

WEATHER



TUESDAY — Mostly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s. Lows in the low 30s.



WEDNESDAY — Mostly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s. Lows in the mid-30s.

Commonwealth TIMES

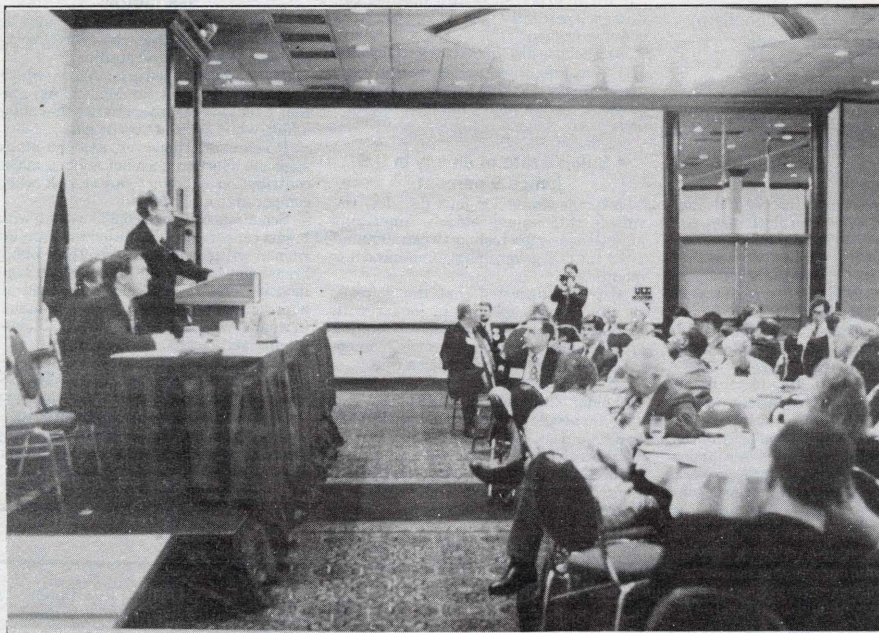
MONDAY, January 29, 1996

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 27, No. 42

INSIDE

• Light up your life with laser tag.
See story, pages 8 and 9.



Paul Whelan/Commonwealth Times

PRESSING THE FLESH — Republicans reaching for a spot on next year's ballot gather Saturday at the Republican Advance in Richmond.

The race is on

*Republicans vie for election support;
VCU students lend helping hands*

Sherry Jones
CT STAFF WRITER

About 15 VCU College Republicans hobnobbed with party officials at Saturday's annual Republican Advance. Philip Boykin, chairman of VCU's College Republicans, said this event gives students a chance to get to know some of their elected officials on a more personal level.

"It makes them feel one step closer to the political process," he said.

"This was a great opportunity for young people like ourselves to actually meet the candidates."

Republican candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general entered the spotlight at the Advance by addressing about 500 fellow Republicans.

Although the nominations for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general are more than a year away, potential candidates already have begun jockeying for support.

"If an early start has produced the squabbling we now have over a year before the selection of our nominee, maybe I haven't missed much," said Delegate Jay Katzen, one of three candidates for lieutenant governor.

Joining Katzen, who is a retired diplomat from Fauquier, on the list for Virginia's second spot are Richmond businessman John H. Hager and McLean businessman T. Coleman Andrews III.

ADVANCE continued to page 4 ➤

Pair debate divisive issue *Necessity of affirmative action hot topic*

Richard Tallaferro
CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

One of the most emotional and divisive issues now facing Americans was debated at the Performing Arts Center Thursday night.

George Mason University professor and National Public Radio commentator Roger Wilkins and conservative radio talk show host Armstrong Williams discussed whether affirmative action was still needed 30 years after the initiative began.

Michael Pratt, director of the Virginia Center for Urban Development, served as moderator. The debate was part of the Community Learning Week celebration honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

Still a believer in integration, Wilkins said affirmative action is essential since racial preferences continue to linger in American institutions.

"Affirmative action integrates the places that count," he said, "boardrooms, classrooms, the Detroit Police Department, the Birmingham Fire Department and newsrooms."

While the idea of affirmative action goes against such cherished American principles as hard work and individual effort, Wilkins

said, hundreds of years of racial subordination showed that merit-based success was "an American fantasy."

Affirmative action was started by President Lyndon B. Johnson to give the landmark Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts of the mid-'60s more strength. Wilkins said having only the laws on the books doesn't guarantee change.

"Just because you say everything's equal, nothing may happen," he said. "Affirmative action gave teeth to those acts."

The initiative's main goal, he said, was to level the "playing field" and open the door to institutions where preferences toward white males continued to exist.

Williams argued need, not race, should be the main criterion for affirmative action.

"Affirmative action has not benefited the poor and disadvantaged," he said, "the ones with no skills, no chance for college."

Instead, he acknowledged the role his parents played in shaping his life, and how important it is to continue to work in the face of racism and injustice.

"Affirmative action will not change racist minds," he said.

DEBATE continued to page 4 ➤

Bill to require more from grads

Maurice A. Williams III
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Public schools will prepare students for college now or pay for it later if the General Assembly passes a bill introduced by Delegate Robert G. Marshall, R-Prince William.

Marshall told the House of Delegates Education Committee that high school diplomas have lost their worth.

"It (diploma) doesn't mean you can read and reckon," Marshall said, calling the high number of students required to take remedial courses in Virginia colleges as "basically a fraud against the public."

Schools, Marshall said, have developed the practice of awarding diplomas to students who have not satisfied requirements, and as a result these students must enroll in remedial courses in college.

His bill would require schools to promote students only after they have met the requirements and mastered the skills established by their school boards.

Once a student enrolls at a college, that college would report the progress of first-year students to the appropriate school boards. The report would contain the number of remedial courses, grade-point averages and student retentions.

Eventually, Marshall would have school boards repay colleges for the cost of the remedial courses their graduates needed to complete at these colleges.

Although many legislators oppose Marshall's measure because they think it favors college-bound students, Hanover County in Central Virginia not only led the

state in such an effort, but also officials there say it works.

Hanover implemented a similar program in 1991 when it started awarding two certificates — one stating that the student had mastered skills required for a diploma — and another assuring an employer that the student will be competent in the workplace.

"We inform them right up front," said William W. Sadler, director of alternative education and professional services for Hanover's schools. "We haven't had any employers who were dissatisfied."

In 1993, the county expanded the same warranty to its high school graduates planning to attend college. Since then, Sadler said, it has had to pay only two colleges for remedial courses its graduates were required to take.

"Two out of 14,000 is not bad," Sadler

EDUCATION continued to page 4 ➤

Health

NOTES

News from the medical community



• Experts find slumber switch for sleep

Researchers at Harvard University are betting they can make you fall asleep.

A slumber switch buried in the brain slips an alert mind into deep and restful sleep leading researchers to believe the discovery may lead to drugs to end insomnia.

In experiments with rats, brain researchers found that during sleep most of the nerve cells of the brain are turned off by some signal sent out by a group of cells in the hypothalamus.

By tracing the signals, the researchers found a neuron group called the ventrolateral preoptic area, or VLPO, acts as the "slumber switch."

A report on the sleep research was published in mid-January in Science, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The discovery puts scientists on track to find the specific natural chemicals that cause the VLPO to command the brain to sleep.

Dr. Mark Mahowald of the Minnesota Regional Sleep Disorder Center in Minneapolis said the study "is a very important finding, but it should be viewed with some caution."

He said sleep has different phases involving different parts of the brain and that the researchers may have found only

one element of the complex process.

"They have found the sleep switch," he said, "but it probably is not that simple. There is probably far more involved."

• Family history of alcoholism, abuse plant seeds

Though male alcoholics outnumber female alcoholics 3 to 1, women seem to suffer medical complications from drinking at far lower levels of alcohol consumption than men.

In addition, different factors seem to predispose women to problems with alcohol.

As with men, a family history of alcoholism raises women's risk of alcoholism, perhaps even more so than for men.

But women, to a greater degree than men, tend to start abusing alcohol during periods of transition like divorce, or when they are in relationships with heavy drinkers, said Norma Finkelstein, director of the Coalition on Addiction, Pregnancy and Parenting in Cambridge, Mass.

Perhaps the most telling factor is that many of the 4 million American women who abuse alcohol or are alcoholics were physically or sexually abused as children, said the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Inc., in New York.

Socioeconomic factors, however, also play a part. Alcohol use is most prevalent

among white women, according to the Commonwealth Fund Commission on Women's Health. Seventeen percent of white women report moderate to heavy drinking, compared with 11 percent of African-American women, 9 percent of Latinos and 6 percent of Asian women.

