

## WEATHER



**WEDNESDAY** — Sunny and breezy. Highs between 50 and 55. Lows in the mid-30s.



**THURSDAY** — Partly sunny. Highs in the mid-60s. Lows in the upper 30s.

# Commonwealth TIMES

## INSIDE

• What's new in the student art galleries? See story page 7.



WEDNESDAY, April 5, 1994

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 26, No. 67

## Gravel angers students, still

*Flier presents one stance, SGA also discusses issue*

**Sherry Jones**  
CT NEWS EDITOR

A flier suggesting that VCU repave Linden Street and Shafer Court went up across campus Monday.

The topic also appeared when Sen. Duane Kay addressed the issue during Monday's Student Government Association Executive Committee meeting.

Kay said he is attempting to set up a meeting with Edwin E. Blanks, associate provost for academic affairs, to discuss the gravel that was dumped in these areas this past summer.

"People are holding onto the hope of repaving, but it's going to cost too much money," Kay said. "So it probably won't happen and if it did happen, it would take too much time."

This is not the first time the gravel in these two areas has been brought to the forefront of discussion on campus.

At the beginning of last semester, only several weeks after the changes were implemented, students with disabilities and skateboarders questioned the administration's motives for tearing up the pavement, replacing it with gravel.

Blanks said this \$100,000 project began in June but is yet to be completed.

Kay added that it is possible sidewalks will be added to the areas to make them more accessible.

In an interview before the SGA meeting, Kay said VCU was wrong to spend \$100,000 putting down the gravel in the first place.

"It was really ignorant on their part," he said. "I don't know why they did that to Shafer Court."

For the most part, he added, repaving is

out of the question because of the financial factors involved.

"They're (the administration) open to that option, but it's going to cost so much money," he said.

In an interview Monday evening, Blanks stressed that the changes being made to Shafer Court and Linden Street still are incomplete.

"It's still a project in the works," he said. "We're still evaluating several different options."

Agreeing with Kay about the cost of repaving, Blanks said resurfacing the areas is not "economically feasible."

"If we find some alternative solutions, then something will be done," he said.

Also, before the meeting, Sen. Richard Cox, who has been vocal about the issue in the past, said he supports anyone who wants the area repaved, because he's heard numerous complaints about its inconvenience.

"It seems like we just destroyed something nice," he said, suggesting these areas no longer serve as the heart of campus.

A lot people, Cox said, used to hang out in Shafer Court. Now there's not much going on.

In addition, Cox said he thinks the administration put down the gravel to rid the campus of skateboarders.

"The gravel was an easy way for the administration to solve the issue," he said,



**REPAVE?** This flier can be seen across campus. The source of the flier is still unknown.

adding that now these areas are not only a nuisance but an eyesore.

Originally, VCU officials reported that the plan was to plant bushes and grass along the outskirts of the gravel, but now the future of these two areas seems unclear.

— CT Senior Writer James McMahon contributed to this article.

## SGA changes raise questions

**James McMahon**  
CT SENIOR WRITER

Twenty-two amendments adopted by the Student Government Association last week may not be valid.

Sen. Thomas House, chairman of the publicity committee, told the executive committee Monday that the vote to amend the constitution did not follow "Robert's Rules of Order," which serves as the senate's guidelines for conducting business.

The SGA constitution requires a two-thirds vote to amend the constitution. The 8-7 vote, however, did not satisfy this requirement.

The vote took place under a suspension of rules which some senators believed suspended all constitutional regulations. Instead only the rules of quorum were suspended.

To do business, SGA must have a quorum, which means a majority of members must be present. While "Robert's Rules" allow for the suspension of quorum, it does not permit the suspension of bylaws.

"The senate erred in its approval of the constitutional amendments made last week according to 'Robert's Rules of Order,'" House said during Monday's meeting.

SGA President Cathaleen Bryant said the issue, however, must be appealed to the chairman of the meeting during which the vote took place.

In this case, SGA Vice President Jonathan Bartee would hear an appeal from a senator present during that meeting.

Bartee said he expects an appeal to be made during next Monday's senate meeting.

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## Local officials discuss fighting crime with regional forces

**James McMahon**  
CT SENIOR WRITER

City officials from Richmond and the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield came together at The Richmond Marriott last night to participate in a public crime forum.

The forum, sponsored by the VCU School of Business' student organizations, examined several prevalent crime issues while addressing possible solutions for the area's rampant crime problem.

The issue of regional cooperation took center stage as public officials hailed the cooperation of Richmond, Chesterfield and Henrico police departments in fighting crime.

Virgil R. Hazelett, Henrico's county manager, said that nowhere is regional cooperation stronger than in the police departments of the three localities.

"There is a number of different task forces in place that are in the form of

regional cooperation," he said. "The area of law enforcement has been one of the most cooperative in our region."

Richmond City Manager Robert Bobb echoed those sentiments, adding that cooperation in crime prevention is essential in each jurisdiction's fight against crime. Bobb commended Henrico officers for helping Richmond police officers in their full alert program.

"If there is an area where regional cooperation works, it is in the area of crime prevention," he said. "This is essential because criminals know no political boundaries."

James Ukrop, vice chairman and chief executive officer of Ukrop's Supermarket Inc., said the newly formed Richmond Community Corps is a product of regional cooperation. He added that the strength of the organization lies in its volunteers.

"People have to help people," he said.



**CRIME TIME** — Last night, (from left) Richard Bishop, acting Richmond chief of police; George Bowser, Armstrong High School principal; Virgil Hazelett, Henrico County manager; Michael Herring, Richmond drug prosecutor; Laine Ramsey, Chesterfield County administrator; and James Ukrop, CEO of Ukrop's Supermarket Inc., discuss crime in the metro area. Richmond City Manager Robert Bobb joined the panel later in the evening.

CRIME continued to page 4



## WORLD/NATION



### • Menendez brothers' retrial set before a single jury

**LOS ANGELES** — Lyle and Erik Menendez will be retried together, in front of a single jury, for the 1989 shotgun slayings of their parents, a judge ruled Monday.

Their lawyers had argued for separate trials for fear that testimony helpful to one brother might hurt the other. But Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg said the advantages of a single trial "greatly outweigh the potential prejudice." The retrial is set for June 12.

The first trial was heard by separate juries in the same courtroom. It ended in a mistrial in January 1994 after both juries deadlocked on murder and manslaughter charges.

