

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY — Scattered snow showers likely during early morning hours. Windy and cold. Highs near 30. Lows in the mid-teens.

THURSDAY — Cloudy and warmer. Highs near 40.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• The fun doesn't stop at Fieldens. Check out Parallel Lives. See page 7 for details.



WEDNESDAY, February 8, 1995

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 26, No. 49

Committees restore education budgets

Scott Bass
CT News Editor

Like the phoenix risen, VCU has emerged from the battle for Virginia's budget with much of its state funding intact.

As the General Assembly's budget committees unofficially rejected Gov. George Allen's proposed tax cut for Virginians, restoring most of Allen's proposed budget cuts, their major intention seemed clear: Virginia's colleges will remain a budget priority.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hunter B. Andrews echoed recent advice from three former governors — Mills E. Godwin Jr., Linwood Holton and Gerald L. Baliles — to invest in higher education.

"Now is the time to make critical new investments in Virginia's future," the former governors wrote in a letter to Allen. "We believe the place to start is by reaffirming public support for our unique system of higher education which is the envy of the nation and must remain so."

The committees restored some \$49 million that the governor had proposed cutting from higher education.

"We're very happy," said Donald Gehring, assistant to VCU's president for community and governmental relations. "In today's world, given all the strain and stress of the budget, we're doing very well in relative terms."

With the committees' recommendations \$285,000 was restored to VCU's Center on Aging in both chambers; \$250,000 was restored in general funds to the School of

The art of selling



ROGER CHILLINGWORTH — Michael Courts, a Zebo Designs employee, braves the chilling weather to sell framed pictures. He'll be peddling his wares in the commons breezeway for the rest of the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stacy L. Reed/Commonwealth Times

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Bailey focuses on empowering blacks

Greg A. Lohr
CT Eye Editor

A. Peter Bailey — free-lance journalist, author and motivational speaker — immediately informed the handful of students gathered in the Commons Theater that he is a black nationalist.

He made no bones about believing most white people in America think their race should be in control. And during the lecture called "Integration vs. Segregation: Have we progressed or digressed?" he professed no strong desire for integration.

But as Bailey spoke last night as part of the Founder's Week events of Phi Alpha Psi Sorority Inc., his message was not one of hate or of blame, but rather of empowering black people.

"Integration means you can go to swimming pools ... that public schools are desegregated," said Bailey, who previously worked as an associate editor of Ebony Magazine. "We no longer have legal white supremacy. But if equal opportunity and empowerment are our goals, we (African-Americans) have a long way to go."

Bailey's ideology stems from his growing up during the 1960s and his identification with the Malcolm X wing of the civil-rights movement, he said, adding that he does not object to white institutions as long as blacks have the same opportunities.

"I like sitting on the back of the bus," he said. "I just didn't want a law telling me I have to sit there. That's why the civil-rights movement was about choice. The Republican Party for all practical purposes is the white party in America."

"Why not try something different and start an independent political movement?" he asked.

A former columnist for the Richmond Free-Press, Bailey quoted famous African-Americans and discussed the impact on society of both Malcolm X and the Rev. Martin

Luther King Jr.

"I learned three things from Malcolm X," he said. "First of all, that 75 percent of taught history is either distortions or out-and-out lies."

Also, history is more than books. Our elders are history."

In addition, Bailey continued, he learned from the late African-American activist that "history is a powerful weapon in the struggle for liberation, when used properly."

Author of a new book titled "Revelations — The Autobiography of Alvin Ailey," Bailey also discussed a seldom-considered side of King — a side concerned with power and group identity for blacks.

"I wish the word 'dream' would be banned when people talk about King," he said. "It downgrades the contributions this man made. What they have done to him is just atrocious. Martin Luther King was a man of action."

Throughout the forum, which approximately 10 students attended, Bailey encouraged African-Americans to avoid whining or focusing on problems and act instead.

"Do something!" he said, gesturing expansively. "We have come to believe that talking is action. Go build something, and then we'll talk."

Bailey suggested that African-Americans create their own institutions rather than change or enter those in existence.

"Trying to change things would be a waste of my time," he explained. "But if you build something powerful, other people will come to it."

Audience member Kirsten Wood, a junior physical-therapy major, questioned the idea of blacks concentrating in one area, such as at an African-American newspaper.

"We need black voices on the front page of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, too," she said. "I believe once we stop looking at color this won't be a problem."

SGA amends constitution

Election period set by appointments committee

James McMahon
CT Staff Writer

VCU's Student Government Association Monday approved a constitutional change that calls for lengthening the SGA election period and providing students with more time to cast their votes.

The amendment stipulates that elections will be for no less than three and no more than five consecutive week days. The amendment also provides for elections to be during the last two weeks of February.

Sen. Jeffrey Kraus, chairman of the appointments committee, said the amendment is intended to increase student voting.

"Basically the intent of this amendment is to increase the student participation in elections and make the student government the student government," he said.

SGA Vice President Jonathan Bartee stressed the importance of the amendments.

"This proposal will give the appointments committee discretion to extend the days of elections," he said.

In addition, it was announced that the appointments committee is moving the candidate application deadline to Feb. 15. Debates are scheduled for Feb. 15, Feb. 16 and

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WORLD/NATION



• Air Force inspecting engines of fighter plane

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is inspecting the engines of 229 F-16 fighters after one of the jets crashed last month.

Blades in the F110-GE-129 engines are the focus of the inspections, most of which have been completed, Air Force Maj. Tom LaRock, a Pentagon spokesman, said Monday.

A jet from the 52nd Fighter Wing based at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany crashed in Belgium last month, possibly because of engine problems. Both crew members ejected safely. A flight restriction was ordered for aircraft with similar engines until the inspections could be completed.