Alcohol use also increases with income and education, the Commonwealth Fund found. Heavy drinking was defined in this study as having more than two drinks a day.

• Suicide rate of elderly in U.S. jumps 9 percent

After declining for four decades, the suicide rate among elderly Americans jumped nearly 9 percent between 1980 and 1992, the U.S. government announced this month.

Experts suggested that the increase results from people living longer with chronic illness and from the social isolation of the elderly. Society's growing acceptance of suicide also may play a role.

The suicide rate among Americans 65 and older climbed from 17.6 suicides per 100,000 people in 1980 to 19.1 in 1992. It had hit a peak of 21.8 in 1987.

The rate was the highest of any age group, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Americans 65 and older make up about

13 percent of the nation's population but account for about 20 percent of all suicides.

• Abortion may be cancer risk factor

Women who have an abortion may be slightly increasing their risk of breast cancer, according to a new study.

The study, released in last Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, joins several other studies that show a link, while some others do not.

Researchers, however, say the study suggests abortion does not make a major contribution to breast cancer risk when compared to other factors.

Scientists compared 6,888 women with breast cancer and 9,529 otherwise similar women without the disease. They found: breast cancer was 28 percent more common in women who said they'd had an abortion. It was 11 percent more common in women who said they'd had an accidental miscarriage.

An editorial by Marile Gammon, Columbia University, New York, says evidence for or against the abortion link isn't strong enough to produce a scientific consensus. And she says efforts to legally require breast cancer warnings for women seeking abortions are "premature."

—Compiled from news sources.

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KINGS DOMINION

Management Opportunities!

Paramount's Kings Dominion in Richmond, Va., is currently seeking managers to operate food locations in the park for the 1996 operating season.

Management positions offer excellent benefits:

- Great pay plus bonus program.
- Earn internship credit while getting paid.
- Opportunity to operate your own food facility.
- Valuable work experience.
- On-the-job training.

To find out more about the management opportunities, call Paramount's Kings Dominion Resale Division at 804/876-5003.

EOE M/F/D/V

Resettlement program helps refugees adapt

Jeremiah Druke
CT STAFF WRITER

The Refugee Resettlement Program of the Richmond Catholic Diocese is looking for student volunteers who want to help refugees acclimate to life in a new country.

This year, Richmond became home for 170 new refugees from Cuba, Vietnam, and most recently, Bosnia.

The program, whose headquarters are located next to the VCU campus at 16 N. Laurel St., was established to help refugees cope with the immediate problems of moving to a new country, such as finding an apartment and a job.

Once that is taken care of, said Suwattana Sugg, the education coordinator of the resettlement program, the long process of learning the language and becoming self sufficient begins.

"Our goal is to help them (refugees) help themselves," Sugg said.

The program does this, Sugg said, by helping them budget their initial government funds, find a job and teach them English at home, the workplace and at different public locations, such as libraries.

Sugg is looking for students who can tutor the immigrants in English. It is not necessary to know the refugee's language, she said, although it does help. All that is needed is transportation to get to the families.

The program will provide those interested with materials on how to tutor someone in English.

John Votta is a retiree who is currently

tutoring a family of Cuban immigrants. He has been involved with the program for about six months and describes it as a "good service."

"It's very rewarding to see the advances and progress that the family has made," he said. "It invigorates my life to be associated with them."

Votta said he meets with the family at least once a week on the average.

Timothy Cook, a special student at VCU, is tutoring a group of Vietnamese in civic English and U.S. history and government so they can pass the U.S. citizenship exam.

"Mostly it takes energy and enthusiasm to be a tutor," Cook said.

In addition to volunteering as a tutor, there are a number of internship opportunities available to students. For instance, Sugg said, mass communications majors can produce commercials or advertisements for the program and drama majors can produce skits to help teach English.

"There are opportunities for internships in almost any department from mass communication to English to music," Sugg said.

Moreover, a refugee, she said, needs to learn how to relax and enjoy life in Richmond along with strong English skills.

"Their lives are full of stress. There is a lot of pressure to earn money and learn a language," she said. "Our goal is to make them socially, as well as economically, self-sufficient," Sugg said.

To find out how to get involved in the Refugee Resettlement Program, call Suwattana Sugg at 355-4559.



Melanie Irvin/Commonwealth Times

SETTLING IN — Students can find the headquarters for the Refugee Resettlement Program of the Richmond Catholic Diocese at Laurel Street and Floyd Avenue.

AIDS activists upset with military discharge policy

Nunn opposes bill despite previous efforts to block gays from service

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A newly passed bill requiring the discharge of service members with the AIDS virus drew fire from Congress and AIDS advocacy groups as Clinton prepares to sign the measure into law.

Critics challenged administration assertions that those discharged would retain their full medical and dental benefits. The measure now is on Clinton's desk as part of the \$265 billion 1996 defense authorization bill passed Friday evening by the Senate by a 56-34 vote.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, decried the HIV discharge policy despite his overall support for the defense bill.

Nunn contrasted his opposition to the new discharge to his earlier efforts to block gays from serving in the military.

"We're talking about punitive actions. We're talking about action that does not make sense from any point of view," Nunn said.

Nunn listed several cases that have come to his attention, including that of an enlistee with 13 years in the military who has the AIDS virus and whose wife and two children also have the virus.

"He will lose his employment, lose his retirement potential, lose his access to medical care," Nunn said.

The White House presented a brighter picture for

those discharged.

"They won't face any lack of support," said White House press secretary Mike McCurry. "They'll be in a situation similar to other military retirees."

McCurry said the administration will work closely with allies on Capitol Hill "to pursue legislation that would reverse this policy and do so within the six-month period before it takes effect."

The Defense Department said that 1,049 male and female service members would have to be discharged within six months under the terms of the bill.

Clinton has agreed to sign the defense bill because of other provisions he supports, including a 2.4 percent military pay raise and funding to improve barracks.

AIDS activists challenged the White House assertion that service members who leave on "involuntary discharge" because they carry HIV will get the same medical benefits as others who retire from the military or leave on medical discharges.

The Human Rights Campaign, which follows gay rights and AIDS issues, contends that those with the virus may find it difficult to get health-care services, and their family members will lose health benefits altogether.

"It singles out men and women with HIV and treats them differently from service members with other diseases," said Winnie Stachelberg, the group's health policy adviser.

The U.S. Office of National AIDS Policy confirmed that view, saying that family members will lose benefits, unlike other military retirees, and that the HIV carriers will get government health care only on a "space available" basis instead of the higher-priority "space-required" level.

VSA promotes awareness

Pete Van Vleet
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Unity, cultural awareness and enjoyment are the heart and soul of the VCU's Vietnamese Student Association, said Khoi Tran, the organization's president.

"We want to have fun, to get to know each other and to promote unity and cultural awareness," he said.

Asians constitute 6.3 percent of VCU's student population. The VSA's membership has been climbing for the past two years, attracting an estimated 60 students to its meetings and more than twice that to its functions.

"Our purpose is to get everyone in the VCU community to participate in our events, especially the Vietnamese," Tran said.

Besides picnics, parties and dinners, the marquee event is the annual Tet Show, which celebrates the Vietnamese and Chinese new years with traditional dances, exhibits, food and games.

Thien Khuu, former president of the VSA, said one of the main goals of the VSA is to have the Tet Show.

"The Tet Show is to make it (the VSA) more exposed to the VCU community and to make our culture more widely known," Khuu said.

The VSA helps its members academically and socially. The association offers tutoring sessions in the English language and American culture to Vietnamese students and adults who recently have immigrated from Vietnam.

Quang Tran, a senior prepharmacy major, said the tutoring sessions are beneficial to all.

"Most of our members have been here since the early

VSA continued to page 4 ►

WRITE FOR NEWS.

CALL JAMES OR RICHARD AT 828-1058 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Tracing your roots

The Museum of the Confederacy will offer special genealogy seminars from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 4 and Feb. 11. The seminars will focus on African-Americans and women.

Special guest speakers for the Library of Virginia will introduce participants to basic research processes for investigating their 19th century roots. The cost for the seminars is \$10 for nonmuseum members. The museum and the White House of the Confederacy are located at 1201 E. Clay St. Free parking is available in the MCV Hospitals Visitor/Patient Parking Deck near the museum.

FYI
for your information

Oslo International Summer School meets from June 22 to Aug. 2 on the Blindern Campus of the University of Oslo in Norway. The International Summer School is one of many programs started to promote peace and understanding among nations. Since 1948, St. Olaf College in Minnesota has sponsored the North American Admissions Office of the ISS.