### • Former employee at firm kills five, then himself

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** — A former employee opened fire yesterday in a refinery inspection company, killing the owner, his wife and three workers before fatally shooting himself, police said.

James Simpson, a 28-year-old former worker at Walter Rossler Co., entered through the front door and shot five people with a 9mm semiautomatic pistol and .32-caliber revolver before leaving through the back door, police said. He then shot himself behind the business.

Up to 10 people were inside the industrial inspection company when the gunman entered and opened fire, police said.

### • Russia requires AIDS test for visits more than 90 days

**MOSCOW** — Travelers going to Russia

for more than 90 days will have to prove they don't have AIDS, under a law signed Monday by President Boris Yeltsin. Foreign residents who test positive would be deported.

The measure, which takes effect Aug. 1, also requires mandatory AIDS tests for prison inmates and some Russian workers.

The law makes no provisions for carrying out the AIDS tests, prompting fear and frustration among both Russians and foreigners living there.

"It's going to be a bureaucratic nightmare," said Kevin Gardner, an adviser on AIDS to the World Health Organization.

## VIRGINIA



### • Martinsville operation yields 106 drug arrests

**MARTINSVILLE** — Police have rounded up more than 100 people in one of the areas largest drug busts.

Martinsville Police Chief Terry L. Roop said Monday that 106 people were indicted on a total of 321 charges in the 18-month undercover operation.

Most were charges of distribution of cocaine.

The investigation, dubbed "Curbside 3," targeted drug dealers and street-level dealers, Roop said.

City police, the Henry County Sheriff's Office and state police took part in the investigation.

Police hope the dealers will lead them to larger suppliers.

### • Spotsylvania accident kills 1, injures another

**FREDERICKSBURG** — State police are trying to identify a young woman killed

when a car she was riding in flipped on Interstate 95 in Spotsylvania County, ejecting her and the driver.

Police estimated the black woman's age as between 12 and 19. She was dead when rescue workers arrived on the scene Saturday night. No identification was found, said Trooper R.J. Davis.

According to police, the driver, Phillip F. Breathwaite, 25, said only that he knew the woman as Tina.

Police said Breathwaite, of Chesapeake, was charged with reckless driving and driving under the influence. He suffered a broken hip.

### • Supreme Court declines to hear inmate's appeal

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Supreme Court Monday declined without comment to hear the appeal of a Virginia death-row inmate who murdered a woman and her 5-year-old daughter.

Russel W. Burket pleaded guilty to the Jan. 14, 1993, slayings of Katherine A. Tafelski and her daughter, Ashley, in Virginia Beach.

Burket beat the mother and daughter to death with a blunt object after sexually assaulting the woman.

Two other children were beaten but survived.

The Virginia Supreme Court upheld Burket's capital murder conviction and death sentence Nov. 4.

## RICHMOND



### • Two at pool hall face gambling charges

The owner of Triple Triangle Billiards and one of his employees have been charged with violating state gambling laws by al-

legedly paying the winners of a video poker game.

The 79-year-old proprietor, Eugene Herman "Jeep" Wells, and his 60-year-old employee, James Linwood Adams, were arrested Monday on charges of operating a gambling enterprise for longer than a month, possessing a gambling device and allowing gambling to occur at the business.

Both men could spend up to five years in jail for operating a gambling enterprise, which is a felony. The other two charges are misdemeanors and punishable by up to 12 months in jail and a fine of \$2,500.

They were released Monday afternoon after promising to appear today in Richmond General District Court.

## CAMPUS



### • Local high school students study anatomy at MCV

Thirty-one high school students from Richmond and its surrounding counties got an insider's look into the first year of medical school through participating in a five-week course taught at MCV this past semester.

The course is part of a community enrichment program, sponsored by the VCU School of Medicine's Brown Sequard Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society.

The high school juniors and seniors spent the five weeks attending lectures taught by Hugo R. Seibel, associate dean of medicine and professor of anatomy in the School of Medicine. An instructive walk through the college's gross anatomy lab followed each lecture.

—Compiled from news sources

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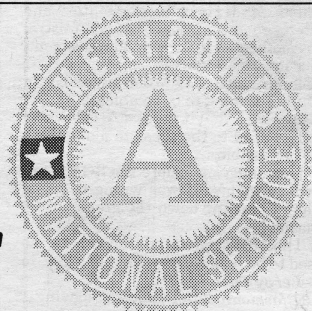
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## Citizen Involvement Day

# "BUT WHAT CAN I DO?"



### Volunteer Fair

Local agencies serving in the areas of education, environment, human needs, and health and safety will attend to promote volunteer opportunities within their organizations.

**April 10** — Commons Plaza, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

### Panel Discussion

City Council members and community leaders will identify issues and needs in the Richmond community along with how citizens can get involved in improving our community. Panelists: Councilman Tim Kaine, Councilwoman Viola Baskerville, Commonwealth's Attorney David Hicks and Rev. Dr. Robert L. Taylor. Moderator: Dr. John Moeser.

**April 10** — VCU Meeting Center, noon until 1 p.m.

### Voter Registration

VCU AmeriCorps members trained in voter registration will register students and community members during the Volunteer Fair, as well as during a week-long campaign on- and off-campus—April 10-14.

**April 10** — Commons Plaza, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.



## Sound Off!

**What do you think the university ought to do about Shafer Court and Linden Street?**



"I'd say they ought to repave it ... because it's part of the university and the upkeep is important."

— **Mike Spear**  
26, crim. justice

"I guess they could put some more gravel in that would stay. ... Otherwise, I think it would be better to pave it."

— **Sandeep Mody**  
19, biology



"They should repave it with a smoother surface so the handicapped people can get around. Who was the fool who put the gravel out there?"

— **Thurmond Alford Jr.**  
25, interior design

"I'm wondering who put down the gravel on Shafer Court and why it hasn't been repaved yet. I heard it was supposed to be repaved."

— **Leroy Calhoun**  
21, fashion art & ad.



"I think they should get rid of the gravel. It's a ridiculous oversight if they're trying to accommodate the school to the handicapped."

— **G. Natasha E. Phillips**  
20, biology

"I guess repave because I liked it a lot better last year — more people hung out here then."

— **Jim Wilson**  
19, elem. education



Photos by Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

# Byrd takes class to political past

**Scott Bass**  
CT NEWS EDITOR

Like war veterans reminiscing about battles past, two of Virginia's senior political fixtures reunited at VCU yesterday to exchange historical soundbites.

