

WEATHER



SATURDAY — Mostly cloudy, low 50, high 74



SUNDAY — Showers, low 53, high 71

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

■ **Vive la France!** Turn to page 7 of Spectrum for the scoop on the 5th VCU French Film Festival.



FRIDAY, April 4, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 66

Faculty senate elects Oggel as president

Michelle Combs
CT STAFF WRITER

Terry Oggel, professor of English, will lead the Faculty Senate next year. Robert Andrews, associate professor of information systems, will work with him as vice president, while Neil Henry, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, serves as secretary.

As Faculty Senate president-elect, Oggel said he will accept President Eugene P. Trani's challenge of implementing a new freshman buddy system. The program, he said, will pair each faculty and staff member with an incoming student.

"Faculty and staff," he said, "will become personal friends of incoming students."

Although the program initially will involve minority students, he said it later could expand to include others.

In addressing the senators, Trani said the buddy program will not provide academic advising but will give the student someone to talk to.

"Take him (or her) to the museum," Trani told the senate. "Activity creates a bond that can be helpful (to the student)."

Alan Briceland, an associate professor of history and a former senate president, spoke of what he called a student climate problem, meaning the level of dedication students have for their studies.

"(Some students) are working over 25 hours a week and take full-time classes," he said. "That creates a climate that work is more important than being a student."

Trani said VCU's 1996-97 financial aid budget totals about \$115 million, including \$85 million in loans. Seventy-five percent of VCU students work at least part time, he said, because they feel the need to escape debt.

"(VCU) needs more grant and scholarship money (to alleviate the situation)," he said.

Nonetheless, Trani said VCU offers students a unique experience, describing the university as a "real world," practical-based institution.

Many students come to this university, he said, because they want to balance working a career and learning a career.

Citing the rating by the news magazine, U.S. News and World Report, Trani said six graduate programs at VCU

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Shannon Bender/Commonwealth Times

WHERE'S THE BEACH? — Sophomore Kelly Waldhauser, social work major, enjoys the sunshine on the commons lawn yesterday afternoon. Warm temperatures are expected throughout the weekend.

SGA retains GPA travel guidelines

Scott Anderson
CT STAFF WRITER

Should students with mediocre grade point averages be allowed to travel for the Student Government Association when they should be concentrating on their studies?

After much discussion, the SGA Steering Committee voted Monday to maintain its minimum GPA travel requirement for members.

The problem lies with the SGA's travel requirement of a 2.25 GPA. Several members met the 2.0 GPA requirement but fell short of the 2.25 travel requirement.

"I think it could set a dangerous precedent," Sean P. Johnson, SGA vice president, said of allowing students to travel without meeting the GPA requirement.

The SGA requires a minimum 2.0 GPA to be active in

the association, because if students do not meet the minimum they need to concentrate more on their studies than on student government.

"It's our error to have a 2.0 GPA requirement to be in SGA but a 2.25 to be able to travel when you know that's an option," said Carlotta Reynolds, SGA director of appointments.

Reynolds said the association is sending mixed signals to students unless it has a universal GPA requirement so problems like this do not arise again.

The Activities Planning Board organized a retreat that would last a couple days and would be geared toward training new members of the group. Several students did not meet the minimum GPA travel requirement, and the

REQUIREMENTS continued to page 4 ▶

Domestic violence symposium to be held Saturday at MCV

Tom Leiss
CT STAFF WRITER

If you are interested in learning more about preventing domestic violence, the Women and Children's Health Services Department at MCV Hospitals is sponsoring a symposium on domestic violence on Saturday, April 5.

Speakers will look at ways to recognize and stop violence in communities, workplaces and homes. During the free symposium titled "When Violence Comes Home," speakers also will discuss the problem of domestic violence in Richmond and other cultures around the world.

Domestic violence hasn't become more of a problem in American society, "(but) it

is being recognized and dealt with better," said Teri Ball, project manager for program development in women and children's health services.

Judy Webster, nurse manager for the pediatric intensive care unit at MCV and a mother, said in her profession she sees the results of the violence and hopes to find out ways it can be prevented by attending the event.

She has lived in Richmond all her life and has seen the violence become worse in the city.

"I think all of us would become appalled (at how violent Richmond has become)," Webster said, "if we looked at the statistics compared to other metropolitan areas."

She said she thinks some people in

Richmond feel powerless and that attending the symposium may give them hope and allow them to see ways to prevent violence.

Basically, the symposium is to alert people about what can be done to help stop or prevent violence.

"I think the symposium is designed to make us aware of the kinds of violence," Ball said.

Activities open with registration at 9 a.m., followed at 10 a.m. with May Lilly Lee of the television show "Virginia Currents," Alice Lynch, president of the Richmond Junior League, Jeannie Harper of the Sacred Heart Family Resource Center and Nancy Jenkins of the YWCA's Safe Haven-Getting Involved program.

Melissa Jarrard, a registered nurse, will speak about youth response to violence at 10:15 a.m. Joyce Wickham, past program director of Stop Child Abuse Now, then will talk about adolescence and violence.

Just before lunch Mary Lamb Lucas, past YWCA women's advocacy program coordinator, will discuss adult women in abusive relationships.

After lunch four more speakers will cover topics dealing with sexual assault, the legal system, the community's perception vs. reality, and a global perspective of violence against women.

In its promotion, MCV women and

SYMPOSIUM continued to page 4 ▶

Weird NEWS

Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction



•Heard it all

After 18 months, a California radio station finally ended their status as a station that played "I Heard it Through the Grapevine" all day for seven days a week. KZZC-FM paused once to play the Eagles' "New Kid in Town" for a whole weekend. The station was awaiting sale and the owner just wanted to keep the frequency occupied but negotiations lasted a bit longer than expected.

•Law and disorder

Jury selection in a manslaughter case in Chilliwack, British Columbia, was moved from the courthouse to a local community center due to overcrowding. However, due to other court business going on there, the jury selection was moved again — into the center's men's restroom.

