

WEATHER



SATURDAY — Showers,
low 36, high 42.



SUNDAY — Partly cloudy,
low 26, high 52.

Commonwealth TIMES

FRIDAY, February 7, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 49

INSIDE

■ Madonna proves she is more than just a "Material Girl" in *Evita*. For more information see page 7 of Spectrum.



Career fair full of opportunities for students

Stephanie Buckeridge
CT STAFF WRITER

Smile and take several resumes. Wear nice clothes and learn about the 65 businesses and organizations at Prospects '97. After all, Wednesday, Feb. 12, may be your special day — especially if you walk away from the Career Fair with a job interview or potential employment. You can visit business representatives from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Commonwealth and Capital ballrooms of the Student Commons.

"The first impression is very important," said Susan Gunn, director of VCU's Career Center, suggesting that

students smile a lot, practice a firm handshake and arrive early to the event.

Vanessa Myers, career specialist at the center, also offers students some advice.

"Prepare for the career fair," she said. "Come prepared with questions."

Many recruiters, Gunn said, leave early, so she advises students to come early, to look beforehand at the employer list and to obtain information about each company that interests the particular student.

To help prepare students for interviews, the center offers several resources including at least 25 to 30 sample resume books, books and folders on preparing for inter-

views and a film about readying for career fairs such as VCU's.

In addition, three to four people are on hand at the center to help students with writing their resumes and with critiquing their resumes for revisions if necessary.

Students also can access one or more companies' websites on the center's computers for additional background information before scheduling their interviews during Career Day. After learning more about the companies, students may find it easier to talk individually with recruiters about their resumes and employment opportu-

CAREER continued to page 3 ►

Senate passes strict abortion bill

Terry Scanlon
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

After receiving approval this week from the Senate, politicking and parliamentary procedures appear to be the only remaining obstacles for a measure that would require women 17 and younger to inform their parents of their intentions to have an abortion.

Lawmakers and lobbyists on both sides say parental notification likely will become law after nearly two decades of debate. The bill now needs to gain passage in the House of Delegates, which passed its own bill on Tuesday.

Like the House bill, the Senate measure includes a provision that would allow physicians or judges to waive the notification requirement in situations of potential parental abuse. But the House also included allowing those seeking abortions to be able to notify other family members besides a parent.

Sen. Mark L. Earley, R-Chesapeake, who spearheads the anti-abortion movement in the upper chamber, said he was pleased with the Senate's 26-14 vote but reiterated his cautious optimism of the bill's chances of reaching Gov. George Allen's desk in its current form.

As Earley left the Capitol following the Senate's vote, Lt. Gov. Donald S. Beyer Jr., the presumptive Democratic nominee for governor, expressed greater certainty that passing the measure was inevitable.

"I think you actually won after all these years," Beyer said to Earley, one of four GOP candidates for state attorney general. "It's an extraordinary testimony to your character and to your persistence."

After only a few short speeches from female senators expressing their thoughts on the harm young women could face with this bill, proponents didn't even bother to respond. They had become confident of the outcome of the chamber's vote.

This year, Sen. Janet D. Howell, D-Fairfax, became the most outspoken abortion advocate in the Senate, saying there have been no positive results in states where similar measures became law.

"We believe this bill is not helpful to families but rather destructive to families," Howell said. "We are defining ... who is a member of a family. The bill is punitive to a young girl when she most needs help."

Afterward, a Democratic legislator long opposed to abortion restrictions openly predicted the bill's future.

"Unfortunately Gov. Allen gets the parental notification bill that his heart has longed for," said Sen. L. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, in referring to a line in the soon-to-be-retired controversial state song.

Several people involved said the public's voice has grown during this session. Such constituent pressure forced Sen. Yvonne B. Miller, D-Norfolk, to change her

SENATE continued to page 3 ►



Chris Dow/Commonwealth Times

THE GROUNDHOG WAS RIGHT — Students relax outside the commons on an atypical February day yesterday. The temperatures were unseasonably warm and resembled spring-time weather.

House endorses parental-notification bill

Pete Van Vleet
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

After trying and failing for years, the House of Delegates agreed Tuesday on a weaker parental-notification bill shortly after the Senate approved a stronger version of the bill.

The delegates overwhelmingly endorsed requiring females 17 and younger to gain notification of a parent, a guardian, a grandparent, an adult sibling or a judge before having an abortion.

Both House and Senate versions now will be discussed in conference where senators and delegates try to reach a compromise on a single parental-notification bill to send to the governor.

On Crossover Day, the last day a chamber can consider its own legislation, the House endorsed parental notification 81-18 with one abstention after amending it to expand the list of family members. Following considerable

debate, the amendment adding family members to the notification list was narrowly approved 52-48.

"What this bill does — and it doesn't fully answer the problem — it broadens it and does give them (girls) some relief," said Delegate Anne G. Rhodes, R-Richmond, who sponsored the amendment. "When we talk about real parental notification we talk about care notification."

Delegate Thomas A. Jackson, D-Hillsville, voted against the amendment but for the bill, which he said would have passed without the amendment.

"It was going to pass regardless," Jackson said. "I think it's two separate issues."

Delegate Thelma Drake, R-Norfolk, opposed the amendment, saying it is the parents' responsibility and right to know what their minor daughter is going through.

"How would you feel if your child went to undergo this operation and you were not there?" Drake asked her fellow

HOUSE continued to page 3 ►

Weird NEWS

Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction



• Wet martini with a twist

After a brawl in a local bar, a man walked home and slept for four hours without realizing he had a knife stuck in his neck.

After his wife's unsuccessful attempt to remove the kitchen utensil, the 36-year-old farm laborer was transported to a local hospital and placed in the intensive care unit.

The man, who has survived three stab-bings, is expected to fully recover.

• Contraceptives for calories

A man filed a lawsuit against a restaurant operator in Tampa claiming he found a used condom in his sweet potato pie while eating dinner at Morrison's cafeteria.

"It had the appearance of having been utilized for its intended purpose," said the man's lawyer.

Morrison's attorneys stated that the man's health was never in danger from "the alleged foreign object found in his food item."

The man, who claims he suffered mental anguish and emotional distress while waiting for medical test results, is suing for \$15,000.

• Not easily charmed

A boa constrictor refused to be charmed by a snake catcher in Bangkok and strangled the man.

After rushing to the site where the 11.5-

foot serpent was spotted, the man, using his snake charming skills, was able to place the snake on his shoulders. On his way home, however, the snake began strangling him.

The man was dead by the time police arrived at the scene.

• Lady luck does indeed smile

Seventeen factory workers in Jackson, Mich., preparing for layoffs, hit the lottery jackpot and will split \$46 million. All showed up for work the next day and announced they will continue to work "until we get our pink slips."

"A lot of these people are single mothers that didn't know what they were going to do without a job," said one winner.

Each person will receive \$135,000 per year, amounting to \$2.7 million over a 20-year period.

The factory is scheduled to close in June.

• Cash flow goes

Police arrested the man responsible for ripping an automatic bank teller machine from its foundation in Portland, Tenn. The 26-year-old man used a stolen tow truck to remove and transport the device. The value of the ATM machine is estimated at \$46,000.

• Explosive art piece closes street

Police in Tallahassee, Fla., debated art this week, a day after they closed a street

for hours because an artist's creation resembled a pipe bomb.

The device, four small pipes wrapped with electrical wire and topped with a small clock, was sitting in the storefront studio of a Florida State professor when it was spotted by a city worker.

The worker said he did not panic, but the device looked real and he called 911.

Police evacuated and closed off the street for hours before the professor told them the device was a work of art.

• No laughing matter

The Wall Street Journal reported in September that about 100 "laughing clubs" had sprung up in India last year based on the philosophy of Dr. Madan Kataria, who says the ancient yoga breathing and laughing exercises can help people shed inhibitions, build self-confidence, stop smoking, alleviate high blood pressure and arthritis, and stop migraine headaches.

After conventional stretching, adherents engage in silent laughs, out-loud laughs with their lips closed and the roaring "Bombay laugh."

Kataria worries only that some day the government might try to tax laughter.

• Suicide hot spots

A September story in London's Sunday Times described Venice, Italy, as the new trendy site for unhappy Europeans' and Americans' suicides inspired by the movie

"Death in Venice."

About 50 people attempted suicide in the past year. All but a half dozen were unsuccessful, usually because the canals into which they leapt are deceptively shallow.

Also, The San Francisco Examiner reported in September that 11 people in the previous 18 months had rented handguns at local gun ranges and killed themselves on the premises.

• Diamonds are forever

Three hungry orphans searching for food in Freetown, Sierra Leone, found a 100 carat diamond worth more than \$500,000.

Without food for two days, the three children searched in vain for yams and decided to return home.

"On the way back we found a yam under a palm tree and dug it up," said one of the orphans.