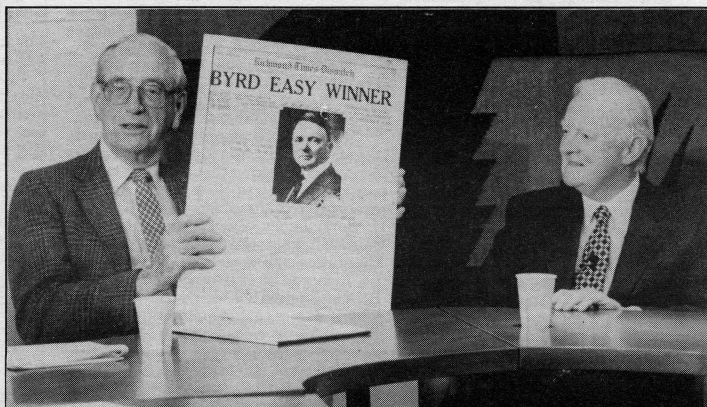
Harry F. Byrd Jr., former U.S. Senator and state lawmaker, and James Latimer, former political reporter for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, recalled the rumors, the conversations and political maneuvering that guided Virginia into the latter part of the 20th century. Latimer currently is the Dabney Professor in mass communications teaching a monthlong media and Southern politics course.

The junior Byrd, son of Harry F. Byrd Sr. and heir to Virginia's most influential political machine, said the 1995 session of the General Assembly was the one of the most partisan he's seen in Virginia's history.

"I don't recall where a governor has had as difficult a time as Governor Allen has had in the last session," he said. "I think he tried too much too soon. I think the people found it difficult to understand how you can logically reduce taxes while simultaneously putting forth a bond issue."

The veteran politician, who was elected to the U.S. Senate after his father's death in 1966, told the class why he decided to end the Byrd era that spanned nine generations and dates back to 1670.

"Thirty six years in public office — that's really long enough," Byrd



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

**FLYING HIGH** — James Latimer (left) shows a Richmond Times-Dispatch front page featuring Harry F. Byrd Jr.'s father, Byrd Sr., who served in Virginia politics for 36 years, spoke yesterday in a mass communications class taught by Latimer.

said, explaining why he decided to throw in the towel and not run in 1982 for an eighth term in the U.S. Senate.

"It shows the influence of women," he said. "My wife and my daughter were generally opposed to me spending any more time in public office."

Latimer, with some 40 years of political reporting experience, probed a somber Byrd about decisions past, asking him why he decided not to seek the Democratic gubernatorial candidacy of 1961 when many believed he would have won easily.

"Politically, everything looked quite good," he said.

He explained that since his father was then a U.S. senator he realized that father and son

shouldn't hold two such powerful positions simultaneously.

"We talked it over and he offered to resign from the Senate," he said, adding that he refused his father's offer.

"Things are very fluid in politics," he said, explaining that nothing is certain.

The junior Byrd, elected to the state senate in 1948, recalled an administration official approaching him just before that year's General Assembly session began. The official asked him to sign a bill he didn't have time to read.

"So I signed it and all hell broke loose," he said, adding that he learned to never sign another bill without reading it first.

"Anyway, I learned a good lesson."

## Mark Warner possible Senate candidate

**Sherry Jones**  
CT NEWS EDITOR

To run or not to run?

That is the question Mark Warner, chairman of Virginia's Democratic Party, seems close to answering as he considers throwing his hat into the ring for the 1996 Senate race.

"96 is something that I have more than a passing interest in," said Warner, who propelled himself into the world of the financially elite through his cellular telephone company.

Without making a formal announcement about his intentions, he stressed that he doesn't think anyone can accurately predict what the political landscape will look like in another year.

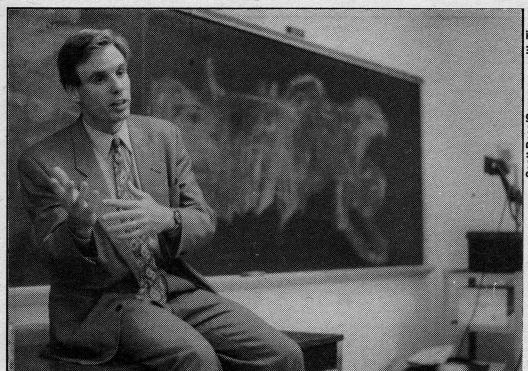
While Warner agrees with many that Sen. John Warner will ascertain the Republican nomination, he said he does think some of Sen. Warner's ideas are outdated.

"I think in terms of the issues of tomorrow — I don't think he's there," the chairman said.

Because of his related work in the field, the Democratic Warner said he is interested in improving Virginia technologically.

"That issue's going to have more effect on your lives than tomorrow's debate on where we're going to build five new prisons," he told a group of students last night during a Virginia government and politics class at VCU.

Warner said that if he does decide to



Scott Bass/Commonwealth Times

**IN THE RACE** — Mark Warner, chairman of Virginia's Democratic Party, explains to students his opinions about this year's General Assembly session.

enter the senatorial race, his ability to bring information and technology to Virginia most likely will serve as his platform.

Technology, he argued, can have more of an impact in rural Virginia than anywhere else.

"It (technological change) ought to be a positive force instead of a frightening force," he said, explaining that too often Virginians are afraid to embrace change, but that has the means to bring about many of these much-needed changes.

Along these same lines, Warner said he thinks communities ought to be more involved in the process of government and

making positive improvements in society, especially with the issue of welfare reform.

"We ought to make sure the business community is a full partner in welfare reform," he said, stressing the importance of humanizing the problems Virginians face.

Addressing his role as chairman of the Democratic Party in Virginia, Warner jokingly said he was offered the job in 1993 "because I was on speaking terms with Chuck Robb, Doug Wilder and Mary Sue Terry all at the same time."

WARNER continued to page 4 ►



## SGA

continued from page 1

ing.

In other business, House questioned whether the senate should consider taking back \$30,000 the group earmarked for WVCW, the campus radio station. The station was to use the money, in part, to conduct a feasibility study on obtaining an FM frequency.

To receive the funds, the station was to appear before the senate in December 1994 to provide its plan for going FM, but failed to do so.

"They have been talking FM for 10 to 15 years now and they got the money three years ago," House said. "But it's been a year since they have gotten back to us on the matter."

Sen. Richard Cox, who also serves as WVCW program director, defended the station, saying it has been making strides in its attempt to go FM.

