reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and space.

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Our offices are located in room 1149 of the General Purpose Academic Building; our campus mailbox number is P.O. Box 842010.

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.

Boiling Point

Digital Disappointments

Christian Boyles

Modern conveniences most often aren't.

In fact, why do we call them "conveniences" at all? Especially when nuisance is a more fitting term.

Not to be down on technology, but to be honest — technology has been down on me. Are my smoking car and dysfunctional printer really that much of an improvement over the dirt bike or rubber-stamp printing kit I had as a kid — especially now when I'm threatened with \$500 repair bills? That's a whole lot of jelly beans.

It's funny. As dollars dance out of my billfold, I get nostalgic for reflectors and stamp pads.

Just think: Forty years from now we'll all be rambling, "Sonny, when I was your age, I had to walk to the arcade. We didn't have any fancy digital fishbowls to wear on our heads."

But you can bet when I scrape up the cash (and I will), I'll be out buying more gadgets. And gizmos to interface with those gadgets. And more output for my input.

One day, they'll find me curled up in a corner with arms outstretched, muttering, "Need input, neeed input."

Why? Because we love things that go faster, go harder and go longer than anything before. Even if they serve no practical purpose in our lives.

Obsolescence, baby. Keeping up with the Joneses, '90s-style. Soon, the "mine's bigger" penis-envy mentality will be old hat. In 10 years, you'll have two men comparing operating systems — the new phallic symbol.

"Oh yeah? Well, check this out — 1K, baby. One million megabytes of pulsating computing power!"

We'll be hunched back from huddling over terminals and blind from blankly staring at monitors, but we'll have so much fabricated fun we won't care.

And I can't wait until networking is mainstream. With any luck, for my own sake, I'll throw a rod on the Super-Information Speedway.

Or better yet, have a blowout on the entrance ramp.

Then they'll have to call Bill Gates and his Super-Amalgamated Interactive Wrecker Co. to haul me away.

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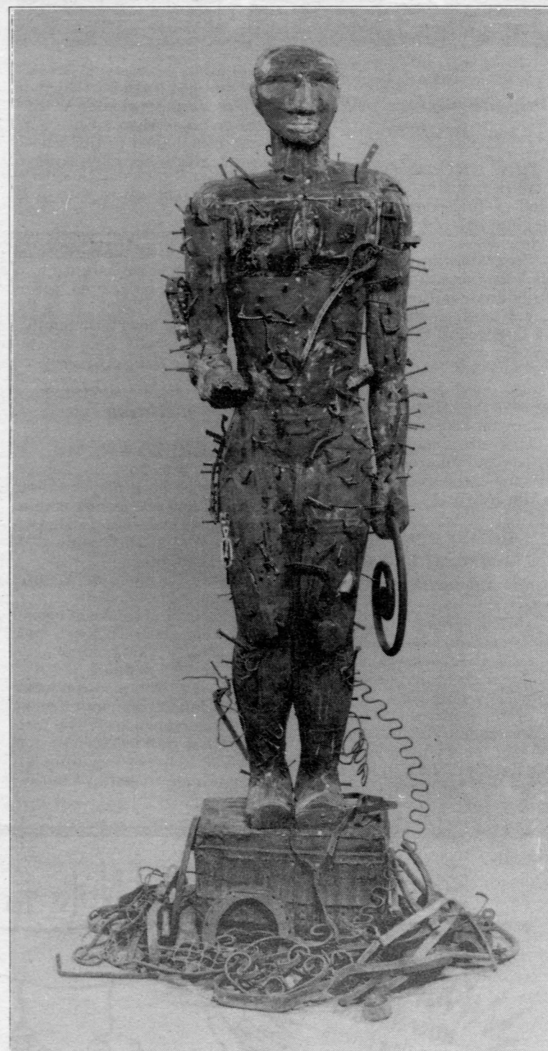
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Sculptor Alison Saar works on "Tobacco Demon," one of the figures included in her 1993 installation "Fertile Ground." Her exhibit will be on view at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts through May 15.

courtesy of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



"Untitled, 1989," a work by Alison Saar, is currently showing at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

courtesy of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Exhibit focuses on African-American culture

Chris Elmore

CT STAFF WRITER

Alison Saar focuses on African-American history in her exhibits, "Fertile Ground" and "Crossroads," on view at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts through May 15.

