

WEATHER

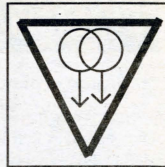
WEDNESDAY – Sunny skies. Highs in the low to mid-60s. Lows around 40.

THURSDAY – Mostly sunny. Highs in the low to mid-60s.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• VCU's Sexual Minority Student Alliance celebrates National Coming Out Day. See story page 6.



WEDNESDAY, October 12, 1994

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 26, No. 20

Trani, Kraus face off at SGA meeting

Senate receives card system update



"I am here to work with you and to listen to student concerns."
— VCU President Eugene P. Trani

Tricia Nguyen
CT STAFF WRITER

VCU President Eugene P. Trani made an unscheduled appearance at Monday's Student Government Association meeting to discuss means of increasing communication between the administration and student leaders.

Trani said that while L. Victor Collins, director of student activities, William Duvall, dean of student affairs, and the Commonwealth Times keep him informed about SGA, he would like to see more open communication.

"I am here to work with you and to listen to student concerns," he said.

Referring to recent actions involving the selection of a student representative for the Executive Budget Committee, Trani said that this points to a communication breakdown.

"Interestingly, in three years this is the first organization (SGA) I've had problems with," he said, explaining that he's followed the same guidelines every year using his own judgment to create a balanced committee.

Sen. Jeffrey Kraus, chairman of the appointments committee, questioned the legitimacy of this process, suggesting that SGA be given the power to select student representatives for this committee.

"You are saying 'Let's arm wrestle, but let me handcuff you at the same time,'" Kraus said, explaining that simply being able to make recommendations to Trani is not enough.

Trani said that students have the same representation as deans, adding that he was just following the committee guidelines.

"I am not going to change my guidelines," Trani said. "You (the senate) gave me two names, and I chose one. It looks like the CT would like this to be a debate, too," he added, raising his voice. "These are the guidelines that I

am following on my committee."

Henry G. Rhone, vice provost for student affairs, tried to act as a mediator between Trani and Kraus, but the debate continued.

Once again, Kraus pressed Trani on the issue of SGA appointing student representatives to committees.

Trani responded, stating that he didn't have to choose either one of SGA's recommendations.

"In the past, I selected names not recommended by the faculty, yet I have selected off of the list you (the senate) recommended," Trani said. "I interpreted the two names given as principle and alternative recommendations, and I picked one."

After about 20 minutes of debate, the senate voted to close discussion on the matter.

In other business, William V. Pelfrey, chairman of VCU's criminal justice department, addressed the senate in an attempt to strengthen ties with SGA.

The task force on crimes affecting VCU, which Pelfrey represents, is interested in working jointly with bodies such as the senate to increase prevention of crime, as well as the reporting of crime.

"Only one-third of crime committed is reported to police," Pelfrey said. "We're taking a multifaceted approach working with the senate in order to get information out to students."

In addition, Steven M. Bass, associate director of business services, informed the group about the progress made with student ID cards.

"The key goal of the card is to reduce and minimize administrative expenses," Bass said.

By 1995, he added, students and faculty will be able to use the card in a variety of ways such as running it through vending machines, doing laundry, purchasing books at the bookstore or going out to eat where the card is accepted.

"You are saying 'Let's arm wrestle, but let me handcuff you at the same time.'"
— Sen. Jeffrey Kraus



Student praise class sexuality

Christie Richardson
CT STAFF WRITER

Did you know that two-day-old babies can have erections? Or that females can ejaculate? Do you know what an uncircumcised penis looks like?

Do you think you know everything there is to know about sexuality?

Daphne Long Rankin, VCU human sexuality professor, bets you don't. Students say you'll learn more than you ever thought you would if you take Rankin's class.

"I think once students see the words human sexuality," Rankin said, "they automatically think it's going to be really easy. 'Hey, I have sex, I know about sex, people have told me about sex. I know I can make an A in this class.'"

But Rankin said that at least once every semester a student will come up to her and tell her otherwise.

"The best compliment I've ever gotten,"

she said, "and I get it at least once a semester, is 'Ya know Mrs. Rankin, I took this class because I thought it would be an easy A. I'm not getting an A, but I've learned more than I ever thought I'd learn.'"

Rankin sets three goals for her students: to develop better sexual health, to become more comfortable with their sexuality and the sexuality of others and to improve their self-esteem.

"By the time a student reaches my class," she said, "they've already developed a value system. I certainly by no means want to change their attitudes. I want to make them think."

Rankin explained that the class covers a lot of topics that are hard for people to talk about.

"We look at communication and sexuality, which we know a lot of people don't even talk about—they just do it," she said. "And 'just do it' is not the right phrase to use when it comes to sexuality."

Some of the topics covered in the course include sexual orientation, contraception,

abortion, masturbation and sexually transmitted diseases.

Betty Reppert, associate director of health promotion at VCU visits the class during the STD discussion.

She said the class covers a lot of important topics, but the masturbation section seems to get the most "air time" with students.

Students seem to choose that section of the class to share with their friends, Reppert said.

"If students want to emphasize that (masturbation)," Reppert said, "then they're missing the point of the class."

Reppert said the purpose of the class is to educate students on all aspects of human sexuality, not just the physical aspects of it.

"College-age students need to know about human sexuality—not just about sexual intercourse but about relationships and how men and women relate to each

Security council debates lifting economic sanctions

Louis Meixler
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — Baghdad's saber rattling appears to have bonded the U.N. Security Council and delayed any talk of easing the crushing U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq.

The council began circulating a long-awaited report Monday night that said Iraq was cooperating with U.N. weapons monitors and that a complex system to monitor any Iraqi attempts to reacquire weapons of mass destruction was up and running.

The report, to be formally presented to the council Tuesday, had been expected to set off a dispute in the 15-member body between countries that favored easing the embargo — led by France and Russia — and nations that want to keep the sanc-

SEX continued to page 3 ►

IRAQ continued to page 4 ►

World/Nation

• Clinton orders B-52s to Persian Gulf

WASHINGTON — Despite an announcement from Iraqi officials that troops were being pulled back from Kuwait's border, President Clinton Monday ordered B-52 bombers and top-notch fighter jets to the Persian Gulf.

Clinton said in a televised address, there were no signs that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was withdrawing the 80,000 troops on the border of Kuwait.

About 350 warplanes were dispatched to the Gulf, joining the 70,000 U.S. troops already mobilized in Kuwait.

• Columbus Day renamed in Santa Cruz

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Columbus Day in this town was renamed last month to Indigenous People's Day.

The City Council here received little opposition to renaming the holiday, which forces local Italian-Americans, whose forefathers amassed to the Monterey Bay by the thousands, to celebrate the holiday somewhat unofficially.

