

WEATHER



SATURDAY — Rain,
low 34, high 45

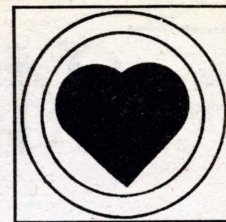


SUNDAY — Showers,
low 36, high 49

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

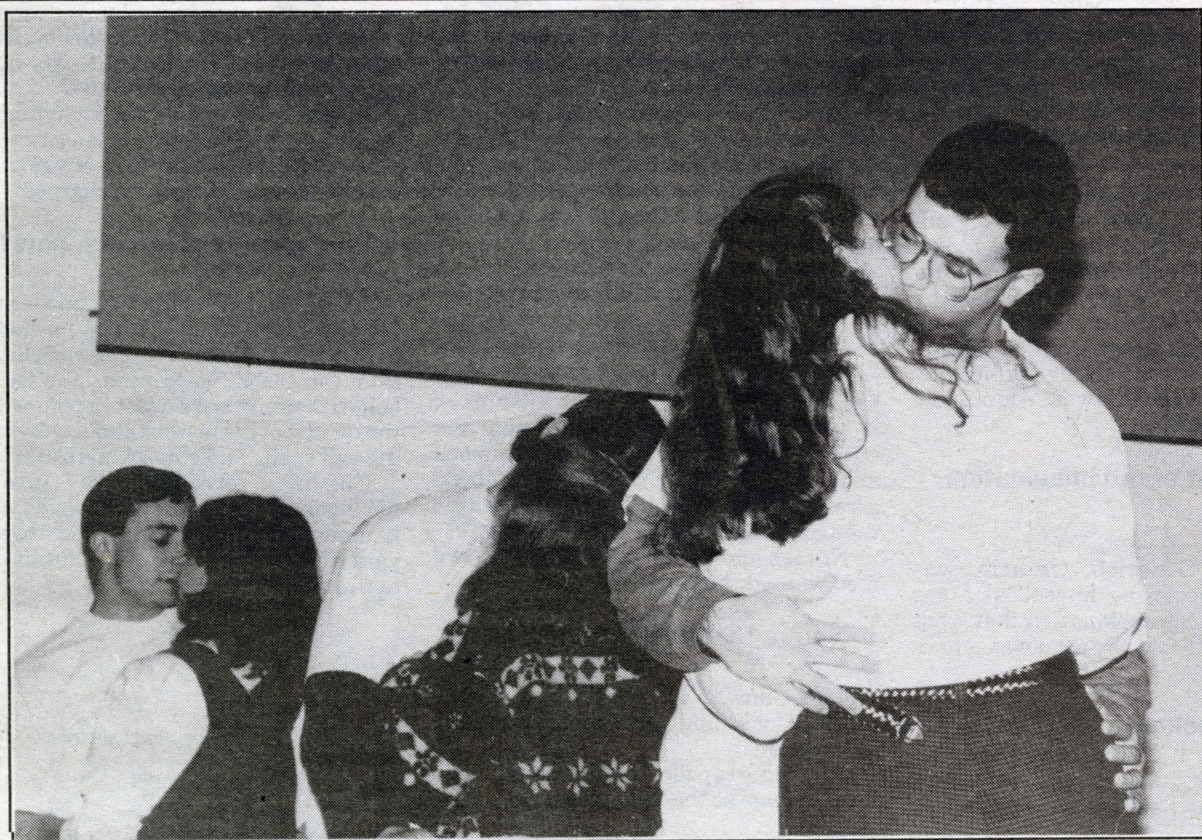
■ The day of love is upon us. Rejoice as the Spectrum editors brighten your Valentine's Day.



FRIDAY, February 14, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 51



Chieu Nguyen/Commonwealth Times

PUCKER UP SUGARLUMP — VCU students Jeffrey Fereuson and Christine Brown steam up the windows in Wednesday night's "The Art of Kissing" lecture. Turn to Spectrum on page 7 for details and other advice on spicing up your Valentine's Day.

Honor code changes to affect violators

Scott Anderson
CT STAFF WRITER

A revision to the VCU Honor Code passed last November by the school's board of visitors goes into effect this fall. William H. Duvall, associate vice provost and dean of student affairs, said the revision improves on the existing honor code "if for no other reason (than) to clarify the language."

Duvall said the changes will not affect the average student studying in the James Branch Cabell Library or relaxing in the Student Commons, but it will affect any student accused of violating the code. Cheating, plagiarism and lying concerned with academic matters are examples of such violations.

In the current code, students found guilty of a violation can request to have the guilty notations removed from their transcripts. The board of visitors opposed the automatic removal and changed the rule.

A student now must demonstrate "an outstanding record of performance and conduct for a significant period of time following the original disciplinary action."

Afterward, VCU's president has the option of granting an exemption to that student. Even though "a significant period of time" seems vague, it allows the president to evaluate the situation to determine if the exemption is warranted.

"The president is going to be very selective in granting the request," Duvall said.

Another addition to the Honor Code deals with intimidation. In the past, Duvall said, students and faculty have been reluctant to testify because they fear negative reactions from the accused students. The revision, he pointed out, makes the accused students responsible for any act of intimidation directed at testifying people.

Charlie Bryan, speaker of the SGA Student Senate, served on two committees that reviewed the Honor Code. He suggested student and faculty observers be present during honor council hearings so a parity exists between the students and faculty. His suggestion was accepted and found its way into the revision.

What is the intent of the revision? To crack down on students who cheat?

"An 'F' for cheating is an 'F' for cheating. Why should we shelter the students in one instance and not in another?" Duvall asked.

University spending bill questioned

Tara Slate Donaldson
SPECIAL TO THE CT

University spending this week caused considerable debate and much head-scratching during a House General Laws Committee meeting when the panel considered the bill allowing colleges and universities to spend \$100,000 or less without authorization from the General Assembly.

A problem occurred when no one knew which schools were covered in the bill. Initially, committee members said they were advised that only the University of Virginia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University would be affected by the legislation.

But questions quickly arose about whether the measure applied to VCU, Old Dominion University and George Mason University.

No one on the committee had an answer.

"We're talking about the major doctoral institutions (in the state)," said Delegate John S. Reid, R-Richmond. "I just don't feel I have enough information to support it."

Reid was not the only delegate needing more information. The committee voted 7-6 to kill the proposal, but later relented when Delegate Alan A. Diamonstein, D-Newport News, committee chairman and co-patron of the measure, suggested the bill needed further study by a subcommittee.

"Those senior institutions of higher education which confer doctoral degrees in more than two fields of study and have received authority ..., according to the proposed measure, will be able to spend up to \$100,000 without going through the bureaucracy."

If Diamonstein and co-patron Sen. John H. Chichester,

SPENDING continued to page 4

CODE continued to page 4

Career Connections offers aid to those with disabilities

Lisa A. Singh
CT STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: The following story is the first part of a two-part series on students with disabilities and their efforts to secure employment through the help of VCU's Career Connections.

Behind the wheel of a car, VCU graduate student Rebecca Eagelson looks unusual. While driving she wears intricately designed lenses resembling miniature telescopes, which project from both sides of her face.

