

WEATHER



THURSDAY — Showers, low 33, high 50



FRIDAY — Partly sunny, low 37, high 59

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

■ Learn something about British and American silver at the Virginia Museum. Turn to pages 8 and 9 of Spectrum for details.



WEDNESDAY, March 19, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 61

Voter turnout nearly doubles in SGA elections

Nelson, Bryan win top posts as 770 cast ballots

Scott Anderson
CT STAFF WRITER

Nearly twice as many students voted in this year's Student Government Association student elections than voted last year, with C. Tiana Nelson and Charlie Bryan as president-elect and vice president-elect.

Anna Kelly, SGA Clerk, provided the figures at Monday's SGA Steering Committee meeting, saying voter turnout increased from 400 in 1996 to 770 in 1997.

Kelly praised the senators for spread-

ing the word about the election, and for getting students to vote.

"I think for our campus it shows a lot of progress," she said.

Senators attending the Steering Committee meeting discussed filling 27 vacant Senate seats — the most available in recent years.

Carlotta Reynolds, chairwoman of the Appointments Committee, said applications are being reviewed and she expects the vacant seats to be filled.

The methods of training the newly

elected senators was discussed at length. Some current senators suggested hands-

on training to keep the new senators' attention. Several senators wanted a short training period since many of the new officeholders might not have the time for a long one. The new senators and the president and vice-president will be sworn in April 21.

Reynolds pointed out that the new senators need to be dedicated and willing to commit to a full day for training.

"If you don't want to put the time into it

then don't get involved," she said.

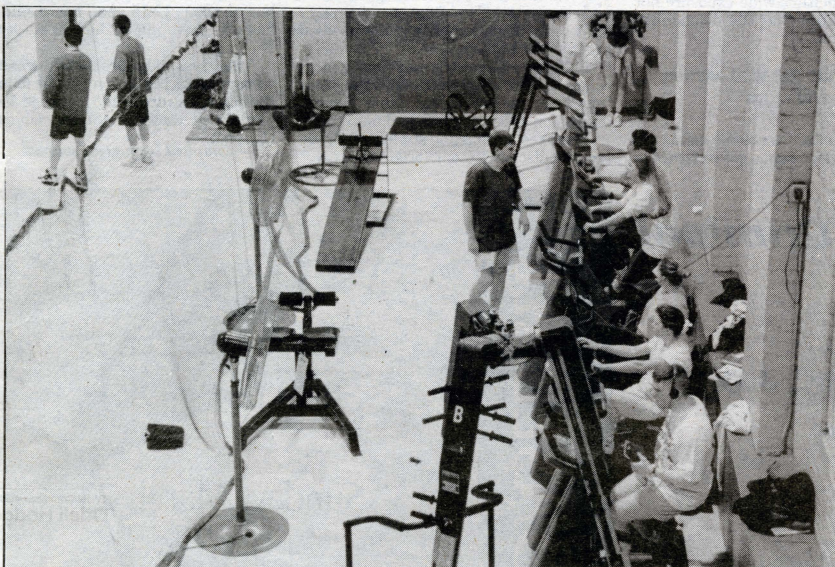
People have different learning styles, Reynolds said, and there should be a plan to incorporate an interactive training session that caters to all types of learning.

Charlie Bryan, speaker of the Senate, suggested the new senators build something on campus as a learning drill to promote teamwork.

"We can take that spirit of cooperation and bring it to SGA," he said.

William H. Duvall, associate vice provost and dean of students and an adviser to the group, brought up a possible change in the reading of graduating students' diplomas.

SGA continued to page 4 ▶



Chieu Nguyen/Commonwealth Times

BACK ON THEIR OWN TURF — Students get in shape for summer at the recently reopened Cary Street Recreational Complex. The university closed the complex while repairing damage from the January fire.

Cary Street complex up and running

Angela D. Hill
CT NEWS EDITOR

With the ash and soot removed and the damage repaired, Cary Street Recreational Complex is once again filled with sounds of squeaking basketball shoes and the clanking of weight machines.

University officials, student workers, VCU staff and construction crews have scrambled to get the building back in shape following a January fire that caused roughly \$600,000 worth of damage.

Director of Recreational Sports Susan Boling said renovations and cleanup efforts are almost complete and the women's locker room opens today.

Last night, construction workers waited until after the complex closed to complete work on the final connec-

tions of the heating and ventilation systems, Boling said.

The main activity areas opened March 3 and aerobics classes are back on schedule.

Athletic staff took the opportunity to take care of some routine maintenance while the complex remained closed:

- the weight room and vending room received a fresh coat of paint;
- some ceiling damage that existed prior to the fire was repaired;
- another clothes dryer was added for more efficient towel service;
- some of the building's exterior was painted;
- the women's locker room will receive new shower partitions as well as refinished benches; and

CARY continued to page 4 ▶

Private company takes over operation of VCU bookstore

Manager calls Follett 'Ukrop's of college bookstores'

Scott Anderson
CT STAFF WRITER

Because of a change in VCU's academic bookstore management, students now can electronically order their books, browse through an online catalog and order VCU products from a World Wide Web page developed by Follett Bookstores Ltd.

Follett brings years of experience to VCU in privately operating university and college bookstores, and its web page states its policy toward bookstore management:

"We work in tandem (with universities) to provide the best possible service for all customers."

Dan McDonald, retail operations manager for VCU's Business Services, optimistically views the change.

"Couple university involvement with Follett's experience, and I think you have a winning combination," he said.

Follett, one of the largest operators of college and university bookstores in the United States and Canada, manages an estimated 500 stores nationwide including five in Virginia. George Mason University, the University of Virginia and Virginia Union University contract with Follett for bookstore management.

In fact, Donald Finley, associate director for finance and facilities for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, said Follett manages five of the nine universities in Virginia that have private bookstores.

Yet, Sean P. Johnson, vice president of the Student Government Association, continues to be concerned about book prices even with Follett management.

When McDonald and Darryl Atkinson, the academic bookstore manager, addressed the SGA last November, Johnson expressed his concern about book prices, and several students asked about the availability of art supplies.

Atkinson told the SGA that Follett will keep the markup on new books at the current 20 percent rate for two years, but McDonald pointed out that VCU's markup is already lower than the state average of 25 percent to 33 percent.

But what keeps Follett from jacking up the markup when the two years end?

McDonald said Follett probably will increase the

BOOKSTORE continued to page 3 ▶

World NEWS

News from around the globe



WORLD/NATION



•Mexican general arrested in drug case

Charged with offering a multimillion-dollar bribe to a top Mexican law enforcement on behalf of a cocaine cartel, a Mexican brigadier general was arrested Monday.

The arrest of Brig. Gen. Alfredo Navarro is more proof that drug traffickers have corrupted the highest levels of the Mexican armed forces. Navarro is the second high-ranking official to be arrested on drug charges in a month.

Jesus Gutierrez Rebello, the head of Mexico's federal drug agency and a general, was arrested Feb. 18. He is accused of receiving benefits from and protecting the strongest drug lord in Mexico, Amado Carrillo Fuentes.

•Canadian woman sentenced to death in Hanoi

A Hanoi, Vietnam, court sentenced a Canadian woman to death by firing squad Monday after it convicted her of attempting to smuggle heroin out of the country.

Nguyen Thi Hiep was born in Vietnam but is a naturalized Canadian. She was also fined \$86,000.

Judges from Hanoi's People's Court heard final arguments from Hiep's defense lawyers and deliberated for 30 minutes before announcing the verdict. Criminal suspects in Vietnam are considered guilty unless proven innocent.

Hiep's 71-year-old mother was accused and convicted of aiding her daughter. She was sentenced to life in prison and fined \$43,000.

•McVeigh trial to go on

Despite news stories about his reported confession, Timothy McVeigh's trial will not be delayed, the judge in the Oklahoma City bombing said Monday.

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch said selection of the jury will begin March 31, as planned.

The Dallas Morning News, Playboy and Newsweek had stories about McVeigh's confession during recent weeks.

Matsch wrote, "Past experience with jurors and a general awareness of public attitudes about pre-trial publicity in similar cases strongly suggests that these stories have had neither wide exposure nor general acceptance that the defendant's lawyers presume."

•Dole sends get-well wishes and more

Bob Dole, the GOP's unsuccessful candidate for president, sent a get-well card to

President Clinton, who is healing from a torn knee tendon.

The note read in part: "Dear Mr. President. Should you need someone to fill in and run the country during your recovery, give me a call." A spokesman said Clinton got a chuckle from the card.

The White House also promised an instant notification system will be put in place for future emergencies. After Clinton's accident last week, White House reporters were unclear on what was happening for hours.

•Ole Miss students wary of new spin

Officials of the University of Mississippi, worried about the school's academic reputation, have hired image consultants.

However, some students are skeptical of the plan. They think the institution is going to stop using its controversial antebellum symbols.

These students are afraid that the school is using this as an excuse to change the school's mascot, a southern gentleman, and eliminating "Dixie" as the university's fight song. Some minority students want exactly that to take place.

Robert C. Khayat, the university's chancellor, said in a statement that the study "has been twisted solely into a divisive discussion about symbols and mascots."

He asked alumni and students to "redirect the discussion to its original intent."

RICHMOND



•Daily Planet receives recommendation

The Daily Planet, a center for the homeless in downtown Richmond, will enter next Monday's City Council meeting with a recommendation that it be allowed to continue its operation.

The center has operated without a permit for 12 years at 302 W. Canal St. The Richmond Planning Commission could have either recommended granting a permit, or denied it a permit and shut it down.

The commission initially did neither, but after member Terone B. Green said "it would look cowardly" if they did not reach a decision, they did, and granted a permit with a vote of 6-2.