• Six men killed in fire

MOBILE, Ala. — Six men with mental disabilities, living in an unlicensed group home were killed Monday in a fire.

The fire began Sunday morning on the building's first floor. Five of the men were found upstairs in the sleeping area, and the sixth was discovered under an outside stairwell in the burned debris.

Authorities still are investigating the fire's cause and whether the owner violated any laws.

VIRGINIA

• Nobel Prize winners conduct research in Virginia

This year's Nobel Prize in medicine has gone to two American scientists who have roots at the University of Virginia and MCV.

Dr. Martin Rodbell, one of the winners and a recent retiree from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at Research Triangle Park, N.C., is an affiliate professor in VCU's Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. He comes to VCU every spring semester to lecture and work with graduate students.

The other prize winner, Dr. Alfred G. Gilman of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, was recognized by the Nobel Committee for his research as a faculty member in the University of Virginia's pharmacology department.

Gilman and Rodbell received the \$930,000 prize for their discovery of proteins that translate hormone signals into specific events inside cells.

• Resident at nursing home arrested for attempted murder

PETERSBURG — Frank B. Silverthorn, a resident at Tri-City Garden Villa on West Filmore Street, was arrested Sunday for attempted murder and arson.

Silverthorn was arrested shortly after Anthony Carter, 38, was apparently struck

in the head with a wall clock and while unconscious had his mattress set on fire.

Silverman is being held in the city jail on \$50,000 bond.

RICHMOND

• Teen charged with murder

A 13-year-old boy was arrested on murder charges Monday night in connection with the death of his 14-year-old friend, according to Henrico County police.

The victim, Jahi A. Brown of the 2200 block of Binford Lane, died at MCV Hospital around 8 p.m. after suffering a gunshot wound in the abdomen.

Police officers were called to the scene at 3:40 p.m. Monday in the 2100 block of Elkridge Lane in eastern Henrico where they found the victim.

The 13-year-old's identity has not been released because he is a juvenile.

• Toddler starts apartment fire

A 2-year-old started a fire with a cigarette lighter Monday morning in the 1300 block of Matthews Street, leaving four families without homes.

Starting shortly after 8 a.m., the fire ravaged five apartments, even though it was contained about 15 minutes later, according to fire department officials. About \$15,000 in damage was done to the apartment where the fire started, and damage to the other apartments was estimated at \$2,500.

The American Red Cross of Greater Richmond is providing food, clothing and shelter for the displaced families including 12 children and six adults.

CAMPUS

• Workshop to improve job opportunities

A workshop to help students improve employment opportunities and master quality service begins at 12:30 p.m. in Capital Room B in the University Student Commons. For more information, call the University Career Center at 828-1151.

• Assistant professor named to task force

Stephen Gilson, assistant professor of social work, has agreed to sit on the Advocates Forum Task Force for the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. The task force will create a document that will serve as a statement of concerns and advocacy tool as well as a basis for a disability campaign in the commonwealth of Virginia.

• Librarian appointed to advisory council

Phyllis C. Self, assistant director for health sciences user services at University Library Services, recently was appointed to the Regional Advisory Council of Medicine, Southeastern Atlantic Region. Self also was elected chairwoman of the Medical School Library Section of the Medical Library Association.

• Piccolo pipers

Robert P. Murray and Dr. Ardyth Lohuis, professors of music, recently performed for the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C.

— Compiled from news sources.

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**The Greater Richmond Area
Graduate and
Professional School Day**

Approximately 100 graduate and professional programs will be represented at a graduate school fair sponsored by the following schools:

Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond, Virginia State University, St. Paul's College and Randolph-Macon College. Speak with graduate school representatives and pick up program material.

A list of graduate programs sending representatives is available at University Career Center, Commons, 901 Floyd Ave., First Floor.

WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1994 • 3 - 6 p.m.
WHERE: Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond University Student Commons, Ballrooms

Sound Off!

How well do you think the Student Government Association represents students' interests?



"I have no idea actually. I never hear about them doing anything. I never really knew they was here until someone came and actually spoke to, like, Rhoads Hall."

—**Norlynda Troutman**
19, Management

"I really don't know. I'm a freshman here, and I haven't really learned that much about it so far."

—**Jonna Edwards**
18, English



"I think they do OK, but I don't see a whole lot from them. I think they do as best as the administration allows them."

—**Jamie Lynch**
20, History

"I haven't seen much of any of their actions around here. It doesn't seem like the Greek system is getting any support from them at all."

—**John Vandenhoff**
22, Economics



"Honestly, I don't know about the government."

—**Beth Bassett**
20, Pre-nursing

"As far as I know, I think they do a pretty good job, but I'm not really involved in it. I really haven't paid that much attention."

—**Alicia Gollub**
19, Illustration



Woman of the Year speaks on women's health care

Jill Myers
CT STAFF WRITER

Prevention takes top priority in women's health care today, said Judith B. Collins, 1994 VCU Woman of the Year, at a reception Friday for new women faculty and staff.

"Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women nationally and here in Virginia," said Collins, a nurse practitioner and director of Stony Point Women's Healthcare.

"What does one usually say to a woman who complains that she has a pain here?" Collins asked pointing to her chest. "They say 'Oh, it must be stress.'"

Health-care professionals immediately check males for heart disease if they complain of chest pain, said Collins, who received her OB/GYN nurse practitioner certificate from MCV/VCU. She then told the audience of about 25 women and two men that the consistently late diagnosis for females results in delayed surgery and a higher death rate.

The speaker walked her audience through the history of women's health care, eventually leading them to today's problems and system. Women's health care, she said, has evolved just as the roles of women in American society have evolved:

"In the 1870s the only three phases considered in women's health care was maidenhood, matrimony and motherhood."

A century later, she said, the book "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex but Were Afraid to Ask" described a woman after menopause as useless.

Though women's health care in the 1970s struggled, she described how hospitals realized that women make up a large part of the consumer base and discovered they should market directly to women.

She fought her own battle in the 1970s when she and another nurse introduced Lamaze to Richmond.

"It was as if we were bringing Nazis to Richmond," said Collins, who worked in the MCV/VCU Health Policy Office for 10 years before she started at Stony Point. "The medical profession did not like the idea of women being partners in their own health care."

Partnership between a woman and a health-care team makes up an important part of a woman's medical procedure now, she said, advocating a comprehensive program that provides women with medical treatment as well as educates them about their bodies.

"Education for all women, not just those in the poverty range, is one of the best preventive measures," she said.

Despite the improvement in women's health care, the registered nurse identified problems that need more attention including: heart disease, breast cancer, lung cancer, HIV, spousal abuse and sexual assault as well as reproductive health.