She even jokingly admits that at such moments, she thinks she looks like a space-

alien.

Rebecca Eagelson is legally blind. Suffering from a hereditary condition known as Stargartz, she cannot see beyond five feet. Her condition also leaves her with no central vision, making it impossible for her to focus on small details such as regular size print. However, with the help of those special lenses which she uses exclusively for driving, she is able to measure distances, see details, and therefore, drive a car.

Eagelson's problems began in the fifth grade, when in just three months her vision went from 20/20 to 20/200. Since she could no longer see the blackboard, her grades began to suffer. But once diag-

nosed with Stargartz, she said the use of large print books and a hand-held magnifying glass made it easier for her to cope with her disability. She finished the fifth grade with her grades back to normal.

Advances in technology, such as the emergence of large print software programs and closed circuit television (CCTV) that enlarge print, have allowed Eagelson to adapt to her disability even better.

Eagelson has also excelled academically and recently received a history degree from VCU with magna cum laude honors.

Despite her academic and personal success in living with a vision impairment, in the past Eagelson said she has faced dis-

crimination on the part of employers.

"In the application process, there's a question whether there's a limitation to keep you from doing your job and I'd mention the CCTV and the large print," she said. "That's usually it. Either the employer doesn't understand or doesn't want to understand."

"You can't legislate compassion. Either the employer has the compassion and is willing to learn about you or he isn't."

With the exception of one previous job as a dietitian technician, Eagelson said such discrimination often forced her to take less than satisfying work, such as

CONNECTION continued to page 4

Weird NEWS

Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction



•It tastes better than it smells

In East Marlborough, Pa., a panel of people who possess "ordinary and reasonable sensibility" were brought together to decide which odors will no longer be acceptable under the town's ordinance to ban offensive smells. The ordinance was proposed by the township supervisors after one supervisor complained about the smell of a Chinese restaurant.

•As if hair color makes a difference

A court in Kerrville, Tex., granted a woman's request to have her hair done in jail, taxpayers' treat. Darlie Router, on trial for murdering her two small children, convinced the judge that jurors might not give her a fair shake if they realized she had not lightened up her dark roots because she was locked up.

•It's even worse over here

At a re-trial in Leeds, England, jurors took one hour to acquit police officer Andrew Whitfield of stealing a \$4 calculator. The cost of the trial, the re-trial and Whitfield's paid suspension totaled \$158,000.

•Just gettin' ready, your honor

In Kansas City, Kan., a lawyer and part-time municipal judge called into his

office to say he would not be at work that day as he was arrested for a DUI and detained until 5 a.m. Rodney L. Turner, 55, was scheduled to hear a full day's docket of DUI cases that day.

•What we have here is a failure to communicate

A Los Angeles man suing for racial harassment testified that a co-worker addressed him as "Akintunde, ooga-booga, jungle-jungle." The black salesman Akintunde I was awarded \$11.1 million by the jury. The accused co-worker, of French-Canadian descent, later testified that he had been misunderstood by Akintunde. What he had actually said was, "Akintunde, Bonjour, Bonjour."

•A figment of the imagination

A man in Goderich, Ontario, was convicted of exposing himself at a gas station despite his explanation that what the witness had actually seen was a half-eaten cookie

•A heck of a mistake

An Indiana County man shot himself in the mouth after he mistook a .22 caliber

gun for a medicine inhaler. The man, who kept both the inhaler and gun in the same drawer, accidentally shot himself just before 2 a.m. and was airlifted to a hospital in Pittsburgh where he was listed in fair condition.

"No one really knows what happened but him," his step-daughter said, adding that he was taking pain medication. She did not confirm the police report that her step-father mistook the gun for a medicine inhaler.

•Torture in a relative sense

Two men in Colville, Wash., tied down a relative and placed strips of bacon around him to attract wild animals to kill him.

The man, who was tied down and stretched across a rural road, freed himself and called for help. One suspect has been arrested and police are currently seeking the second assailant.

No reasons were given as to why the two men wanted the relative dead.

•You're that desperate for food?

Two Chinese zoo workers have been arrested for killing and eating a rare white fallow deer.

According to police the two men climbed into the cage at the Wuhan Zoo in Beijing,

choked the deer, skinned it, chopped it up and ate parts of it. The two men were arrested after authorities found deer meat and tools at their homes. It is believed they came up with the idea while playing a game of cards while working.

China has strict laws, including the death penalty, in relation to endangering protected animals but it is not yet known how the two men would be charged.

•The Salem Witch Trials, part two

A man who believed his next-door neighbor was a "full-blooded witch" burned her to death on a stake. The 29-year-old man from the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea believed the woman was responsible for the deaths of his mother and dog by "casting evil spells and curses" on his family.

The man forced his way into the neighbor's house, smashed her head with a hammer and dragged her to a nearby vineyard where he tied her to a stake and burned her to death.

— compiled from news sources

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)

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

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

EDITORIAL

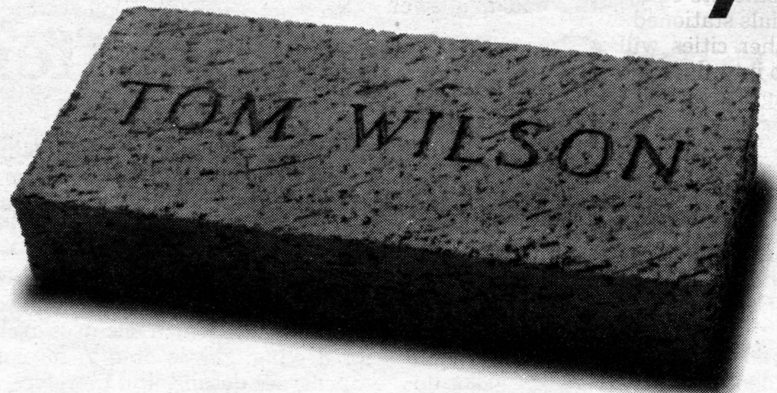
Editor — Charles Gnilka
EYE
Editor — Chris Dovi

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

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

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.

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.

Students explore possibilities in the 'real' world

70 employers, 500 attendees come to Prospects 97

Shannon Bender
CT NEWS EDITOR

Many résumés were handed out and questions answered as students, alumni, faculty and staff had the opportunity Wednesday to explore job opportunities. Nearly 70 employers attended the Prospects 97 Career Fair, sponsored by VCU's Career Center in the Division of Student Affairs.

It was a day where attendees took the opportunity to sell themselves to employers actively hiring or anticipating vacancies. An estimated 500 observers visited the booths before the mid-way point of the one-day event.

"We had to encourage students not to go in before employees had a chance to set up," said Vanessa Myers, career specialist of the University Career Center.

Both the serious and casual job hunter stopped by both the Commonwealth and Capital ballrooms in the student commons to explore company displays, talk with company representatives and even pick up some promotional gifts.

"I'm much better at meeting somebody face-to-face," said Kelly Eiler, a senior psychology major. "I try to be as charming and as witty as possible."

While checking out career possibilities for the Peace Corps, Clear Channel Radio and Nine West Group Inc., Eiler said she enjoyed the informal approach and the experience of learning about a company.