"In 'Fertile Ground,' I explore the relationship of African-Americans to the Southern landscape that their ancestors worked as slaves," Saar said. "I wanted to re-examine the moment of slavery and see it through a different lens."

The five carved figures in "Fertile Ground" represent various aspects of Southern landscape — focusing on its ability to sustain and to enslave. The figures are in settings embellished with red clay, magnolia leaves and painted scrims.

Central to this installation are two "agridemons," as Saar calls them. The "Cotton Demon" is a young black child covered with ghostly white kaolin clay. The other, the "Tobacco Demon" is a towering male figure that carries the features of both Caucasians and African-

Americans. These features combine the slave and overseer into one figure.

Three female figures represent the aspects of nature as it relates to slavery. "Terra Rosa" is a crouched woman that embodies the spirit of the Southern soil, both fertile and demanding, Saar explained, noting that some slaves even ate the red dirt for nourishment.

"Sweet Magnolia," Saar said, combines the comfort provided by the trees' shade and the horrors of lynching. The third female figure, "Rio Dolce," is a river goddess that represents the powers of water and the passage of time, Saar explained.

Completing the installation is a pair of white wings carrying a cotton bag titled "Garden in the Sky."

The second installation, "Crossroads," was created by Saar in 1989 and represents the intersection between the life of the body and the life of the spirit. One of the three figures in this installation was purchased by the Virginia Museum for its permanent collection.

Another figure that represents resurrection was actually

assembled from pieces of metal from a building next to the Virginia Museum that had burned down. This metal "had actually seen fire," Saar said.

Saar's figures are made predominantly of wood and metal, but incorporate other objects such as tin, copper and broken glass. "I use a chain saw to first carve the figures and then use a chisel to create the details and features. Some of them are then covered with a metal shell," Saar said.

Margo Crutchfield, assistant curator of 20th-century art and coordinator of the exhibit, said, "Alison is a very important contemporary artist. She probes our history and relationship with the land."

The exhibit will visit a museum in Atlanta, one in Winston-Salem, N. C., and one in Gainesville, Fla. The exhibit is made possible by grants from AT&T New Art/New Visions and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is located at 2800 Grove Ave. The galleries are open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SPECTRUM BRIEFS

COMPILED FROM AP WIRE REPORTS

Parade posters pull in profits

NEW ORLEANS — Harry Connick Jr. has another hit on his hands — first-edition posters for the glitzy new Mardi Gras parade he founded.

The posters are numbered and signed by Connick and show each of the floats in the Orpheus parade. They made their debut during last week's Mardi Gras festivities.

"They are instant collectors items," said Enoch Bordon, owner of the gallery that sells the posters for \$60.

There are about 70 parades in the city and suburbs around New Orleans in the weeks leading up to Mardi Gras.

Author perceives censorship as a compliment

AMES, Iowa — Writer Jane Smiley couldn't have been happier when her book was censored: It meant she'd done something right.

"Nothing succeeds in finding a writer readers than censorship," she said. "As a writer, I said, 'Hot dog! I'm one of the big girls now.'"

Smiley's Pulitzer Prize-win-

ning novel, "A Thousand Acres," was dumped from an English class-reading list in Lyden, Wash., after a conservative Christian group complained to the school district about sexually explicit passages.

Smiley said she took it as a compliment.

"I have wonderful, excellent, good company. All the best books have been censored," she said.

The book, patterned after Shakespeare's "King Lear," tells the story of an Iowa farm family.

Lehrer lures born player to daughter's wedding

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — Broadcast journalist Jim Lehrer likes French-horn player Barry Tuckwell and the feeling is mutual, so the musician decided to play for free at the wedding of Lehrer's daughter.

Lehrer, co-host of Public Broadcasting's "McNeil-Lehrer News Hour," read a recent newspaper story about Tuckwell and took a shot at asking him to play for the May 21 wedding.

Tuckwell, who also conducts the Maryland Symphony Orchestra in Hagerstown, has never met Lehrer but decided to play for Amanda Lehrer's wedding at Lehrer's home in nearby Charles

Town, W.Va., as a personal favor.