Sharing her personal experience, Collins told of learning the importance of health education when her mother developed osteoporosis, a condition marked by brittle bones. Doctors now know, Collins said, that low doses of estrogen after menopause help prevent osteoporosis.

"The answer is prevention not intervention," Collins repeated in her closing statements.

SEX

continued from page 1

other," Reppert said.

Joseph A. Marolla, chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, said he believes that students need and want the class as part of the curriculum.

In fall 1992, Marolla conducted a survey in the class to find out why students were taking it. He said he was worried students were taking the course just to fulfill the sociology elective requirement.

"I found it wasn't the case," he said. "Students were doing it for the information. As high school students, many didn't feel they were getting a frank and complete discussion on human sexuality."

Marolla said that he also bases his belief on student evaluations.

"The evaluations are always positive," he said. "It seems the students are willing to go through the technical stuff to get to the practical knowledge of the class."

Cindy Johnson, a senior nursing major, is proof of Marolla's theory.

"I heard it was an easy A," Johnson said, "but I found that you do have to study and there's a lot of technical terms involved. It takes some effort — it's not just a given."

Gayle Slifka, a sophomore pre-pharmacy major, said she knew from the beginning that the class wouldn't be easy.

"I knew it was going to be hard from the beginning," she said. "I had talked to several other people who took the class and found out about it."

Rankin said that students who walk into her class thinking the class will be an easy A are the students who learn the most.

"Those people who think they can come to my class, watch a movie, take a test and make an A," Rankin said, "will be the ones who show up in my office at the end of the semester saying, 'Please help me — I can't go home and tell my parents I failed sex.'"

"It's like any other class. You come to class, you take notes, you read the textbook, and if you study you make an A."

She added that at the end of the semester class grades fit a bell-shaped curve, and the majority of grades are C's.

To teach the class, Rankin often uses visuals.

"(The movies) are valuable for students — many learn better visually," she said. "And when you use visuals in a human sexuality class, there are gonna be naked people in those visuals!"

Referring to what many students call "pornos," Rankin said that most of the movies she shows were made for educational purposes.

"Keep in mind that sexuality is socially constructed," she said, "so you're looking at a topic that is socially constructed. Americans are so closed to sexuality that when you say 'Oh gosh, we're gonna watch porno movies' and then suddenly they're watching these really clinical films... It's really scary to me and sad that these students would consider (the films) pornos."

Marolla explained that the films used in Rankin's class are part of a national method of teaching human sexuality.

"It's a serious course where they'll talk about serious issues that they'll remember and use all their lives."

Marolla said that a lot of care is taken in dealing with the issues discussed in class.

"If we weren't (careful)," he said, "I would've cut the course out of the curriculum a long time ago. We are very careful to avoid any potential problems. Daphne is careful to explain the course at the beginning, and students are allowed to leave if they don't want to be there when certain topics are discussed."

One precaution Rankin takes at the start of the course is having students sign a consent form.

Rankin explained that Lewis Dianna, who began teaching the class more than 20

years ago, designed the human sexuality class.

"He taught me a lot about how to approach students and sexuality issues," she said. "And he had this consent form and he had always used it. Well, when I started teaching the class, I assumed that because of the nature of the class, it was required. It wasn't."

Rankin said a student asked if she would stop using the consent form since it wasn't required. Her answer was no.

"Why?" the student said.

"Because my job in that class is not to shock people, it is not to offend people and it's not to put them off because if you shock somebody or you offend them or you make them angry, they aren't gonna hear a word you say."

Rankin said that by using the consent form, she feels that every student starts off on the same foot and students feel more comfortable sharing their views and opinions.

"If you look at the things that go on in our society — we (the U.S.) have the highest teen-age pregnancy rate in the world, the number of STDs in adolescents is just booming — if you look at that, it's wonderful if you can put 300 people in a room together and actually talk about it," she said.

Rankin said that many people are amazed that she can have a discussion about such a controversial topic in a classroom of 300 people.

"We (the department) want to empower students with knowledge," she said. "Let's give them the facts and challenge them."

"Challenge them to think about their sexual health, challenge them to think about their relationships and communication in their relationships. Challenge them to think about their sexuality and how they feel about other people's sexuality. The day that my class stops making students think is the day I'll stop teaching it."

IRAQ*continued from page 1*

tions — headed by the United States and Britain.

U.N. resolutions call for lifting the oil embargo, but not the full trade sanctions, after the monitoring program is functioning and Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

But the lifting is at the council's discretion and the Iraqi troop buildup near the Kuwaiti border has apparently united the council in calling for a postponement of any debate on the easing of the sanctions.

"No one in the council is prepared to discuss these issues under threats," said Security Council President David Hannay.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan said Iraq has "destroyed whatever support they had in the Security Council."

Kuwait is not a member of the council, but was invited to take part in a council meeting on Monday.

An advanced copy of the conclusions of the report was obtained by The Associated Press Monday night.

The report sets no target date for any lifting of sanctions.

France and Russia have said that after the report is received, Iraq should be subjected to a trial period after which the oil embargo would be lifted.

The United States and Britain have demanded that no time limit is set for lifting the embargo. They have also said that Iraq must first improve its human rights record.

All council members have demanded that Iraq recognize Kuwait's borders.

The oil embargo is the most crippling of the sanctions imposed after Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait because oil sales were Iraq's major source of foreign exchange.

Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoon told Hannay on Monday that Iraqi soldiers were pulling back from the Kuwaiti border.

"We only hope that the council will focus on the subject of the sanctions," he said. "This has always been the concern of the Iraqi people."

President Clinton said in a televised address Monday that there was still no sign that Baghdad forces were pulling back.

Hannay, the British ambassador, said the council wanted proof that the Iraqis were withdrawing.

"Seeing is believing," he said.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 1994

October 11 (Tuesday)**The Clothesline Project**

Display of T-shirts created by survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Commons Plaza

Clothesline Workshop

Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence are invited to make T-shirts for The Clothesline.
5 – 6:30 p.m. Commons Forum Room

Drawing the Shades

Theater performance and slide show based on real incidents of sexual assault; written, produced and acted by VCU students.
7 – 8 p.m. Business Building Auditorium

October 13 (Thursday)**Defending Our Lives**

Emmy-winning film about women in abusive relationships.
Noon – 1 p.m. Commons Forum Room

Take Back the Night Walk

7:30 p.m. Meet at YWCA, 6 N. Fifth St.