A special session honoring the 50th session is planned for Oct. 19 at St. Olaf College. All alumni and friends of the ISS are encouraged to contact the North American office of the ISS and ask to be placed on the "50th Anniversary Mailing List."

The address is: Oslo Summer School c/o St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057-1098. Phone: 1-800-639-0058. e-mail: iss@stolaf.edu.

Brown baggin' it

The Noon Brown Bag Lunch Series, sponsored by the Office of Information Technology, continues this spring. Students, faculty and staff are invited to the sessions in the Forum Room of the commons from noon to 1 p.m. each Thursday. The Internet will be the focus of discussion for the series. Upcoming topics include: Legislative Information on the Internet (Feb. 1); Internet Navigation Tools (Feb. 8); and Netscape World Wide Web Browser (Feb. 15). No registration for the series is necessary.

Summer school anniversary

The 50th session of the University of

Socializing at-risk youth

"Teaching Prosocial Skills to Anti-Social Youth" is the title of a program sponsored by Poplar Springs Hospital and the Virginia Treatment Center for Children at MCV.

The two-day program will be held Feb. 28 and Feb. 29 at Poplar Springs in Petersburg. Participants in the seminar will be able to understand and identify the background of aggression, learn intervention strategies and recognize the factors that contribute to juvenile gangs.

The registration fee for the program is \$150 and includes lunch and refreshments. For more information, call Rick Parr at (804) 748-7490 ext 212.

ADVANCE

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Attorney general candidates include Sen. Kenneth W. Stolle, R-Virginia Beach, former U.S. Attorney Richard Cullen and Gilbert K. Davis of Fairfax.

During his remarks, Katzen stressed his commitment to visiting one on one with Virginians.

"In every sense, mine is a campaign of the people," he said, adding that he will not focus his efforts on campaigning until after the 1996 General Assembly session ends.

While Hager and Andrews have been slinging mud for more than a week, they did not refer to each other in their appearance at the Republican gathering.

Focusing on education, Hager said he supports charter schools, vouchers, parental involvement and choice.

"The system is broke," he said. "The reason it is broke is because 88 percent of Virginia's children go to public schools."

Hager also said he'd like to see Virginians stand by their principles.

"There are lots of opportunities in Virginia," he said, "but there are lots of challenges."

Andrews stressed his ability to bring together economic and social conservative within the Republican Party.

"We can't let the fault line in political life be drawn within our own ranks," he said. "The fault line must be drawn between the

two parties."

In the attorney general race, Cullen referred to his background as a former U.S. attorney, while Stolle emphasized his background as a Virginia Beach policeman for 11 years.

Davis, a surprising entrant, spoke mainly of his involvement with the Jones case.

Jones is the Little Rock, Ark., woman who has accused President Bill Clinton of making unwanted sexual advances in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991, when Clinton was governor of Arkansas. She has filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton, in which Davis represents her.

Boykin said College Republicans officially are not allowed to endorse candidates during the prenomination process, but they can campaign individually for the candidate of their choice.

In addition, Boykin said VCU's College Republicans provide a source of labor for the party by participating in literature drops, stuffing envelopes and hanging up signs.

"We try to get as much positive press for our candidates as possible," he said, adding that part of their goal is to organize events that reflect negatively on their opposition.

DEBATE

continued from page 1

Williams did not place any faith in the federal government and pointed out how the programs of Johnson's Great Society actually have helped tear families apart.

He also stated the importance of stopping the perception in the media that the government has to step in and take care of blacks.

When asked by Pratt why affirmative action has become such a potent polarizing force on the American landscape, Wilkins named politics as the main culprit.

"It became a black-and-white issue," he said, "because some unscrupulous politicians in the United States decided that racial resentment was a powerful way to motivate people to the polls."

One audience member asked Williams about the connection between racism and affirmative action. He said only individuals can do something to combat racial stereotypes, and affirmative action has become one such limitation for blacks.

VSA

continued from page 3

'80s and have lost some of their culture, so they benefit from each other. We help them to learn English and how to act, and we get culture from them," he said.

"There are a lot of differences between the two groups, (those who have recently arrived and those who have been in the U.S. a majority of their lives) and we

"I'm not here to say anyone who has benefited from affirmative action is any less of a person," he said, "but it has come to symbolize, with black people, inferiority."

Williams stressed how essential it was not to use the issue as a means of racial division and looking for someone to assign blame and guilt.

"We must move beyond the blame game," he said, "and get out of this quagmire."

No matter what others may think of his position, Williams said it was something he wouldn't give up.

"I don't back down from what I believe in," he said.

Wilkins thought the debate gave the audience a chance to look at the issue in a more critical light.

"It will give them an opportunity to chew over affirmative action more completely than they would have done before," he said.

want to change that," Tran said. "We want them to interact with each other."

Dung Tran, a junior information systems major and a member of the VSA since 1991, said the association has helped him socially.

"The VSA is a place to go for friendship and to talk about problems, school-work and other things," he said.

EDUCATION

continued from page 1

said, adding that the county also permits its graduates to return to night school classes offered by the county to strengthen their skills.

Regardless, legislators questioning Marshall's proposal say he has misconstrued the mission of a diploma because it omits students wanting to enter the work force instead of proceeding to college.

"I don't think that a college education is a thing that we want everyone to have," said Delegate Marian Van Landingham, D-Alexandria.

"For some people, the high school education is the last degree they are going to see."

Still, Marshall said many students who do not choose to enroll in college "end up in the workplace without the necessary skills."

Nonetheless, Hanover County school officials viewed the high school diploma for college and for the workplace as two

Marshall does when they developed the warranty program four years ago.

Sadler said the county gladly retraining students or reimburses universities once it agrees that a student has not fulfilled a warranty. Yet, he also cautions that localities adopting policies like Hanover's and not preparing students could total a high cost "pretty fast."

On the other hand, Sadler emphasized that preparing students ranks more important than the expense of warranties.

"If it's (education) not working, we want to fix it," Sadler said. "I think what it is a statement of accountability."

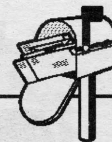
Likewise, Marshall said his bill's general concept is long overdue in the legislature, which must face such matters.

"Maybe this is a radical idea, but accountability is something I think we should reinstitute," Marshall said. "I just want the certificate to actually mean something."

Write for NEWS.
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Letters

TO THE EDITOR



The True Meaning of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday: A Continuing Rebirth of the Concept of Equality

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

When the media no longer prejudicially identifies people by stating "who is white" or "who is black" and inciting racial tension, then we know we have achieved equality. Equality, we are far from that goal...very far.

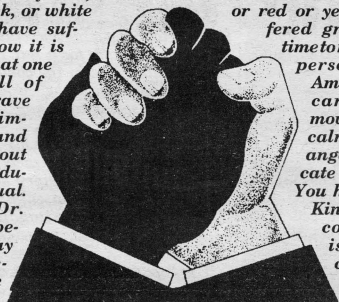
On Jan. 15, 1996, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. If Dr. King were here today, I would write him a letter, and this is what I would say:

Dear Dr. King:

Happy birthday, Dr. King, and I wish you many more to come. Because of your continuous self-sacrifice and diligent perseverance, we have finally achieved equality. Because of your relentless dedication and devotion, every man, woman and child in America sees each other — not as black, or white

or red or yellow — but as equals. You have suffered greatly for this time to reap the reward person can do so America. That one can stand up movably mountain calmly face the anger and without cate the world that You had a dream of King, and now that come a reality. is a great celebration because it is a celebration of all And this is a King, that you will live forever in the hearts and minds of the just people who will pass your dream of equality on generation after generation lest no one shall ever forget the most difficult journey that the just people all traveled together.

For as long as we celebrate your birthday, we shall continue to celebrate equality. Happy birthday Dr. King, and I wish you many more to come.



Jan. 22, 1996

Jan. 22, 4996 Universal

The date shown above is from the nonsectarian Universal Calendar invented by Cherie Phillips based on the beginning of civilization calculated as 3,000 B.C. correlative with year one, and 28-day months based on human biorhythm, as a universal alternative to the multiplicity of religious calendars used worldwide.

While others will be celebrating the year 2,000 A.D., followers of the Universal Calendar are preparing to celebrate 5,000 years of civilization.

Sincerely,
Cherie Phillips,
candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives

State of the Union: But, But, But...

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

The difference between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole is this: Although neither Clinton nor Dole really believes in anything, Clinton knows how to fake it. (Long before his 100th birthday, George Burns observed: "Acting is all about sincerity. If you can fake that, you're set for life.")

If the State of the Union address and Dole's response indeed launched the 1996 presidential campaign, Dole is in for a sad, downhill retreat.