"Jim admires Barry's playing and Barry admires Jim's reporting," Mrs. Tuckwell said. "Barry likes journalism and journalists. He has got a lot of good friends in the media."

Sexiest man alive gets role anyway

LOS ANGELES — Being named People magazine's "sexiest man alive" could put some actors on the fast track to lots of juicy roles. Not Nick Nolte.

Two years ago, Nolte was auditioning for the role of the aging, bumbling Matt Hobbs in "I'll Do Anything" when the magazine came out with its tribute.

Nolte, 52, was concerned the magazine had blown his chances to play the chronically out-of-work actor. He called the director, James L. Brooks.

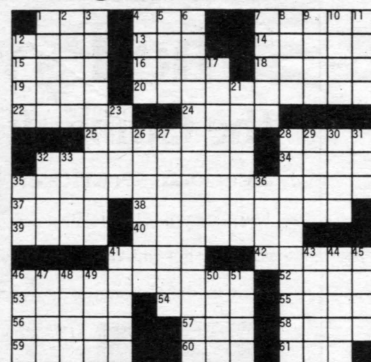
"Don't believe that magazine," Nolte recalled telling Brooks. "It's all bull. I'm not sexy at all."

Nolte said he drew a mustache on the magazine cover photo of himself, added a couple of scars and crossed out the eyes. He sent it to Brooks' house with a note: "This is how I really see myself."

Brooks said he had been concerned about the sexiest man stuff until he spoke to Nolte.

"He was so awkward and uncomfortable and amused and concerned that I realized immediately that he was Matt Hobbs. He was perfect for the role," Brooks said.

collegiate crossword



© Edward Julius Collegiate CMB720

ACROSS

- 1 Mahal
4 Title of respect (abbr.)
7 Groucho's trademark
12 Note
13 College in Brooklyn (abbr.)
14 Miss Bryant
15 Minic
16 City in Oklahoma
18 Commenced
19 Bring up
20 Making mechanical
22 Green mineral
24 Scrooge, for short
25 As — a goose
28 Swell strongly
32 Change the attitudes of
34 Miss Adams
35 Despite
37 Squante
38 Dirt analyses (2 wds.)
39 Jealous dwellers
40 — one (golf aces)

- 41 Skeletal
42 Big shot
46 Over and over
52 Mere's mate
53 Pertaining to birds
54 Debauchee
55 Scheme
56 High 10 society
57 Nothing
58 Stangy food
59 Baseball athlete
60 Parapsychologist's field
61 Type of whiskey

DOWN

- 1 Wigwag
2 Lead
3 Half of movie team (2 wds.)
4 Type of school (abbr.)
5 — Japanese War
6 Requiring little effort (3 wds.)
7 Ship room
8 Don Juan's mother
9 Partisan musical

- 10 — Impasse
11 Called up
12 Sharp projection
17 Engage in combat (2 wds.)
21 Changes chairs
23 City in New Jersey
26 Played a better game of basketball
27 Large bear glass
28 Fish dish (2 wds.)
29 Blue-pencil
30 German numbers
31 Beer container
32 Pink wine
33 Suffix for user
35 Arrest
36 Rhineland refusal
41 Commonplace
43 Fasten down
44 Make a speech
45 Verreen and Casey
46 Hindu deity
47 — Steven
48 Half of a table game
49 Facility
50 Ex-pitcher Tiant
51 Kennel sound

See solution to crossword page 15

Roscoe Made A Mental Note to Never Put the Biology Majors In Charge of Decorating

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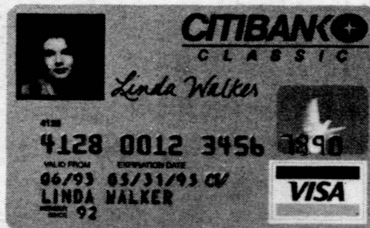


Subject suffering from Credit Card Theft Nervosa.