"You really need to know how to sell yourself," said Beth Lewis, Peace Corps recruiter. "It's unfortunate you have to educate people about what your qualifications are."

Lewis, who told listeners about her Peace Corps experience in Thailand, put together a packet of information for those interested in learning more about the federal government agency.

"I'm impressed with the number of employers and the participation," said Michele Feedback, a May 1996 graduate of VCU. With a degree in biology, she works two part-time jobs while looking for full-time work.

Feedback visited the display of a pharmaceutical company, but said she was disappointed that the fair was mostly directed toward business majors.

Upon exiting the fair, participants were encouraged to offer ideas to the Career Center about how to improve the annual event.

"That's the only way we're going to know how to

FDA launches crackdown against tobacco

Teen-age smokers first target

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration is hiring state inspectors to catch stores that illegally sell tobacco to teen-agers — the first phase of a crackdown that the government will explain in a "national town meeting" in 25 cities next Tuesday.

Most of the cities will hold Tuesday afternoon's interactive broadcast in United Artists cinemas, utilizing the theaters' satellite equipment to let the crowds question FDA officials stationed here.

Ten other cities will get separate visits from FDA officials to introduce retailers, local government officials and average citizens to a regulation that takes effect Feb. 28 forcing stores to get photo identification proving young customers are old enough to buy tobacco.

But the FDA's outreach is under fire from a congressional opponent, who questions whether the briefings, particularly next Tuesday's video broadcast that features a speech by Vice President Al Gore, are really politics designed to drum up anti-tobacco support.

"I will appreciate a detailed summary of the costs to the taxpayers of these 'town meeting' events," Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., wrote FDA Commissioner David Kessler, giving him until Monday to respond.

FDA Associate Commissioner Mitch Zeller called the meetings necessary for confused communities.

"Some people didn't understand the rationale behind carding people," Zeller said Tuesday after hundreds of people crowded into the first briefings, in Baltimore and Boston, to learn about the new law.



Chieu Nugyen/Commonwealth Times

AFTER-SCHOOL PLANS — Representatives from Pepsi-Cola Co. talk business and opportunity with VCU students Stacy Warner (left) and Kristen Menefee at Pepsi's display table during the Prospects 97 Career Fair Wednesday afternoon.

improve next year," Myers said.

Providing participants with information on how to express themselves and how to prepare a better résumé was the goal of Sylvia Shurm, personnel analyst for VCU, who represented both the Academic and Medial campuses. The university set up its own booth to tell students about job opportunities on campus and listings on VCU's web site.

"Because you all are just starting to look for a job and we've already been there," Shurm said about why she enjoyed offering students this information.

Kevin Beasley, marketing director for Personal Computer Consultants and marketing graduate from VCU, also said he was impressed with the numbers participating.

"It's better than we thought it would be," he said. "People are coming over left and right."

The company, which was actively recruiting qualified people, provided information about its mission and what it provides its employees.

The U.S. Secret Service proved to be one of the more popular displays at the fair. Bob Underhill, special agent for the Richmond district office, came ready to talk to students about the testing and training of those who provide protection for the President, his family and other domestic and foreign officials.

"I think it's the intrigue of the type of job it is," he said about the interest of students and the notoriety stemming from the attempted assassination on former President Ronald Reagan in 1981.

King family calls for new trial

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family called for a trial today for James Earl Ray, saying it might be the only way to answer painful questions about King's assassination.

The family is appealing for a trial because Ray, who suffers from a liver disease, could die before the truth comes out, said Dexter King.

"The lack of a satisfactory resolution to questions surrounding the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. has been a source of continuing pain and hardship to our family," the civil rights leader's son said at a news conference with his sisters, his brother and his mother, Coretta Scott King.

"Every effort must be made to determine the truth."

Ray, who pleaded guilty to the 1968 assassination and was sentenced to 99 years in prison but has since recanted his confession, is dying in a Nashville, Tenn., prison from cirrhosis of the liver. He is 68.

A hearing is scheduled Feb. 20 in Memphis, Tenn. on Ray's request for new scientific tests on the rifle identified as the murder weapon.

Dexter King said he and possibly other family members will be at the hearing. He also said he will try to meet with Ray to discuss the assassination.

In order for Ray to win a trial, his lawyers must prove

KING continued to page 4 ▶

Nationally, it is illegal to sell tobacco to anyone under age 18. Beginning Feb. 28, the FDA says retailers must get proof of age from anyone who looks younger than 27 — much as stores demand photo ID from people in their 20s who are buying alcohol.

Zeller showed the crowd a poster with two similar models, one age 16 and one 25, to illustrate how easy it is to sell tobacco illegally to a mature-looking minor.

Stores caught selling to teens, in undercover inspections the FDA is hiring states to perform, get a warning the first time, but will be fined \$250 for each additional violation.

The FDA last year announced new regulations of tobacco designed to cut teen smoking in half. In addition to requiring photo IDs, the FDA plans in August to begin curbing tobacco advertising seen by teen-agers. Additional rules would kick in next year.

The tobacco industry opposes the regulations and on Monday asked a federal judge in North Carolina to invalidate them. U.S. District Judge William Osteen said he will rule on the issue no sooner than mid-March.

But the regulations' legal future aside, the FDA can afford just \$4 million in tobacco funding this year, meaning it may hire inspectors in fewer than a dozen states to enforce the first rules. The FDA is asking Congress for \$34 million for fiscal 1998 to enforce the regulations nationwide.

The FDA frequently holds public meetings to explain new regulations, but the tobacco outreach is the agency's largest. Officials couldn't immediately say how much the city briefings will cost.

Crime Shorts

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

2/7

Damage to State Property

On 2/5 between 7 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. unknown person(s) damaged a fence on the CV Deck at 501 W. Franklin Ave.

Grand Larceny

A male student reported that between 1:45 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. on 2/6 unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecure location in the Student Commons.

Total Value: \$60.00

2/8

Damage to State Property

On 1/30 between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. unknown person(s) damaged a desk drawer on the 3rd floor of MCV's Main Hospital.

Grand Larceny

A male employee reported that between 4 p.m. 2/4 and 9 a.m. 2/7 unknown person(s) removed state property from its unsecure location in MCV's West Hospital.

Total Value: \$900.00

Petit Larceny

A male employee reported that on 2/7 between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecure location in the Performing Arts Center.

Total Value: \$159.00

Harassing Phone Calls

A female student reported that from 2/5 to 2/7 during the evening hours she received harassing phone calls to her dormitory room in the Gladding Residence Center.

2/10

Attempted Breaking and Entering

On 2/9 at 3:05 a.m. unknown person(s) attempted to gain entry to the Poole and Kent building located inside the Siegel Center Complex.

2/11

Petit Larceny

On 2/10 between 11 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its unsecure location on the 5th floor of MCV's North Hospital.

Total Value: \$75.00

2/12

Suspicious Circumstances

On 2/11 at 5:50 p.m. an officer took a report from MCV's North Hospital involving suspicious circumstances.

Petit Larceny

A male employee reported that between 8 a.m. 2/10 and 10 a.m. 2/11 unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecure location in MCV's Hunton Hall.

