



**THURSDAY** — Showers,  
low 31, high 55



**FRIDAY** — Mostly cloudy,  
low 35, high 61

# Commonwealth TIMES

■ Turn to pages  
8 and 9 of  
Spectrum for a  
review of "Man  
of La Mancha,"  
and you, too, can  
be Don Quixote.



WEDNESDAY, April 9, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 68



Rob Byrne/Commonwealth Times

**PUTTING IT TOGETHER** — Sculpture major John Umphlett works on his latest project in the sculpture department, one of the top five programs in the country as ranked by U.S. News and World Report.

## Sculpture department recognized in magazine

**Stephanie Buckeridge**  
CT STAFF WRITER

Just how successful is VCU's sculpture department? One of the country's major news magazines, U.S. News and World Report, recently ranked the department among the top five in the nation.

Joe Seipel, chairman of the sculpture department, said the sculpture students are very proud of the ranking.

"We appreciate the fact that we were finally recognized," he said. "We're the only school in the South that was recognized."

Since the 1960s, the department's reputation has become more widely known, and Seipel attributes much of its success to the department's faculty.

"The faculty care about the students," he said, adding that it's unusual to have teachers so devoted to their students. "They're completely immersed in the field."

Connie Brown, senior secretary in the department who coordinates all activities such as advising, scheduling and planning events, affirmed that the faculty is accessible and know the students well.

"It's a very closely knit group over here," she said. "I believe it is a rare thing."

Sarah Diepold, a crafts major who completed a sculpture class, said she thinks the department is well-equipped.

"I would recommend it to everybody," she said. In all, the department serves 138 majors including 13 graduates and 125 undergraduates, which Brown said

**RANKING continued to page 4 ▶**

## Guiding tomorrow's leaders today

*Volunteers needed for mentoring programs*

**Scott Anderson**  
CT STAFF WRITER

Volunteering time helping people not only benefits others but also brings with it enormous satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment.

"I think everyone should be involved in community service," said Rachel Skyer, VCU coordinator for leadership education and volunteer services. "It's necessary here in our world today with all our wealth."

Skyer addressed the Student Government Association Senate Monday during its meeting to discuss two open volunteer positions to help area elementary students next year.

The Adopt-A-School program consists of VCU students who spend at least one hour a week mentoring Clark Springs Elementary School students.

Skyer said the program needs a coordinator who would, among other things, work four to six hours weekly recruiting mentors for the program, facilitating monthly mentor meetings and meeting with Skyer and the Adopt-A-School coordinator at Clark Springs.

The Carver Promise Program also needs a coordinator for VCU. This program involves college students from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, the University of Richmond, Virginia Union University and VCU volunteering at least one hour a week mentoring students at George Washington Carver Elementary School.

The coordinator will oversee VCU's students who participate in the program. The position pays \$500 for the full school year and requires four to six hours a week fulfilling duties similar to the Adopt-A-School coordinator.



**SGA continued to page 4 ▶**

## Student scholarships targeted by Board of Visitors

**Tom Leiss**  
CT STAFF WRITER

In January, VCU's Board of Visitors told VCU President Eugene P. Trani it would like to see the university provide more scholarships for students.

"We (the board of visitors) would like to see the larger population of students have a chance to compete for and know we have scholarships available," said Henry Rhone, vice provost for student affairs, adding that students need to know they can receive scholarship awards.

Peter Wyeth, vice president for university advancement, called obtaining more nonloan-based financial aid for all VCU students a high priority.

"Across the board," Wyeth said, "the better the financial aid package that you are able to offer to a student the more apt you are to create yield from that applicant pool."

He explained that students will comparison shop and choose the best deal they can get.

Trani said receiving more scholarship money became an important topic for colleges and universities with the state legislature this year.

"The second-highest priority of all colleges and universities this year," Trani said, "was for significant increases in nonloan-based financial aid to Virginia residents. Unfortunately, the legislature did not fund that."

Even though colleges and universities did not receive more money this year, Trani said they will continue to try to get more next year.

In July 1991, VCU began trying to raise \$125 million for various university projects. Wyeth estimated that 10 percent of this money will go toward scholarships. This includes both need- and merit-based ones for all programs at VCU.

"I think it would benefit the students," Rhone said, "to be able to offer (more) scholarships, and perhaps not as many students would have to take out loans to consider VCU."

According to VCU promotional literature from Rhone's office, during the past two years, undergraduate scholarship

awards have increased 7 percent, while graduate professional scholarships designated as "fellowships" increased 9 percent from 1994-95 to 1995-96.

The university already offers millions of dollars in scholarships, Trani said.

"We have approximately \$7 million of state-funded financial aid," he said, "and there are millions of dollars that come out every year in terms of private funding."

Some of the private funding has come in the form of endowed and current scholarships provided by various different corporations. Trani mentioned Phillip Morris' \$500,000 endowment of scholarship money for students in the School of Engineering.

**SCHOLARSHIPS continued to page 4 ▶**



# World NEWS

News from around the globe



## WORLD/NATION



### •Prison protests spread

Approximately 1,200 inmates took over a portion of the Modelojail in Bucaramanga, Colombia, 190 miles northeast of Bogota, on Monday. Prisoners took a guard captive and declared a hunger strike to protest jail conditions.

This stalled negotiators' talks on the 13 people being held hostage in the Valledupar jail. The hostages were taken last week when prisoners overpowered guards and seized weapons. Three guards and a police officer were killed.

Negotiators said they're waiting for inmates in the Valledupar jail to respond to a government offer to discuss improving conditions if the hostages are freed.

### •Haiti's opposition parties want elections annulled

With a weak voter turnout and observations of tampering with result sheets, Haiti's opposition parties denounced parliamentary elections and called on the government yesterday to annul the results.

Haitians showed their disapproval of the politicians and of the evolution of democracy in the Caribbean nation as some polling stations reported no voters at all in the Sunday elections.

An observer with the U.S. Republican Party, Utah Lt. Gov. Olene Walker, said

Monday that she saw election officials tampering with result sheets at two collection centers in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital.

### •Frat party busted at Utah State

All 14 members of the Phi Gamma Delta chapter at Utah State University have resigned amid an investigation that minors were served alcohol at a fraternity party.

Utah State has banned alcohol at parties since 1995, and campus officials began investigating evidence that the fraternity broke the rules. In February, local police officers charged several underage students who were drinking alcohol at a party in the fraternity house.

The fraternity's national office said the chapter could rebuild itself with new members who would abide by the rules.

