

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY — Mostly cloudy and cool with a 30 percent chance of rain. Highs in the mid- to upper 50s.



THURSDAY — Partly cloudy and cool. Highs in the 60s. Lows in 50s.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• The latest version of Shelley's masterpiece brings us a kinder, gentler monster. See story page 8.



WEDNESDAY, November 16, 1994

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 26, No. 35

'Trani Dome:' How much will it cost?

Sherry Jones
CT News Editor

Although students and administrators have been talking about the recreation/convocation center, dubbed the "Trani Dome" by many, for three years, there seems to be some confusion concerning the price of the arena and the amount of the student contribution. The arena recently was named the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

On Oct. 15, 1991, the Neighborhood and University Recreational Development Study Committee recommended to VCU President Eugene P. Trani upgrading existing facilities and building new ones to serve VCU's recreation and event needs.

The study listed three basic recommendations:

- upgrading existing facilities on the Academic and MCV campuses;
- constructing a new convocation/recreation facility with an estimated cost of \$20 million;
- increasing students' University Fees by \$100 to help finance these changes.

When Trani accepted the NURDS recommendations, he assured the Student Government Association that student fees would not increase more than the proposed \$100.

SGA Vice President Jonathan Bartee said when senators passed a resolution in February 1992 supporting the NURDS report, Trani had given them the impression that students would be paying for \$8 million of the \$20 million center, which is why they agreed to the \$100 University Fee increase.

This increase was to be implemented in two parts — paid in 1993 and 1994 — with the first \$50 increase approved by the VCU Board of Visitors in April 1992.

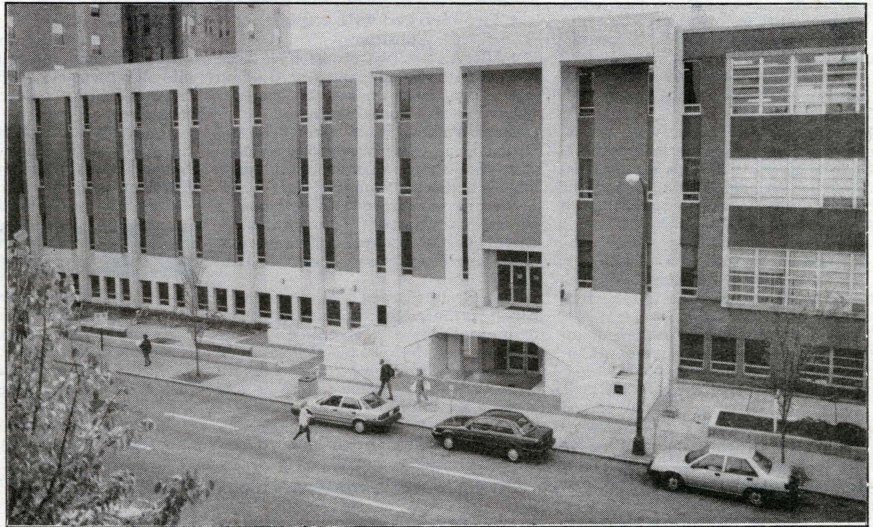
In March 1993, SGA passed a second resolution reiterating its support for the NURDS study and the senate's understanding of the second \$50 increase, which the Board of Visitors approved in April 1993.

Trani said that no matter what the cost of the convocation center, there will be no more fee increases for students. He added that he never committed to any figure other than the \$100 increase.

"I have made two commitments from day one — students will pay no more than \$100 and the big facility would be a convocation/recreation center," Trani said. "These are the two commitments that I have stood by."

These commitments, he continued, are the only ones that can be found on paper.

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NO DICE — (above) While some renovations for the Franklin Street gym are slated, the originally proposed addition of a new swimming pool will not materialize.



FIELD OF DREAMS — (right) An NCAA regulation track is scheduled to be built on Cary Street Field. In addition, bleachers, locker rooms, bathrooms, storage space and a concession area also will be added to the complex.

Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

IFC still questions funding

Melanie Irvin
CT News Editor

For the past several weeks allegations have been flying back and forth between the Interfraternity Council and the Student Government Association concerning funding for IFC.

IFC

IFC representatives are upset because their group cannot directly receive money from student activities fees. Instead IFC must request funds from Greek Council, which governs IFC, Panhellenic Council and other Greek organizations.

On the other hand, SGA representatives contend that the group is ineligible to receive those funds directly.

As a result, IFC Vice President Michael Hancock said IFC is considering breaking away from Greek Council to become an independent organization.

"I think it's grossly unfair to make us work with a restructuring Greek Council, especially at this point. ... (We want) to get the IFC established," he said.

L. Victor Collins, interim director for student activities who also advises SGA, said Greek organizations discriminate, by

IFC continued to page 4 ➤

SGA advisers propose revisions

Sherry Jones
CT News Editor

Recently, several Student Government Association senators met with SGA advisers to discuss revisions to the SGA constitution.

William H. Duvall, dean of student affairs, said he and other SGA advisers began meeting this past summer to revise and update the constitution.

The advisers then presented their new version to SGA's Executive Committee.

"We did try to stick with the original constitution and not go off on a tangent," Duvall said.

SGA Vice President Jonathan Bartee

said he disagrees with the administration's attempt to rewrite the constitution.

"I believe the reason for the revision is that some say the student government is not functioning as efficiently as it should be under the constitution," he said. "I believe a lot of that is personality and work ethic."

"I don't believe that if you change a piece of paper that's going to improve people's performance."

He said his main question is why the administration should make the student government constitution.

Duvall and L. Victor Collins, interim

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World/Nation

• Channel trains off to a flying start

PARIS — Shaking off the glitches that plagued trial runs, high-speed trains rolled on schedule yesterday, the first day of regular passenger service linking Paris, London and Brussels via the Channel Tunnel.

The Eurostar trains unloaded passengers delighted by the comfort and convenience of a trip slashed to scarcely three hours.

• Mandela memoirs cite assassination plot

LONDON — President Nelson Mandela said when he was a political prisoner, South African security agents tried to lure him into an escape plot so he could be assassinated.

The first extract of Mandela's memoirs was published Sunday in the London Observer.

The memoirs, titled "Long Walk to Freedom," describe the struggle for black freedom from his youth in Transkei to 10,000 days in prison and eventual victory for blacks at the ballot box. The book will go on sale Nov. 28 in the United States.

• Simon won't seek re-election

CHICAGO — U.S. Sen. Paul Simon has decided not to run again when his current term expires in 1996.

The Democratic senator made that announcement at a press conference in Chicago yesterday.

Simon, who will turn 66 Nov. 29, spent 15 years in the General Assembly, served a term as lieutenant governor, spent 10 years in the U.S. House representing far

Southern Illinois and was elected to the Senate in 1984.

He unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nominations for governor in 1972 and president in 1988.

• Iraqi admits wanting to kill Bush

KUWAIT — An Iraqi nurse told Kuwait's high court Monday that he came to Kuwait last year to kill former President Bush.

Wali al-Gazali, 37, is one of seven Iraqis and two Kuwaitis who have appealed convictions for plotting to kill Bush during his April 1993 visit to the emirate. Gazali was sentenced to death.

Virginia

• Two charged with exploiting children

FAIRFAX — Two people have been charged with sexually exploiting children after a two-month undercover investigation in Fairfax County, police said.

John Walling, 59, of Springfield and Donna Jones, 29, of Washington were arrested Saturday in what police said was a scheme to procure young girls for sex.

Walling is charged with detaining a person for the purpose of prostitution, indecent liberties, possession of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Jones was charged with detaining a person for the purpose of prostitution, pandering and possession of cocaine.

Police said that Thomas Polhemus, an investigator working undercover, arranged to go to Walling's home, where he and Walling were to meet some young children for sex.

Police said the pair were arrested after

Walling paid Jones for two Washington girls, aged 7 and 8, she had brought to the house.

The children were unharmed and placed with the county's Child Protective Services, police said.

• Robertson to sell firm cited in allegations

VIRGINIA BEACH — Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson is selling the vitamin and cosmetics company that was the focus of allegations of unethical business practices.

Robertson is selling KaloVita to Royal BodyCare Inc. of Dallas.

Royal BodyCare will sell the KaloVita products as a separate line. It plans to close KaloVita's Virginia Beach offices but keep a local warehouse as an East Coast distribution center.

Royal BodyCare Executive Vice President Bob Phillips said the sale will end a series of federal and state investigations into allegations of mingling of money between KaloVita and Robertson's nonprofit subsidiaries.

Robertson started KaloVita with financial help from his Christian Broadcasting Network but said last month he has repaid CBN's investment with interest.

