

WEATHER



SATURDAY. Sunny and cold. Low 12. High 32



SUNDAY. Partly sunny, continued cold. Low 15. High 46

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

■ "The People vs. Larry Flynt" portrays more than just a "Hustler." See page 7 of Spectrum for details.



FRIDAY, January 17, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 41

Faculty recognized for community service

Shannon Bender
CT NEWS EDITOR

Imagine yourself at a movie theater, camping in the woods or on the ski slopes assisting others as you earn class credit. Students in the Adapted Physical Education course offered by the School of Education could do these and similar activities as health and physical education majors.

Assisting persons with disabilities or special needs in the surrounding community through a learning or recreational environment will give students the opportunity to apply knowledge learned in class.

"It allows the student to gain an awareness of person's with disabilities," said Debra Ballinger, assistant professor of physical education. "They realize that these are not just people with disabilities, but real people with real emotions and feel-

ings.

"That is the greatest realization students bring back to the classroom," she said.

Ballinger's is one of six faculty members selected to become the first class of VCU Service Learning Associates. Similar courses are offered by the School of the Arts and the departments of English, foreign languages and psychology.

Service learning, one of the new VCU initiatives that integrates service with teaching and research,

BOARD OF VISITORS

was introduced to the Board of Visitors on Thursday.

"Service learning extends VCU into the community through the activities of our students and faculty," said VCU President Eugene P. Trani.

Service learning, defined as a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an

organized service activity, meets identified community needs and reflects on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content. Students learn a broader appreciation of the discipline and are enhanced with a sense of civic responsibility.

"More faculty believe that the best student learning happens when students are active in their learning," said Catherine Howard, director of the Office of Community Programs and assistant professor of psychology.

The structure of the classes work to complement the research and theories learned in class to the real world, Howard said, and the community activities relate to what students learn in class, offering a hands-on application to textbook readings.

"The learning is enriched because the students are applying what they are learning and start to make linkages in their readings and lectures to real world situations," said Howard.

A pilot program was conducted last year by Barbara Myers in the Department of Psychology. VCU students were paired with first-to fifth-grade children at Carver Elementary School as part of a child psychology course. Students met 2-3 hours per week with the children and provided both tutoring and enrichment activities.

"This initiative represents exactly what an urban university is all about," said Trani.

The Board of Visitors' meeting began with a report by VCU President Trani, who recognized faculty members' reaching out to the community and introduced to the board members faculty who exemplify initiatives to extend university resources.

In other business, the board discussed the focus of the national media during the last year on several VCU projects and initiatives. The Chronicle of Higher Education featured the new School of Engi-

SERVICE continued to page 4 ▶

Student voices plea for college funding

Richard Talliaferro
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

No matter if it's George Mason University, Virginia Tech or the University of Virginia, the story remains the same: Talk to any college student and be prepared to listen to the struggles of someone attempting to graduate without drowning in waves of debt.

Some survive working at least one job while taking a full classload to realize a dream. Others leave early — their dreams unfulfilled and bills waiting to be paid.

Bryan Hubbard of Southwest Virginia reached his dream — but not without a struggle. A senior studying government at George Mason in Fairfax, Hubbard, 21, traveled to the Capitol in Richmond to say his piece at the final public hearing concerning amendments to the state's budget.

He told a joint meeting of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees how education cuts and broken promises hit the GMU campus.

"Since the first day that I stepped on George Mason's campus," the Lebanon, Va., native said, "I was acutely aware of the fact that we were funded at 60 percent of the doctoral average.

"I saw students standing in the aisles of my classes. I had adjunct professors that couldn't be reached because they were working their regular jobs.

"I struggled to pay \$100 just to park my car after paying thousands of dollars in tuition — all because the General Assembly said I was attending school in Northern Virginia, and 'They have plenty of money up in Northern Virginia.'"

Hubbard especially has been disappointed in the Allen administration. As a freshman member of the College Republicans during Gov. George Allen's successful bid for office, Hubbard remembers attending rallies and listen-

PLEA continued to page 4 ▶

NEXT PLEASE — These students wait for their number to be called at the Office of Financial Aid. Long lines are often a part of the first few weeks of school.

Search continues for financial aid chief

Melodie Namkoong
CT STAFF WRITER

Until a permanent director comes on board, the Office of Financial Aid will continue to operate with a transitional management team of associate and assistant directors.

After Charles Kinder, the last financial aid-director, announced his early retirement in spring 1996, a management team was organized to facilitate the transition for a new director.

Assistant Director Timothy Wolfe and Associate Directors Donald McIver and Michael Barree handle specific

areas in the financial-aid office and report to Sherry Mikuta, director of support services, who heads the team.

"I think it is operating well," McIver said of the management team's operation, noting that the team members offer many combined years of financial-aid experience.

"Tim and I have had 50 years of financial-aid experience, so we are well prepared for this capacity. We're not inexperienced. We've dealt with these processes before."

Sherry Sandkam, associate dean of graduate studies and chairwoman of the search committee for a new director, said an advertisement for the vacancy appeared in

DIRECTOR continued to page 3 ▶

**VCU will be closed Jan. 20
because of Lee/Jackson/King
Day. The CT will be back Jan. 22.**



Chieu Nguyen/Commonwealth Times

Weird NEWS

Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction



•Officers who can't go with the flow earn overtime

The New York City Police Department has spent more than \$260,000 since 1992 on overtime pay for their nightshift officers waiting for a flow to start for their urine drug-testing, revealed the New York Post.

The average overtime reported is for 3.5 hours, and drug testing is done only during the day hours.

•Surgeons don't get the point

A construction worker in Brazil was hospitalized when a barroom fight left part of a 5-inch-long knife blade inside his brain. The blade remained inside the worker's brain for one week while doctors tried to figure out how to remove it without causing further damage.

The knife was finally removed in a nine-hour surgical process.

•Girls sure look prettier at lock-up time

A Mexico city woman serving a six-month jail term for robbery was selected

Miss Mexico Jailhouse in a pageant featuring 14 of the city's most physically attractive inmates in October.

•Parliament in a feline frenzy

A member of the Australian parliament, Richard Evans, proposed in October for all cats to be eradicated from Australia in 25 years. Evans also suggested that domestic cats be neutered until they die out, cat curfews be put into place, and a fatal virus be released to kill all feral cats.

•Man's place not in kitchen

A Kentucky man drove himself to the emergency room after a fight with his girlfriend's 16-year-old son left a meat cleaver lodged in his head and part of a butcher knife in his back. He was released the following day after surgical removal of the kitchen utensils.

•New type of drive-by proves explosive

A couple were injured by a quarter-stick of dynamite that exploded in their car in

September. The couple lit the dynamite to toss it out the window as a thrill-seeking adventure, but failed to notice that the window was closed.

•Internet romance turns ugly

Margaret Anne Hunter of Alexandria, Va., is suing Holly Anne Groves of Texas for fraud and misrepresentation. Hunter met Groves over the Internet, and quickly married what she thought was a businessman with AIDS who told her the heavy bandages covering his chest protected his ribs after a car accident.

