

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY — Variable Cloudiness with possible snow flurries. Highs in the low 40s. Lows in the mid-20s.

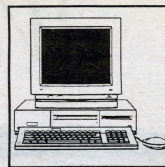


THURSDAY — Mostly sunny with highs in the low to mid-40s. Lows in the upper 20s.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• Computer sex. Find out more. See story page 9.



WEDNESDAY, November 15, 1995

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 27, No. 33

Campus religious groups entitled to funding

James McMahon
CT NEWS EDITOR

Acting in accordance with the recent U.S. Supreme Court's Wide Awake ruling, VCU's Student Government Association Executive Committee voted Monday to approve a change to its appropriation committee's funding guidelines.



The motion, approved by a 7-2 margin, opened student activities fees to publications produced by

religious organizations.

In July, the Supreme Court ruled that funding for publications cannot be withheld from religious organizations.

The case originated out of the University of Virginia where a religious group, publishing a magazine titled Wide Awake, was denied funding by the university.

Sen. Cory Brooks-Giles, chairman of the appropriations committee, said the group had little choice in passing the motion since the Supreme Court already had ruled on the matter.

The measure, he added, will apply only

to internal publications, such as newsletters, and any funding request for a campuswide publication would be handled by the Student Media Commission.

L. Victor Collins, director of the minority student affairs and a member of the SMC, said the commission is considering a similar amendment to its funding guidelines.

The university, Collins said, is interpreting the Supreme Court decision as literally as possible.

"Our university attorney has suggested we interpret this in as narrow and specific

a way we could, and that is why it deals with only publications of religious groups," Collins said.

"Internally we have made the decisions to distinguish between the two levels of publications."

This, in effect, will give some 22 previously unfunded organizations access to student activities fees, should they decide to develop some sort of campus or internal publication.

Sen. Charlie Bryan suggested the com-

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SCHEV suggests additional funds for state schools

Jill Myers
CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

If all goes well, colleges and universities could stand to receive more than \$700 million from the government during the next two years to four years.

Summarizing the list of budget recommendations of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Gordon K. Davies, director of the council, said Tuesday at the 1995 Board of Visitors Conference that although the council has not looked at requests from individual universities, the members will recommend \$366 million be allocated to the building and repairing of university structures, about \$285 million to the operational budgets of universities, and an additional \$31 million for financial aid.

The council also recommended \$100 million be allocated to increasing faculty salaries, raising them 10 percent above the national average.

Presently, Davies said, Virginia is 20 points below the national average.

"If (the recommendations are) accepted," Davies said, "faculty may see a 4 to 6 percent increase in their salaries."

Sen. John H. Chichester, chairman of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, also reported on recommendations by the commission on improving the quality of education in Virginia.

The concern about quality arose when members of the General Assembly continued to hear complaints about overcrowded classrooms, underqualified graduate students who taught these classes and the import given to faculty research by university administration, Chichester said.

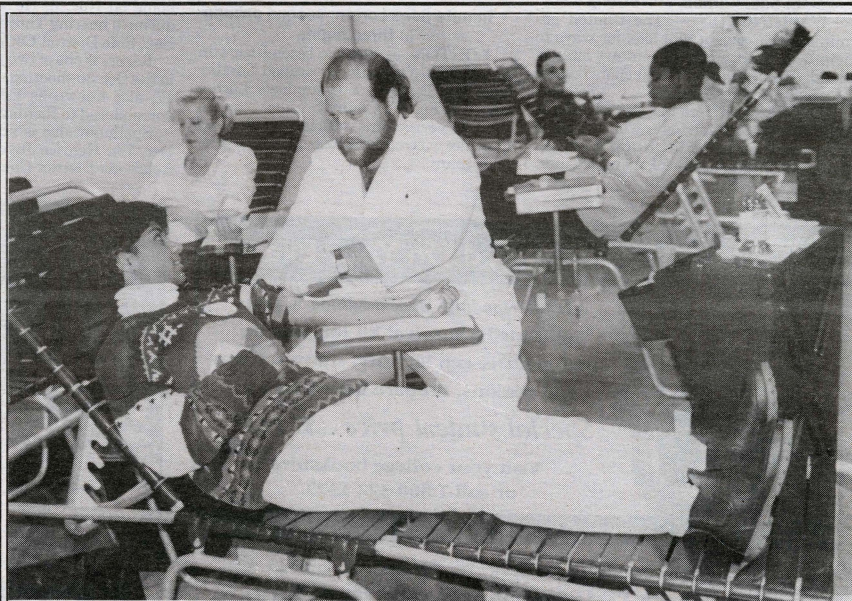
"The research aspect is vital (to universities)," he said about universities finding a balance between teaching and research, "...but parents see increases in their tuition bill, and they understandably want something for their money too."

The senator recalled an article he read on a Rutgers professor who was loved and respected by his students, his peers, the administration and even the community. Yet, because the professor could not publish, Rutgers' guidelines required he be denied tenure.

"Faculty should be rewarded for their attention to students," Chichester said.

It is not realistic, however, to abolish tenure all to-

SCHEV continued to page 4 ►



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

THE GIFT OF LIFE — Andy Severson of the Virginia Blood Society prepares to draw blood from sophomore Susan Samuel's arm. Samuel is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a campus service organization that sponsored the drive.

IFC discusses adoption of risk-management rules

Corey Fyke
CT MANAGING EDITOR

The Interfraternity Council Tuesday formally tabled a proposal to adopt a unilateral risk-management policy for its members.

The seven-part proposal, which was written by council Vice President Ben Smith, includes provisions for the abolition of purchasing alcoholic beverages with treasury funds and the co-sponsoring of events where alcohol is present, as well as an 11-tier scale of penalty for infractions.

Smith said he modeled the plan after the national FIPG risk-management policy many national and international Greek organizations follow. Smith's proposal includes sections on alcohol and drugs, hazing, sexual abuse, fire, health and safety, education, enforcement and penalties.

Following formal debate at next Tuesday's meeting, the proposal is slated to be voted on at IFC's Nov. 28 meeting. Smith's plan would require a two-thirds majority to ensure passage.

Presently, member fraternities abide by loose guidelines set up a year ago by IFC President Michael Hancock. "Currently, IFC has no standing risk-management policy," Hancock said. "That's a need we felt we needed to address. We had guidelines, but we felt the need to strengthen them."

Some representatives objected to the severity of the restrictions on alcohol, and the procedure used to accuse fraternities of infractions.

A student representative from Theta Delta Chi who refused to give his name proposed numerous friendly

IFC continued to page 4 ►

World NEWS

News from across the globe



WORLD/NATION



• White House, GOP square off in budget showdown

WASHINGTON — White House staff chief Leon Panetta and Budget Director Alice Rivlin Tuesday began meetings with Republican leaders after the government ran out of money and began to shut down.

Neither side sounded ready to budge as they began another negotiating session at the Capitol.

Republicans insisted President Clinton sign on to their goal of balancing the budget in seven years. Clinton, however, demanded a budget bill stripped of amendments implementing parts of the GOP Contract With America.

The major sticking point appeared to be a provision in an emergency spending bill that would raise Medicare premiums.

• U.S. resolve to remain in Saudi Arabia still strong

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration says it will look for ways to improve security at U.S. military sites in Saudi Arabia but won't weaken its resolve to keep U.S. forces there.

The death toll from Monday's bombing rose from six to seven today when a person who had been listed in critical condition died, said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr.

Scott Campbell. He said the person was not an American.

The building destroyed in the bombing was headquarters for a 22-year-old Army program that provides American advisers and trainers to modernize the Saudi National Guard.

• Cleveland mayor tries to block Browns' move

WASHINGTON — Cleveland turned to Washington today for help in preventing its Browns from moving to Baltimore.

Mayor Michael White met with Ohio's congressional delegation and scheduled a meeting at the Justice Department to discuss the city's options as it tries to thwart the departure of its professional football team.

The NFL has yet to approve the move announced by Browns' owner Art Modell.

VIRGINIA



• Inmate flees Lorton; second escape in three nights

LORTON — For the second time in three nights, an inmate escaped Sunday from the District of Columbia's Lorton prison in Fairfax County.

D.C. corrections officials said John Crowder was reported missing after a prisoner count.

Crowder, 30, was serving a three-to-nine-year sentence for drug possession and intent to distribute.