Right under the yam we found the diamond. It was very easy to see because it was shining and sparkling," said the oldest of the tree.

Their parents were killed in a rebel attack two years ago. No word yet on how much money the children will receive.

— compiled from news sources

Spring Break '97

Spring Break '97

Bahamas

FROM

\$379

Round Trip Air Fare

Seven (7) nights lodging at choice hotel.

Welcome party with complimentary island beverage.

Beach parties, FREE food, FREE drinks and more.

Exclusive FREE or discounted admission to Nassau's hottest clubs.

Plus much, much, more!

Spring Break '97

FREE Exclusive Party Program (\$150 value) Call for Details

Earn a FREE Trip Ask about our FREE trip and commission plan

Call now for complete details: 1-800-9-Beach-1

VCU BASKETBALL

SATURDAY NIGHT

VCU RAMS vs. AMERICAN

Saturday, February 8
Richmond Coliseum
7:00 p.m.

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

Senior
Sherman
Hamilton

1996

CAA

Champions

Photo by Scott K. Brown

Commonwealth TIMES

NEWS
 Editor — Shannon Bender
 Editor — Angela D. Hill
 Editor — Jack Southworth

SPECTRUM
 Editor — Lynn Hafer
 Editor — Jenny Swiger
 Associate Editor — Hollie Atkins

SPORTS
 Editor — Terry Scanlon
 Editor — Pete Van Vleet
 Production Assistant — Joe Orsinger

The Commonwealth TIMES is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and distributed throughout VCU, the Fan District and Shockoe Bottom. The mailing address is Commonwealth TIMES, P.O. Box 842010, Richmond, Va. 23284-2010. For advertising and editorial offices, call 828-1058. To fax, call 828-9201. Comments and complaints should be addressed to Richard Taliaferro, executive editor.

Executive Editor — Richard Taliaferro
Managing Editor — Coveh Solaimani
Business Manager — Robert Hartman

EDITORIAL
 Editor — Charles Gnika
EYE
 Editor — Chris Dovi

Comics Editor — Vacant
Circulation Director — Adam Myers
Photography Chief — Chieu Nguyen
Photography Asst. — Rob Byrne

Advertising Director — Paul McDaniel
Business/Advertising Asst. — Amy Baker

AmeriCorps volunteer speaks to science society

Angela D. Hill
CT News Editor

Receiving a living stipend and up to \$5,000 for college while making a difference in the lives of underprivileged children in the Richmond area, Kim Wilkerson exemplifies one of the AmeriCorps mottoes — "Getting things done."

Wilkerson addressed members of the Black Science Society at their Wednesday night meeting with a lecture explaining the benefits of belonging to the national service program begun under President Clinton's administration in 1993. The program resembles the Peace Corps, but with a domestic scope and an emphasis on teaching.

"This incentive program involves people of all ages and backgrounds coming together to get things done," Wilkerson told the group of approximately 20 African-American natural science majors at VCU.

With goals to strengthen community, encourage responsibility and expand opportunity for impoverished children, the VCU chapter of AmeriCorps sends volunteers to low-income communities to help children receive quality health care and to help them improve their academic performance, Wilkerson said.

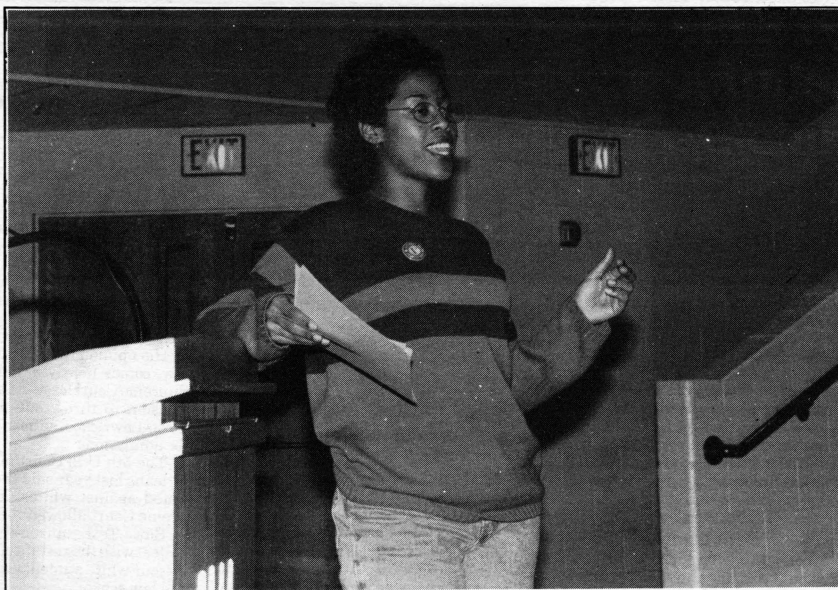
"The most important thing is just to be there," she continued. "These kids see people walking in and out (of) their lives all the time ... you're doing so much just by being there."

Volunteers commit themselves to 900 hours of community service in a one-year period, providing services from tutoring to conflict resolution and even taking children on occasional field trips.

During Wilkerson's service, she said the VCU group has taken children to see the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble performance at the Carpenter Center, to see Richmond Rage basketball games and to see Magic Johnson. She said these trips are only possible through the generosity of others, as groups and companies donate tickets for the trips.

"It's very rewarding. Just knowing that maybe one day that kid will make it out (of) that neighborhood because you took some time out to tell him what's right and what's wrong," Wilkerson said. "For you to come in one day and they smile when you walk through the door ... you know you're doing something that's affecting others."

Wilkerson said the VCU group especially needs male volunteers and she encouraged those interested to stop by the AmeriCorps office on the second floor of Founders Hall for an application and additional information.



Chris Dovi/Commonwealth Times

GETTING THINGS DONE — Kim Wilkerson of AmeriCorps shares the benefits of her experience in the community service program with VCU Black Science Society members.

College Board admits SAT error

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRINCETON, N.J. — Even the math whizzes who make up the questions on the Scholastic Assessment Test aren't perfect. A sharp-eyed high school student caught them in a boo-boo.

The scores of an estimated 45,000 students who took the test Oct. 12 will be boosted by up to 30 points because of the error. The corrected scores will be sent via Federal Express to the affected students and the colleges they applied to so the error won't hurt their chances of admission, said College Board spokeswoman Janice Gams in New York.

It was the first mistake on the SATs since 1982. "It certainly should've been caught sooner," she said. "But it's not embarrassing in the sense that the College Board is open about its process and takes immediate action when something goes wrong."

The student, Colin Rizzio, 17, of Peterborough, N.H., complained about the error in an e-mail message sent to the College Board and the Princeton-based Educational Testing Service, which writes the test taken by millions of college-bound students.

The error was that the question-writer used a letter, in this case "a," to stand for any number, a standard practice in an algebra problem.

The original "correct" answer assumed that the "a" was positive and did not account for the possibility that it was a negative number such as -2. Students who assumed the number could be negative came up with a different answer.

About 350,000 high school students took the test Oct. 12.

The SAT, a three-hour test of math and verbal skills, is the most widely used college admissions exam in the nation. About 1.8 million people take the test annually.

White House aide denied database's existence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Just days before a controversial White House database was disclosed last year, the presidential aide who oversaw the project told congressional investigators in a sworn deposition, "There was no database at the White House at all."

White House aide Marsha Scott gave the answer June 19, 1996, during the investigation into the White House travel office firings. She was questioned about an early 1993 memo written by presidential friend Harry Thomason.

Thomason's memo advised against destroying mail from the presidential correspondence office that Scott oversaw to avoid losing "a name also lost to the database for the next campaign."

Citing the memo, a lawyer for the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee asked Scott: "Were you aware of any databases that were being maintained at the White House?"

Scott answered: "Well, there was no database at the White House at all, and that shows Harry's lack of knowledge of the rules of the White House," according to the

deposition reviewed by The Associated Press.

In a written statement, Scott said she believed her answer was "entirely consistent and accurate" because she believed the question referred only to early 1993 and to a database used for campaign purposes.

The database she created was begun in late 1993 and finished in 1995.

"During that period I was not using or involved with any public contacts database in the White House," Scott's statement said.

But White House spokesman Barry Toiv said there was a database available inside the White House in early 1993, that Ms. Scott had access to it and her office used it regularly.

The database, dubbed PeopleBase, was created by an Arkansas contractor who was paid by Clinton's 1992 campaign. It was available inside the White House in "view only" form on Jan. 21, 1993, the day after Clinton took office, Toiv said.

"It was a complete database in the sense that it contained the names of virtually everyone the president had come in con-

tact with as (Arkansas) governor as well as during the gubernatorial campaigns," Toiv said. "Marsha was among those who could access the information."

Toiv said PeopleBase was physically located in Arkansas but "there were a limited number of computer terminals" inside the White House that could access the database. White House officials could view the data but could not manipulate it. "Her (Scott's) office was able to use it. It was used for correspondence," he said.