The contrast between the two performances was stark: Clinton was relaxed, vigorous, emphatic; Dole was twitchy, anemic, soulless.

Yet only in their styles did the contrast shine forth. Though their deliveries were decidedly different, their content was barely distinguishable.

Television — how most Americans observed the Clinton and Dole speeches — is a visual medium that conveys emotion much better than argument. Neither Clinton nor Dole tried for much substance in their speeches. Their themes rested entirely on feelings.

Indeed, the themes of both politicians were conservative. Clinton sounded much like Ronald Reagan — something he does often and well, dating to his acceptance speech at the 1992 Democratic convention. He emphasizes themes of family, neighborhood and work — the same themes that motivated Reagan's winning 1980 presidential campaign.

(Reagan himself developed these themes when he stumped the country in the 1950s and 1960s and used them effectively in "The Speech" that launched his career as a politician. Delivered on behalf of Barry Goldwater just before the 1964 presidential election, "The Speech" made Reagan the darling of the dawning conservative movement.)

Unfortunately, Clinton does not mean what he says. When he appears to embrace conservative — even libertarian — principles, he always has a fall back to traditional, failed liberal policies.

In his State of the Union message, Clinton used the word "but" 27 times in 65 minutes. Each time he made a grand statement that conservatives and liberals could readily and happily agree with — such as "the era of big government is over" — he qualified it with a "but."

Each "but" meant that "we liberals recognize that conservatives have won over public opinion, so we're telling you we agree with them, even though we're sticking to the same policies we've advocated for the past 30 years."

In his faltering attempt to respond to Clinton, Dole attacked straw men that must have befuddled most viewers.

Most of his attacks rang true for committed conservatives — accusing Clinton of alignment with elitist special interests, for instance — but they had little to do with

the powerful speech Clinton had just presented.

And Dole offered few specifics to distinguish himself and the Republicans from Clinton and the Democrats. He gave us no reason to vote for him personally or for his party.

Just so. The Republicans and Democrats agree on so much in terms of keeping the government big and intrusive, they must pretend to disagree to trade positions of power every four years. Is it any wonder that 60 percent of Americans tell pollsters they'd like to see a third political party emerge to challenge the Republicans and Democrats?

Clinton promised to seek a higher minimum wage. All economists agree that higher minimum wages result in higher unemployment for the most marginalized workers in society — teenagers getting their first jobs, illiterate and unskilled workers, single mothers re-entering the workforce after raising their children. By raising costs for businesses, minimum wage laws fatten the welfare rolls.

Dole said nothing about this.

Clinton promised to seek laws that force insurance companies to grant health insurance policies to anyone who wants them, regardless of "pre-existing conditions" (that is, being sick).

This will raise the cost of insurance premiums for everyone, making health insurance unaffordable for some — many — Americans at a time when government interference in the health-care system raises prices across the board.

Dole said nothing about this.

Both Clinton and Dole call for more intrusion into the lives of Americans. In particular, as Clinton pointed out, Republicans and Democrats agree on a number of new programs.

Gene Cisewski, chairman of the D.C. Libertarian Party, mentioned a few of these in a post-speech interview: "Calling for mandatory V-chips in TV sets, expanding social programs, building up more arms on our borders, showing off his real live general for a war against the American people and campaign finance 'reform' that effectively blocks third parties from political access move this country in a more authoritarian direction."

If the Republicans want to win the 1996 presidential election, they need to find a more dynamic candidate than Dole (perhaps Steve Forbes) who genuinely believes in policy changes that can move the country in a positive direction. If they do end up with Dole, Tuesday's matchup shows that Clinton will mop the floor with his opponent.

But the ultimate losers will be the American people.

Sincerely,
Richard E. Sincere Jr., chairman
of the Libertarian Party of Virginia

Commonwealth TIMES

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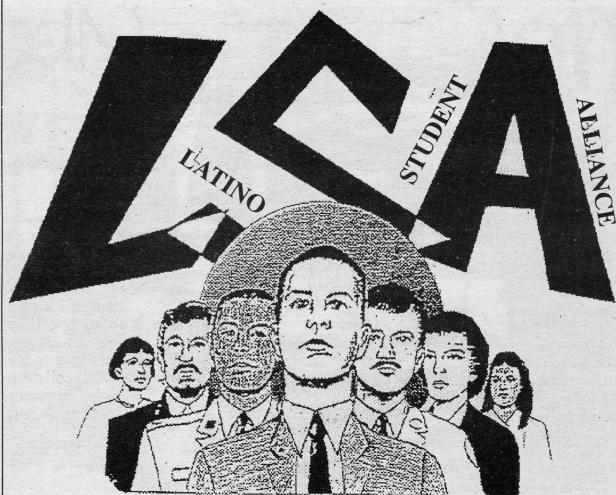
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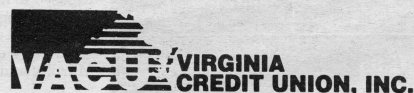
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THE TOP 10

WRXL XL-102 FM

Rank	Artist	Title
1	Smashing Pumpkins	"1979"
2	Red Hot Chili Peppers	"My Friends"
3	Bush	"Glycerine"
4	Pearl Jam	"I Got It"
5	Seven Mary Three	"Cumbersome"
6	Dave Matthews Band	"Satellite"
7	Collective Soul	"The World I Know"
8	Ozzy Osbourne	"See You on the Other Side"
9	Foo Fighters	"I'll Stick Around"
10	Melissa Etheridge	"I Want to Come Over"

WBZU FM 104.7

Rank	Artist	Title
1	Oasis	"Wonderwall"
2	GooGoo Dolls	"Naked"
3	No Doubt	"Just a Girl"
4	Alice in Chains	"Heaven Beside You"
5	Green Day	"Brain Stew"
6	Smashing Pumpkins	"1979"
7	Toadies	"Away"
8	Rancid	"Ruby Soho"
9	Poe	"Trigger Happy Jack"
10	Salt	"Bluster"

WKHK FM K-95

Rank	Artist	Title
1	Shania Twain	"I'm Outta Here"
2	Doug Supernaw	"Not Enough Hours in the Night"
3	Terri Clark	"When Boy Meets Girl"
4	John Michael Montgomery	"Cowboy Love"
5	Blackhawk	"Like There Ain't no Yesterdays"
6	Reba McIntire	"Ring on Her Finger..."
7	Joe Diffie	"Bigger Than the Beatles"
8	Colin Raye	"Not That Different"
9	Wade Hayes	"What I Meant to Say"
10	Martina McBride	"Wild Angels"

VCU jazz program to expand

Angela D. Hill
CT STAFF WRITER

What has been declared by Congress to be part of the National Treasury and goes "bob, de-bop, sceedle-ee-oo"? The balanced budget stand-off? Good guess.

The answer is jazz music, and the program is in full swing at VCU.

New to the nationally recognized jazz department this year is the creation of both a new ensemble and a new degree program. The Mary Morton Parsons VCU Jazz Masters, a sextet whose mission is to acquaint children with jazz, already has received substantial community support, and VCU soon may offer one of Virginia's first vocal jazz degree programs.

The masters, a blend of the talents of adjunct faculty members T. Howard Curtis III, John D'Earth, Michael J. Ess, Skip Gailes, Bob Hallahan and Clarence Seay, will begin performing at local elementary, middle and high schools this fall.

"I'm excited about that," said pianist Bob Hallahan, "Richmond area band directors are thrilled for us to come out and work with the students."

Funded by both the Richmond community and a matched grant from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, the six artists are dedicated to "creating the next generation of people who really have an appreciation of the excitement of jazz music and its importance in American culture," as saxophone player Skip Gailes said.

Special guest Stephanie Nakasian, a jazz vocalist, appeared with the masters last week in a memorial concert for John Rennolds, a former board member of the masters. Nakasian, also a vocal professor at VCU, was brought in to work with department head Doug Richards on creating a department of vocal jazz at VCU.

"We're going to develop this program as we see what people are interested in. It's not set in stone," Nakasian said. "I see this as a creative meter to do something fresh and new in creating VCU's own program."

Nakasian pointed out that, as jazz has earned more respect in the music world, classical musicians want to be exposed to it.

"The program should not only be available but part of a full menu of learning about singing," she added.

Already enrolled as students of vocal jazz are Terri Murphy and Robin Dickerson, and Nakasian would like



Photo courtesy of Mary Morton Parsons VCU Jazz Masters

MASTERS OF JAZZ—(from right to left) T. Howard Curtis III, percussion; Bob Hallahan, piano; Michael J. Ess, guitar; Skip Gailes, saxophone; John D'Earth, trumpet; Clarence Seay, bass.

to see students from all majors who are interested in jazz take an improvisation workshop, private lessons or join the Jazz Vocal Ensemble.