## WARNER

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After the failure of Terry's bid for governor, he said, he met with Lt. Gov. Donald S. Beyer Jr. to discuss restructuring the Democratic Party.

The pair, Warner said, set up a plan that spans from five years to seven years and has led to increased unity within the party during the past year.

"The Virginia Democratic Party is in better shape than any other Democratic Party in the country," he said.

Warner also commented on the 1995 General Assembly session, calling the partisan bickering that occurred "remarkable."

This session, he said, turned out not to be a victory for Gov. George Allen, but instead a boost for Democrats.

"We've gone through three chairs in management during this time but now we're on our feet and working very hard to get the information to you (SGA)," Cox said.

The station, he added, currently is waiting for information from outside sources essential to its plan.

"We cannot go faster than the people we are relying on to give us information," Cox said. "We are coming in really strong but we need this time and we need that money."

The executive committee decided to give the station two weeks to provide an update on its study, asking that a letter from the station be sent to SGA by its April 17 executive committee meeting.

Kerry James, WVCW general manager, said SGA will receive Monday a report on the station's progress.

"Richard Cox will provide an update to SGA on how we will spend the money and when," James said in an interview yesterday.

"Instead of this being a slam dunk for Allen... my faith was restored," he said. "It showed that democracy really works."

Referring to the unity of Virginia businessmen and former governors, Warner said Virginians stood up and said they did not agree with Allen's agenda.

"In many ways I think it was almost nonpartisan by the end," he said, explaining that by the session's conclusion Republicans and Democrats alike seemed convinced that Allen's proposals were not acceptable to Virginians.

Finally, Warner said he's not sure what's in store for Democrats in the upcoming November elections, during which all 140 assembly seats are up for grabs.

But he does maintain a positive outlook. "The Democrats are in pretty good position I think at this point," he said.

## CRIME

continued from page 1

"This offers an opportunity for people to help their neighbors."

The abolishment of parole was addressed by City of Richmond drug prosecutor Michael Herring who said the issue should be examined on a cost-benefit basis.

"It's a mixed blessing—on one hand it is nice to get the career criminal off the streets," he said. "On the other hand you lose the chance to rehabilitate, and it will cost taxpayers money."

Bobb showed strong support for the abolishment of parole urging those that opposed the measure to go to the streets and see the pain violent criminals cause.

"I do know the crime problems of the communities in the city I manage and I don't care to see those violent criminals back in my city ever again," he said.

"I have no sympathy for those violent offenders."

The growing problem of juvenile crime and the need for a safer school environ-

ment was a concern of many on the panel.

Armstrong High School Principal George W. Bowser said schools were a microcosm of society, and while schools should not be turned into jails, a safe learning environment should be provided.

"We do not intend to make schools into prisons but we must ensure that students can come and learn in a safe and orderly environment."

His school, Bowser said, is looking into the use of cameras that would be put into the halls and classrooms to monitor the school.

School officials are trying to raise \$35,000 needed to install the system.

"We do these things to be proactive," he said. "We must show the kids that we will not tolerate drugs and weapons in our school."

Lane B. Ramsey, Chesterfield's county administrator, said that to fight the crime problem citizens must look to the future.

## Black Caucus Nominations:

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Robbisha Hibler  
Kendra Johnson  
Vice President  
Revena Bey  
Tosin Fadeyi  
Theo Fletcher  
Jasmine Reynolds

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Theo Fletcher  
Rhonda Coprew  
Secretary  
Nicola Pierce  
Nachelle "Shelly" Bell  
Jason Caulk  
Ebony Porter

Write for NEWS. Call 828-1058 for more information.

A FILM BY GARRY MARSHALL

**EXIT TO EDEN**

DANA DELANY PAUL MERCURIO ROSIE O'DONNELL DAN AYKROYD

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## Four sessions:

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| I Daytime, 5 weeks                                 | May 22-June 22   |
| Evening, 6 weeks                                   | May 22-July 1    |
| II Evening, 8 weeks                                | June 5-July 27   |
| III Daytime, 5 weeks                               | July 5-August 4  |
| Evening, 6 weeks                                   | July 5-August 12 |
| IV Variable dates and times announced by professor |                  |

Updated course listings are available via the Internet.



Jeff Qureshi

## Short Cuts: The Abbreviated Version

And now for something completely different: Let's concentrate on some random selections from the world today.

In Dallas, the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue has relocated its headquarters right next to a woman's health clinic. According to the Dallas Morning News, Operation Rescue leaders had not planned on such a strategic location. Rather, God gave them the location adjacent to the clinic: "The Lord has given us this place right next door where they're killing little boys and girls. We did not orchestrate this."

Do you believe that? These anti-abortion groups have lost much credibility in recent years, to the point where anything they say ought to be regarded as either untrue or misleading. Remember, many of these advocates feel that murder is sanctioned under the guise of protecting the unborn and saving mankind from its blasphemous ways. Killing is always OK if it is in the name of religion, right?

Wrong.

All religious zealots use this inane justification for acts which are truly unholy. While Operation Rescue may not officially support physician murders, clearly they are responsible for whipping anti-abortionists into a frenzy.

Elsewhere in the world, President Clinton delivered last week a speech in Haiti as peacekeeping responsibilities were handed to the United Nations. Was this mission a necessity and has the United States ensured democracy in a nation fraught with poverty, crime, and general lawlessness? Only time will tell. The President's success — or luck — however, did earn some praise, ac-

cording to the Associated Press, from House Speaker Newt Gingrich: "Frankly, the President, in this case exercised his judgement as commander-in-chief, and I think he deserves credit for having done better than we thought he could do."

Indeed, Clinton is presiding over a good economy and general consumer confidence. Yet his approval numbers are not nearly what they should be and he continues to be marginalized by Congress. Meanwhile, the Republican shooting star is quickly fading. Setting themselves up for potential election problems, both term limits and the balanced budget amendment failed to pass the decidedly conservative Congress.

Most upsetting is the lack of term limits, which Americans support. Incumbents do not want to give up their power, granted. Why then did many conduct reelection campaigns with strong support for limits? Address all answers to your representatives.

Lastly, the O.J. Simpson trial. Certainly this must be American justice at its lowest. The cameras should be taken out of the court room immediately for they have made a mockery of this trial.

I cannot stand Kato. He needs a haircut and a brain. In fact all those California surfer-dude/acting types just need to get a life, without welfare assistance.