Hunter discovered she had actually married a 26-year-old woman when Groves' parents called and asked for "Holly."

•Grocery store carries new wares

A Tampa, Fla., couple received jail sentences after they were convicted for trying to sell their newborn twin sons for \$25,000 in a grocery store parking lot.

Circuit Judge Chet Tharpe told the mother that the court was shocked she

could attempt to sell her children to virtual strangers who could have been pedophiles, murderers or child abusers.

The newborn's parents were was arrested by undercover police who were posing as buyers.

•Man takes a fence-sitting stance

An Alabama man was impaled by a 3-inch-wide, 20-foot-long steel pipe when his truck hit a chain-link fence. The pipe went completely through the man's chest and was removed by surgeons.

One surgeon said that if anyone at the scene of the accident had decided to remove the pipe the man would have died of blood loss.

•New twist seen on dental care

In November, a man in Calgary, Alberta, collapsed while brushing his teeth, sending the toothbrush one inch-deep into his eyesocket below the eyeball. He was told by an ophthalmologist that he would suffer no permanent injury.

—compiled from news sources

SUB OF THE MONTH

TURKEY

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197

REGULAR 6"

Your Choice
of FREE Fixin's
and White or
Wheat Bread!

Not valid with any other offers.

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VCU BASKETBALL

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

RAMS vs. OLD DOMINION

Saturday, January 18
Robins Center
4:30 p.m.

Senior
Marcus Reed

All VCU/MCV Students Admitted Free with Valid Student I.D.

Buses will run every 15 minutes beginning at 2:45 p.m. from Johnson Hall.

VCU Lady Rams vs. James Madison
Sunday, January 19 • Franklin Street Gym • 2:00 p.m.

Photography degree may soon be offered

Sara Kukorlo
CT STAFF WRITER

Students of the School of the Arts soon may have another major from which to choose. Interested photography buffs perhaps not only can explore their talents and interests in photography but also can earn a formal degree while they do it.

Richard Toscan, dean of the art school, said the school is considering offering a four-year bachelor of fine arts degree in photography.

"The degree would be a professional, conservative degree similar to other art programs," he said. "We're trying to put a proposal on the table to see if it makes sense."

Dale Quarterman, acting chairperson for the photography and film department, said no other public institution in Virginia offers a BFA degree for photography.

Toscan said the university has turned away students from other states who want to earn bachelor's degrees in photography because the school does not offer a formal degree in it.

"We are not meeting the needs of students around the country who want to study photography and who want a BFA photography degree," Toscan said, explaining that the school has been offering an informal degree. "The time has come to either formalize it or do something else with it."

Nonetheless, Quarterman said, VCU offers a master's of fine arts degree in photography, so undergraduate students wishing to concentrate on photography can choose from two options.

The first, he said, is to go through the School of the Arts and the art foundation program then try to enroll in the communication arts and design department and study in the photography track.

This way a student can earn a bachelor's of fine arts degree in communication arts and design with a concentration in photography.

The second option is to work toward a bachelor's of general studies degree, which allows students to complete mostly academic courses while concentrating in photography. This alternative results in a bachelor of general studies with a concentration in photography.

Dorothy Fillmore, coordinator for the Bachelor of General Studies Program, said VCU offers this type of degree for mature students who have a goal that cannot be met with a traditional program.

For instance, a student interested in a degree in photojournalism would take photography classes through the School of the Arts and writing classes in the School of Mass Communications. This would result in a BGS degree in



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

PICTURE THIS — Students may soon be able to get a degree in photography from VCU. No other public institution in Virginia offers a bachelor's degree for photography.

photojournalism.

To enter the general studies program, students having completed 30 college credits and maintaining a cumulative "C" grade-point average must complete an application and write a goals statement. They then design a curriculum in cooperation with one or two advisers before submitting it to the admissions committee for approval.

"We would no longer admit students with that focus area (photography) because there will already be a program," Fillmore said of the art school considering a bachelor's degree in photography. "We'll be delighted when the School of the Arts has a photography program. We want to be supportive."

Toscan said school administrators are wrestling with the issue of how much and what kind of conventional art background photography students should have to earn a degree.

The school, he said, recognizes that photographers

need to earn a living, so commercial photography as well as fine arts photography would be included in the curriculum.

"It would be the kind of thing that the school and photography are doing well now," he said. "We have a reasonable track record."

"The question is: How many students could we actually serve with the number of students we have at the undergraduate level?"

Quarterman, who has taught photography at VCU for 26 years, said he thinks adequate resources are available to start the program. Quarterman also has free-lance experience in commercial, still and architectural photography.

"We're in pretty good shape but could always use more," he said. "We're pretty cramped but could get it started with the existing space."

Two blasts hit Ga. abortion clinic

Second clinic receives bomb threat

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA—Two explosions rocked a building containing an abortion clinic an hour apart today, and police said it appeared the clinic was targeted. Several bystanders, including a federal agent investigating the first explosion, were injured.

The first explosion was reported at 9:30 a.m. at Atlanta Northside Family Planning Services, located on the ground floor of a five-story building that also houses offices of lawyers, dentists and other professionals. No injuries were reported in that explosion, which appeared to come from the same floor.

An hour later, an explosion erupted from a trash container outside the building, injuring a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent. He was led from the building after the second explosion and taken away in an ambulance.

Witnesses said there were other injuries, none reported as serious.

"I saw a couple of guys that were hurt," said Mitchell Swain, who was sitting in his

car outside the building when the second blast came. "They were on the ground. One guy was bleeding. Another guy was holding his head."

A half hour after the second explosion, the Piedmont Clinic, another abortion center about a half-mile from the Atlanta Northside clinic, was evacuated after receiving a bomb threat.

Extra police officers have been sent to other abortion clinics around the city as a precaution; the clinics said they would remain open.

At the Northside site, two cars near the trash container sustained heavy damage, and police evacuated everyone within 500 yards of the building.

"It appears that the clinic was the target of (that) explosion," said police Lt. C.C. Cass. "We can't confirm, but it appears to be some kind of explosive device."

Witnesses who had gathered outside after the first explosion heard a loud boom and felt the concussion when the second one went off. They could see a bright flash and debris flying in the air.

The first explosion rocked nearby buildings as well, breaking many windows. No injuries were reported from that explosion, said Fulton County Police Lt. Karen Harris.

"It shook the actual wall of my office,

and I have a lot of glass around me," said Craig Harris, sales manager at Auto Data Inc., across the street. "It definitely scared me. It sounded like an extremely close thunder strike... but there was no rain. My second thought was that it was an explosion."

Swain was at the building with his wife, Gloria, for an appointment and had arrived just after the first explosion.

"We ... saw debris fly everywhere. It blew out our back window," Swain said. The Swains and their 6-month-old grandson were not hurt.

The government last year said violence aimed at abortion clinics and people who work in them—including shootings, bombings, arson, death threats, chemical attacks and clinic blockades—has occurred in at least 28 states, the District of Columbia and dozens of cities.