• Epilepsy drug backed for depression treatment

WASHINGTON — Scientists recommended Monday that the Food and Drug Administration approve an epilepsy drug to treat manic-depression, making it the first new drug for the devastating mental illness in 25 years.

After examining the results from 21-day trials, the FDA advisory committee ruled that Depakote, made by Abbott Laboratories, proved safe in treating manic-depression, which affects more than 2 million Americans.

Lithium, approved 25 years ago, is the only drug specifically approved to treat manic-depression.

• Rights campaigner pleads not guilty in slayings

PORT HARCOURT, Nigeria — A promi-

nent anti-government activist pleaded not guilty to murder charges Monday when appearing in court for the first time since his arrest in May.

Writer Ken Saro-Wiwa was refused bail and his trial is to begin in two weeks. Saro-Wiwa was charged in the deaths of four people killed during a melee at a political rally he was to address.

Saro-Wiwa, a critic of the military regime and the oil industry, has blamed government troops for the deaths.

• Highway to be routed away from pyramids

CAIRO, Egypt — A highway that critics say endangers the Giza Pyramids will be diverted away from the majestic monuments.

The half-built highway, which passes less than two miles from the pyramids, will be moved outside a zone around Giza that is a U.N. World Heritage Site, a state-owned newspaper quoted Culture Minister Farouk Hosni as saying Monday.

A senior antiquities official confirmed a decision was made on diverting the road, but could give no details.

VIRGINIA



• York County woman faces murder charge in shooting

YORK — Katherine Cone, a 42-year-old York County woman, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder Saturday after Troy Bradley Woods died at an area hospital.

Woods, 32, was shot with a .38-caliber revolver, York Sheriff Press Williams said. Cone and Woods had been drinking before the shooting, Williams said. Cone

dialled 911 for help after the incident. She was sitting on a couch in her mobile home with a revolver on a coffee table when authorities arrived, police said.

Williams said Woods worked as a waterman and was considered a drifter because he had no permanent address.

Cone was held Monday in the county jail without bond, Williams said.

• Probe of odor problem closes school until Monday

SPOTSYLVANIA — Brock Road Elementary School is closed for at least a week while contractors install humidifiers and continue searching for the source of odors blamed for making people ill.

The school board voted unanimously Sunday night to close the school until next Monday while a Roanoke engineering firm does its work. About 625 students attend classes at the school.

School staff and students have complained during the past four months of nasal, eye and throat irritations, dizziness, headaches, fatigue, rashes and nausea. School officials have been unable to pinpoint the source of the problem.

Robert Canova of the engineering firm Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern Inc. said low humidity, inadequate air supply and possible sewer gas seepage are contributing to environmental problems at the school. The firm, which specializes in waste treatment and industrial hygiene, spent the past week analyzing the problem.

RICHMOND



• Grand jury clears city grocer

A Jackson Ward grocer, Mark Hazelgrove, was cleared of wrongdoing Monday by a Richmond Circuit Court grand

jury in last week's shooting of two robbery suspects.

Authorities have not released any specific information about the three suspects. Commonwealth's Attorney David M. Hicks had drafted indictments charging Hazelgrove with two counts of unlawful wounding, but the jury rejected the charges.

After announcement of the grand jury's decision, Hicks said he did not plan to present the case to another grand jury. "That would be an unusual act," he said.

Among the things jurors might have read and heard were commentaries by Police Chief Marty M. Tapscott that he hoped that Hazelgrove would not be indicted.

CAMPUS



• VCU offers artist workshop

VCU's College of Humanities and Sciences and School of the Arts once again are collaborating to offer the second annual Glasgow Artists and Writers Workshop.

This unique program, held in Glasgow, Scotland in July, combines studio classes in either creative writing, non-fiction writing, or drawing, together with a wide-ranging survey of the literary, visual and performing arts in contemporary Britain.

All classes will take place at the Glasgow School of Art, designed at the turn of the century by the renowned Scottish architect, designer and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Members of the community with an interest in the arts are welcome as auditors.

— Compiled from news sources.

CORRECTION: In Monday's Commonwealth Times, Phi Alpha Psi Sorority Inc. President Revena M. Bey's name was spelled incorrectly. We regret the error.

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Valentine a
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Commonwealth Times.



See the
Classifieds
for more
information.

Sound Off!

How do you feel about parental notification for abortions?



"If they're underage I think they should (tell their parents). Kids under 18 don't really know what having a child is all about."

— **Troy Clayborne**
22, finance

"Up to a certain age it would probably be OK. It would probably be applicable. I don't think it is something that would have to be done for people over 18. The person should probably be responsible enough anyway to be in communication with their parents."

— **Ray Cross**
18, painting and printmaking



"I think that each case should be individually considered. Under 16 there should be more stringent qualifications for notification."

— **Tina Rhoades**
23, undecided



"It depends on the age. Under 15 the parents should be notified. After 15 I don't think the parent's consent is necessary."

— **Allison Shelton**
20, accounting



"I think abortions should be left up to the individual, regardless."

— **Debbie Williams**
33, nursing



"I think it's more the person who's having the abortion's choice. It gets fuzzy around the teen-age years. By 18, it's the girl's choice herself."

— **Mary Easley**
25, psychology



Photos by Stacy L. Reed/Commonwealth Times

Parental notification under fire at VCU

Welfare reform also discussed

Sherry Jones
CT News Editor

Do you have a close relationship with your parents? Well, is it close enough that you would want to inform them if you chose to have an abortion?

Sen. Mark Earley, R-Chesapeake, and Karen Raschke, a Planned Parenthood representative, debated the controversial topic of parental notification for abortions during a Virginia government and politics class at VCU last night.