"Helping people to open up their voices through improvisation is very exciting," she said.

Doug Richards, director of the VCU jazz department, said the biggest obstacle the creation of the vocal jazz program currently faces is a lack of funding from the university. The annual budget recently has dropped from \$13,500 to \$2,000, surprisingly little for a program that has produced several successful jazz musicians who have gone on to play with names like Horace Silver, Betty Carter, and Marlon Jordan.

Not only have the jazz orchestras at VCU won top honors at the invitational Notre Dame Intercollegiate Jazz Festival for four consecutive appearances, but they also have produced three acclaimed recordings.

Mood Indigo, recorded in March 1992, contains seven selections by the VCU Jazz Orchestra I, two by the Student Jazz Combo and two by the Faculty Jazz Sextet. The recording is sold at Plan 9 Records in Carytown.

Richards also directs the professional group The Great American Music Ensemble. Containing several musicians who studied at VCU, the ensemble performs regularly at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and on National Public Radio.

"We deal with the creme de la creme of the jazz world. I've had many people say this is one of the finest programs," Richards said.

Buster sculpture nears completion

John Caperton
CT STAFF WRITER

During the past week, Washington, D.C. artist Kendall Buster has been building a major new sculpture on the first floor of the Anderson Gallery. Buster teaches at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington and is an artist in residence in VCU's sculpture department this semester.

The public is invited to come see Buster along with his assistants and volunteers complete the three-stage construction of "The Shell That Remains."

The framework of the piece is made from steel rods that were delivered to the museum in sections. Once those pieces were joined with wire, a graceful 8 feet by 10 feet structure filled the relatively small gallery. This frame-

work was presented at the gallery's opening and was accompanied by a drawing detailing the work that is to be done on the piece.

The steel frame was laboriously woven with wire during the week. As many as 10 assistants and volunteers helped Buster create the spider web patterns between the openings of the frame.

Last Friday, Buster and her assistants began to brush on a skin of fragrant beeswax onto what had once been a light and transparent sculpture. Gradually the entire piece will be covered.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the gallery during the next week to see the work completed. The piece will be on exhibit until March 3, at the Anderson Gallery, 907 1/2 W. Franklin St.



FUTURISTIC FUN

Brian J. French
CT STAFF WRITER

I walk into the briefing room with two willing albeit nervous companions, unsure of my surroundings. Dimly lit and mysterious, the space becomes my classroom to a world I've never seen.

The Game Master walks into the room and starts giving instructions.

It appears we've entered an abandoned alien spaceship. Our job would be, in a perfect world, to merely explore the spaceship and see what mysteries and sundry items of interest we could find.

But, alas, that would not be our purpose. As it turns out, there are others waiting to do what I want to, and they just happen to be sitting next to me.

Entering the room, they were friends. Now, they must be the hunted.

✱ ✱ ✱

Remember laser tag?

Back in the mid-1980s, the game was on the top of every kids' wish list. The rules were simple for technology so complex: you wore a vest and ran around with your laser gun, trying to hit your enemies. You get hit too often, you die. You either tried to outlast the competition or reach the enemy camp, depending on how you played.

Sort of like Tag Plus.

Well, meet Tag Squared.

The game has returned, only instead of playing in the backyard, you play in a specifically themed laser "arena." Instead of a heavy battery operated vest, you use a much lighter vest with a much lighter battery. And instead of the rag-tag, anything goes mentality of early laser games, these games are held in a tightly controlled atmosphere.

But is it too early to try to bring back laser tag-esque games? Will people be turned off by the idea that it's an '80s phenomenon that should have stayed in the same casket with parachute pants, "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and Men Without Hats?

Noel Petrin is willing to bet not.

The general manager of the first Ultrazone franchise in Richmond (as well as first in the country; the parent company has headquarters in Australia), Petrin said revenues since his arena opened in April 1994 have "far exceeded expectations."

"I had no idea what I was doing when I first opened this place," Petrin said. "I had never played it or heard of it before. We had no idea how to run this type of place, but we decided to open (by) start[ing] to do birthday parties."

Now the West Broad Ultrazone franchise plays host to between 60 and 80 birthday parties per month, including an average of 10 to 12 on Saturdays and seven to eight on Sundays.

"This is now the No. 1 spot in Richmond to hold a birthday

party," Petrin said, "(and) everything we do (to attract birthday parties) is word-of-mouth.

✱ ✱ ✱

The Game Master continues his dissertation of the spaceship, where the enemy bases are, where the power stations were and how to destroy them.

He continues. You can be hit in any of six places on your vest. Hit too often, and you "crash," where you can't fire back at your tormentors for a full 10 seconds. When the alarm sounds and you're in the command center, you have two choices: Either run like hell, before the sentinel nails you with a flurry of lasers or take it out, if you can find where its soft spot is.

After explaining how to use the guns we are equipped with, he instructs us to go into the vesting room, whereupon we try on our vests and activate the laser guns.

We are then instructed to go to our respective bases as soon as the doors open. Once we get there and the music starts, the chase is afoot.

I get to my base (green) and wait. My heart begins pumping double time. I try to calm myself. It's just a game. But damn, is that adrenaline pumping...

The music starts.

✱ ✱ ✱

Where would this generation of laser tag-esque games succeed where previous ones has faltered?

"The big laser tag company of the '80s, Photon, their last (franchise) went out of business this summer," Petrin said.

The original game, Petrin said, was developed for an Army combat simulation called MILES to discover the type and number of casualties they could expect in a specific battle scenario, as well as what equipment and personnel would be needed to win that battle.

"Photon came out with it, and with it came heavy battery packs that you had to attach to your waist, helmets and all that stuff," Petrin said. "It didn't do very well."

On the other hand...

"This company came out with this equipment which was geared right off of MILES," Petrin said. "There are about 12 companies that do this type of stuff, and this is by far the most high-tech. It's lightweight and has pinpoint accuracy."

Ironically, Ultrazone nearly went down the same path as the ill-fated Photon.

"They (the parent company) were going to do it (introduce a laser game) at the same time as Photon," Petrin said, "but they saw it wasn't working. It just wasn't drawing the masses."

✱ ✱ ✱

I crouch behind a wall near my base.

Early on, I decide to implement a stay-at-home defensive strategy, at least for the first few minutes of the contest. I figure the others will be exploring and won't be expecting me as they turn the corner.

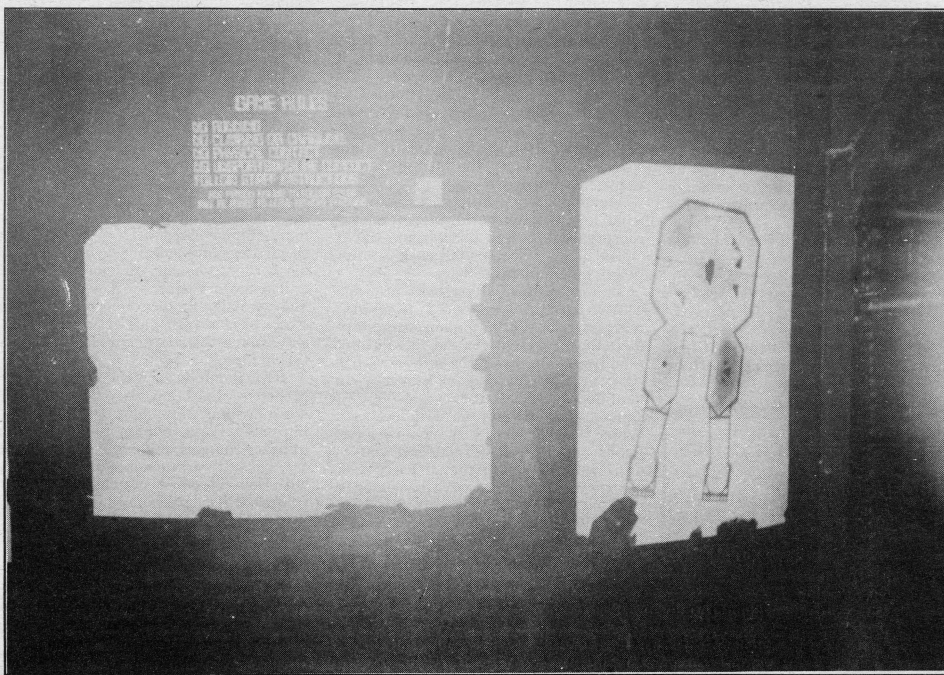
Then, from out of nowhere... lasers flash and before I can return fire, my vest makes a descending crashing noise.