October 18 (Tuesday)**Shattered Pride: Sexual Assault and Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students**

Speaker: Sandy Colbs
Noon – 1 p.m. Commons Forum Room

October 19 (Wednesday)**The Clothesline Project**

Display of T-shirts created by survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sanger Hall Courtyard, MCV Campus



For more information about these programs as well as others, or to request reasonable accommodations for attendance by a person with a disability, please make contact with the **Office of Substance Abuse / Sexual Assault Education Programs** in VCU's Division of Student Affairs.

Coordinator: Marigall Sexton
Location: Commons Room 220
Postal address: PO Box 842032, Richmond VA 23284-2032
Phone: 804 / 828-2085
Email: msexton@cabell.vcu.edu

VCU
Virginia Commonwealth University

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT WALK

IN OBSERVANCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

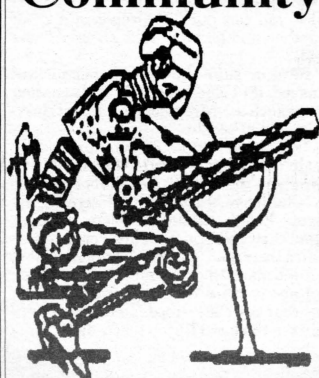
OCTOBER 13

7:30PM

MEET AT THE YWCA

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- * Accident Victims
- * Provide clotting factors for Hemophiliacs
- * New research for life threatening diseases

Who Runs the SGA Anyway?

Hell must have frozen over Monday. VCU President Eugene P. Trani actually came to a Student Government Association meeting.

He visited on the pretense of opening up communication lines between himself and SGA, admitting that he relies on fellow administrators and the Commonwealth Times to keep him abreast of SGA actions.

What?

Picture this: Up there in the hallowed halls of the President's House, Trani sits snugly at his desk hearing secondhand information about SGA from his administrative cohorts. This, in Trani's eyes, negates the need for him to talk directly with the senators.

Yes, it has been a while since Trani has visited SGA. Let's hope it doesn't take so long before he shows up again.

Instead of ruling from his Franklin Street throne, Trani should ask the student leaders themselves what they're doing.

Two of the main governing bodies on campus, and more specifically the presidents of these two groups — Trani and Cathaleen Bryant — should have instantaneous interaction. Like the United States and the former Soviet Union during the Cold War, let's set up a Hotline. Fend off disaster in the early stages. Negotiate before chaos erupts, or we might find ourselves with another Executive Budget Committee fiasco.

Imagine. Direct communication between students and administrators. What a new concept.

Maybe students would be heard. Maybe.

Although communication lines should already exist, they don't. Now the responsibility for fostering such communication falls at the feet of the SGA president.

Has she accepted this challenge? Not as far as we can tell.

Instead she's forcing — through her inaction — a fellow senator to put Trani in his place.

For example, in the midst of a debate

with Trani during Monday's meeting, Sen. Jeffrey Kraus, chairman of the SGA appointments committee, confronted Trani about SGA's role in upholding students' rights. It's about time someone did.

And all the while Bryant sat silently, not whispering a peep in students' defense.

Trani announced that he's here to listen to students' concerns.

That's news.

In response, Kraus questioned the legitimacy of Trani superimposing his power, especially in this instance, curtailing SGA's ability to represent students.

Kraus said Trani has handcuffed SGA by limiting their governance. Like a dictator, maybe?

SGA and Bryant have brought this on themselves, allowing Trani to browbeat them into inaction.

Until now, no one has been brave enough to stand up to Trani and other administrators.

Trani referred to the committee as "his committee." No wonder he selected the student representative of his choice, especially when he thinks this important committee is HIS.

No matter how much Trani wants the committee to be his alone, it's NOT. The committee should be accountable to everyone, not just to Trani — since it's spending our money.

We all know the real reason Trani came to SGA Monday. He told the senate that the CT wants to make this more of an issue than necessary.

Well, when our esteemed president fears freedom of the press and students standing up for their rights — let debate abound.

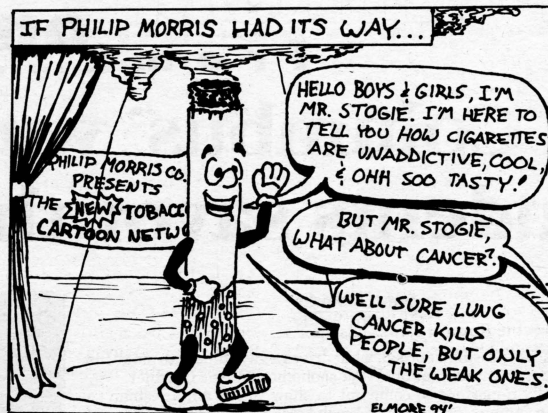
Obviously, Trani was trying to send the message that he's in charge. But don't let the CT influence your opinion about his heavy hand.

After all, it's OK. He's just doing his job. Right?

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

If men are to be precluded from offering their sentiments on a matter which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences that can invite the consideration of mankind, reason is of no use to us; freedom of speech may be taken away, and dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

— Address to officers of the Army, March 15, 1783



Erin Hierholzer

Personal Freedoms Breed Responsibilities

Our government has deemed secondhand smoke hazardous to our health, just like driving without a seatbelt or shooting up heroin. So regulations and bans are being put in place by Big Brother to protect us from ourselves.

The most recent manifestation of this "protection" is the ban on smoking in all private offices in the state of Washington. This new law strengthened a previous law, which banned smoking in all public places.

At first glance, my immediate response to such "parenting" would be disgust. Banning public activities is hard enough to swallow without putting restrictions on private lives. But the issue is greater than government's continuing struggle to make a nation of model citizens.

Government's job was done long ago when it heralded the dangers of smoking. The warning label on packs of cigarettes and advertisements did its job. No American has escaped the War on Smokes.

It is with this knowledge that millions of Americans continue to light up. Conventional wisdom would say the responsibility rests on these informed citizens, and if they want to continue their habit they will have to pay the price.

Wrong. Taxpayers pay the price.

In Florida, the state is suing tobacco companies for money spent by the state treating lung cancer patients. The reasoning behind this lawsuit holds that the companies producing the product causing the disease should pay the medical expenses of its "victims."

The legal aspects of such a case are beyond me, but the larger issue has begun to strain my tolerance level.

The correlation in our society between our coveted individual freedom and the burden of personal responsibility has gone by the wayside. It is a phenomenon with overwhelming repercussions.

Smokers who continue to puff away, excusing their actions by whining about the difficulties of quitting, deserve nothing from the state and the taxpayers that support their habit.

While addiction is a high hurdle to overcome, there is no excuse for passing the consequences (i.e. medical bills) unto those who did not participate in the actions.

If Americans continue to shun the responsibilities, brought on by exercising their personal freedoms, government regulations on both public and private activities will continue to build. The limitations are boundless.