In other related law matters, the gargoyles on the 24th floor of the Dade County courthouse in Miami, Fla., have been bombarded by the invasion of several thousand migrating vultures.

•An explosive issue

An elementary school teacher in Palm Harbor, Fla., had her DUI charges dismissed and was reinstated by the school

board. The woman successfully argued that the reason she appeared intoxicated was because when her silicone breast implant ruptured it poisoned her nervous system.

•Psycho-therapy

A West Plains, Mo., man faced 19 charges of sexual assault filed by a 37-year-old female patient. The patient reported that the doctor's "re-patenting theory," in which the patient regresses to the age where the patenting problems occurred, required him to play the role of her mother and allow her to suckle him to compensate for her not having been breastfed.

•Logical explanations

A University of New Hampshire business major wrote a letter to the college's newspaper complaining that his recent drunken driving was due to a police crackdown on underage drinking in Durham, where the university is located. The student argued that because he now has to drive to another town to drink, he can expect to be doing a lot more drunk driving.

•All washed up

A woman in Leonia, N.Y., was so angry

over her next door neighbor's sprinkler causing a puddle to form in her yard that she rammed his garage with her car and locked herself in her house for a 20-hour standoff with police. After several attempts to persuade the woman to come out, police turned on her own sprinkler, enraging her to the point that she came running out of the house in her nightgown.

•A sight for sore eyes

In a Los Angeles radio station's Super Bowl promotion, involving outrageous stunts, a man promised to swallow his glass eye, regurgitate it and reinsert it. Even after the stuntman's breakfast of steak, eggs and a 6-pack of beer (which of course resulted in 15 minutes of vomiting) the glass eye did not come back up by the end of the contest.

•When you gotta go . . .

A man charged with robbing a bank in Vienna, Va., could have gotten away, had he not stopped by the roadside to urinate. A spying neighbor wrote down the man's license plate number and called 911.

•Robbery turns sour

A man in Pittsburgh, Pa., was convicted

of robbing a bank because of the clarity of a photograph taken by the bank's surveillance camera. The robber and his accomplices were not concerned about the camera and did not wear masks because they had rubbed lemon juice on their faces prior to the robbery, believing it would blur their images.

•Fish and chips with a twist

Scottish restaurants have gained American media attention with their new trendy dinner — "Mars bar supper." The scrumptious dish is a Mars bar, dipped in fish batter and deepfried. Served with chips, of course.

•Let us break ribs together

A Lafayette Parish, La., woman filed a lawsuit for injuries she sustained while attending a tent revival. After the woman received the Holy Spirit and passed out on the floor, the woman beside her received the Holy Spirit as well and fell on top of the plaintiff, breaking three of her ribs.

— compiled from news sources

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Candidate for H & S dean sees 'spirit of innovation'

Raymond Dueser is one of four applicants interviewing for post

Angela D. Hill
CT NEWS EDITOR

VCU continued its search for a new dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, introducing to the faculty, administration and students Dr. Raymond Dueser, the third of four candidates.

Currently director of the Watershed Science Program, as well as professor and department head of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, Dueser spent Tuesday and Wednesday touring the campus and meeting with various university officials, faculty and students.

"VCU is a public urban university that is evolving and fundamentally becoming a different kind of university," Dueser said of his attraction to VCU at Wednesday's question and answer session with graduate and undergraduate students.

"It's becoming a compelling combination of traditional arts and sciences approached with a land-grant mission and community involvement."

Dueser also said he sees many faculty and staff members at VCU motivated toward improving the university.

"There is a prevailing spirit of innovation and enterprise in all departments," he said.

While Dueser said he is still naive to much of the university's inner workings and conflicts, he would place an emphasis on meritorial teaching, advising and mentoring if hired. As he does at Utah

State, Dueser said, he would also promote opportunities for student research experience, community service and international study.

"I don't think you get a complete education by sitting in class," he said. "It goes beyond that."

Dueser also mentioned promoting the integration of non-traditional students, such as women and African Americans, into the sciences.

Dueser also wants to tap into the Richmond community for grants and contracts that will bring additional funding for university improvement.

"If you're going to be an effective dean and enhance the quality of the college," he said, "you will be involved in fundraising."

Dueser said development is the key to the future and he wants to ensure VCU can compete in today's world. "I have a lot of experience building bridges," he said.

In his 23rd year of teaching, most of that spent teaching environmental science at University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Dueser said he tries to ensure that he keeps in touch with the student body.

At Utah State, Dueser takes time from his administrative duties to advise approximately 20 students, employ undergraduates for research positions and teach two undergraduate courses per year.

"I try to maintain face-to-face contact with the students," he said. "That's how you keep your finger on the pulse of the university. It's a service to me as much as a service to the students."



Rob Byrne/Commonwealth Times

MAKING TIME FOR STUDENTS — Dr. Raymond Dueser, one of four candidates for dean of VCU's College of Humanities and Sciences, responds to students' questions in a meeting Wednesday at Scherer Hall.

Schools alerted to hepatitis A threat in strawberries

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Children lined up for inoculations today, stores canceled orders for strawberries and pupils worried about eating school lunches after word spread that 2.6 million pounds of frozen strawberries might carry hepatitis A.

"Needles don't scare me. I've already taken a lot of shots," said 9-year-old Lucy Kadzhikyan, a fourth-grader at Ramona Elementary School in the Hollywood area. It was one of three city schools where youngsters, most of them giggling and putting up a brave front, gathered today to receive inoculations to forestall the infection.

Clutching permission forms signed by their parents, youngsters stood on the playground before the start of class. They later began trekking class-by-class to the on-campus clinic for shots in the rump.

"Don't be a baby. Don't cry," one boy teased a friend.

Federal investigators worked to track the suspect berries, and a top executive was forced to resign from the company that presented the Mexican strawberries as U.S. fruit in order to qualify for the school lunch program.