In 1994, John Salvi killed two receptionists at abortion clinics in Massachusetts and former minister Paul Hill used a shotgun to kill two men outside a Pensacola, Fla., abortion clinic. A year earlier, Dr. David Gunn was shot to death at another Pensacola clinic.

Hill was the first person convicted of violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law, and was sentenced to two life terms.

DIRECTOR

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publications such as The Chronicle of Higher Education and in direct mailings sent to other institutions.

The responsibilities of the director would include interpreting and implementing the federal, state and institutional policies as well as overseeing the effective use of funds and the integrating process for students. That person also will supervise personnel and become the liaison for developing and maintaining appropriate communications with all constituents plus maximize relevant computer applications.

The committee, Sandkam said, screens applicants and conducts telephone interviews before sending its recommendations to Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs, for further review.

"We want an experienced financial-aid person with hands-on experience in the kind of environment we are in," McIver said. "I think it is difficult to find someone who meets all of our expectations, so I personally do not think the search is taking longer than expected."

Ten people serve on the search committee with Sandkam. They include representatives from the financial aid department, admissions and student services.

*Feed your brain.
Read the CT.*

Crime Shorts

For emergencies, call
VCU police at 828-1234 or
use the ERTS phones.

1/9

Vandalism

A female employee reported that on 1/8/97 between 9 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. unknown person(s) vandalized state property on the fourth floor of the North Hospital on the MCV campus.

Assault

Two female employees reported that on 1/8/97 at 4:45 p.m. they were assaulted by a known subject on the fifth floor of the Main Hospital on the MCV campus.

Vandalism

A female employee reported that between 4 p.m. on 12/30/96 and 9:45 a.m. on 1/8/97 unknown person(s) vandalized state property on the second floor of Franklin Terrace.

Damage To Property

A female employee reported that between 5 p.m. 12/17/96 and 3 p.m. 1/7/97 unknown person(s) damaged property in the game room in the basement of the Student Commons.

1/10

Grand Larceny

A female employee reported that between 11/18/96 and 11:50 a.m. on 1/9/97 unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location on the first floor of Harrison House.

Total value: \$200.00

Grand Larceny

A male employee reported that be-

tween 12:15 p.m. 1/10/97 and 4:30 p.m. 1/11/97 unknown person(s) removed a laptop computer from its secure location on the first floor of the Student Commons.

Total value: \$1,940.00

1/14

Petit Larceny

A female employee reported that on 1/13/97 between 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. unknown person(s) removed a cellular phone from its unsecured location on the first floor of Sanger Hall on the MCV campus.

Total value: \$90

Petit Larceny

A male employee reported that on 1/13/97 at 8 a.m. unknown person(s) removed keys from an unsecured location on the first floor of Harrison House.

1/15

Petit Larceny

A male employee reported that on 1/13/97 between 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location on the seventh floor of New Ambulatory Care on the MCV campus.

Total value: \$17

Threatening Calls

A female employee reported that on 1/14/97 between 7:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. unknown person(s) made threatening phone calls to the Obstetrician/Gynecology Emergency Room in the Main Hospital on the MCV campus.

N.H. Is King Day holdout

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.H. — In his "I Have a Dream" speech, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. declared: "Let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire." Three decades later, New Hampshire remains the only state that does not explicitly honor the slain civil rights leader with a holiday. Instead, it has a compromise Civil Rights Day on the third Monday in January, the same day the 49 other states honor King by name.

This year, however, with more Democratic state legislators and a Democratic governor, even staunch opponents think a bill that would add King's name to the holiday has a good chance of passage in New Hampshire's Republican-controlled Legislature.

The debate over the holiday reflects the strong beliefs — and the stubborn pride — many Granite State residents bring to politics in this state of 1.14 million people, 97 percent of them white.

"It seems to be in the tradition of New Hampshire's approach to things, which is a little different from the rest of the world, but so what?" asked Joseph McQuaid, editor in chief of The Union Leader of Manchester, which has strongly opposed a King holiday.

"I think Civil Rights Day is bigger than Martin Luther King. And I think there's been a strong sentiment in this state, since presidents of the stature of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln have been relegated to President's Day — which is a trumped-up, made-up holiday — we don't see why one individual in civil rights deserves a day unto himself."

A King holiday bill first came before the

Legislature in 1979 and has been introduced during practically every two-year session since. Opponent skilled the idea over and over again, arguing that King associated with communists, opposed the Vietnam War and was suspected of adultery.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day became a federal holiday in 1986. By 1992, every other state had approved some form of the holiday, although in some Southern states King must share the day with Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In 1991, New Hampshire lawmakers finally compromised and passed Civil Rights Day, which honors "the many people from a variety of cultural backgrounds who fought and died in the struggle to gain freedom and equality for all individuals."

That did not get New Hampshire off the hook.

"King represents so much more than civil rights that if you leave him out you leave out nonviolence, you even leave out the struggle against racism," Arnie Alpert, program coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee.

King tried "to identify those things that threatened the soul of America, of which the denial of civil rights was one, but grinding poverty and hatred and violence and war were also threats that King fought to overcome."

One of King's daughters, Bernice, visited in 1994 and called New Hampshire's rejection of the King holiday "intentional, racist and separatist."

And last year, a white supremacist from Mississippi, Richard Barrett, came to New Hampshire and held a small rally to "congratulate" the state for its refusal to honor King.

States receive average grade for educating students

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — States have come up with a better picture of what children should know and learn, but many don't provide schools or teachers good enough to do the job, a private study says.

Millions of pupils attend classes in run-down buildings and receive instruction from teachers who do not specialize in their subjects, said the state-by-state analysis released Thursday by Education Week, a trade publication for teachers, principals and counselors.

Even when qualified teachers are available, class size gets in the way of learning, the report said. "The reality is that nearly half of our elementary teachers have classes of 25 or more pupils," the report said. "More than half of high school English teachers teach 30 or more students a day."

The report, underwritten by the Pew Charitable Trusts, analyzed 75 different indicators from a variety of govern-

mental and private reports and lumped them into six categories.

States were marked highest, averaging a B, in setting standards for what students should know and be able to do. "But those policies have yet to change much at the school level," the report said.

Reasons include a lack of quality teachers: the average was C in that category. States averaged a C-minus on school climate, which includes class size, school safety, parental involvement and decision-making latitude afforded teachers and principals.

States have started spending more on education but still average only a C-plus in that category. Efforts to close the gap between rich and poor, predominantly white and predominantly black schools have increased to a B-minus level but may be opening again, the report said.

And states still spend too little of their education money

Plea

continued from page 1

ing to Allen's responses to questions about higher education.

"He'd say it's time that Virginia families get a break and the cost of a college education cease to rise," he said. "He (Allen) implemented the tuition freeze while he simultaneously cut state support for higher-education funding."

A \$1 million cut in funding to George Mason has been proposed in the governor's 1997 budget amendments.

"I don't see where the promised break to Virginia's families has come," Hubbard said. "Break their backs, maybe. I don't see how he has given any financial relief to working-class families like my own trying to put their children through school."

Calling for the money committees to stop making education a political issue, the GMU student asked that the gubernatorial candidates pledge to invest more in the state's colleges and universities.