Commonwealth TIMES

CT EDITORIAL BOARD

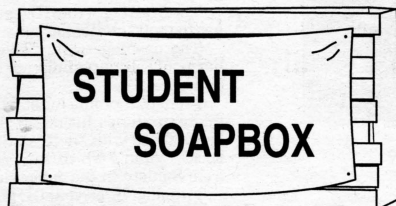
Erin Hierholzer — chair Bill Buckman Brian French Gage Harter
Melanie Irvin Sherry Jones Will O'Bryan

VOTE COUNT: "Who Runs the SGA Anyway?" — 6-1

The Commonwealth TIMES welcomes readers' letters. We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page and must be submitted by noon Thursday to be considered for publication the following week. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

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.

Submit to the



Submissions to Student Soapbox must be no more than 800 words. Typed submissions should be addressed to Erin Hierholzer, 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.

SPECTRUM

from one end...

In Columbus' wake, sexual minority students savor their own holiday

Sara Kukorlo
CT SENIOR WRITER

In the face of possible reprisal, what drives a gay student to make his or her sexual orientation public? Ask sophomore Alexis Gardner:

"It's really important to come out to show that I am a lesbian to everyone on campus just so people know I look pretty normal. I am not weird. I am just like everyone else."

Gardner was among those who participated in National Coming Out Day, held Oct. 11 each year. On this day, the gay community displays its pride and many people reveal their true sexual identity — hence the phrase "coming out of the closet."

Members of VCU's Sexual Minority Student Alliance (SMSA) set up a table Tuesday outside of the University Student Commons to encourage people to stop hiding their sexual orientation.

Tara Slate Donaldson, executive officer and social action coordinator for SMSA explained, "National Coming Out Day is a big thing for me because last year at this time I was scared to walk by the SMSA table because I didn't want anyone to know I was gay. Now here I am sitting here manning the table."

In honor of the day, SMSA has conducted several panels for sex-education classes and put up fliers on campus in an effort to educate people and get them to understand where their gay peers are coming from — like VCU junior Clifton Davis.

"I feel it's (National Coming Out Day) an asset to the community," Davis said. "It's something we definitely need."

Jaryn Morrison, a freshman, echoed Davis by saying, "I think National Coming Out Day is a great thing. A lot of people are afraid to come out and this lets them know that there are a lot of people coming out. It makes them a lot stronger. They know people will be out there to support them."

Ramon Rios, a sophomore, said the day "should be celebrated by all people, especially people who are in power, who are gay, who need to come out of the closet to show that they can run for office or just do anything else that anyone else does . . . Show the nation that there are people who are gay, lesbian and bisexual."

Other students at the commons Tuesday had different opinions about "coming out."

One student, who asked not to be identified, said, "Instead of coming out of the closet, why don't they clean it."

Sophomore Deltroy Gregory quipped, "God made Adam and Eve, not



Will O'Bryan/Commonwealth Times

THREE OF HEARTS — Heather McKinney, John (last name withheld) and Annie Nguyen work the SMSA table for National Coming Out Day.

Adam and Steve."

Another student asking for anonymity said, "As long as they don't bother me, I have no problem with it."

Regardless of any intolerance, some gay and lesbian students said they need to be open about who they are, said SMSA's Donaldson.

"You don't have to like us," she asserted.

"We just want you to understand that we're people too."

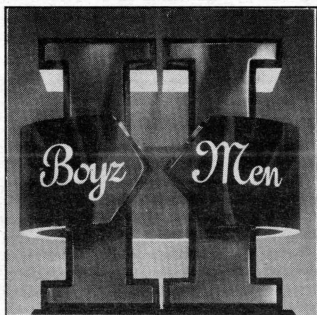
Evelyn Frasure, a sophomore, said it simply: "I love people, not gender. Being yourself feels good."

SMSA will sponsor a "Dance for Diversity" at 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14 in the Common Ground. "Pink Triangles," a gay film festival, will be held Sunday in the Business Building Auditorium as part of the APB Alternative Films' fall schedule.



CD

REVIEWS



BOYZ II MEN
II

MOTOWN RECORD COMPANY

It must have been around August when I made my revelation.

The airwaves had been inundated with new "doo-hop" groups. Shai, Silk, All-4-One, all trying to fight for recognition among discerning Top 40 listeners.

But then, that fateful day in August, I heard "I'll Make Love to You."

Up until that point, I had my fill of that type of music. It all just sounded too similar for me to enjoy. But when I heard "Love," I immediately recognized the group as, not an imitator, but the original — Boyz II Men.

And that's when I made that revelation, phrased much like a soft drink slogan: "You can't beat the real thing." Their new CD, "II," pretty much confirmed what I knew all along. Boyz II Men is probably the most talented vocal group around.

The first half of the CD features the Boyz' "not too hard, not too soft" midtempo jams.

The opening track, "Thank You," is a quick, well-harmonized cut reminiscent of that contemporary gospel group Take 6.

From that promising start, the Boyz continue with the midtempo tunes, including "All Around the World" (not to be confused with the Lisa Stansfield hit of a few years back), "Vibin'," which will probably be remixed six ways from Sunday on the dance club circuit, and "I Sit Away."

Flipping "II" on your CD player will put you on the slow jam side. It'll also give you an even better idea as to how good these guys are.

Obviously, you've heard "Love." Soon, you'll be hearing (over and over again, doubtless) "On Bended Knee," their new song. Both are good, but aren't even the best slow jams on the CD.

The passionate "50 Candles" is worth repeating, and "Trying Times" is pretty good, too.

But they save their best two songs for last.

If you hear "Water Runs Dry," and you start having flashbacks to the current Babyface smash "When Can I See You," there's good reason. Babyface wrote the acoustical lullaby, and (as he did in his own song) plays the acoustic guitar.

With one song left, you're probably wondering, "There's no a cappella material, and no covers of old songs, which is what they do so well. What up?"

Well, patience is a virtue.

The final cut is an absolutely stunning a cappella cover of the John Lennon/Paul McCartney song "Yesterday." As usual, the Boyz handle the song with their own style and flair, all the while preserving the general feel of the original and maybe even improving upon it. And they do it without overwhelming the song with too much emotion, thereby turning the moving into the melodramatic (Mariah Carey could take a couple lessons from them on how to cover a good song).

There's really only one thing that can be said about the CD: For the love of God, buy this thing!

— Brian J. French

to the other

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12

Open House: The School of Mass Communications holds an open house where students can meet MAC faculty and representatives from the PRSSA, Ad Club, The Vine, WVCW, the Commonwealth Times and the Society of Professional Journalists. The event is from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballroom B. For more information, call David Benson at 828-2660.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13

Film: "Defending Our Lives," an Emmy-winning film about women in abusive relationships, can be seen from noon to 1 p.m. in the Commons Forum Room.