This bill, which has dominated countless hours of debate during this year's General Assembly session, passed the House yesterday.

Raschke used the heated discussion by stating the position of her organization.

"Planned Parenthood obviously opposes this bill," she said, adding that there are no major health-care providers who disagree with this viewpoint.

A lot of teen-agers, Raschke said, are scared to talk to their parents about something as serious as having an abortion.

Countering Raschke's argument, Earley said more than 60 percent of the people in Virginia support parental no-

tification.

"We (are) in the law because of the way we have viewed parent-child relationships we have required that parents know about a lot of different things," he said, explaining that abortions fall under the category of things parents have a right to know.

While agreeing that teen-agers ought to inform their parents about being pregnant, Raschke said that most of the time this simply does not happen.

She added that the one thing legislators seem to be forgetting is that teen-agers always make up their own minds and do what they want to do.

The main concern for Planned Parenthood, she continued, is protecting the health and well-being of minors.

Raschke then went on to detail some of the stipulations of the bill.

Basically, she said, the bill calls for minors — those under age 18 — to notify a parent, grandparent or sibling older than 21 before having an abortion.

One way for a teen-ager to get around notifying any of these people is through

judicial bypass, Raschke said.

The bill, she said, requires minors to provide the doctor with proof of notification.

Earley said that his support for parental notification comes from his pro-life stance.

"When an abortion is taking place," he said, "it is something more than a

medical procedure. It is the taking of a life within the womb."

In addition, Earley said, having an abortion is a complicated medical procedure, and parents need to know in

"When an abortion is taking place, it is something more than a medical procedure. It is the taking of a life within the womb."

— **Sen. Mark Earley, R-Chesapeake**

case of later complications.

Before getting into this lively exchange, the two discussed another controversial topic — welfare reform.

"Today we took most of the provisions of my bill, which is the administration's bill, and we added on to a bill on the floor ... and it passed the Senate," he said, explaining the details of the bill.

He added that the House passed a similar measure and the two legislative bodies must now compromise on the issue.

Caucus to support minority campaigns

Matthew J. Weeks
CT SENIOR WRITER

Embracing a motion to help minority students excel in leadership positions, the Black Caucus voted unanimously to support those wishing to run for a senate position in next year's Student Government Association body.

Addressing the caucus, SGA President Cathaleen Bryant said this past year many minority students who ran for office were concerned about time commitments and whether they would receive any support for their campaign. She also said that there would be meetings before elections, to help familiarize students with SGA. The caucus would help with these functions, as well as find minority students who are potential leaders, Bryant said.

"The big thing is showing that there is minority representation in the SGA," Bryant said. "As SGA expands, I'm hoping minority participation will also."

L. Victor Collins, interim director of student activities who also advises SGA, strongly urged caucus members to run for the senate.

"Those who play the game reap the rewards," Collins said, explaining that the SGA allocates student activities fees to student organizations.

"If you don't play, you will ultimately suffer (and) your organization will suffer."

Barbara Payton from the African-Ameri-

BLACK CAUCUS

Provost to review guidelines

Next-step decision to be made today

Richard Talliaferro
CT STAFF WRITER

As the old adage goes: "One bad apple spoils the whole bunch."

With this in mind, VCU administrators this past semester proposed a set of guidelines to prevent conduct problems in the classroom.

After a review by faculty and staff, these guidelines will go to the provosts office for approval.

William H. Duvall, associate vice provost and dean of student affairs, said the departmental curriculum committees made only editorial revisions to the guidelines in usage and placement.

There was, he said, general "support of the statement among the curriculum committees."

The guidelines first were proposed in late spring 1994 by the academic rules and regulations subcommittee of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. That proposal went to the school and departmental curriculum committees for feedback and recommendations.

And finally, committees were to give their comments to Alvin J. Schexnider, vice provost for undergraduate studies and associate vice president for academic affairs, by Nov. 1.

After reviewing the comments, Schexnider said the guidelines were sent back to the undergraduate curriculum committee, where they were approved Dec. 8.

They now are being reviewed by Grace

E. Harris, provost for academic affairs, who will meet with several vice provosts and other administrators today to discuss them and decide the next step in the adoption process.

Duvall said two to six incidents occur each semester that cause a faculty member to call authorities because a student has become unruly in a classroom. Reasons for such behavior, he said, vary from "general thoughtlessness" to domestic troubles to drug usage.

The proposed guidelines, Duvall said, intend to provide faculty with options in dealing with disruptive students. For instance, a professor can either talk to an individual student or place a notice in the course syllabus. Teachers also would have prescribed means to respond to more severe problems.

Some faculty may be able to address such problems on their own without the need for a set of guidelines, but Schexnider sees the guidelines as "helpful to those faculty who feel they may need guidance from the university."

Whatever impact they may have in curtailing such conduct, Schexnider said, "still remains to be seen."

The three main sections in the proposed guidelines outline how teachers can provide notice of expected classroom standards, ways to respond to disruptive students and other considerations a faculty member needs to take into account.

A teacher would have several means to inform students about what behavior

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BUDGET

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Dentistry in the House budget; \$500,000 was restored to general funds in the Senate version; \$250,000 was restored in the House version for tuition shortfall and state funds were restored to pay for across-the-board 2.25 percent pay raises for all state employees.

Unfunded pay raises, Gehring said, were a real concern under the governor's budget amendments.

"The only thing that really surprised us is that he did not fund salary increases," he said. "If you've got to pay for it, it's a budget cut."

Gehring said both the House and Senate budget bills offered restored state funds, but VCU received more in the House version.

"We could get as much as \$1.4 million more in the House version," Gehring said. "We obviously fared better in the House."