### •'Whiteness' studied at Berkeley

Leading scholars in the new field of "whiteness" studies met at the University of California at Berkeley this past weekend. According to its organizers, "The Making and Unmaking of Whiteness" was the first national conference that brought together scholars from several disciplines to discuss the topic.

The field has developed over the past decade as academics have sought to understand the formation of white identity and how whiteness has perpetuated social inequalities. These scholars have argued that

white identity has been ignored in questions of race.

## VIRGINIA



### •Beyer to push for tax break

Lt. Gov. Donald S. Beyer Jr., the Democratic candidate for governor, said Monday night he will push to eliminate Virginia's 4.5 percent sales tax on non prescription drugs if he is elected governor.

"We made a commitment to Virginians seven years ago to eliminate this tax, and it's time we lived up to it," Beyer said on former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder's weekly radio talk show on WRVA-AM in Richmond.

The 1990 General Assembly passed a bill to remove the tax, that would have totaled approximately \$20 million a year, but then-Gov. Wilder, acting with the assembly, deferred implementation of the tax because of revenue shortfalls in the state budget.

The state does not tax prescription drugs and the new tax break would cover such-over-the-counter drugs as aspirin, antacids, antiseptics and cough and cold remedies.

### •Richardson and wife forced to borrow funds

In papers filed Monday in Richmond

Circuit Court, former City Councilman Chuck Richardson and his wife want to borrow \$110,000 on their home. Richardson's attorney, James E. Sheffield, said the purpose of the loan "is to consolidate and pay off various loans and to provide funds for living expenses" for Richardson's wife and family while Richardson is incarcerated.

The papers, filed because state law requires the appointment of a legal guardian to oversee financial transactions involving someone who is incarcerated, say that Richardson is being held in the City Jail because he refused to tell a multijurisdictional grand jury from whom he bought heroin.

Richardson has acknowledged an addiction to heroin that dates to his service as a marine during the Vietnam War. He was sentenced to a year in prison in 1995 on a charge of distributing the drug.

He stopped receiving credit for the time served on that sentence a year ago this week when he refused to testify before the grand jury and was held in contempt of court. Richardson "does not intend to change his mind and name his drug sources and therefore needs said loan fund while he is incarcerated," reported the court papers.

— compiled from news sources

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# Classes make crawling around the Web easier

**Louise Amatt**  
CT STAFF WRITER

It's difficult to escape the call of the wild, wild web these days. Everyone from MTV to the United States government has a web page on the Internet.

Students, too, are finding that researching can be quicker and easier using the Internet. But it's important to know how to get around in that vast virtual world shown on computer screens.

Scarlette Hobbs, an adjunct professor and research assistant for the Information Systems Research Institute in the School of Business, created and teaches a class on navigating the World Wide Web.

Business 164 "Introduction to Mainframe Computing" (to be renamed "Introduction to the Internet" this fall) is a one-credit five-week course offered throughout the year.

It teaches students to use e-mail, advanced searching (narrowing topics to find only useful information), and the last week of the course she teaches students to create their own web pages.

"It used to be people would take a class on the Internet because they knew nothing about it at all," she said. "Now they are much more Internet literate before they ever get to me."

For example, they want to learn to be more efficient and effective in their research on the net so they can use the information available, or they want to learn how to use web pages and e-mail more effectively.

"E-mail is a very fast way to communicate," Hobbs said. "You can send an e-mail from the East Coast to the West Coast in 10 seconds."

Some students want to learn to create a web page for personal reasons such as a way to communicate with their families and friends or the sheer novelty of having their web page out there on the Internet for all to see. But many businesses are increasing their demand for employees who can create web pages.

"Many students want to learn to do it so that they can get a job doing it," Hobbs said.

"It pays well and can support them for the rest of their college career."

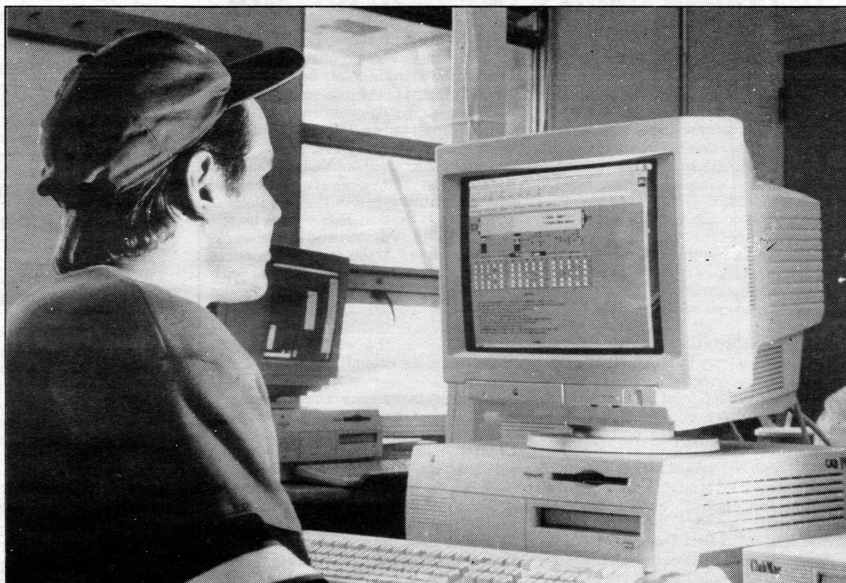
Harry Reif, research associate for the institute, cited another example of using the Internet in business:

"You can research a company that you wish to work for. You might want to know what their 10K is, or if they have certain policies or practices that affect you."

"The Internet has opened a lot more doors — and closets — in some areas."

George Kasper, professor and chairman of the information systems department, considers the Internet as a vehicle for accessing information easily but cautions people that there still is no vehicle to verify that information.

"Anyone can put anything on the Internet," he said. "It's real benefit will come from people who can leverage



Chieu Nguyen/Commonwealth Times

**LOGGING ON — A communications arts and design student surfs the Internet in the Pollack Building's graphics labs. Students can take a course to learn more about the World Wide Web.**

what it can do."

For instance, you can send flowers to someone and access a web page to see the arrangement you purchase. You also can make hotel reservations and see the hotels, perhaps even choose your room.

"Being able to see the product — that's where it's really useful," Kasper said.

Reif said navigation of the Web has become a critical tool for the students because the information they need is not always available in the library.

"In library material you may only get one or two perspectives," Reif said, "but now you can go to the U.K. (United Kingdom) via the Internet and read, view or even hear what those people have to say about an issue."

Hobbs teaches people of all ages and occupations. A farmer who recently completed her class located an agricultural expert in Switzerland who advised him about his soil analysis to improve his crop yield.