White House officials said they did not know the exact date when Scott and her office first used it.

Some of the information in PeopleBase was eventually incorporated into the official White House database Scott began working on in late 1993 and which was deployed throughout the White House in 1995, Toiv said.

During last year's deposition, Scott testified she and others were aware that any database created by the White House could not be used for future campaigns.

"All of us that worked there were very cognizant of the fact that we were not, in any way, allowed to, encouraged to, and to

my knowledge no one ever did anything to create any kind of campaign context or database," she answered.

The Republican who has pressed the investigation into the database said Scott's answer was "further evidence of a pattern of secrecy around the database."

"Marsha's answer was underwhelming and shows how they continue to be very, very secretive and uncooperative in the investigation," Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind., said.

Scott's lawyer, Stuart F. Pierson, defended her answer.

He said he attended her deposition last year and also believed the question applied only to early 1993 and to a campaign database because it was prefaced by talk of the Thomason memo.

"Looking at the question alone without the earlier reference to the Thomason memo, it may seem the answer is overly broad."

If anybody is asking, and I believe they were, whether there was a White House-wide database that could be used in a campaign, based on what I know, her answer was entirely accurate," Pierson said.

Crime Shorts

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

1/31 Threats

A female employee reported that on 1/30 between 3:55 a.m. and 6 a.m. she was threatened by an unknown person on the eighth floor of MCV's Main Hospital.

Harassing Calls

A female student reported that between 1/24 and 1/30 she received harassing phone calls from unknown person(s) on the fourth floor of Gladding Residence Center.

Attempted Breaking and Entering

A male employee reported that on 1/29 between 6 p.m. and 6:31 p.m. unknown person(s) attempted to gain entry into a tunnel door of the basement of MCV's Egyptian Building.

2/1 Petit Larceny

A female student reported that on 1/31 between 10 a.m. and noon unknown person(s) removed a wallet from its unsecured location on the first floor of the General Purpose Building.

Total Value: \$28.00

Petit Larceny

A male employee reported that on 1/31 between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. unknown person(s) removed a license plate from a vehicle on level six of MCV's D Deck.

2/3 Falsely Summoning Fire Apparatus

On 2/2 at 1:05 p.m. unknown person(s) falsely summoned a fire apparatus on the fifth floor of MCV's North Hospital.

2/4

Petit Larceny

A female employee reported that on 2/3 between 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its secure location in the MCV's South Building.

Total Value: \$117.90

Grand Larceny

A female employee reported that on 2/3 between 2:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location in Johnson Hall.

Total Value: \$899.99

2/5

Petit Larceny

A male visitor reported that between 5 p.m. 1/30 and 8 a.m. 1/31 unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location on the 3rd floor of MCV's Main Hospital.

Total Value: \$35.00

2/6

Grand Larceny

A female employee reported that on 2/5 between 1 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecured location in the basement of MCV's West Hospital.

Total Value: \$200.00

CAREER

continued from page 1
nities.

The fair, Gunn said, serves a number of students' needs. For instance, it gives students the chance to meet with several employers in a 4-hour time-slot while learning more about specific companies in the various industries.

Regardless, it's the student's appearance that eventually could determine whether an interview is given or arranged. That's why Career Center personnel suggest students dress as if they are going to an interview in the employer's office rather than just attending another day of classes.

What skills are employers looking for in students?

John Harrison, a recruiter for management information systems at Circuit City corporate headquarters and a planned participant in the fair, said he doesn't rate

experience too important for college students.

Instead, he listed dedication, flexibility, tolerance for stress and willing to go the extra mile for customers or co-workers as more important skills.

"The type of environment we have is ideal for someone coming out of school," he said of his company. "We have a lot of opportunities to offer. We are growing at an aggressive rate."

On the other hand, Gunn said she considers communication skills, technical skills and adaptability as very important, while Myers ranked self-motivation, ambition, computer skills and loyalty to the companies at the top of the list.

"Everyone has to be willing to relearn and shift," Gunn said of those entering the marketplace.

Prospects '97 Career Fair attendees

- American Express Financial Advisors
- Chesterfield County Government
- Dupont Merck Pharmaceutical Company
- John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co.
- Markel Corporation

- Personal Computer Consultants
- Trader Publishing Company
- U.S. Secret Service
- Virginia Association of Broadcasters
- Wheat First Butcher Singer Securities

Feed your brain. Read the CT.

Texas universities told to use race-neutral policies

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — The attorney general of Texas told state colleges and universities Wednesday to use only race-neutral policies in deciding such things as admissions, financial aid and scholarships.

"Let us focus our time, energy and creativity on finding alternative ways to promote cultural diversity and equal opportunity in our universities instead of fighting a legal reality," Dan Morales said.

His opinion, which carries the force of law, comes nearly a year after the U.S. Supreme Court let stand an appeals court's decision to throw out the University of Texas Law School's affirmative action policy for admissions.

The 5th U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans last year said the policy discriminated against whites, and the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the ruling to stand.

Since, Texas universities have struggled to deal with the results of the lawsuit, filed by four white students who didn't get into the law school.

Morales, who supports the goals of affirmative action, has said race should not be the determining factor, but "only one of a multitude of personal factors" used to decide admissions.

But last year, after the ruling, he issued guidelines saying race or ethnicity should

no longer be used as a standard in admissions or financial aid decisions. Morales was reluctant to issue a formal opinion at that point, and told each university to use the guidelines.

The guidelines suggest the consideration of age, socioeconomic history, financial status, hometown, family background and personal talents as ways of maintaining and increasing diversity.

In August, however, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board asked Morales for a formal legal opinion on state-funded scholarships and grants that provide for consideration of race or ethnicity. Recently, the University of Houston also asked for an opinion.

Morales did not respond earlier because the board asked for a broad opinion on the case, which he felt was unnecessary, Morales spokesman Ron Dusek said. He issued the opinion Wednesday in response to specific questions about the ruling from the University of Houston, Dusek said.

Wednesday Texas Higher Education Commissioner Ken Ashworth said state colleges and universities now are in worse shape in their efforts to recruit, retain and graduate minority students. The appeals court ruling applies only to public universities in Texas. Schools in other states are covered by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allows race to be considered.

SENATE

continued from page 1

position and vote for the measure.

"They speak very clearly," said Miller, the only woman senator to favor Earley's bill. "So clearly that I listened to them."

Still, abortion-rights activists haven't thrown in the towel — at least not yet.

"I don't think we're going to know until the last week of the session," said Karen Raschke, a Planned Parenthood representative.

In recent years, both chambers have

HOUSE

continued from page 1

Delegates. "I would plead with you to give this responsibility back to the parents. I plead with you to take the responsibility of passing a true parental notification bill."

Delegate Jean W. Cunningham, D-Richmond, said that even though the bill allows those children who are abused or fear abuse to bypass notifying a parent, she thinks it would be in the best interest of the minor to be able to notify another adult relative so someone is there for the child.

"We cannot legislate parental involvement," Cunningham said. "That child may turn to the back alleys (instead of an adult sibling) that still exist because the need will be there."

The measure would allow a judge instead of a parent to authorize the procedure if the judge rules that the female is mature and capable of giving informed consent for the abortion.

Moreover, a physician would be able to perform an abortion when doing so would save the patient's life or if a delay for notification would create a serious risk to the child's health.

passed similar measures though not at the same time. Last year an identical bill only needed the House's approval but was killed by Speaker of the House Thomas W. Moss Jr., D-Norfolk, on a parliamentary technicality.

And three years ago, Allen vetoed a broader notification bill that included extended family members after requesting legislators to draft a pure parental notification bill.

In 1995, both chambers agreed on a similar watered-down version of parental notification, but Gov. George Allen vetoed the measure saying it was not strong enough. And last year the House voted in favor of a tougher parental notification bill only to see it die by a procedural move.

Delegate Robert G. Marshall, R-Manassas, and sponsor of the bill, voiced the one absentee vote. He tried to amend the bill by adding a provision requiring physicians to secure proof of a patient's age before performing an abortion.

Marshall's failed amendment would have required those seeking an abortion to provide a government-issued photograph such as a driver's license to the physician.

House Majority Leader C. Richard Cranwell, D-Vinton, nixed the amendment by telling his colleagues that not everyone would have a driver's license or passport.

Jackson predicted that the conferees will pass the lenient measure that the governor has said he will not sign. If not, he said they will strip it of the House amendment and the assembly will not pass it.

Phone: 828-1058

Fax: 828-9201

e-mail:

mac5skb@atlas

**GOT A NEWS TIP?
GET IT TO US BY:**

Charles Gnilka

Simpson case symbolizes State of the Union

Even the most partisan members of government know it would be improper to interrupt the president while he gives his state of the union speech. Members of Congress, the supreme court and other branches of power sit patiently and reverently, even if they bitterly disagree with what the president says. Everyone knows that this is the time for the person who resides in the White House to have his say.