The budget bills now face scrutiny in the opposite chamber. The Tuesday deadline for reaching a budget compromise still leaves some questions about how the final draft will affect VCU.

"Still, these are very difficult times," Gehring said, adding that there's no way to tell what compromise will bring. "But, overall, I think VCU is pretty happy."

CONDUCT

continued from page 3

will and will not be tolerated in the classroom. Included are letting individuals know that students are "entitled (by the university) to receive classroom instruction free from interference by other members of the class" and leaving a section of seats for those coming to class late or leaving early.

In addition, the guidelines describe placing a notice in the syllabus inviting students with disabilities to identify themselves. Several options would be available to faculty members to respond to unruly behavior.

They could sit down with the students to discuss the problem. If no change in behavior occurs, a professor could take up the matter with the department chairperson.

Continued problems could result in that student receiving a written warning from the professor.

In extreme cases, the professor can ask the student to leave, cancel the class or call VCU police. A final measure would be the filing of a formal complaint as listed in the University's Rules and Procedures in the college bulletin.

On the other hand, the guidelines stipulate that a professor should not lower a student's grade for disrupting a class unless "conduct has been identified on the syllabus as a course requirement."

It also would prohibit a teacher from acting in a vindictive manner toward the student.

SGA

continued from page 1

Feb. 20.

Keeping with the subject of elections, Sherry Jones, a news editor for the Commonwealth Times, told SGA the CT is planning a four-page supplement detailing the upcoming elections. The supplement, she said, will highlight candidates from the different schools as well as provide general voter information.

In other business, Sen. Duane Kay said the services committee still is working to obtain a traffic light at the intersection of Main and Linden streets. He added that the committee also is working to schedule a meeting with Richmond Mayor Leonidas Young.

The group, Kay said, plans to videotape the intersection for two days, as well as organize a petition drive for the traffic light. He added that the administration has a similar effort underway.

"I received a letter from SGA President Cathaleen Bryant saying that Don

Gehring's (assistant to VCU's president for governmental and community relations) office is also looking into the traffic light situation," he said. "What I read in that letter is that they have a deadline of up until next year to get numbers and all of that together," he said.

Sen. Valerie Hite said that a quiet area on Cabell library's fourth floor was to open Feb. 1 for a trial period of six to eight weeks. Signs are to be placed in the lobby and elevators designating the area strictly for studying. Hite also said that a Feb. 14 meeting is scheduled with Shirley Thomas, head of access services, to discuss extended library hours during exam times. Thomas said the issue of extended hours was brought up this past semester, but it was too late to do anything about it. Library staff members are considering ways to extend the hours this semester.

"The circulation staff is responsible for opening and closing, and we're trying to come up with a way to stay open longer during exams without having to use additional staffing," Thomas said.

CAUCUS

continued from page 3

can Alumni Council explained what the organization's purpose is to the group.

"The council is an organization that is really in existence to help black students," she said.

She said the alumni council co-sponsors a career development seminar in the fall specifically for minorities and works with the Office of Minority Student Affairs to help recruit black alumni to help with Project Umoja, a

mentorship program for freshmen and transfer students.

In addition to these programs, Payton said, the council is working on a scholarship program and would like to work with black student organizations, such as the caucus, for fund-raising ideas.

She also expressed a great interest in helping with this fall's Black Family Reunion.

"We think it's a wonderful idea, and we hope to be working with you on either sponsoring an event or co-sponsoring a whole weekend," she said.

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John Battema

Internet Hackers Beware — We Have Your Number

I would hardly call my private Internet account through VCU's Cabell Library the nerve center of my life. With all the potential the Internet holds, I'd say I'm a very limited user. No government secrets are exchanged, Jesus hasn't tried to contact me via Compuserve and, believe it or not, there isn't even any hard-core pornography going on. Just a slew of e-mail from various acquaintances 'round the globe and, just between you and me, an occasional visit to a chat program here and there.

All in all, I consider myself a very unimportant user.

This past Friday, I went to the computer lab to check my mail. Shortly after logging in, I realized my account was malfunctioning. The right prompt did not appear, I couldn't access my e-mail and the computer kept inquiring about some unknown user. Three days and four frustrated lab workers later, my account was repaired, but upon seeing the above-mentioned unknown address, one of the workers said, "Oh yeah, I know that guy. He's been warned about this sort of thing before."

I was hacked.

(For those of you just tuning in to the illustrious world of computing, "hacking" is the lovely little generic term for the practice of using computers for illegal purposes, such as accessing private or restricted databases.)

No typeface in this newspaper could possibly communicate just how perturbed I was at this discovery. Forget the right to privacy guaranteed to me by the Bill of Rights. Forget that he was probably using my account to do less-than-legal things. Forget that I'll probably still have glitches in the wake of his stupid little stunt.

THAT MISERABLE VAGRANT MADE ME MISS MY E-MAIL.

I learned, to my disappointment, that behaving is no longer legal in this country, so I'll have to be satisfied with the knowledge that sometime during his unlawful entry to my account, he got his stupid hacker's butt busted, and his account terminated. I'd still prefer to see some integral portion of his body suffer dire harm, but I do get a smug little grin when I think that I helped play a part in his net-demise.

Seriously though, you can see that my story leans towards the "good guy wins"

side of life. But I didn't think that anyone would bother breaking into my account, and it still happened. If you're not careful with your account's security, you could end up in far nastier waters than me. Just imagine the hilarious faces you would make if the FBI came to arrest you because someone used your account to write death threats to Pope John Paul III in Bill Clinton's name. (I would ask that all practicing Republicans refrain from commenting on that last thought; humorous as it might be, it only serves to illustrate the point.)