Inmate Michael Williams escaped Friday from the prison's minimum-security facility. Williams, 34, was serving a two-to-six-year sentence for possession and assault.

RICHMOND



• Hearing set in high-school shooting

A Dec. 7 preliminary hearing was set for a Richmond teen charged with shooting four John F. Kennedy High School students.

After a brief hearing in Henrico Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Judge William G. Boice ordered Landon Thaddeus Rogers, 16, to remain in custody at the Henrico Juvenile Detention Center pending his December hearing.

Rogers was returned to Virginia Friday after his arrest at a western Baltimore home on Nov. 3. He waived extradition during a hearing Thursday in Baltimore's East Side District Court.

Rogers is one of two teen-agers charged in the Oct. 30 shooting. Edward Spellman, 17, also known as Edward Earl Briley, surrendered to Richmond police Nov. 2.

Spellman also is scheduled to appear Dec. 7 in Henrico Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for a hearing to

decide whether he will be tried as an adult. Both teens have been charged with four counts each of malicious wounding and using a firearm in a felony.

CAMPUS



• VCU announces transportation changes

After reviewing transportation-service proposals, a committee of faculty, staff and students recommended that Virginia Overland Transportation Co. provide university transportation services.

The Greater Richmond Transit Co. will continue to operate the VCU Shuttle between campuses.

As part of the contract, Overland will provide newly refurbished transit buses on the north and south loops. With this equipment, all of VCU's transportation system will be completely accessible for those with mobility impairments.

Through the new contract, Virginia Overland will continue to operate the north, south and academic campus loops.

Additionally, VCU transportation employees are being offered positions with the company.

For more information, call Nick Ciucci, acting parking and transportation manager, at 828-8020.

— Compiled from news sources.

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2 CARE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

Another way to get an edge on success is through volunteering. Over 70% of students in a recent survey said they had gained valuable life experience doing community service. (And employers like it on your resume.)

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On the Internet — at <http://www.KIWICARE.com>. For info on fashion, shoe care, interviewing skills, resume writing, volunteer service and more. From Kiwi Brands — the shoe care people who care about all the stuff that makes success.

NOW, KEEP STEPPIN'



THE STUFF THAT MAKES SUCCESS

Activities fees a thing of the past

The recent decision by the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors regarding an opt-out system for student activities fees should be very troubling to universities across the state.

The new amendment allows students to request refunds for any portion of their activities fees being used for an organization they do not wish to fund.

The implications of this may be

Student COMMENTARY

James McMahon

larger than the board realized. For any university, having to keep track of every reimbursement doled out to thousands of students would require hundreds of needless man hours.

It is clear to me, and to certain VCU administrators, that this road is sure to lead to unneeded hassles and problems — and possibly the abolishment of student activities all together.

"This is an absolute nightmare," William Duvall, the vice provost for student affairs and dean of students, told the Student Government Association Executive Committee Monday. "It is going to be extremely difficult and costly for institutions to manage those refunds."

Duvall went as far as to say further litigation will result from this new amendment to Virginia's funding policies.

Should the worst happen and universities cease to collect activities fees from students, what will happen to the campus organizations who are dependent on that money? Unfortunately the answer may be that many of those organizations will no longer exist.

While this may be getting ahead of ourselves, the door has been opened.

"If you get too far down that road you are going to risk the entire student activity fee structure just crumbling around the university," Duvall said.

Following the Supreme Court's decision that religious publications be funded, the university decided to follow U.Va.'s lead in interpreting the decision only in terms of religious publications.

One wonders now if U.Va.'s most recent activities will continue to make precedent.

Currently, VCU's best option is to interpret this decision literally, while continuing to fund religious groups for publications only.

Even this change, however, has the potential to cause some problems. The new guidelines open 22 new organizations for funding from the activities fees. While the pie will stay the same size the pieces of the pie to be doled out are going to be smaller.

Organizations at VCU don't despair, however, you're going to have it a lot better than you're brethren at U.Va..

Miller says he will enter 1996 U.S. Senate race

YooRee Oh
CT STAFF WRITER

During Saturday's statewide College Republican Annual Issues Conference, conducted this year at James Madison University, former Reagan administrator Jim Miller announced his intention to run for Virginia's senior U.S. Senate seat up for grabs next year.

Miller, who served as chairman of the Federal Trade Commission from 1982-83 during the Reagan administration, will be competing for the Republican nomination against incumbent Sen. John Warner.

In reaction to the results from this past Tuesday's election, Miller reassured the 60 or more students in attendance that the Republican Party is far from down and out.

"I know a lot of people are down because we didn't win everything we hoped to win," Miller said. "Some of us are down, and we need to get down, we need to get down and dirty against the Democrats!"

Miller stressed the importance of empowering people to take responsibility for themselves, while Republicans take control of the next generation.

"One of the most important things that we could do to ensure our children's freedom, your freedom, my freedom, is to replace that man in 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.," Miller said.

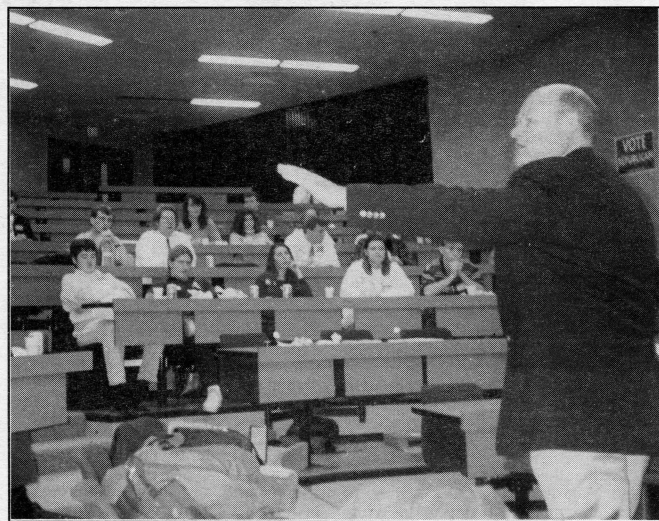
He added that Ronald Reagan put it best when he said, "Get government out of the way and the people will succeed."

"People should stop depending on the elite and the powerful in government telling them what to do," Miller said. "We need to decide for ourselves."

In addition, Miller suggested that in the best interest of the future young people should stay abreast of the political world.

"I am really encouraged at how many young people are supporting and showing enthusiasm for my campaign," Miller said. "When young people support a candidate, they're not like some lobbyist looking for special interests, they really believe in the candidate, and I am particularly encouraged by that."

While Miller's special appearance at the conference served its spotlight purpose, members of the CR continued to keep the day's agenda.



YooRee Oh/Commonwealth Times

IN THE RING — Republican Jim Miller announced his candidacy for the 1996 U.S. Senate elections. Miller will challenge incumbent Sen. John Warner for the Republican nomination.

"Every year the CR has an issues conference with CR's from all over the state," said Chris Woodfin, a graduate student studying law at VCU. "I expect there's going to be over 20 clubs represented here today."

Woodfin, who graduated with a political science degree from the College of William and Mary, currently is serving as the state chairman for the College Republican Federation of Virginia.

He said the purpose of the conference is to establish a platform, similar to that of the state's Republican Party platform.

While CRs are affiliated with Virginia's Republican Party, Woodfin said they are essentially an independent group.

"This platform will be distributed to all the representative lawmaking offices elected statewide to let everybody know where we stand on all the issues," Woodfin

said.

Included among the issues debated were affirmative action, secondary education, gun control and capital punishment.

"We keep things very distinguished here. Everybody respects everybody else's opinions on the issues debated on the floor," he said.

The College Republican Federation, Woodfin explained, is an auxiliary group of the Republican Party, comparable to the Young Republican Federation or the Women's Federation.

"We receive three votes on the State Central Committee for the Republican Party," Woodfin said. "That's where we represent ourselves to the party so that our interests are met by the party."

Despite all their efforts, however,

REPUBLICANS continued to page 4 ►

Social work school selects Stoesz as Wurtzel chair

Welfare-policy expert comes to VCU

Amy Drewer
CT STAFF WRITER

VCU's School of Social Work recently named David Stoesz its Samuel S. Wurtzel Chair. Stoesz, a professor of social work whose expertise lies in U.S. social welfare policy, comes to VCU at a time of much change in national social systems.