And that about sums up this quick tour of the world today. T. S. Eliot wrote that April is the cruellest month. Perhaps. The move into spring, however, leaves us with just one more month left in this term. Could it be that cruel?

Greg A. Lohr

## Can you spare some guilt?

I never thought I would feel the way I do now.

When I arrived at VCU in fall 1991, I had never lived in a major city before. Thus, I had never reaped the benefits of a metropolis — or experienced the aggravations and battles-of-conscience that are included in the package.

One of these battles began as soon as I set foot on campus. And when the man suddenly approached me, asking for money, I was unprepared for the situation.

Unprepared in the sense that it had never happened to me before, so I wasn't sure how to react. I felt awkward and sympathetic for this ragged, poverty-stricken individual. In the few seconds it took me to fumble for spare change, I also felt somehow guilty. Why, I have no idea.

At the time perhaps I could have rambled on, as I have heard others do publicly, about the societal problems that cause people to become homeless or that oppress certain individuals. But while these factors are very real, it doesn't alter my inner dilemma or erase the fact that I'm tired of feeling guilty, tired of being harassed on the streets and tired of handing out what little money I have.

Like I said, I never thought I would feel this way.

Let's face it, though. It's a rare person that can live for years in an urban environment and not be affected, even jaded, by it. I still sympathize with people who are disadvantaged. I am willing to help when possible, whether it is through donating blood, voting for beneficial legislation or supporting organizations that are better-equipped to handle these problems.

But who actually benefits by a dime handed over in front of 7-11 or in a dark alley? There is a bigger problem here, and my spare change is not fixing it. So why should I — or any of you, for that matter — feel like a horrible person for not succumbing to the pressure to give away your money?

There are shelters and programs in the city to help those who need assistance. I'm not an expert on these organizations, but I recently was informed by a social worker that the Daily Planet offers food, clothing and counseling, all free of charge to people in need. Perhaps there should be more shelters or more services. But again, that is a larger issue. My point is that I am not a last resort for someone in need of help.

Last week I tried to explain this to a man who followed me across The Grocery Store parking lot. I told him where he could get free food, and he ignored me. Then he

found someone else and asked them for spare change.

Obviously, it's up to each individual to decide whether to give money to people on the streets or not. Whatever your conscience can live with is the defining factor. But on that subject, should I feel guilty simply because I was born with certain advantages that others do not have? I don't think so, because the only reason I have the opportunity to attend college is because my parents were not born with those advantages, but they worked diligently their whole lives to ensure my brothers and I would have them. In my eyes, that's something of which to be proud, not ashamed. I'm not sure when society switched those

two emotions around, but I think it's time to switch them back.

As many of you can attest to, just because I'm at a univer-

sity doesn't mean I have much money to give away to begin with. I had always heard — and laughed about the idea — that the college years really taught one the meaning of 'poor.' Well, I'm not laughing now. Admittedly, I have the necessities of shelter, food and clothing. Luckily, I'm not wandering the streets or sleeping in the gutter.

But, like thousands of other students, I've struggled to keep up with classes while working at two jobs and still barely making ends meet.

Another recent incident that further spurred these feelings occurred one night as I walked into the Fan Market. Making his exit as I opened the door was a burly, haggard man who reeked of alcohol.

"Give me a quarter!" he demanded.

I was so shocked and surprised by his rude and sudden request that I couldn't even refuse correctly. I mumbled something like, "No, thanks," and wandered into the store, still confused.

When did my money become someone else's to demand? Perhaps his technique regularly works on those who feel too guilty to say "No."

I think George Sand expressed it best when she said, "Charity degrades those who receive it and harden those who dispense it. All that is not a true change will disappear in the future society."

For my own peace of mind I'm trying to remember this as I walk along the streets of Richmond. Giving can be a very good thing — for both parties involved — but if you work for what you have, no one has the right to demand it of you or to make you feel guilty for what you've rightly earned.

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## Commonwealth TIMES

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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.



# SPECTRUM

## from one end



### alendar

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Photo courtesy of Red Garage

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CT STAFF WRITER

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## Outbreak! *Fear is infectious*

Bill Bucco  
CT STAFF WRITER

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Petersen, like Mozart, with whom he shares his name, creates art that is compact, precise and effective. He builds and executes suspense by spending time with his characters outside of the

main story. In "In the Line of Fire," Petersen's previous work, he introduced us to an aging Secret Service agent, played by Clint Eastwood, who liked jazz, played piano and caught a cold from standing in the rain.

In "Outbreak," Dustin Hoffman plays an Army doctor going through a painful divorce. He rejects old pictures of his marriage in happier times, and he is concerned about the welfare of his two dogs. He is an educated man who cannot write professional memos. Petersen's audience relates to his characters as real people with real faults. This empathy sucks us into the movie like dust — or a virus — through an air

The "Die Hard" premise — where usual people stumble into an unusual situation — kept coming to mind as I watched a stressed Hoffman on screen. It is hard to imagine Hoffman beating up a room full of bad guys or shooting a gun with a practiced hand. To writers Laurence Dworet and Robert Roy Pool's credit, he doesn't.

The story follows the highly successful spread of a deadly virus called Motaba, brought to the United States from Zaire via a cute, white-faced monkey. The virus kills within one to two days of first contact.

Sara Kukorlo  
CT SENIOR WRITER

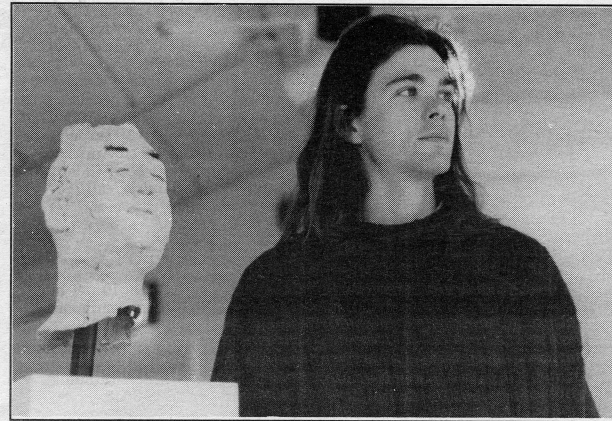
Sculptor Ken Jones' exhibit "Relics and Remnants" explores human emotion and subconscious motivations. "A lot of the pieces in here describe myself, the things that make me tick and motivate me," he said.

Jones' exhibit currently is being shown in the Student Art Gallery in the University Student Commons.