"He learned to do that after one week in my class," Hobbs said.

How has technology changed education today?

"The whole notion of education is going from a teaching environment to a learning environment," Kasper said. "It's gone from where the professor is a fountain of information to where the professor is a tour guide through the information, using a mixture of technologies."

By using e-mail, Reif said, collaborative work with other students becomes easier, especially since many have different schedules and find it hard to get in touch with one another.

Another class offered at VCU is "Web Page Design" in the communication arts and design department in the School of the Arts.

Web-page creation also is covered in "Intro to Information Systems" offered by the Department of Information Systems in the business school.

## Space shuttle returns after shortened mission

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** — Space shuttle Columbia and a disappointed crew returned to Earth Tuesday and ended a science mission that was chopped from 16 days to four because of a dangerously defective generator.

Columbia touched down on the concrete runway at 2:33 p.m.

Commander James Halsell Jr. had to land the 235,500-pound spaceship — one of the heaviest ever — with one-third less power than usual because of the faulty electric generator. The two remaining generators apparently worked fine during descent.

Columbia almost ended up at the backup landing site in California.

Worried about high wind, Mission Control waited until practically the last minute before giving Halsell the go-ahead to fire the shuttle braking rockets for a Florida touchdown. Flight controllers expected the crosswind to be right at the safety limit of 17 mph.

The radio link between Columbia and Mission Control seemed quieter than usual as the shuttle descended through

the atmosphere.

A cockpit camera showed television viewers a live pilot's-eye view of the landing, with reflections of cockpit dials making a pattern of green dots on the screen as the runway came into view.

Flight controllers waited until the shuttle rolled to a safe stop before welcoming the seven astronauts home. There was none of the usual congratulations on the mission, only a compliment for the crew's "great" landing.

NASA cut short the \$500 million-plus mission after voltage steadily dropped in one of three electric generators, called fuel cells, that supply power for essentially all systems.

"I'm just real sorry it wasn't a longer mission," crewman Roger Crouch told researchers on the ground Monday night. "Too bad it had to end this way."

Flight controllers approved Columbia's launch on Friday even though the generator was giving abnormal readings 12 hours before liftoff. They based their decision on similar voltage jumps during the past two countdowns for Atlantis, said Patrick Simpkins, NASA's fluids chief for shuttle processing. In those instances, the fuel cell

ended up working fine in orbit.

But two days into Columbia's flight, Mission Control ordered the crew to turn off fuel cell No. 2, which was losing voltage, and arranged an early landing. Such a generator problem could trigger an explosion.

NASA said although the astronauts were in no immediate danger, all three fuel cells must be operating for a shuttle to remain in orbit.

Determining what went wrong with the fuel cell won't be easy since any evidence likely was tainted when it was shut down, Simpkins said.

Shuttle program manager Tommy Holloway said in retrospect, the generator should have been replaced before liftoff.

The crew only had time to make a dent in the 33 experiments involving fire, metals, crystals and plants planned for the flight.

The astronauts were able to ignite just 14 of 142 fires that should have been set to see how flames spread in weightlessness, NASA mission scientist Michael Robinson said. Six of 25 tests were conducted in a furnace used to study the diffusion of liquid metals and four of 20 were completed in

another metals experiment.

To cheer up the astronauts, Mission Control borrowed a leaf from David Letterman and sent them a list of Top 10 reasons why they are really coming home early. Among them: Crew forgot to do their taxes before they left. Crew left stove on back in Houston. Hale-Bopp comet aliens got way too close for comfort. And: 16-day mission, April Fool!

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## Of course there's plenty to do here

I recently heard a graduate student complain, "I don't know where to find anything going on at VCU!"

And she's not the only one. I hear this type of exclamation at least twice a week. On an urban campus where some students live as far as an hour away from the city, it's quite a task to get the word out to students about events and even harder for them to find it.

Please allow me to make a few suggestions.

Since you're reading the Commonwealth Times right now, turn to the Spectrum section for a list of happenings in the arts. In the Monday's FYI section, we try to hit on some of the main lectures, concerts, meeting and festivals going on not only at VCU but also in the Richmond community. Sports lists VCU game times, places and dates in almost every issue.

VCU also publishes a monthly calendar of events that students can pick up at the front entrance of Cabell Library, at the information desk in the commons and sometimes on the first floor of the General Purpose Academic Building (while supplies last). This calendar also lists sporting events.

Check out those bulletin boards. I don't think I have ever seen a university with as many bulletin boards as the Academic Campus alone contains. If you can see past all the "For Sale" fliers, you'll usually find announcements of special upcoming

events. A particularly good spot to peruse is in the north section of the commons. One whole board is solely devoted to the advertisement of campus events.

Then we have everyone's favorite source of interesting tidbits, the Internet aside from describing everything you'd ever want to know about VCU, if you go to <http://www.vcu.edu/safweb/events/calmonth.html> you will find a calendar

that lists events by the month and by the week. If you don't remember to take this address with you, you can find the site through the university's home page. This is, by the way, probably the

most complete calendar the university offers.

From my experience covering campus events, I can tell you there are some very cool things going on here that have unfortunately had an extremely low student turnout.

With its incredibly diverse student body, VCU is home for a variety of multicultural activities and festivals. VCU also has a national reputation for its fine arts programs — and the musical recitals, art shows and theater performances are usually free.

The information is out there, you just have to keep your eyes and ears open to find it. So, now that you know where to look for the announcements, you know where to find the events. Go out and enjoy what VCU has to offer!

## Student COMMENTARY

Angela D. Hill

## Blame a virus for extra pounds

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — A virus may increase chances of obesity, say University of Wisconsin scientists who also discovered an intriguing paradox: The virus appears to make people fatter without raising heart-threatening cholesterol levels.

Sofar, only circumstantial evidence links the virus with human obesity, researcher Nikhil Dhurandhar emphasized, although he did prove it fattens animals.

Obesity specialists said the findings, which Dhurandhar presented Monday at a biology meeting in New Orleans, are preliminary but strong enough to justify prompt additional research.

"Look at the larger picture of infectious agents causing chronic diseases," said Dr. Benjamin Caballero of Johns Hopkins University, pointing to recent discoveries that viruses and bacteria contribute to heart disease and some cancers, even ulcers.

"I have no reason to believe obesity would be any different," he added. "I think it's very plausible."

Dr. John Foreyt of the Baylor College of Medicine cautioned that the Wisconsin scientists cannot yet speculate how the virus, biologically, could cause obesity. But he said veterinarians have proved that certain viruses cause obesity in horses and pigs, so one for humans is not farfetched.