Unfortunately, the verdict in the O.J. Simpson civil suit came at a time that disturbed all normalcy.

If you were watching President Clinton give his speech, depending what network you were watching, the news that O.J. Simpson had been found liable in the deaths of two people was announced right in the middle of the speech. Most networks observed a sense of decorum, running the news as a caption on the bottom of the screen. Yet, the very notion of what amounts to celebrity news could disrupt what is supposed to be a night for reflection of an entire nation angers many people.

What emerges from this momentary eclipsing of the president's speech is a testament to what is considered news. It is also further proof that the Simpson case still has a vise-like grip upon the national consciousness.

There is a bitter irony that President Clinton's speech, which called for a bringing together of different races, would be interrupted by news about a case that has driven a wedge between so many people. But therein lies why network TV carried the news of the verdict along with the speech.

Presidential elections are not just a time for the changing of the presidential power. They are a chance for those seeking elected office to criss-cross the nation, seeking the favor of citizens in every corner of the country. This past election had a lackluster turnout, less than 50 percent. Some political analysts theorize that the candidates did not capture the imagination of the public. Others said the country did not need an election to know its current status, a non-political event had already done that: the verdict of the first O.J. Simpson trial in October 1995.

The most telling and disturbing images to emerge from the first Simpson trial had nothing directly to do with the murder of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson,

it was the nationwide reaction to the verdict captured on live TV.

With camera crews all over the nation rolling tape as the verdict was announced, it was clear to see how this trial, and the distrust of the justice system which emerged from it, had divided people.

A classic example was a split screen of two different camera feeds, one from the law school at Georgetown University, with a largely white audience of law students. The other was at Howard University with a largely African-American student body. When the verdict of not guilty was announced, the Georgetown students sat in stunned silence, some shaking their heads.

The Howard University audience jumped up and cheered. Rarely before had the country

seen a rift in opinion that pivoted so much on race. Similar contrasting images came in from all over the country. The talk shows and news commentary shows were abuzz with interpretation of the sharp contrast in reactions to the verdict. But the images did tell a clear story that was hard to deny. No matter if you thought Simpson was innocent or guilty, there was clearly a problem in America with race relations and a difference of opinion about whether our system of justice really did treat everyone fairly.

The specter of the first trial had lingered during the second trial and its verdict. It also hangs over political debate on a wide spectrum of issues, ranging from affirmative action to welfare funding. Politicians are not known for their courage or even their awareness of the country they would like to hold power on. But the whammy of the Simpson verdict was such a conflagration of long repressed anger that it can not be ignored. No surprise that even the most conservative politicians are now preaching racial healing and tolerance. Another irony about the pre-emption of the President's state of the union speech is that it may increase its significance. State of the union speeches are seen as fleeting, lots of flowery words and ideas that are forgotten when partisan battles and scandals heat up. But this speech may be remembered because it was interrupted by the verdict. Both Clinton and the Republican response spoke of a new age of healing and racial harmony. No speech alone can make that happen. That burden falls on the rest of us, no matter where we are.

Charles Gnilka

New technology ready to step up to the plate

What is DVD? A new and nasty medical disorder? It is a new format for home video watching, a relative of compact disc that holds an entire movie on side. The result is a two-hour movie can play off of one CD with digital sound and a clear picture. If the electronics industry is right (there are careers and pensions at stake here) it will become the new wave of home entertainment.

Oh boy! Now we can run out and buy another toy that the electronics industry says we have to have!

DVD is probably going to be a success anyway. It has all the benefits of Laserdiscs and is small and easy to use. Its size alone will probably make it very sexy to the home video-rental market. But it also shows how our lives are being flooded by new technology when we have barely adapted to the old. For a country on the cusp of the digital age, most of us are very technophobic and downright ignorant of the gadgets that our invading our homes and lives. When we do figure out how to use them, sometimes there is very little to enjoy with them.

If you go to buy a new TV today, it is a long way from the two-knob deals our parents used to watch Andy Griffin and Star Trek. Even a simple TV has a complex remote control with a complex array of buttons. The main TV itself has very few buttons underneath the tube. There are no more UHF or VHF knobs. All those controls have been put on the remote control, even the controls for color and contrast. Now you can adjust every aspect of your TV from your lazy-boy recliner. The only problem is now you have to master an on-screen menu that looks like a version of Microsoft Windows. Better not loose that manual.

This same metamorphosis has occurred with microwave ovens, digital watches, VCRs and even coffee makers. To make these machines easy to use, the manufacturers have created little buttons and settings. They are time savers and make things more convenient, provided you can figure them out.

This is where the technophiles are sifted from the technophobes. Some people are adept at using technology. They can program their VCR on the first try, even without a manual. They can upgrade from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95 with ease. They can even wire their homes for Dolby Surround in less than an hour. Terms like

megahertz, Dolby Pro-Logic, VTR, CAV, CLV, pan and scan, letterbox, XL pro, AFM, Execute button, pre-program and "scuzzy" card make perfect sense to them.

Others are simply scared of technology. Maybe it is a throwback to childhood, when they were burned by touching a hot stove, that makes people fearful of the complex and unfamiliar. Maybe it is a self-defeating doubt that they lack the intellectual ability to master a VCR programming code or the labyrinth of cable hookups behind their new TV. Whatever the case, they jam the tech-support lines for computer companies with questions and their VCRs are forever blinking "12:00."

This is in no way a reflection of how smart people are. Just because you have problems figuring out how to program your CD player does not mean you are a retard. Some people have a better grip on the philosophy on how things work, others need a little more experience and help.

When the DVD players hit the shelves in a couple of months, undoubtedly there will be people hunched behind their TV sets, looking for the right connections to make it work. Some will figure it out from the get go, others will find it a challenge akin to defining the number pi.

DVD is probably going to be a success anyway. It has all the benefits of Laserdiscs and is small and easy to use. Its size alone will probably make it very sexy to the home video-rental market.

When it finally works, what will we play on our new DVD players? If you go to the local

video store you will find another dilemma, there is plenty of cool hardware to buy, but very little to play on it. Even if all the video stores go to the DVD format, the same frustration will remain. All the good stuff will get rented out and the crappy films will be available in droves.

The same thing has happened in the video-game market. With the most advanced video technology available, capable of creating ultra-realistic environments and sound, most game manufacturers are on their 300th knock-off of "Mortal Kombat." How many times can you knock somebody's head and feel good about it?

With the influx of new technology for the home market, a bloodbath of failure is inevitable. Game systems, video formats and new gadgets rise and fall like Roman Emperors. Only if they offer something new and innovative is when they succeed.

Some of us will probably opt out of the situation all together. We will stay home and read books. At least those have plenty of good titles and do not need to be hooked up.

Commonwealth TIMES

EDITORIAL BOARD

Charles Gnilka-editor

Pete Van Vleet

Richard Taliaferro

Jenny Swiger

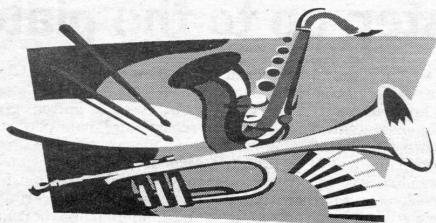
The editorial section of the **Commonwealth TIMES** is a forum open to all members of the Virginia Commonwealth University community. Students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit editorials expressing their opinions and concerns. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers 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!**

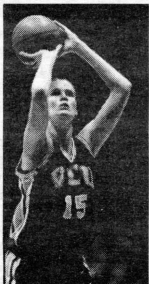
RADIO STAFFERS NEEDED



ANYONE INTERESTED IN WORKING AT WVCW. A NEW WORLD MUSIC FORMAT MEANS A NEW STAFF! APPLICATIONS ARE AT THE RADIO STATION IN GPAB 1100. JOIN US TUESDAY, FEB. 11 AT 6PM IN THE RADIO STATION FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION.

WVCW
105.3 CABLE FM

LADY RAMS HOOPS TONIGHT!



Junior Mona Karlsson

VCU LADY RAMS

vs.

George Mason

Friday, February 7
Franklin Street Gym
7:00 p.m.

NEXT HOME GAME

VCU Lady Rams

vs.

William & Mary

Tuesday, February 11
Franklin Street Gym
7:00 p.m.