Great. Guess I'll kill time for the next 10 seconds.

The situation repeats itself and I suddenly abandon the idea of staying near the base. Screw the points system.



Artwork by Dinkie



Sara Kukoria/Commonwealth Times

✱ A BRIEF LESSON — The briefing room is the first stop on the journey into space combat.

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I WANT BLOOD,
DAMMIT!!!

As is the case with any aspiring businessman in the entertainment industry, the focus shifts to how to maintain his piece of the pie, especially with ever-changing elements. In fact, Ultrazone does not have a laser game monopoly in Richmond. While they also have a franchise in Shockoe Bottom, a LaserQuest facility also is located in Richmond.

"Incredibly enough, Richmond has the highest concentration of laser tag arenas in the country. Three," Petrin said with a laugh.

Seriously, though, the problem of keeping up with the Joneses is even more complicated in entertainment circles when a new neighbor pops up every week to create more competition.

"There's so many things to do these days," Petrin noted. "Movies, bowling, things like that."

"When someone starts a business, someone along the line is going to ask for a business plan. As far as I'm concerned, a business plan doesn't do anything for you because things change so quickly. You may stay with that plan for a week before you change, and you have to change if you want to stay in business."

After crashing more times than I can count, I finally get the hang of this. At least, I can now hit as many times as I get hit. I even use my ambush strategy again, taking someone down as soon as he rounds the corner.

That whole "thrill of the kill" thing isn't just a cliché; it really gets your heart pumping when you see someone's vest deactivated. Of course, it's a quick turnaround from thrilled to killed, as I find out again and again.

I see an enemy, and as I prepare to pull the trigger ... "Attention please. Your game is now over. Please return to the lobby to receive your score."

Geez.

One of the more popular new entertainment ideas is the multimedia, multiofferings facility that tries to appease all people — and all pocketbooks.

Petrin isn't sold on using that idea for his franchises, though.

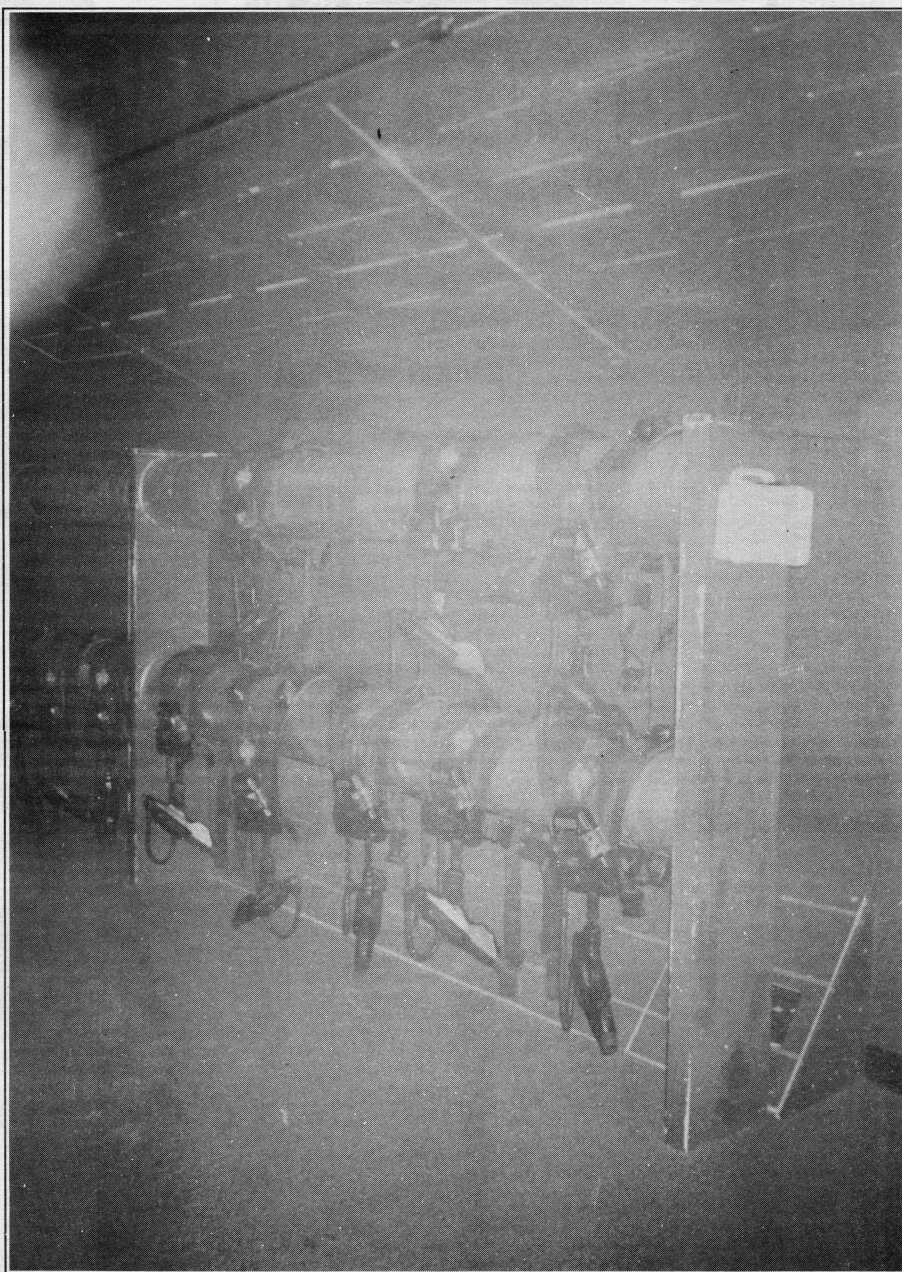
"When we opened our Virginia Beach location," Petrin said, "we ordered two virtual reality machines to use for three months."

But it wasn't very popular at the time. VR is a lot like Photon; it's fun to try, but it's not something people would come back for.

"I work with the credo: 'You do one thing, and you do it well.'"

And do it often, apparently. In addition to the four franchises Petrin runs (two in Richmond, one in Virginia Beach and one in Sterling), he is contracted to open a minimum of 14 franchises in the Maryland/Virginia region during the next three years.

But will these laser tag games still be popular in the ever-changing entertainment industry three years from now?



Sara Kukorio/Commonwealth Times

✱ ALL DRESSED UP — Players are taken into the vesting room to prepare for battle.

"There's always changes coming down the pike," Petrin said. "You'll always have your casual players, and it's great for them because they'll come back every week or so. The core group always wants new stuff, and that's what we do to keep the core group coming back."

"Yes, it's the entertainment business, and some things will change eventually. What the time frame of our business will be, I don't know. I'm sure it's at least 10 years from now, though."

"It all depends on how you run your business, though, and if you can keep your customers happy."

I gasp for breath as I follow everyone out of the labyrinth and back into the lobby. I wait anxiously for the results.

I got waxed.

My little green team (which was just myself) finished well in last place. The yellow team (Sara, the Eye Editor) ended up winning, beating her boyfriend (red) by about 1,000 points, and me by almost 4,000 points.

But there will be another day. And I'll probably still get my butt kicked, but eventually I'll be competitive. I hope.