"The America of the future is a post-industrial one," said Stoesz, formerly a professor at San Diego State University. "We need to reconstruct programs to meet the requirements of the future. Few people in social work are prepared to deal with the consequences of the changes we will see."

Frank R. Baskind, VCU's dean of social work, said Stoesz's appointment followed an extensive national search.

"He is a prominent researcher and teacher," Baskind said, "who offers stimulating dialogue on current issues and brings with him experience in direct practice and policy analysis."

Recently, Stoesz co-authored his fourth book, "The Politics of Child Abuse in America," a criticism of the management

of the nation's protective services. VCU along with more than 200 other U.S. colleges and universities currently use his text "American Social Welfare Policy" in undergraduate and graduate social-work programs.

Stoesz said he was attracted to VCU because of the university and school's stature institutionally and its geographic location.

"Historically, there has been a dynamic relationship between state and federal government with social work," Stoesz said. "Here in Richmond we can observe operations not only at the state level but also at the national level in D.C."

The endowment of the Wurtzel chair became another plus for Stoesz. Its \$1 million budget allows him funding for research with time to teach.

Stoesz now is trying to develop a post-devolution model to help people better understand and cope with social-public policy change and its possible return to state levels.

"The responsibility of programs will land on the commonwealth," Stoesz said. "What

I'm putting together will be a think piece for people in public and private sectors to consider as a constructive response to the number of Virginia families in poverty.

"I got into social work because I'm interested in social justice, which is ultimately a question of morality: Who gets a fair shake?"

Marilyn Biggerstaff, professor of social work at VCU, served on the search committee that unanimously selected Stoesz.

"I think David is very articulate in examining social policy that impacts the most vulnerable persons in this country," Biggerstaff said.

Tom Packard, a lecturer of social work at San Diego where Stoesz was named Social Worker of the Year in 1993, said Stoesz has much to offer VCU's faculty and students.

"He has a thorough comprehensive knowledge of federal social policy," Packard said. "The fact that he stays up-to-date on what's going on in Washington furthers that knowledge."

The Wurtzel chair was established by VCU's Board of Visitors in 1987 in honor of the late Samuel S. Wurtzel, founding chairman and long-term member of VCU's

STOESZ continued to page 4 ►

Politics complicates government shutdown

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—As the government closed its doors Tuesday, the instant political fall out was predictable: Americans cursed the return of gridlock and were reminded of why they have soured on politicians of all stripes.

The long-term political calculations are far more complicated, with the election-year impact impossible to predict until the broader budget battle is finished.

Even the public battle lines were a bit deceptive as Washington plunged into a day of finger-pointing over who was to blame for locked museums, closed national parks and government offices operating with skeleton crews.

"The Republican Congress has brought us to this juncture," President Clinton said, by pushing a budget that "put ideology ahead of common sense and shared values."

"Lay it at the feet of the president," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, assigning the blame to the White House.

Clinton vs. GOP

As such exchanges suggest, the showdown at its root is a partisan feud pitting Clinton against the GOP-controlled Congress, led by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

But it's hardly that simple. Divisions in the Republican ranks complicate any road to agreement, a dynamic made clear Monday in the silent treatment House GOP leaders gave a Medicare compromise floated by Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici of New Mexico.

The Democrats also face enormous internal pressure, the byproduct of an expectation by many Democrats that Clinton ultimately will cut a deal with Republicans that undermines the congressional wing of his own party, at the very moment they sense an opening to score major points against the Republicans.

Indeed, an overnight ABC News poll found that 46 percent of Americans blamed Republicans in Congress for the budget impasse, while just 27 percent blamed Clinton. That survey comes on the heels of several recent polls showing growing anxiety about the Republican agenda, including a Times Mirror Center report showing 51 percent disapprove of Republican congressional leaders, while just 37 percent approve.

None of this was lost on Clinton, who delivered a defiant message to Republicans after a round of morning meetings failed to break the impasse.

"We must balance this budget without resorting to their priorities, without their unwise cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, in education and the environment," Clinton said.

'Fear factor'

Even before the government shutdown, some Republicans were getting skittish. In one recent example, a group of House GOP moderates appealed to Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour for help convincing Gingrich to retreat from measures they consider anti-environment.

"There's a fear factor," grumbled Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y. "President Clinton is playing it well, and Republicans have played right into his hands."

But Gingrich and other GOP party leaders are warning there will be a higher price if Republican unity cracks.

"I think the American people are tired of Washington politicians who sell out on their campaign promises," the speakers said Tuesday. "I think the American people want us to get to a balanced budget."

GOP leaders also point to the history of other big fights with Clinton: His first budget had overwhelming initial public support but became highly controversial as Republicans pointed out tax increases. Clinton's health-care plan also was given an enthusiastic initial public embrace but turned into the administration's biggest political disaster.

Balancing the books

In urging Republicans to hold firm, Gingrich and other GOP leaders argue the facts are on their side: The alternative

budget plan Clinton promoted on Tuesday never would balance the books, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

And while Clinton said a major reason he would not sign the GOP's temporary spending measure was because it would increase Medicare premiums, his own proposal would raise them, too, though not by as much.

"There's a lot of misinformation around," Domenici said in suggesting Clinton's case was less than credible.

A key test of GOP resolve in this short-term dispute is whether Republicans can get Clinton to agree that any budget plan adopted later will balance the books within seven years.

Such a concession would infuriate House Democratic leaders.

From there, Gingrich predicts Republicans would regain the upper hand if they can show the public they can balance the budget, preserve Medicare and reform welfare without any of the dire consequences predicted by Clinton.

"I suspect that by Christmas, people will think that actually we've done a pretty good job," he said.

In the meantime, with Republicans and Clinton at loggerheads over a temporary spending plan, the government closed and the politicians pointing fingers, Gingrich said the public will "blame all of us."

On that point, there was no argument from the White House.

SGA

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mittee put off a vote on the matter until the entire senate can discuss it.

"I know there are other senators who are concerned by this issue," Bryan said. "And we should give them the opportunity to comment on the matter."

Sen. Sean Johnson disagreed, saying the issue was cut and dried since the high court already had rendered its decision on the matter.

"If we don't follow the precedent handed down by the Supreme Court then it will be seen as unconstitutional," he said. "How the guidelines will be followed (once implemented) is not up to us but to the appropriations committee."

In a related matter, William Duvall, vice provost for student affairs and adviser to the SGA, informed the group that even more changes had been approved by the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors. The board, he said, has decided to open up funding to all student groups, including religious and political, for any type of use — not just publications.

In addition, he said, the board made it possible for any student to request reimbursement for any part of their student activities fees going to an organization they do not want to help fund.

"In my opinion that is an absolute nightmare," he said. "It is going to be extremely difficult and costly for institutions to manage those refunds, and I would expect that opt-out to be challenged very soon in the courts to see if it cannot be extended to any expenditure of the student activity fees."

If the system becomes too much of a hassle, Duvall continued, many universities simply will discontinue the collection of the fees.

In other business, the committee approved several changes to the constitution including the creation of a meeting manager to preside at meetings of the full senate.

Moreover, the group proposed abolishing the position of ad-hoc training coordinator while turning over the duties of training new senators to the vice president.

All changes to the constitution must be approved by the senate before they can take effect.

SCHEV

continued from page 1

gether, said Erich Bloch, Distinguished fellow of the Council on Competitiveness. He gave a speech earlier in the day, which focused on linking higher education and economic development.

To stay competitive with other institutions for quality faculty, Bloch said, Virginia must be able to offer the tenure option.

Although tenure may be necessary, Chichester said, promise of a guaranteed job for life should not stop the university from conducting continuing evaluations of tenured faculty members.

In its report, which will not be released for another few weeks, the commission also recommended increasing the level of efficiency of individual universities, as well as the university system.

"Is it proper to have two doctorate programs in a certain discipline in two different universities only a quarter mile apart?" Chichester asked the audience.

IFC

continued from page 1

amendments — and deletions — to the policy, saying that he'd rather have questionable items such as the ban on drinking games omitted than amended because they are "just another restriction" on fraternities.

"We pay our dues to throw parties," he said, referring to the prohibition on sponsoring events that include alcohol and the purchase of alcohol with treasury funds. "Fraternities in the past have had bar nights, and I think (the proposal) is really kind of cutting resources for ways for fraternities to make money and have a good time."

Under the proposal, responsibility for judicial proceedings for infractions remains with the Council of Presidents, although some members expressed concern about the perceived ease with which fraternities can be charged with a violation of IFC policies.