Total Value: \$120.00

CODE

continued from page 1

A task force of student, faculty and administrative representatives reviews the Honor Code every three years and makes recommendations for changes. Those recommendations are submitted to the board of visitors for final review.

Since it has been difficult finding students having time to commit to the task force, Duvall proposes paying the students for their time.

Bryan opposes paying students to serve on committees or student government. He

said it fundamentally would change student government if the students were paid.

"You need to find people who are committed to public service," he said.

Pointing to his own schedule, Bryan carries a full classload, serves as speaker of the Senate and works at night. Paying students to serve, in his opinion, would attract the wrong kind of person to the job.

Students can obtain a copy of the Honor Code in the VCU Resource Guide and at the student activities office.

KING

continued from page 3

new evidence exists that will exonerate him.

John Campbell, a Shelby County assistant district attorney, said today that, even if the tests are conducted, there is plenty of reason not to give Ray a trial.

"The guilty plea Ray is under has been examined seven times by other courts and affirmed every time," Campbell said. "He went into court and told the jury he was guilty. They convicted him."

King said he's always believed that others were involved in his father's death, and he believes a trial may even exonerate Ray.

"I think that, by having the trial, a lot of information will be shared that not only will vindicate Mr. Ray but point to others," he said.

SPENDING

continued from page 1

R-Fredericksburg, can find an expert to testify concerning the number of institutions affected, the bill will be returned to full committee for reconsideration.

Reid pointed out that last year the assembly passed a bill increasing the amount of public procurement money from \$15,000 to \$30,000. At that time, he said, the testimony reported that only U.Va. and Virginia Tech would be affected.

Reid said he finds it hard to justify the proposed increase.

"Why triple the amount when we

doubled it last year from \$15,000 to \$30,000?" he asked.

Diamonstein responded that he thinks people are comfortable with the majority of small decisions being made by the universities.

"The overwhelming testimony was that in many states they're trying to get the institutions of higher learning to be responsible to the legislature," he said, "but outside of that to hold them responsible for the management of the money allotted to them."

CONNECTIONS

continued from page 1

bagging groceries and working for retail stores in shopping malls.

Employment problems like Eagelson's are not unusual amongst those coping with disabilities. As competitive as the job market is, it is even tougher on those with disabilities. Often employers are simply ignorant of a particular disability's nature. The danger always exists that an employer will solely focus on the disability, rather than looking at the individual's overall qualifications.

Coming up Monday: part two

Hornsby opposes Virginia song

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bruce Hornsby says Virginia's state song is so bad it should be "blasted" out of the state.

Hornsby, in a stop Tuesday at the state Capitol, urged Virginia lawmakers to retire "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" as the official state song. The singer, who lives near Williamsburg, called it "the song equivalent of the Confederate flag."

Critics object to the 19th-century "Carry Me Back" because of its references to "darkey" and "massa."

"It should have been blasted out of Virginia as the state song years ago," Hornsby said. The Senate passed legislation to make the tune the state song emeritus and find a new song. The House of Delegates is considering the legislation.

Hornsby won the 1987 best new artist Grammy for the album "The Way It Is."

Feed your brain.
Read the CT.

GET THE SCOOP.
PICK UP THE
COMMONWEALTH TIMES.

Write for NEWS. Write
for NEWS. Write for
NEWS. Write for NEWS.
Write for NEWS. Write
for NEWS. Write for
NEWS. Write for NEWS.
Write for NEWS. Write
for NEWS.

CALL ANGELA, SHANNON OR
JACK AT 828-1058 FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

GOT A
NEWS TIP?
GET IT TO US BY:

Phone: 828-1058

Fax: 828-9201

e-mail:

mac5skb@atlas

Charles Gnilka

Society, Not Guns, to Blame for Senseless Murders

The violence that played out in the lobby of a Richmond NationsBank last week was straight out of the wild west. Two gunmen came in, fired away with a pistol and an M-16 rifle, then they demanded money. They left one person dead and several injured in their wake.

Ask why this happened in a supposedly civilized society and the response would probably go one of two ways.

Some would place the blame strictly on criminals who would be so amoral as to kill a fellow human being over a few bundles of money? It must be a depraved mind who could commit such an act.

Others would blame the society that allowed the robbers access to the weapons they used in the robbery. What is a law-abiding citizen doing with the same M-16 rifle that was used during the Vietnam war? The only people who have guns like that are those who intend to kill lots of people at once. All guns of that nature deserve to be banned!

And so begins the merry-go-round of debate on gun control once again.

Americans love their guns. There is no denying the love affair we have with firearms. It reaches back to the mythology of the old west —

six shooters and gunslingers. We romanticize the notion of pulling out a gun in a hostile situation and dispensing some instant justice. For all our love of peace and faith in our government, we like the option of having a trigger to fall back on. Thanks to the Second Amendment and its defenders, we have guns available to just about anyone.

Of course there is a dark side to our love affair with firearms. Guns kill more people in America than any other country. While the numbers of gun-related deaths sometimes numbers in the tens or hundreds in other countries like Canada or The United Kingdom, the U.S. gun-mortality rate soars in the thousands. It is not just handguns and rifles that are killing people. It is high-powered, hand-held machines of death that are doing it. Guns like the M-16, AK-47, and the TEC-9 are rapid-fire weapons, capable of spraying hot metal over a wide area in the same time it takes for you heart to beat twice.

No debate so polarizes American like gun control except maybe abortion. It is not just the issue of who gets to own a gun and what type, it concerns what are the limits of government and the rights of its citizens. Groups like the National Rifle Association

have lobbied politicians for gun owners, while similar anti-gun groups have made their voices heard as well. Also like the abortion debate, there seems to be very little room for compromise.

Gun owners cite the Second Amendment of the constitution as the cornerstone of their defense. They argue that to curb the right to bear arms would be tantamount to banning some types of free speech. Any wide reaching ban on guns would be a slippery slope to imposing restrictions on all guns.

The pro-gun lobby cites the reason for defending the Second Amendment lies in two fears — the fear of crime and the fear of government oppression.

Gun supporters often express a fear that the police and government can no longer be depended upon to defend their families against violent crime. The prime example that is pointed to is the Los Angeles riots of 1992, where some shopkeepers defended their stores against looters using firearms.

When confronted with statistics about the rate of gun-related deaths, the gun lobby places the blame on the people

who use the guns instead of the guns themselves. If you are to ban guns to cut down murder, you might as well ban pocket knives, fire axes and baseball bats.

They maintain that gun owners — those who use them responsibly for hunting, collecting and self defense should be able own guns. Those who use them outside of that are criminals.

Like any other cause, the gun rights supporters have their extremists. Some groups who support gun rights do so not out of fear for loved ones or constitutional justice, but out of rampant paranoia. Some groups collect and store guns for the fear that a government takeover of the country is at hand. They spin tales of ominous black helicopters and U.N. conspiracies. They view any attempt to control guns as a prelude to turning America into a prison camp. These ideas are not accepted by the mainstream of gun activists.

Those who want to ban guns focus on the most devastating weapons in circulation — automatic weapons. Their point is

that our love affair with guns had produced a culture that tolerates military-style weapons being used by citizens. The ease of availability of these weapons is inexcusable. Their should be strict government regulation and outright bans on many weapons. There should also be background checks to filter out criminals from purchasing a gun.