Take Back the Night Walk will start at 7:30 p.m. Participants will meet at the YWCA at 6 N. Fifth St. For more information, call 828-2085.

Lecture: Guest speakers Ramona and Pam Africa of MOVE lecture at 7:30 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. For more information, call 828-7550.

The MCV Campus Bookstore at 10th and Leigh streets presents "The PC Tour" where everyone can see the new IBM valuepoints for fall. Student, faculty and staff can receive educational discounts with a valid VCU ID. For more information, call 828-0336.

Shawn Colvin performs at 8 p.m. at the Carpenter Center. Tickets cost \$20.50 and \$22.50. For more information, call 643-1940.

The Carpenter Center presents at 8 p.m. its final showing of "What Goes Around, Comes Around." Ticket prices range from \$12.50 to \$22.50. Call Baci Management at 410-889-3900 for more information.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14

Dance: "Dancing for Diversity," sponsored by the Sexual Minority Student Alliance of VCU takes place from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Commons Underground. For more information, call 828-9502.

The APB Film Committee presents "Beverly Hills Cop 3" at 7 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Admission is free to VCU students and \$3 for all others. For more information, call 828-7550.

The Academic Campus Bookstore continues "The PC Tour." For more information, call 828-1678.

Jazz at Riverside concert series takes place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Valentine Riverside. Admission is \$6 and includes the nightly outdoor Sound and Light Show. For more information, call 649-0711.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

"Beverly Hills Cop 3" runs again at 8 p.m. in the Commons

Theater courtesy of the APB Film Committee. Tickets are free to VCU students and \$3 for all others. For more information, call 828-7550.

The VCU Jazz Ensemble performs music of the Big Band Era at 8 p.m. in the University Student Commons Commonwealth Ballroom. Tickets cost \$5 for VCU students and \$10 for all others. For more information, call 828-3700.

The NationsBank Women's Gymnastics World Team Trials will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A two-day pass can be purchased for \$22.50 or a one-day pass for \$12.50. For more information, call 780-4956.

SUNDAY, OCT. 16

APB Alternative Films presents the "Pink Triangle Film Festival" from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 828-7550.

The Richmond Newspapers Marathon begins at noon with the starting line at Sixth and Broad streets and finish line on Fifth Street. For more information, call 649-6325.

The NationsBank Women's Gymnastics World Team Trials resume from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Richmond Coliseum.

The Marathon Street Party, sponsored by Downtown Presents, begins at 4 p.m. on Fifth Street, the finish line of the Richmond Newspapers Marathon. For more information, call 643-2826.

Virginians of Today Energized (VOTE) will be hosts of a benefit party at the Flood Zone titled "Not the Ollie Party," featuring the Ban Caribe. The event lasts from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and advance tickets cost \$10, but tickets also can be purchased at the door. For more information, call 358-4953.

MONDAY, OCT. 17

Speaker: David W. Levy delivers a lecture titled "Before Brown: The Legal Battle to End Segregation in Higher Education" at 7:30 p.m. in the Commons Forum Room. For more information, call 828-1803.

TUESDAY, OCT. 18

Ballet Sinew of Senegal performs at 7 p.m. at the VCU Performing Arts Center. This is a free event sponsored by the Office of Minority Student Affairs, the Department of Dance and Choreography, Black Student Alliance, Ezibu Muntu, the School of the Arts, Elegba Folklore Society and the Human Relations Committee of the Student Government Association. Call 828-6672 for more information.

Speaker: Sandy Colbs delivers a lecture titled "Shattered Pride: Sexual Assault and Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students." The event runs from noon to 1 p.m. in the Commons Forum Room. For more information, call 828-2085.

THE SOUP DRAGONS HYDROPHONIC PHONOGRAM LTD.

The Soup Dragons are no longer the musical group they once were.

Jim, Paul and Sushii leaving the band is a big cause of this. Sean Dickson has apparently tried to keep The Soup Dragons' name around by using guest artists to record the songs he wrote for the group. Bassist Bootsy Collins,

Lynval Golding and Neville Stapes from The Specials, and T-Rex's Mickey Finn join Dickson but fail to uphold the vibrant sound the original group had.

It is unfortunate that The Soup Dragons could not sustain the danceable, funky music that was capable of making your adrenalin flow and characterized their previous album, Hotwired.

The fault of this album is not the collaboration of music. Dickson is to be commended for his diverse music style.

The cornucopia of rap, reggae, gospel and

rock on this album is enjoyable, but the lyrics lack a hard-edged sound.

They are easily understood, therefore, the meaning of the songs are not ambiguous. They focus on social issues such as drug abuse, prostitution, gangs, guns and health. They're also a bit too preachy.

Not even the New Kids On the Block sound this wholesome.

The Soup Dragons were once suited for mainstream airplay. Now their music is suited for After School Specials.

— Sarah Fisher



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Homecoming bitter for Rams, sweet for Radford

Brian J. French
CT SPORTS EDITOR

*One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er
I am nearer home today
Than I ever have been before
— "Nearer Home," by Phoebe Cary*

From Kristie Beitz's perspective, one could add "returning home to score the winning goal" as another sweetly solemn thought.

The Richmond native's score was the only goal of Monday night's game as her Radford Highlanders defeated the Rams 1-0 at Cary Street Field.

"Scoring the only goal of the game with my family and friends here made it that much better," said Beitz, a junior forward for the Highlanders (7-6 overall, 2-3 in the Colonial Athletic Association).

Beitz, who graduated from Monacan High School, scored the goal at 2:14 of the first half. After a penalty corner, Beitz slipped the shot past the outstretched arms of the Rams goalkeeper, sending her contingent of family, friends and former teammates into cheers.

VCU (4-5, 1-3) had their opportunities,

earning six penalty corners to Radford's two, including two consecutive corners with less than 16 minutes left in the half. They could not convert.

"We haven't played in over a week, and it was obvious in the first twenty minutes," VCU coach Debra Brickey said.

Of course, for want of one more second, the Rams could have tied the game going into the halftime break.

With time winding down, the Rams were attacking. Heather Nelson got off a shot that hit pay dirt. However, officials waived off the goal, saying that the shot came a fraction of a second after the horn.