A graduating senior, Hubbard said completing college in four years has been very tough. His father, the first in the family to graduate from high school, saved for his son's college education since his birth.

Still, with scholarships and help from his grandpar-

— a C-minus grade — on teaching and learning.

Student performance could not accurately be measured because of too little data, the editors said, but they noted that national tests show fewer than half the students tested in each state do challenging work.

Although states did not receive an overall grade, and the study does not attempt to rank them, some stand out.

Despite high poverty and a scattered population, West Virginia received three A's, for standards, level of spending and equally spending the money, in part because of a state court ruling. Wealthy California, with its huge and diverse student population and limits on taxes, took home two D-minuses, a C-minus and an incomplete.

Besides West Virginia, some of the better report cards went to Kentucky, Vermont, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, New York and Connecticut.

ents, Bryan Hubbard worked Christmas and summer vacations to earn money for school. Nonetheless, he considers himself luckier than most of his college peers.

The soon-to-be GMU graduate said he now looks forward to law school. Again, finances will be the deciding factor in which school he attends — even Louisiana State University is not out of the question.

"I can get a better deal as an out-of-state student at LSU," he said, "than I could at George Mason University as an in-state student."

Although he has not changed political party affiliation, Hubbard no longer is a College Republican member, but he already knows who's going to get his vote for governor in November even if he votes by absentee ballot.

"Come 1997, I'll be casting my first ballot for a Democrat, and that's (Lt. Gov.) Don Beyer," Hubbard said, acknowledging that Beyer is the likely Democratic nominee.

"I voted for (Republican nominee Bob) Dole in the presidential election, but when it comes to the state of Virginia's priorities, it seems to me that Don Beyer and the Democrats have at heart the needs of the people much more than does the current Republican Party."

SERVICE

continued from page 1

neering it its Dec. 13 issue, publishing with the story a color photo from the "Engineering 101" laboratory.

Two commentaries by President Trani have appeared in national publications over recent months. In the Jan. 2 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, Trani discussed the changing nature of university presidency.

In the Nov. 28 issue of Black Issues of Higher Education, Trani co-authored an opinion piece with former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, now on the faculty of VCU's Center for Public Policy.

Black Issues reported on the South African Health Care Initiative, in which VCU has teamed up with four of the nation's historically black medical schools to expand health-care delivery in South Africa. Other national media taking interest in VCU's expansion include U.S. News & World Report, CBS and ABC.

Other areas discussed at the board meeting include VCU's association with the General Assembly while working with other universities on salary and financial aid funding, and repairs to Sanger Hall and to student housing.

Barbarians at the Gate

When a story involving a gruesome murder become national news, shock and outrage are expressed by an entire country. We would like to consider ourselves a civilized nation that cherishes the life of every living being.

We are also a nation that loves to consume magazines and TV shows, and we will pay top dollar to get the most sensational morsels of information. It is inevitable that these two perspectives collide with each other from time to time.

The latest example of this collision was in the news this week with the investigation into the death of Jon Benet Ramsey, a six-year-old girl from Colorado who was found murdered the day after Christmas. A sheriff's deputy and a photo lab worker were arrested for selling pictures of the murder scene to The Globe, a tabloid magazine.

The murder of a six year old girl is appalling enough to cause a nationwide disgust, but to try and make a tidy profit of that death is just as offensive to our sensibilities.

What would motivate this breach of common sense and morality is simple enough to track down: the almighty dollar. Money from tabloids was behind the more outlandish breeches of good taste during the O.J. Simpson trial. The real question is why would someone offer cash on the barrel head for the photos of a dead little girl?

It is the same reason why a Hollywood actor is offered more money than could spent in two lifetimes to star in a single movie. Because the owners of tabloids believe that the American public will pay to see it. More often than not, they are right.

Just because the public is outraged by a particular crime does not mean they want to be spared all the gory details from the trial transcripts or the true crime books that reach the newsstands with lightning speed. We want to hear how long it took for someone to die. What kind of checkered past did the victim or the killer have? What the mean of killing was. What sordid compulsions drove a person to commit the crime. And if possible, we would like to see the bloodstained murder scene as well.

To sate our curiosity, we are willing to pay handsomely.

When the murders of Jeffery Dahmer were revealed as police raided his squalid Milwaukee apartment, a quickie true crime book was on the stands less than three weeks with all the details of what was in

Jeffrey's refrigerator.

The same goes for the fiery end of David Koresh and his followers in Waco, Texas and the O.J. Simpson trial. (Remember when there was a time before the Simpson trial? When O.J. was just another actor in the "Naked Gun" films. Seems like eons ago.) Most of us would turn down any dollar sum that would encroach on our decency. Money cannot buy love, it also cannot buy a clear conscience.

But for every person who would turn down the allure of quick cash, there is someone else who sees dollar signs in the blood smears.

This provokes the question of "who cares?" Why not sell whatever commodities you can get your hands on for some cold

hard cash? If people want to look at the photos of a murdered child who are we to stop them? There is a rubbernecker in all of us, who slows down to

look at a car crash when we see the red flashing lights of the ambulance up ahead on the freeway.

Look at show like "Cops" or "Real Stories of the Highway Patrol," which occasionally shows the aftermath of violent crime on network TV. People love to look at their fellow human beings in different states of suffering. It is a proud tradition that goes back to the Roman Coliseum and feeding people to the lions. Why not make money of an ugly but present part of the human condition?

What this fails to consider is that watching people being by lions is fun unless it you who is being eaten, or someone you love.

The state of Jon Benet Ramsey's parents is uncertain at this point. They have ducked out of sight and are even speaking to the police through a moderator. Would they want their daughter's final end made into a picture-spread next to the latest about Kathy Lee Gifford's or Michael Jackson's exploits? If someone was murdered in your own home, your own child for instance, would you invite the entire neighborhood to view the corpse? Would you invite the whole world in?

When police investigate a crime scene, one of the first things they do is put up the yellow tape that says CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS. The tape is there to protect the scene of the crime from contamination that can hinder the investigation. People's lives do not have yellow tape to protect them from the footprints of outsiders. That is something we can only enforce ourselves.

As If Another Reminder was Necessary

Nothing hurts more than being betrayed by someone you know and trust. To take abuse from a total stranger, from someone who does not know you as a person, is easier to rationalize than a family member or trusted friend. The same feeling applies to domestic terrorism.

An explosion yesterday at a family planning clinic in Georgia has left another welt on an already battered national consciousness. Terrorism no longer an invasion that crosses borders an oceans to disrupt our lives, it is now made in the USA.

The explosion at a Georgia family planning clinic has the unique attribute of being cinematic. There was an initial explosion that drove people from the building and alerted the media. As the news crews and live TV feeds were gathering information from the survivors of the first incident, a second explosion tore through the area. The explosion was caught on tape and subsequently beamed into living rooms across the country.

Seeing the chaos of terrorism is nothing new to us. Since the Vietnam war we have seen people huddled in fear as bullets filled the air on our evening news. But is it was always someplace else, often in countries we had never heard of or could find on a map. Seeing such terror happening to Americans on American soil is a whole new experience.