No price was disclosed.

Richmond

• Add 8-0-4 for local long-distance calls

The distance between Richmond and Norfolk is getting longer, by three digits.

Starting today, callers who make long-distance calls within the 804 area code must dial the area code.

Previously, long distance calls within the area code could be made by dialing 1 or

0 and the seven-digit number.

The change went into effect in May on an optional basis.

But as of tomorrow, if the area code is not included, the call will not go through.

The 804 area code stretches north to Port Royal, south to North Carolina, west to Lynchburg and east to the Eastern Shore.

• Council tables pool plan

A planned Richmond City Council vote on paying for a \$20 million Olympic swimming pool was put off Monday night for two weeks. At least three council members have serious questions about whether the natatorium would be worth the money.

The swim center, which would be located near The Diamond, is a vital component of the city's bid for the 1997 or 1999 Olympic Festival. The project must be approved by Richmond and the counties of Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico. If any jurisdiction backs out, the whole Olympic Festival project sinks.

The state would be asked to pay \$5 million of the \$20 million total. Richmond, Chesterfield and Henrico each would pay 30 percent of the construction and operating costs, and Hanover 10 percent.

Campus

• On-line lecture on tap

Join the Society of Professional Journalists at 5:30 p.m. today in the School of Mass Communications Conference Room, GPAB 2211, as Carl Crothers discusses Tampa Bay On-Line. As deputy managing editor of the Tampa Tribune, Crothers has charge of taking the newspaper to the screen. He also will give a computer demonstration. All students are invited to attend.

— Compiled from news sources.

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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.



1st Annual VCU Homecoming November 17-19, 1994

November 18, 1994 - VCU Men's Basketball vs. Czech National Team, 7:30 p.m., Franklin Street Gym. Limited seating, so please arrive early. Color Day: Freshman-Gold, Sophomores-White, Juniors-Grey, Seniors-Black.

November 19, 1994 - Homecoming Dance, 9:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., Commonwealth Ballroom. Join us for the flair and flavor of a Mardi Gras Carnival. Music by Power 93 and Juan Conde. Light buffet available. Semi-formal attire required.

Advance tickets are \$3.00 for VCU students w/ID and can be bought at the Student Activities Center in the Student Commons. Other tickets are \$4.00 at the door and \$5.00 for non-students.

For further information contact the Student Activities Center at 828-3648.

Sound Off!

Are you planning to attend VCU's Homecoming this weekend? Why?



"No. I had no idea it was even going on."
— **Rob Byrne**
24, comm. art and design

"Yes. It's the first one and I think it's important to support VCU."

— **Raven Louk**
16, biology



"No. I really didn't know anything about it."

— **Travis Ely**
18, business



"No, because generally I don't follow VCU sports or any of those things."

— **Patsy Glazer**
41, psychology



"Most likely not. I haven't heard about it in time. I found out about it yesterday (Monday)."

— **Munal Salem**
21, chemistry



"Naw, I ain't know about it."

— **Marco Martin**
23, social work



McTernan's father wants the truth

Scott Bass
CT News Editor

When charges were dismissed two weeks ago against Jon Jason Shields and Arthus Bugarin, two VCU students charged with the malicious wounding of Thomas E. McTernan after an Aug. 28 fight outside the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity house, many began erasing the tragedy from their minds.

McTernan died Sept. 4 at MCV Hospitals. For McTernan's family, however, his death will haunt them for a lifetime. In an exclusive interview, Richard McTernan, the father of Thomas E. McTernan talks with the Commonwealth Times about the son he'll never see again.

Commonwealth Times: First of all, when the charges were dismissed against Shields and Bugarin two weeks ago, what was your initial reaction?

Richard McTernan: Shocked. I was absolutely shocked. I would have thought they would have at least left the assault charges in place for the time being but that was a decision that the judge made.

CT: The applause (that came from courtroom observers following the judge's decision)?

RM: Shock again. I'm just astounded that today's college youth could be that callous. 'My son is dead,' I told them that day in that courtroom. 'My son is dead and you're applauding.' That doesn't seem quite fair.

CT: You addressed the fraternity members?

RM: Yeah, on my way out of the courtroom that day. This isn't a basketball game they just won. This is 'My son's life is gone,' and no one is being held accountable? I have a problem with that. I haven't met anybody that hasn't been outraged, including this article that was in the (Nov. 2 of the Richmond) Times-Dispatch. Everybody that I know that has read that article is outraged that those kids stood up and started applauding.

CT: Do you think justice was not served?

RM: Not at this point, it hasn't been. No.

CT: Would you support future indictments against Bugarin and Shields?

RM: That's up to the police department. I'm not a police officer but somebody should be held accountable. Yes, absolutely. There has to be somebody held accountable for what happened to my son. He didn't just fall down on the sidewalk and hit his head. Somebody put him there. That's what it's about, accountability and telling the truth. Somebody needs to come forward and tell the truth. That didn't happen the other day (Nov. 1 in Richmond General District Court) obviously, and the judge made note of that fact, that somebody in that courtroom either committed perjury or lied in some way or fashion. ... So yeah, we would definitely support any further legal action, of course. It's not a vengeance thing. I've held my son accountable for ... (his) actions. I'm accountable for my actions and that's the way this country works. It's tragic. I wouldn't want my son to be in any one of those boy's positions or that fraternity's position. ... But the fact is I'm on the other side of the fence and my son is dead. They're still going to school every day.

CT: What do you think really happened that night at the fraternity party?

RM: I have no way of knowing. You can speculate 'til the cows come home, but until somebody comes forward and tells the truth about what happened in that alley that night I will never know, will I? And that's all we want. My wife and I and my sons, we

just want the truth to be known. And then let the chips fall where they may. I don't know. I wouldn't even speculate. There's been so many stories. Yourself, you heard five different testimonies. ... These two fraternity brothers say that Jon Shields hit him and he (Thomas E. McTernan) fell down. On the basis of that, there must be some accountability for that. They're saying there isn't a second person involved. I don't know.

CT: You can't speculate on who you think is responsible for Tom's death?

RM: I can't, not until somebody comes forward and tells the truth. It's not fair to Jon Shields even. That's what the court is for. That's the police department's job and the commonwealth attorney's job to find out, and then they'll tell us.

CT: What's been the relationship between the police department and the commonwealth's attorney as far as the family is concerned?

RM: My wife's (Richmond police Detective J. Carmody McTernan) a city police officer. It took from the time my son died 'til the day after that court hearing for her to be able to go back to work. And she's been in (the department of) violent crimes for three years. She's seen people die but not her own son. You know, it's been real tough. I spent 20 years raising him, he makes something of himself in the Marine Corps. He was an outstanding Marine and he was up for meritorious promotion to corporal in 12 months. It's not usual at all. I understand this. (Richard McTernan explained later that he and his wife are both former Marines.)

CT: Do you feel that he (Thomas E. McTernan) was murdered?

RM: I don't know that murder is the word. I believe that he was killed at the hands of another person and somebody is responsible. Now if that's murder, fine. If that's manslaughter, fine. I don't know what the technical charge would be for that action. I don't know how the law is interpreted. I'm not an attorney. I'm not a police officer.

CT: How much of a factor do you think alcohol played in Tom's death?

RM: I'm sure it played a large factor. As much as you get a group of people excited and they are under the influence (of alcohol) than it is if you serve soda. By virtue of factor neither my son nor the two other boys that were with him were the age of 21. They were all three served alcohol illegally at that fraternity house, which was also a fact that was stated plainly at the hearing. So I'm sure it was a contributing factor, there's no doubt.

CT: Since all this has happened, how do you feel about VCU?

RM: I don't have an opinion on VCU on one matter or another. If my son had been killed in some sort of ... action in Haiti in the Marine Corps, would I be mad at the Marine Corps? Would I be mad at the United States? He died honorably. He died honorably in the street that night defending himself.

CT: How have things been emotionally and physically for you since Tom's death?

RM: Terrible. Terrible. Absolutely horrible.

CT: How about your family?

RM: The same — terrible. I'll see something and think to myself, 'I really must tell Thomas about that.' Just for that moment I'll forget that he's gone. And I don't know how long that will last. He was the oldest son and I have two other sons and it's been real tough for everybody, and his mother also. Naturally it's been devastating to all

of us. And that's another reason why I couldn't understand the callousness of these college kids in the courtroom applauding that somebody, whether it be (Jon) Jason Shields or that other fella (Arthus Bugarin), got away with killing somebody. ... I couldn't believe they were happy about that. It wasn't a basketball game they won. I mean, do we applaud at car accidents? You don't.

CT: Were you close to your son?

RM: Sure. I'm close with all of my sons.