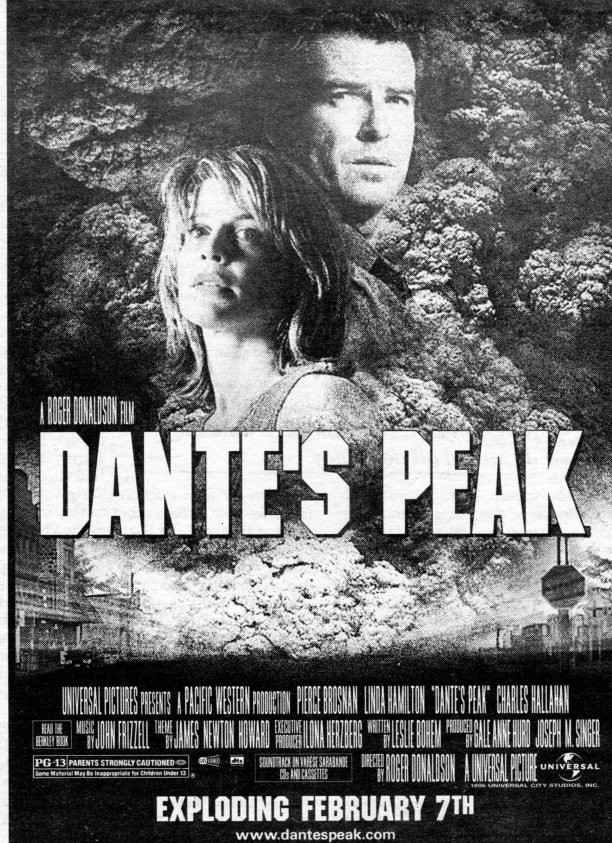
All VCU/MCV Students Admitted
Free with Valid Student I.D.



Lifetime
Television for Women™

PIERCE BROSNAN

LINDA HAMILTON



BOB EVANS WANTS YOU!!!!

IF YOU HAVE A FRIENDLY, UPBEAT PERSONALITY AND WANT TO WORK IN A FUN, FAST-PACED ENVIRONMENT . . . THEN WE'RE THE PLACE FOR YOU!! WE OFFER VARYING SCHEDULES, FULL AND PART TIME, MEAL DISCOUNTS AND MUCH MORE!!

ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

SERVERS, GRILL LINE, KITCHEN PREP,
HOST/HOSTESS & BUSSERS

REPLY IN PERSON AT:

BOB EVANS

5431 Glenside Drive

(corner of Glenside and Broad)

'Evita:' A must-see for film lovers

Hollie Atkins

CT SPECTRUM ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Outstanding acting, dazzling scenes and powerful music — "Evita" has them all. Director Alan Parker incorporates these elements to recreate the life of Argentine legend Eva Peron.

First, a brief historical background of the woman who inspired the musical:

In 1919, Eva was born Maria Eva Ibarburen, the illegitimate daughter of Juan Duarte and Juana Ibarburen. Her father would die seven years later, and Eva would be denied attendance to his funeral. This event would be a key factor in her dislike of the upper class.

At 15, Eva became the mistress of lounge singer Agustin Magaldi. She convinced him to take her with him to Buenos Aires. There she bounced from lover to lover and became a minor celebrity, first in radio and then on film.

Argentina was in a time of political unrest, alternating between a democracy and military dictatorships. It was during this time, January 1944, that Eva met Col. Juan Peron.

Eva was soon Peron's mistress, attracting the dislike of the ruling class and Peron's military cohorts. Eva became active in promoting Peron to the working class as their next president.

Due to his growing popularity, Peron

was arrested by the ruling junta. He was released in 1945 and went on to be elected the 29th president of Argentina in 1946.

Eva quickly became active in the role of first lady. Her "Rainbow Tour" of Europe gained her and her country global media recognition.

The common man became Eva's passion as she created numerous organizations and charities to benefit the working class. Twelve new hospitals and a number of new schools were opened under La Fundacion Ayuda Social Maria Duarte de Peron. Through Eva's campaigning, women's right to vote was made law in 1947.

The crowds of supporters pushed

Eva to run for vice president in Peron's re-election campaign. Due to her failing health, or perhaps persuasion from enemies, Eva declined. She died July 26, 1952. Hundreds of mourners would attend the funeral of their lost legend.

Parker's "Evita" brings these events to life with stunning clarity. The film did have to face challenges such as crowds that did not want a non-Argentinean playing their Evita.

Madonna plays the ambitious Eva. Her performance is extraordinary; she seems to become the part, putting all of her strength into making Eva as real for the viewer as she was for Argentina. As Eva's health begins to fail, Madonna's touching expressions and soft melodies bring tears to the eyes of those watching.

"I had no idea what I was in for when I was asked to be in this movie," she said in Tim Parker's book, "The Making of Evita." "I soon realized there was no middle ground. We all took chances and made sacrifices. We created something rare and beautiful and our lives will never be the same."

Antonio Banderas brings to life Che, the narrator. Banderas also delivers a first-rate performance, proving anyone who thought he couldn't sing wrong. His dances and vocal performances draw the audience in and help them to understand any little details they may have missed. He also doubts Eva's intentions, helping to demonstrate the side of those who felt the nation wasn't benefiting under Peron's rule.

Jonathon Pryce is Peron. The British actor has no problem fitting into the role of an Argentine ruler. His love for Evita is expressed through his every action. The scene in which he must tell Eva that she is dying is one viewers will not forget.

Perhaps the most unique element of this film is that most of the lines are sung. This is accomplished through the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and the lyrics of Tim Rice.



FIRST ENCOUNTER — Evita, played by Madonna, first met Juan Peron, Jonathon Pryce, at a charity concert for victims of the San Juan Earthquake in 1944.

The combination of the two talents produces a strong, emotional soundtrack. For those who do not like musicals, do not let that fact stop you from seeing this film. The effect grabs your attention at the beginning of the film and doesn't let go until the final scene. It is as if you are watching the real Eva Peron and her struggle to live when her body is failing.

"I stood with Madonna on the balcony of the Casa Rosada," said Parker. "With all of the documentary footage imprinted

in the back of our brains it was impossible not to be moved when we were standing in the same spot where Eva stood looking down at a crowd of adoring thousands. Suddenly, it wasn't just the illusion and replication of film. It was strangely real."

Viewers will leave this film with the same impression that it was reality. Anyone who enjoys being completely entertained can not afford to miss this film.

“
Madonna plays the ambitious
Eva. Her performance is
extraordinary; she seems to
become the part, putting all
of her strength into making
Eva as real for the viewer as
she was for Argentina.
”



ARGENTINE LEGEND — The real Eva Durate De Peron. Eva died in 1952 of uterine cancer.

Music Highlight: Siddal



LOCAL TALENT — Siddal is originally from Richmond.

David Warren
CT STAFF WRITER

The floating voice of Elaine Winters and the melodic bass of Richard Brinkley from the band Siddal has been making audiences dance since the early 90's.

The band, originally from the Richmond area, is now more-or-less based out of Washington, D.C., the location of their record label Bedazzled. The duo has recently released their second full-length album, "The Crossing."

The album starts with the intensely soothing sounds of a song called "Possible Dust," which seems to float into the minds of listeners and hang about, clearing out the unwanted thoughts. The

band then rolls through eight other tracks including the haunting sounds of "Maybe Heaven" and "Secrets of the Blind."

This band is for anyone who enjoys the music of Clannad or Dead Can Dance. If one cannot find "The Crossing," Siddal can be found on their first full-length release "The Pedestal." Area stores that carry Richmond artists are a good place to look.

For those of you who might only want a taste of the music, there is something for you too.

Siddal can be found on the compilations "Kindred Spirits" and "Woke Up Smiling." These compilations feature a variety of other bands also on the Bedazzled label including The Curtain Society, Mistle Thrush, and the now defunct Strange Boutique.

Siddal can be found haunting the stage locally through special shows at gothic/industrial night, Thursdays at Twister's on Grace Street. Siddal has made several appearances at 1708 W. Main St. and Hole in the Wall.

Further information on Siddal can be obtained through Bedazzled Records, P.O. Box 39195, Washington, D.C., or through e-mail, music@bedazzled.com.



Virginia Commonwealth University

ATTENTION MAY 1997 VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

The deadline for submitting May 17, 1997, applications for graduation has been extended to February 10, 1997.

For your convenience, applications may be picked up at the Student Services Center located at 827 West Franklin St. The completed form may be placed in the Student Drop Box located in the hallway outside the Student Services Center between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Monday/Wednesday/Friday or between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday/Thursday.

PLEASE NOTE: You should return to the Student Services Center to pick up your graduation application two days after submitting your request. Upon receipt, your application should be taken immediately to your advisor to meet the deadline for May Commencement.

ROAD CLOSED



DETOUR

Not to us! We're going straight ahead
for treatments and cures for
40 neuromuscular diseases.

MDA[®]

Muscular Dystrophy Association

1-800-572-1717

People help MDA... because MDA helps people.

Teach in an Independent School

Job Fair for Diversity

Saturday, February 22 ▼ 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Collegiate School

Richmond, Virginia

Call 804-358-6273 for details

- Free admission
- Meet administrators from independent schools
in Virginia, the D.C. area and Pennsylvania
- Discuss current job openings and benefits for grades K-12
- Attend orientation seminars and meet other minority teachers

Sponsored by The Virginia Association of Independent Schools

help wanted

COMMONS — The Commons is now accepting applications for all work areas and shifts. Faculty, information, Games Room, Commuter and Office Assistant positions start at \$5.25/hour for 10-20 hours/week. High quality customer service skills and positive work habits required; minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 also required. Pick up applications at the Information Center and return with semester schedule to Room 216. For more information call 828-6500.