"If we have a company or a party that does not comply with our rules, then we'll have to take enforcement action," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today after addressing a conference of food shelter organizations in Boston.

"We have the authority to bar these

people from participation in both USDA and indirectly from all federal programs in addition to criminal-type proceedings," he said.

Unlike more dangerous forms of the disease, hepatitis A causes a mild liver infection and is spread through uncooked food. Those at risk of more severe symptoms are the elderly, people with weak immune systems and the very young. People exposed to the disease can take gamma globulin shots toward it off.

Still, the episode frightened parents and children.

"The school should at least scrutinize the food a little bit more carefully and then none of this would happen," said Belinda Hernandez, a parent interviewed outside Los Angeles' Garfield High School.

Glickman said the USDA was still trying to determine how the strawberries came to be contaminated.

"Our requirements are that the product must be domestic and it's got to be certified that it meets all health and safety inspections. And it virtually always is. Once in a while, you have a bad actor," he said.

It was reported today that kids at an inner-city school were served the suspect strawberry cups on Monday, three days after the school district learned that 46 schools had the product on hand.

The desserts were served to children and teachers at Mount Vernon Middle School, which was apparently forgotten in

Clinton: no problem over Hubbell

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton said Thursday that two top aides were acting "just out of human compassion" in making calls trying to lineup work for Webster Hubbell when he left the administration under a cloud in 1994.

The White House acknowledged earlier this week that chief of staff Erskine Bowles and his predecessor, Mack McLarty, helped Hubbell after he resigned as associate attorney general amid an investigation of charges that he defrauded former law partners and clients.

Hubbell was later convicted and spent 18 months in prison.

Investigators are trying to determine whether the White House arranged financial help for Hubbell to discourage him from cooperating in the Whitewater probe.

At a picture-taking session, Clinton said he saw nothing wrong with the calls made by Bowles and McLarty.

"I do not believe they were improper," the president said. "From what I know about them they were just — they were people who were genuinely concerned that there was a man who was out of work, who

had four children.

"And as I understand it," the president said, "they were trying to help him for no other reason than just out of human compassion."

He reminded reporters of what he called a "critical fact" in the story: "At the time that was done, no one had any idea about what the nature of the allegations were against Mr. Hubbell or whether they were true. Everybody thought there was some sort of billing dispute with his law firm and that's all anybody knew about it so, no, I do not think they did anything improper."

After leaving the White House, Hubbell received about \$100,000 from the Lippo Group, an Indonesian company that has been at the center of investigations into whether foreign money was funneled to Democratic campaigns.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said the president "is not in a position to render a judgment about what Mr. Hubbell did or did not do when he had been retained by the Lippo Group. It's not his position to judge what was then a private citizen in his own pursuit of gainful employment. I mean, he doesn't render an opinion on something like that."

GET THE SCOOP. READ THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

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Crime Shorts

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

3/28

Harassing Phone Calls

A male employee reported that on 3/27 at 10:53 a.m. he received harassing telephone calls on MCV's D Deck from a known male subject.

3/29

Petit Larceny

A female employee reported that between 8:30 p.m. on 3/26 and 2:30 p.m. on 3/27 unknown person(s) removed personal property from its secured location in MCV's Sanger Hall University Computing Services.

Total Value: \$80.00

3/30

Petit Larceny

A male patient reported that between noon and 3:10 p.m. on 3/29 unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its unsecured location in MCV's North Hospital.

Total Value: \$9.00

Petit Larceny

A male employee reported that between 7 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. on 3/29 unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its unsecured location in MCV's Radiology Department.

Total Value: \$60.00

Damage to State Property

A male visitor damaged the wooden stage gate at the entrance of MCV's Visitor Deck at 5:41 p.m. on 3/28.

4/1

Petit Larceny

A female employee reported that between 8 a.m. on 3/28 and 6 p.m. on 3/29 unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecured location in MCV's Main Hospital.

Total Value: \$80.00

Grand Larceny

A male patient reported that between 8:30 p.m. on 3/28 and 11 a.m. and 3/31 unknown person(s) removed personal property from its location in MCV's Main Hospital.

Total Value: \$257.28

4/3

Petit Larceny

A male student reported that on 4/1 between 9:45 a.m. and 10:50 p.m. unknown person(s) removed personal property from MCV's Lyon Building.

Total Value: \$1.00

Petit Larceny

A female patient reported that on 4/1 between 10:30 a.m. and 12:50 a.m. unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its unsecured location in MCV's Main Hospital.

Total Value: \$100.00

Grand Larceny

A male patient reported that at 1 p.m. unknown person(s) removed his personal property from MCV's North Hospital.

Total Value: \$350.00

Wildlife fund 'relaunches' Noah's Ark on Internet

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Computers may not save the world, but World Wildlife Fund is hoping they can provide a "second Noah's Ark" to help save thousands of animal and plant species from extinction.

An Internet project launched today gives computer users around the world access to information on 232 fragile ecosystems and constantly changing tally sheets on pollution, the money spent in illegal trade of wildlife and acreage of lost forests.

"The decisions made today are going to have far-reaching effects on what species and habitat will reach the millennium beyond," said Eric Dinerstein, the fund's chief scientist.

He said the new analysis of the earth's ecosystems differs from previous efforts to focus on environmental "hot spots" because it includes a wide array of dry, tropical and marine regions, not just those with a large variety of species.

The regions include about 80 percent of known species, Dinerstein told a news conference marking the last 1,000 days of the century.

The fund is enlisting the help of everyone from world leaders to freelance conservationists to school children in the three-year campaign.

The presidents of Mongolia and Georgia and Vice President Al Gore have already signed on to the Living Planet Campaign.

"Not only are we losing species at an extraordinary rate, but we're losing whole ecosystem types," fund President Kathryn Fuller said in an interview.

"But we still have time to save some of everything everywhere."

Scientists say half of all mammal species and thousands of other land animals, water creatures and plants face possible extinction over the next century.