CT: How have you personally been able to deal with Tom's death during the court cases, the investigation and everything's that's taken place since?

RM: It's been a roller-coaster ride of emotions. One day you're up and halfway through the day you're down. Only a parent would know what it is to lose a son in any way, shape or fashion. And I'll never get over it and neither will his mother or his brothers. He'll always be a part of our life. ...

CT: When you think about Tom, what about him stands out most in your mind?

RM: He was a big, strong, healthy, personable boy, which was evident by the number of people that came to his funeral service that we held the following Tuesday after his death. That chapel holds about 200 people ... it turns out that there was a minimum of about 400 people at that service. ... He was a well-liked, well-rounded individual. He had everything in the world going for him.

CT: If we could go back and meet Tom what kind of person would we encounter?

RM: A friendly ... guy. He had a tremendous ability to laugh sometimes at the silliest thing and could imitate almost every comedian that was ever on television, from Eddie Murphy to John Belushi. He was funny. He was fun to be around. ...

CT: Is there an example you could give us, a certain day or incident, that you and your son shared that captured the essence of Tom?

RM: I'd say a conversation we had in just the last two months, maybe July or August of this year, where he has two younger brothers — one's 13 and one's 14 — and he was in the driveway with me and we were talking about his car or something, and he got on the subject of his younger brothers, that I needed to do everything with them that I did for him so they would turn out OK. He was real worried about his younger brothers, making sure that they did well in school, that they were respectful to their parents and to other adults. It dawned on him that I was acting differently toward him in the last year or so. And I said, 'You're absolutely right, and I'll do everything for your brothers that I did for you. And I'll be every bit as tough on them as I was on you.' But as far as he and I went, the difference at that time was now we were equals. He was a 20-year-old, going on 21-year-old, man. ... It wasn't really a father-son relationship anymore. It was more of a peer relationship, and he was real taken back by that. 'At your age you are more together and a better Marine than I was at your age. So I have to admire you for that. And I'm proud of you for that.' ... He was a good kid and he turned out to be a good man.

CT: Where were you the night of Aug. 28 when the incident occurred and when did you gain knowledge that your son was in the hospital?

RM: I was at home when the hospital called the house. ... I don't know if they said he was semiconscious or in and out, but

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Bartee said, "Sure, you can say a \$100 increase, but where does that stop?"

Unfortunately, he added, there's no "paper trail" showing Trani's commitment to certain figures.

"The only thing I really have a firm footing to stand on is when President Trani told me and another student Oct. 20 in a meeting the cost would be between \$8 million and \$12 million, but now that's up to \$15.5 million.

"Of course, President Trani can go back and say he never told me that. ... So basically I have nothing to back me up with that one exception (the student who accompanied Bartee)."

Trani attributes some of the confusion surrounding the cost of the facility to changes in the project over time.

"At one point we were led to believe that we might get land free. We didn't get land free," Trani said, adding that the original plan called for a 3,500 seat facility.

"We've had the opportunity largely through private funding to increase that (seating capacity)," he said.

While the money generated from the \$100 increase is supposed to cover the cost of many recreational improvements, Bartee said, the majority is going toward the con-

vocation center.

Bartee said he keeps hearing different figures for the amount students will be contributing to funding the center.

He said he would like to see Trani give an exact figure and stick to it.

"Inevitably the price is going to go up, but the communication lines can be better opened," Bartee said, explaining that the president should at least keep a record of his reports.

Bartee added now the portion going to the center seems to be increasing, taking away from the amount that can be spent on other recreational improvements.

According to a summary of the NURDS report, which Trani sent to Bartee, students initially were advised that the \$100 increase would support \$20 million in improvements.

Now, as the review states, the fee increase will finance approximately \$19 million of \$28.4 million in improvements.

Of the \$19 million in student investments, \$13 million is supporting construction of the Siegel Center, \$2.5 million is supporting acquisition of the land for the center and \$3.8 million is for all other student recreation improvements.

According to the NURDS report, these other improvements include:

- expansion of the Cary Street complex and construction of support facilities at

this site, including an NCAA regulation track for competition, bleachers and support buildings containing locker rooms, bathrooms, storage space and a concession area;

- construction of a recreational swimming pool on the MCV campus;

- construction of a recreational swimming pool adjacent to the Cary Street Gymnasium with storage space, locker rooms and concession areas;

- providing a support facility including bathrooms, locker rooms, water fountains, storage space and concession areas for the Thalheimer tennis courts;

- renovation of the Franklin Street Gymnasium including air conditioning in the main and auxiliary gymnasiums, upgrading the pool's filtering system and other improvements to enhance the facility's usefulness.

Bartee said now that there is less money for these improvements, some of these changes will not occur.

Trani said that at present only one improvement has been eliminated from the plan.

"The one facility that did not survive the recommendation ... was a new swimming pool on this campus," he said, adding that the cost of renovating the existing pool in the Franklin Street gym is cheaper than constructing a new pool.

Bartee said he does not agree with this elimination.

"I think the pool was an incentive for the student government to pass this project," Bartee said. "I believe that when the pool was killed that money went to the convocation center."

SGA President Cathaleen Bryant said that while the cost of the center is rising, students are not being asked to give any more than the original \$100.

"We can't reverse what's going on right now," she said, explaining that the plans for the center are already underway so there's no way to make any changes.

Bryant said Trani should not be blamed for increasing costs. SGA is at fault, she said.

"We (SGA) should have been more informed," Bryant said. "We should have been more pro-active."

In an effort to do something about this situation, Bartee said, some senators have been considering proposing a resolution rescinding SGA's support for the convocation center.

"The dome is not finalized. It's not on paper as much as they'd (the administration) would like students to think," he said. "Nothing says it's absolutely going to be built. It's still in the planning stages. There are still a lot of factors that could change."

IFC

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constitution, on the basis of gender, thereby making it ineligible.

"Women can't join fraternities. Men can't join sororities," Collins said.

He said many have pointed to black organizations, claiming they discriminate as well.

"None of those discriminate in their constitutions. As a white student you can go to them and they have got to open their doors and let you join," he said.

Hancock said he feels that IFC, however, is the one suffering from discrimination.

"In the policy (the appropriations bylaws) it never states anything about organizations that are gender-biased or race-biased. It never states anything. It only states in there that social fraternities and sororities can't receive funding," he said. "Frankly, it's disturbing to me because I feel we're being discriminated against as an organization."

The bylaws of SGA's Appropriations Committee state that any registered student organization except political groups, religious groups and social fraternities or sororities can receive funding from SGA.

Likewise, William H. Duvall, dean of student affairs who also advises the appropriations committee, said these rules stand in the way of IFC being funded.

"The rationale behind those bylaws is that those kinds of groups promote a specific religion — or religious denomination — or a specific Greek letter organization; therefore, they don't represent the broader interests of the university," he said.

Elizabeth C. Bell, assistant director for student activities who also oversees Greek affairs, said she thinks IFC does not receive funding because of the "philosophical view" that the group discriminates on the basis of gender.

"They then receive funding (however) through Greek Council since it is representative of both men and women," Bell said.

This fall, Greek Council lost its funding, however, because it failed to register as a student organization, she said.

To be eligible, Bell explained, groups must register with student activities as well as attend a budget workshop. IFC and

Panhellenic fulfilled both requirements but still must ask Greek Council, instead of SGA, for money.

"IFC is not dissatisfied with Greek Council. They (IFC) just don't want to have to go through Greek Council in the future, so there's one less hoop they (would) have to jump through," she said.

On the other hand, when reminded that IFC does not fall into the category of "social fraternity," Duvall said the group could go to the appropriations committee and request funding as an organization independent of Greek Council.

"It has been tradition or past practice that Greek Council comes in and makes the request on behalf of IFC. It could be argued that instead of Greek Council, let IFC and let Panhellenic come individually or independently and make their own request," Duvall said.

Yet Bell said that if IFC does break away from Greek Council, she thinks they still will be ineligible, unless they change that traditional view.

The constitutions of the individual fraternities that make up IFC require the groups to be open only to males, Bell explained.

"SGA perceives them to be discriminating on the basis of gender," she said. "Therefore SGA perceives them to be ineligible to receive funding."

"Unless SGA's perception is changed or reinterpreted, they're (SGA) not going to fund IFC as an independent group."

So, Bell said, IFC wants to change SGA's opinion of the group, basing its contention on the recent Virginia Military Institute litigation.

In the VMI case, the courts ruled that the school, a single-gender state organization, can maintain its funding as long as there is a women's equivalent organization.

"This will be the basis of their argument and they will try to persuade SGA to see that side of it," she said.