"With the big increase in obesity in the world... I wouldn't rule it out," Foreyt said, calling the new study "provocative."

The government estimates that one-third of Americans are obese, about a 25 percent rise in 30 years. The extra pounds cause high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. Obesity-related diseases kill 300,000 Americans a year.

Poor diet and lack of exercise are the overwhelming causes of obesity, doctors agree. But Dhurandhar suggested that the Ad-36 virus, from a common family of

adenoviruses that typically cause mild respiratory infections, may play a role, too.

In statistics updated Monday, Dhurandhar compared 154 patients at the University of Wisconsin's obesity clinic with 45 lean people. Fifteen percent of the obese people showed signs of infection with Ad-36. They were not sick, but they carried antibodies to the virus, substances the immune system produces to fight infections.

None of the lean people had those antibodies. Then Dhurandhar compared the two groups of obese patients.

The groups were equally overweight, yet they had significantly different levels of artery-clogging cholesterol and a related blood fat, triglycerides. Patients believed infected with Ad-36 had normal cholesterol and triglyceride levels — about 189 and 110, respectively.

The patients without signs of Ad-36, on the other hand, had elevated cholesterol and triglycerides — an average of 217 and 155, respectively.

More intriguing, Dhurandhar said: Men who showed signs of the virus lost 17.8 percent of their original weight during obesity-drug treatment while viral-free men lost just 11.1 percent. That's a statistically significant difference, but one not found in women, he said.

Antibodies aren't proof the virus caused obesity, but they are "tantalizing evidence," said co-researcher Dr. Richard Atkinson, a Wisconsin medicine professor who is president of the American Obesity Association.

"We cannot prove the virus causes (human) obesity unless we inject people and they get fat," Atkinson said, adding that it's clearly impossible.

But Dhurandhar did prove that Ad-36 fattens chickens without raising their cholesterol and triglycerides. He targeted Ad-36 because it closely resembles a chicken virus that prompted his research in India several years ago.

## SGA

continued from page 1

Skyer said serving in these positions would benefit students when they enter the workplace.

"For many professions it's wonderful to have on a resume," she said, though she pointed out that she would like people who are motivated more by the desire to help someone than by resume building.

If the time commitment for a coordinator position is too much, Skyer recommends volunteering as a mentor for either

program where the time commitment is only an hour a week.

"With mentoring a child it takes a great deal of commitment," Skyer said. "You just can't decide after two weeks you don't want to do it anymore."

Anyone interested in either coordinator position or being a mentor should complete an application at the front desk of the student activities center and visit Skyer at her office in the center.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page 1

Wyeth sees alumni as another possibility for scholarship money.

As alumni get older and closer to the higher-income bracket, Wyeth said, he thinks VCU will start to see more scholarships, especially from those who took scholarships when they were younger.

Trani said it is important for students with multiyear scholarships to be evaluated yearly to see if they still deserve to have a scholarship.

In addition, he recommended that scholarships of more than one year be academically tagged, meaning they should be renewable each year provided the student still has good academic standing.

Rhone agreed, saying year-to-year scholarships based on academic standing could help students do well because they are competing to maintain scholarships the following year.

Financial aid is an important factor for

students determining which institution to attend.

Last year, Trani said, this was clearly seen in the establishment of the School of Engineering, when VCU received significant private donations for engineering scholarships. Because of this, he pointed out that VCU enrolled many students who probably would have attended more established engineering schools.

Rhone said how long a scholarship lasts also helps students determine where to enroll.

Giving students a scholarship they could use for their entire college career may give them more incentive to attend, he said, and hopefully graduate in a four- or five-year period.

Still, before VCU sees a dramatic increase in financial aid, Trani said there has to be some legislative success on both the state and federal levels.

## RANKING

continued from page 1

makes it the largest department in the country.

VCU's sculpture majors share different backgrounds and come from all over the world.

The department, Seipel said, looks for fearless, smart and ambitious students willing to experiment and to focus on their studio pursuits.

"We're looking for people willing to accept big challenges," he said. "But more than ever, we want our graduates to be smart. We now look very closely at grades."

Why are many students unaware of the sculpture department's success?

One reason, Brown said, is the sculpture department is off-campus at the Biggs Building, 900 W. Marshall St. But she said it still surprises her when students do not know VCU has a sculpture department.

"We plaster the area with information," she said.

Seipel said more students should become familiar with the department once the new general education curriculum re-

quiring students to take an art class is implemented universitywide.

Not only would he like to see more students enroll in an art class, but he also would like more opportunities for them to show their art.

"I'd like to see more of outdoor sculpture," he said. "I think there's some interest in that."

Students wanting to find out more about the sculpture offerings may visit the Biggs Building, where Brown said the sculpture department has a relaxed atmosphere that should not intimidate them.

"This is an incredibly open place," she said.

Presently, sculpture students show their works in the Student Commons art space, and they have exhibitions in the Anderson Gallery as well as in the Biggs Building.

An annual juried fine arts exhibition featuring works of students in crafts, painting, printmaking, photography and sculpture is displayed through April 13 in the Anderson Gallery.

## Bomb thrown in Ill. courtroom

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**URBANA, ILL.** — A man threw a firebomb at the judge's bench during a trial Tuesday, causing an explosion and fire that sent participants fleeing and slightly injuring four people. A suspect was in custody.

The man walked into the courtroom at the Champaign County Courthouse with a bottle filled with amber liquid, lit the rag sticking out of the top, threw it at the bench and ran, said Abra Bonnell, who was a juror hearing a medical malpractice case in the courtroom.

"It was obvious that he was pretty much aiming it at the judge and trying to hurt the judge," Bonnell said.

Urbana Fire Chief William Pessemier said four people, including the judge, were injured, none by fire. Circuit Judge George

Miller suffered minor scalp wounds and was expected to be treated and released, said Carle Hospital spokeswoman Gretchen Robbins.

Miller apparently was injured while diving under the bench.

The three other people were treated at the scene, Pessemier said.

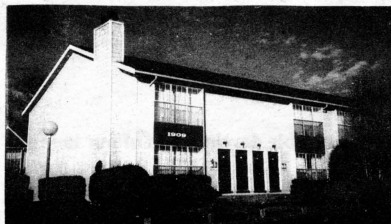
The explosion occurred about 11:15 a.m. on the third floor of the four-story building in downtown Urbana.

Two rooms on the third floor were severely damaged by fire, while the entire building suffered serious smoke damage, police and fire personnel said.

The fire was extinguished within 30 minutes after firefighters arrived, Pessemier said.

Champaign County Sheriff Dave Madigan said there was one suspect in custody.