The artist said a lot of his pieces have continued to evolve since first created.

One particular piece called "Remnant of a Failed Attempt" used to be an entirely different piece, he said. The absence of a once-present figure in the piece illustrates that change.

"A lot of the pieces continue to take shape," Jones said. "But I think most of them are pretty much where I want



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

DOUBLE VISION — Todd Knopke, a VCU sculpture major, stands next to one of his sculptures in the Student Art Space. His exhibit will be showing until April 22.

## Artists create stories, draw on life changes

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In a separate room of the gallery, Jones has displayed three pieces of sculpture that he said he feels work together — "Portable Hole," "Remnant of a Failed Attempt" and "Revealed."

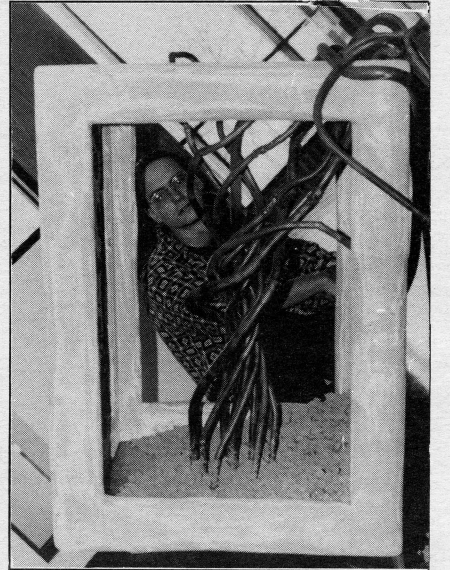
These pieces were created out of a life-changing event he experienced.

"I felt I had to get it out of my system," he said. "I used my sculpture as a vehicle for that."

"I was just examining that whole situation and trying to make sense out of it."

Other ideas he incorporated into his sculptures are figurative references, the human figure, different aspects of sensory perception and the "playing with different materials." His pieces also deal with the human psyche.

The works displayed in Todd Knopke's sculpture exhibit are very different from anything he's ever done



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

LIFE IN ART — Sculptor Ken Jones experiments with different materials in his sculptures. His exhibit will be on display at the student Art Gallery until April 22.

### Ken Jones

Age: 26  
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Year: senior  
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His exhibit, which also includes his photography, is currently displayed in the Student Art Space in the University Art Space.

"I found myself making the same things over and over again and kind of getting a habit of making things and doing things that were just easy for me," he said. "I wanted to make things that were really difficult for me to make."

Knopke's piece titled "Softly singing . . ." "Do you know what it's like . . . my thick black eyes . . ." she turned back" deals with his fascination with organization, specifically in literature. He said he wanted to create a story.

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Space, especially intimate spaces, and how they can be transformed in our imaginations are other elements in Knopke's sculptures.

"It's like when we were little kids and the closet became a castle or under the bed became a hangout for monsters," he said.

The artist said he visits museums often, paying close attention to the way something is presented rather than how it is made.

"I'm kind of fascinated with referencing things, referencing other pieces of art or other things out in the world," he said.

The photographs in Knopke's exhibit not only reflect his interest in wide open spaces but also reveal his special interest in old abandoned houses and his fascination with dance.

The houses possess barren spaces and histories — histories of the houses and the people who once dwelled in them.

Dance, he said, reflects the relationship of body and space.

"Mostly dance is how bodies are oriented with space and how the dancer knows where his limb is in space," he said.

Knopke said that as an artist he has not yet set a specific style for himself. "I don't know if I really want to (set a style) because then you are restricted and the art becomes stale."

Both Jones' and Knopke's exhibits will be showing until April 22 in the Student Art Gallery and the Student Art Space.



# t o t h e o t h e r

## Artists create stories, draw on life changes

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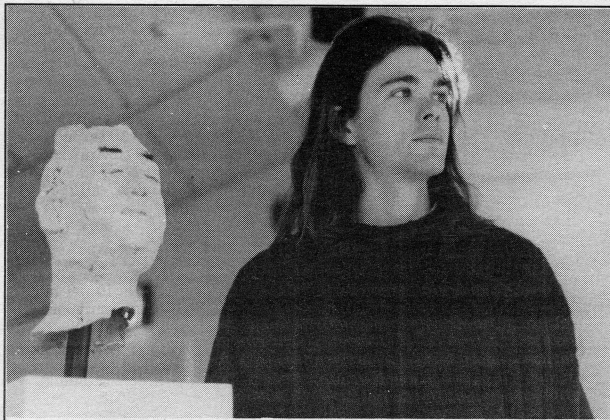
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Here we see shades of Stephen King's "The Stand," but instead of King's apocalyptic approach to life after disease, the writers concern themselves with stopping the virus before it advances that far.

After bouncing around for a while, Motaba takes a firm hold on the small town of Cedar Creek, Calif. Fighting Motaba are military doctor Hoffman and his ex-wife, played by Rene Russo. Russo also worked with Petersen in "In the Line of Fire."

Standing in the way of Hoffman's progress are Morgan Freeman and Donald Sutherland who keep their motives secret for half of the movie. The truth behind Freeman and Sutherland's administrative resistance transforms the movie from science fiction to political thriller. A change in Hoffman's performance from obsessive coffee thrower to suave adventurer takes place at about this same time.

The dialogue sometimes slips into cliché tough-guy talk but is easily digestible because Petersen never lets the action get too preposterous. He never seems to forget that we have a real people fighting a real killer. This important distinction makes "Outbreak" a credible film.

Considering the popularity at the box office and its weak competition at the theaters, it appears that the "Outbreak" virus will be around longer than most. Go

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The artist said he visits museums often, paying close attention to the way something is presented rather than how it is made.

"I'm kind of fascinated with referencing things, referencing other pieces of art or other things out in the world," he said.

The photographs in Knopke's exhibit not only reflect his interest in wide open spaces but also reveal his special interest in old abandoned houses and his fascination with dance.

The houses possess barren spaces and histories — histories of the houses and the people who once dwelled in them.

Dance, he said, reflects the relationship of body and space.

"Mostly dance is how bodies are oriented with space and how the dancer knows where his limb is in space," he said.

Knopke said that as an artist he has not yet set a specific style for himself. "I don't know if I really want to (set a style) because then you are restricted and the art becomes stale."

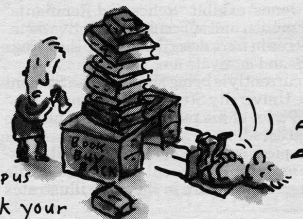
Both Jones' and Knopke's exhibits will be showing until April 22 in the Student Art Gallery and the Student Art Space.