In other business, the council did not receive any further nominations for officer candidates. IFC will vote next week to elect new officers.

REPUBLICANS

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Woodfin said a lot of misconceptions about what College Republicans still exist.

"The stereotype of CR is that we're a bunch of kids out for a party," Woodfin said. "If anybody came to watch us, it would clearly show that we are in an adult world and that we pass real resolutions."

"Through our votes in the state central we affect the path the Republican Party takes. College Republicans definitely should not be ignored. We're here for a purpose, and we can really make a difference."

STOESZ

continued from page 3

School of Social Work Advisory Committee. His family and friends provide funding for the endowed chair.

The chair provides resources for a faculty member's independent research and scholarship in developing new methods and ideas with the ultimate goal of teaching students to become more effective professionals.

Have any
bright ideas?
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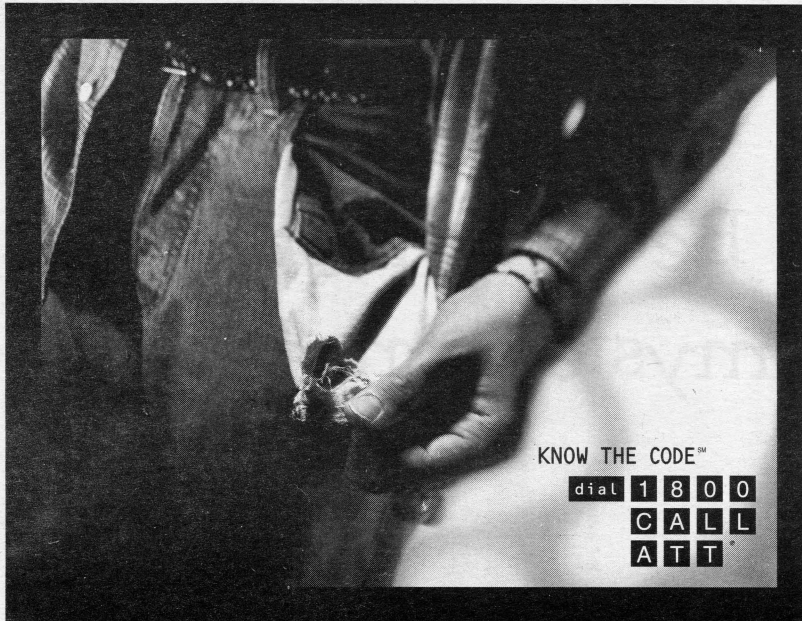
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Ben Ragsdale

How To Improve Our Elections

In recent weeks, we have witnessed both the vile atmosphere that engulfed Virginia's 1995 legislative elections and, in Washington, the excessive partisan posturing between Democrats and Republicans concerning agreement on a new U.S. budget and extension of the debt ceiling.

Already on the horizon is the next presidential campaign, which most analysts expect to reach new levels of political incivility.

We all should be considering how to improve our political system, particularly our elections process.

Some improvements will require new laws. For example, campaign expenditure limits and federal subsidies for U.S. House and Senate candidates should go a long way toward removing special interest groups' corrupting hold on Congress.

Other changes must be brought about by education and persuasion. Thousands of "good government" groups in the private sector must initiate this change.

While protecting First Amendment rights, we must challenge the news media to put public service ahead of sensationalism and profit.

While respecting peoples' rights to privacy (even to apathy), businesses and other employers should urge their employees at all levels to participate in every healthy aspect of politics.

Our political parties must be challenged to put the collective interest of the public, the common good, ahead of narrow partisan goals. The conduct of elections by political parties and candidates must become less malicious, less petty.

Emphasis should be put on recruiting candidates from a much broader spectrum. Emphasis should be put on mass grass roots involvement in both candidate recruitment and the political parties' nominating processes.

We should reintroduce the control of campaigns by seasoned local leaders who

actually know their candidate and the problems of people in their candidate's district.

The cure for our elections process — for our ailing democracy — is greater awareness of how politics works, realization of what's at stake, recognition that average citizens still can exercise power in this country (maybe even take over the government) and, most important, individual action.

The cure is more democracy.

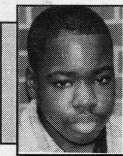
More specifically, we need reform action by citizen groups and political parties, and, when appropriate, state/national legislation to:

- Provide free television time for major candidates.
- Encourage televised debates in key races.
- Encourage more substantive issue reporting by the news media.
- Discourage news coverage of trashy allegations by and about candidates.
- Initiate prompt, independent analysis of the accuracy of political advertising.
- Limit campaign expenditures, thereby encouraging more people to become candidates.
- Eliminate undue influence by big campaign contributors.
- Encourage more dependence on candidates' consciences, less on opinion polling.
- Encourage more dependence on campaign volunteers, less on paid political professionals.
- Recruit a much larger and broader spectrum of participants in the political process, particularly in parties' pre-nomination activities.

All these things can be made to happen. But it's going to take a lot of volunteer contributions (mostly of time and ideas) by citizens who really care. I don't believe that we want to live with the consequences of our failure to act.

Sound Off

What do you plan to do during Thanksgiving break?



"Spending it with my family."

— Claude Gary, 18, freshman, undecided



"Spending the week with my family."

— Amy Battles, 19, freshman, pre-pharmacy



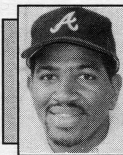
"Eating all I can and catching up on lost sleep."

— Nakisha Winston, 18, freshman, elementary education



"Eating and spending time with my family in New York."

— April Barron, 17, freshman, pre-nursing



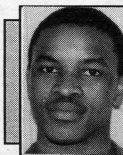
"Work on these advertising projects."

— Michael Coleman, 24, senior, mass communications



"Working on projects."

— Brian Pichral, 22, senior, mass communications



"Doing Christmas shopping and spending quality time with my parents."

— Joey Lundy, 19, freshman, mass communications

Have A Good Thanksgiving Break!!

Photos by Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

**Letters to the Editor
now are accepted at the
Gladding Residence Center
mail counter.**



**Commonwealth
TIMES**

EDITORIAL BOARD

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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. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth TIMES or VCU.

We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.

Editorial e-mail: eng3slr@hibbs. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: 1149 General Purpose Academic Building (outside of the Commonwealth TIMES office).

SPECTRUM

from one end



alendar

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

Exhibit: John Runberg's exhibit continues through Nov. 25 at the Student Art Space in the student commons. For more information, call 828-3648.

Exhibit: An exhibit by Kate Terrell continues on display through Nov. 25 at the Student Art Gallery in the student commons. For more information, call 828-3648.

Blood drive: Student Activities sponsors a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in commons' Commonwealth B. For more information, call 828-3648.

Special event: The Anderson Gallery sponsors a brown-bag tour of the Anderson Gallery at noon. For more information, call 828-1522.

Theater: VCU Department of Theater presents "The Misanthrope" at 8 p.m. at Shafer Street Playhouse. For more information, call 828-6026.

Exhibit: "A-Hunting We Will Go" is on display through March 31 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave. For more information, call 367-0878.

Exhibit: "Dean Dass: Recent Works," an exhibit by artist Dean Dass, is on display through Nov. 25 at Reynolds Gallery, 1514 W. Main St. For more information, call 355-6553.

Exhibit: "Shades of Light," a show of lamps, continues on display through Dec. 29 at Astra Design Gallery, 1301 W. Main St. For more information, call 257-5467.

Exhibit: bozART Gallery presents Gigi Payne's exhibit "Day of the Dead," featuring the cast paper sculptural collages formed on living human beings and assuming their forms, at bozART Gallery, 211 W. Main St. Charlottesville. For more information, call 296-3919.

THURSDAY, NOV. 16

Workshop: University Counseling Services sponsors



Photo courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

AMERICANA — The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts presents American arts and crafts by Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters. See Calendar for details.

"Progressive Relaxation Technique," an academic success workshop, at 3:30 p.m. in the commons' Forum Room. For more information, call 828-6200.

Lecture: APB/Lecture Committee sponsors "From Hanoi to Hollywood," a lecture by Kieu Chinh, at 7:30 p.m. in commons' Commonwealth Ballroom. For more information, call 828-3648.

Theater: VCU Department of Theater presents "The Misanthrope" at 8 p.m. at Shafer Street Playhouse. For more information, call 828-6026.