I happen to know a fair number of hackers around this campus, and I've found this to be their rather disturbing philosophy: "Hacking is good because it gives bright and innovative young minds the opportunity to learn more about computing." And so long as these enterprising youngsters don't cause any REAL damage, like changing Dow Jones averages or declaring war on some Third-World nation, I guess it's just plain OK.

Frankly, this doesn't sit well with me, and it shouldn't with you either.

Their wish to learn doesn't imply that my right to privacy goes down the proverbial can. While I do admit that observing my nightly bedtime preparations would certainly provide for some interesting learning, for instance, that fact alone sure as hell doesn't mean that I wouldn't MIND being watched! And the idea that my privacy and doesn't extend into the world of telecommunications is simply wrong: some of my most important records, such as taxes and income, are kept in government databases. I have a right to want their cyber noses out of my business.

Unfortunately, as recent events have shown, my opinions on hacking amount to little more than a pile of Pinto beans to the average hacker. So instead I'd better polish up my security habits. I thought I'd share some of my ideas for beefing-up your own:

1) No matter how well you've memorized it, or how much sentimental meaning it might hold, you've got to change your account password regularly. This is something I have a hard time remembering myself, so I know that it's hard to kick the habit. But trust me, it's worth the trouble if it can keep pesky hackers out of the picture. And if you have multiple

accounts, I'd advise against using that same "old faithful" for all those accounts.

2) These Internet accounts are like sexually transmitted diseases. If they don't get spread around, the less trouble some they'll be. Consider this: Betty loves Bobby, Bobby loves Betty, Bobby gives Betty his password, Betty gets extra mad at Bobby one evening after meeting with her doctor (uh oh), Betty posts Bobby's password on every bulletin board she can find. The next thing Bobby knows, he's got as much privacy as a superstar in a mall shopping for personal hygiene items. Don't be an idiot, Bobby, let Betty get her own account. She'll still respect you in the morning.

3) Even after taking precautions, some jerk will still waste time hacking you. The Cabell lab has computers for transferring files from your account to a floppy disk. I suggest you take the time to move private files off your account. Unless, of course, you're just thrilled at the prospect of hav-

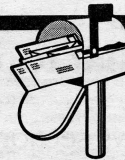
ing some no-life waste of air with a computer read about the most intimate details of your sex life/underwear color/bathroom etiquette/thesis project/hate mail/etc., all the while eating 3-week-old nachos.

If you make a real effort to follow some of these guidelines, you can thwart many future attempts to hack your account. Unless someone has a personal vendetta against you, it's unlikely the average hacker will be THAT determined to break into your account, especially when there are plenty of other accounts to invade more easily.

I should really be going — I have about 50 people to e-mail explanations about why they've not gotten any letters from me (or why they got any odd e-mails, courtesy of my little "friend"). And if I ever come across this fellow while cruising the Information Superhighway, I may commit a net-crime of my own.

Wish me luck.

Letter to the Editor



Student criticizes paper's accuracy

Dear Editor,

I am very upset about an aspect of the article that was done on the Organizations of President's Meeting. My name was incorrectly spelled, and I am highly upset. I know the first thing that I learned in news writing was to correctly spell everyone's name. If you don't know how to spell it, you should ask.

The thing that makes me the most upset is the fact that I wrote the cor-

rect spelling of my name out on a piece of paper, in big letters, spelled correctly and handed it to Matthew Weeks after the meeting. Yet on the front page of the paper my name was incorrectly spelled.

This is just another example of the inaccurate reporting that the students at VCU are subjected to via The Commonwealth Times.

Revena M. Bey
President Phi Alpha Psi Sorority Inc.

Commonwealth TIMES

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Just fill out this form and drop in the submissions box outside of room 1149 in the General Purpose Academic Building, or mail to Box 2010, campus mail, or 901 W. Main St., Richmond Va. 23284-2010, regular mail.

Enjoy the moment with 'Before Sunrise'

Bill Bucco
CT STAFF WRITER

Two young people, Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Celine (Julie Delpy) meet on a train passing through Europe.

Jessie, being an American, knows only English. Celine, a French woman, along with every other European in the movie, speaks English very well. Celine knows all of the dirty words in the English language and can use them correctly in a sentence. She also uses words such as "transitory" as if she read them straight from a textbook, accenting the wrong syllables in a most endearing way.

The dialogue in the first 10 minutes of "Before Sunrise" seems phony, as if two actors were doing a scene. Of course this is exactly what is happening, but the audience should not have to notice. After five minutes of talking, Jessie and Celine sound like they are on their third date. Their conversation flows too easily and is too intimate to be believable. Of course the objective of screenwriters Richard Linklater and Kim Krizan was to get the relationship progressing fast enough so that Jessie can talk Celine into a day in Vienna with him. He proposes this, she agrees, the movie moves forward and we forgive Linklater for the manufactured plot line.

"Before Sunrise" is reminiscent of "The Clock," starring Judy Garland and Robert Walker, and "Roman Holiday" starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. As in that movie, a city, in this case Vienna, has a supporting role. The action in this film consists entirely of walking, talking and kissing as Jessie and Celine wander from café to record store to Ferris wheel to graveyard to church, all the

while falling in love with Vienna as a backdrop.

Jessie is pessimistic and cynical, and Celine is a romantic optimist. Despite their opposite natures, they share a need to make "a true connection" (as a palm reader they encounter says) between them. Both are unsure that such a connection is possible, but yearning for it leads them into conversations that jump from topic to topic, threaded with an earnest intimacy that disappears with every passing year of adulthood.