•City bus rider shot and killed

A man riding in a Greater Richmond Transit Co. bus was shot to death early Tuesday. The victim, who appeared to be in his 20s, was shot by someone outside the bus at about 12:15 a.m., police said. The bus was traveling in the 900 block of W. Broad St.

The driver told police that she was afraid whoever shot the man might be following the bus, so she drove it to Idlewood Avenue and South Randolph Street, where she stopped.

—compiled from news sources

Drunk Driving and Criminal Defense

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VCU BASEBALL



VCU vs. ECU
Saturday, March 22
1:00 p.m. (DH)

Sunday, March 23
1:00 p.m.

VCU vs. Elon
Tuesday, March 25
7:00 p.m.

All games played at The Diamond.

VCU/MCV students with valid student I.D.s are admitted free of charge.

VCU student diagnosed with tuberculosis

Health Services says no need for alarm

Shannon Bender
CT News Editor

University Student Health Services was recently informed by the Richmond Health Department that a student enrolled at VCU last semester has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB).

Although it is felt that the student's level of contagiousness was low, USHS sent out letters to all students enrolled the student's classes inviting them to get tested.

"I don't think there's need for alarm," student health director Dr. Betty Anne Johnson said to those who got letters and others who have heard about it. "We don't want that to happen."

TB disease, a serious illness caused by active TB germs, is a mycobacterial disease spread when people who have

active untreated TB organisms in their lungs or throat, cough or sneeze or speak and send those organisms into the air. People who breathe these organisms can become infected.

"We don't know how close a contact these individuals had with this person," said Johnson about students in the classes with the infected person. "It's just to be super-super cautious."

People who breathe in TB organisms usually have had very close, day-to-day contact with someone who has had the disease, she said. Most people get TB from someone they spend a lot of time with, like a family member, friend or close co-worker.

"You are not likely to get TB from someone coughing in a classroom or restaurant," Johnson said.

Inhaled TB organisms are contained by the immune system in an inactive state and individuals are considered

infected but do not have TB disease. Infected individuals are identified using a skin test for TB that will turn positive. It often takes place several months after exposure to an individual with active TB disease.

"(The disease) is not very common, but it causes a lot of commotion," Johnson said.

Once the leading cause of death in the United States, TB disease slowly began to disappear after scientists in the 1940s discovered the first of several drugs used to treat it. But it has come back. After 1984, the number of TB cases reported in the United States began to increase.

Today, about 8 million new cases occur each year in the world with over 22,000 cases reported each year in the United States.

An estimated 10 to 15 million people in the United States are infected with the TB germ, with potential to develop TB disease in the future.

TB bacteria usually grow in the lungs and may cause a bad cough that lasts longer than 2 weeks, pain in the chest, and coughing up blood or sputum (phlegm form deep inside the lungs). Other symptoms of the disease include weakness or fatigue, weight loss, no appetite, chills, fever and sweating at night.

A person can be infected with the bacteria that causes TB and not have TB disease. Many people are infected with the bacteria, but only about 10 percent go on to develop the disease or "active" TB.

Individuals with inactive organism and a positive skin test are not sick and are not contagious, said Johnson. Those with a positive skin test will have a chest X-ray done to confirm that there is no active TB disease in their lungs and will be given a medication, usually either isoniazid or rifampin, to kill all of these inactive organisms in their body.

People who are infected with TB do not feel sick, do not have any symptoms, and cannot spread TB. But they may develop TB disease at some time in the future. People with TB disease can be treated and cured if they seek medical help.

In most people who breathe in TB bacteria and become infected, the body is able to fight the bacteria to stop them from growing. The bacteria become inactive, but they remain alive in the body and can become active later.

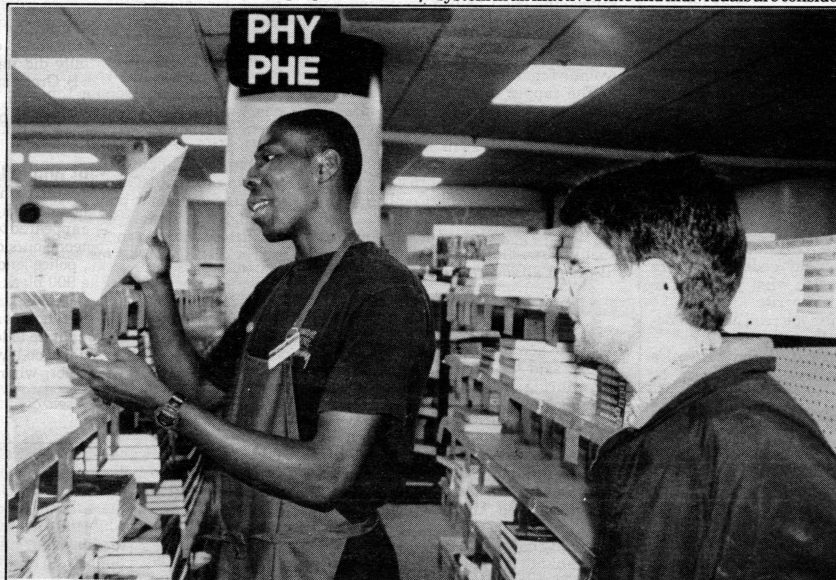
"Your immune system walls it off," Johnson said, "And it's very likely the organisms will stay there and not cause you any trouble."

This can occur quickly when the body's immune system is weak and cannot contain the initial infection, she said. It is also possible, even after many years, for inactive TB organism to become active when body defenses become weak.

"Your immune system will become weak and your wall will not be that strong," Johnson said, adding that this may be due to aging, a serious illness, drug or alcohol abuse, or HIV infection.

Any student, part-time or full-time, receiving a letter from USHS may come to the Gladding Residence Center. Students may also have skin tests done at the Richmond City Health Department.

After a person has a positive skin test, a chest X-ray and a physical exam will follow to make sure that person has the active disease and that he or she is not contagious.



Chieu Nguyen/Commonwealth Times

FINDING HELP IN THE STACKS — Aaron McKoy, a junior biology major and bookstore assistant, helps Kendall Biggs, a computer science sophomore, locate books needed for class. Students will soon be able to electronically order textbooks and other merchandise online.

BOOKSTORE

continued from page 1

markup but the rate still will be lower than the state average. Since the academic bookstore competes with others such as The Virginia Book Co., competition could keep prices from skyrocketing.

Johnson said he initially did not have a positive attitude toward a privately operating bookstore serving the university student, but now he thinks Follett seems to have done only good things since arriving at VCU.

Its web page is one of those good things. Although a few bugs need fixing, the Follett bookstore web page is up and running.

The site has an online catalog, links to VCU web pages and even games to play. The most exciting part of the site, however, is the book-ordering option.

In the past, VCU allowed only new students to complete an order form providing their class schedules so the books would be waiting for them when they went to the bookstore. The web page offers all students that option.

Another change could affect students looking for jobs. McDonald said Follett probably will hire more students through the work-study program than the previous management did.

After the state mandated public universities to explore the option of privatization for their auxiliary enterprises (operations not receiving state money), a committee of faculty, university staff and students organized to oversee the process.

Among other things, the committee was responsible

for asking companies to submit proposals, weighing the advantages of privatization and submitting recommendations to VCU's Board of Visitors for review.

McDonald said the committee chose the academic bookstore because of its expansion possibilities. When the new parking deck opens on Broad Street, that deck will house a bookstore estimated to be three times the size of the current one.

Another reason for choosing it, he said, was its high inventory, which Follett automatically bought when it assumed management. The MCV bookstore, on the other hand, does not maintain a high inventory because of the quick turnover and revision in medical literature.

Following the bidding process, the committee selected Follett from a group of competitors including Barnes & Noble. McDonald referred to Follett as "the Ukrop's of the college bookstore industry," saying the company's general attitude toward working with the university became a selling point.

"The opinion of the committee was that Follett had more of a campus-oriented and student-oriented approach," he said.

Finley pointed out that total revenue for Virginia from university and college privatization grew from \$95 million to \$145 million in fall 1996.

"What we see is that privatization has expanded greatly over the years," he said. "The trend is not unique to bookstores."

Bike racks to be cleared May 22

All abandoned bikes and bike locks on VCU bike racks will be removed by VCU Police and VCU Physical Plant on May 22. Notices will be posted 10 days before the project begins. Any bike with a serial number that is removed will be kept by VCU Police for 120 days.

Clarification

In the March 3, 1996 issue the Commonwealth Times printed a photo on page 1 under the title "Is it Spring Break yet?". The event depicted in the photo was part of a Brazilian carnival sponsored by Senja Cu, a VCU organization that works to provide a platform for individuals from all cultures to showcase their talents in an informal professional setting. The photo caption did not mention this and no misrepresentation was intended on the part of the CT.

Make a difference — write a letter to the editor

How many times have we all heard the cliché: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem?"

However, how many times have we heard someone complain about something, but not do anything that may help correct the problem?

Too many times.

Here's a call to all of the chronic complainers out there — complain in black and white. That's right, in the newspaper.

I'm even complaining right now about complainers. And if you're reading my complaint, chances are someone else out there will read yours.

The procedure is very simple, really. Just write a letter to the editor, drop it off in the Commonwealth Times office (located in Room 1149 of the General Purpose Academic Building across from the Student Commons) and I can almost guarantee you'll see that pet peeve printed within two to three days' time.

You'll even get your name in the paper — right there under your letter. Yes, they do have to be signed, but look on the bright side. You can send copies to your parents and relatives as holiday gifts. You know how happy parents are when they see their child's name in the paper. Mom and Dad will feel as though their money is going to produce a concerned, caring citizen who has no fear in express-

ing his or her opinion in a public forum.

Okay, I'm being silly.