When the first pictures of the World Trade Center explosion appeared on CNN in on a cold February morning in 1993, there was an unsettling realization that America was no longer immune from terrorism.

The sight of the World Trade Center with smoke pouring from its windows, terrified and injured people stumbling out of the building, police and fire trucks clustered at the base of the twin towers, were images we would expect in Beirut or Sarajevo, not in downtown Manhattan.

When the culprits were caught, we found that the perpetrators were from another country with a different culture. In a way that was a relief to find that the attack had come from outside, just like Pearl Harbor. It would be easy to portray ourselves as innocent people victimized by hostility that had come from our exterior.

When the Oklahoma City bombing happened two years later, the initial blame again was on an outside force. The magnitude of the damage and loss of life was unprecedented in American history. Some talk show hosts were so certain that the attack was by a foreign power that they demanded bombs be dropped on any country we even suspected.

Then the suspects were arrested and

paraded by the FBI before the TV cameras, and we were shocked to discover that they were Americans. Timothy McViegh and Terry Nichols were two Americans who had come from the heartland of the country and even served in our military. The faces of the two suspects who looked, well, normal. They looked like any person you might stand in line with at 7-11 to grab your morning coffee and lottery ticket.

Like in the movie "Casablanca" we had expected a round-up of the "usual suspects". To see someone with a name that sounded foreign, or observed a religion that was different than ours was what we wanted. Now the news was not just unsettling, but downright terrifying.

It was like a curtain had been torn away as the implications of the Oklahoma city bombing sank in. We no longer lived in a country where people were willing to regard one another or their government with restraint. Sure, there is tension between

It was like a curtain had been torn away as the implications of the Oklahoma city bombing sank in. We no longer lived in a country where people were willing to regard one another or their government with restraint. Sure, there is tension between races, classes and the role of government involvement in our lives, but was believed not be so virulent that it would stoop to outright homicide.

races, classes and the role of government involvement in our lives, but was believed not be so virulent that it would stoop to outright homicide.

City, we have become aware that tensions are mounting in our society. The nature of the economy had changed. The diversity of the population has grown. Our science and our re-examination of our morality has cause some division in beliefs to become chasms.

Most disturbing, more people feel that our government is no longer on their side. The belief that government is out of touch, or even hiding an insidious secret agenda has found more favor among those who feel frustrated and powerless.

The result of this is that some individuals or groups will no longer have reservations against putting their fellow citizens in the crosshairs of their vengeance. This puts the pressure on the need for those who believe that compromise and progress can be found without bloodshed.

We often joke how the government is crooked. How our vote does not matter. How no one cares if tension between different communities builds. How it will always be this way, so why bother trying to do anything about it.

There is a result from such thinking, and that is to give credit to those who make the bombs and gain power by turning people against one another.

What happened in Georgia was just one incident, but there is a larger trend that is gathering strength behind it. It is time to acknowledge that oceans, borders or a television screen can no longer give us a comfortable distance from the rage lurking in our own backyard.

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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: mac5rdt@atlas Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: 1149 General Purpose Academic Building (outside of the Commonwealth TIMES office).

**Got an opinion on something?
Let us know about it.**

CALL THE IRS AND HANG UP

Study Shows Young Filers Reach Out to Touch the Tax Man

Along with the Internet and sophisticated computer software, younger Americans have a great way to make life easier - filing their taxes by phone.

Using a Touch-Tone phone, the file-by-phone system called TeleFile was used last year by nearly three million taxpayers - over half of whom were under 25 years of age. More than 26 million people nationwide are eligible to use the service this year, according to the IRS.

"The TeleFile program is ideally suited for college students and those earning under \$50,000 annually with fairly basic tax returns," points out Judy Tomaso, national director of communications. "The procedure is quick, there's no paperwork to mail, and it's the fastest way to get refunds," she said.

How It Works

Taxpayers who qualify for TeleFile get a special tax booklet in the mail letting them know they are eligible. They call a toll-free number from any Touch-Tone phone and answer a series of prompts on wage and tax information from their W-2 form. After responding to the prompts, the system calculates the total taxable income, adjusted gross income, amount of refund or balance due and even the earned income tax credit for those who qualify. No tax tables are needed.

Proof of Filing

Once a caller gets a confirmation number, they just hang up the phone, which completes the filing. The entire call typically takes less than ten minutes and the service is available 24 hours per day. The confirmation number, which should be written on the TeleFile Tax Record and kept with other important tax papers, is the record that shows taxes were filed. It can be given to banks, lending institutions, the Department of Education and the Small Business Administration as proof of filing.

One of the primary TeleFile benefits is the speed by which TeleFile returns are processed with typical tax refunds being mailed to taxpayers within three weeks.

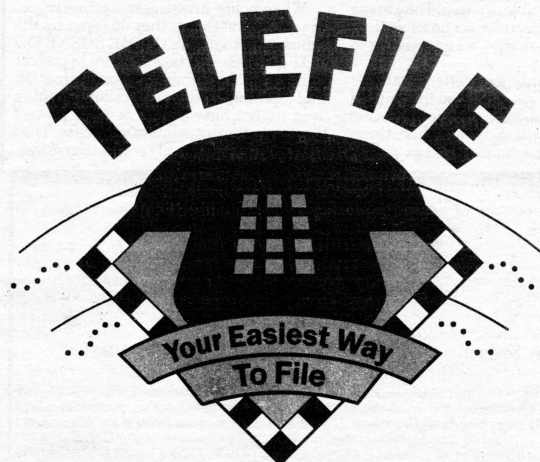
This year, TeleFile users can be either single or married, filing jointly, with no dependents, with taxable income less than \$50,000, including wages, tips, taxable scholarships or fellowship grants, taxable interest of \$400 or less, and unemployment compensation. Also, taxpayers must have filed a tax return previously and not have changed residences in the past year.



TeleFacts



- 92 percent of users were very satisfied with the TeleFile program
- 99 percent of TeleFile users said they would file by phone again
- Nearly 97 percent of filers received a refund averaging \$438
- 52 percent of filers had completed some college or vocational training and 21 percent were college graduates
- 73 percent of filers were under 30 and 52 percent were under age 25
- 80 percent had income less than \$30,000; 30 percent had income less than \$10,000