In a session of less than a minute at the new Web site, rapidly changing meters tally up thousands of dollars spent in the illegal wildlife trade, more than 100 acres of U.S. forest lost and tens of thousands of tons of carbon emitted into the atmosphere.

"You can look at this, get depressed and then click on the action button and do something about it," said David Houseley, who described himself as the fund's "Webmeister."

Options might include writing a member of Congress or buying products that are environmentally safe.

A dramatic element of the wildlife group's new Web site is a digital clock, counting down in thousandths of a second to the turn of the century.

The site also provides computer software to make the clock an ever-present element on computer screens around the world.

SYMPOSIUM

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children's health services said it hopes this event will help women in the community and those working with women and children recognize the problem of violence and abuse in relationships.

By working together, the group said, people can better inform and provide more support and skills to women to help them change these relationships.

SGA

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APB told them they could not attend the retreat.

The students immediately asked for their case to be considered by the Steering Committee for appeal.

While several Steering Committee members expressed desire to accommodate the students, most members present wanted to stand by the guidelines.

"I feel that we need to stick to our guidelines and procedures," said Anna Kelly, SGA clerk. "I believe these guidelines were set for the welfare of the student."

Kelly Cramer, SGA director of legislative issues, said she thinks allowing the students to go on the retreat would deny them study time that could adversely affect their already struggling grades.

"We are contributing to the dumping down of American education," she said.

SGA committees having personal bank accounts became another topic on the group's agenda.

Currently, a committee must keep its money in a university account regardless if the money is raised solely by the committee through fund raisers. Charlie Bryan, speaker of the Senate, said committees should be allowed personal accounts so they can access funds easier.

"The process of getting money out of a personal account is much easier than an university account," he said.

SENATE

continued from page 1

rank in the top 20 of the country, three from the academic campus (sculpture, social work and master of fine arts) and three from the medical campus (physical therapy, health services and pharmacy).

Such recognition, he said, comes from the relationships each school builds with the community. National recognition shows the quality of programs on each campus.

Oggel identified the importance of partnerships between the university and the community, especially the relationship between VCU and its constituents.

THREAT

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Friday's system wide alert, the Daily News of Los Angeles said.

In Washington today, White House press secretary Mike McCurry was asked whether Clinton was unhappy with the performance of the Health and Human Services and Agriculture departments.

"The president is concerned about some of the things that have been reported but acknowledged that both departments took quick steps to ... respond to public health concerns" and investigate how it happened, McCurry said.

More than 9,000 students and staff at 18 Los Angeles public schools might have eaten 4-ounce fruit cups made with contaminated strawberries.

So, too, could children at schools in Iowa, Georgia, Arizona and Tennessee.

In Michigan, health officials were tracking down the more than 1,400 people who attended a Special Olympics event March 22 at which strawberry shortcake made with the tainted berries was served. Participants were being advised to see their doctors.

The state had at least 150 confirmed cases of hepatitis linked to the berries.

Matthew Kramer, a vice president at Epitope Inc., the packer's parent company,

Bryan used the example of a group that was on its way to a convention. Because the university failed to send the group a check to cover its expenses, a member had to pay for the amount with a personal credit card.

Henrietta Brown, fiscal manager for student organizations, said groups need to submit requests for funds in advance to allow enough time for processing.

"The university fell short, and it happens especially during a holiday," she said.

Bryan said if organizations had personal bank accounts, in the case of an emergency members could access funds quickly without the need for a student to pick up the bill.

The Steering Committee also considered the following issues:

— positions open in APB for next year include chair, secretary, alternative films, special events, and concerts;

— a document listing SGA's accomplishments during the past year;

— a social event for newly elected senators;

— changing SGA meeting guidelines; and

— buying or leasing a new photocopier for the student activities center.

Any student interested in applying for one of the APB positions should contact Kimela Robbins, SGA director of programming, at the student activities center.

The new buddy program, he predicted will help retain students.

"It is another way for the faculty to provide encouragement to students. It will be an extension of the classroom and another role (for faculty and staff)," said Oggel who will assume the presidency in the fall.

Susan Robinson, registered clinical nurse specialist at Massey Cancer Center, will represent the Medical Campus for the senate. Michael Spinelli, associate professor of information systems, will serve as Academic Campus representative.

traveled to the Andrew & Williamson Sales Co. plant in San Diego, and said the company is cooperating with state and federal agencies to figure out what stores the bad berries might have gone to.

Kramer said the USDA ordered 1.7 million pounds of strawberries from A&W for its school lunch program and another 900,000 pounds went to other customers.

He said the company will recall all 900,000 pounds that went to brokers for distribution. He also said Epitope would pay for Los Angeles inoculations. Other states planning to give the shots include Georgia, Arizona and Michigan.

Mexican agriculture officials quickly responded to claims that the strawberries — grown in northern Baja California, Mexico — were probably contaminated there. Baja California Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Israel Camacho said he thought it was more likely the berries were contaminated "during processing and packing rather than during cultivation."

Eighty percent of the U.S. strawberry crops grown in California, and some growers complained of canceled orders at a peak time in their growing season. One grower said he lost \$12,700 in canceled orders Wednesday.

Write for NEWS. Write for NEWS. Write for NEWS.
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CALL ANGELA, JACK OR SHANNON
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Letter

TO THE EDITOR



Professor rips CT, calls paper boring

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES: I have been a more-or-less faithful reader of the Commonwealth Times for over a quarter of a century as a faculty member, and with that database, I would like to proffer a few comments.

Now, 25 years is a long time to read any newspaper, and I have witnessed a number of changes which I hope the CT staff can address.

The newspaper is allegedly published three times weekly, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Why, then, is it available only occasionally on those days, and more often than would seem desirable, unavailable because of long, unexplained lapses in publication?

Surely, the paper could

strive to be current, or we are left with an oldpaper, rather than a newspaper. Given the extremely circumscribed content of the CT even on the rare, "good" days, why do you bother to publish the paper at all?