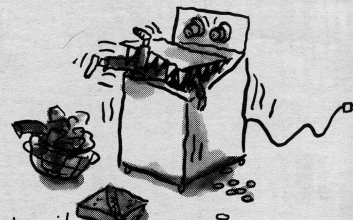
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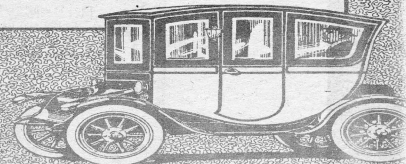
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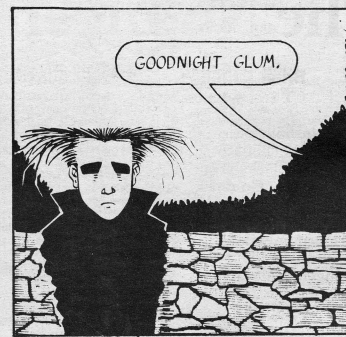
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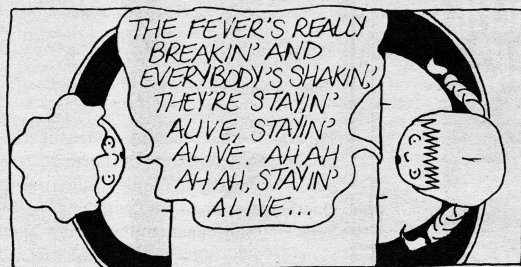
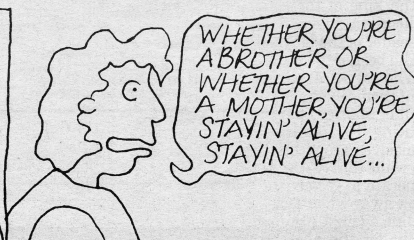
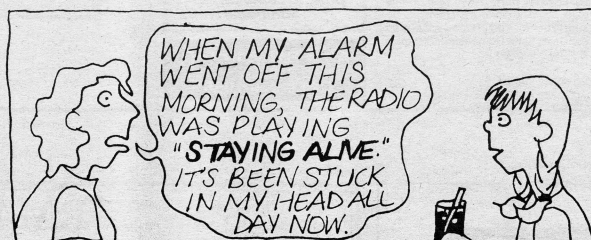
# GLUM

by Eddy Harrington



# PLUGGED IN

by Angela Wingle



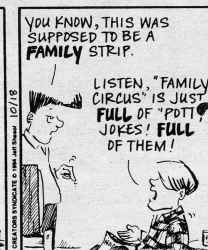
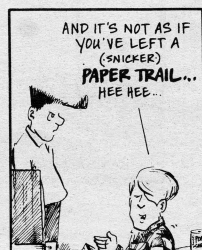
# VEETS

by "Jillian"



# THATCH

by Jeff Shesol





# The No Incentive Tournament needs a facelift

**Brian J. French**  
CT SPORTS EDITOR

We're No. 65!!! We're No. 65!!!

Was that the chant resonating through the valleys of Blacksburg, Va., the night the hometown Gobblers outyawned Marquette in the finals of the NIT? Was that the Avis of postseason basketball tournaments (otherwise known as the Needs Ingenuity Tournament)?

No, although that's what winning the Naturally Insignificant Tournament amounts to.

The king of the common. Master of mediocrity.

Leader of the lackluster.

The best of the second-best.

Who cares? A select few who either count themselves as avid followers of the small or shafted that make the Nausea Inducing Tournament, or bettors who themselves are either desperate for action while the NCAAAs are in downtime or desperate to recoup the 500 bones they threw away when Texas Southern killed the line against Arkansas.

But for the average fan, the Never Intense Tournament is a pleasant, albeit brief, diversion while channel surfing between The Weather Channel and that thrill-a-minute Bullets-76ers game before the usual packed house at the Spectrum.

The games themselves play to half-

filled campus gyms, involving teams that, during the early stages of the tournament, act as though they're playing out the string.

That's why you always get a Canisius or Siena in Madison Square Garden for the big games. They inevitably play teams that don't give a possum's ass about the

Now Insignificant Tournament, and end up winning because they usually don't have much else to care about.

That's where you get your problems.

Basically, there are four different types of Nominally Impressive Tournament teams:

1. Nos. 65-75. One more conference win, a few more points against Top 10 University, a better effort against the College of Crap, or an in with the selection committee would give them the opportunity to be mauled by a No. 4 or No. 5 seed in the Big Enchilada. But the breaks didn't fall their way, so they get the opportunity to be a big fish in a puddle. On paper, they should win. But if they don't find inspiration, they do a Seton Hall and lose to a no-name.

2. Big school, bad year. You expect more from them, you get 16-13 in return. Georgia comes to mind. They are programs that either fell prey to high expectations, or are historically good programs that get in the Noticed Infrequently Tournament on name alone. Their fans usually don't care.

3. Preferred Nameless Inferiors Tournament club members. Some teams always get into the NIT every year. Occasionally they take the extra step, occasionally they fall below the threshold, but they usually can be found getting to the second round. Canisius, anyone?

4. The little schools that could. Coppin State and Montana would kill for anything to extend their season. They think of the Negative Inspiration Tournament as big schools think of the NCAAAs — the goal.

It just doesn't work anymore.

So how do you fix the Notably Inane Tournament to give its combatants more of a reason to play?

Simple, actually:

- Postpone the NCAA Tournament for two weeks.

- When the brackets are released, leave four slots (one No. 8 seed, one No. 10 seed, and two No. 12 seeds) open, one for each region.

- Have the New and Improved Tournament selection committee then go to work on picking a 24-team field, to play in the week layover. The 24 squads would be seeded in four regions, one through six. The top two seeds in each region get a bye, while No. 3 plays No. 6 and No. 4 plays No. 5 in the first round. Final Four matchups would rotate between regions, like the NCAAAs.

- The Nothing Irrelevant Tournament Final Four teams get a bid to the NCAAAs. The champion gets the No. 8 seed, the runner-up gets the No. 10 seed, and the two

semifinalists get the No. 12 seeds.