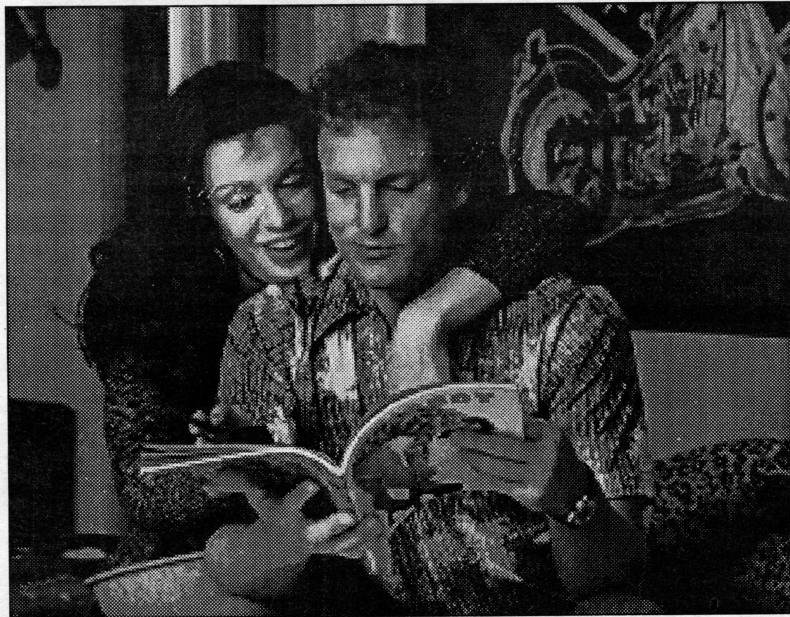


photo courtesy Columbia Pictures

SLEAZY RIDER — Woody Harrelson portrays the ruin and the glory of Larry Flynt. Courtney Love has received rave reviews for her portrayal of Flynt's wife, Althea.

'The People vs. Larry Flynt' is an artistic coup and a thought-provoking work

Lynn Hafer

CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

"The People vs. Larry Flynt" must be discussed on two levels.

The first level is a review of the film itself.

"Larry Flynt" is a wonderful creation and deserves all of the critical and industry harrahs it has so far received.

Since many students are too young to remember Larry Flynt, a raunchy, uneducated, money-hungry sex entrepreneur who founded "Hustler" magazine, this film will be unfamiliar ground. It deals with Flynt's rise to the top of the lucrative sex industry, his turbulent personal life and his fight for pornography to be protected under the First Amendment, which grants Americans freedom of speech.

Woody Harrelson pulls out the stops in his portrayal of the unlikely Flynt.

It is a realistic portrayal that has you cheering for Flynt one minute and then hating him the next. Courtney Love gives an unexpectedly good performance as Flynt's love interest, the stripper/drug addict Althea Leasure, and Love offers some classic and touching moments. Critics may say that she was just playing herself, yet in press releases, producer Oliver Stone explains why Love was chosen for the role:

"(She) maybe crazy in the way that all artists are, and eccentric, but a responsible person, who

knew the importance of the film and would get it done," Stone explained.

Director Milos Forman, previous winner of two Academy Awards, kept what could have been a drawn-out biography moving at a steady pace. And he and the crew did an exceptional job converting the Memphis locations where the film was shot into everything from the Kentucky shack where Flynt was born to strip clubs and courtrooms. Forman also did an exceptional job of motivating his cast to capture all the extreme emotions and characteristics of the real life people they were portraying.

As a film, "The People vs. Larry Flynt" is exceptional.

But its subject matter must also be considered. It deals with fundamental issues all Americans must face every day. And it is on this level that the film has been controversial.

To an extent "The People vs. Larry Flynt" does romanticize Flynt's lifestyle and it does downplay the extent of his and "Hustler's" involvement with deviant sexual behaviors such as child pornography. It is interesting to note that when they first became involved Leasure was still underage.

Because of this, many religious and women's organizations are protesting this film in much the same way they protested against Flynt.

However, Harrelson sums up

his feelings on Flynt in the film's press release, "You may not like the fact that he's a pornographer, and you may not respect his outrageous antics, but you have to respect him for going out and fighting to secure what he feels are his basic rights."

"The People vs. Larry Flynt" will offend those with a strong conservative approach to morality.

However, all of those who do see the film should ask themselves to what cost should fame and fortune be pursued? And what price are we willing to pay for our freedoms?

One cannot leave this film without questioning their own values and the values of society. It shows us the full spectrum of religion and morality in our society as Flynt represents the extreme left and Jerry Falwell represents the extreme right. Should one have the right to exist and not the other?

VCU Professor Granted Fellowship

Hollie Atkins

CT ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

Creativity is something an artist has a surplus, but money often isn't.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts recently granted 23 quality-based fellowship awards to artists across the state to provide funds for further development of their work.

Allan Rosenbaum, associate professor in VCU's School of the Arts, was granted \$3,000 through this program.

"I intend to use the funds for my studio work, for materials," he said.

Rosenbaum, who has been at VCU since 1986, works primarily with ceramics, focusing on figurative sculpture. He also draws.

Originally from Missouri, Rosenbaum received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's in fine arts degree from VCU.

Inspiration for his works come from a variety of sources including historical ceramics of pre-Columbian western Mexico, medieval Japan and the Italian Renaissance.

"I have a diverse group of influences including artists such as Constantin Brancusi, Rene Magritte, Philip Guston and Robert Arneson."

By combining familiar forms in unfamiliar ways, such as body fragments with books, Rosenbaum attempts to re-

“By combining familiar forms in unfamiliar ways, such as body fragments with books, Rosenbaum attempts to create pieces that defy categorization.”

ate pieces that defy categorization.

"I tend to bring together a lot of image," he said, "usually a figure or figure fragment, with a variety of images that I've been developing over the years like books, buildings, pipes and shapes. I build objects out of these things."

This week, Rosenbaum, who has exhibited works across the country, will display pieces in an American Ceramic Society-sponsored show in Kansas.

In Richmond, he displays works at the Fulcrum Gallery in Carytown. Rosenbaum also participates in many educational exhibits at VCU and other colleges and universities across the state.

A movement away from figures is the next step in his work.

"Over the past several years, all my work has dealt primarily with the figure," he said. "I'm trying to make a move away from the figure and just work with objects that are normally associated with the figure, chairs, lamps, buildings, things that a figure would normally come into contact with, to try and achieve the presence of a figure without having one in the work."

Among other awards, Rosenbaum was a 1996 finalist in the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Fellowship and received a Faculty Grant-in-Aid from VCU in 1994.

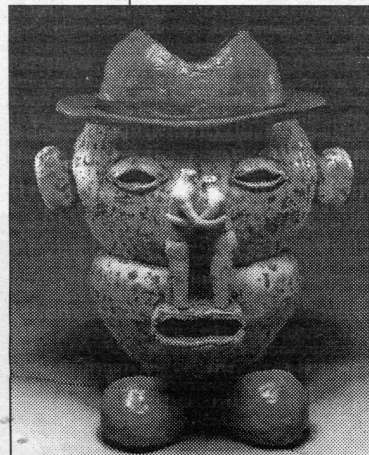
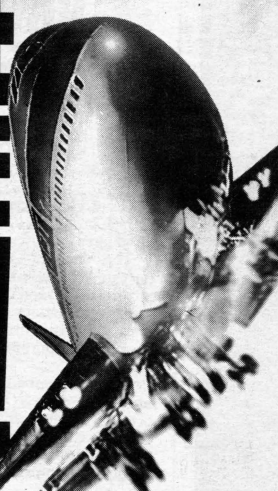


photo by Katherine Weizel

AWARD WINNING MATERIAL—Rosenbaum's "A Fond Farewell" earned him recognition from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

SURVIVE THE RIDE!