One victory for anti-gun supporters was the Brady Bill (named after James

Brady, who was injured in an assassination attempt on President Reagan) in 1994, which imposed a waiting period for buying a gun and placed bans on some types of automatic weapons. Gun supporters opposed

Brady saying that was only a deterrent to keeping guns from law-abiding citizens. Criminals can get guns illegally whenever they want.

The justification for having a gun is self-defense. If someone tries to break into your home and harm your loved ones, the law allows you to defend your life and property. The use of a handgun or even a hunting rifle would probably suffice in stopping an intruder.

All too often, the debate fires up anew with a new incident of violence, and the two sides of the gun debate bunker down and argue again.

One incident that provoked fierce arguments was in 1989, when a mentally deranged gunman opened fire on a kindergarten playground in California, killing several children. The NationsBank robbery will no doubt be another cause for both sides to defend their positions. Should we impose more bans on guns? Would that stem the tide of killings in our streets, or turn America into a bureaucracy that would make it easier for a criminal to get a TEC-9 than a tax-paying good citizen? Perhaps the need for guns and why they play such a role in society should be analyzed.

The justification for having a gun is self-defense. If someone tries to break into your home and harm your loved ones, the law

allows you to defend your life and property. The use of a handgun or even a hunting rifle would probably suffice in stopping an intruder.

Why would you need an automatic weapon to defend your home? Are people who have three or four automatic rifles actually expecting to have their homes invaded on such a scale that it would require all that firepower to defend it?

Some of these weapons can fire at a devastating rate.

How many bullets does it take to wound or kill an attacker? If a good and perfectly legal hunting rifle can kill a moose, what about a burglar?

If there is a public outcry sufficient enough to override the gun lobby and a wide reaching gun ban is passed, who is going to enforce it? There already millions of guns in circulation. If every gun store was shut down tomorrow and not a single firearm was sold again, how many guns would still be out there and still killing? Who is going to go door to door to see if someone had an illegal gun? What about

gun smugglers? We already have a job on our hands trying to keep illegal drugs out of our country. To keep guns out of the country will be a

large-scale operation.

There is truth on both sides of the gun debate. The gun opponents say that we have generated a culture of death that allows gun crime to flourish with available weapons. The gun supporters say that you can not legislate away the problem of gun crime, even if you imposed a police state. Not every gun supporter is a gung ho paranoid, readying for the apocalypse with a bunker arsenal. Not every gun opponent is for taking every rifle and pistol out of the hands of hunters and security minded person. Where does that leave us now? Maybe it is time for a real debate on why we need guns in the first place. If we are the wealthiest country on Earth, with prosperity beyond anything ever known in human history, then why do we have people who would kill a person for a sack of money? Why are our police departments stretched so thin that the citizens they are supposed to protect have waning faith in them? If banning guns is not the answer, is every family in America arming themselves to the teeth the solution? Do we really want a society where people have to pack a gun just to go to outside in safety?

The argument here is not about guns. It is about a society that kills its own people on a massive scale. Whether it is in robbery or in self-defense, the fact is Americans kill Americans unlike any other country in the modern world. No matter what side of the gun argument you are on, that fact should be seen by all as deplorable.

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!

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





SUCKING FACE — Two students show a packed audience how "The Art of Kissing" can pass the time on a long, cold Valentine's night.

The art of kissing

Hans Straepc
CT STAFF WRITER

A kiss can be a sign of love, either romantic or platonic, a greeting or a goodbye. In his multimedia presentation in the Commonwealth Ballroom on Tuesday evening, William Cane, author of "The Art of Kissing" and "The Book of Kisses," showed the audience that kissing is an art as well.

The presentation focused on many different kissing techniques, kissing customs from around the world, advice on where men and women like to be kissed and tips for improving your kissing overall.

"People always ask 'how did you get involved into studying kissing?'," Cane said. "I tell them the truth, I've always been interested in kissing. How could you not be interested in kissing?"

Using music, slides, video clips and volunteers from the audience, Cane demonstrated how to get beyond kissing jitters and make kissing more intimate. He emphasized practicing on a mirror, or even your hand. Cane said that fantasizing could also help to reduce your kissing shyness. He also says that kissing isn't just a

human activity.

"It's not limited to humans," Cane said. "Animals kiss, but humans are the only species that do it romantically, for romance."

Cane shared a few statistics from a kissing survey he conducted on the Internet, the first of its kind in history. Two-thirds of the people surveyed, kissed with their eyes closed, one-third with their eyes open. Two percent of women surveyed, cry when they really enjoy a kiss. Cane hints that when this happens you should kiss the eyes. Sixty-six percent of women dislike stubble on a man when they kiss him and the other 34 percent like it.

Cane said that the average length of a long kiss in the United States is a full minute. His suggestions for a good long kiss were to breathe through your nose and keep you and your partner's hips close. He had the volunteer couples demonstrate this and other kissing techniques.

Among the kisses demonstrated were:

— The rock kiss, your basic kiss with the head rocking slightly back and forth as each person kisses the other

— The ear kiss, which begins

with kissing, sucking and maybe lightly biting the earlobe. Then kissing the ridges of the ear, possibly using the tongue.

— The vacuum kiss, which involves sucking the breathe out of your partner as you kiss them.

— The lip-o-suction kiss, which is kind of new. It involves the guy sucking on the top lip, pulling it out slightly, while the girl does the same to the lower lip. Then they switch.

— The neck kiss, very popular with women, starts hollow at the bottom of the neck, directly above the chest. It can move to the back of the neck and also involve a little biting.

"Women find the neck kiss 10 times more exciting," Cane said. "Don't neglect it."

Cane also mentioned some of the ways kissing is done in different parts of the world. In Japan, the couple stands about a foot apart, barely parts their lips and then just touches lips lightly. In the Trobriand Islands in the South Pacific, where they are very open sexually — sometimes beginning to be sexually active at 7 years old — they do not french kiss. Their preferred technique is to kiss standing on their knees, then nibble each other's eyebrows and pull out clumps of hair.

"Incidentally in France they don't call a french kiss a french kiss," Cane said. "They call it a soul kiss."

Cane also said that talking during kissing is good. It can add a little variety if kissing has become too ordinary. He also suggests the tease kiss technique to combat complacency.

"After going out for three or four weeks you might get bored with kissing," Cane said. "The tease kiss can help overcome that."

The tease kiss involves giving quick kisses then pulling away and telling your partner that they can't kiss you for three minutes. Then they try their hardest to kiss you, but you pull away slightly each time until the three minutes is up. Cane said it is a great way to heat things up.

Cane says that kissing is not entirely disease free. AIDS is a threat if there is a cut in the mouth and herpes may be present and contractible even if there are no sores in the mouth. Then there is the infamous "kissing disease," mononucleosis. He stressed the importance of making sure you have a clean bill of health to really enjoy kissing.

"A kiss is an oral event," Cane said. "Everyone remembers their first romantic kiss."

The point of Cane's lecture is that kissing can be a beautiful intimate experience shared by two people who love each other, and it can also be lots of fun.

When you go out tonight for Valentine's Day, remember that it's not just a kiss, it's an art form.