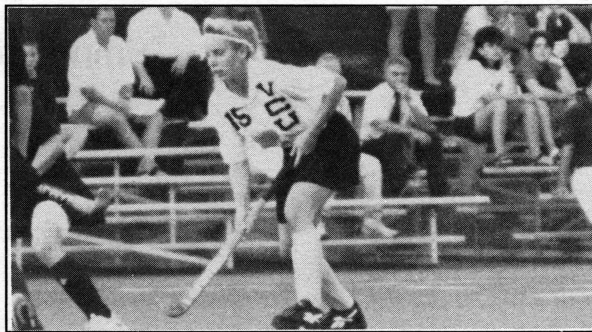
The Rams had a chance at 12:25 of the second half, but Ann Mace's corner shot was wide to the left.

"It was a back and forth game, and we happened to put one in," said Highlanders coach Jeff Woods.

"We came into this game really excited," Beitz said. "We were excited, but at the same time sorry, that one of their best players (Alycia Yoder) would not be playing."

Both coaches took different takes on the homestretch leading to the CAA Tournament at James Madison on Nov. 4.

"With this win, we've put ourselves in a



CLOSE CALL — Kelly Yoder (15), here shown at an earlier game, was drilled Monday by a high shot. She would not return to the game.

better position than we were before we came to Richmond," said Woods, whose team also defeated the Richmond Spiders on the trip. "We're not exactly where we want to be, but we're getting there."

Brickey said, "I told the kids that it (rebuilding) was a process. It's been frustrating at times, especially for the seniors, but we've improved greatly from where we

were in the preseason."

A scary moment for the Rams occurred at the 11:07 mark of the second half. Leading scorer Kelly Yoder was hit in the eye with the ball seconds after the whistle blew, sending her to the tarp. She would not return, but team physicians said that Yoder would be ready for tonight's game at Virginia.

The Picks



"The Peach"
Pitts



Lynn
"Swam-ette"



French
"Revolution"



"Laundro"
Matt



Art
"the Swami"



Whitty
"The Greek"



"Pick'em"
Harter



"Say Hey"
Coveh



Bill
"Da Thrill"

Thursday, Oct. 13
Cleveland at Houston

Cleveland

Cleveland

Cleveland

Cleveland

Houston

Cleveland

Cleveland

Houston

Cleveland

Saturday, Oct. 15
Virginia Tech at East Carolina
Auburn at Florida
Alabama at Tennessee
Penn State at Michigan
Nebraska at Kansas State
Oklahoma at Colorado
Arizona at Washington State

Virginia Tech
Florida
Alabama
Penn State
Kansas State
Colorado
Wash. State

Virginia Tech
Florida
Alabama
Penn State
Nebraska
Colorado
Arizona

East Carolina
Florida
Tennessee
Penn State
Kansas State
Colorado
Arizona

Virginia Tech
Florida
Alabama
Penn State
Nebraska
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Alabama
Michigan
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Colorado
Wash. State

Virginia Tech
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Tennessee
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Tennessee
Penn State
Kansas State
Colorado
Wash. State

Virginia Tech
Florida
Alabama
Michigan
Nebraska
Colorado
Arizona

Virginia Tech
Florida
Tennessee
Penn State
Nebraska
Colorado
Wash. State

Sunday, Oct. 16
Arizona at Washington
Indianapolis at Buffalo
New England at N.Y. Jets
L.A. Raiders at Miami
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Dallas
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Rams
San Diego at New Orleans

Washington
Buffalo
New England
Miami
Pittsburgh
San Francisco
Dallas
N.Y. Giants
San Diego

Washington
Buffalo
N.Y. Jets
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Atlanta
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N.Y. Giants
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Arizona
Buffalo
New England
L.A. Raiders
Pittsburgh
San Francisco
Dallas
N.Y. Giants
New Orleans

Washington
Buffalo
New England
Miami
Pittsburgh
Atlanta
Philadelphia
N.Y. Giants
San Diego

Monday, Oct. 17
Kansas City at Denver

Denver

Denver

Kansas City

Denver

Denver

Kansas City

Denver

Denver

Denver

Last Week:
Season to Date:
Percentage:
Games Back:

8-8
60-41
.683
—

9-7
60-41
.683
—

10-6
60-41
.683
—

12-4
59-42
.584
1

13-3
59-42
.584
1

10-6
56-45
.554
4

8-8
54-47
.535
6

11-5
54-47
.535
6

10-6
54-47
.535
6

Much like the phoenix rising from its ashes, that mediocre Swami has lifted himself from amongst the middle of the pack and moved back into his customary contending position. While racking up a 13-3 record, he maintained his Redskins Streak, now standing at 328. Irony, though, that our boy Swami, who earlier expressed great dismay and resentment at the adding of the college games to The Picks, has owed much of his recent success to the collegiate contests. While he publicly maintains his disgust at the college Picks, privately he thinks differently. Predictions place him in Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Nittany Lion-Wolverine game, whereupon he will streak the field during the middle of the third quarter, painted from top to bottom in maize and blue, singing the Michigan fight song. Oh fun. Meanwhile, the little-mentioned "Say Hey" Coveh has toiled in the pits of Picks oblivion for many weeks now. While proudly boasting the certain success of the Steelers, he has been unable to post Barry Foster-esq numbers, looking more instead like their porous offensive line. On the subject of unjustified boasting, Bill "Da Thrill" has boldly stated that, this week, he will finish a sterling 18-0. Picking the likes of Atlanta and Philadelphia doubtlessly will move him closer to that goal, as it will advance the freezing over of hell. Meanwhile, the mysterious news editor who took over for "Pick'em" last week has slid over into "The Greek's" spot. Desperate times do call for desperate measures, one supposes. And finally, speaking of female Pickers (disclosed and otherwise), Lynn "Swam-ette," still smarting from the devious accusation that she and the unsightly French "Revolution" were the *duo du jour*, was rumored to call upon ancient powers to smite the heresy spewers. Whether anything noticeable can be done to the Swami, though, is still up for conjecture.

"Simplify, simplify."

Henry David Thoreau

"Hey, that's not a bad idea."

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for sale

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for rent

Elderly man is offering a responsible student free rent for one bedroom in a three bedroom house just 15 minutes from VCU. Only request that tenant help maintain the upkeep of the house. House is located on the busline, but prefer someone with driving permit. For more information please call Merritt Bragg after 1 p.m. at 233-1074. — EHO

WANTED FEMALE ROOMMATE — large two-bedroom, with balcony apt. West of Boulevard Ave. on Park. Rent \$210/mo. Call 359-7578 for more info. — EHO

miscellaneous

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Dear VCU,
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Please write me at:
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Masaka, Uganda

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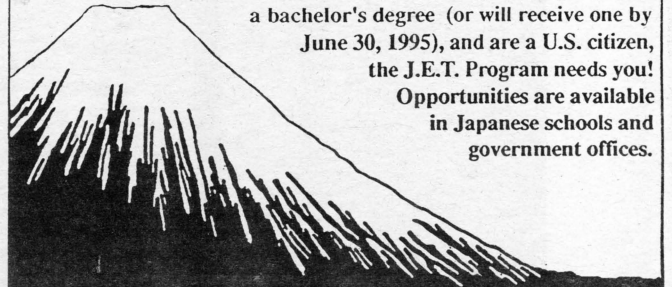
Classifieds must be prepaid in cash, check or money order. Classifieds will be accepted by mail if full payment is enclosed. The deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Friday for the following Monday edition, 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Wednesday issue and 5 p.m. Thursday for the Friday issue.