In response to its lack of funding, IFC President Matthew Fedowitz said he has been forced to increase membership dues and raise fines imposed on member fraternities for such violations as missing meetings.

"This view that traditionally men's fraternities are a bunch of party animals," has hurt IFC, Fedowitz said.

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director for student activities who also advises SGA, should act in the capacity of advisers, Bartee said. This time they've gone too far.

Collins, on the other hand, said the advisers are not trying to mandate changes, they are simply making recommendations.

"Our job is to give our best advice," he said. "We're just trying to offer another model that might draw the whole notion together of representing a broader, larger base of students. None of this was done in secret or behind closed doors."

Although a lot of the wording was changed, he added, there are only three basic modifications.

They include:

- increasing the number of senators from 36 to 50;

- holding elections in November instead of February;

- consolidating the executive committee, which means eliminating the position of secretary and adding an assistant vice president;

- making the publicity committee responsible for conducting elections, which were previously handled by the appointments committee.

Duvall said he sees a need to increase the size of the senate to allow more student involvement.

Bartee said he does not see a need for

changing the number of seats.

It's hard enough, he said, for SGA to keep all 36 seats filled, much less to fill even more.

Another area concerns elections, Duvall said. Elections should be held in November, he explained, so that new senators have more time to learn the ropes.

The way things are set up now, Duvall continued, senators take office and only get to spend about two weeks learning from experienced senators.

"The new folks are kind of left to fend for themselves," Duvall added. "The transition between semesters makes for a more stable student government."

Bartee said he disagrees with moving the date of elections, explaining that this would allow students, because of the deadline for appointing senators, to run as incumbents after being in the senate for a little more than a month.

"If you have a big turnover right in the middle of the fall semester that might be problematic in defining the issues," he said, adding that this will detract from the consistency of the group.

In addition, one thing Bartee said he would like to see added to the new constitution is the popular election of the SGA president.

"I believe it would be more representative of the student body," he said. "I believe the president should have to go out and campaign — have to get the students behind him and put him in office — that way he's accountable to students."

pleasant and sometimes the repercussions of telling the truth are not very nice and somebody may have to go to jail. It's almost too late to worry about that. Now it's time for somebody to tell the truth. That's what they owe my son — to tell the truth. That's what they owe my son. It's an unfortunate situation all the way around. That's true. But the fact is, even if somebody goes to jail ... they'll still be alive. My son is gone. I don't get him back no matter what and that's the reality of it. ... It's not that we want a pound of flesh here, we just want somebody to be accountable for my son's death. And so far that hasn't happened.

— Police are still investigating McTernan's death.

Q&A

continued from page 3

anyway, they needed somebody down there. I didn't even wake my wife up, thinking he had just gotten — they said he'd been in a fight of some sort. ... By the time I had gotten to MCV from Chester ... he was already in a coma, so I called his mother up and we spent a week there. ... The doctors gave us hope in the beginning but he didn't make it. ...

CT: Since all this has taken place, what would you say to the fraternity, the fraternity members and those who were involved?

RM: I'd ask them to tell the truth. Just tell the truth, that's all. It's not that terribly hard of a thing to do. Sometimes it isn't

Every Student Deserves a Chance to Vote and Serve

How different would the federal government be if Congress nominated the president and then voted that person in?

How different would state governments be if the legislatures, elected by the populace, selected the governor?

Oh, don't worry, the editorial board would never suggest such elitist means. In fact, we like the current system and wished Major League Baseball would allow the fans to elect a commissioner.

That way, we would know the executive officer would serve the people's (fans') best interest. That way, we would know who was accountable if the price of hot dogs increased by 50 percent. And that way, we would know that if the person we elected did not represent his constituents, then fans could exercise the option of voting for another commissioner.

That is the ideal world.

Unfortunately, we don't live in the perfect world.

Not even close, because our world allows for the World Series to be cancelled over a salary cap.

Here at VCU, our problems aren't as deep-rooted as baseball issues.

Instead of free agency, students want copy machines that work. Instead of revenue sharing, students want tuition to stop significantly increasing every year. And instead of long-term contracts, students want a safe environment where they can walk freely devoid of screaming automobiles and flashing pervers.

But funny how it seems that in both worlds, where the highest individual office is not elected but selected, problems persist.

Our student president is nominated by the Student Government Association Senate and not by the general student population.

This president then assumes control of a powerful governing body with senators as her constituents. And when the president makes a mistake, it is the senate, not the students, that this president is accountable to.

Why is our president hand-picked? Can anyone from SGA answer that? Does it not make sense to have an open election where any student may run for president?

Hello, McFly, anyone home?

Instead of suggesting ways to better the situation in the senate, let's start at the top first, then move down to the senate.

Here is a list of the benefits to an elected president:

- Promotes involvement. Allows any-

one to run and spread the issues concerning that candidate or that candidate's constituents. Special interest groups on campus may support a certain candidate that believes in that group's views. Posters will hang on walls. Students will wear pins of their favorite candidates. Speeches can be aired on SIT-TV and WVCW. Parties or candidates may hold rallies. Unlimited potential for involvement.

- Real debates. Allows candidates to debate other candidates on real issues. Not only will issues be discussed, but SGA might realize some of the issues that need to be discussed.

- Campaign promises/accountability. Yes, every candidate makes a promise, or promises not to make a promise. But either way, the students can hold this candidate to his/her promise.

- A real student representative. No more lackeys. They will not be tolerated or they won't be elected.

- A powerful president. A president who is elected will earn more respect than a president who is selected. This elected president will have more influence and thus more power.

Now here's our plan for the presidency and vice presidency of VCU:

- A preliminary round. A voting date set before the end of the fall semester. The Commonwealth Times will print an election supplement announcing all the candidates.

- Three parties or candidates along with their running mates are selected for the final election.

- The CT will sponsor one open debate. Maybe other special interest groups on campus like Black Caucus, Greek Council or the Sexual Minority Student Alliance may also hold a debate.

- Massive advertising campaigns provided by SIT-TV geared toward encouraging students to vote.

- Election day and night. Results may be posted via SIT-TV or WVCW on an hourly basis. Like a real election.

There it is. Our plan. Though it is crude, the general outline is there. The CT is willing to help any way it can to make this possible.

So instead of wasting time talking about communications, let's discuss real changes that will help a struggling governing body.

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

Erin Hierholzer

A Hellish Party Given by a Hellish Party

They're back, and it's some kind of scary. After 40 years in the congressional doghouse, the Mighty Republicans are making their way back to the bastion of governmental power — Capitol Hill. In celebration of this victory over liberalism, the Republicans have been having a who-can-loose-the-most-like-Reagan costume party. So far the winner is Newt Gingrich, who will take over as Speaker of the House come January.

In the Republican's Contract With America, their agenda for change to be voted on in the first 100 days of the new Congress, Reagan, oops I mean Gingrich, proposes a return to the policies of the 1980s.

Despite the trillions of dollars of debt the Reagan years have given us, Republicans are once again turning to Reaganomics for their fiscal planning. Since they're lacking evidence that trickle-down economics was a great success, the new Reaganomics led by Gingrich have decided to try again. (You know, as in "One more for the Gipper.")

Tax cuts for the wealthy are on the table along with a lower capital gains tax. Coupled with these cuts is of course their Republican counterpart, increased defense spending. Star Wars — The Sequel could return to the House despite the large number of scientific skeptics who doubt its practicality. This space-based, anti-missile defense network was Reagan's baby, and the Republicans who will be in power want to see it grow to full-fledged adulthood.

Jesse Helms of North Carolina, who is well-known for his clear mindedness, calm thinking and tolerance, will probably take over the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. If reports from Capitol Hill are to

be believed, Helms may "... oppose ratification of treaties restricting the use of chemical weapons ..."

Term limits, a hotly debated topic during the previous election, are also listed in the Contract With America as a proposed change in the constitution. Rep. Dick Armey of Texas, who is expected to become the House majority leader, reluctantly supported term limits before this past week's election.

With the new Republican leadership, however, Armey is rethinking this stance. On yesterday's National Public Radio, Armey, who was just re-elected for his sixth term in the House, said with the Republicans in power, the change Americans want could probably be achieved without such an amendment.

Also included in the Contract With America is welfare reform. Gingrich's proposed changes would include allowing states to end payments to many families who receive payments from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children and use the saved funds to build orphanages for the children of these families.

If these Draconian reforms were to be enacted, an expensive price tag would be put on Family Values, the Republicans' war cry for social change. The Republicans obviously believe that these values apply only to those families who can afford them. Poor and disadvantaged children are to receive their values from orphanages instead of their parents.