But on a serious note, we at the Commonwealth Times think more letters to the editor are a good thing. Unfortunately, they are far and few between. Bring them on — good or bad. We need to know how you, the reader, feel about what we're writing and photographing and what we chose to print in the newspaper.

Perhaps you simply feel the need to make a public statement on an issue we've covered. Great! Get your fingers moving on that keyboard! This is your chance to express that opinion. Make Madonna proud.

Sometimes, I believe the media are a bit out of touch with what their readers are thinking and doing. We get trapped in the newsroom bubble. And if you'd like to burst our bubble, well, we'll print that too. However, we don't know if we've missed the whole target unless you write in and tell us.

Remember, we write and produce the newspaper for you, our readers, and we're always interested in what you have to say. Or in this case, write.

So the next time you read or see something that stirs you, write us a letter.

You could even write one on this week's student commentary.

Student

COMMENTARY

Angela D. Hill

Mars life theory gets a boost

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A theory that microbes once lived on Mars is boosted by two new studies of a rock that was blasted away from the red planet and eventually landed on Earth.

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and at the California Institute of Technology said the new studies do not prove that Martian microbes once lived in the rock.

But they remove one challenge based on the temperature history of the potato-size chunk of Mars.

"We have ruled out the high temperature hypothesis" that would have made life impossible, said John W. Valley of the University of Wisconsin. "I still don't have final answers. There should still be skepticism."

Wisconsin scientists determined the range of temperatures the rock was exposed to by analyzing the ratios of carbon and oxygen isotopes.

At Cal Tech, researchers traced the temperature history by measuring magnetic fields within the rock. Both studies will be published Friday in the journal *Science*.

NASA scientists last summer claimed that small globules of carbonate found inside a Martian meteorite were the fossilized remains of microbes or bacteria that lived on the red planet more than 15 million years ago.

Based on a microscopic and chemical analysis of the globules, the NASA team theorized that the microbes lived and died in the rock, leaving behind organic chemicals and fossilized remains.

The rock was then blasted from the Mars surface by a meteorite impact, spent thousands of years wandering in space and then fell to Earth in the Antarctic. The rock

was recovered from an ice field and identified by chemical composition as coming from Mars.

A major challenge to the theory has been that the carbonate globules actually formed by inorganic processes at temperatures of more than 1,200 degrees, far too hot for life.

But the new studies show that temperatures of the globules never exceeded 212 degrees — scalding, but still within the living range of known life forms.

"Our work shows that there are no show stopper lines of evidence in the temperature," said Valley.

There are other reasons to be skeptical, however, he said, "and it will be difficult to convince the world one way or the other."

"Our results don't prove there was life," said Joseph L. Kirschvink, head of the Cal Tech team. But the finding proves that the possibility of life cannot be eliminated because of temperature, he said.

The Cal Tech team determined the temperature history of the rock by measuring the magnetic field direction of tiny parts of the samples.

The magnetic field direction in a rock will change slightly each time it is heated and cooled.

"To make the measurement, we had to saw apart a specimen the size of a grain of sand," said Altair T. Maine, a member of the Cal Tech team.

Kirschvink said his team found that after the rock cooled from a melt some 4 billion years ago, it was never again heated to a temperature lethal to all life.

The Cal Tech study also showed that early in the history of Mars, the planet had a magnetic field similar to that of Earth. Kirschvink said this means the planet probably had an atmosphere. A strong magnetic field allows a planet to retain an atmosphere.

Hip-hop stars honor slain star

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Rap's royalty turned out yesterday morning for a final farewell to rapper The Notorious B.I.G., the Brooklyn-born "gangsta" gunned down nine days ago in a still-unsolved Los Angeles drive-by shooting.

A funeral for the beefy rapper was held at the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home in Manhattan, where the crowd included members of Junior M.A.F.I.A., Spinderella of Salt-N-Pepa, Mary J. Blige, Queen Latifah, Lil' Kim, Sister Souljah and Flavor Flav.

Ex-mayor David Dinkins and Arista Records head Clive Davis also attended, as did the head of Notorious B.I.G.'s record company, Sean "Puffy" Combs of Bad Boy Entertainment. Combs records under the name Puff Daddy.

About 350 people were invited to the wake and service in the tony Madison Avenue funeral home.

The rapper — also known as Biggie Smalls — lay in a wooden casket open from the waist up. He wore a white hat, and his 280-pound body was dressed in a double-breasted white suit.

His estranged wife, Faith Evans, sang a song at the service, while Combs delivered the eulogy.

"It was a peaceful event," said mourner Juanita Preudhomme, an old family friend. "It wasn't all sorrow. Everybody was hug-

ging and kissing, just like Biggie would have wanted."

Many of the mourners joined a funeral cortege of black limousines that carried the rapper's body for a final tour of his old neighborhood in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Reports have suggested the dispute between Combs' company and West Coast rap impresario Marion "Suge" Knight's Death Row Records may have played a role in the slaying. Tupac Shakur, who rapped for Knight's label, was gunned down in similar fashion in Las Vegas on Sept. 7.

But The Los Angeles Times reported today that the primary suspect in the slaying of The Notorious B.I.G. is a Crips gang member involved in a financial dispute with the rapper. The Times, citing unidentified law-enforcement sources, said authorities have found no connection to the Shakur slaying.

Born Christopher Wallace, the rapper moved from slinging crack on Brooklyn street corners to topping the Billboard charts. His often-violent tales of ghetto life even forecast his own March 9 murder.

The 24-year-old, who most recently lived in Teaneck, N.J., was leaving a party celebrating the Soul Train Music Awards.

There, a gunman pumped several shots through the passenger door of a GMC Suburban with the rapper inside.

He died a short time later at a Los Angeles hospital.

CARY

continued from page 1

— the aerobics floor was re-surfaced.

She said the complex may close once more during the summer to re-surface the gym floor if the staff determines the floor was damaged during the fire.

"We'll have to wait and see how it all settles out," she said, adding that while most of the major damage has been repaired, every day she finds "little things."

Boling said she feels as though the university has a lot to be thankful for and appreciates the complex's staff, student workers, the university and the general subcontractor Suburban Remodeling for their hard work.

"The best thing (to come out of the fire) has been the relationship of how people have worked together," she said. "People really worked hard to get things done."

Boling said she was especially impressed by Suburban's Warren White, who brought in construction crews and subcontractors to repair the damage.

"He made it fun," she said, "in spite of the situation."

White has handled much of the university's construction, and has also helped in the recent renovation of Cabell Library.

Not only did the construction crew members get dirt under their fingernails, Boling

said many student workers helped remove soot.

"The student employees really deserve a round of applause," she said, "and the rest of the staff deserves a lot of credit."

Those employees were shuffled to many different positions and set on several different tasks, said Boling, and the staff at MCV's recreational center accommodated

the student overflow while the Cary Street center was closed. Boling said the situation did help get the word out about the new MCV facilities and aquatic center and some students will continue coming

muting to MCV to work out.

"Some people really like the machines (at MCV)," she said, "but I've heard a lot of people say, 'It's really good to be home.'"

Boling said she learned much regarding the upkeep of sufficient inventory records.

"It was not a total loss," she said. "There were lessons learned."

The most difficult part of the clean up, Boling said, was having absolutely no prediction as to what the next day would bring, including those first few weeks of cold January weather and poor lighting conditions.

"I generally have a sense of my basic options," she said, "but here, so much of (what we had to do) was new."

Students who would like to turn in a claim for any personal items left in the Cary Street Recreational Complex's lockers must do so by Friday, March 21. Students can pick up their belongings by calling the complex during hours of operation.

SGA

continued from page 1

Current diplomas state only the school or college, the degree and the university. They do not state students' majors.

When Duvall asked the committee if it would like to see majors listed on their diplomas, Sean P. Johnson, SGA vice president and the head of the Steering Committee meetings, gave Duvall the committee's overwhelming affirmative recommendation.

In addition, the group considered the following issues:

— letters stating responsibilities and congratulations sent to newly elected senators;

— an increase in on-campus housing in the next three years is on the university's agenda;

— recommitting itself to being a productive Senate and to work at turning the Senate's ideas into action; and

— VCU has received just under \$100 million in its drive for \$125 million in the Partners for Progress fund-raising drive.

Charles Gnilka

How Many Monsters are Lurking Among Us

If federal prosecutors are correct, Timothy McVeigh is a monster.

McVeigh, 29, and friend Terry Nichols are accused of taking part in the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people on April 19, 1995, the worst act of terrorism ever committed on American soil. McVeigh is suspected of being the driver of the rented truck that delivered the bomb to the federal building.

It would take a monster to drive such a truck filled with homemade explosives, set the charge, then calmly walk away as the blast brought down tons of steel and concrete down upon men, women and children (who were in the building's day care center).

The bitter irony about Timothy McVeigh being the chief suspect in the bombing is that he is a Gulf War veteran. He distinguished himself in combat during the 100-hour ground offensive of the 1991 war and was considered a model soldier by many of his fellow veterans.

Now that McVeigh is about to go on trial, journalists have been searching through his past to try and understand what could have motivated him, if in fact he is guilty of the bombing. How could he have possibly murdered so many of his fellow citizens when he had once worn a U.S. Army uniform and took an oath to defend his country?

A clear picture of McVeigh

In an article from the April issue of Spin Magazine, McVeigh was interviewed about his experience in the military. According to the interviewer, McVeigh had joined the Army as a patriot who wished to serve his country as a soldier. He had knowledge of weapons and a dedication to his military career that made him the ideal modern warrior. His ultimate ambition was to become part of the elite corps of soldiers in Special Forces.

Unfortunately for McVeigh, he did not make it into that branch of the military in which he so desperately wanted to be a member. McVeigh was not accepted into the Special Forces and left the Army altogether.