Classifieds are \$7 for the first 25 words or less, plus 10 cents for each additional word.

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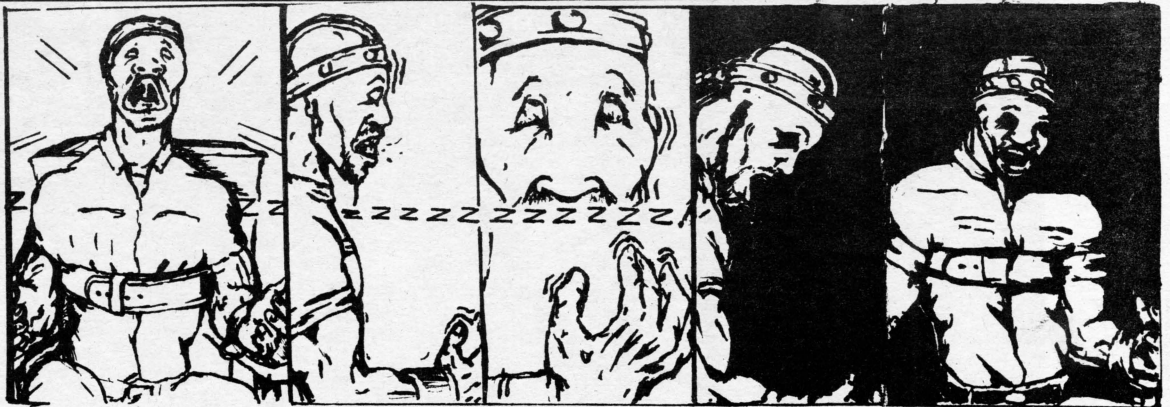
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APPLICATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 10, 1994

BEASTS OF BURDEN by Michael Clayton



VULPINE by J.W. Kennedy

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WHAT DOES THE FRESHMAN DO WHEN HE THINKS NO ONE IS LOOKING?

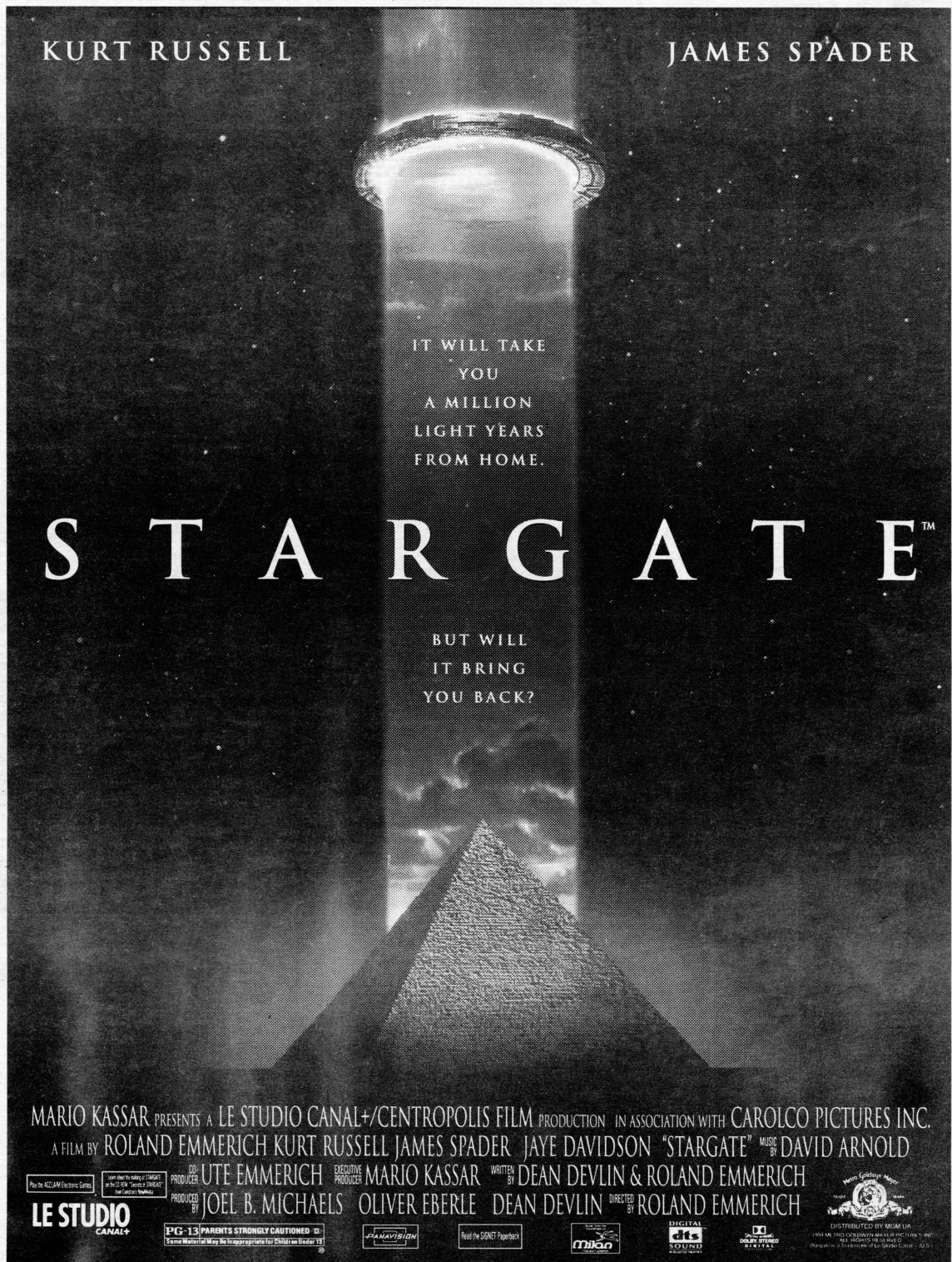


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CO-PRODUCER UTE EMMERICH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARIO KASSAR WRITTEN BY DEAN DEVLIN & ROLAND EMMERICH
PRODUCED BY JOEL B. MICHAELS OLIVER EBERLE DEAN DEVLIN DIRECTED BY ROLAND EMMERICH

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