Subject after receiving Citibank Classic Visa Photocard.

first credit card with your photo on it. A voice inside says, "This is me, really me." (As opposed to, "Who the heck is that?"—a common response to the photo on one's Student ID.) It's an immediate form of ID, a boost to your self-image. ¶ Of course if your card is ever lost or stolen and a stranger is prevented from using it, you'll feel exceptionally good (showing no signs of Credit Card Theft Nervosa). ¶ Other experts point to other services, such as **The Lost Wallet[™] Service** that can replace your card usually within 24 hours. Or the **24-Hour Customer Service** line, your hotline if you will, for any card-related anxiety whatsoever. ¶ Further analysis reveals three services that protect the services you make on the Citibank Classic Visa card, at no additional cost. **1. Buyers Security[™]** can cover them against accidental damage, fire or theft, for 90 days from the date of purchase¹ (preventing, of course, Insecurity). **2. Citibank Lifetime Warranty[™]** allows one to extend the warranty for the expected service life of eligible products up to 12 years.² **3. And Citibank Price Protection** assures you of the best price. You need only see the same item advertised in print for less, within 60 days, and Citibank will refund the difference up to \$150¹ (hence no Post Purchase Depression). ¶ Special student savings are particularly therapeutic. For example, you can receive a **\$20 Airfare Discount³** on any domestic flight. (Case studies indicate that a Fear of Flying is overcome when Spring Break in sunny Florida is a possibility.) Not to mention savings on mail order purchases, sports equipment, magazines and music; a low variable interest rate⁴ of 15.4% and **No Annual Fee**. ¶ Suffice it to say, you'll have a credit card you can depend on while building a credit card history. So, call **1-800-CITIBANK** (1-800-248-4226), extension 19, to apply over the phone (students don't need a job or cosigner) or to have your photo added to your Citibank Classic Visa card. ¶ If we say that a sense of Identity is the first component of the Citibank Classic Visa card, a sense of Security the second, and a sense of Autonomous Will from your newfound financial independence the third, don't be crazy...Call.



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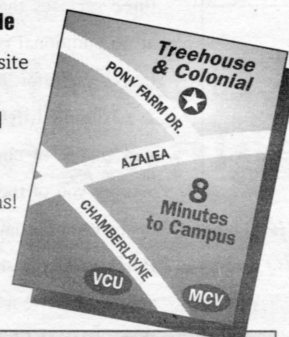
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Baseball squad drops first contest

Pitchers' duel ends in 12-inning loss

Brian J. French
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Good luck can take a team only so far.

The Virginia Commonwealth University baseball team, after benefitting from a critical mistake in the bottom of the ninth, lost to the East Carolina Pirates 3-2 in 12 innings.

Pirate leftfielder Jason Head led the charge for East Carolina with a four-for-five performance at the plate. Head also had an RBI, and scored the winning run in the top of the twelfth on a sacrifice fly by first baseman Brian Yerys.

The Rams were paced by Erik Sauve, who went three-for-three on the day. He had an RBI double in the sixth inning, and scored on a passed ball in the bottom of the ninth to send the game into extra

innings.

The game was a pitchers' duel from the start. VCU's Mike Ketterman was on the mound for 9 1/3 innings, allowing just two runs and eight hits before giving way to the relief corps.

Lyle Hartgrove went eight innings, scattering two runs and seven hits.

The decisions were garnered by the relievers. Johnny Beck (1-0) pitched four scoreless innings, allowing only one hit and striking four batters.

Tommy Nuckols was tagged for the loss in his first decision of the season.

The Rams play at Virginia Military Institute today in a makeup game for last Saturday. The next home game for the Rams will be Saturday at The Diamond, when they face Coppin State at 1 p.m. in a doubleheader.

ECU 001 000 001 001 3 9 3
VCU 000 001 001 000 2 8 4

ECU: Hartgrove, Beck (9), and Tripplet.

2B: VCU - Sauve

VCU: Ketterman, Bryant (10), Nuckols (12), Murdaugh (12) and Tarkenton.

ECU - Head, Britton
W - Beck L - Nuckols



Lee McLeod/Commonwealth Times

KEEPING HIM HONEST - Eric Sauve gets back to the bag. He was used to being on the basepaths. Sauve hit 3-3 on the game.