It is in the years following the Gulf War, distraught at the dead end of his ambitions of joining the elite of military culture, that some believe he drifted into groups of people with paranoid and radical beliefs. He is said to have embraced the ideology of the fringes of the militia movement, which is wrought with fear and conspiracy. One of the core beliefs of radical militia groups is that the U.S. government is actually a puppet of the United Nations, which is secretly plotting the takeover of the coun-

try and the persecution of those who do not accept the "new world order".

This perception of insidious conspiracies run amok in the United States is believed by some to be McVeigh's motivation for the Oklahoma City bombing. That the bombing was act of defiance and revenge against a government run by shadowy powers.

Although there has been plenty of speculation and hearsay about McVeigh's guilt or innocence, it should be noted the trial has yet to begin. There will not be a full attempt to separate truth from fiction until the trial starts doing so. Until then, the truth about what is being said in the media is still uncertain. But the most disturbing part about the saga of Timothy McVeigh, innocent or guilty, is that his disgruntlement in all too common in America today.

There is a high level of distrust and ire in our present culture. America has large numbers of people of all ages, colors, creeds angry and frustrated by the state of affairs in our country. Many feel today that their lives have no meaning or direction. That their life, or loss of life, lacks consequence to the rest of world.

Nowhere else to turn

Some turn this frustration upon themselves in the form of drug addiction or violent behavior. Some turn it upon their neighbors, such as the territory and respect disputes waged by street gangs. But some unleash their repressed fury upon others. They see other people — happier, more successful, or merely different than themselves — as targets for their aggression.

Such is the case with many hate crimes. When you hear of stories about an African American church being burned, or a gay person being beaten to death by a vicious mob, or swastikas being spray-painted on a local synagogue, the origin of these acts is not defense against a perceived threat. Racists and hate-mongers who stoop to using violence often say their actions are a means of standing up for their rights. What is really at issue is their choice of someone to be the punching bag or pistol target for their frustration.

America is a country of promise and opportunity. Millions risk their lives just to set foot on our shores. But it is not an easy task to find the American dream as advertised on TV. It takes focus and work to get anything worth having. Whether it is making enough money to support yourself, getting into graduate school, or getting that promotion at work, it all takes perseverance and intelligence to get around obstacles and take advantage of opportu-

nities.

The lucky ones in our culture are those who have found a way to survive and prosper in our competitive society. Some are simply born privileged, like middle-class teenagers whose parents can pay for the best clothes, cars and private schools. Others have found ways to use their resources (talents, family support, ambition) to get what they want.

But some are not so lucky. They have no concept of what they will do with their future. Some have talents and potential, yet have not found an outlet for them. Broken homes and the ready availability of drugs (both legal and illegal) are burdens that many people deal with.

Taking in the garbage

Some are fortunate to overcome these trials themselves or have others help them. But there are others, such as cult leaders, gangs, and hate groups, who take the aimless of our society and harvest them for their soldiers.

One leader of a Nazi Skinhead organization has said "bring me your garbage," referring to the young people who flunk out of school, end up in juvenile homes or are written off by our culture as failures. A Nazi Skinhead leader, or a cult leader like Jim Jones, are going to have little appeal to those who have found something better to do with their time, or possess a sense of self

does not require someone to hate for hate's sake or worship blindly. But those having trouble fitting into to a complex world, or feel shut out of the blessing of American society, are more susceptible to having their minds twisted.

Domestic terrorism, hate crimes, drug abuse, street gangs, cults and those who peddle fear and paranoia all have a common need. They all need those who are willing to find something to fill a void in their life. If Timothy McVeigh did commit the Oklahoma City bombing, perhaps he felt in a warped way that he was fulfilling a sense of duty that the military no longer gave him and nothing else in our society gave him, either.

As Timothy McVeigh sits behind bars awaiting trial, there are others out there who are searching for a sense of meaning in their lives. They will hopefully find something positive — perhaps families, religion or a just a steady job — to give their life a purpose. Maybe you know someone who is at this crossroads in their life. What are you doing to help them?

There are also those who have their own agendas to fulfill, and need fresh minds and bodies to mold. They may ask of their new followers to commit deeds that conflict with what we consider to be decent or moral.

How many Timothy McVeighs are out there?

Letter

TO THE EDITOR

Bad Change in DUI Definition

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES: Abraham Lincoln was fond of asking his listeners, if you call a dog's tail a leg, how many legs do he have? "Someone would always answer, 'Five.'" "Not so," Lincoln would admonish them. "Just because you call a tail a leg doesn't mean it's leg. It's a tail just the same."

So it is with members of Congress who seek to be seen as "tough on drinking and driving" by changing the legal definition of drunkenness. By using a carrot-and-stick strategy against states that do not do their bidding, Congress would force state governments to do what the Constitution does not authorize the federal government to do: Write and enforce drunk-driving laws.

Under legislation introduced on March 6 by Rep. Nina Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), states would have to reduce their legal intoxication limits or lose part of their federal highway construction funds. Lowey and Lautenberg claim at least 500 alcohol-related deaths could be avoided yearly if all 50 states adopted a 0.08 percent limit on the amount of alcohol in a driver's blood. Most states currently have a blood alcohol content (BAC) limit of 0.10 percent.

This misguided approach will have no discernible effect on traffic accidents but instead will waste precious law enforcement resources and give politicians a warm feeling that they have "done something."

Definitions have little to do with actual impairment on the road. According to Dr. William Hotchkiss, former president of the American Medical Association, 83 to 97 percent of people tested were considered impaired at BAC levels of 0.10 to 0.15. In

the same study, up to 86 percent of persons at a BAC of 0.05-0.10 are not physically impaired. This is why a 0.10 BAC has become an accepted standard.

An unexpected opponent of the 0.08 BAC is Candy Lightner, the founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. She says, "Half of the drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes have a BAC of 0.17 or greater. Even among young people aged 16 to 24, the great majority of deaths involve drinkers with a BAC of at least 0.15 percent. Lowering the blood alcohol content won't make a difference to those offenders." ...

The fact is, by changing the definition of drunkenness, we enable the police to arrest more people. That may seem tough, but the effect is clogging the courts with people who are not really the problem, creating conditions whereby truly dangerous people are let without punishment so that we can make room for the minor offender. ...

MADD's Candy Lightner makes the point best when she says: "Rather than put our limited resources into laws that fail to address the real problem, we need better enforcement of existing laws and proven policies that have demonstrated a significant impact."

Our focus should continue to be on education and on tough enforcement of existing laws. Congress should, therefore, turn back any efforts to change the definition of drunkenness nationwide from a BAC of 0.10 to a BAC of 0.08. All that will do is illegitimately extend the federal web into the domain of state lawmakers.

Sincerely,
Richard Sincere



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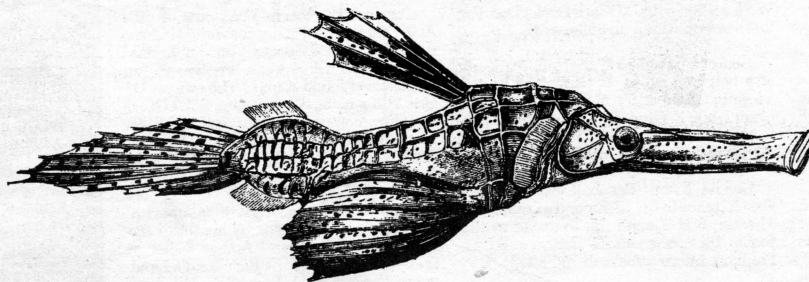
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SPECTRUM

from one end



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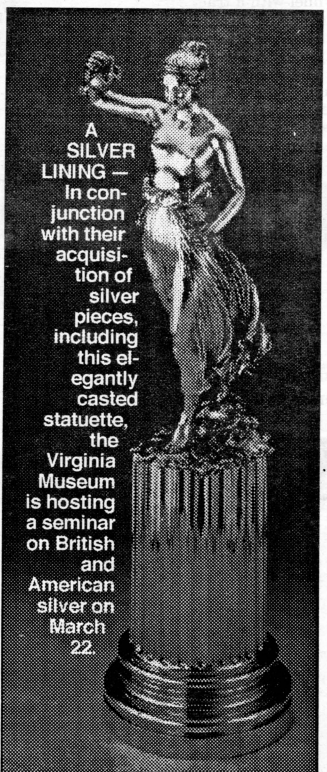
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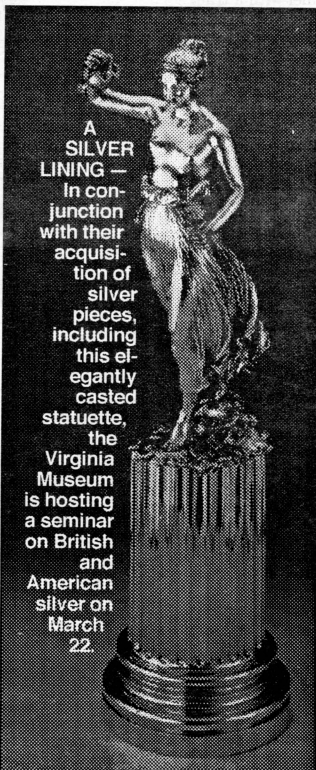
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What's green and red and goes 100 mph?

Lynn Hafer
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Frog Legs in a red spotlight.

(Nope, not a frog in a blender.)

Frog Legs is deservedly the area's most talked about unsigned band.

Love them or hate them; very few walk away from a Frog Legs concert without an opinion.

With a theatrical, whimsical stage performance set to a kaleidoscope of music, the band transports the audience into a surreal world not unlike the unsettling world of "A Clockwork Orange" or the bizarre world of The Who's rock opera "Tommy." Every note and movement offers an unexpected twist that sends all five senses reeling. There's no thrill ride in the world as good as a Frog Legs performance.