Thatch

— Jeff Shesol



P. S. Mueller



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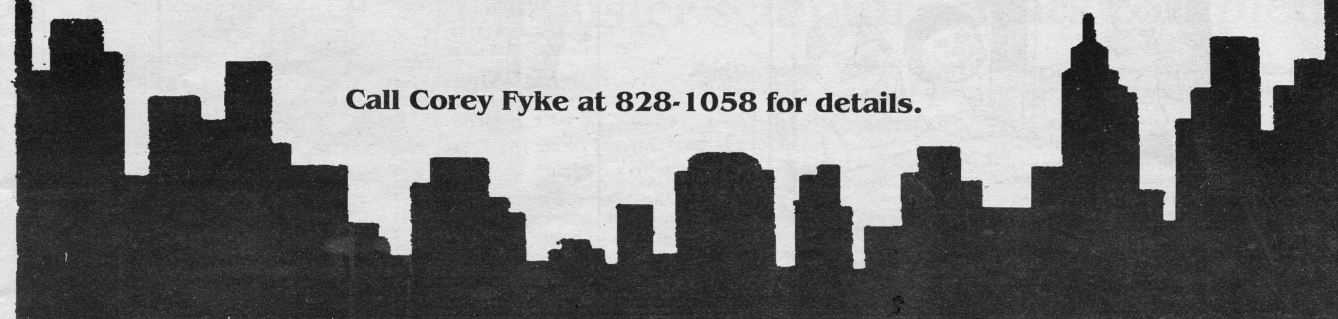
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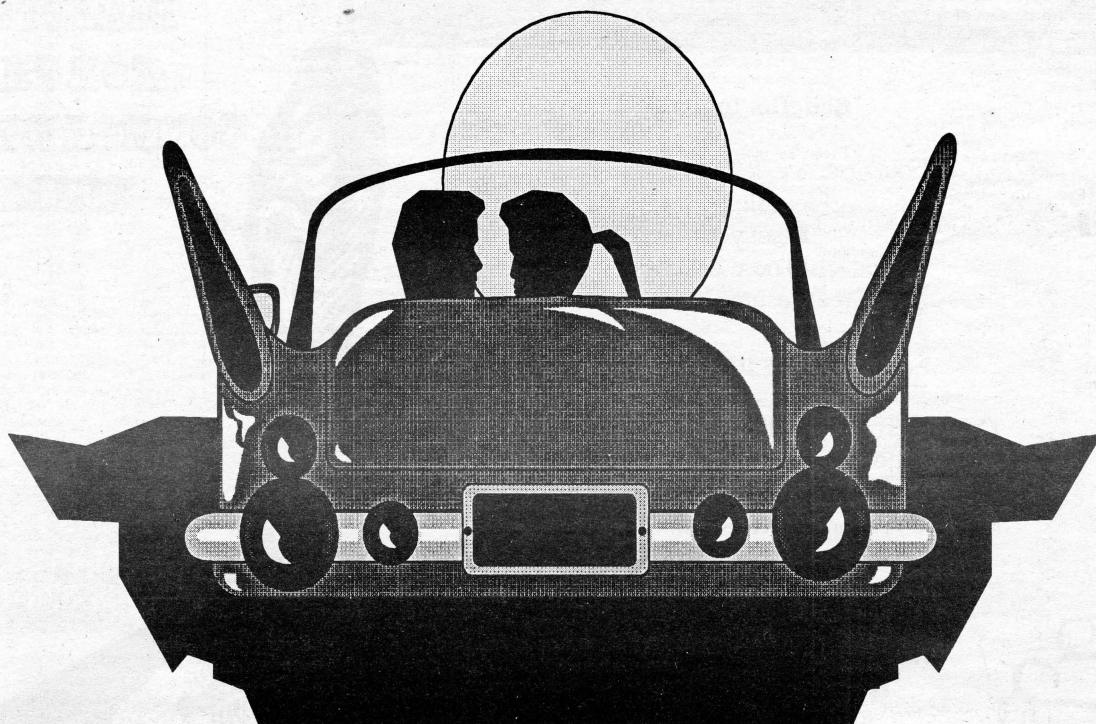
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TENNIS

continued from page 16

Tauma's arrival, said he's happy to play whatever role necessary on this team of heavy hitters.

"As long as we win as a team that's the important thing," he said.

Elmblad has assumed a different role in doubles as well.

Kostin decided to break up the nationally ranked doubles tandem of Elmblad and Kodjoe in an effort to strengthen the Rams doubles play.

In collegiate men's tennis, the three doubles matches are worth one point and each of the six individual matches are valued at one point. Four points is needed for victory.

"You need two doubles wins otherwise you don't get the point," Elmblad said. "The best way to get four points is to split us up."



SCOUTING REPORT T: VCU at UNC WILMINGTON



- **Records:** VCU 13-7 (6-1); UNCW 7-10, (5-2)
- **When/where:** 7:30 p.m., tonight; Trask Coliseum
- **Last meeting:** VCU 76, UNCW 75, Nov. 30, 1985. VCU leads the series 3-0.

■ **UNCW capsule:** The Seahawks enter Monday's contest after one of their most disappointing losses in recent memory. UNCW lost to East Carolina on a three-pointer at the buzzer. The Seahawks' 5-2 conference mark has them in a three-way tie with ECU and Old Dominion.

■ **Player to watch:** Preston McGriff, senior center. McGriff is the centerpiece of the Seahawks frontcourt. A second-team All-CAA selection a year ago, McGriff will have to have a big game if UNCW is to knock off the Rams.



McGriff

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

VCU 63, UNCW 39

(At Wilmington)

VCU (63)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
	m-a	m-a					
Kyhilstedt	21	3-6	1-1	0-2	0	4	9
Trayers	27	1-3	1-2	1-2	3	5	3
Karlsson	14	1-1	0-1	1-6	0	4	2
Albertsson	21	5-11	2-4	0-3	1	4	16
Coleman	22	0-3	1-3	4-5	2	1	1
Blackmon	25	2-7	4-7	5-13	1	1	8
Lewis	18	1-3	1-2	1-4	0	4	3
Thelander	23	3-7	0-1	1-1	0	1	9
Miller	22	4-11	0-0	3-6	0	1	11
Millissaps	7	0-0	1-2	0-0	1	0	1

TOTALS

200 20-52 11-22 22-49 8 25 63
Percentages: FG-.390, FT-.500, 3-point goals: 12-26, .460 (Kyhilstedt 2-5, Albertsson 4-7, Thelander 3-7, Miller 3-7). Team rebounds: 7. Blocked shots: 1. Turnovers: 24. Steals: 9.

UNCW (39)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
	m-a	m-a					
Spencer	22	1-6	4-4	3-3	0	3	6
Cantley	39	2-2	8-14	4-9	0	4	12
Stacey	25	0-3	2-2	2-4	0	3	2
Marsh	34	1-9	0-0	0-1	2	1	3
Casteel	37	2-16	3-3	1-5	2	4	7
Winfield	21	3-6	0-2	1-4	0	2	7
Starck	12	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Maurer	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Tison	4	0-0	2-2	1-4	0	0	2

TOTALS

200 9-42 19-27 13-32 4 20 39
Percentages: FG-.210, FT-.333, 3-point goals: 2-6, .333 (Marsh 1-5, Winfield 1-1). Team rebounds: 2. Blocked shots: 0. Turnovers: 20. Steals: 7.

VCU

UNCW

34 29 — 63
19 20 — 39

Technical fouls: None. A: 153.

1996 Men's tennis schedule

Jan.	27	def. Richmond	4-1
Feb.	3	vs. UNC-Greensboro (at Davidson)	
	4	at Davidson	
	17	at Duke	
	18	at North Carolina	
	23	at Virginia	
	25	at Ohio State	
March	1	at New Mexico	
	3	vs. UAB (at New Mexico)	
	8	NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
	4-17	at Blue-Gray Invitational	
	23	at Wake Forest	
	24	vs. East Tennessee State (at Wake Forest)	
	30	at Clemson	
April	6	SOUTH ALABAMA	
	12	at Georgia Tech	
	13	vs. Florida State (at Georgia Tech)	
	19-21	CAA Championships at Williamsburg	
May	10-12	NCAA Regionals	
	18-26	NCAA Championships	

Men's tennis

Doubles (VCU 1-0)

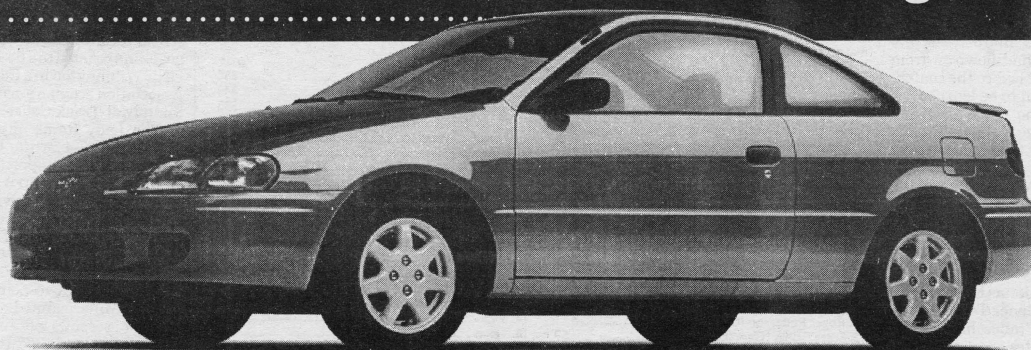
#1 Boris Kodjoe and Olivier Tauma, VCU, def. Hans Paino and Jason Kermod, UR, 9-8 (9-7).
#2 Jonas Elmblad and Pascal Salasca, VCU, def. Scott Pfeiffer and Will Willis, UR, 8-2.

#3 Richard Wernerhjelm and Anders Bjorkholm, VCU, def. Stephen Levy and Alex Howard, UR, 8-2.