VCU baseball marks beginning of spring

Winter practice time lost to bad weather

Coveh Solaimani
CT STAFF WRITER

The temperature outside is starting to warm up, the days are getting longer and if one listens closely he can hear the pop of a catcher's mitt and the smack of a baseball meeting a bat. Yes sir, baseball is back! It's time to go to The Diamond and watch the VCU Rams in action.

Last year the Rams were 30-27, with a disappointing 4-10 mark in Metro Conference play. Improving on that will be key for VCU this season. However, that won't be easy as the Metro is shaping up to be one of the strongest and most balanced conferences in the nation. Although none of the Metro members are currently in the Top 25, four of the teams (South Florida, Tulane, Southern Mississippi and Virginia Tech) are receiving votes.

VCU started the season with a 7-6 win over the University of Virginia, where the Rams got some timely hitting and a strong effort from their bullpen.

VCU's team ERA was 4.67 last season. A respectable mark that was better than some major-league teams. They also posted three shutouts with Buff Hoffman going the distance in one of them. Consistency from the starters will be vital to the Rams' hopes.

Tommy Nuckols was tied for second on the team in wins last year, posting a 5-0

record. Adam "A-Train" Bryant was VCU's relief ace last year and is expected to fill that role again. Another strong season from both is needed.

Offensively, VCU is led by Jeff Yarbrough and Todd Campbell. They batted .305 and .296 respectively last year while starting in 56 games each. Yarbrough was third on the team in slugging and runs batted in, while Campbell was fourth in runs scored. The team batted .292 last year, and a repeat performance would be welcome this season.

If VCU's Sunday lineup doesn't look familiar to Ram fans, it is for good reason. Only two players, Campbell and Yarbrough, started in the same position against UVA, as they had in the previous season's finale. Due to the graduation of some of last year's players and the inexperience of some current Rams, Coach Tony Guzzo's lineup card will probably see some changes.

Guzzo was hoping to use practice, which began Jan. 17, to view the strengths and weaknesses of his players, but the weather made that an impossible task.

Because of the weather, the Rams were only able to practice twice. The bulk of VCU's time was spent in Franklin Street Gym rather than at The Diamond.

Two seasons ago the Rams were just one win away from reaching the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. Despite a woeful conference mark, last year's team allowed the Metro tournament. This may be a "rebuilding" year for VCU, but anything can happen.

MEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

VCU vs. Tulane

Date: Feb. 26

Site: Coliseum

Series Record: Tulane leads 5-1

Last Meeting: Jan. 13 at Tulane (Tulane won 78-64)

About the Green Wave: The Wave has won three of its last four games, including a 66-60 home win against Top-25-ranked Alabama-Birmingham. The Wave play host to the University of South Florida's Brahman Bulls tonight ... Tulane has provided three of the last four Metro-Freshman-of-the-Year winners, and may have another one in Jerald Honeycutt. Honeycutt leads the team with a 15.7 scoring average and 6.7 rebounding average ... Honeycutt scored 20 of the Wave's first 22 points in the Tulane victory against the Rams last month ... Point guard Pointr Williams is the school's all-time leading assist maker with 380. Williams is also 41 steals away from topping the all-time steals mark before tonight's game ... The Wave won its first game after trailing at halftime when it defeated Southern Mississippi on Feb. 19. The Golden Eagles had a 39-33 cushion at intermission, but the Wave stormed back at home, winning 84-79 ... Tulane has never lost a game at the Richmond Coliseum.

Game Plan: Let Kendrick Warren go one-on-one with Honeycutt. While Tulane is not the best three-point shooting team around (.262), it only takes a couple of well-timed passes to open guards to start a run. If Honeycutt gets hot, then send someone else to help out. Keep in mind that Tulane always has someone who can step up, even in the most unlikely of scenarios. Carlin Hartman hit a critical three-pointer against the Rams here last year; Hartman is zero-for-three from the line this season. Beware the half-court trap. The Wave can execute this defense like few others. Slowing down the tempo of the contest slightly, akin to what it did against Oklahoma, is key. Feeding off the emotion of Senior Day is important, but that should not be the predominant factor in the game. Win or lose against Xavier last night (game ended too late for inclusion in this story), the Tulane game is important ... period.



The sports season never ends at the Times.