Members Tom Illmensee (guitar), Morgan Huff (drums), Wrenn Mangum (vocals) and Turtle (bass) live life to the max, onstage and off, but without taking anything too seriously.

When Huff, a VCU graduate with a degree in English, tells of being a Starbucks "barrista" with a space-age coffee dispenser hooked to his back or relates road stories of the band naming their farts or remembers his near-death experiences of falling 12 feet onto concrete or being trapped in a tunnel with a train coming, he is always amused, always grinning, but speaks with an underlying awe and respect for the mystery that is life.

"We work all the time at the band," Huff said. "We have no extracurricular activities. We have an infinite energy level yet it seems effortless. It seems to have a life of its own."

The always joking yet insightful Illmensee is studying history at VCU. The guitarist is quick to share stories of brushes with fame — seeing Twisted Sister's Dee Schneider in a restaurant, waiting on Dion, standing in line behind lotto ticket buyer Billy Joel in a convenience store — and of brushes with death from his asthma or from a 12-foot shark who gave him the evil eye. Like Huff, Illmensee seems to find fun in analyzing life and particularly in analyzing Frog Legs.

Illmensee calls writing the songs "a collaborative germ in every way. The guitar is the sperm, the drums the egg. The bass would be the placenta and Wrenn is the amniotic fluid. Then we have a song. But if we don't like it, we take radiation and mutate it into a huge, hairy beast."

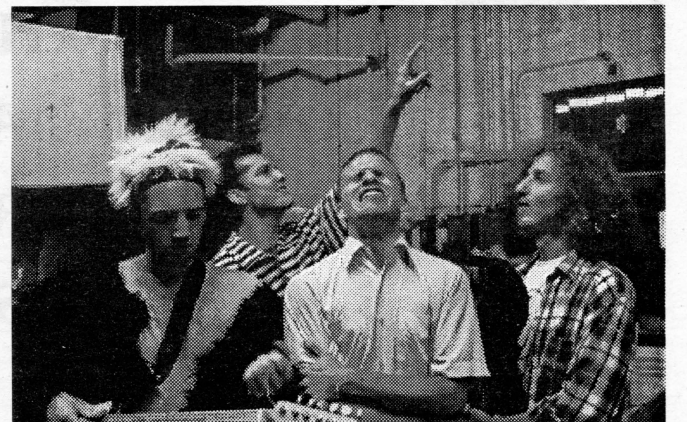
The band agrees the most important thing is that they like and respect the music they are playing.

"We want to present music on our own terms," Huff said. "The vision is the first priority, success is just the consequence. We want to make real what is on our minds and if people find something meaningful in that then they will buy our records and come to our shows."

To that, Illmensee added, "and any attempted plan is thoroughly destroyed by one or all members of the band."

Bassist Turtle, a hardware-selling, heavy-metal head from Minneapolis, is the newest member of the group. He said he is happy with the "urgency and the intensity that has evolved" within the band.

"If you have something and stand behind it, then there is the hook that will make it popular," he said of their upcoming April release.



HUMAN CANNONBALLS — Frog Legs (Tom Illmensee, Morgan Huff, Wrenn Mangum and Turtle) play Trade Mark's on March 28.

Lead vocalist Mangum, who Huff and Illmensee described as having conscious Torette's Syndrome, is also a VCU graduate with a degree in printmaking. His father, Bryant Mangum, is a VCU professor of English.

Illmensee and Huff explained that Mangum is the band's onstage court jester, always doing and saying the unexpected, always entertaining. They told stories of him knocking a hole in a club's wall with his posterior then jumping through it and shaking his butt at the audience from the other side, of him physically picking a girl up that had climbed onto the stage, lifting her onto his shoulders and spinning her around until she and her beer were on the floor, of him jabbering about eating Jerry Garcia's flesh.

But the band is not all flash, they said. They "take art and entertainment and force the two together at gunpoint."

Huff added, "nothing is ever planned."

Although some may find them overly dramatic, they are surprisingly down-to-earth.

About shows with poor attendance, they said, "There are no bad shows. Some shows are rowdy beyond control. Others like one in Charlottesville have three people there. But in Charlottesville one person was a Russian guy who kissed us on both cheeks saying, 'I came all the way to America to see something like this.' Another person was a Vietnam veteran in a wheelchair and the third person was some surreal punk girl. That's great!"

Huff said playing live is a wonderful experience "Complete strangers either tolerate you or don't tolerate you but they have to deal with you."

Antics and theatrics aside, Frog Legs should be proud of their music. Their CD "Midnight Radio" is a masterpiece of moods and emotions and has gotten the airplay and critical acclaim it deserves.

U2's latest album 'POP' adds techno-beat

Tristram Coffin
SPECIAL TO THE CT

U2 reached a new level of pretentiousness in a recent television interview when they said they now

REVIEW

consider all of their pre-"The Joshua Tree" material to be demos. It is no coincidence that jokes — "How many members of U2 does it take to screw in a light bulb? One. Bono to hold the bulb and the world to revolve around him" — have circulated about the band and its singer for years.

But U2 is one of the few bands of this generation with a right to be pretentious. For two decades, including their "demo" years, U2's albums have represented a more honest continuing search for God and

salvation than you'll find in anyone else's work.

Along the way, the band has mutated several times, giving the listener different angles of that search; with the mastery of each stage came an album.

The album for their early post-punk days was "War." In their bluesy discovery-of-America period, the album was "The Joshua Tree." And in the band's more recent, less pious, cocktail lounge era, it was "Achtung Baby."

The pattern breaks with the release of "POP." It has been two records since the group's last masterpiece and they have not bothered to change direction.

Instead, with "Zooropa" and now "POP," they are still wallowing in the excesses of "Achtung Baby." Is U2 running out of ideas? Still, "POP" shows that the band can still

put together an exceptional album.

The second half of a U2 record is typically more telling of where the band is personally and spiritually. On "POP" this is especially true.

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to the other

What's green and red and goes 100 mph?

Lynn Hafer
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Frog Legs in a red spotlight.

(Nope, not a frog in a blender.)

Frog Legs is deservedly the area's most talked about unsigned band.

Love them or hate them; very few walk away from a Frog Legs concert without an opinion.

With a theatrical, whimsical stage performance set to a kaleidoscope of music, the band transports the audience into a surreal world not unlike the unsettling world of "A Clockwork Orange" or the bizarre world of The Who's rock opera "Tommy." Every note and movement offers an unexpected twist that sends all five senses reeling. There's no thrill ride in the world as good as a Frog Legs performance.

Members Tom Illmensee (guitar), Morgan Huff (drums), Wrenn Mangum (vocals) and Turtle (bass) live life to the max, onstage and off, but without taking anything too seriously.

When Huff, a VCU graduate with a degree in English, tells of being a Starbucks "barista" with a space-age coffee dispenser hooked to his back or relates road stories of the band naming their farts or remembers his near-death experiences of falling 12 feet into concrete or being trapped in a tunnel with a train coming, he is always amused, always grinning, but speaks with an underlying awe and respect for the mystery that is life.

"We work all the time at the band," Huff said, "We have no extracurricular activities. We have an infinite energy level yet it seems effortless. It seems to have a life of its own."

The always joking yet insightful Illmensee is studying history at VCU. The guitarist is quick to share stories of brushes with fame — seeing Twisted Sister's Dee Schneider in a restaurant, waiting on Dion, standing in line behind lotto ticket buyer Billy Joel in a convenience store — and of brushes with death from his asthma or from a 12-foot shark who gave him the evil eye. Like Huff, Illmensee seems to find fun in analyzing life and particularly in analyzing Frog Legs.

Illmensee calls writing the songs "a collaborative germ in every way. The guitar is the sperm, the drums the egg. The bass would be the placenta and Wrenn is the amniotic fluid. Then we have a song. But if we don't like it, we take radiation and mutate it into a huge, hairy beast."

The band agrees the most important thing is that they like and respect the music they are playing.

"We want to present music on our own terms," Huff said. "The vision is the first priority, success is just the consequence. We want to make real what is on our minds and if people find something meaningful in that then they will buy our records and come to our shows."

To that, Illmensee added, "and any attempted plan is thoroughly destroyed by one or all members of the band."

Bassist Turtle, a hardware-selling, heavy-metal head from Minneapolis, is the newest member of the group. He said he is happy with the "urgency and the intensity that has evolved" within the band.

"If you have something and stand behind it, then there is the hook that will make it popular," he said of their upcoming April release.



HUMAN CANNONBALLS — Frog Legs (Tom Illmensee, Morgan Huff, Wrenn Mangum and Turtle) play Trade Mark's on March 28.

Lead vocalist Mangum, who Huff and Illmensee described as having conscious Torette's Syndrome, is also a VCU graduate with a degree in printmaking. His father, Bryant Mangum, is a VCU professor of English.

Illmensee and Huff explained that Mangum is the band's onstage court jester, always doing and saying the unexpected, always entertaining. They told stories of him knocking a hole in a club's wall with his posterior then jumping through it and shaking his butt at the audience from the other side, of him physically picking a girl up that had climbed onto the stage, lifting her onto his shoulders and spinning her around until she and her beer were on the floor, of him jabbering about eating Jerry Garcia's flesh.

But the band is not all flash, they said. They "take art and entertainment and force the two together at gunpoint."

Huff added, "nothing is ever planned."

Although some may find them overly dramatic, they are surprisingly down-to-earth.

About shows with poor attendance, they said, "There are no bad shows. Some shows are rowdy beyond control. Others like one in Charlottesville have three people there. But in Charlottesville one person was a Russian guy who kissed us on both cheeks saying, 'I came all the way to America to see something like this.' Another person was a Vietnam veteran in a wheelchair and the third person was some surreal punk girl. That's great!"