What is generally missing from these conversations is originality. Unlike "My Dinner with Andre," where Andre Gregory and Wallace Shawn talk about decidedly off-the-wall subjects, the concepts about which Jessie and Celine talk are material, specifically calculated for maximum romantic bonding. They talk about their parents' influence on their lives, what they hate about relationships, their past sexual experiences and the differences between men and women. We have heard it all before, and some of us have said it all before.

What saves the audience from being bored by all of these used topics are the sincere performances of Hawke and Delpy. They convey the excitement of new love so well that the audience is able to empathize. The truth is that people do talk a lot when they fall in love. Since there are no words to adequately describe these new feelings, we overcompensate by saying more than what is necessary. So all of the kissing and talking in "Before Sunrise," boring by Hollywood standards, leaves us completely enthralled—it is just so wonderfully human.

Experiencing "Before Sunrise" is like enjoying a museum portrait or a symphony orches-



Photo courtesy of Castle Rock Entertainment.

POW!—A chance encounter between two travelers fuels a spontaneous combustion of whimsical romance in "Before Sunrise."

tra performance. You are caught up in the moment, seemingly outside of time itself. There is no forward or backward motion, and you leave the theater exactly as you came in, taking with you not a thrill but a sentiment.

This must have been what Jessie and Celine were thinking when they decided against taking pictures of each other. Something so permanent and tangible would have cheapened the experience of the day. They seized the moment and

held it for hours.

"Before Sunrise" has an appeal limited to young people in their twenties. The adventures involved in the meeting of two hearts, however, is not so limited. Young people can sympathize, and older people can reminisce. If this sentiment is not enough, the film has the added bonus of enabling us to spend two hours staring at Delpy or Hawke, whomever the audience prefers.

'Parallel Lives' – divinely humorous and deeply human

Douglas Vann
CT STAFF WRITER

Are you ready to "live in the great uterus of a woman?" Are you ready to laugh yourself right back to the womb?

Then take a couple of hours this weekend to see "The Kathy and Mo Show: Parallel Lives," a play guaranteed to warm your insides, even on a cold February night.

Under the ingenious direction of Patrick Held, "Parallel Lives" coalesces the intimacy of Fieldens Private Club with a rich kaleidoscope of human character. The result is a work of art which is at once divinely humorous and deeply human.

Lawrence Broglio's production. Bowers shines in the roll of Candida, whose name suggests the essence of this character, a prostitute who candidly "tells it like it is." Swinging her purse as well as her hips, Candida tells passersby who decline her offer of sex that they "don't know what they missin'."

Bowers is equally hilarious playing the roll of Kris, a daffy twit who likes to hang out with her boyfriend, Jeff (Jones), at Denny's. The couple spout out lines which remind one of the wit of Beavis and Butthead. Kris is, at first, reluctant to enter the restaurant when she learns that lesbians eat there, but she learns over a garden salad that homosexuals are people too.

In a vignette titled "Silent Torture," Jenny Jones pantomimes the strange and intricate anomaly of a woman's morning cleansing rituals. Choreographed to a frenzy of classical music, Jones shoots out of bed, showers, shaves (legs and underarms), plucks her eyebrows, applies makeup and dresses in a matter of minutes. Here, it becomes apparent why Held chooses not to use props in "Parallel Lives." As we watch Jones glorify this feminine ritual, our imaginations fuse our minds to the action on the stage, so that we can actually feel the razors scraping against our legs, the tweezers plucking out our facial hair. Genius.

Jones also performs remarkably as the opposite sex. As a cowboy named Hank, Jones embodies the typical bar-side drunk. With an unlit cigarette dangling from the side of his mouth, Hank often falls from his bar stool, but manages to find time to buy the "very, very pretty" Karen Sue a "sissy drink" (a white wine spritzer).



Photo courtesy of Richmond Triangle Players.

OOOHLK!—Scottie Bowers and Jenny Jones show the way through a labyrinth of womankind in "Parallel Lives."

All in all, Bowers and Jones make a great team. The actresses work well together and never stop tickling your funny bone. You'll leave Fieldens with your tummy aching for more.

"Parallel Lives" continues for two more weeks, on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for VCU students with valid ID. For reservations, call 346-8113.



THEATER REVIEW

gether, the two "Supreme Beings" create a universe that is saturated with emotion, compassion and hence utter chaos—a universe not unparalleled to our own. With destiny trembling in their hands, the capricious creators decide at the flip of a coin that women, not men, should bear children. And to balance out the joy of childbirth, the "Supreme Beings" decide on a whim to accompany the act of giving birth with intense physical pain.

From that moment on, the fun doesn't stop.

In the 12 vignettes that follow, Bowers and Jones play a vast array of characters who show us the way through the labyrinth of womankind. Bowers, who played Goneril in VCU Theater's "Lear," is much better suited for Held's intimate stage than for the pseudo-Shakespeare of

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Eat, drink, write for the CT and be merry

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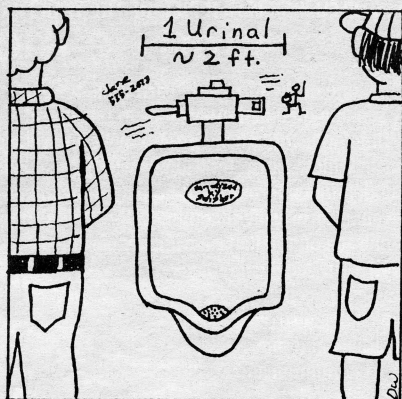
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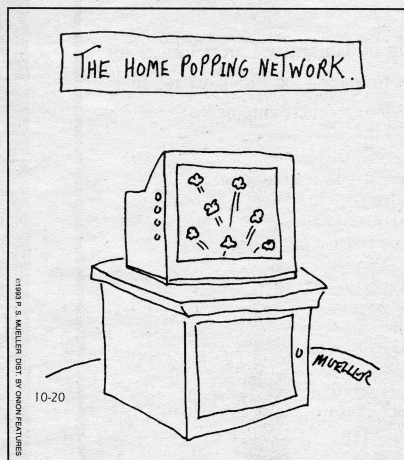