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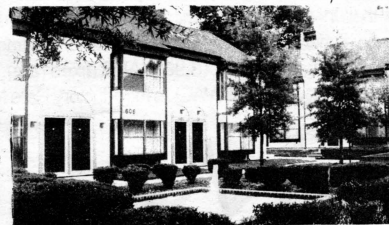
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Charles Gnilka

# It's David vs. Goliath, But David's Losing

## Microsoft and Wal-Mart are two companies taking heat for growing like kudzu.

Remember the opening scene of the movie "Star Wars"? Who could forget it? There is a roar of engines over the planet Tatooine. A tiny spaceship races overhead, pursued by a menacing star destroyer. The ships exchange laser fire, but the little rebel ship is no match for the mighty destroyer. The crippled rebel ship is sucked into the maw of the star destroyer's docking bay, consumed like a minnow by a whale.

To some people, big business in our present world has become what the Imperial star destroyer was in that galaxy far, far away: a looming, hostile presence that batters and engulfs the weak.

Despite their success and record profits, some companies are getting flak from the public because of their size and the methods they use to keep growing. They have millions of customers who use their products or services and others who are wary of how they do business.

One company that would fit in this category is Microsoft. Thanks to the success of its Windows operating system for computers, Microsoft has become one of the most recognized names in the high-tech industry. Company founder Bill Gates has made billions from his company and achieved a degree of celebrity status in doing so.

You know a company has achieved a unique stature when the press covers how the founder spends his money—as when Gates bought the notebook of Leonardo da Vinci for his private collection.

It can be safely said that Microsoft programs like Windows have made it easier for people to use computers and integrate them into their everyday working lives. Microsoft's good fortune has given it more power to expand its market. Just this week, Microsoft announced plans to acquire Web TV, a company that allows people to access the Internet using TV sets without a computer.

Microsoft has been praised as being a company that has earned its success by producing superior, quality products and savvy marketing. But Gates and his company have come under fire from those in the computer industry who think they have gone to far.

Microsoft is being seen by its critics as a bully, using its power to keep out any competition and limiting consumer choices. Companies like the web-browser manufacturer Netscape have accused Microsoft of using strong arm tactics to steal their customers.

There has been a public backlash against Gates and Microsoft. Some who cruise the World Wide Web may have seen some sites that thumb their nose at Microsoft.

One site mimics the Microsoft official website, except it is called Microsnot Incorporated. Another site showed Bill Gates dressed as a "Borg": the biomechanical bad guys from the "Star Trek" TV show.

This sort of sarcasm has its source in the dislike for big companies. It is not just limited to Microsoft, but to other companies that have aggressively grown and used their muscle to get what they want. These companies are seen by some as being like an invasion force.

The retail chain Wal-Mart that has become another target for critics who accuse them of being like the proverbial 500-pound gorilla, sitting where they please.

Wal-Mart is a retail chain that uses its size to offer consumers low prices. Because Wal-Mart is such a big company, they can buy items in large quantities to sell for cheaper. Other smaller stores do not have the ability to buy in such large amounts, so can not match Wal-Mart's low prices.

This would seem to be a boon to all consumers, to be able to get the lowest price on items ranging from home computers to tube socks, but Wal-Mart is hated by some

for doing exactly that.

What Wal-Mart's critics charge is that the company is a destroyer of small business and small towns. Since smaller

businesses can not compete with Wal-Mart on the prices, they lose their customers and go out of business. Some towns have actually formed community action groups to fight Wal-Mart when it tries to build near their town. They say that a Wal-Mart would drive all the small business out, leaving the downtown areas a wasteland. The unemployed townspeople would then leave to find jobs elsewhere.

The Wal-Mart bashers also charge that the retail chain actually kills small towns twice. Once the small businesses have been decimated, the local Wal-Mart is the only place to shop. Since there are large numbers of unemployed people, who has any money to buy anything at the Wal-Mart? If the local Wal-Mart does not have brisk sales, it gets closed down by the company, leaving the town with almost nowhere to buy anything. Wal-Mart is viewed as roving coven of vampires, sucking the blood out of the most helpless and then moving on.

Starbucks's Coffee has been accused of this same slash-and-burn type of capitalism. Starbucks is said to move into areas of town with the intention of driving all the other independent coffee houses out of business.

This way of doing business is seen as being by alarmists as a form of corporate fascism. They cry out that if we are not vigilant, the Wal-Marts and Microsoft's of the world will overrun us. We will be forced to buy from only a select handful of companies. If we don't like their products, tough! There will be no competitors to turn to.

There is no doubt that these companies are aggressive. They plan to dominate their fields and give their shareholders bigger profits every year. The way you keep the

investors happy is show them plenty of bar graphs with numbers getting bigger and bigger as you read left to right.

But companies do not grow like plants: on rain and sunlight alone. They need people to come to them and spend their money. Even the most powerful retail chain, software company or coffee house can not make people plunk down their hard-earned cash at gun point.

People on the other hand do have a choice. They are the ones that the companies have to keep happy. But they are also the ones who have the choice to buy where they please.

From the controversies over Wal-Mart and other companies, spending money has become a matter beyond whether you are getting a good price. It has become a statement of how you want our consumer culture to unfold.

If all that matters is the price on the tag, then spend your money wherever you want and let economics decide the rest. If feel strongly enough for small businesses and upstart competitors of big-shot companies, then you should spend your money there to keep those businesses going.

To say that Microsoft and Wal-Mart are planning to take over the world is somewhat silly. These companies rise and fall on the basis of our choices. If you want to rebel against these corporate behemoths, simply give your money to their competitors. Go to a small shop in downtown instead of going to a shopping multiplex if malls irk you so much.

If corporations are oppressing us, they can only do so if we pay them to do it.

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The editorial section of the *Commonwealth TIMES* is a forum open to all members of the Virginia Commonwealth University community. Students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit editorials expressing their opinions and concerns. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Commonwealth TIMES* or VCU.

We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.

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# SPECTRUM

from one end

## Wednesday, April 9

Exhibit: "Commonwealth and Community: The Jewish Experience in Virginia" traces Jewish experiences and culture in Virginia from the 1600s to the present, through Sept. 14 at the Virginia Historical Society, Kensington Avenue and the Boulevard. For more information, call 358-4901.

Exhibit: "Exploring Virginia Legends," a multimedia adventure into folk tales of Virginia's history, continues through Aug. 15 at the Virginia Historical Society, Kensington Avenue and the Boulevard. For more information, call 358-4901.

Exhibit: "A Woman's War: Southern Women, Civil War, and the Confederate Legacy" is presented through September at the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay St. For more information, call 649-1861.