Huff said playing live is a wonderful experience "Complete strangers either tolerate you or don't tolerate you but they have to deal with you."

Antics and theatrics aside, Frog Legs should be proud of their music. Their CD "Midnight Radio" is a masterpiece of moods and emotions and has gotten the airplay and critical acclaim it deserves.

U2's latest album 'POP' adds techno-beat

Tristram Coffin
SPECIAL TO THE CT

U2 reached a new level of pretentiousness in a recent television interview when they said they now

REVIEW

consider all of their pre-"The Joshua Tree" material to be demos. It is no coincidence

that jokes — "How many members of U2 does it take to screw in a light bulb? One. Bono to hold the bulb and the world to revolve around him" — have circulated about the band and its singer for years.

But U2 is one of the few bands of this generation with a right to be pretentious. For two decades, including their "demo" years, U2's albums have represented a more honest continuing search for God and

salvation than you'll find in anyone else's work.

Along the way, the band has mutated several times, giving the listener different angles of that search; with the mastery of each stage came an album.

The album for their early post-punk days was "War." In their bluesy discovery-of-America period, the album was "The Joshua Tree." And in the band's more recent, less pious, cocktail lounge era, it was "Achtung Baby."

The pattern breaks with the release of "POP." It has been two records since the group's last masterpiece and they have not bothered to change direction.

Instead, with "Zooropa" and now "POP," they are still wallowing in the excesses of "Achtung Baby." Is U2 running out of ideas? Still, "POP" shows that the band can still

put together an exceptional album.

The second half of a U2 record is typically more telling of where the band is personally and spiritually. On "POP" this is especially true.

For a record that has been described as buried in the electronic sounds of the rising techno scene, the latter half of the album is stark. The stripped, harrowing atmosphere

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THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

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SPORTS EDITOR

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

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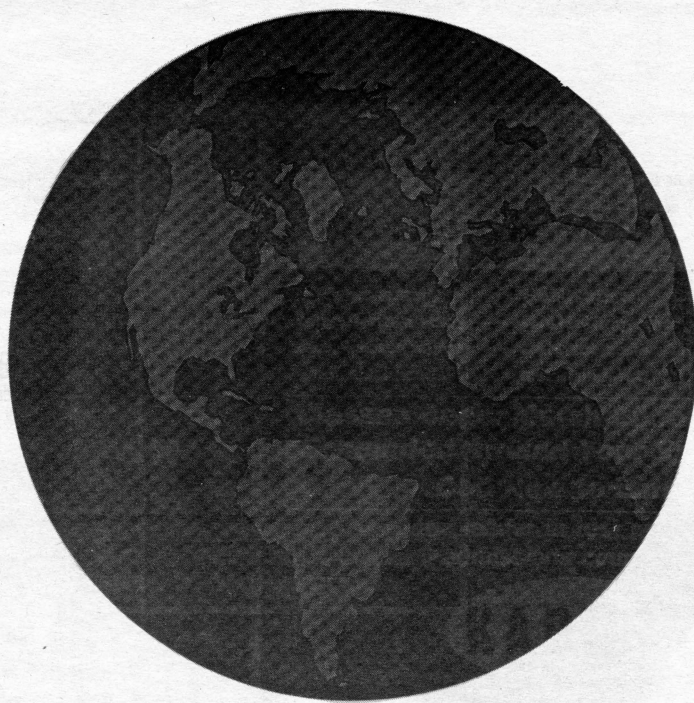
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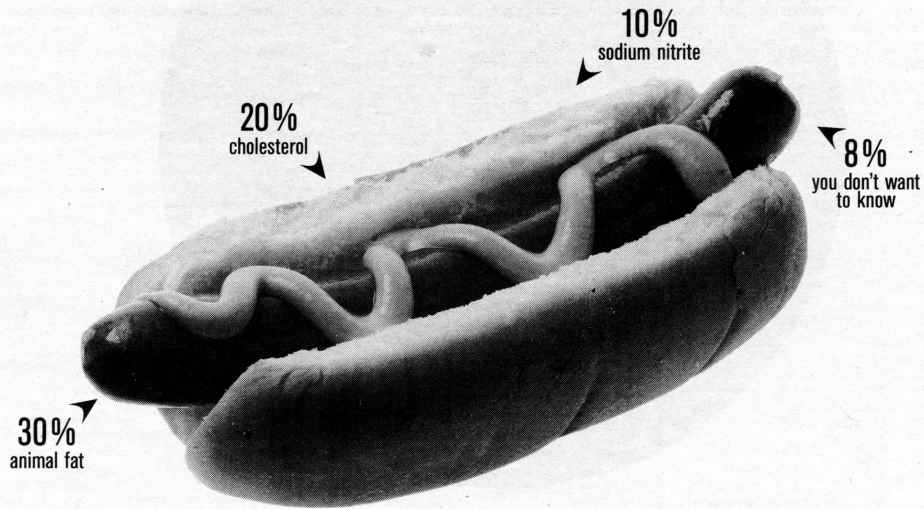
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SUMMER SPORTS CAMP COUNSELORS—National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) is held on campus June 16-July 18; 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Campers are 10-16 year-old disadvantaged children from area neighborhoods. Experience working with this age group and enjoying recreational sports activities a must! Call Carletta Pittman in Athletics at 828-4045 for application.

PART-TIME CONVERSATIONAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST NEEDED ASAP—Must be able to transcribe 2-3 microcassettes/week. Salary commensurate with experience. Personal transcribing equipment preferred but not required. Call 828-3340 or 768-7654 and leave a message.

miscellaneous

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

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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.

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IMPORTANT DATES! IMPORTANT DATES! IMPORTANT DATES! FALL REGISTRATION 1997

Friday, March 21 -- Fall Schedule Books will be available for pick-up in Room 104 of Founders Hall, the school or college of your major, and in the University Student Commons.

Monday - Friday, March 24 - 28 -- Advising for Fall semester.

Monday, March 24 -- Advance Fall registration for University Honors students, and students with disabilities.

Monday, March 31 -- Advance Fall telephone registration begins in accordance with the following timetable:

**G1, G3
Post Baccalaureate Certificate Seekers
Seniors
Juniors
Sophomores
Freshmen
Special Graduates
Special Undergraduates**

**Monday, March 31
Wednesday, April 2
Wednesday, April 2
Wednesday, April 9
Wednesday, April 16
Wednesday, April 23
Wednesday, April 30
Wednesday, April 30**

Telephone registration hours:

Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Phone registration number: (804) 828-1495

If you have any questions, please call Records and Registration at 828-1349.

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, ethnic origin, or disability. If special accommodations are required, please contact Henri-Etta Burke at 828-2021.

Commons & Activities

COMMON ground

OSCAR NIGHT March 24, 8:00 pm

The 69th Annual Academy Awards will be shown at 8:00 pm on the big screen television on the lower level of the University Student Commons. The event is free and open to the public. Students may enter their best guess on who this year's winners will be and become eligible for Oscar Night prizes. Entries are available at the Information Center in the University Student Commons and in the Common Ground on the night of the event. (must be present to win)

DOLL MAKING WORKSHOP March 26, 4:00 pm

Celebrating Women's History Month. Come out and have your dolls appraised or ask questions about doll collecting and repairs.

Martha Jones will teach you more about doll collecting, antique dolls and how to make your own special dolls for display or play. The first fifteen people to attend will have the opportunity to make and keep a doll.



SAIL

Students Actively Involved in Leadership

Marketing Your Leadership Skills I

Wednesday, March 26, 1997

Noon - 1:00 pm, James River Room

This workshop will demonstrate how you can use your participation in co-curricular activities, community service involvement, and leadership roles as a resume enhancer. Learn more about the availability of the co-curricular transcript development software in the Student Activities Center.

Marketing Your Leadership Skills II

Thursday, March 27, 1997

Noon - 1:00 pm, Capital Room D

This workshop is a continuation of Marketing Your Leadership Skills I and will expand on the use of the co-curricular transcript.

Dining at its Finest

Thursday, April 14, 1997

6:00 - 8:00 pm, Alumni Association Board Room

This final SAIL session will focus on dining etiquette and other issues of manners that are important to your success in the work place. This program will be free for those who have participated in at least 4 of the 6 SAIL sessions. A fee of \$5 will be charged for those who have not previously attended at least 4 SAIL sessions. Pre-registration for this event is necessary, because seating will be limited. Please contact Rachel Skyer in the Student Activities Center for more information.



University Student
**COMMONS
& ACTIVITIES**



The Student Activities Center is located in the Underground on the lower level of the University Student Commons, Room 018. VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, political affiliation, ethnic origin, gender or disability. If you need special accommodation or would like more information, please contact Carolyn Farley at (804)828-6500.

I SPY TIE-DYE! Look for the APR SPRING FEST calendar full of events for SPRING FEST 97 March 22 - 29!

Congratulations to the *NEW* Student Government Association for 1997-98! **GREEK WEEK**

April 7th - 13th

Events (subject to change) are as follows:

Penny Race Ongoing
See tables in the Commons Lobby or Link!
All proceeds will go to one of 14 charities!

Diversity program Tuesday, 4/8
Sponsored by Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority

Buckle-up Relay #2 Wednesday, 4/9
Linden Street area in front of the Commons
(TENTATIVE)

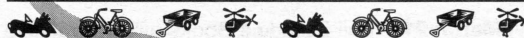
Order of Omega induction ceremony
Thursday, 4/10

Talent show Thursday, 4/10
Sponsored by the Panhellenic Council at VCU.

Greek Olympics Friday, 4/11
Sponsored by the Interfraternity Council at VCU.