CRUISE & LAND-TOUR EMPLOYMENT — Work in exotic locations, meet fun people, AND get paid! For industry information, call Cruise Employment Services: 800-276-448 Ext. C53326 (We are a research and publishing company.)

WORK ON THE OUTER BANKS — \$7.00 per hour plus \$150.00 per month housing allowance. Largest rental service on the Outer Banks of North Carolina (Nags Head). Call Dona for application and housing info. 800-622-2122.

IT'S NO LONGER NECESSARY to borrow money for college. We can help you obtain funding. Thousands of awards available to all students. Immediate qualification. 1-800-651-3363.

PART-TIME LEGAL ASSISTANT/ MARKETING INTERN — Market research; data entry; communication with clients and courts; general office work at small law firm with offices in Richmond and Fairfax; flexible hours; 20-30 hrs/wk; \$6 hr; typing 30 wpm; No other experience required. Call 1-888-273-2750.

**READ THE CT.
IT'S WHAT'S
HAPPENING.**

miscellaneous

FREE T-SHIRT + 1000 — Credit Card fundraisers for fraternities, sororities & groups. Any campus organization can raise up to \$1000 by earning a whopping \$5/Visa Application. Call 1-800-932-0528 ext. 65

DRUM LESSONS — Beginner, intermediate, private, one-on-one. Call 355-3148 for details.

SPRING BREAK — Nassau/Paradise Island, from \$379. Air hotel, Transfers, Parties and More! Organize small group — earn FREE trips plus commissions! Call 1-800-9-BEACH!

BEST HOTELS AND LOWEST PRICES FOR SPRING-BREAK BEACH destinations. Florida, Cancun, Jamaica, etc. CALL NOW for rooms or SIGN-UP as INTER-CAMPUS REPR. 1-800-327-6013. <http://www.icpt.com>

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!!! Grants, Scholarships, AID Available from sponsors!!! No repayments, ever!!! Cash for college \$\$\$ for info: 1-800-243-2435.

**WRITE
FOR THE
CT.**

Call Coveh
at
828-1058.

**IT PAYS TO
ADVERTISE
IN THE
TIMES.
CALL
828-1058.**

*Got a newstip?
Call 828-1058, fax
it to 828-9201, or
email
mac5shb@atlas*

*Classifieds are
accepted Monday
through Friday in the
offices of the
Commonwealth TIMES,
901 W. Main St.
Classifieds must be
prepaid in cash, check
or money order.
Classifieds will be
accepted by mail if full
payment is enclosed.
The deadline for
classifieds is noon
Friday for the following
Monday edition, noon
Tuesday for the
Wednesday issue and
noon Thursday for the
Friday issue.*

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

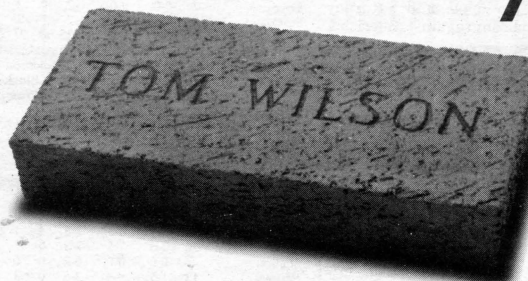
Ad REPS WANTED

**Earn commission and
build your resume
while gaining
valuable experience.**

**CALL
PAUL MCDANIEL
AT
828-1058
FOR DETAILS.**



**Exactly
what can \$50
buy you?
Immortality.**



Leave your mark. If you're a student, you can buy your own brick for only \$50 at the VCU Siegel Center. Call 828-4000 to find out how.

**...Now Hiring...
the 1997 STAR Team**

Twelve Outstanding Students Will Become This
Year's STAR Team!

Pick up applications at one of the
**STAR Team Information
Meetings!**

Wednesday, January 29, 2:00 p.m.
Commons, Capital B

Tuesday, February 4, 3:30 p.m.
Commons, Capital C

Wednesday, February 5, 12 noon
Commons, Capital C

Monday February 10, 5:00 p.m.
Commons, Capital B

Applications due Friday, February 14, 1997,
to the Office of New Student Programs, Commons, Rooms 216-219
Talk to Tracy Green or Karen Brown-Davis at 828-3700 if you have any
questions!

The Picks



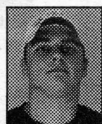
"Packer"
Paul



"Pope"
Pete



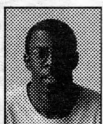
"Steel City"
Solaimani



"Top"
Bob



"Token"
Baker



"Richie"
Rich



"Mouth of the"
Southworth



"Smokin"
Joe



"7-year"
Scanlon

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

Alabama at Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee
Arkansas at Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	Arkansas	Arkansas	Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	Arkansas	Vanderbilt
California at USC	California	USC	USC	California	USC	USC	USC	California	USC
Maryland at Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Mississippi St. at Georgia	Georgia	Mississippi St.	Georgia	Georgia	Mississippi St.	Mississippi St.	Georgia	Mississippi St.	Georgia
Harvard at Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton
Ohio St. at Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana
Nebraska at Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech
Arizona St. at Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona
Oklahoma at Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.
Purdue at Michigan St.	Michigan St.	Purdue	Michigan St.	Michigan St.	Purdue	Purdue	Michigan St.	Michigan St.	Michigan St.
Stanford at UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	Stanford	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA
Georgetown at Syracuse	Georgetown	Georgetown	Syracuse	Syracuse	Georgetown	Syracuse	Syracuse	Georgetown	Syracuse
Utah at Colorado St.	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Colorado St.
The Citadel at VMI	VMI	VMI	VMI	VMI	VMI	VMI	VMI	VMI	VMI
Xavier at St. Joseph's	Xavier	St. Joseph's	Xavier	Xavier	Xavier	Xavier	Xavier	Xavier	St. Joseph's

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Kansas at Iowa St.	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Iowa St.	Kansas	Iowa St.
Villanova at Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
Wake Forest at Missouri	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest

CAA GAME OF THE WEEK, SATURDAY, FEB. 8

JMU at George Mason	James Madison	George Mason	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison
---------------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

RESULTS

Last week:	14-6	14-6	15-5	12-8	12-8	12-8	13-7	12-8	10-10
Season to date:	40-20	40-20	40-20	39-21	38-22	37-23	36-24	35-25	30-30
Percentage:	.667	.667	.667	.650	.633	.616	.600	.583	.500
Games Back	—	—	—	1	2	3	4	5	10

■ The Picks have turned into the battle of the cities — the Vatican City, Green Bay and Pittsburgh. Pete better be praying because he's going to need all the spiritual help he can muster from the interior of the world's smallest nation. Solaimani's hopes for the first-ever picks grand slam (claiming both the fall and spring title) will likely go the way of the Pirates, or the University of Pittsburgh basketball team or the University of Pittsburgh football team ... well you get the point — the cellar. And Paul may lose his picks rights if he continues to speak of defecting to the radio station. We certainly are not concerned about the boy who once was referred to as "Fudge." Scanlon has vowed this week to do the unthinkable — move above .500.

JMU

continued from page 12

Hamilton said he wasn't playing as well as he should have until he started his scoring burst on a three-pointer.

"I had a bad game up to that point, and I felt had shoot it," Hamilton said.

For Madison it was the second consecutive game they lost in the final minutes of the second half.

"Their big man just killed us," JMU coach Lefty Driesell said. "I thought it was a great game for the first 35 minutes. They just wanted it worse then we did and they got it."

VCU closes its homestand Saturday evening at the coliseum against American.

CAA STANDINGS

(Through Feb. 6)

Team	Conference	W-L	%	Overall	%
East Carolina	7-4	.636	14-6	.700	
UNC Wilmington	7-4	.636	12-11	.522	
James Madison	6-4	.600	12-8	.600	
Old Dominion	6-5	.556	15-8	.652	
VCU	6-5	.545	11-10	.524	
American	5-5	.500	8-11	.421	
Richmond	4-6	.400	8-11	.421	
William & Mary	4-6	.400	7-13	.350	
George Mason	3-9	.250	9-12	.429	

UPCOMING GAMES

Saturday

American at VCU, 7 p.m.
James Madison at George Mason, 4:30 p.m. (HTS)
Old Dominion at UNC Wilmington, 7:30 p.m. (HTS)
Richmond at William & Mary, 2:00 p.m.