Given the size of the VCU community and the enormous diversity of program offerings on two campuses, the controversies surrounding the developmental plans of the university, the conflicts between faculty and administration, the alleged fame of the institution, the broad spectrum of the student body, the at-times torturous town-gown relationships, problems with housing, parking, food service, the Greek-freak bashing, slumlords, nazi punks, tattooed stinking flesh outlaw bikers, terrified overprotective parents, childcare nightmares, irresponsible druggies, toot-groupies, street people, tortured rebels, angry young women, earnest artists, passive prophets, lonely ones, beat madonnas, religious nuts, wacko weirdoes of every conceivable stripe and assorted violence, mayhem, anal-retentive business majors, can you not come up with something more

enlightening than 16 pages of drivel gleaned from week-old Times-Dispatches and a few tedious, blurred and banal photos of jocks throwing various balls around? Is the staff of the CT so jaded or incompetent that they can't write something, sometime, about the VCU community?

Years ago, when VCU was a university and not a corporate entity, there was a CT full of interesting, controversial, well-written, carefully investigated stories about the school and its environment.

The paper fairly glistened with articles of interest to the larger

community — the arts, academic politics, the eternal battle

between the campuses, other vital and vibrant issues. Now all we get is inane, shallow non-reporting about non-events that happened weeks ago, interspersed with occasional, boring pictures of soon-to-be-has-been bands making bad noise in Shaffer Court.

Whatever happened to the old CT with the courage to publish interviews with Dickie Disgusting and the knock-down and kick-out lawsuits between professors and administrators and the other issues that made VCU so much a living academic community?

If you can't or won't restore the CT to its proper role of informing the VCU community about the significant issues on the campus, then quit the newspaper fantasy and go back to Nintendo. At least save a few trees from being turned into instant litter.

Sincerely,
John Mahoney,
associate professor of psychology

Charles Gnilkka

Carytown Learns Crime has No Boundaries

This past Tuesday, residents near the Carytown section of Richmond heard a noise out in the street that sounded like firecrackers. When the sounds stopped, one person was dead and two were injured.

The "firecrackers" were the sounds of gunshots being fired in the middle of Boulevard and Cary, one of the city's busiest intersections. The shots had been fired at a moving van, shattering the windows of the vehicle and causing bystanders on the street to flee for their lives.

That night, the gunfight was the top story on all the local newscasts. There was lots of footage of police stretching yellow tape around the scene, and of the pulverized window glass laying in the middle of the intersection. Shocked residents who heard or saw the incident expressed their disbelief. The most common remark was "How could this happen here?"

Carytown seems an unlikely place to see bullets flying. It is home to many fancy boutiques and restaurants. The Byrd Theater is frequented by residents from throughout the city. Carytown is one of the places that makes it worth living in Richmond.

But just because a place has nice shops and Starbucks Coffee nearby does not mean it is immune to mayhem. We make an unofficial distinction between the "good" and "bad" places to live in our cities, but the nasty truth is that nowhere is safe from violence in America. To some, this is a shocking revelation. To others, it is all too familiar.

Look at any map of an American city, the roads and sections of the city all look the same on paper. A run down part of town has the same lines and markings as an exclusive neighborhood. To someone who has never been to a particular city, the map tells them that everywhere is the same.

But if you talk to someone who lives in that city, they will point to sections on a map and tell you "watch out for this place" or "don't walk around there after dark."

Theoretically, America is a free country, where any person can go to any section of town. But some areas are regarded by the city's residents to be as hostile as any battlefield in a war-torn country. The residents in these sections of town are usually poor and violence happens all too frequently. When someone gets shot here, it usually is not a lead news story. It is thought to be a normal occurrence when bullets fly.

Each city also has "nice" neighborhoods. The residents are more affluent and the streets are more peaceful. This is where people would love to live and raise a family.

These areas are considered to be "safe." People are not foolish or naive enough to think they can leave their doors unlocked at night, but there is a feeling that you can walk the streets alone without too much concern for your safety.

American cities have always had their upscale and downtrodden neighborhoods. But as the crime rate has risen in our country and the use of firearms has too, the rules have changed a bit.

Now violence can happen anywhere. The causes of violence are no longer confined just to a "bad" neighborhood.

The drug trade, which generates a large share of violence in our culture, is branching out, like any profitable business does. No longer confined to the rougher parts of town, it can reach anywhere. With its newfound mobility, the violence of the drug trade will follow.

Our high consumption of firearms is helping violence spread as well. Criminals who had to settle for sticks and knives now have access to the most powerful automatic handguns on the market. Some criminals actually have enough firepower to outgun the police.

With the rate guns are sold and used in the country, some are bound to be used in places you would not expect.

Most Americans are waking up to this reality. They know how vulnerable they are and demand action from politicians and police. They have formed community watch programs and go on citizen patrols. They have formed closer ties with the police and are more aware of crime prevention.

However, others feel that they can purchase their safety.

A rising trend in home construction is the gated neighborhood. These are suburban communities that are surrounded by brick walls and have guardposts checking incoming cars.

Some experts predict that this will be the future of America. Those who have money will be able to buy security in luxury fortresses, while the rest of the population will have to fend for themselves. Freedom from bodily harm will become a something with a price tag.

It is disturbing that a place like Carytown can have its peace shattered by gunfire. But other communities in this city deal with this kind of violence on a regular basis, and their residents are just as concerned for their safety as those in Carytown. The shooting in Carytown should remind us that crime does not respect the boundaries on our maps or in our minds.

Theoretically, America is a free country, where any person can go to any section of town. But some areas are regarded to be as hostile as any battlefield in a war-torn country.

Do you have an opinion on something?
Let us know about it!

Commonwealth
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French Film Festival invades Richmond

Hollie Atkins

CT ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

The opportunity to explore another culture rarely occurs in the Richmond area. VCU's French department is one organization that offers that opportunity through the French Film Festival.