Comedy: "The Sum of Us," a comedy by David Stephen, is presented at 8:15 p.m. at Fielden's, 2033 W. Broad St. For more information, call 346-8113.

Exhibit: "American Arts and Crafts: Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters," an exhibition of American Arts and Crafts objects created at the Roycroft, a turn-of-the-century artists' community in upstate New York, opens and continues through Jan. 7, at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave. For more information, call 367-0844.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

Film: APB/Film Committee presents "Pocahontas" at 7 p.m. in the Commons Theater. For more information, call 828-3648.

Film: APB/Film Committee features "Congo" at 9:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. For more information, call 828-3648.

Theater: VCU Department of Theater presents "The Misanthrope" at 8 p.m. at Shafer Street Playhouse. For more information, call 828-6026.

Comedy: "The Sum of Us," a comedy by David Stephen, is featured at 8:15 p.m. at Fielden's, 2033 W. Broad St. For more information, call 346-8113.

Concert: Skuttlebutt performs at Gator's, 7051 Forest Hill Ave. For more information, call 353-9435.

Special event: The Science Museum of Virginia sponsors a Sky Watch at 9 p.m. at 2500 W. Broad St. For more information, call 367-1013.

Concert: Better Than Ezra performs with The Dambuilders and a special guest at 8 p.m. at The Boathouse in Norfolk. For more information, call (804) 463-ROCK.

Opera: Virginia Opera presents a production of Johann Strauss' opera "Die Fledermaus" at 8 p.m. at the Edythe C. & Stanley L. Harrison Opera House in Norfolk. For more information, call 623-1223.

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

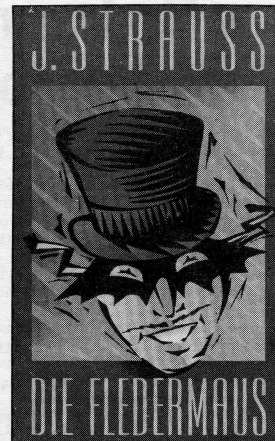
Film: APB/Film Committee features "Congo" at 7 p.m. in the Commons Theater. For more information, call 828-3648.

Film: APB/Film Committee presents "Pocahontas" at 9:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. For more information, call 828-3648.

Theater: VCU Department of Theater presents "The Misanthrope" at 8 p.m. at Shafer Street Playhouse. For more information, call 828-6026.

Special event: The Museum of the Confederacy sponsors a "Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Virginia State Fairgrounds. For more information, call 282-1821.

Concert: Eddie Money performs with a



POP YOUR CORK — Join the cast of "Die Fledermaus" as they become entangled in a web of deception, infidelity and mistaken identity during an enchanting masked ball. See calendar for details.

special guest at 9 p.m. at The Boathouse in Norfolk. For more information, call 463-ROCK.

Concert: Gimme Five, a benefit concert for the Fare Share Co-operative market and G.R.E.A.T., featuring performances by Armwood Project, More Fire For Burning People, The Ernies, Faerie Dog Mother and Whirlybird begins at 8 p.m. at the Tredegar Gun Foundry, 500 Tredegar St. For more information, call 230-3950.

Concert: Hotel X, Mao Tse Helen and Hose Got Cable perform in a concert to benefit Historic Grace Street Cinemas, at 10 p.m. at the Grace Street Cinemas. For more information, call 359-0706.

Dance: The Richmond Area Chapter of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association sponsors a dance from 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Pinchbeck Elementary School, 1225 Gaskins Road. For more information, call 741-1836.

Symposium: The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts presents "Better Homes and Gardens: Arts and Crafts Architecture in Virginia," a symposium featuring seven distinguished scholars addressing the arts and crafts movement and its impact on Richmond and the South, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the auditorium of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave. For more information, call 367-0878.

Comedy: "The Sum of Us," a comedy by David Stephen, is presented at 8:15 p.m. at Fielden's, 2033 W. Broad St. For more information, call 346-8113.

Audition: The City Dance Troupe is holding open auditions for area dancers ages 11 and older at 5 p.m. in the gym at John B. Cary School, 3021 Maplewood Ave. For more information, call 780-6047.

SUNDAY, NOV. 19

Film: APB/Alternative Films features "No Surrender" at 6 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. For more information, call 828-3648.

Film: APB/Alternative Films Committee presents "Heavenly Creatures" at 8 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. For more information, call 828-3648.

Tournament: Student activities sponsors an ACUI 8 Ball and Table Tennis Tournament at 1 p.m. in Break Point in the student commons. Last day to sign up is Nov. 17. For more information, call 828-1981.

Special event: The Science Museum of Virginia presents "Joy From the World," an event featuring traditional crafts, songs, foods, music and beautifully decorated exhibits and trees from more than 25 countries and

t o t h e other

TV episode explores computer sex

Gary C. Clement

SPECIAL TO THE CT

Most newspapers, magazines, radio shows and television programming have one thing in common — they report on crime, social and political issues that affect America and the world, without hesitation.

Hot off the press from any news organization imaginable will be the subject of computers.

The reason why we have such fascinations and cravings for computers has to be an age old question, but far more problems than good deeds are being carried out.

Many computers are purchased with the intention of gaining knowledge of educational studies and to learn about the communication system and how it affects the world.

But there is a dark side of the motive for buying this machine. The world of child molestation, pornography and sex with harmful interpretations and deadly conclusions.

Straight out of the headlines of your favorite news publication or community-access channel could be those grim, nightmarish conclusions that are captured by the street epic New York Undercover.

The series has educated a nation with "Man Child," an episode about kids and guns, and now there is "Digital Underground." This episode explores the dark side of computers and teen pornography bought and sold on the Internet by pedophiles.

Today as computers become more than just study tools for use in the classroom or in the home, others have come along for more than just an educational and entertaining ride. These people could very well be the nightmare that haunted your every sleep.

In New York Undercover's episode "Digital Underground," Lt. Cooper's (Patti D'Arbanville Quinn) 13-year-old daughter Meghan (Eden Riegel) is persuaded (via the Internet) to meet a man who turns out

to be a pedophile and assigns J.C. (Malik Yoba) and Eddie (Michael DeLorenzo) to find her.

Posing as an underage girl, Morona (Lauren Velez) makes contact by computer with the perpetrator hoping to set up a meeting that later will lead to his arrest.

"We want to educate the public of this form of child abduction," said 22-year-old Shain Salerno, who was the principle writer of "Digital Underground."

"When the show begins, it is clear that the mother and father are close although they have very little time to spend with their children.

"They purchased a computer for their daughter, but they never knew that she had been contacting or meeting people via the Internet. So they now find themselves in the middle of a missing person case."

As freshman at New York Undercover, Salerno's research for "Digital Underground" took him to the classroom of professionals deep into cyberspace for the first time.

"I'm not a computer person," he said. "But to see some of the information available and the photos there, I was mesmerized. Something shocking that I learned was that pedophiles have organizations to help them obtain legal advice and representation. It's just frightening, and there are people in the world who do these kinds of things and get away with it."

"I'm glad that I've gotten the opportunity to educate the world with Dick Wolf (executive producer of New York Undercover) about some of the things that young people are falling prey to," Salerno said. "On New York Undercover we want to tackle issues that will educate people. This is an issue-oriented show and to continue writing strong issue-related material is going to be the life of this show. And from the many letters we receive, I think that America is getting the same messages we are — that young people need positive programming that makes everyone aware."

Since its beginning, New York Undercover has taken the grim realities of print and airway headlines to another level. Week after week they have reported on some of the hottest issues ever. They have been in a quest for their true identity as a "bold and new look at reality undercover."