And so the congressional stage is set with these proposals of change. The American people, full of themselves after their perceived ability to "throw the bums out," seem more than ready to accept these changes. Accepting the consequences will be a different story.

David Henschel

Bad Style at the Washington Post

Style is not the same thing as taste. This is made very clear in the Style section of the Washington Post.

Its style of journalism is so snotty and phony, it's amazing that the paper sells so well.

A case in point is the Style section of Monday, Nov. 14. A reader who casually picks it up gets bombarded by four photographs of people with nothing in common and the headline: "THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT: Mom & Dad Were '60s Radicals. Today, Their Children Grapple With the '90s." Not a very original idea.

Style profiled 14 grown kids having the "distinction" of being different from their parents as well as being "all right." Reporter Paula Span claims to have spent eight months interviewing them.

She updates us on these people without updating us on what has become of "the Movement." Sister Souljah now holds sway, rather than the Black Panthers. And those who might have embraced the countryside and drugs in the 1960s simply settle for drugs today.

This story is one of many that Style has pulled out of thin air to occupy the entire top half of its front page. An anniversary of the 1968 demonstrations at Columbia University brought an update by Style of two white protesters who had performed their wedding ceremony amidst the chaos. The groom actually ignored his Columbia degree to become a carpenter in Brooklyn! Style must think that's radical, dude.

Style could have reminded readers of what made these demonstrations unique in history. Rich white people invaded Ivy League administrative offices and submitted to handcuffs because they were pissed at the university's purchase of poor people's land in Harlem. Style could have questioned why white people don't do that anymore instead of a weird wedding. The Style editors must have considered the notion of rich whites helping the African Americans of Harlem an example of letting it all hang out, which is no longer "in vogue."

But wait a minute. The Style section creates the "vogue." A well-known fact is that the Washington Post is one of the most profitable and powerful newspapers in the world. This year Style has run countless front-and-center stories related to John Bobbitt, Tonya Harding and O.J. Simpson. Then they abruptly splash an update of a hippie or civil rights activist all over the front page.

Their attempt to contrast the person's past and present is so nauseating that one could interpret it as a passionate plea for hippie ethics to replace '90s phoniness. But they promote that very phoniness the next day with crap about Tonya Harding. They could profile other ice-skaters. They could interview rock stars without mentioning drug use.

I suggest those who will live in the Washington area after graduation should not rely totally on the Washington Post Style section to turn on and tune in.

Commonwealth TIMES

CT EDITORIAL BOARD

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VOTE COUNT:

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.

PARAMOUNT



Paramount Parks

Paramount Parks is holding auditions to cast the upcoming 1995 show season at Paramount's Kings Dominion in Richmond, Virginia!

1995 will feature contemporary dance and music revues, costume character shows, roving bands, vocal groups and a comedic/improvisational actor program featuring popular *Star Trek*® aliens.

We need experienced singers, dancers, actors, costume character performers, instrumentalists, technicians and variety performers of all types!

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Sunday, November 20, 1994

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The Paramount Theatre

12:00-2:00

Actors, Variety Performers

2:00-5:00

Singers, Technicians

5:00

Dancers

5:00-7:00

Instrumentalists

A U D I T I O N S

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The Virginia Alliance for the Mentally Ill is starting a support group for sibling and adult children of those surviving with a mental illness. This group is for all brothers, sisters, sons and daughters of those with a mental illness. The group will provide emotional support, education, and resources to siblings and adult children. It will also provide a forum where siblings and adult children can share their feelings in a safe place and receive comfort from others who share the same experience.

The support group's first meeting is scheduled November 10, 1994. If you would like to attend, please call the Virginia Alliance for the Mentally Ill office. Contact Val Marsh at 225-8264.

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replace humans...
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YOUR PLASMA SAVES LIVES.

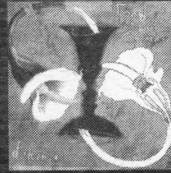
THE PLASMA YOU DONATE HELPS:

- * Patients in shock
- * Bleeding Disorders
- * Provide Intravenous fluids for burns, surgery or treatment of illness
- * Protect against infection
- * Accident Victims
- * Provide clotting factors for Hemophiliacs
- * New research for life threatening diseases

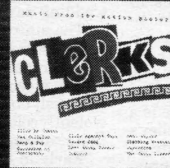
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NOW SERVING:

TOAD THE WET SPROCKET
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Featuring Fall Down and Something's Always Wrong.JEFF BUCKLEY
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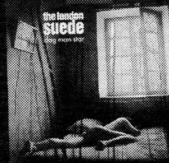
"Grace" - The debut album from guitar player, songwriter, and performer Jeff Buckley.

MUSIC FROM THE MOTION PICTURE
CLERKSWith music from Alice In Chains, Bad Religion, Bash & Pop, Corrosion Of Conformity, Girls Against Boys, Golden Smog, Love Among Freaks, Seaweed, Soul Asylum, Stabbing Westward, Supernova, and The Jesus Lizard.
"Music From The Motion Picture Clerks" rocks 24 hours a day, seven days a week.SPONGE
ROTTING PIÑATASponge explodes with "Rotting Piñata" - an unflinching collection of songs whose lyrics call it like they see it and let the guitars fill in the blanks.
Featuring the brutal reality check, Plowed.BOB DYLAN
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"Greatest Hits Vol. 3" is a full helping of 14 classics including Knockin' On Heaven's Door, Forever Young, Tangled Up In Blue, and the brand new track Dignity.

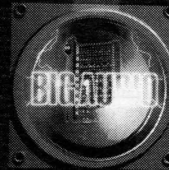
THE LONDON SUEDE
DOG MAN STAR

The romantic lyrics and the dramatic guitars are what won The London Suede the Mercury prize and the title of "The Best New Band In Britain" for their debut album. Now with their new release, "dog man star," the band takes their unique perspective on love and sorrow to new heights.



BIG AUDIO HIGHER POWER

Big Audio Dynamite + BAD II = Big Audio. The first band to use guitars with samples has made a record that rocks with the best of them. Take a big bite out of "Higher Power," the new album featuring Looking For A Song and Got To Wake Up.

DIONNE FARRIS
WILD SEED - WILD FLOWER

The voice that aroused you in Arrested Development's "Tennessee" will whet your appetite with her stunning debut, "Wild Seed - Wild Flower," featuring the delectable first single, I Know.



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SEVEN

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SPECTRUM

from one end



he new sensitive Frankenstein brings back the dead

William Bucco
CT STAFF WRITER

Mobster. Mauler. Maniac. Robert De Niro has played this type of role in most of his films, highlighting the character trait that is most effective for each situation. De Niro, therefore, is a natural choice to play a monster.

This time, however, De Niro fools us. In "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein" his "monster" is not really a monster at all, but a sincere, intelligent creature who has been neglected and misunderstood. His portrayal of the sensitive creature is one of the most satisfying to date. Finally, here is a creature justly representing Mary Shelley's original intentions. There is no debate on whether or not to feel sorry for the creature. You will feel sorry for him, not because of the transgressions he commits out of his childlike innocence but because this creature, in many ways, resembles yourself.

As is the case with most of the current overtly theatrical features, there is an abundance of stunning visualizations to delight the audience. De Niro's make-up, which changes slightly from scene to scene as his hair grows and his stitches heal, will keep your interest throughout the story. It is not overbearing and so out of proportion as to

be grotesque, and this works to the film's advantage, because it makes the creature's existence eerily believable.

The Frankenstein house possesses a lush green lawn and vibrant exterior colors that seem almost painted onto the screen. The same vibrant colors are noticeable in a red-violet cloak worn by Frankenstein's fiancée Elizabeth, played by Helena Bonham Carter, and Frankenstein's blue wedding-day suit.

The staircase inside the Frankenstein house is grandiose, and the absence of a banister makes you wonder how members of the household could make daily descents, fearlessly oblivious that tripping over their violently colorful, flowing fabrics could send them careening to their deaths.

Early in the movie, Kenneth Branagh overacts his introduction as scientist Victor ... (big pause) ... Frankenstein ... (big musical swell) ..., as if this knowledge would have any meaning to people who obviously do not know him. Thankfully, this is one of the only moments of blatant melodrama in the film.

The soft facial features and gentle voice of Branagh, star, director and co-producer, make it initially hard to imagine him as the cold, calculating Victor Frankenstein we have all become acquainted with over the past 60 or 70 years. Would this common version of the mad scientist have been the

Frankenstein Branagh was to bring us, Aidan Quinn would have been much better suited for the role. Instead, Quinn plays a smaller part as the captain of an exploration team.