The festival was founded in 1993 by Peter S. Kirkpatrick, assistant professor of foreign languages. This year, the festival will be held on April 5 and April 6 at the Byrd Theater in Carytown.

"As a professor, I have a specialization in French civilization, culture and journalism," Kirkpatrick said. "I wanted to take my knowledge and apply that to help embellish French culture in Richmond."

Kirkpatrick added that as a child growing up in Richmond, he always wanted "more French things." This desire also helped create the festival.

The festival welcomes five French actors and directors and one Swiss director this year: Patrick Braoudé, Jean-Pierre Améris, Laurent Chevallier, Paul Carpita, Luc Pages and Gianni Marchesi, respectively. In addition, French scholars Jean-Louis Leutrat, President of L'Université de Paris III, and Suzanne Liandrat-Guigues, of L'Université de Paris VII, will be present.

The films presented have not been bought by distributors and will not be seen again in the United States unless a distributor does purchase them.

"This festival is unique, there isn't another like it in the U.S.," Kirkpatrick said. "These films will be shipped back to Paris unless someone buys them."

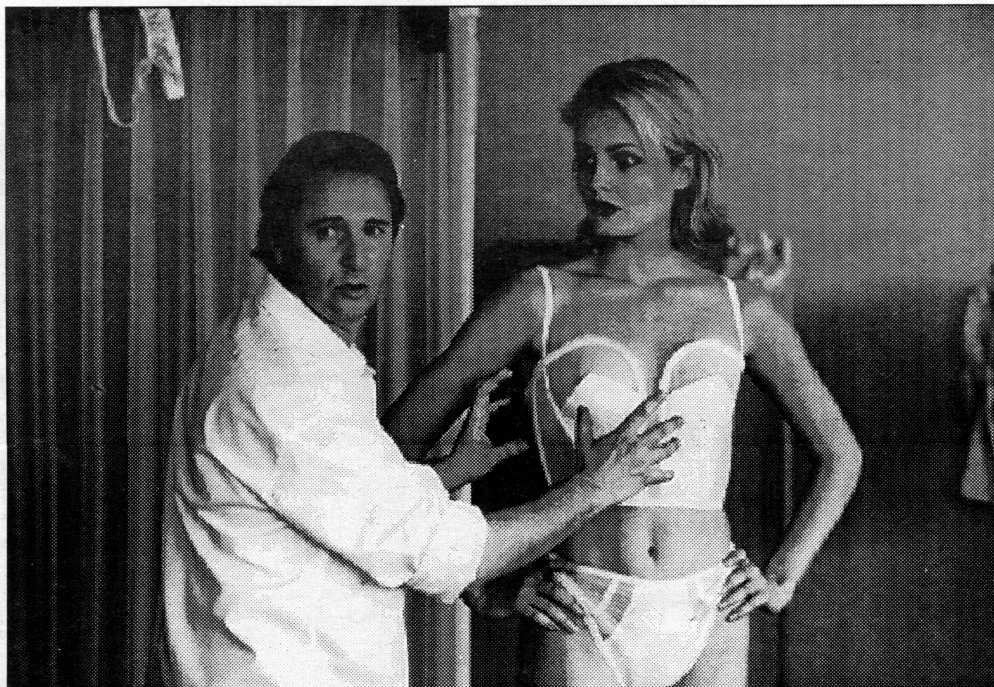
A number of factors help decide what films will be invited to the festival.

"I try to have a variety of all styles of French cinema," Kirkpatrick said. "I include comedy, epic drama, social commentaries, documentaries, art films and a wide range of francophone films."

This year the festival will show its first African francophone film, "L'Enfant Noir."

Swiss director Marchesi had his documentary selected after winning an award in September at Thonon-les-Bains in France. Kirkpatrick was a member of the film jury. His film had to be put in subtitles, a task done by French major Jennifer Gore.

The festival has been extremely successful in the past. It was first held at the old Biographe theater, now Grace Street Cinemas, but soon outgrew the



GETTING IT RIGHT — Actor and director Patrick Braoudé will be at the French Film Festival.

260 seat capacity.

"I would often have to call directors for permission for second screenings," Kirkpatrick said. "That often made the festival a week long, which was a strain on time for students and businesses."

The standing-room-only crowds that the festival attracted prompted a move to the Byrd theater.

A "Gala dinner" will also be held at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Viewers will have a chance to talk with actors and directors about the films during the dinner. For those who can't take the time to sit down to dinner, there will be a reception, also at the museum, that will allow the opportunity to pose questions.

In addition, there will be a drawing for tickets to France.

The festival takes a lot of time and dedication to be successful. The films must be shipped to Richmond and plane tickets must be purchased for the participants.

Actors and directors must also

"This festival is unique, there isn't another like it in the U.S.," Kirkpatrick said. "These films will be shipped back to Paris unless someone buys them."

approve of the program and the summaries written about their films.

There are a number of ways to secure a spot at the festival. For \$75, a pass may be purchased that grants admission to all films, the reception, the drawing and the gala dinner. A VIP pass may be purchased for \$25 or \$20 if you are a student, that grants admission to all films, the drawing and the reception. If you just want to attend a single film, tickets may be purchased at the door for \$4 a film.

Saturday, April 5 1997

- 11 a.m. Discussion in Byrd Theater. "Recent directions in French cinema" Jean-Louis Leutrat and Suzanne Liandrat-Guigues
- noon. A series of Short Films by actor/director Luc Pages
- 1 p.m. "Les sables mouvants" director Paul Carpita
- 3 p.m. "Les aveux de L'Innocent" director Jean-Pierre Améris
- 5 p.m. "Amour et Confusions" actor/director Patrick Braoudé
- 7 p.m. Official Festival Reception Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
- 8:30 p.m. Gala dinner with the stars
- 12 a.m. "Le rendez-vous des quais" director Paul Carpita

Sunday, April 6, 1997

- noon. "Au pas des Bisses" documentary, Gianni
- 1 p.m. "Romaine" actor Luc Pages
- 3 p.m. "L'Enfant noir" director Laurent Chevallier
- 5 p.m. "Le Bel été de 1914" Film scholar Jean-Louis Leutrat
- 6:45 p.m. Drawing for two tickets to Paris.