Some of the many issues they have explored include gang violence, cigarette

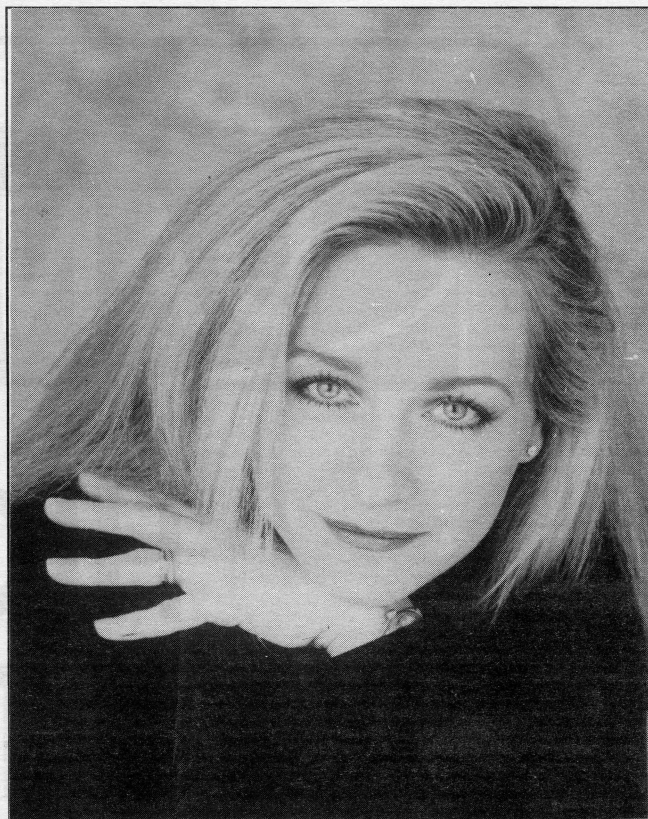


Photo courtesy of Gary C. Clement

EXPOSED — Patty D'Arbanville Quinn portrays a mother whose daughter gets sucked into the pornographic world of the Internet on Fox's "New York Undercover."

companies targeting the black community, inner-city hospitals and child abduction.

One of the ways the show's tougher than leather, hard knocks kind of sarcasm has prevailed has been by way of qualified consultants.

"It's amazing how we do this," said Salerno. "On staff we have this 21-year-old professor who reads the scripts over and over, making changes in the dialog, making it what it should be. There is also a technical adviser who is a retired policeman of 20 years, who handles all the police and legal matters. They are just two of the

people who make this show work so well."

As for the episode "Digital Underground," Salerno said, "I think parental responsibility has got to be the moral for this show. Parents should supervise their kids. This is not a rich or poor issue, nor a black or white issue. You can't just stick a computer in a your kid's room and leave them to do homework because there is a chance that they can really get caught up in something greater than themselves and their parents."

New York Undercover airs at 9 p.m. Thursdays on the Fox Television Network.

cultures, at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St. For more information, call 367-1013.

Exhibit: The Museum of the Confederacy presents "Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show" from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Virginia State Fairgrounds. For more information, call 282-1821.

Opera: The Virginia Opera features a holiday production of Johann Strauss' opera "Die Fledermaus" at 2:30 p.m. at the Edythe C. & Stanley L. Harrison Opera House in Norfolk. For more information, call (804) 623-1223.

MONDAY, NOV. 20

Special event: The World Wrestling Federation fea-

tures "Monday Night Raw" at the Richmond Coliseum. For more information, call 780-4970.

Special event: The Richmond Women's Caucus for Art Video Series presents "A Portrait of Maya Angelo: Creativity with Bill Moyers," a video featuring host Bill Moyer accompanying the poet and actress on her return to her hometown, at 7 p.m. at Shockoe Bottom Arts Center, 2001 E. Grace St. For more information, call 353-4842.

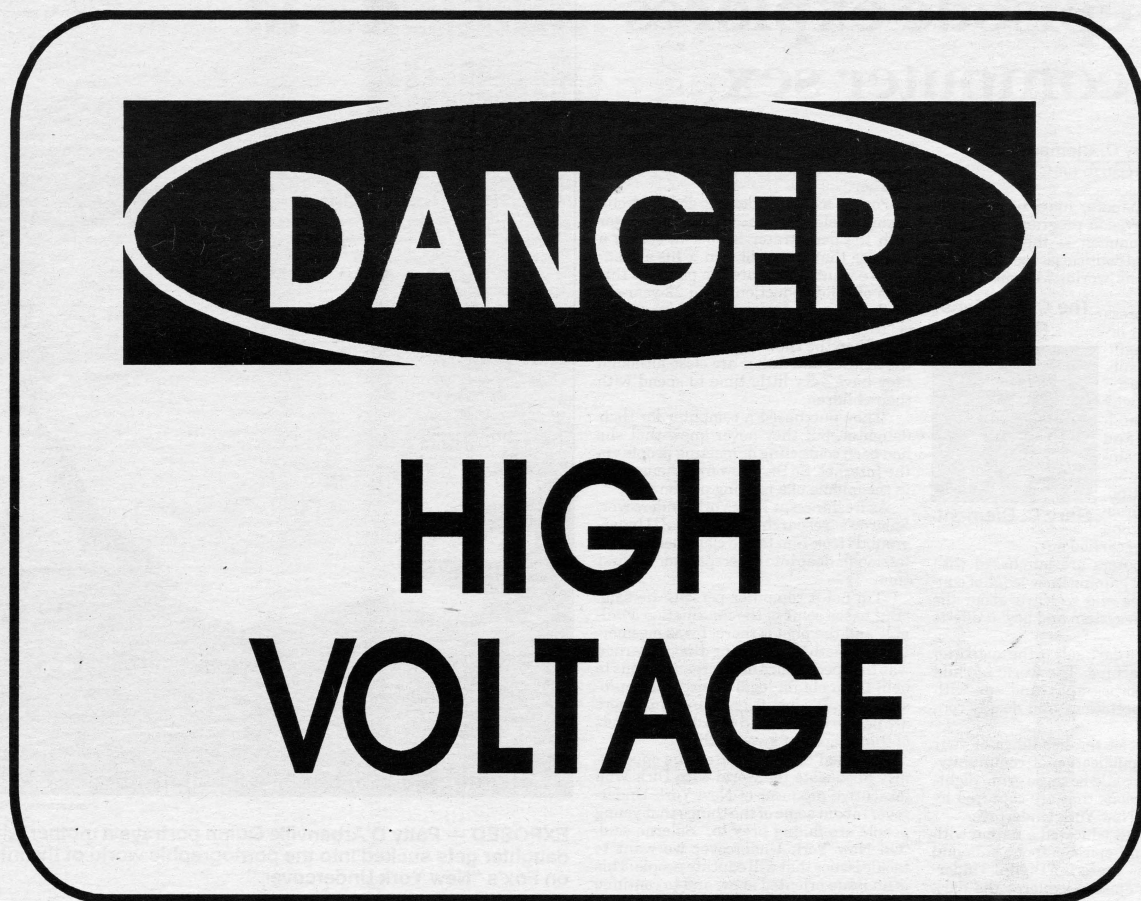
Special event: The Richmond Women's Caucus for Art Video Series features "Visions of the Spirit," a video focusing on Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, filmed at her home in Mendocino, Calif., her hometown of Eaton, Ga., and on location with the film "The Color Purple," at 7 p.m. at Shockoe Bottom Arts Center, 2001 E. Grace St. For more information, call 353-4842.

TUESDAY, NOV. 21

Demonstration: Information Technology, Multimedia Development Center sponsors a computing demonstration on the capabilities of Authorware at noon in the commons' Forum Room. For more information, call 828-3648.

Special event: The Science Museum of Virginia presents a Montgolfier Balloon Flight, celebrating the 212th anniversary of the first manned hot-air balloon flight, at noon (weather permitting) at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St. For more information, call 367-1013.

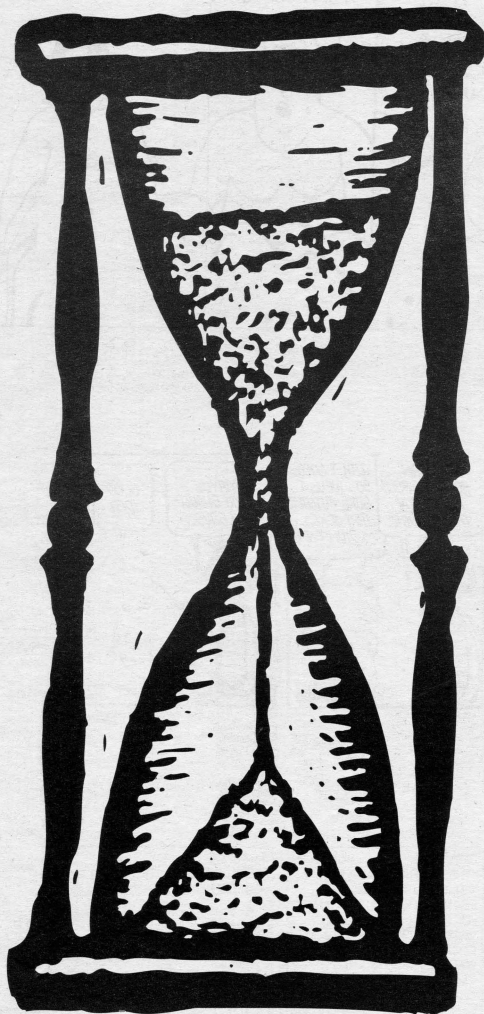
Concert: Knapsack performs with Boys Life at Twist-ers. For more information, call (818) 566-1034.