Branagh breaks this mold, however, by rearranging some of the details of Frankenstein's personality to meet his needs. Branagh's Frankenstein is no longer a cold obsessive man of science who would resort to grave robbing to prove his greatness to himself. He is, rather, an emotional, impulsive romantic, whose inspiration is rooted in his mother's death. His obsession lies in reversing death, thereby ensuring that loved ones can remain with each other forever.

Branagh directs this movie at a fast and furious pace, generously employing circling camera angles that appropriately illustrate Frankenstein's dizzying obsession. His choreography of the scene when he finally brings the creature to life is a wildly aerobic dance that will leave you breathless.

Branagh spends a lot of time dwelling on the intricacies of Frankenstein's madness. His undaunted pursuit of body parts and his willingness to curl up next to the hideous patchwork to sleep effectively repulse you enough to realize that Frankenstein's obsession is the true monster of this story. Supporting all of this

insanity is a musical score by Patrick Doyle that is always too loud and sometimes overbearing.

Dracula is to blood as Frankenstein is to gore, and this film has plenty of gore. The scene in which a pregnant woman's water breaks, and the amniotic fluid is collected in a bucket and handed to Frankenstein for a fee is priceless. A domestic spat between Frankenstein and his fiancée while both of them pretend not to notice a canister filled with brains sitting on the desk in front of them is enough to elicit a wicked smile.

So, what is the second need a creature has, once his needs for survival are met? Sex, of course. And true to form, our creature eventually asks his creator to make him a bride. It is this plot point that differs the most from Shelley's book, and its direction is surprising. It forces a confrontation between the creature's rage and the creator's madness, and leads us to an explosive climax.

All this sewing together of body parts raises a question not even Shelley addressed: If the process of piecing a body together is so painstaking, why not just use a whole body with all of the intricate parts intact? Branagh's Frankenstein professes that his cause is simply to allow loved ones to be together forever. Then why chop your loved one up? Why not juice up the body as it is, and then go out to dinner to celebrate the rebirth?

Prong rocks the Flood Zone

Bill Carter
CT STAFF WRITER

After seeing the poster for the Nov. 12 Drown/Clutch/Prong show at the Flood Zone, one thought came to mind: I am going to see that show!

Getting to see Prong, which is one of heavy metal's best and tightest-playing bands on the scene today, had me really psyched for a good show. And believe me, I was not disappointed at any point with any of the bands.

Drown, opening for Prong, is a thrash/techno band accompanied by a raspy vocalist. Sounding similar to Nine Inch Nails, Drown put on a heck of a show.

Clutch followed Drown, and judging by the size of the crowd, they seem to have a large following in Richmond. Relying less on their recorded material, Clutch seemed to jam around and improvised a great deal during their set.

Between the Clutch and Prong sets, there was an added "bonus" band named Load playing on the third floor. Load, hailing from Florida and playing a sloppy, high-speed style of punk rock, blitzed away for 30 minutes while Prong set up their equipment. Load's singer resembled come-

dian "Bobcat" Goldthwait on speed. He gave impressions of pro wrestlers between songs.

Finally after a much anticipated wait, Prong's singer/guitarist Tommy Victor jumped out and yelled: "Okay Richmond, you Confederate assholes! Let's get this place moving." And so they did with the song "Cut-Rate," off their newest album, "Cleansing."

The crowd instantly went berserk and launched into a moshing, slam-dancing frenzy, approving of Prong's thrash, punk, industrial and at times hip-hop style of music. Some highlight songs were "Beg To Differ," "Whose Fist Is This Anyway?," "Another Worldly Device," "Unconditional" and "Snap Your Fingers, Snap Your Neck."

Seeing Prong live is just as entertaining as listening to their album: incredibly tight. Bassist Paul Raven, a former member of Killing Joke, locked in with drummer Ted Parsons without missing a single beat.

Guitarist/singer Tommy Victor filled the show with energy with his rantings and thrash style of guitar playing. Victor was also very talkative to the crowd and interpreted the meanings behind the songs.

I'm glad I finally got the opportunity to experience Prong firsthand, after listening to them for many years. The band gave one heck of a show.

Civil rights movement lives on at Grace Street Cinemas

Jenni Swiger
CT STAFF WRITER

Thousands of college students risked a great deal — their lives in some cases — during the summer of 1964. Their intention was to ease racial relations in the United States, specifically Mississippi.

The film "Freedom On My Mind," currently showing at Grace Street Cinemas, captures the essence of Freedom Summer '64.

Half of the movie is devoted to recent interviews with people who participated in this civil rights movement. The other half features film clips from 1964.

The period film clips are gripping on their own, but they become more so when accompanied by timely commentary from people who were actually there.

"Freedom On My Mind" concentrates on the obstacles many African Americans encountered while trying to register to vote during the early 1960s. It examines the found-

ing of the Mississippi Democratic Party as an alternative to what was an all-white Mississippi Democratic Party.

The climax of this documentary work is the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which intended to ensure that anyone of legal age would be able to register to vote. Today in Mississippi there are more black elected officials than in any other state.

"Freedom On My Mind," which was originally scheduled to open Nov. 3 at Grace Street Cinemas, 814 W. Grace St., was delayed until Nov. 11. The film closes today.

For show times, call 257-0271.

Angst-ridden mail may be directed to Oedipus and Electra at the following addresses:

Regular mail: 901 W. Main St.
Richmond, VA 23284-2010

Campus mail: Box 2010

E-mail: macdms

to the other

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

Event: Jasmine Models present a fashion show at 8 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballrooms A and B. For more information, call 828-9502.

Theater: VCU Theater Department presents "Lear" at 8 p.m. in Hodges Theatre. Call the box office at 828-6026 for more information.

Film: Last day to catch "Freedom On My Mind" at Grace Street Cinemas. Call 257-0271 for more information.

THURSDAY, NOV. 17

Lecture: The APB Lecture Committee presents Robert Hastings to speak about UFO sightings at 7:30 in Commonwealth Ballrooms A and B. Call 828-7550 for more information.

Theater: "Lear" at 8 p.m. See Wednesday's listing.

Dance: The APB Common Ground Committee presents a D.J. dance at 9 p.m. in the Common Ground. For more information, call 828-6500.

Reading: George Cruger reads prose, Kevin Paxton reads poetry and Dash Leigh reads lyrics at 8 p.m. at Artspace. This is a free event. For more information, call 782-8672.

FRIDAY, NOV. 18

Event: The International Student Union sponsors a European festival at 8 p.m. in the Common Ground. Call 828-9502 for more information.

Theater: "Lear" at 8 p.m. See Wednesday's listing.

Film: The APB Film Committee presents "Blown Away" at 7 p.m. followed by "True Lies" at 9:15 p.m. in the University Student Commons Theater. Admission is free with valid VCU ID; \$3 without. For more information, call 828-7550.

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Dance: VCU's first homecoming dance will be held at 9:30 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballrooms A and B. For more information, call 828-9502.

Film: The APB Film Committee returns "True Lies" and "Blown Away" to the Commons Theater at 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., respectively. For more information, call 828-7550.

Theater: "Lear" at 8 p.m. See Thursday's listing.

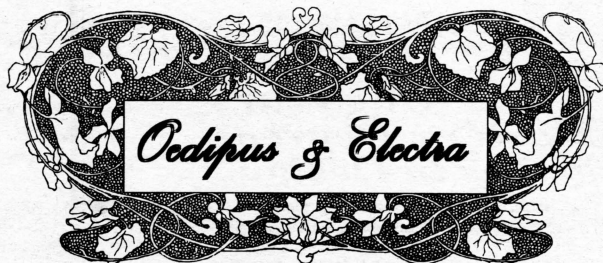
Film: The Gay and Lesbian Film Festival opens at Grace Street Cinemas. Call 257-0271 for more information.

Concert: Artspace presents the Dale Jarrett Trio of the Washington, D.C., Ritz-Carlton at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 782-8672.

Concert: Jettison Charlie plays the Factory with Nudi-branch. For ticket prices and showtime, call 649-4952.

SUNDAY, NOV. 20

Film: The APB Alternative Film Committee presents "Alice" at 6 p.m. followed by "Luna Park" at 8 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. Admission is free with valid VCU ID; all others, \$2. For more information, call 828-7550.



Dear Oedipus and Electra,

I have a major crush on someone who I met through the Internet.

It started out as an innocent pen-pal relationship. We wrote to each other for several months before finally meeting in June. When we finally did meet, we got along wonderfully.

He lives in New York, and we've only been together three times. I never had the opportunity to tell him in person that I am romantically interested in him. I don't think it is appropriate to tell him over e-mail and I don't know when I will see him again.