What was your most memorable Valentine's Day?

"It was three or four years ago. I was 17 or 18, and dating a guy that was 22. We were going to a restaurant and he asked if he could bring a friend from high school who was down on her luck.

After dinner, I had to go back to my apartment to study for an exam. It wound up that he and his "friend" ended up dating. One of my sorority sisters saw them together and told me."

Jennifer Simpson
senior, mass communications major

"During my sophomore year in college, my boyfriend, who went to ODU surprised me with a visit to Randolph Macon. He brought a dozen red roses and took me to dinner. Afterwards, we danced and had champagne. Then we hung out with friends. It was the best of both worlds, being with my friends and my boyfriend."

Jennifer Sturgis
graduate student, criminal justice major

"Two years ago, my boyfriend surprised me with a dozen roses and a bottle of champagne. We decided to go to Monte Calvo's for dinner. We had a nice dinner, but he discovered that he had forgotten his wallet, and I didn't have any cash. I had to leave him there, while I went to the ATM."

Jennifer Huff
senior, history major

"Two years ago, my boyfriend gave me an oversized stuffed Elmo doll. He brought it over in a duffle bag. I thought it was just clothes, so I was really surprised. I took him to Piccola's for dinner.

Last year, he gave me three carnations, two pink for the past two years and one white for the year to come. Then he made dinner, but he locked me out of my room. After dinner, I realized that he had put a bottle of bubbly apple cider in the middle of my room with artificial flowers spread around it."

Linda Nguyen
junior, English major

"I had been seeing this girl for about one-and-a-half

months, and I took her to a restaurant where I used to work, trying to impress her. I saw my father, whom I hadn't seen in a while, there with some of his friends. I introduced her to them and one of the women was plastic and kind of nasty.

After dinner, my date took one last drink of her Pepsi and made a really funny face because there was a big hunk of onion in her drink."

Chris Irving
sophomore, art education major

"Last year, I went to the circus with a first date and friends of ours who had been dating. The other couple was following us because they weren't familiar with the area. Our cars got separated, so they were an hour late.

Ariel the Flying Arrow turned out to be a girl who flew into a net, the elephants smelled bad and the trapeze guy fell.

We managed to have a good time, and although we're not dating anymore, we're still friends."

Laurene Knowles
sophomore, history major

"Three years ago, I bought a really nice Valentine's Day card to go along with the gift I was going to give my girlfriend. She broke up with me about two days before Valentine's. So, I kept the card. The next year I was going to give it to my new girlfriend, but the same thing happened. I kept the card again. The following year, I finally got to give that card to my girlfriend. I'm happy to say she liked it and her present, and we've been together ever since."

Jay Atkins
freshman, art history major

"Last year, I wasn't dating anyone, so Valentine's Day wasn't really a big deal. A few of my friends and I got together and went out to eat and rode around. We may not have had dates, but we had fun wasting time and making fun of couples who seemed like they'd die without each other."

Dewey Taylor
junior, mathematical sciences major



It's election time again!

The Commonwealth Times now is accepting applications for Executive Editor and Managing Editor.

Requirements:

- **Must have completed MAC 300, MAC 303 and MAC 305 or demonstrate equivalent experience through references and work samples.**
- **Must have served as section editor, associate editor, copy editor, production assistant or in the business department for at least one semester or demonstrate equivalent experience.**

Applications and platforms due to Richard Taliaferro by 5 p.m. Feb. 28. Elections will be conducted at 5 p.m. March 5. Any person who has contributed to the CT during the past academic year may vote. Call Richard Taliaferro at 828-1058 for additional information.

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 semesterschedule 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: 800-276-4948 Ext. C53326 (We are a research and publishing company.)

\$5,000-\$8,000 MONTHLY — Working distributing our product brochures. Get paid — we supply brochures. F/T or P/T. For free info write: Director, 1375 Coney Island Ave., Ste. 427, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230.

MATURE, PATIENT, non-smoking woman needed to meet 5 & 7 year old girls at the bus after school and provide care/dinner in my Chesterfield County home, Mon-Fri., 3:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. One night 'til 11 p.m. Light cooking and cleaning required. Please call Susan at 276-4621 between 7-10 p.m.

\$7 per hour plus \$150 per month housing allowance. Largest rental service on the Outer Banks of North Carolina (Nags Head). Call Dona for application and housing info. 800-662-2122.

RAVE REVIEWS IS NOW HIRING for sales positions at local theme park. Pay ranges from \$6.40/hr. Full and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Call 798-4353 for more info.

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!

SEEKING FINANCIAL AID? Don't limit your possibilities of financial aid! Student Financial Services profiles over 200,000+ individual awards from private & public sectors. Call: 1-800-263-6495 ext. F53326 (We are a research and publishing company)

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 mac5skb@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.



CHEVY CHASE BEVERLY D'ANGELO RANDY QUAID



VEGAS

VACATION This time the Griswolds are on a roll.

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS A JERRY WEINTRAUB PRODUCTION CHEVY CHASE BEVERLY D'ANGELO RANDY QUAID 'VEGAS VACATION' WAYNE NEWTON ETHAN EMBRY AND WALLACE SHAWN

AT THEATERS EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 14th

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!

advertise in the TIMES • call 828-1058 •

Hit the beach running



with your
**Virginia Credit Union
Introductory Rate
MasterCard®**

**Apply now and get your spring break
purchases locked in at a low fixed
rate until they're paid off!**

Enjoy your spring break with Virginia Credit Union's Introductory Rate MasterCard. Any purchases you make during the first 90 days are locked in at a super low 9.96% APR, until they are *paid off*. Purchases made thereafter are at a low fixed rate of 13.96% APR. That makes our Introductory Rate MasterCard a better deal than those other cards with teaser rates that often increase to 19% APR or even higher after just a few months. Apply today to get your ticket to vacation fun with VACU's Introductory Rate MasterCard.

Apply on-line
<http://www.vacu.org>

Apply by phone
804-323-6800



Virginia Credit Union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. Membership eligibility is required. You must be a VACU member to apply for a credit card. You can apply for membership and a card at the same time. A \$5 deposit in a regular savings account is required to join.

Summer '97 at UNCW

Summer Sessions

Session I, May 27-June 27

Intersession, June 16-July 17

Session II, July 1-August 1



The University of North Carolina
at Wilmington
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-3297

For more information,
call (910) 962-7181 or (800) 589-2829.

E-mail: Summer@uncwil.edu

WWW: <http://www.uncwil.edu/>

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE
LEICESTER UK

One Year Master's Degree MAMSc Design and Manufacture

All design areas available including:

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
INTERIOR DESIGN
PRODUCT DESIGN
MULTIMEDIA DESIGN
GRAPHIC DESIGN
FASHION DESIGN
CERAMICS/GLASS
JEWELLERY/METALSMITHING
DESIGN MANAGEMENT
AND MANY, MANY MORE

For over a century De Montfort University has maintained
its leadership in the education of professional designers.