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Moments in Virginia...

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Every **89 minutes** an older or disabled adult is abused, neglected or exploited financially.

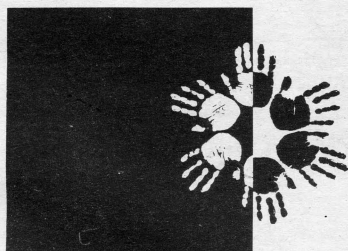
Every **17 minutes** a victim seeks help from a domestic violence program.

Every **3 hours** a victim of domestic violence is denied shelter.

Every **5 hours** a juvenile is arrested, charged with a violent crime.

Every **10 minutes** a victim seeks help from a sexual assault crisis center.

Every **14 days** a child dies from abuse and neglect.



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Family and Children's Trust Fund
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Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocate Association
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Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault

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KEYS TO DENVER BRONCOS, PHYSICS, TANNING, HEALTH. Allow second chance? Is this you or know who is please call 553-1823.

Classifieds are accepted Monday through Friday in the offices of the Commonwealth TIMES, 901 W. Main St. Classifieds must be prepaid in cash, check or money order. Classifieds will be accepted by mail if full payment is enclosed.

The deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Friday for the following Monday edition, 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Wednesday issue and 5 p.m. Thursday for the Friday issue.

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

HELP WANTED!

The Commonwealth Times now is hiring for the following paid positions:

- Associate News Editor
- Spectrum Editor
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Fri. Nov. 24

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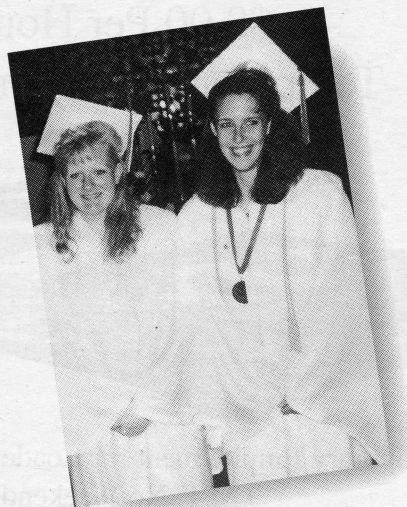


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U.S. Department of Transportation

Spectrum needs you.

The Commonwealth Times now is accepting applications for Spectrum editor for the spring semester.

Applicants must have written for the CT for at least one semester or the equivalent and must have earned at least a C in MAC 203 and one upper-division MAC class.

The deadline for applications is Nov. 22

For more information, call 828-1058.

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Kerry James at 828-1057.

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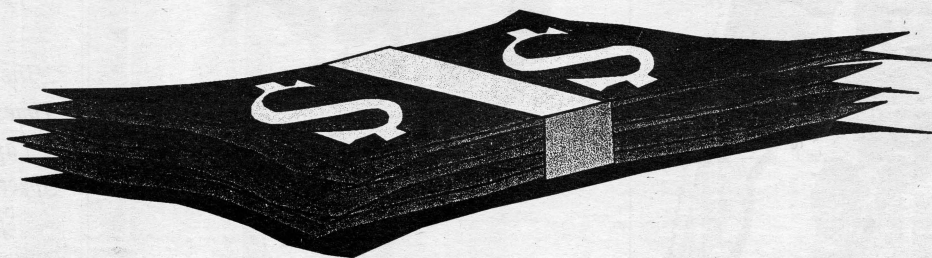
November 19
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warm-ups at
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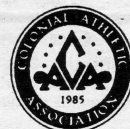


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RAM PAGE



Kodjoe wins indoor tournament

Stellar performances from VCU senior tennis player Boris Kodjoe and Lady Rams' cross country runner Beth Green highlighted this past week in VCU athletics.

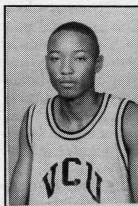
Men's basketball

In two weeks the Rams open their basketball season and coach Sonny Smith still doesn't know who his starting five will make up. But, it would seem that George Byrd would start at center and Ivan Chappell and Bernard Hopkins would be the forwards.

The backcourt is where Smith has his dilemma. Sherman Hamilton will be the point guard, but anybody could find themselves in the shooting-guard spot.

Incumbent starter Ben Peabody and newcomers Marcus Reed, Patrick Lee and Tryrian Ridges all have a chance to garner the honor. In VCU's last exhibition, neither of the aforementioned players had a performance that particularly overwhelmed Smith, he said.

Next home game: 7 p.m., Sat., Nov. 18 against Court Authority in an exhibition game at Franklin Street Gym.



Peabody

Women's basketball

The Lady Rams will open their season tonight at Cameron Indoor Stadium against Duke in the first round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

In a tuneup for the opener, VCU hosted Latvia TTT in an exhibition game. The Lady Rams won the contest 78-68 in overtime, but coach Peggy Sells said she was not impressed with the team's play, especially on the defensive end.

"I was a little bit disappointed with the defensive

intensity," she said. "There's no time to have first game jitters when we're going against Duke."

Next home game: 7 p.m., Wed., Nov. 29 VCU vs. Morgan State in the Lady Rams' first home game of the season at the Franklin Street Gym.

Men's soccer

The Rams roller-coaster season continued last week in the CAA Tournament. VCU (8-11-1) jumped out to a 1-0 lead on James Madison University, but in the second half the Dukes rallied for two goals to steal the game. Forward Peter Roberts scored the Rams' only goal in his last game at VCU.

The loss brought to an end Tim O'Sullivan's first season as head coach at VCU. After a disappointing 2-8 start, the Rams rebounded and finished strong.

Women's volleyball (11-25, 1-5)

This weekend the Lady Rams will travel to JMU for the CAA Tournament. VCU's first match will be Friday against American University.

Two weeks ago the teams met, and AU defeated the Lady Rams 15-7, 16-14, 15-12. If VCU knocks off the Lady Eagles they will face the William and Mary, JMU winner in the semifinals.

Women's cross country

Beth Green placed 56th out of 297 runners at the NCAA District III Championships in Greenville, S.C. Green's time of 19:37 was only 30 seconds out of the top 30, and she placed higher than any runner from the CAA. Green was competing against runners from Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.



Green



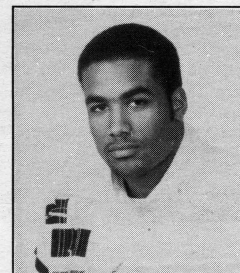
CT



Athlete of the Week

Boris Kodjoe

**Men's tennis
senior, Gundelfingen, Germany**



Kodjoe won five matches without losing a set to win the Rolex Region II Indoor Tennis Championships in Chapel Hill, N. C. The senior is the first VCU tennis player to win the title and, because of his victory Kodjoe, received an invitation to the Rolex National Indoor Championships in February in Dallas.