If this plan were in effect this season, here's what the Not Irrational Tournament field could look like. Four NCAA teams were reassigned to the NCAA to account for the four empty slots in the NCAAAs, post-makeover:

EAST: 1. Manhattan 2. Xavier (OH) 3. Ohio 4. Miami (FL) 5. New Mexico 6. Canisius

NORTH: 1. Penn State 2. Marquette 3. George Washington 4. Clemson 5. College of Charleston 6. Iowa

SOUTH: 1. Virginia Tech 2. Georgia Tech 3. Illinois 4. Utah State 5. Seton Hall 6. Illinois State

WEST: 1. Santa Clara 2. Washington State 3. Texas Tech 4. Georgia 5. Providence 6. Texas-El Paso

A possibility: The Hokies win the tournament and the 8-seed, beating a resurgent Ohio and Gary Trent who get the No. 10 seed. Penn State and Texas Tech would earn the No. 12 seeds.

It's not a perfect system, but could it be so much worse than what we're forced to put up with now?

The extra four games would be worth the time and effort for a shot at the dance. The games would actually be well-attended, well-covered and, well, important.

It's a rough draft, but it really bears looking into. It could turn the No Incentive Tournament into the Necessary Incentive Tournament.

Hey, it couldn't hurt. Now, it's Time.

## Fan Market

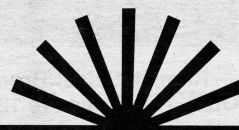
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## Curve Ball

• Which men's college basketball team has played the most games in the 1990's?  
A: Arkansas, 174.

# SPORTS

## Inside

• The NIT as a possible play-in for the NCAA tournament. See page 11.

WEDNESDAY, April 5, 1995

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 26, No. 67

## Dust in the wind



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

**TUMBLING HOME** — Rams infielder Brody Smith scores one of VCU's six runs in an upset victory over ODU. The Rams are 12-4 at home.

## Rams trip up the Monarchs 6-5

**Coveh Solaimani**  
CT SENIOR WRITER

Billy Fulwider's first hit as a Ram combined with an Old Dominion error helped VCU to a 6-5 upset victory over Old Dominion Monday at The Diamond.

With one out in the bottom of the ninth, Fulwider laced a single to right. As the ball rolled to ODU rightfielder Maika Symmonds, it somehow found its way past the Monarch player, allowing Chris Libbey to score the winning run.

"It was my first hit of the year," Fulwider said. "This feels so good."

With all the distractions surrounding former Rams' Coach Tony Guzzo's return to The Diamond, VCU (14-19) seemed more prepared to play.

"I think we were more prepared than their kids," VCU coach Paul Keyes said. Guzzo agreed with the statements of his former assistant.

"We weren't ready to play mentally, today," he said.

The game opened with ODU (21-11) striking first. Kevin Gibbs bunted his way on and his way around the bases by steal-

ing second and being balked to third by VCU starter Shane Pierce. Symmonds then laced a double into the gap to give the Monarchs a 1-0 lead.

In the bottom of the second, VCU stormed back to score three times. An RBI double by Wayne Spencer was followed by run-scoring hits from Bruce Johnston and Brandon Snead.

While Pierce was retiring ODU batters left and right, the Rams tallied two more against Monarch fireballer Ron Walker in the fourth, thanks in part to two balks. Walker balked in one run, and an RBI single by Libbey brought in another.

"Everything was a bit out of whack," Guzzo said. "We were out of sync all day."

Symmonds continued his offensive show for ODU in the fifth. His three-run homer helped cut VCU's lead to 5-4. The Monarchs tied the game in the sixth on a sacrifice fly by Gibbs off VCU reliever Tommy Nuckols.

As the game progressed, Walker got stronger for ODU. In the middle innings he struck out six Rams in a row and finished the game with 14 strikeouts

"He kept going when he was tired and pitched us out of a lot of jams," Guzzo said.

While Walker was dominating VCU batters, Nuckols was returning the favor. After struggling early, the senior took control of the game and allowed just one hit after the sixth.

"After my first inning, I started to feel pretty good and was able to get my breaking ball over a little bit more," Nuckols said.

In the ninth, VCU was able to get the victory when Symmonds' error allowed Libbey home with the winning run.

"It was a great feeling," Libbey said. "I was standing on second when I saw the coach waving me home."

Following the game, Keyes downplayed the personal importance of beating his former boss.

"There was no special significance to this game," he said, adding that this was just a regular game.

Libbey didn't seem to share the same feelings about the contest as his coach.

"This means a lot to Coach," Libbey said. "I wanted to win this game for him."

## Guzzo returns to old stomping grounds

**Coveh Solaimani**  
CT SENIOR WRITER

Tony Guzzo found himself in an unfamiliar position Monday afternoon at The Diamond. Instead of standing in the home team dugout the former VCU coach was leading Old Dominion from the visitors' side.



Tony Guzzo

"This was very different after all those years," Guzzo said. "It was awkward because most of the guys are my players and my recruits. I wasn't looking forward to this."

He said it was very difficult to look across the field and see the players he used to coach and brought to VCU.

"I thought about it before and after the game," he said. "During the game, I was just trying to help my team win."

VCU senior Tommy Nuckols said it was weird seeing his old coach on the other side.

"It was strange seeing him in a different dugout and in a different uniform," he said.

Guzzo, a native of Norfolk, coached VCU for 12 years before leaving this past season to return home to coach ODU. In his time here, Guzzo made VCU's baseball program one of the most respected throughout the state.

"Before he was here, I heard the program wasn't very good," said Richard Sander, VCU's athletic director since 1986. "When he left, the program was competitive with anyone's in the state and at times nationally."

While at VCU, Guzzo compiled a mark of 329-300-1. He was Virginia Coach of the Year twice and a one-time winner of the Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year award and the Metro Conference Coach of the Year award.

In 1988, he led the Rams to a 45-16-1 record and a trip to the NCAA Regionals. Three years ago, Guzzo coached VCU within a game of the College World Series. During his tenure at VCU, twenty of his players were either drafted or signed as free agents by professional baseball teams.

"He meant a lot to us," Sander said. "He gave VCU a baseball presence and an image. He was respected by everyone throughout the state."

Although his ODU team lost to VCU 6-5, Guzzo could still be considered a winner knowing "his" players won.

"Winning and losing wasn't important today," he said.

### Ram Notes

**Home Sweet Home:** VCU's win gave them a 12-4 record at home compared to a 2-15 mark away from the Diamond.

**Close Shave:** VCU is 7-3 in one-run games this season.

**Not Knuckling Under:** Tommy Nuckols leads the Rams in victories with four this season