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION WRITE TO:

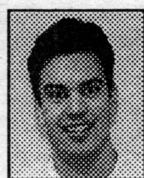
De Montfort University
US Information Office PO Box 39117
Baltimore Maryland 21212
Tel. or Fax 410-889-1384



The Picks



"Steel City" Solaimani



"Pope" Pete



"Packer" Paul



"Top" Bob



"Token" Baker



"Richie" Rich



"Mouth of the" Southworth



"Smokin'" Joe



"7-year" Scanlon

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

Alabama at LSU	Alabama	Alabama	LSU	Alabama	LSU	LSU	Alabama	LSU	LSU
USC at Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	USC	Arizona	Arizona	USC	Arizona
UCLA at Arizona St.	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	Arizona St.	Arizona St.	Arizona St.	UCLA	Arizona St.
Georgia at Arkansas	Arkansas	Georgia	Georgia	Arkansas	Georgia	Georgia	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Vanderbilt at Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Vanderbilt	Auburn	Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	Auburn	Auburn
Akron at Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State
SMU at BYU	BYU	SMU	BYU	BYU	BYU	SMU	BYU	SMU	SMU
Oregon St. at California	California	California	California	California	California	California	California	Oregon State	California
Colorado at Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Colorado	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas
New Mexico St. at Idaho	New Mexico St.	New Mexico St.	Idaho	New Mexico St.	Idaho	Idaho	New Mexico St.	New Mexico St.	New Mexico St.
Minnesota at Iowa	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Iowa	Minnesota	Iowa	Minnesota	Minnesota
Kansas St. at Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Kansas St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.
Santa Clara at Loyola (LA)	Santa Clara	Santa Clara	Loyola (LA)	Loyola (LA)	Loyola (LA)	Santa Clara	Loyola (LA)	Santa Clara	Santa Clara
UMass at Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	UMass	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
Texas at Nebraska	Nebraska	Texas	Texas	Texas	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Texas	Nebraska
Northwestern at Penn St.	Penn St.	Northwestern	Penn St.	Northwestern	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.
Purdue at Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Purdue	Wisconsin	Purdue	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Virginia at Clemson	Virginia	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

Indiana at Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Indiana	Indiana	Michigan	Indiana	Michigan
---------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	----------	---------	----------

CAA GAME OF THE WEEK - SATURDAY, FEB. 15

East Carolina at JMU	James Madison	East Carolina	East Carolina	James Madison	East Carolina	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison	James Madison
----------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

RESULTS

Last week:	16-4	16-4	15-5	14-6	14-6	15-5	15-5	12-8	16-4
Season to date:	56-24	56-24	55-25	53-27	52-28	52-28	51-29	47-33	46-34
Percentage:	.700	.700	.688	.663	.650	.650	.638	.588	.575
Games Back	—	—	1	3	4	4	5	9	10

Well it had to happen sooner or later (most of us were beating on later though) but "7-year" Scanlon broke the .500 mark. His 16-4 week has Pick officials investigating his pick sheet from last week. His pick-the-home-team philosophy has landed him a great week but he's still 10 games back and in last place. In another zip code is the "Pope" and "Steel City." The current and former sports editor are fighting to achieve different records. "Pope" won the first basketball picks and wants to keep that record straight while "Steel City" is trying for a first ever sweep of both football and basketball in one year. Not even the long (and large) era of French "Revolution" could accomplish these feats. Whatever happens, expect a new leader between the two. They picked seven different games. "Packer" Paul dropped out of first and threw a tantrum. The advertising director said if we won't play by his rules then he won't play at all. Unfortunately, he never told us his rules and fortunately he kept his promise and left. Which brings us to another point, all people interested in being advertising director please call Coveh at 828-1058. Requirements are that you establish business hours (you don't have to keep them, just have them) and answer the phone every now and again, but not if it rings. We'll keep "Packer" on the list just to poke fun at him until we get a new guy. Bonehead pick of the week goes to anyone who picked BYU. The Mormon school has mustered one win this season. Not even the Shawn Bradley legacy can keep the recruits from pouring in.

ECU

continued from page 12

from ECU guard Tony Parham when he tried to drive to the basket on the ensuing play.

"I kept the ball too close to him," Parham said. "I made a spin move down low and he was able to slap the ball away."

The Pirates did not play senior forward Tim Basham, who was out with the flu, and lost center Jonathan Kerner early on the first half when he injured his left index finger.

The win moves the Rams into second place in the Colonial Athletic Association, one game behind UNC Wilmington, who they play next Wednesday.

CAA STANDINGS

Team	Conference		Overall	
	W-L	%	W-L	%
UNC Wilmington	9-4	.692	14-11	.560
VCU	8-5	.615	13-10	.565
East Carolina	7-5	.583	15-7	.682
James Madison	7-5	.583	13-9	.591
Old Dominion	6-6	.500	15-10	.600
William & Mary	6-6	.500	9-13	.409
American	6-7	.461	9-13	.409
Richmond	4-8	.333	8-13	.381
George Mason	3-10	.231	9-14	.391

UPCOMING GAMES

Saturday
 VCU at Old Dominion, 7:30 p.m., (HTS)
 UNCW at Richmond, 7:30 p.m.
 East Carolina at James Madison, 4:30 p.m. (HTS)
 George Mason at William & Mary, 7:30 p.m.
Monday
 Manhattan at American, 7:30 p.m.
 East Carolina at Richmond, 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

VCU 73, East Carolina 66 (OT)

(At Minges Coliseum)

	min	fg		ft		rb	a	pf	tp
		m-a	%	m-a	%				
Archie	34	4-6	3-6	2-5	0	4	11		
Reed	33	3-7	4-4	2-2	3	2	10		
Moore	11	1-2	1-2	2-4	0	4	3		
Hamilton	36	1-8	0-1	4-5	3	3	3		
Lee	39	7-17	4-4	2-6	4	2	22		
Byrd	34	6-12	1-2	3-7	2	1	13		
Shelton	5	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0		
Brooks	11	2-3	0-0	1-1	0	2	4		
Drake	22	3-6	1-2	1-1	4	1	7		
TOTALS	225	27-63	14-21	17-32	16	19	73		

Percentages: FG-.429, FT-.667. 3-point goals: 5-15, .333 (Lee 4-7, Hamilton 1-4, Reed 0-2, Shelton 0-1, Drake 0-1). Team rebounds: 1. Blocked shots: 3 (Byrd 2, Drake) Turnovers: 10. Steals: 7 (Drake 3, Reed 2, Lee, Byrd).

	min	fg		ft		rb	a	pf	tp
		m-a	%	m-a	%				
Punt	17	2-4	0-2	1-1	0	2	4		
Grooms	37	4-4	2-4	6-11	0	2	10		
Kerner	6	0-2	1-2	2-5	1	1	1		
Meadows	41	6-14	2-2	0-2	1	3	17		
Parham	34	2-10	7-8	1-4	2	2	12		
Dunk	22	0-1	2-4	1-4	2	2	2		
Thomas	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0		
Blackwelder	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0		
Edwards	34	7-12	2-4	1-5	2	5	16		
Peters	28	2-7	0-0	4-7	0	2	4		
TOTALS	225	23-54	16-26	19-43	10	20	66		

Percentages: FG-.426, FT-.615. 3-point goals: 4-13, .308 (Meadows 3-8, Parham 1-4, Dunk 0-1). Team rebounds: 4. Blocked shots: 1 (Kerner). Turnovers: 17. Steals: 5 (Grooms, Kerner, Meadows, Dunk, Edwards). VCU 29 31 13 — 73
 East Carolina 32 28 6 — 66
 Technical fouls: None. A: 5,011