Singles (VCU 3-1)

#1 Richard Wernerhjelm, VCU, def. Scott Pfeiffer, UR, 6-0, 6-1.
#2 Hans Paino, UR, def. Boris Kodjoe, VCU, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2.
#3 Olivier Tauma, VCU, def. Jason Kermod, UR, 6-1, 6-0.
#4 Jonas Elmblad, VCU, def. Will Willis, UR, 6-3, 6-2.

It Doesn't Take A Math Major To Reduce The Coefficient of Drag to .31



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Ram Stat

• Phil Stinnie holds the VCU men's basketball scoring record for a single season. Stinnie scored 803 points during the 1987-88 season, averaging 23.6 points a game.

SPORTS

Next Issue

• An update on the CAA and VCU basketball

MONDAY, January 29, 1996

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 27, No. 42

Rams net national ranking

VCU defeats defending CAA champs in season opener

Terry Scanlon
CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

With a few exceptions, the Rolex Collegiate Tennis Rankings are a who's who of major college athletic programs from throughout the country.

One of those exceptions is VCU's men's tennis team. Ranked 17th, the Rams are on the heels of the Fighting Irish and just ahead of the Longhorns in the most recent rankings conducted by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's national ranking committee.

Relishing in their status, the Rams opened their season Saturday night at the Country Club of Virginia, easily rolling over the defending CAA champions, the University of Richmond Spiders, 4-1.

The victory extended head coach Paul Kostin's mark to 36-0 vs. state schools during his reign at VCU.

Richard Wernehjelm, 14th in the ITA's men's singles rankings, rolled to an easy straight-set victory 6-0, 6-1. UR's Scott Pfeiffer was no match for the Rams No. 1 seed who played despite a sore muscle in his left shoulder.

The native of Stockholm, Sweden, said his shoulder hurts only when he serves, so he didn't want that to prevent him from playing.

The surprise of the match came after VCU had technically clinched victory. Boris Kodjoe, seeded second and ranked 34th nationally, lost to Hans Pains 6-7, 7-6, 6-2.

Kostin said Kodjoe had flown in from New York only an hour before the match. He said there is a lesson to be learned.

"This is probably the worst I've seen Boris play the whole year," Kostin said. "Next time, he's going to come in a day before the match."

Fearing his team may take some of the overmatched teams lightly, Kostin found a positive in Kodjoe's loss.

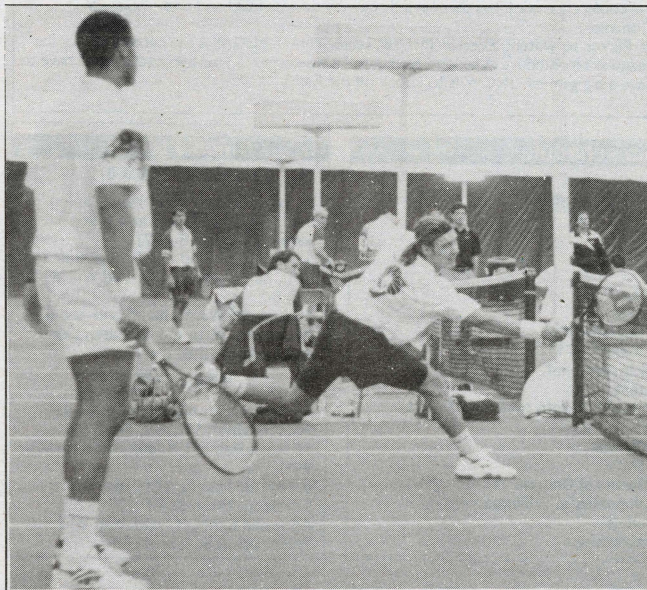
"This is probably a pretty good wake-up call," he said.

Also gaining singles victories for the Rams were fourth seed Jonas Elmlad and third seed freshman Olivier Tauma.

Tauma, a native of France, has quickly impressed his teammates.

"He's a strong assist to the team," Wernehjelm said.

Elmlad, a senior who was bounced from the three spot to the fourth because of



File photo

SEPARATED AT BIRTH — Tennis coach Paul Kostin decided to break up his dynamic doubles tandem of Boris Kodjoe (left) and Jonas Elmlad (right) in hopes of strengthening the team. The pair are ranked 11th nationally in doubles.

MEN'S TENNIS

ROLEX SINGLES RANKINGS

(Through Dec. 7, 1995)

National collegiate singles rankings, as computed by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's average points-per-match formula:

PLAYER	AVG.
1. Ryan Wolters (Stanford, Fr.)	13.00
2. Paul Robinson (TCU, Sr.)	11.60
3. Frederik Giers (Fresno St., Jr.)	11.50
4. Jan Hermanson (South Alabama, Sr.)	10.43
5. Gus Fernandez (LSU, Jr.)	9.33
6. Mattias Rohlin (Texas Tech.)	8.43
7. Cedric Kauffmann (Kentucky, So.)	8.38
8. Damon Henkel (Florida, Sr.)	8.00
9. John Roddick (Georgia, So.)	8.00
10. Cecil Mamitt (USC, Fr.)	7.83
11. Pablo Montano (Tennessee, Sr.)	7.57
12. Chris Groer (Vanderbilt, Sr.)	7.25
13. Enrique Abaroa (Kansas, So.)	7.14
14. Richard Wernehjelm (VCU, So.)	7.00
15. Rob Chese (Duke, Sr.)	6.90
16. Paul Goldstein (Stanford, So.)	6.86
17. Roger Petterson (UNLV, Sr.)	6.71
18. Steve Baldas (Georgia, So.)	6.59
19. Matthieu Ballat (Mississippi St., Fr.)	6.57
20. Thomas Thieulot (Mississippi St., Jr.)	6.56
21. Anthony DeLuis (Middle Tennessee St.)	6.50
22. Lee Pearson (Auburn, So.)	6.29
23. Albin Polonyi (Boise St., Jr.)	6.25
24. Shlomo Shemesh (Butler, Fr.)	6.23
25. Alex Decret (UC-SB, So.)	6.18

Other ranked VCU players: 34. Boris Kodjoe, Sr.

ROLEX TEAM RANKINGS

(Through Dec. 7, 1995)

National collegiate team rankings, as determined by a vote of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's National Ranking Committee:

SCHOOL	VOTES
1. Stanford	350
2. UCLA	343
3. Georgia	335
4. Mississippi	322
5. Texas Christian	320
6. Mississippi State	309
7. Pepperdine	304
8. USC	302
9. South Alabama	299
10. Louisiana State	294
11. Duke	289
12. Florida	269
13. Fresno State	268
14. Cal-Berkeley	265
15. New Mexico	254
16. Notre Dame	241
17. VCU	238
18. Texas	232
19. Tennessee	224
20. North Carolina	213
21. Kentucky	210
22. Kansas	191
23. Minnesota	187
24. Michigan	178
25. Arizona	167

Bubble problems inconvenience tennis team

Terry Scanlon
CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The collapse of the bubble at the Thalheimer Tennis Center has sent men's tennis coach Paul Kostin scrambling to secure his teams' 1996 schedule and has left the No. 17 Rams with only two home matches.

Originally, the Rams had six matches and two invitational tournaments slated to be played at the tennis center.

Eva Bard, head coach of the women's tennis team, said the courts will not be available for probably at least a month. She stressed the magnitude of the task of just taking the bubble down and sending it to be repaired.

"We haven't even assessed the entire damage inside," she said.

Engineers, she said, will patch the tears in the bubble and reflate it during the coming weeks. At that point, they will go in to check out the damage and allow both the inner and outer surfaces of the bubble to dry so the bubble can be shipped to Buffalo, N.Y.

The bubble initially was scheduled to be disassembled during spring break.

Lady Rams regain winning ways

WILMINGTON, N.C. — VCU set a school record with 12 three-point field goals and coasted to a 63-39 victory over UNC Wilmington in a Colonial Athletic Association women's basketball game Sunday at Trask Coliseum.

The Lady Rams improved to 10-8 overall and 3-4 in the CAA with the victory. UNCW dropped to 2-15, 0-7.

Sophomore forward Maria Albertsson led VCU with 16 points, including 4-of-7 from three-point range. Krista Miller came off the bench to contribute 11 points.

VCU scored the first 10 points of the game and took a 15-point lead at halftime as Miller canned a three-pointer with two seconds left.

In the second half, the Lady Rams built as much as a 33-point lead. VCU also took advantage of cold shooting by UNCW, which made only 21 percent from the field on the afternoon.

(See box score, page 15.)

—Compiled from news sources.

TENNIS continued to page 15 >

VCU
at home



7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2
Women's basketball vs. James Madison
7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3
Men's basketball vs. Old Dominion