MEN'S SOCCER

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Through Nov. 6)

TEAM	CONFERENCE					ALL				
	W	L	T	W	L	W	L	T	W	L
William & Mary	6	2	0	14	5	0				
James Madison	6	2	0	15	3	1				
George Mason	5	2	1	10	5	3				
American	5	3	0	9	10	0				
Old Dominion	4	3	1	10	8	1				
Richmond	3	4	1	8	9	1				
VCU	2	5	1	8	10	1				
UNC-Wilmington	2	6	0	9	10	0				
East Carolina	1	7	0	3	17	0				

CAA LEADERS

(Through Nov. 6)

Here are the current point leaders for the CAA, with goals, assists and total points (two points for a goal and one for an assist):

PLAYER	G	A	P
Ferrandino, GMU	16	8	40
Pearson, AU	17	4	38
Vasco, ODU	17	2	36
Reynolds, UNC-W	16	3	35
Owens, W&M	10	10	30
Honeysett, JMU	11	4	26
McSorley, JMU	11	4	24
Adu-Gyamfi, VCU	12	2	26
Barrett, W&M	10	2	22

WOMEN'S SOCCER

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Through Nov. 13)

TEAM	CONFERENCE					ALL				
	W	L	T	W	L	W	L	T	W	L
William & Mary	7	0	0	14	7	1				
Old Dominion	4	2	1	8	10	1				
James Madison	4	2	1	15	7	1				
George Mason	4	3	0	8	12	1				
American	3	2	1	10	7	2				
VCU	2	5	0	7	11	2				
UNC-Wilmington	2	5	0	9	10	0				
East Carolina	0	7	0	3	17	0				

CAA LEADERS

(Through Nov. 13)

Here are the current point leaders for the CAA, with goals, assists and total points (two points for a goal and one for an assist):

PLAYER	G	A	P
Neaton, W&M	19	14	52
Williamson, JMU	19	8	46
Cali, W&M	18	6	42
Herndon, AU	17	2	36
Tortman, W&M	15	5	35
Tourtellotte, JMU	13	7	33
Shearon, UNC-W	12	7	31
Gillespie, ODU	14	2	30
Kenney, VCU	11	7	29
Cook, W&M	9	8	26

FIELD HOCKEY

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Through Nov. 13)

TEAM	CONFERENCE					ALL				
	W	L	T	W	L	W	L	T	W	L
James Madison	6	0	0	19	4	0				
Old Dominion	5	1	0	16	9	0				
American	4	2	0	13	5	0				
William & Mary	3	3	0	12	7	0				
Radford	2	4	0	9	11	0				
Richmond	1	5	0	5	16	0				
VCU	0	6	0	3	16	0				

CAA LEADERS

(Through Nov. 13)

Here are the current point leaders for the CAA, with goals, assists and total points (two points for a goal and one for an assist):

PLAYER	G	A	P
Thate, JMU	37	11	85
Siu-Butt, AU	27	10	64
Bensdorf, W&M	27	5	59
Chellew, ODU	25	2	52
Casabo, AU	8	19	35
Salvia, ODU	6	22	34
Wilds, JMU	11	6	28
Hoehlein, JMU	8	18	24
Zarchin, JMU	2	16	20
Driscoll, ODU	9	1	19

VOLLEYBALL

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Through Nov. 13)

TEAM	CONFERENCE					ALL				
	W	L	T	W	L	W	L	T	W	L
George Mason	6	0	0	18	10	0				
William & Mary	5	1	0	13	16	0				
American	4	2	0	18	11	0				
East Carolina	3	3	0	19	17	0				
UNC-Wilmington	2	4	0	19	10	0				
VCU	1	5	0	11	25	0				
James Madison	0	6	0	9	17	0				

CAA LEADERS

(Through Nov. 13)

Here are the current point leaders for the CAA, with games played and average:

HITTING PERCENTAGE				KILL AVERAGE			
PLAYER	G	Avg.		PLAYER	G	Avg.	
Domokos, GMU	101	474		Kingsley-Ibeh, GMU	86	4.70	
Dawson, VCU	132	357		Courtat, AU	104	4.69	
Amberg, W&M	72	339		Kovacs, GMU	95	4.44	
Schroder, GMU	95	325		Domokos, GMU	101	4.11	
Kurcova, AU	79	296		Brne, ECU	122	4.11	
ACE AVERAGE				DIG AVERAGE			
PLAYER	G	Avg.		PLAYER	G	Avg.	
Courtat, AU	104	0.77		O'Brien, VCU	126	4.73	
Smiekel, AU	103	0.57		Dawson, VCU	132	3.99	
Delair, UNC-W	113	0.54		Yngold, UNC-W	113	3.44	
Kovacs, GMU	95	0.48		Brne, ECU	86	3.40	

**Write for Sports.
'Cuz.**

Call Coveh or Terry at 828-1058 for more information.

Curve Ball

• Q: Other than Greg Maddux, who is the only pitcher to win back-to-back Cy Young Awards unanimously?

A: Sandy Koufax

SPORTS

Inside

• See who earned CT Athlete of the Week honors.

WEDNESDAY, November 15, 1995

Commonwealth TIMES

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Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

KEEP AWAY — Lady Rams point guard Vendela Thelander practices against teammate Sarah Trayers as the team prepares to face Duke Wednesday.

Lady Rams excited about Duke

Terry Scanlon

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Rams open the regular season Wednesday in Durham, N.C., against the Duke Blue Devils in the opening round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

Head coach Peggy Sells said she thinks a victory over the No. 16 Blue Devils would do wonders for the Lady Rams.

"We can send shock waves around the nation if we come out and win," Sells said. "We beat Duke, and we get instant national recognition."

"One game and we've made a difference in what people think about VCU," she said.

The players are excited about playing in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Freshman Krista Miller, who played high-school basketball in Connecticut where large crowds are the norm, said it can be a little overwhelming to think about.

"Oh my god it's Duke! I mean it's Duke!" she said almost in awe. "I mean there's no words to describe it, it's Duke."

Miller said the admiration comes from the history of the school and of Cameron. The wonder will stop, however, once the play begins. She made the comparison that basketball is basketball regardless of where it is played.

"We just have to go in there and play hard," Miller said. "It's just like playing everybody else."

Sells said she doesn't think the whole Duke "aura" will be a factor.

"We're not focusing on who they are and what they've done," she said.

"(We're) focusing on our game plan and giving our-

selves an opportunity to win the ballgame."

Sophomore Adrienne Beard said she is in no way intimidated by this game. She said the Blue Devils' ranking is meaningless when they go out on the court.

"The way I look at it is Duke puts on their tennis shoes just like I do," she said.

Expectations are higher than they probably have ever been on Franklin Street. The Lady Rams are looking to play in the NCAA tournament in March. The feeling among the team is that this game is just the first of many big games for them. Sells said playing a top-ranked ACC opponent will only be positive.

"They're at the level right now that we want to be at," she said.

Sells said she feels her team can leave Durham victorious, but defensively her team will need to step it up.

"Defensively we're going to have to be a much better basketball team," Sells said.

The winner of Wednesday's game will meet the winner of the Lamar at Texas A&M game on Friday at a still to be determined site.

Also included in the field of 16 for the second-annual WNIT (as opposed to the postseason NWIT that VCU played in last season) are eight teams from the 1995 NCAA tournament and three other teams from the 1995 NWIT.

Eleven of the teams won at least 20 games in 1995 and three (Colorado, Duke and Arkansas) were ranked in the top 20 at the end of the season.

Prime Sports Channel Networks will cover the semifinals and finals on Nov. 19 and Nov. 21.

Wednesday's VCU game will be aired on Sports Radio AM 910. Terry Sisisky, "the voice of the Rams," will be doing the play-by-play.

A look at Duke

Who: Duke

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Where: Cameron Indoor Stadium, Durham, N.C.

What: The first round of the WNIT

Head Coach: Gail Goestenkors

1994-95 record: (22-9, 10-6 ACC), lost second-round of the NCAA

Returning starters:

Ali Day, 6-3, Sr., C, 16.1 ppg, 6.6 rpg

Jennifer Scanlon, 5-10, Sr., G, 13.0 ppg, 3.5 rpg

Kira Orr, 5-6, Jr., G, 11.1 ppg, 4.2 apg

Series record: Duke leads 5-1

First meeting: Jan. 28, 1977 VCU won 49-48

Last meeting: Dec. 10, 1988 Duke won 83-76

The Blue Devils, ranked 16th in the USA Today Coaches' Poll, have three key players returning from one of their best seasons. Last season Duke shocked the University of Virginia as the No. 4 Blue Devils came back from 22-point deficit in the semifinals of the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament to defeat the Cavaliers 83-82 in overtime. Orr hit last-second shots at the end of regulation and in overtime en route to scoring 24 points — 11 coming in a 60-second stretch.

The Blue Devils' season came to a close in the second round when they lost the longest and highest scoring affair in NCAA Tournament history, 121-120 to Alabama in four overtimes.

Day, who was a first team All-ACC selection in 1995, is the team's leading returning rebounder but also can shoot the three pointer.

Scanlon is the Blue Devils' greatest three-point threat, setting team records in 199-95 for most attempted (131) and made (51).

Orr, the blue Devils' playmaker, averaged 4.2 assists per game last season.

1995 Preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament

Nov. 15

Nov. 15