Rams in Action

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S BASKETBALL (13-10, 8-5)	FEB. 15 ODU	FEB. 19 UNCW	FEB. 24 UR	VCU WILL TRY TO AVENGE AN EARLY-SEASON LOSS AGAINST ODU.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (11-10, 5-7)	FEB. 14 JMU	FEB. 17 VA. TECH	FEB. 19 UR	THE LADY RAMS DEFEATED THE LADY DUKES IN THEIR FIRST MEETING.
MEN'S TENNIS (7-0)	FEB. 14-15 VCU INV.	FEB. 19 W&M	FEB. 22 U.VA.	PAUL KOSTIN WON HIS 400TH CAREER WIN MONDAY AGAINST EAST TENNESSEE STATE.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (0-2)	FEB. 15 DAVIDSON	FEB. 25 U.VA.	FEB. 28 N.C. ST.	THE LADY RAMS ARE TRYING TO RECOVER FROM THE LOSS OF CATHERINA BERNSTEIN.
BASEBALL (2-1)	FEB. 14 DAVIDSON	FEB. 15 DAVIDSON	FEB. 16 DAVIDSON	THE RAMS LAST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP WAS 1993.
GOLF	FEB. 20-23 RON SMITH/USF INTERNATIONAL, TAMPA, FLA.			
TRACK & FIELD	FEB. 15, WINTER INVITATIONAL, FAIRFAX			

INDICATES HOME GAME INDICATES AWAY GAME

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

■ The VCU men's basketball team won its 500th game in defeating East Carolina 73-66.

■ See who is on top of The Picks. Familiar faces head the leaderboard.

Lee's redemption helps Rams bury ECU

Pete Van Vleet
CT SPORTS EDITOR

GREENVILLE, N.C. — VCU secured the program's 500th victory in dramatic fashion Wednesday night against East Carolina

MEN'S BASKETBALL

University, beating the Pirates 73-66 in overtime at Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

VCU guard Patrick Lee scored the first seven points of the overtime hitting two 16-foot jumpers and a three-pointer from the top of the key as the Rams (13-10, 8-5) claimed their seventh consecutive win.

VCU coach Sonny Smith said Lee stepped up and provided a punch when the

team needed a lift.

"I thought Patrick Lee stepped up unbelievably," Smith said. "We're running the plays to get him the basketball. (And) you don't have to say anything to him. He just takes over. He's the go-to-guy."

Lee said he wanted to put the team up quickly in overtime and force the Pirates (15-7, 7-5) out of their game plan.

"I was saying to myself to come out and get the ball and try to get a big lead and hope they make some mistakes down the stretch," he said.

For Lee, who scored a team-high 22 points, the overtime success was pay-back for what occurred the first time the two teams met.

A month ago in Richmond, the Rams were down by two and with 15 seconds left in the game Lee raced the length of the court and fired an errant three-point at-

tempt instead of running the called play. The shot missed and the Pirates escaped with the victory.

"I feel a lot redemption. I didn't end the game well when they gave me a chance to when we were in Richmond," Lee said. "I wanted to come out and make sure that didn't happen like that again, or at least attempt to not let it happen again."

VCU center George Byrd said, beside Lee's effort, the defense played an important role in giving ECU its second loss of the year at home.

He said it was just a matter of time before VCU's shots would start falling, but the team could not let up on the other end of the court.

"Defense was the key. We started pressing and that got us about three or four turnovers," he said. "Patrick got el fuego in the overtime period. That helped too."

The Rams were down by five with three minutes left in regulation and limited the Pirates to just eight points for the rest of the game, while the VCU offense kicked in to score 20.

"We played with great composure in the last two minutes of the game, with the exception of one play, and in overtime," Smith said.

The one play came with 30 seconds left in regulation when VCU point guard Sherman Hamilton put up a three-point shot that came about a foot short of hitting the rim.

"I pulled it short. That's all it was. I pulled it short. I had a clean look and pulled it short," Hamilton said.

Hamilton made sure his error would not cost the team the game by swiping the ball

ECU continued to page 11 >

A tale of two teams VCU, ODU set to clash

Terry Scanlon
CT SPORTS EDITOR

At the beginning of the season, the February matchup between VCU and Old Dominion was expected to be between the **PREVIEW** Colonial Athletic Association's top two teams. Saturday's game at Norfolk may not be a battle of one versus two, but it is a meeting of two teams streaking in opposite directions.

The Rams had a turbulent start to the season before putting together its current seven-game win streak to climb into second place in the conference. The Monarchs did just the opposite. They started the season on a tear, winning their first six, and 13 of 16, including their first four league contests. However, ODU has since dropped seven of its last nine, falling to sixth place and 6-6 in the CAA.

While the Rams are coming through in crunch time and finally living up to their preseason expectations of being the best team in the league, the Monarchs can't buy a win and have league observers baffled.

ODU coach Jeff Capel offers only a very basic reason why his team has struggled. "We're just not playing well," he said. "We haven't handled adversity on the road. I doubt if that should be such a big surprise

Last time the two teams met ODU punished VCU in the second half and ran away

for an 82-65 win. Mark Poag was the hero for the Monarchs that day, draining seven three-pointers.

Capel said that has no bearing on Saturday's game except to provide the Rams with motivation.

"They're a different team than they were when we played them before," Capel said, adding that the return of George Byrd has made the biggest difference.

"I think they're the best team in the league," said Capel, "and until someone beats them in the tournament — not the regular season, but the tournament — I'll consider them the champions."

Control of the paint will likely be a major factor Saturday night.

Odell Hodge, the CAA's 1995 player of the year, is averaging nearly a double-double with more than eight rebounds and almost 17 points a game.

Also key to the Monarch attack is point guard Brion Dunlap, who records 4.8 assists an outing.

ODU's not out of the running altogether. Saturday's game is the first of a four-game homestand to close the regular season for the Monarchs.

After the Rams, they face American, George Mason and James Madison. Should they win all four, and VCU and ECU each beat UNC Wilmington there could be as many as five teams tied for first at 10-6 at the end of the month.



File photo

NO FEAR — Patrick Lee drives against Old Dominion's Odell Hodge in the Rams' win last year at the Richmond Coliseum. The teams square off Saturday in Norfolk. VCU will be trying to avenge an early-season loss to the Monarchs.

Hill named field hockey coach

The 1991 field hockey coach of the year and a member of six national championship teams has been named the Lady Rams' new coach. Dawn Hill, who was a part of three championship teams as a player in the early 1980s at Old Dominion and three more as an assistant there, takes over a program that won only six games in the last two years during the reign of co-head coaches Phil and Shannon Danaher.

"I want to work and develop a program

my way," Hill said. "So, it's kind of an advantage to come in the way they are (struggling)."

In 1991, as a substitute interim coach at Maryland, she led the Lady Terrapins to the final four and earned conference, regional and national coach of the year honors. She was an assistant at ODU from three years prior to and four years after her one-year stint at College Park.

— Terry Scanlon, CT Sports Editor