He does know that I am interested in maintaining an e-mail correspondence with him. But he has been slacking on his e-mail writing lately, even though I have told him I want a platonic relationship.

Should I continue writing him with the hope that he feels the same way about me and when we meet again the opportunity will arise to tell him that I am attracted to him? Or should I stop wasting my time and not worry about whether or not we will even maintain a pen-pal relationship?

Any suggestion would be helpful.

— "Virtually" confused

Dear V.C.,

Before I offer my wisdom, you should know I'm making two assumptions: You are a woman. You have your life ahead of you (i.e., no terminal illnesses; no suicidal tendencies).

Whether you read here that you should cling to this e-man like he's your only oxygen, or that you should throw him away like the bore he is, you will be equally pleased. You are split.

I'm writing to your sane psyche, the person who wants to get rid of this guy.

You've let yourself get sucked into this Internet fantasy land that allows you to fill in missing spaces with your imagination. Don't fall for it. You're so confused by all of it that you're telling this guy you want a platonic relationship, while at the same time, you're telling me you have a huge crush on him.

If you thought this guy was truly interested in having a relationship, do you think he'd be "slacking on his e-mail"? You don't have the opportunity to see him in person every day and pick up on his nuances since you chose to get this involved with someone far away. If you were around him, though, the "slacking" might translate into not paying attention to you, cancelling dates or a host of other distractions.

But, since this is the ambiguous world of e-mail, it's easy to avoid the truth. But you shouldn't.

Be a realist. This guy is a dead-end road. There are a million fish in the e-mail sea. Swim around. I'm sure this guy is cliché enough that you'll meet 20 more just like him if you want.

Or, be a fatalist. If you're meant to be with this guy, you will be. It will be unavoidable. Your destiny awaits.

Or, be a communist. Stop worrying about this petty, bourgeois, indulgent "virtual" world and come back to the real one. Worry about health care and adequate housing and not whether or not some guy hundreds of miles away is thinking about you.

Better yet, read a book.

Good luck. I hope you'll join us soon in the real world.

— Oedipus

Dear Virtually Confused,

In order for me to give my opinion to you on this matter, I will ask you to reflect on certain situations within your relationship. Do this to the best of your ability and then decide on whether or not you would want to follow my advice.

Originally, your relationship was to stay on a platonic level. Yet, somehow, your e-mail correspondent was so enthralled with your Internet conversation, that you both decided to meet. This happened three times, and on these occasions, how did he act toward you? He must have an interest that is more than platonic for him to travel so far to see just a "friend." Especially if you consider the fact that he came down more than once. But how he acted toward you when he came down should also be considered, and only you can evaluate those events.

I have a second question for you. Why do you think he has slacked off in writing to you through e-mail? Does he have a heavy workload that requires a lot of his time? Have you said anything discouraging a romantic relationship if the question arose? Maybe he would like a romantic relationship just as much as you would, but he feels that since you have stressed that you want a platonic relationship, it isn't worth the effort.

Another question I have for you is why haven't you exchanged phone numbers? If you don't want to tell him how you feel about the relationship over the Internet, why not call him and talk to him about it?

I definitely think you should talk to him about a romantic relationship between the two of you. If you don't act on your feelings, you will never know what might have been. You always will wonder what could have happened or what kind of relationship you could have had.

I do agree with you about the method of communication to use when telling him. I don't think you should tell him through e-mail, but you should take the chance and tell him how you feel. What have you got to lose? If it doesn't work out, it isn't like you will have to face this person every day and feel embarrassed.

I wish you much luck with whatever you decide, but keep me posted and let me know how things go.

— Electra

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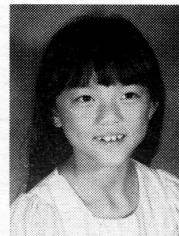
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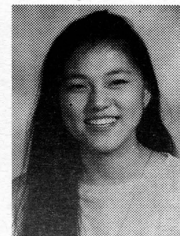
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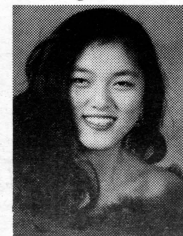
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Peabody to leave basketball team?

Guard Ben Peabody, among the candidates to replace Terrence Gibson as the starting wing guard, may be leaving the team before the team start of the season, according to VCU head coach Sonny Smith.

Peabody, a transfer from Rose City College in Midwest City, Oklahoma, did not dress out for Sunday's win against the Converse All-Stars and has not practiced this week.

"He went to another player and told him that he wanted to speak to me, and he didn't show up," said Smith. "Right now, it's looking bleak that he'll come back."

Peabody was unavailable for comment.

In his only game with the Rams, he scored 15 points in 34 minutes for the Gold team in Friday night's Black-Gold game.

As a sophomore for Rose City last year, Peabody averaged 17 points, 7.9 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.2 steals.

What if Peabody leaves?

"(If Peabody leaves), that means that Jamal Gladden will play a bigger role and Joe Martin will play a bigger role," Smith said.

With 10 days left before the Rams travel to Hilo, Hawaii, for the Big Isle Invitational, the question of who will start at the point guard spot remains a mystery.

Sophomores Keith Davis and Sherman Hamilton are both contending for the job, and Smith concedes that neither have even a slight advantage up to this point.

Smith did note what it was he was looking for in his two guards.

"We're looking for someone who can get the offense set and anchor the defense," said Smith. Asked if there was one final factor that would play as a determinant in his decision, Smith said that "the one who cuts down on turnovers and improves free throw percentage most will get the job."

Davis said, "He's (Smith) just trying to bring the best out of both of us. It doesn't matter who comes off the bench or whoever starts."

The next opportunity for the two guards to win the job will come on Friday, when the Rams play the Republic of Czech.

Arkansas was the near-unanimous choice as the best team in the country. The Razorbacks picked up all but three of the 66 first-place votes, easily outdistancing North Carolina.

Three members of the Great Midwest Conference — Alabama-Birmingham, St. Louis, and Marquette — are jumping ship after next year and joining a new conference that will include Metro members Louisville, Tulane, and Southern Mississippi. This move, effective at the end of the year, will all but kill the GMC. De Paul is expected to announce whether they will follow suit. No word yet on whether any of the four remaining Metro schools — VCU, Virginia Tech, UNCC, and South Florida — will also be invited to join the new league.

— Compiled by Brian J. French.

BASKETBALL BRIEFS

Part quatre — last, but not least, the Pacific

Look out! This division is deadly with Phoenix, Seattle and Golden State

Brian J. French
CT SPORTS EDITOR

At long last, we come to the Pacific Division.

And well worth the wait, too. Within its confines, the Pacific holds three teams with championship potential. Even the middle-of-the-pack teams will be good enough to make things interesting.

So let's dive in.

PACIFIC DIVISION

1. Phoenix: With reservations. The Suns are the most talented team in the league. Theoretically. With a selection of Danny Manning, A.C. Green, Charles Barkley and Waymon Tisdale to choose from, the Suns are deeper in the frontcourt than any other team in the league, this year or in recent memory. Kevin Johnson is the most dynamic point guard in the league (you think John Stockton could dunk on Rockets Hakeem Olajuwon?), and between Dan Marjerie, Danny Ainge and rookie Wesley Person, the backcourt isn't exactly a weak link, either. All is not well in the desert, however. Barkley continues to struggle with injuries — he has yet to play this year — and Johnson is injury-prone himself. When Johnson isn't in the game, nobody really knows who'll bring the ball up the court. And Joe Kliene as

starting center? Puh-leeze. Nevertheless, the Suns are good enough to win this division. And that's saying a lot.

2. Seattle: If, for any reason, the Phoenix Suns are unable to handle the role of division champion, the Seattle Supersonics are to assume the responsibilities of champion. That's because the Pacific race plays more like a beauty pageant than a demolition derby (like the Central). The Sonics, easily the best number two team in the league, are strong at every position. From the underrated (but boisterous; go figure) Gary Payton at the point to Sam Perkins at center, the Sonics have good players at each position. But except for Shawn Kemp, nobody really plays the role of superstar. That may actually benefit the Sonics, who play more as a team than a gallery of prima donna works of art. They could easily win the NBA title this year and still finish behind the Suns.

3. Golden State: A poor man's Phoenix, if you will. Actually, now that the Warriors have acquired Rony Seikaly at center, they could be much more. The rise or fall of this squad rests on the answers to two questions: 1. Is Tim Hardaway all the way back? 2. Will they ever sign Chris Webber? As to Hardaway, it looks like he's back to the Timmy of old, cutting and weaving with that "UTEP Two-Step" of his. But as far as Webber goes, your guess is as good as Don Nelson's. He may be traded by the time you read this, so keep your eyes peeled. There are no ques-

tions regarding Latrell Sprewell, however; he very well could be the best shooting guard in the league. The question of how Todd Day, Lee Mayberry, Harold Miner and Tracy Murray, among others, can be picked ahead of this guy goes right up there with "Why did Sam Bowie go before Michael Jordan?" If Chris Mullin regains his form after coming back from his injury, the Warriors could make a run at the title.