Monday

American at William & Mary, 7:30 p.m.
East Carolina at Jacksonville State, 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

VCU 72, James Madison 60

(At Richmond Coliseum)

George Mason (9-9, 3-6)

	min	fg	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Howard	29	4-13	0-0	1-4	3	5	2	9
Lott	32	7-14	0-0	3-4	0	2	14	
Boozier	20	2-5	0-3	2-4	2	4	4	
Perry	23	3-6	0-0	0-0	0	2	7	
Atkinson	36	7-10	1-3	2-7	3	3	16	
Felton	17	0-2	0-0	1-2	0	1	0	
Milisa	14	3-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	6	
Culicerto	15	1-4	0-0	0-5	3	3	2	
Boyd	7	0-0	0-0	0-2	0	3	0	
Strickland	7	1-22	0-1	1-2	1	3	2	
TOTALS	200	28-59	1-7	11-33	12	27	60	

Percentages: FG-.475, FT-.143. 3-point goals: 3-14, 2-14 (Howard 1-5, Lott 0-1, Perry 1-2, Atkinson 1-1, Felton 0-2, Culicerto 0-3). Team rebounds: 2. Blocked shots: 2 (Lott 2) Turnovers: 17. Steals: 9 (Howard 3, Atkinson 3, Culicerto 2, Lott). VCU (9-10, 4-5)

	min	fg	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Reed	37	6-12	5-7	0-2	2	1	18	
Moore	19	2-7	5-8	3-9	0	1	9	
Archie	28	3-9	4-7	4-8	1	4	10	
Hamilton	34	3-6	1-2	3-4	6	0	8	
Lee	33	5-9	3-3	2-8	4	1	13	
Byrd	20	3-5	2-5	2-3	0	3	8	
Shelton	6	0-0	0-0	0-2	0	0	0	
Brooks	13	1-5	4-4	3-5	0	3	6	
Drake	10	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	
TOTALS	200	23-53	24-36	18-42	13	15	72	

Percentages: FG-.434, FT-.667. 3-point goals: 2-7, 2-8 (Reed 1-3, Hamilton 1-2, Lee 0-2). Team rebounds: 1. Blocked shots: 4 (Moore 2, Archie, Byrd). Turnovers: 17. Steals: 10 (Reed 2, Drake 2, Lee 2, Moore, Hamilton, Byrd, Shelton).

James Madison 28 32 — 60
VCU 28 44 — 72

Technical fouls: None. A: 4261

Rams in Action

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S BASKETBALL (11-10, 6-5)	FEB. 8 AU	FEB. 12 ECU	FEB. 15 ODU	THE RAMS WILL TRY FOR A SEASON-HIGH SIXTH-STRAIGHT WIN SATURDAY AGAINST THE PIRATES
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (9-9, 3-6)	FEB. 7 GMU	FEB. 9 UNCW	FEB. 11 W&M	THE LADY RAMS WILL TRY TO BREAK 500 FRIDAY AGAINST GEORGE MASON
MEN'S TENNIS (2-0)	FEB. 7-9 VCU INV.	FEB. 10 ETSU	FEB. 14-15 VCU INV.	THE RAMS HAVE MADE THE NCAA TOURNAMENT FOUR CONSECUTIVE SEASONS
WOMEN'S TENNIS (0-1)	FEB. 8 MD.	FEB. 15 PSU	FEB. 15 DAY.	THE LADY RAMS ARE TRYING TO RECOVER FROM THE LOSS OF CATERINA BERNSTEIN
BASEBALL	FEB. 7 APP. ST.	FEB. 8 WC	FEB. 9 CITADEL	THE RAMS WERE LAST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS IN 1993.
GOLF	FEB. 20-23 RDN SMITH/USF INTERNATIONAL, TAMPA, FLA.			
TRACK & FIELD	FEB. 8, GMU WINTER INVITATIONAL, FAIRFAX			

☒ INDICATES HOME GAME ☐ INDICATES AWAY GAME

INDICATES HOME GAME INDICATES AWAY GAME

WRITE FOR SPORTS.
CALL TERRY OR PETE at 828-1058

Baseball team in full swing

Pete Van Vleet
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Puxatony Phill didn't see his shadow this Groundhog's Day so spring must be right around the corner. A better and more reliable sign that the second season of the year is about to start is the crack of the bat and the yell of the umpire, which can be heard this weekend as the VCU baseball team starts its season.

The Rams start the season at the CITGO Challenge in South Carolina this weekend with high expectations. Collegiate Baseball America predicted the Rams to claim their first Colonial Athletic Association crown and a trip to the NCAA regionals.

The Rams have been shut out of the tournament since 1993.

Gone from last year's team is Brandon Snead who lead the team in home runs and RBIs and Cordell Farley, the team's leader on the base paths, who was drafted as a junior by the St. Louis Cardinals this summer.

"I think Farley will be hard to replace. I think we have more overall team speed," VCU coach Paul Keyes said.

The team, which finished 34-22 last year, keeps the nucleus of sophomores Brandon Inge, Jake Anthony, Anthony

Linhardt and Justin Martin along with senior Jay Ashcraft, has 13 new members to Keyes' squad.

Keyes said although he doesn't have anyone who can hit around the .400 mark (which is not that uncommon in collegiate baseball) he has a lineup full of potential .330 to .350 hitters.

Inge will solidify the middle infield and the middle of the lineup as the shortstop and reliever was named to the Freshman All-American team as a utility player last year.

Ashcraft will move back to the outfield, his natural position, where Keyes said Ashcraft can worry less about fielding and can concentrate more on the offensive half of the game.

Inge, however, will miss this weekend's tournament against The Citadel, Western Carolina and Appala-

chian State because of a viral infection, which might be mononucleosis, Keyes said.

Of the 13 new players, only one was able to crack the starting nine. Dennis Champagne will take Snead's place in right field and hit sixth.

Keyes said he fulfilled his off-season

wish by adding depth to the pitching staff, nine of the 13 can take the mound of a team that had finished last season with a 4.58 team ERA.



Inge

others a rest. This year, he said, he will have five starters, some of which can throw 90 mph, and will use Inge solely in the bullpen.



Keyes

He said the team, which is split between upper- and lower-classmen, gained valuable experience last season and will be able to contend for the conference title.

"We're a more balanced team this year," Keyes said. "We'll be deeper offensively and we increased our pitching staff depth. We've got all the pieces in place to be a good team."

Lady Rams look to regain winning ways

Joe Rogalsky
CT STAFF WRITER

The Lady Rams, losers of four straight and five of their last six games, can blame

part of their recent woes on not playing intensely, according to the coaching staff.

"We have to play with great intensity to compete in the league," assistant coach Jerry Radford said. "I think when the kids come and play with great intensity we have a chance to win."

The intensity has to be there for us too have a chance to succeed. That is something we work on everyday."

In VCU's most recent loss, an 83-59 drubbing at American, the Lady Rams didn't show up in the first half. They trailed 42-17 to a team they had defeated handily earlier in the season. VCU got on track in the second half but it was too late.

"We came out flat in the first half," Radford said. "We got it back in the second half, but we were way down. The intensity has to be there all the time."

The Lady Rams get a chance to end their losing streak Friday against the team that started the streak two weeks ago, George Mason, at Franklin Street Gym. Several VCU players ran into foul trouble and the Lady Rams' offense never got going in the

Baseball Schedule

Feb. 7	vs. Appalachian St.#	1 p.m.
Feb. 8	vs. Western Carolina#	5 p.m.
Feb. 9	at The Citadel	5 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Davidson	3 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Davidson	1 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Davidson	1 p.m.
Feb. 21	DREXEL	4 p.m.
Feb. 22	DREXEL	1 p.m.
Feb. 23	DREXEL	1 p.m.
Feb. 28	at Louisiana	7 p.m.
March 1	at Louisiana	1 p.m.
March 2	at Louisiana	1 p.m.
March 4	at Georgetown	2 p.m.
March 7	MARYLAND	4 p.m.
March 8	at Maryland	1 p.m.
March 9	at Maryland	1 p.m.
March 12	at North Carolina	2 p.m.
March 13	MARSHALL	4 p.m.
March 15	GEORGE MASON (DH)*	1 p.m.
March 16	GEORGE MASON*	1 p.m.
March 18	GEORGE WASHINGTON	7 p.m.
March 19	at North Carolina State	3 p.m.
March 22	EAST CAROLINA (DH)*	1 p.m.
March 23	EAST CAROLINA*	1 p.m.
March 25	ELON	7 p.m.
March 29	at Old Dominion (DH)*	4 p.m.
March 30	at Old Dominion*	1 p.m.
April 1	OLD DOMINION	7 p.m.
April 5	WILLIAM & MARY (DH)*	4 p.m.
April 6	WILLIAM & MARY*	1 p.m.
April 8	at Radford	3 p.m.
April 12	at James Madison (DH)*	1 p.m.
April 13	at James Madison*	1 p.m.
April 16	at Virginia Tech	3 p.m.
April 19	RICHMOND (DH)*	5 p.m.
April 20	RICHMOND*	2 p.m.
April 22	VIRGINIA	7 p.m.
April 23	LIBERTY	7 p.m.
April 24	NORFOLK STATE	7 p.m.
April 26	at UNC Wilmington (DH)*	4 p.m.
April 27	at UNC Wilmington*	1 p.m.
April 29	at Virginia	3 p.m.
April 30	at Liberty	3 p.m.
May 3	at William & Mary	1 p.m.
May 9	VIRGINIA TECH	1 p.m.
May 11	DUKE	1 p.m.