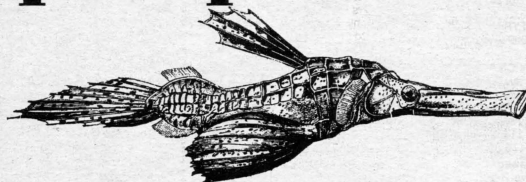


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**Nothing is free in this world but your mamma's love

Women find Trayers' departure to be a blessing in disguise

Joe Rogalsky
CT STAFF WRITER

This weekend is a crucial one for VCU's women's basketball team. Friday, the Lady Rams travel to William and Mary (3-9, 0-4) before returning home to face James Madison (12-1, 3-0) Sunday.

The Tribe currently reside in the Colonial Athletic Association basement while the Dukes are tied with Old Dominion for first (the tie will be broken Friday when the two teams do battle in Harrisonburg).

For VCU to be successful Gabrielle Kyhlstedt will have to continue her superb play. Kyhlstedt has stepped into her role as the starting point guard without difficulty, and in VCU's win against American she tallied 12 points to go along with seven rebounds and seven assists.

"Gabby has come out and been great," guard Meredith Sisson said. "The change has been good because it opened up a lot of opportunities for her."

Kyhlstedt's move from forward to the point was made necessary by the dismissal of Sarah Trayers from the team Dec. 30. Besides Kyhlstedt's change of position, the only change to the starting five was the addition of Chevette Waller, which, so far has worked out for the best. Waller is averaging 23.3 points and 6.7 rebounds as

a starter.

The loss of Trayers, Emily Grisham and Tanisha Hubbard during the winter holidays has had a positive impact on team unity. The players have become closer and formed tighter bonds with each other.

"You always hate to lose players," said the team's lone senior Allyn Lewis. "But we have taken a step forward and it has been a positive thing for us."

With two games in three days, looking past W&M to focus on JMU could be a problem but the Lady Rams don't agree.

"We don't want to look past William and Mary because we think that is going to be a difficult game," VCU coach David Glass said, "and obviously Madison will be a difficult game as well."

Playing on Friday and then turning around and playing Sunday is something that all teams in the CAA must contend with. Not all games on Sunday, however, are against teams that played the previous Friday, as was the case when VCU played American. The Eagles had played at W&M two days prior to their visiting the Rams. Glass said that his team had an advantage, one that his team won't have against JMU,



Kyhlstedt

because his team was fresher and he had been able to better prepare them.

"It [playing two games in three days] is just one of the quirks in the conference schedule," Glass said. "Everyone goes through it."

The return of freshman Lindsey Mergenthal, who suffered a stress fracture in her foot prior to VCU's game against Coppin State, should also help VCU in this weekend's games. Mergenthal saw nine minutes of action against the Eagles Sunday, scoring two points, and is preparing to get back into the swing of things.

"We (the coaching staff) are trying to integrate her into all the different things that we are doing, things she missed while she was out," Glass said.

History favors VCU Friday against the Tribe. The Lady Rams lead the all-time series 22-11. Against JMU, however, the Rams have not fared well. VCU is 3-19 against the Dukes. The Lady Rams last victory came in the 1994-1995 campaign, a 62-40 decision in Harrisonburg.

Tennis player reaches finals

VCU freshman Daniel Andersson won six matches to reach the finals of the Milwaukee Tennis Classic before falling to No. 29 Thomas Blake of Harvard 7-6, 6-3 in the men's singles championship match.

The Milwaukee Tennis Classic, held at the Western Racquet Club in the Milwaukee suburb of Elm Grove, is one of the premiere collegiate indoor events prior to the start of the spring season and this year's tournament featured eight players ranked in the Rolex/ITA National Singles Rankings.

Andersson, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, won a total of four matches in the first two days of the tournament despite a sore Achilles heel. He won each of his first six matches in straight sets, including four tiebreakers.

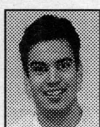
—compiled from news sources

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
Men's BASKETBALL (6-7, 2-2)	JAN 18 ODU	JAN 20 W&M	JAN 22 AU	VCU DEFEATED ODU BOTH TIMES THEY PLAYED THEM LAST SEASON.
Women's BASKETBALL (8-4, 2-1)	JAN 17 W&M	JAN 19 JMU	JAN 24 GMU	THE LADY RAMS HAVE WON THREE STRAIGHT AGAINST THE TRIBE AND 14 OF THE LAST 16. THEY LEAD THE ALL-TIME SERIES 22-11.
<input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES HOME GAME <input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES AWAY GAME				

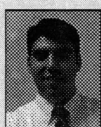
The Picks



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Scanlon



"Pope"
Pete



"Steel City"
Solaimani



"Smokin'"
Joe



"Token"
Baker



"Packer"
Paul



"Richie"
Rich



"Top"
Bob



"Mouth of the"
Southworth

SATURDAY JAN. 18

Arkansas at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Cincinnati
Arizona at UCLA	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke	Arizona at Duke
Virginia at Duke	Utah at TCU	Utah at Georgia Tech	Utah at Georgia Tech	Utah at Georgia Tech	Utah at Georgia Tech	Utah at Georgia Tech	Utah at Georgia Tech	Utah at Georgia Tech	Utah at Georgia Tech
Georgia Tech at Miami	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.	Minnesota at Ohio St.
Iowa St. at Colorado	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.	Stanford at Oregon St.
Indiana at Purdue	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt	Mississippi at Vanderbilt
Mississippi at Oregon	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	Texas Tech at Kansas St.
Iowa at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan	Michigan at Michigan

SUNDAY JAN. 19

Maryland at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest	Wake Forest at Wake Forest
Louisville at Texas	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier	Texas at Xavier
Temple at Xavier	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn	Kansas at UConn

MONDAY JAN. 20

Syracuse at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova	Villanova at Villanova
Oklahoma at Texas	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech	Texas Tech at Texas Tech

CAA GAME OF THE WEEK

UNC W at James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	UNC	James Madison	James Madison
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RESULTS									
Last week:	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Season to date:	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Percentage:	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Games Back	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

"Saltine" begins his fourth and final (?) semester in The Picks and his goals are modest. A title and the 32 ounce Big Gulp that accompanies the champion? No. To finish above his rival sports editors of past and present? No. That's too lofty. Seamen simply wants to be able to look his grandchildren in the eye one day and tell them he finished last place. Just one time. So he's committed himself to not picking any stupid upsets. At a recent press conference he pledged "I will never again side with the Jets." It is hoped he won't try to take them at any point, but one never knows. Grabbing his first picks crown last semester was "Steel City," or "Say Hey," or "Bonds Away," or "The editor formerly known as Coveh," or whatever he's calling himself today. New to The Picks crew this session are "Mouth of the" Southworth and "Smokin' Joe Rogalsky. Joe's first official action as a picks member was to lobby its executive committee to put Renegades games on the slate.

■ East Carolina has given the men's basketball team two of its four conference losses since joining the Colonial Athletic Association.

■ Find out who took the title as "The Picks" fall champion.