Exhibit: "Domesticity: Nostalgia and Memory" features works by area artists and presents guest critic Saul Ostrow through April 26 at 1708 Gallery, 103 E. Broad St. For more information, call 643-7829.

Theater: "Special Effects," a look into Hollywood's creation of the thrilling effects in films such as "Star Wars" and "Independence Day," continues its IMAX showing at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St. For more information, call 367-0037.

Exhibit: "Into the Streets: Public Culture and Memory," focuses on how a shared identity is created by public rituals and celebrations, through Jan. 4, 1998 at the Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay St. For more information, call 649-0711.

Theater: "The Complete Works of William Shksp (abridged)," a quirky, comedic adaptation of all 37 plays of Shakespeare, runs through April 19 at Barksdale Theatre, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive. For more information, call 282-2620.

Exhibit: "Pygmalion and Galatea: Poem/Sculpture/Installation," features statues and poetry set to music, on display through June 28 at the Marsh Art Gallery of the University of Richmond. For more information, call 289-8276.

Exhibit: "Looking at the Seventies: The Meyer Schapiro Portfolio from the I. Webb Surratt Jr. Print Collection," the work of prominent artists of that decade, is on view through June 28 at the Marsh Art Gallery of the University of Richmond. For more information, call 289-8276.

Exhibit: The Peninsula Glass Guild and the Bon Air Artists Association present group exhibits for "Arts in the Hospital," in MCV's Main Hospital. For more information, call 828-4706.

Exhibit: "Flour Power: A Look at Richmond's Flour Industry." Photographs depict the history of Richmond's little-known flour industry, at the Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay St. For more information, call 649-0711.

Exhibit: "Thorton Dial: The Tiger Looking In" is on display through May 4 at Artspace, 6 E. Broad St. For more information, 782-8672.

Exhibit: Colombian artist and VCU graduate Francisco Londono displays his paintings through May 2 at Coincidence Gallery, 2401 W. Main St. The exhibit features Londono's attempt to depict the emotional essences of specific scenes. For more information, call 353-5102.

Theater: Oscar Wilde's comedy "An Ideal Husband" is presented through April 10 by the Theatre at Bolling Haxall at the Woman's Club, 211 E. Franklin St. For more information, call 643-2847.

Concert: Guitar Studio, part of the Ponce Festival, begins at 8 p.m. at the recital hall, 1015 Grove Ave. The free event is directed by John Patykula and sponsored by the VCU Department of Music. For more information, call 828-6776.

Concert: The University Band begins at 8 p.m. at the Concert Hall of the Performing Arts. The performance is sponsored by the VCU Department of Music. For more information, call 828-6776.

Workshop: "Faculty Examples of Using Multiple Technologies for Delivering Distributed Education," a workshop sponsored by the Office for Information and Technology begins in Room B-35 of Cabell Library at noon. For more information, send e-mail to wdeihl@vcu.edu.

Housing Fair: An off-campus housing fair will be held in the Commons Plaza at 10 a.m., sponsored by the University Student Commons/Activities. Rain date is April 16.

Seminar: "Preparing for College, Part Two. Financial Aid: What's available and how to get it," begins at noon in the commons Forum Room. The event is sponsored by the VCU Work and Family Resources.

Concert: It's Disco Night at Twister's, 929 W. Grace St., with DJ Mark Dooky Doo. For more information, call 353-GAME.

Special Event: Aileen Ribeiro, costume historian will share her expertise at 7:30 p.m. at the Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay St. For more information, call 649-0711.

Theater: "Christina Darling," a musical spoof of the movie "Mommy Dearest" opens at

Fieldens Cabaret Theater, 2033 W. Broad St. The play begins at 8:15 p.m. Performances run April 9-12 and on Fridays and Saturdays through May 3. For more information, call 346-8113.

## Thursday, April 10

Workshop: "The Big Picture: Personal Vision," a workshop sponsored by the University Counseling Services, begins at 3:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. For more information, call 828-6200.

Talent Show: Sponsored by Panhellenic, the Greek Week Talent Show begins at the Commons Theater at 8 p.m.

Dance: Sponsored by the APB/Film Committee, a DJ Dance begins in the Commonwealth Ballroom at the commons at 9 p.m. VCU students with valid IDs can bring up to 2 guests who are college students or at least 18.

Concert: Revelations with DJ Rick Danger rock at Twisters, 929 W. Grace St. For more information, call 353-GAME.

## Friday, April 11

Film: "Metro" begins at 7 p.m. followed by "Scream" at 9:30 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. Sponsored by the APB/Film Committee, the movies are free with VCU ID.

Special Event: "Fashionable Options Career Day," sponsored by the department of fashion design and merchandising, begins at 9:15 a.m. at the VCU Performing Arts Center, 922 Park Ave. For more information, call 828-6776.

Concert: Type O Negative takes the stage at 8 p.m. at the Flood Zone, 11 S. 18th St. for an all-ages show. For more information, call 643-1117.

Concert: The Business, Warzone and H804 take the stage at 6 p.m. at Twisters, 929 W. Grace St. For more information, call 353-GAME.

## Saturday, April 12

Film: "Scream" begins at 7 p.m. followed by "Metro" at 9:30 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. Sponsored by the APB/Film Committee, the movies are free to VCU students with ID.

Concert: VCU Madrigalists perform at 8 p.m. at the VCU Performing Arts Center. The concert is sponsored by the VCU department of music. For more information, call 828-6776.

Concert: BS & M takes the stage, along with Kyle Davis at 10 p.m. at Alley Katz, 10 Walnut Alley, for an 18-and-over show. For more information, call 643-2816.

Concert: Jim Nabors performs with the Richmond Symphony at 8 p.m. at Richmond's Landmark



**MYSTERY — Type O Negative will play an all-ages show at 8 p.m. Friday at Flood Zone.**

Theater, 6 N. Laurel Ave. For more information, call 780-4213.

Concert: Unsane, Kiss it Goodbye and Sweet Diesel play an all ages show beginning at 6 p.m. followed by Speaker and Special Guests for an 18 and up show starting at 11 p.m., at Twisters, 929 W. Grace St. For more information, call 353-GAME.

## Sunday, April 13

Film: Sponsored by the APB/Alternative Film Committee, "Blue" begins at 5 p.m., "White" begins at 7 p.m., followed by "Red" beginning at 9 p.m. All films will be shown in the common ground and are free with VCU ID.

Film: The Anderson Gallery, 907 1/2 W. Franklin St., presents "Two Moon July" at 2 p.m. For more information, call 828-1522.