4. Portland: Ah, yes. Good old reliable Portland. Ever since the Bulls beat them in the finals a couple of years back, they've been the Indiana Pacers of the West: middle-of-the-pack finish on the division, a playoff spot and an early exit from the second season. This is an old team, a team that should have been headed for the lottery years ago. But here they are, not good enough to challenge for the division title but not bad enough to fall past fourth. Obviously, Clyde "the Glide" Drexler is a dynamic scorer and good rebounder, when on the rare occasion he's healthy enough to complete a long stretch of games. Maybe the key to this team staying just on the other side of the tracks is Rod Strickland. Bouncing from team to team, he finally found out how good he was when he signed with the Blazers. Again, though, health is the main factor, since the bench isn't much. Chris Dudley and Buck Williams need to stay healthy for a full season, otherwise there's no inside game. Drexler needs to stay healthy, otherwise the scoring drops. Same old, same old for the Blazers.

5. Sacramento: In life, there are but three things that are inevitable: death, taxes and the Sacramento Kings losing 50 and missing the playoffs. One of those three may be about to change. And while nobody's figured out how to cheat death or abolish the IRS, the Kings may soon be moving from the basement dwelling that they've called home for so long. Mitch Richmond is the best two-guard in the league. Expect 25 points a night from this Kansas State product. Olden Polyniece, often considered an enigma at best and a loser at worst, has finally broken free from the chains of mediocrity and become one of the best rebounders in the league. And Lionel Simmons fits perfectly into his role as the most underseen forward around; he was pretty much in the same boat at LaSalle. But can they survive without a consistent point guard (pick your poison, undersized Spud Webb or recovering Bobby Hurley, who's played but a month of NBA ball)? Will Walt Williams ever play to his potential? Can they ever cultivate a bench? The sooner they answer those questions, the sooner they move to a higher echelon.

6. L.A. Lakers: James Worthy's recent retirement, while not causing a devastating drop in talent, represents the ultimate symbolism for the Lakers. With Worthy's retirement, the Lakers lost their last connection to "Showtime." Diane Cannon and Jack Nicholson in the \$5,000 seats and the prosperity of the early

and mid-80s. That's good, because the only thing these Lakers have in common with their predecessors is the color of their jerseys. There is talent here; Nick Van Exel will be a fine point guard, George Lynch has potential, and Cedric Ceballos will give them a scoring punch. But they can't make the playoffs. Things are really tough in La-La Land for b-ball fans this year.

7. L.A. Clippers: Last, and most definitely least, are the Clippers. Rumors that the Clips are moving to the Pac-10 are probably unfounded, although they could make a serious run at finishing in the first division there. That won't happen here. No Dominique Wilkins, no Danny Manning, no Ron Harper, no Stanley Roberts (another torn Achilles), no Mark Jackson, no ... can anything else go wrong? If you can name three players in their starting lineup, you get a spot on their roster. (I'll tell you anyway, but don't say I didn't warn you — Pooh Richardson, Terry Dehere, Loy Vaught, Tony Massenberg, and Elmore Spencer). God help them.

Playoff teams
Probable — Phoenix, Seattle, Golden State, Portland
Longshot — Sacramento

— That's all, folks. Just pray they don't strike.

"Simplify, simplify."

Henry David Thoreau

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

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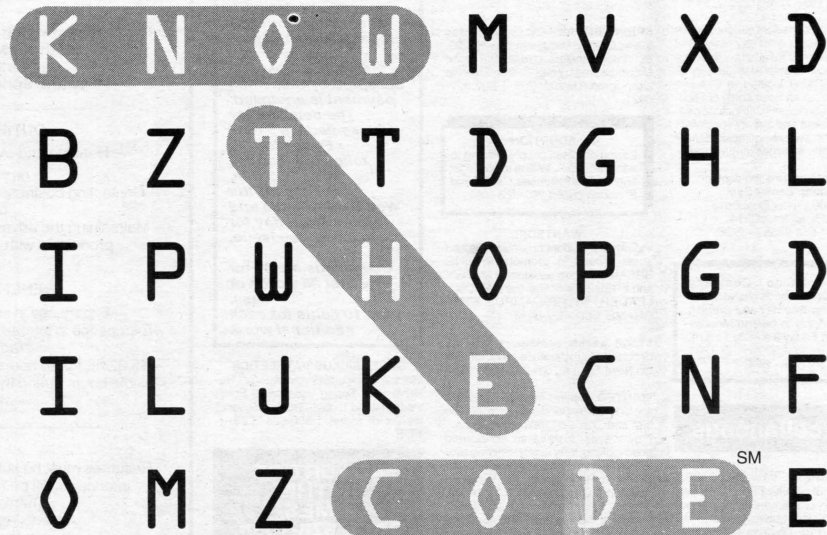


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by J.W. Kennedy

Jim's Journal

by Jim

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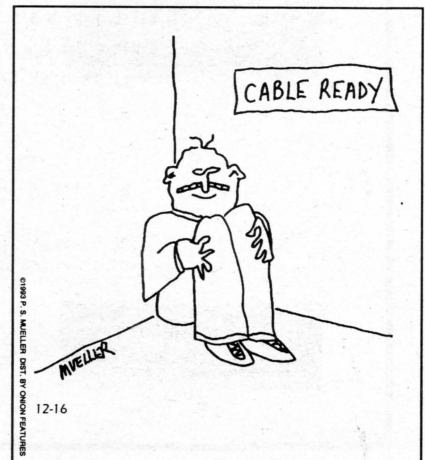
"Why didn't you stop me when you saw me drinking it all the time?" he asked.



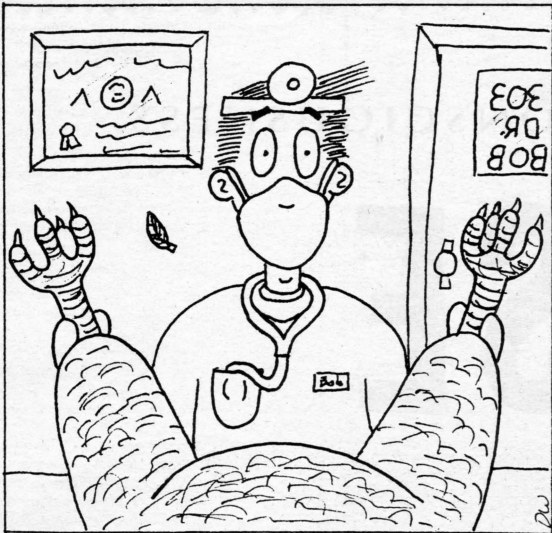
I said I didn't know and he pointed to me and said, "You'll stop at nothing to see me die."



P. S. Mueller

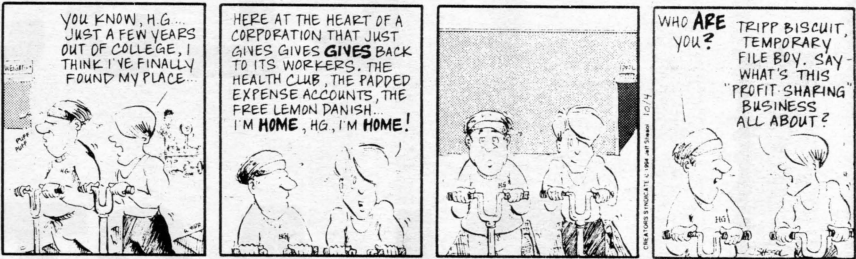


LINT
by David Williams



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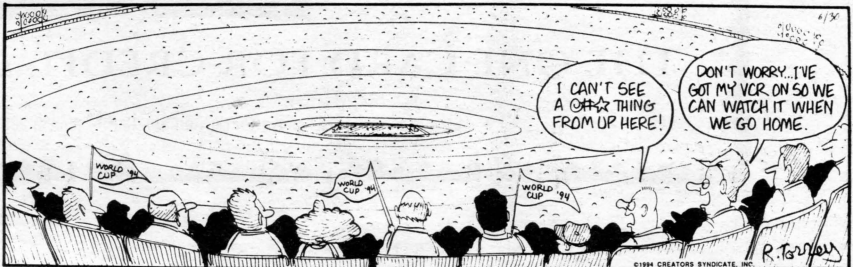
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