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Pirates withstand Rams' comeback bid

Pete Van Vleet
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The Rams' last-minute bid for a come-from-behind victory fell short Wednesday night as East Carolina University held on to win 65-61 in front of 4,371 at the Robins Center. The bigger, stronger Pirates received 38 points from their bench as the balance attack of three-pointers and second-shot opportunities lifted them to victory. The Rams (6-7, 2-2) were able to cut the Pirates' lead down to one in the waning moments of the Colonial Athletic Association contest and had opportunities to take the lead at the end of the game before eventually subcoming to ECU (11-3, 4-1).

With less than 20 seconds left in the game and the Rams down by two, VCU senior guard Patrick Lee raced the length of the court and fired a wild three-point shot off the rim instead of running the set play called during a timeout. The Rams had just cut the lead to two points after being down by seven with just under 90 seconds left to play. The Pirates grabbed the rebound and sealed the victory by making all of their free throws from that point onward.

"I felt time was running out and I didn't feel we had enough time to run it (the set play) when in actuality we did," said Lee, who ended up with 12 points. "It was a mental breakdown on my point. I take the blame for that loss."

VCU coach Sonny Smith said the play was for Lee to take the shot, just not the shot he attempted.

"We had a play called for Patrick. He didn't take the called play, he made up his own," Smith said. "Patrick just lost how much time was on the clock. The play was for him, but not the shot that he took."

VCU coach Sonny Smith attributed the

loss to the team's breakdown in the second half when his team was outscored 41-34 and outrebounded 17-13.

"In the second half we didn't defend the post as well as we needed to. They got all the second shots that they want," Smith said. "I thought our execution of our offense was very poor in the second half... we didn't do the things we needed to do to win the game. Giving up second shots is what killed us."

ECU junior guard Othello Meadows, who scored all of his 11 points in the second half, ended up being the hero for the Pirates. With 12:13 remaining, he hit the game-tying three pointer and then sealed the win by hitting the trey to put his team up by seven at the 1:22 mark.

"He's just relentless," ECU coach Joe Dooley said. "He knows that when he has a good look he has the green light to take the shot."

Dooley said his team, which was down by as much as nine points in the second half, relied on getting on the glass in the final 20 minutes to win the game.

"We had been going to the glass pretty consistently this year. It just paid off tonight," he said.

NOTES

Robert Shelton, the transfer from Ohio St., has been cleared to play. Smith said that Shelton, a point guard, will give depth to the backcourt, especially since the Rams run a three-guard lineup and until now had only three guards. Shelton did not play against the Pirates.

Also new to the squad is junior forward Randy Mills. The transfer from Hagerstown Junior College played in his first game during the break against George Mason University, scoring three points. He had been academically ineligible, but fulfilled his requirements in time to join the team for the season's second half. In four games he is averaging one point a game.



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

MOORE'S NOT ENOUGH — Junior transfer Simon Moore puts up a shot in the Rams' 65-61 loss to East Carolina Wednesday night.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ECU 65, VCU 61

ECU (11-3, 4-1)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Punt	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Basham	28	2-5	1-2	3-8	0	0	6
Kemper	19	1-3	0-1	1-2	1	3	2
Meadows	33	3-9	2-3	1-1	0	11	1
Parham	29	2-8	2-2	3-8	3	3	8
Clark	20	4-7	2-3	0-0	0	10	0
Grooms	18	0-4	2-4	3-6	0	3	2
Edwards	29	7-13	1-1	2-6	0	2	15
Peters	20	5-10	1-2	1-4	0	2	11
TOTALS	200	24-60	11-18	17-39	6	13	65

Percentages: FG-.400 FT-.769 3-point goals: 6-15, 400 (Meadows 3-7, Parham 2-3, Basham 1-3, Dunk 0-2), VCU (6-7, 2-2)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Archie	32	5-9	4-6	4-6	1	2	14
Lee	32	4-13	2-3	1-7	4	4	12
Brooks	31	5-8	2-2	3-7	1	0	13
Hamilton	34	2-6	2-2	2-5	5	3	6
Reed	37	5-11	0-0	0-3	1	1	14
Miles	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Drake	12	0-1	0-0	0-3	0	1	0
Moore	11	1-3	0-0	1-1	1	2	2
Mills	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Marston	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	200	22-54	10-13	13-36	13	15	61

Percentages: FG-.407 FT-.769 3-point goals: 7-19, 368 (Reed 4-7, Lee 2-6, Brooks 1-1, Hamilton 0-3, Drake 0-1, Mills 0-1),

ECU 24 41 — 65
VCU 27 34 — 61
Technical fouls: none. A: 4,371

Terry Scanlon
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Regardless of how much Sonny Smith may not like it, the fact is Rams fans expect their team to win every conference game.

Maybe Old Dominion will put up a good fight but...

ASPECT

VCU's fans still expect their former Metro Conference school to cruise through the Colonial Athletic Association.

This mentality is partly responsible for what happened Wednesday night — you know the game Patrick Lee lost or at least that's how fans seemed to see it.

Two years ago, the crowd would have gone nuts if the Rams had closed a seven-point lead in a little more than a minute. It would've been thought of as a great comeback.

The Rams, however, in the minds of some choked against East Carolina.

Down by only two, Lee pushed the ball down court and with about 15 ticks remaining jacked a three-pointer. To say he rushed understates the fact. A 40-year-old virgin visiting a brothel could keep from

shooting that quickly.

That would be VCU's best chance.

Afterward, a dejected Lee put the responsibility solely on his own shoulders.

"That last shot was foolish. Very foolish.

I know better than that," said Lee, who has undoubtedly been the hero on this Jeckyll and Hyde team. "I take the blame for this loss."

Smith, who's as close to Lee as any of his players, agreed that he should feel responsible, but added that's not the reason the Rams lost.

"Patrick's our go-to-guy. He's got to win the game for us," Smith said. "(But) you can't say he lost the game, because the game was lost on second shots and three-point defense."

Smith's right.

Not because the Pirates connected on 40 percent of their shots from beyond the arc, but because almost every time they came down the court in the last 10 minutes they got second-chance shots.

Smith's been forced by the injury to center George Byrd to run a three-guard offense.

It's a simple matter of weight ratios.

Smith's left with two relatively under-sized guys in the post who get a lot of minutes — Mylo Brooks and Torrance Archie. They each played more than 30 minutes, and the only other two guys who can be considered big men, Kevin Miles and Simon Moore, played six and 11 minutes respectively.

Each of these guys hovers around the 240 pound range. ECU's man in the middle Dink Peters tips the scale at nearly 300 pounds.

Smith needs to figure something out quick as they prepare for ODU, which features Odell "is he still playing college ball?" Hodge. The eight-year starter for the Monarchs is averaging more than 17 points and eight rebounds a game.

As far as Lee, I don't think you need to worry about him. If the Rams have one thing on their side Saturday afternoon it's that he's itching to redeem himself.

Lee sat quietly by himself in a somber locker room before heading over to Franklin Street Gym to work on his shooting.

"I was thinking about that last shot," he said to the lone visitor. "I think it's going to be with me for a while."