Greek Awards Program Sunday, 4/13
7:00 PM

Commuter CoffeeBRAKES



Commuter CoffeeBRAKES take place bi-weekly, offering free coffee, donuts and lots of information for commuters. All CoffeeBRAKES take place from 9 am - 11 am on the following days:

Tuesday, March 25, 1997

Commons Lobby

co-sponsored by the VCU Child Care and the Parking and Transportation Office

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Commons Lobby

co-sponsored by the Wellness Program and the Parking and Transportation Office

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Commons Lobby

co-sponsored by Health Services and the Seigel Center Brick Campaign

\$0 Web

Check out any of the 185 organizations
on the Student Organization web page!

www.vcu.edu/safweb/soweb

BASEBALL

continued from page 16
middle of the week.

"We played well against Maryland and then we turn around and just don't play against North Carolina and Marshall," Keyes said, adding that the Marshall game should have been an easy win for the Rams. "We should have just blown them out."

However, he said he was impressed how the team rebounded against George Mason, which was picked to be one of the top teams in the conference.

"This weekend we played as I thought we were going to play all year," Keyes said. The Rams received three complete games from starters Chad Berryman, Matt Burch and Eric Finley.

Keyes added that at the plate the Rams were able to get into the George Mason bulge, which is what he says is necessary in order to win in collegiate baseball.

No matter how well the team can ex-

ecute, VCU's coach said the team will win more consistently once the players start to mature more on and off the field.

A lack of experience and seasoned veterans has created what Keyes called "not great chemistry" on the field, which has the maturing process stalling.

"We lost a lot of experience (but) we're starting to trust each other more," Keyes said, noting that some players were putting too much of a load on their shoulders and were pressing too much.

He said this past week was a growing period and the players are starting to play better as a team, but they still are going through some growing pains. He said the players were fighting so much for individual playing time that they weren't playing well together — a problem that is just started to be solved.

"It's just going to be up and down until we grow up a bit," he said. In order to grow

Keyes mind, "Just play."

The Rams will travel to N.C. State on Wednesday to play the Wolfpack in a one-game series.

Following the trip to Raleigh, the Rams will not leave the state until the third week in April.

NOTES

The Tuesday night game against George Washington was postponed because of rain. A make-up game has been rescheduled at 4 p.m. Thursday March 20, at The Diamond.

The parity in CAA basketball has continued to grow after the season, spreading to the baseball field. George Mason and VCU were the two favorites to win the conference this year, but Keyes sees the field as wide open.

"You could switch everyone's uniforms and not be able to tell anyone apart," he said.

COLLEGE BASEBALL RANKINGS

TOP 20 (Through March 16)		
RANK	SCHOOL	POINTS
1	Louisiana State (20-1)	487
2	Florida State (20-5)	485
3	Alabama (19-2)	482
4	Georgia Tech (19-2)	479
5	Auburn (22-2)	476
6	Stanford (18-7)	473
7	Rice (18-6)	469
8	Tennessee (18-3)	468
9	UCLA (23-5-1)	467
10	Clemson (19-2)	465
11	Florida (17-8)	464
12	Southern Calif. (22-8)	463
13	Texas Tech (18-2)	460
14	Wichita State (14-3)	458
15	Miami, Fla. (17-10)	455
16	Oklahoma State (15-7)	453
17	Arizona (22-12)	450
18	South Florida (17-6)	447
19	Cal. St. Fullerton (16-11)	446
20	Baylor (14-7)	443

Source: Collegiate Baseball Newspaper



Athlete of the Week

Chad Berryman

Baseball



■ Junior right-hander Chad Berryman tossed a complete game in VCU's 6-2 win against George Mason. The native of Kannapolis, N.C., allowed just one earned run while striking out five. Berryman leads the Colonial Athletic Association in ERA, allowing just 2.64 runs per nine innings. On the season, he has posted a 3-2 mark.

Rams in Action				
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S TENNIS (18-1)	MARCH 23 UNC	MARCH 27 GT	MARCH 29 WF	THE RAMS HOME MATCH AGAINST NORTH CAROLINA WILL BE THEIR FIRST AT HOME SINCE FEB. 23.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (0-8)	MARCH 19 UR	MARCH 29 BU	MARCH 30 SYR	THE LADY RAMS HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM A SHORTAGE OF PLAYERS
BASEBALL (10-11, 2-1)	MARCH 19 N.C. ST.	MARCH 22 ECU(2)	MARCH 23 ECU	THE RAMS PLAY IN RALEIGH THIS AFTERNOON AGAINST THE WOLFPACK
GOLF	MARCH 28-30, FURMAN INTERCOLLEGIATE GREENVILLE, S.C.			
TRACK & FIELD	MARCH 21-22, WAKE FOREST RELAYS WINSTON SALEM, N.C.			
<div><input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES HOME GAME <input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES AWAY GAME</div>				

BASEBALL

CAA STANDINGS

(Through March 16)

Team	Conference		Overall	
	W-L	%	W-L	%
Richmond	3-0	1.000	14-5	.737
East Carolina	3-0	1.000	13-11	.542
VCU	2-1	.667	10-11	.476
James Madison	1-2	.333	11-10	.524
George Mason	1-2	.333	8-8	.500
Old Dominion	0-0	.000	13-4	.722
William & Mary	0-3	.000	12-9	.571
UNC Wilmington	0-3	.000	11-12	.478

CAA BATTING LEADERS

(Through March 16)

(Min. two plate appearances per game)

PLAYER	AB	H	AVG.
Matt Pusey, UR	83	40	.482
Steve Salargo, ECU	83	39	.470
Tony Gsell, ODU	92	38	.413
Brian Rockers, W&M	68	28	.412
Mike Colangelo, GMU	56	23	.411
Shawn Pearson, ODU	76	31	.408
Scott Morrison, GMU	47	19	.404
Ron Walker, ODU	83	33	.398
Rich Rodarmel, JMU	76	30	.395
Randy Rigby, ECU	86	33	.384

CAA RBI LEADERS

(Through March 16)

PLAYER	G	RBI
Ron Walker, ODU	22	38
Matt Pusey, UR	19	35
Anthony Forelli, ODU	22	32
Jake Anthony, VCU	21	28
Tony Gsell, ODU	22	27
Joe Troilo, ODU	22	27
Chris Luther, UNCW	23	24
Kevin Razer, UNCW	21	22
Brian Rogers, W&M	21	22
Nate Rwers, UR	19	22

CAA HOME RUN LEADERS

(Through March 16)

PLAYER	G	HR
Ron Walker, ODU	22	12
Tim Flaherty, ECU	24	9

Seven tied with five

CAA TRIPLES LEADERS

(Through March 16)

PLAYER	G	3B
Shawn Pearson, ODU	22	5
Mike Colangelo, GMU	16	4
Antaine Jones, ECU	22	3
Tony Gsell, ODU	22	3
Rich Rodarmel, JMU	21	2

CAA DOUBLES LEADERS

(Through March 16)

PLAYER	G	2B
Matt Pusey, UR	19	13
Anthony Forelli, ODU	22	10

Four tied with nine

CAA STOLEN BASES LEADERS

(Through March 16)

PLAYER	G	SB
Tony Gsell, ODU	22	13
Joe Troilo, ODU	22	13
Kevin Monroe, ECU	22	12
Steve Salargo, ECU	24	11
Nite Rwers, UR	19	9

CAA WINS LEADERS

(Through March 16)

(Min. five decisions)

PLAYER	W	L
Jesse James, ODU	5	0
Bryan Mazur, UNCW	4	4
Brooks Jernigan, ECU	4	4

11 tied with three

CAA ERA LEADERS

(Through March 16)

(Min. one inning pitched per game)

PLAYER	W	L	ERA
Chad Berryman, VCU	3	2	2.64
Andy Cook, W&M	3	1	2.67
Scott Lavender, GMU	3	0	2.84
Justin Lambert, UR	3	0	2.97
Bill Outlaw, ECU	1	3	3.33
Robbie Preston, UR	2	0	3.46
Mike Huller, GMU	1	2	3.64
Mike Dwyer, UR	3	2	3.76
Jason Routh, UNCW	2	1	3.78
John Cooca, ODU	2	3	4.05
Shawn Camp, GMU	2	1	4.11
Travis Harper, JMU	2	0	4.18
Brooks Jernigan, ECU	4	4	4.19

ROLEX COLLEGIATE GOLF RANKINGS

TEAM RANKINGS

(Through March 12)

RANK	SCHOOL	POINTS
1	Oklahoma State	275.740
2	UNLV	265.990
3	Texas Christian	237.330
4	Arizona	213.690
5	Clemson	206.475
6	Southern California	196.949
7	Texas	195.422
8	North Carolina	185.604
9	Florida	181.089
10	East Tennessee State	177.711
11	Wake Forest	173.747
12	Arizona State	156.956
13	New Mexico	129.120
14	Ohio State	112.360
15	Virginia	106.176
16	Georgia Tech	98.589
17	Mississippi State	97.760
18	VCU	96.945
19	Auburn	95.827
20	Brigham Young	87.669

INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

(Through March 12)

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Arron Oberholser, San Jose State	150.000
2	Alberto Ochoa, TCU	142.905
3	Bo Van Pelt, Oklahoma State	135.580
4	Ray Floyd Jr., Wake Forest	133.875
5	Chris Wollmann, Ohio State	133.380
6	Mark Wilson, North Carolina	123.720
7	Michael Connell, Mississippi State	118.722
8	Clint Jensen, Tulsa	118.400
9	Steve Scott, Florida	112.500
10	Keith Nolan, East Tennessee State	112.500
11	Marcus Jones, Texas	111.510
12	Hank Kuehne, SMU	109.200
13	Brad Elder, Texas	107.925
14	John Rollins, VCU	106.095
15	Lee McEntee, North Carolina	105.258
16	Chris Hanell, Arizona State	103.980
17	Joel Kriebel, Stanford	103.500
18	Greg Green, Georgia Southern	95.100
19	Leif Westerberg, Oklahoma State	93.630
20	Edward Loar, Oklahoma State	91.740