Lady Rams drop fifth straight

Hokies pull away late to keep VCU winless in Metro

Brian J. French
CT SPORTS EDITOR

As the old saying goes, "You are your own worst enemy."

Two long scoreless runs and 33 team turnovers led to the Virginia Commonwealth Lady Rams fall to the Virginia Tech Lady Hokies 64-49, before a crowd of 402.

"We did not play as well as we did in Blacksburg last week (a 10-point loss), VCU head coach Susan Walvius said.

After leading by just one point (23-22) with 3:46 remaining in the first half, the Lady Hokies went on an 11-0 run to close the half and went into the locker room with a 34-22 advantage.

VCU cut the lead to five (41-36) with 13:52 left on a Jacinda Alston layup. Alston finished with 14 points, one of two Lady Rams to lead the team in scoring.

Virginia Tech then outscored VCU 23-12 the rest of the way en route to the victory.

"We did not execute our offenses very well, and they executed their defense very well," Walvius said.

The loss drops VCU to 3-19 on the year, with a 0-8 mark in the Metro. Virginia Tech improved to 18-5, 6-3 in the conference, and continued to put pressure on Southern Mississippi in the Metro race.

Karol King scored 14 points to join Alston. King's performance sets a career-high for her in points. Niamh Darcy led the Lady Rams with eight rebounds.

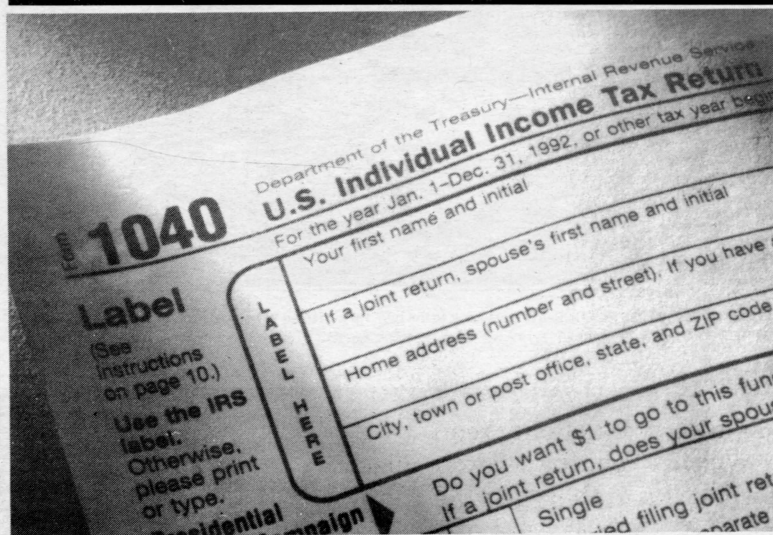
Jenny Root led Virginia Tech with 18 points and eight rebounds, while Sue Logsdon added 15 points and Christi Osborne recorded 14 for Virginia Tech.

The Lady Rams return home to the Franklin Street Gym on Friday when they host Louisville in a Metro Conference clash. Game time is 7:30 p.m. VCU concludes their home slate with a Sunday afternoon matchup with South Florida.

Walvius said that her team still believes they can win a conference game, and are looking towards the South Florida game as a possibility for their first mark in the Metro win column.

"They (South Florida) have been playing great basketball lately, but they still have their weaknesses," Walvius said. "Our kids think we can still beat them."

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Tennis squads continue to roll

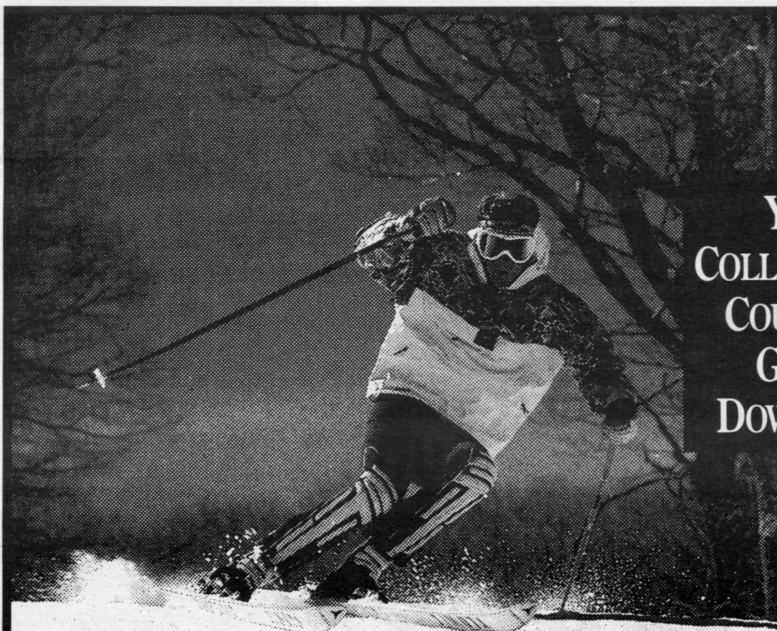
Both the men's and women's tennis squads continued their hot play by going the past week undefeated.