Concert: A Jazz Concert featuring George Duke and Rachelle Ferrel begins at 7 p.m. at Richmond's Landmark Theater, 6 N. Laurel Ave. For more information, call 780-4213.

Concert: The Virginia Union University Choir, under the direction of Shelia Tate, performs at 4 p.m. at Artspace, 6 E. Broad St. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 782-8672.

Concert: Twisters, 929 W. Grace St., hosts Grief, Shine and Seven Ft. Spleen for a show starting at 6 p.m. For more information, call 353-GAME.

## Monday, April 14

Workshop: "Getting What You Need: Effective Communication" begins at noon in the Forum Room in the commons. For more information, call 828-6200.

Lecture: "On Campus Talking About Alcohol" begins at 2 p.m. in the commons, Capital Room A. Sponsored by University Health Services.

## Tuesday, April 15

Lecture: David Baldacci will speak as part of the Eleventh Annual Cabell Lecture, sponsored by James Branch Cabell Library Associates, at 7 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. For more information, call 828-1108.

Concert: The Chieftains perform with the Richmond Symphony at 8 p.m. at Richmond's Landmark Theater, 6 N. Laurel Ave. For more information, call 780-4213.

Special Event: Twisters, 929 W. Grace St. hosts the Wonderland Sound and Skate Tour '97, featuring pro skaters at 6 p.m. For more information, call 353-GAME.



# Goulet performs in 'Man of La Mancha'

Laurie McKay Smith

CT STAFF WRITER

Richmond theater buffs were not disappointed with Saturday night's performance of "Man of La Mancha."

Robert Goulet, who played the lead character of Don Quixote, certainly obeyed his father's orders by leaving the Landmark Theater crowd standing with smiles on their faces and hands clapping.

According to Goulet's dossier, he first sang at the age of five and the enthusiastic applause terrified him. Since that time, Goulet has appeared in many Broadway productions such as "South Pacific," "Meet Me in St. Louis" and "Carousel."

He has received the Tony Award for best actor for his role in "I Do! I Do!," "Kiss Me, Kate," "Camelot," "The Fantasticks" and "South Pacific."

Although Dale Wasserman wrote the plot of "Man of La Mancha" to entertain audiences, it is Goulet's rapport with his audience that creates a connection.

As a storyteller, Goulet or Miguel de Cervantes, weaves several stories into one masterpiece. The play opens as Cervantes waits



**DETERMINED** — Robert Goulet performs as Don Quixote in "Man of La Mancha," which ran last week at the Landmark Theater.

to appear before the Spanish Inquisition.

Once inside the prison, he and his trusted squire, played by Darryl Ferrer, are tried by their peers.

As actors, they create the adventures of Don Quixote, who is viewed as a madman by some and

an optimist by others. Cervante's goal was to entertain his fellow prisoners and to prove that he is a writer.

When Cervantes must finally confront the Inquisition, his fellow prisoners encourage him to defend himself with his art. He and his squire leave the stage

with approval and dignity.

Probably the biggest surprise of the performance was the talented Susan Hoffman who played Aldonza, Quixote's love. Hoffman's charm and opera voice was stunning.

Having appeared in "My Fair Lady," "Fiddler on the Roof" and

"On the Town," Hoffman is not a stranger to the stage. She has studied with Shirley Jones and Debbie Reynolds and her talent truly complimented Goulet.

Richmonders attending "Man of La Mancha" were treated to a wonderful production by professional stars.



**ONE OF MANY FACES** — Val Kilmer changes his look countless times during "The Saint."

# Kilmer brings salvation to 'The Saint'

Hollie Atkins

CT ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

Espionage, true love, explosions and a secret formula all combine to make up "The Saint."

The film seems a little more than vaguely reminiscent of such past works as the James Bond movies and "Mission Impossible."

Val Kilmer stars in the title role of the saint. He basically suffers from an identity crisis. As a child, he grew up in an orphanage where all children were named for saints.

The Saint chooses not to recognize his namesake and calls himself Simon Templar after a magician in a story. Early on, he develops the knack for picking locks. After tragedy strikes, the young Simon flees the orphanage to become a spy.

Kilmer changes hairstyles and voices faster than a viewer can blink. With each new identity, he assumes the name of a different saint. The name changes tell the

viewer that Kilmer's character isn't quite sure who he is or what name he should have.

Kilmer's character decides he will quit the business after reaching his goal of \$50 million. He takes a job in Moscow offered by a power-hungry villain who aspires to be president. The mission — steal the formula for cold fusion developed by scientist Emma Russell.

Elizabeth Shue as Dr. Emma Russell reminds one of the "girl next door" with her innocent expressions and fumbling speeches to her students about cold fusion. Her innocence is what ultimately attracts Kilmer.

Russell also has a heart problem that seems to be of no real importance other than to provide suspense when she loses her heart pills and Kilmer risks his life to retrieve them.

Ironically enough, it is Russell who seems to understand Simon Templar. His love for her makes Templar want to abandon the

mission of stealing her equation. He stays on only to save her from the villains in Moscow.

Here is where the only small problem with the film lies. A viewer never gets the impression that these villains will ever win or cause any major problem.

The presidential wannabe sends his son to deal with Templar. This man stumbles around and lets Templar and Russell slip away time and time again.

His feeble attempts to capture the saint make the audience want to laugh.

After watching the villain make a fool and seeing that the cold fusion equation works, the viewer might expect the film to end. However, it continues as Templar and Russell rendezvous in a remote cottage.

It goes on for about another fifteen minutes just to make sure the viewer knows these two will find a way to be together even though the police are always looking for Templar.

Although littered with classic "spymovie" scenarios and a James Bond romance theme, the film is entertaining.

A viewer will get caught up in the film and can't afford to blink for fear of missing something. Kilmer does a fantastic job of pulling off the title role. Shue's performance as the naive Russell also comes across well.

Among the film's other attributes is a powerful soundtrack which may remind a viewer of "Mission Impossible" when the theme song blasts on every few minutes. Artists such as Moby, Sneaker Pimps, Duran Duran and David Bowie combine talents to make up the album which also contains a number of techno and instrumental mixes.

The film manages to entertain without a thoughtful plotline. Some of the chase scenes will keep you on edge. Kilmer's performance really makes the film. Spy movie lovers will definitely enjoy this one.