Other Rams ranked: No. 86 Miguel Reyes, 23.562

ROLEX COLLEGIATE TENNIS RANKINGS

TEAM RANKINGS

(Through March 10)

RANK	SCHOOL	RECORD	AVG.
1	UCLA	15-1	50.98
2	Boise State	13-1	39.06
3	Kentucky	11-3	34.91
4	Middle Tennessee State	11-0	31.60
5	Georgia	11-1	29.22
6	Mississippi State	10-1	28.70
7	Stanford	11-1	28.46
8	Mississippi	7-1	25.38
9	Pepperdine	10-4	25.38
10	South Alabama	8-4	21.54
11	Illinois	6-4	20.32
12	Duke	5-3	18.98
13	Texas	8-4	18.39
14	Louisiana State	9-2	16.47
15	Virginia	8-3	16.39
16	VCU	15-0	16.35
17	Southern California	9-1	16.11
18	Notre Dame	10-3	15.86
19	Northwestern	9-2	15.34
20	North Carolina	5-0	12.79

INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

(Through March 10)

RANK	PLAYER	AVG
1	Thomas Dupre, Mississippi State	23.55
2	Matthew Ballay, Mississippi State	18.62
3	Mike Russell, Miami (Fla.)	17.79
4	Sebastian Dechaumac, Mississippi	16.39
5	John Roddick, Georgia	15.33
6	Cedric Kauffman, Kentucky	14.77
7	Frederic Niemeyer, MTSU	14.66
8	Johan Landsberg, Mississippi	14.48
9	Johan Heide, Mississippi	12.24
10	Paul Goldstein, Stanford	11.24
11	Richard Wernherjelm, VCU	11.10
12	Eric Taino, UCLA	10.85
13	Ludde Sundin, Kentucky	10.48
14	Eddie Jacques, Georgia	10.33
15	Ignacio Hilerogoyen, SMU	9.68
16	Ryan Wrotons, Stanford	9.33
17	Simon Aspell, Pepperdine	9.27
18	Mitch Sprengelmeyer, Clemson	8.58
19	Thomas Blake, Harvard	8.33
20	Anthony Deluise, MTSU	8.33

Other Rams ranked: No. 26 Olivier Tauma, 7.50; No. 35 Daniel Andersson, 5.93; No. 87 Manuel Kropfrietzer, 4.28

■ In 1993-94, the men's tennis team won 23 games, the most in the program's history.

■ Find out who is the CT Athlete of the Week.

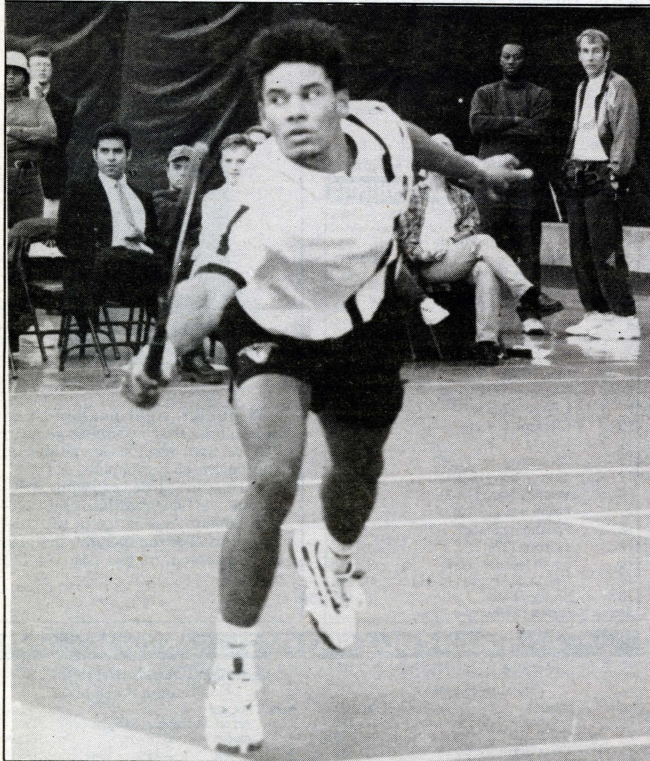
WEDNESDAY, March 19, 1997

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 28, No. 61

Kostin's Rams still on course despite loss

VCU ranked No. 16



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

REACHING FOR THE STARS — Sophomore Olivier Tauma is currently ranked 26th in the latest Rolex Collegiate Rankings.

Rams survive inconsistent Spring Break

Pete Van Vleet
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The VCU baseball team spent its Spring Break riding a roller coaster of success and failure. Playing eight games in 10 days, the Rams started the break on the right foot before slipping into a mid-week slump and then finishing strong.

Overall, the Rams went 5-3 to raise their record to 10-11 in the early season. VCU swept Maryland in a three-game set then dropped games to North Carolina and Marshall before taking two out of three games against Colonial Athletic Association foe George Mason.

Rams coach Paul Keyes said that although taking three of four from Atlantic Coast Conference teams is impressive, he expected his team to play better during the

BASEBALL continued to page 15 ➤

Terry Scanlon
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The men's tennis team's perfect start to the spring season ended at 16 this past week when VCU fell 4-3 to Notre Dame at the Blue-Gray National Invitational in Montgomery, Ala.

In all, the Rams won three of four matches on their trip into the Heart of Dixie that included a 4-3 win at South Alabama earlier in the week.

Not only was the southern swing the toughest test for the team this spring, but it was also its first outdoor play of the year. Coach Paul Kostin expressed frustration about the expectations placed on his team.

"There are too many people that think we have to play good all the time," he said on Monday, the day after returning from a nine-day road trip. "The kids are human. They're going to play bad sometimes."

Against Notre Dame the Rams had to battle cold and rain in the suspended match. The Rams split the six singles matches with the Fighting Irish, but lost the pivotal doubles point as VCU's Swedish tandem of Richard Wernerhjelm and Olle Lundberg lost 8-4 in the deciding match.

"I'm not going to give you any excuses. We just didn't play well ... period," Kostin said.

Wernerhjelm acknowledged they couldn't win the three-day event, but added that in a 30-game season they're likely to lose at least once.

"When you've got an 18-1 record everyone wants to talk about the loss," he said.

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"When you've got an 18-1 record everyone wants to talk about the loss," he said.

MEN'S TENNIS

"There's really nothing to say."

While the Rams did bounce back later that evening and beat Texas Christian and Harvard the following day, freshman sensation Daniel Andersson dropped his first match of the year in three sets against TCU's second seed.

"I give my boys credit. They rebounded good," he said. "That shows character."

"I'm just disappointed because people think some of the boys shouldn't lose. Even the good players are going to have bad days."

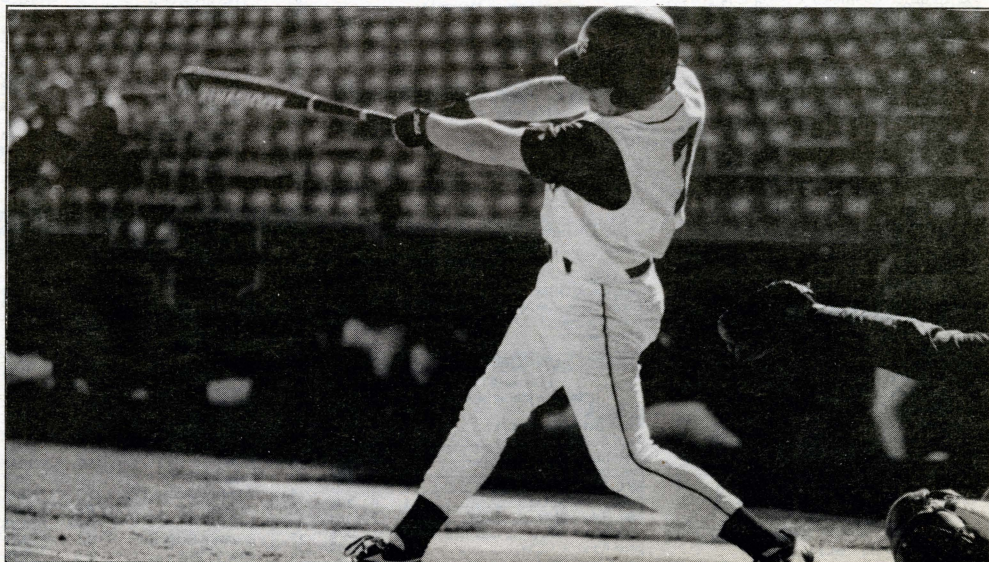
In the recent Rolex Collegiate Rankings, the Rams dropped from 10th to No. 16 because the poll, which is administered by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, was determined by the quality of opponents. The ITA had coaches determine the first poll in order to set a base value for computing the following rankings.

In the individual rankings each of the Rams' top three players moved up — Wernerhjelm to No. 11, Olivier Tauma to No. 26 and Andersson's now No. 35 in the country.

Kostin has said repeatedly that he doesn't worry about the rankings.

The only one that counts is the poll at season's end he said. In the meantime, he's getting his players ready for a five-game homestand that includes four Atlantic Coast Conference opponents over the next two months.

During Spring Break, university officials took down the bubble so the remainder of the Rams home slate will be outdoor matches, which Wernerhjelm said work in the Rams' favor because both he and Andersson are baseline players, which benefit from the slower play in the outdoors.



Pete Van Vleet/Commonwealth Times

SWEET SWING — Senior Jay Ashcraft and the Rams are 10-11 as they enter the heart of their conference schedule. Ashcraft leads the team in hitting with a .383 batting average.