CITGO Challenge, Charleston S.C.
* Colonial Athletic Association game
DH — Doubleheader
HOME GAMES are played at The Diamond

AU
continued from page 12

"It was comforting to see him in street clothes when they came in here," Knoche said on the telephone from his Bender Arena office.



Knoche

He said Byrd's return puts an even greater premium on his team establishing position in the post and grabbing boards.

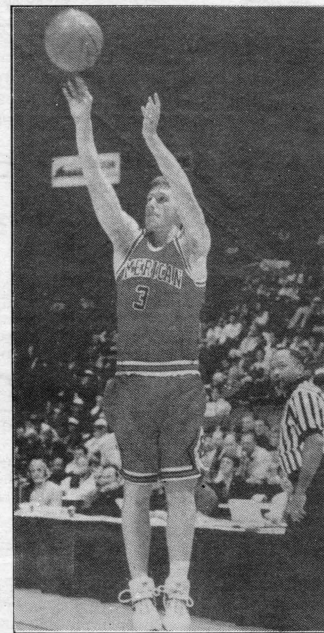
"They've got a handful guys that will give you fits," Knoche said in reference to the Rams

three senior guards and four-man rotation in the paint.

"We've got to be able to rebound well against them."

A win for the Eagles would put them in fourth and possibly as high as third. And of their five remaining conference games after Saturday night, only one is against a team ahead of them in the standings, which obviously bodes well for the Eagles. But Knoche said he still thinks it will come down to the perennial powers, Old Dominion and VCU.

"For all the crazy games that have been played in the CAA this year ... at the end of the year you get the same cast of characters at the top," Knoche said.



Nathan Smith

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

82-59 loss at the Patriot Center.

VCU is going to make a few changes in the offense for the Patriots. Defensively, the players are being asked to play aggressively, but at the same time must avoid picking up early fouls and landing themselves on the bench.

"You're between a rock and a hard place," Radford said. "We need to play with intensity to win. We've made some adjustments on defense, putting people in positions where they won't have to foul as much."

One bright spot for the Lady Rams is that five of the final eight games remaining will be played in the friendly confines of Franklin Street Gym, where VCU is 6-1 this season.

"Playing at home is a boost," said guard Meredith Sisson, the team's leading scorer at American with 15 points. "You don't have to deal with traveling and your friends and family are watching you and it makes you play harder."

A win Friday could provide a much needed shot in the arm.

"We could use a win," said Radford. "A win always builds the confidence back up. It is a question of regaining confidence, and I think we have lost confidence during this stretch."

The Lady Rams have a 3-6 conference record and are in seventh place in the Colonial Athletic Association. VCU can come within one game of a tie for third by beating Mason tonight.

Ram Stat

■ The VCU men's basketball team has posted four winning streaks of 11 game sor more in team history.

SPORTS

Inside

■ See who is on top of The Picks and find a preview of the Rams' baseball team.

FRIDAY, February 7, 1997

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 28, No. 49

Reed, Rams KO Dukes; win fifth straight

Pete Van Vleet
CT Sports Editor

A stifling low-post defense and a late second-half surge propelled the Rams to their fifth consecutive win Wednesday night, 72-60 against James Madison at the Richmond Coliseum.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Rams (11-10, 6-5) received a career-high 18 points from senior point guard Marcus Reed, 11 of which came in the second half when VCU outscored the Dukes (12-8, 6-4) by 12 points.

Beyond putting up a career high in points, Reed limited JMU scoring leader Chatney Howard to nine points, about half of what he averages a game, and forced Howard to foul out of the game with more than five and a half minutes remaining.

VCU coach Sonny Smith said Reed's effort on the defensive end of the floor enabled the team to claim its fourth straight Colonial Athletic Association win.

"This game comes down to great defensive effort by Marcus Reed," Smith said. "That was actually unbelievable. Chatney Howard is a heck of a player, ... but (Reed) did a great job on him."

Reed said the key to winning the game was team defense.

"Defense is what really wins the games," he said. "What we're doing as a team is going out there and fulfilling our expectations with defense."

Unlike the first time the two teams met, when JMU dominated the post and Duke's center Lamont Boozer scored a career-high 20 points, the Rams had center George

Byrd in action and were able to bully the Dukes around in the paint.

"We are now defending the post. We were not defending the post and consequently we were one of the last place teams in the league," Smith said. "We're more packed in now. We got some good solid double-ups and we got turnovers because of it."

Byrd said after watching the Dukes celebrate the win over VCU earlier in the year motivated him to return the favor.

"It was revenge," Byrd said. "We looked at how much they celebrated on the tape and we kind of took it personal."

VCU used the fast break to get easy shots and to put JMU in foul trouble late in the second half.

The Rams, trailing by a point with 8:17 left in the game and down by as much as seven in the first half, went on 12-0



Reed

run in a four-minute span that sealed the victory.

"The run certainly helped us, but the big thing was foul trouble also helped us," Smith said.

"To get right down to it they got into serious foul trouble."

Senior point guard Sherman Hamilton scored all of his eight points in a three-minute span that put the Rams up by 13.

"At a time that the game was close Sherman stepped up really big," Smith said.

JMU continued to page 10 >



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY — Senior center George Byrd thrusts his arms in the air after a layup in the Rams' 72-60 win against JMU. Byrd said he was imitating Dukes' forward Charles Lott, who made the same gyration against VCU earlier this season.

AU the apple of CAA's eye VCU looking for revenge

Terry Scanlon
CT Sports Editor

As the Colonial Athletic Association race tightens in the final month of the season, few observers are surprised by the absence of a dominant team, but almost no one expected American to be one of five teams in thick of it.

Being picked to finish eighth by coaches and media at the start of the season, Knoche said that has turned out to be the Eagles' greatest motivation.

"We were picked last by an awful lot of people," he said. "And we're 5-5 and in pretty good position."

With its win against then-first place East Carolina Monday, AU has moved within two games of first place and has now beaten each of the four teams ahead of them in the league, including an 80-73

overtime win against the Rams in Bender Arena two weeks ago.

Despite being within two games of first, the Eagles receive very little attention when talk turns to who's the best in the league. Knoche laughed when asked if his team was the Rodney Dangerfield of the league, but said he didn't think there was a lack of respect, just some stark differences.

"We're an apple in a league full of oranges," he said. "We're a small private school in D.C."

We're not a Virginia school and it's very much a Virginia conference."

Statistically, in the first meeting, the teams were about dead even.

But the Rams were missing center George Byrd, who had started most games early in the season.

Ram advances at nationals Tennis team welcomes eight

VCU junior Richard Wernerhjelm, ranked No. 8 in the nation, defeated No. 11 Enrique Abaroa of Kansas 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoor Tennis Championships in Dallas, Texas, Thursday afternoon.

While Wernerhjelm tries to advance to Sunday's title match of the 32-man event, the rest of his teammates will be entertaining guests.

Nine schools and 13 matches will fill the Thalheimer Tennis Center this weekend in VCU's annual 4-1 invitational tournament.

VCU opens with Georgetown and James Madison on Friday and on Sunday Eastern Michigan and George Mason challenge the Rams.

Also coming to town are East Carolina, Wake Forest, East Tennessee State and Richmond.

"This is a good way to play a lot of matches and get ready for the bigger teams," said VCU coach Paul Kostin.

Since NCAA rules limit schools to only 25 playing days a season, VCU has set up this tournament four times in only

added experience.

The tournament name comes from the format. The teams will play four singles and one doubles match. Only three points is needed for the win, rather than the typical four in the standard collegiate format.

— Terry Scanlon, CT Sports Editor

VCU 4-1 Invitational

Friday

VCU vs. Georgetown, 1 p.m.
East Carolina vs. James Madison, 3 p.m.
Georgetown vs. East Carolina, 8 p.m.
VCU vs. James Madison, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Wake Forest vs. East Carolina, 10 p.m.
Richmond vs. Georgetown, noon
East Carolina vs. East Tennessee St., 3 p.m.
Wake Forest vs. Georgetown, 5 p.m.
East Tennessee St. vs. Richmond, 7 p.m.

Sunday

VCU vs. Eastern Michigan, 10 a.m.
Wake Forest vs. George Mason, noon
Wake Forest vs. Eastern Michigan, 3 p.m.
VCU vs. George Mason, 5 p.m.

11/07/97

MFB

AU continued to page 10 >