Note: All films have English subtitles.



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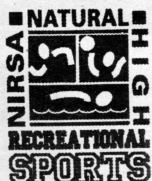
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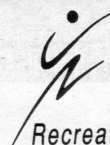
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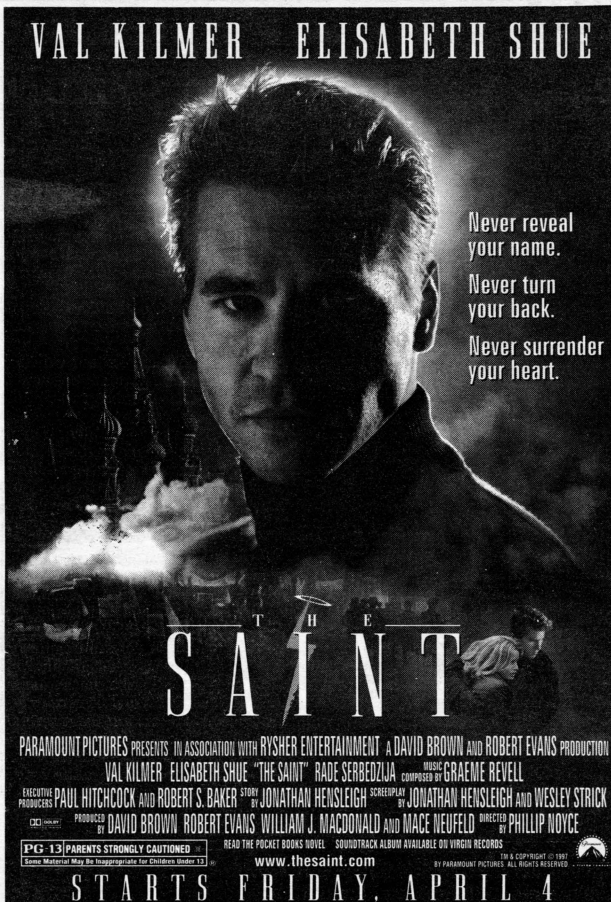
Rules: Participants must be students, faculty, or staff at VCU. Teams can be mixed or same sex with 5 participants on one team only. Scores will consist of slowest and fastest times of each team. Individuals can register and teamed with other participants on site prior to events.

Free T-shirts will be given to first 15 teams. Prizes and refreshments for all attendees and observers from the VCU Community (Students, Faculty, or Staff).



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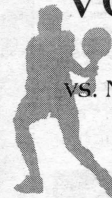
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STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 4

VCU TENNIS

VCU RAMS



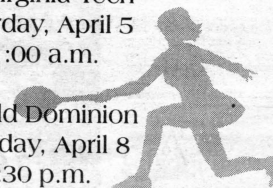
vs. North Carolina State
Friday, April 4
3:00 p.m.

VCU LADY RAMS

vs. Virginia Tech
Saturday, April 5
11:00 a.m.

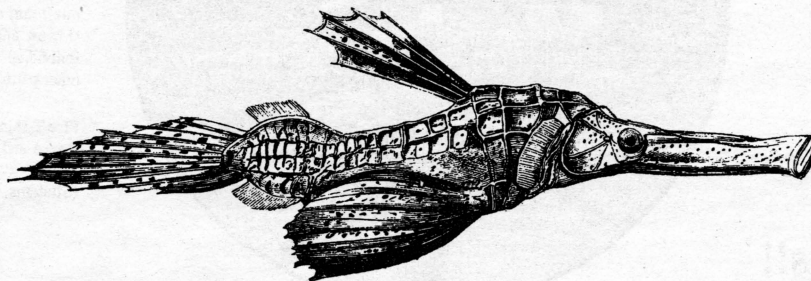
vs. Old Dominion
Tuesday, April 8
2:30 p.m.

vs. William & Mary
Thursday, April 10
3:00 p.m.



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■ The baseball team defeated William & Mary in its only meeting last season 6-5.

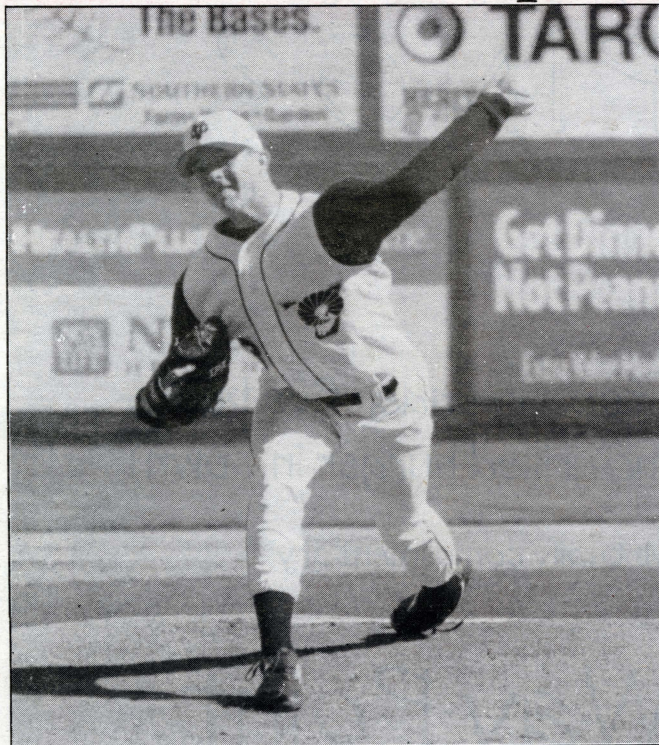
FRIDAY, April 4, 1997

Commonwealth TIMES

■ See how the baseball team fared against William & Mary this weekend.