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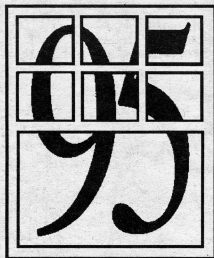


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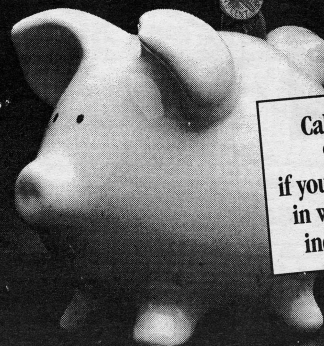
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March Madness is just around the corner

Coveh Solaimani
CT SENIOR WRITER

February marks the beginning of something special. It's larger than the Super Bowl, the World Series and the NBA Finals.

For a college basketball fan this time is pure heaven and for the casual observer it's sheer excitement. It's

MEN'S BASKETBALL CHARITY STRIPE

The Road to the Final Four.

This year's trip will have a new destination, Seattle. Sixty-four teams will enter the "Big Dance" with the same goal of dethroning defending champion Arkansas and cutting down the nets in The Kingdom.

Only one team, however, will accomplish its dream.

Unlike seasons of the past, there are no overwhelming favorites, and the chore of picking the final four teams becomes genuinely difficult. The following is a look at the teams that I believe have the best shot of making that airplane ride to Seattle.

Let's start with the **Arkansas Razorbacks**. This past season's champs were all about gaining respect, and this year's team is all about repeating. With nearly the entire team back again, coach Nolan Richardson knows he has a solid

shot at keeping the prize.

Although the team has struggled at times so far, the 17-5 Razorbacks appear to be waiting for March to come around before they play their type of basketball. Don't count this team out.

North Carolina is "Stacked." With Jerry Stackhouse and Rasheed Wallace up front, the Tar Heels have one of the best frontcourts in the country. This year's squad currently is ranked No. 1 and is off to an 18-1 start.

Yesterday's team was more talented, but this outfit plays together and has something to prove after the past year's poor showing in the tournament.

Connecticut lost its best player from the past season's club and was picked to finish in the middle of the Big East pack by the so-called experts. The Huskies have fooled everybody. They are 10-0 in the conference — 18-1 overall.

With Keven Ollie, Doron Sheffer and Ray Allen, UConn has one of the nation's top backcourts. Their play will keep this team in contention in March.

John Calipari's **Massachusetts** team has a 17-2 record and is off to one of the best starts in its history. The Minutemen possess two future NBA lottery picks, Loe Roe and Marcus Camby, and an experienced backcourt. If Camby comes back from his injury in top form, this group could bring back a championship to the people in Amherst.

Lawrence "Poetry in" Moten, one of the country's best all-around players, is the main reason that the **Syracuse Orangemen** once again are being mentioned among the nation's elite. The addition of Michael Lloyd and the emergence of John Wallace have given the new-look Orangemen a chance for some post-season glory.

During the past few seasons, the **UCLA Bruins** have teased their fans, showing signs they are ready to regain the trophy that the university once owned.

This past season they started off 14-0 and ascended to the top of the polls before collapsing.

This year's team shows maturity and is ready to take the next step. As long as the O'Bannon brothers, Charles and Ed, continue to play at their current level, this team will be successful.

There are other teams that could contend **Kentucky, Kansas, Michigan State and Maryland**. With any luck, each of those universities could have a happy ending.

Finally, there are the **Duke Blue Devils**. Oops, wrong season.

During the next eight weeks, shouts of "It's unbelievable," "Are you serious?" and "Ohhh My" will ring true throughout the country. Even though it happens every year are the memories created will endure a lifetime.

We're moving!

(And we've got some spending money in our pocket.)

A new home court, the Siegel Center, is on the way. The Rams need a new schedule to go with their new home, new clothes and new attitude. We got the big bucks from our former Metro friends, now let's find our team a new road to the NCAA Tourney.

Who would you rather see our Rams beat up in the future?

The Atlantic 10 (or 9 or 11 or whatever) **CT POLL** with the Fordham Rams, Rhode Island Rams and St. Joe's Hawks is a possibility. Oh, by the way, the Temple Owls and some school from Massachusetts are in the A-10.

Or do you prefer the homey feeling of the Colonial Athletic Association? With Jimmy Madison, Bill and Mary, George (not Anthony) Mason, Kings Dominion and West End in the CAA already, it would be easy for VCU fans to travel to almost every game on the conference schedule.

We want to know what you, the fan, think of VCU's options. Call the CT at 828-1058 and tell us who you want to see in the TraniDome. We will print the results for all, including the powers that be on Franklin Street, to see.

Answer to trivia question from page 12: **Wilt Chamberlain, who snagged 55 for the Phila. Warriors Nov. 24, 1960, against Bill Russell and the Boston Celtics. Eat your heart out, Dennis Rodman.**



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CURVE BALL
Q. Who holds the record for the most rebounds in a single game and how many?
A. See page 11.

SPORTS

Inside
• It's cold now, but March Madness is around the corner as college basketball heats up. See page 11 for details.