The men's team went to Atlanta for two matches. The No. 17 Rams defeated Ohio State 6-1 Saturday and knocked off 26th-ranked Georgia Tech on the home court 4-3. Jonas Elmlblad won the final match in the Rams-Yellow Jackets showdown, defeating Mark Ottinger 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

For his efforts, Elmlblad was named VCU Athlete of the Week.

The No. 17 ranking represents a program high for the men's tennis team, and was a key factor in their being invited to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Indoor Championship in Louisville, Ky. The Rams face former Sun Belt rival Alabama-Birmingham in the first round, with the winner advancing to face Stanford, the second-ranked team in the country.

Meanwhile, the women's team continued to play well, besting James Madison at The Thalheimer Tennis Center Saturday 8-1. The Lady Rams improve to 7-1 on the season with the win.



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Solution to crossword
from page 8

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Classifieds must be prepaid in cash, check or money order. Classifieds will be accepted by mail if full payment is enclosed.

The deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Thursday for the following Monday edition of the Commonwealth TIMES and 5 p.m. Monday for the Thursday issue.

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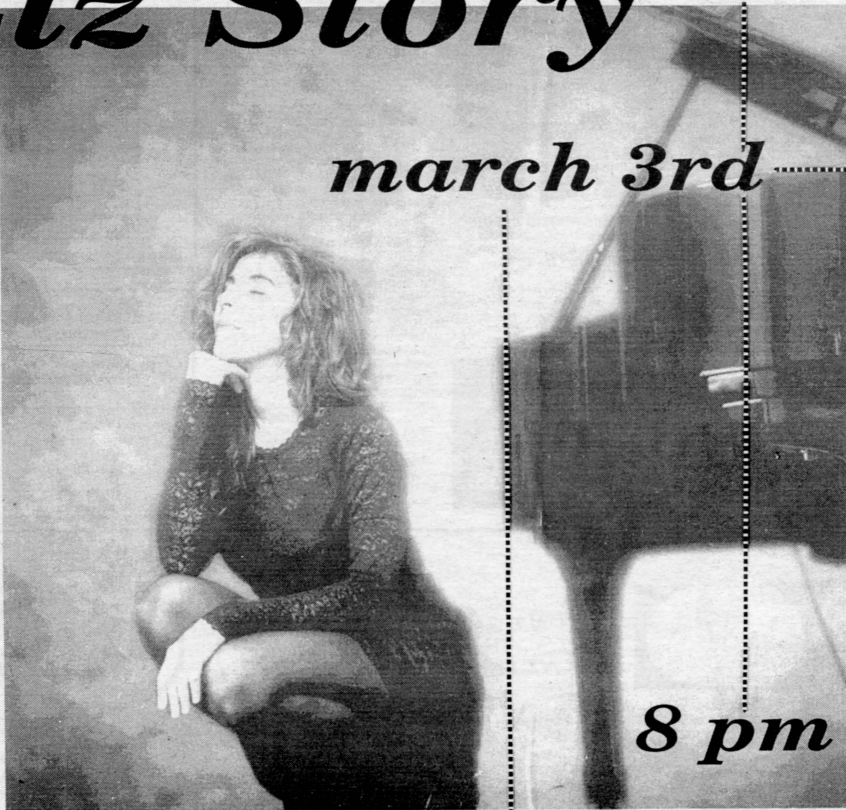
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