Vol. 28, No. 66

Rams defend first place against streaking Tribe



Pete Van Vleet/Commonwealth Times

THROWING HEAT — Eric Finley looks to improve on his devilish 6.66 ERA in this weekend's series against William & Mary.

Lady Colonials spank VCU

Bard's Lady Rams drop to 0-12

Oren Briese
CT STAFF WRITER

The Lady Ram tennis team continued its woeful season, dropping with a 5-2 loss to George Washington Wednesday.

The loss dropped VCU's record to 0-12.

The lone victories came from Sofia Hiort and Helena Karlsson. Hiort came back from down a set and 2-5 in the second set tiebreaker to beat Helen Andrews 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5). Using a strong backhand and excellent placement Hiort managed to wear down Andrews. Karlsson was victorious 6-2, 6-2.

"It [Hiort's] was an excellent match with extraordinary play by both players. Sofia started hitting the ball better in the second set and made Andrews tired. That is why she won," said coach Eva Bard.

Better play came from the lower seeds, including Kathryn Olsen winning her first set as a collegiate athlete.

"We have started to develop consistency that we didn't have at the beginning of the year," Bard said, adding that "a couple

people are playing real good tennis, and others are playing the best that they can. That just happens not be good enough for the schedule that we are playing."

The Lady Rams' next match is against Virginia Tech who is having its best season in more than 10 years.

After Virginia Tech, the Rams will play conference opponents Old Dominion and William & Mary.

The Tribe is currently ranked fourth in the country.

Following those matches, the team will enter the conference tournament, probably competing in the play-in game.

"You have to take one match at a time and do the best you can, and give it all that you can, and then hope for the best," Bard said.

"We are walking on to the court thinking that we can win every time. It is good to see that from the players."



Hiort

Joe Rogalsky

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

When VCU plays William & Mary this weekend, the Rams will be facing a team that has not lost in five games.

After starting Colonial Athletic Association play by losing four straight, the Tribe got on the warpath and currently are on a five-game winning streak.

The series kicks off with a twin bill on Saturday beginning at 4 p.m. and concludes with a 1 p.m. game on Sunday. With all eight CAA teams in action this weekend (American doesn't have a team), faring well is vital for VCU to remain in first place in the conference. Four teams are within two games of the Rams. Included in the group is the Tribe, which could be the conference leader when Monday morning rolls around if they sweep the Rams.

W&M's starting pitchers will likely be Andy Cook, Randy Leek and Will Malerich. Leek (4.17 ERA) and Malerich (5.81 ERA) have numbers that hitters like to see. It is Cook, however, who could roast the Rams. The sophomore hurler leads the CAA with

a 2.33 ERA and a 6-1 record. Cook has allowed 16 runs, 12 of them earned in 46.7 innings on the mound.

The Rams rank in the middle of the CAA in offense with a .302 team batting average and opponents hit only .271 against Tribe pitchers. VCU may be aided by the spacious Diamond, where there is a lot of room for balls to fall in for hits. Covering the plentitude of space has not been a problem for VCU fielders, who lead the CAA with a .960 fielding percentage.

Expect to see Matt Burch, Chab Berryman and Eric Finley as the starting pitchers for VCU this weekend.

Though Burch's ERA for the year is 5.26, it is a stingy 2.10 in the past five games. Berryman has been strong all season. He has a 3.09 ERA and has fanned 34 batters.



Berryman

Duke, VCU ready to battle

Lee Kelley

CT STAFF WRITER

Each tennis season men's tennis coach Paul Kostin's Rams experience the true meaning of an enemy being a thorn in their side. Each year the Duke Blue Devils ram a pitch fork through the seemingly unstoppable Rams. For the past nine tries against Duke, the Rams season ending rest on the dual head to head meeting with the Blue Devils.

And for nine straight outings, the Devils have roasted the Rams at home. The annual, Running of the Rams, through the Colonial Athletic Association, Atlantic Coast Conference and other leagues seems to always lead to the Devils Den, and ends with the Cameron Crazies feasting on rams chops.

Highlighting the heavyweights on each schedule, both lost to Notre Dame 4-3, and

both beat the Miami Hurricanes. The Rams beat No. 10 South Alabama, while the Blue Devils lost to them. With only North Carolina State left on their schedule before Sunday's match in Durham, the Rams hope to take a 22-1 record into the Devils Den and put out their fire. But records mean nothing in this matchup of rivals. Two years ago the Rams were 24-0 and played a Duke team they should've beaten. But a third set doubles loss in the last set of the dual match, left the Rams wondering will they ever beat the Blue Devils.

While Kostin acknowledges his team's past problems against the Blue Devils, he is focusing on preparing his team for the NCAA tournament.

"A win against Duke would be great, but the focus is on the season ending tournament," he said. "My players are healthy, and we will go into this match like we approach every match, giving a hundred percent."

ANALYSIS

Rams in Action				
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S TENNIS (21-1)	April 4 N.C. ST.	April 6 DUKE	April 17-20 CAA	THE RAMS ARE 0-9 AGAINST DUKE DURING KOSTIN'S TENURE AS COACH.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (0-12)	April 5 VA. TECH	April 8 ODU		VCU'S BOTTOM FOUR SEEDS HAVEN'T WON THIS SEASON.
BASEBALL (16-14, 7-2)	April 5 W&M	April 8 RADFORD		THE RAMS MOVED INTO FIRST PLACE BY WINNING THREE OF FOUR GAMES AGAINST ODU THIS PAST WEEKEND.
GOLF	APRIL 5-6, CLEVELAND/AUGUSTA INVITATIONAL AUGUSTA, GA.			
TRACK & FIELD	APRIL 4-5, COLONIAL RELAYS WILLIAMSBURG, VA.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDICATES HOME GAME <input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES AWAY GAME				