WEDNESDAY, February 8, 1995

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 26, No. 49

Chairmen of the boards lead VCU Rams to win

Byrd grabs 20 rebounds, Hopkins 12 in first win against ODU since '91

Brian J. French
 CT SPORTS EDITOR

HAMPTON — Never mind that his VCU Rams had just won a game in a city other than Richmond for the first time since a Dec. 10 overtime win against Florida International. Or for that matter, that the Rams had just beaten a team that had a four-game hex on them.

For VCU head coach Sonny Smith, Monday night's 81-67 win against Old Dominion was a monkey off his back, regardless of the opponent.

"This win would have been a relief if it had been Old Dominion or the Roan Mountain Skins," Smith said after the game.

In winning their first game against the Monarchs since December 1991, the Rams (15-8) did two things particularly well.

The first one was expected. Rebounding, a VCU forte and an ODU failing, went into the Rams' column by a 53-28 spread. George Byrd snagged a career-high 20 boards, Bernard Hopkins added 12 and Sherman Hamilton pulled down eight from the point-guard spot.

That last figure would have led the Monarchs, who lost their main rebounder, Odell Hodge, for the season after he tore his anterior cruciate ligament in December.

"We were very concerned coming into this game about their (VCU's) size," first-year ODU head coach Jeff Capel said. "They were playing volleyball — shoot, miss, rebound; shoot, miss, rebound; shoot-miss-rebound; score."

"The inside game did the job for us," Smith said.

The second accomplishment wasn't as anticipated.

VCU, a 57.6 percent free-throw-shooting team for the season, converted on 23 of their 29 trips (for a season-best 79.3 percent) to the charity stripe.

Tyron McCoy hit all eight of his free throws en route to an 18-point night. Hopkins scored six of his 18 points from the line, missing only twice.

Even Byrd, who shoots 46 percent from the line, was 3 for 4 from the line. He finished with 13 points.

The Rams never trailed during the game.

After taking a 20-9 lead midway through the first half, VCU spent most of the rest of the game with a double-digit lead.

The Monarchs (12-10) were down 37-25 at the break, and, save for a 7-0 run early in the second half that reduced the Rams lead to nine, were down by double digits throughout the stanza.

"The big thing for us was that our defense shut down the three-point shooting totally in the first half," said Smith.

"VCU did a very good job coming down on us aggressively in the first half," Capel said.

The Monarchs went 2 for 14 (14 percent) from behind the arc in the first half, 6 for 27 (22 percent) for the game. Again, though, turnovers plagued the Rams throughout the game.

But while it only affected the margin of victory in Monday's game, it may present a problem in the Rams' game tonight against the Tulane Green Wave in New Orleans.

The Rams are 1-6 for the series against the Green Wave, which uses a swarming press defense that the Rams have struggled against in recent games.

"Tonight's game (with ODU, which used a press) did help us to prepare for Tulane. Tulane will capitalize on our turnovers," Hamilton said, on preparing for Tulane's press.

The Wave leads the Metro with a 3-2 conference record, 1 1/2 games ahead of the last-place Rams.

The Rams travel to Southern Mississippi Saturday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

VCU	81
ODU	67



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

SLASH AND BURN — VCU's Tyron McCoy drives around Old Dominion's Petey Sessoms. The Rams dethroned the Monarchs 81-67 at the Hampton Coliseum.

Power game — the difference between the two teams

Brian W. Whitson
 CT SPORTS EDITOR

Hampton — If I wrote a book about this season's VCU basketball team, the title would be "Jekyll and Hyde." Against the Monarchs, the Rams wrote another chapter, and left ODU head coach Jeff Capel asking — Where's the beef?

Which VCU team showed up Monday night?

Well, for the few Rams fans who attended, we saw the potential of this team when they control the paint.

"We're so young, I don't know which one of us is going to be there," said Sonny Smith, VCU head coach. "Our inside people did the job for us tonight."

VCU center George Byrd finished with 13 points and 20 rebounds. That's right — 20 rebounds. If that wasn't enough, Bernard Hopkins added 14 points and 12 rebounds. With a little quick calculation, the Rams got 32 rebounds from two post players.

Can you say paint domination?

"They were playing volleyball," Capel said. "They would shoot, miss and get the rebound. That was the story of the game."

"We were very concerned, coming into this game, about their (VCU's) size. VCU came out and brought it to us. We just did not compete."

Granted, the Monarchs were without Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year Odell Hodge, who is out for the season with an anterior cruciate ligament injury.

Capel said the Monarchs have had trouble with teams

that play tough under the basket.

"When people are physical with us, we seem to run from them instead of making a stand," he said. "I think VCU did a very good job of coming down the court aggressively in the first half."

But this was a complete effort by the entire VCU team, something Hodge would have had trouble overcoming.

Ivan Chappell, who finished with 13 points, seems to have figured out a formula to make his shot drop, and the Rams shot 81 percent from the free-throw line. I would have to dig deep into the basketball archives to find out the last time VCU shot over 80 percent from the charity stripe.

"I think all Ivan Chappell needed was one good game to get it (his shot) back," Smith said. "He had it against Radford, and it seems to have worked for him."

This was the type of game this team needed heading into the February crunch on the road. The Rams don't come back to the Coliseum until Feb. 23, and play key Metro games at Tulane, Southern Mississippi and UNC Charlotte.

"This was a great win for us over a good team," Smith said, adding it was also a "relief for us because they had beaten us four times in a row."

With six games left on their schedule, it's not too early to start thinking about post-season tournaments. The Rams came into the game against ODU ranked 90th in the latest Ratings Percentage Index.

That's probably not good enough to extend the Rams season beyond the Metro Tournament, since every team left on VCU's schedule is ranked ahead of them. With some good basketball and a little luck, VCU could move up the chart in a hurry.

MEN'S BASKETBALL ASPECT