# Goulet performs in 'Man of LaMancha'

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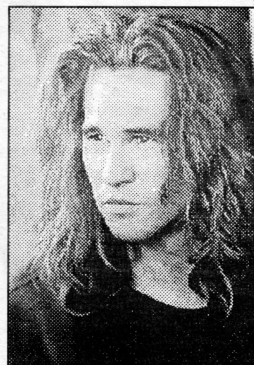
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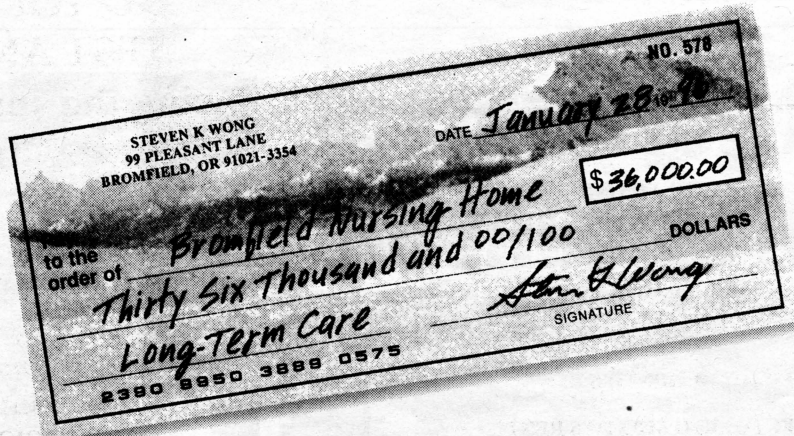
Although littered with classic "spymovie" scenarios and a James Bond romance theme, the film is entertaining.

A viewer will get caught up in the film and can't afford to blink for fear of missing something. Kilmer does a fantastic job of pulling off the title role. Shue's performance as the naive Russell also comes across well.

Among the film's other attributes is a powerful soundtrack which may remind a viewer of "Mission Impossible" when the theme song blasts on every few minutes. Artists such as Moby, Sneaker Pimps, Duran Duran and David Bowie combine talents to make up the album which also contains a number of techno and instrumental mixes.

The film manages to entertain without a thoughtful plotline. Some of the chase scenes will keep you on edge. Kilmer's performance really makes the film. Spy movie lovers will definitely enjoy this one.





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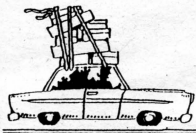
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\* U.S. General Accounting Office, Long-term Care: *Diverse, Growing Population Includes Millions of Americans of All Ages*, GAO/HEHS-95-96 (Washington, DC 1994).

\*\* Home health care can easily cost \$12,000 each year and the national average cost for one year in a nursing home is \$36,000. *Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance* (HIAA, 1994).

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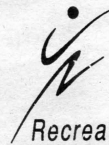
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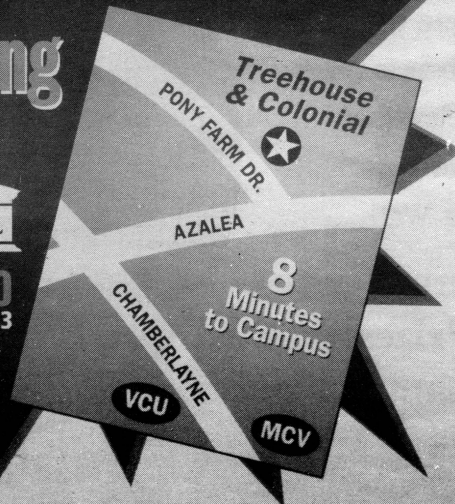
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# ASHCRAFT

continued from page 16

Keys agreed: "He's more of a leader on the field. It's been tough on him but he understands his role."

Sophomore Brandon Inge, who was a preseason second-team All-American, said Ashcraft's leadership has been what the team has needed to succeed in the conference.

"He picks whoever is down and helps them get back," Inge said. "He also makes the plays and that makes a world of difference."

The Rams may have found a diamond in the rough but in fact The Diamond, where VCU plays, found Ashcraft.

He was ignored by the more famous universities because of his size when he played high school ball, and now VCU is reaping the rewards of those schools' oversight.

Former VCU coach Bob Smith was working a camp in Kentucky when he found himself short one player. He asked Ashcraft to step in and afterwards invited him to tryout for the Rams.

"They brought me to The Diamond and that was all it took," he said, calling it one of the best college parks in the nation.

With the year he is having, one would think that being drafted is his motivation, but Ashcraft team goals are more important to him than personal accomplishments.

"I don't like to think about that," he said. "(My goal is) to get to regionals. Get a ring. Win the league."

## Correction

■ \$1 million of VCU's share of the new track and soccer complex came from general funds. It was incorrectly reported as being non-general funds in the March 21 issue.



Jay Ashcraft

Rams in Action				
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S TENNIS (22-1)	APRIL 13 VA. TECH	APRIL 17-20 CAA		THE RAMS HOPE TO HOST THE NCAA REGIONAL MAY 9 THROUGH MAY 11.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (0-14)	APRIL 8 ODU	APRIL 10 W&M	APRIL 19-21 CAA	VCU'S BOTTOM FOUR SEEDS HAVEN'T WON THIS SEASON.
BASEBALL (18-15, 9-3)	APRIL 12 JMU	APRIL 13 JMU	APRIL 15 HOWARD	VCU CURRENTLY HAVE A TWO-GAME LEAD IN THE CONFERENCE STANDINGS.
GOLF	APRIL 18-20, CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLDSBORO, N.C.			
TRACK & FIELD	APRIL 11-12, DUKE INVITATIONAL DURHAM, N.C.			
<input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES HOME GAME <input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES AWAY GAME				

INDICATES HOME GAME    INDICATES AWAY GAME

## Commonwealth TIMES

### Athlete of the Week

Brian Mohr

Baseball



■ The freshman from Petersburg, W.Va., did it all in VCU's 8-5 win Sunday against William & Mary. Mohr hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth and pitched the final three innings, allowing only one run and earning the first win of his career. He currently has a 10-game hitting streak and has belted four dingers on the season.

## CAA BASEBALL LEADERS

### STANDINGS

(Through April 7)

Team	Conference	Overall
	W-L	W-L
VCU	9-3	750
Old Dominion	7-5	583
East Carolina	7-5	583
William & Mary	6-6	500
Richmond	6-6	500
James Madison	6-6	500
George Mason	4-8	333
UNC Wilmington	3-9	250

### BATTING

(Through April 7)

PLAYER	AB	H	AVG.
Steve Salargo, ECU	141	60	.426
Matt Pusey, UR	139	59	.424
Mike Colangelo, GMU	112	43	.384
Ron Walker, ODU	133	50	.376
Brian Rockers, W&M	132	47	.376
Kevin Radler, JMU	132	49	.371
Jay Ashcraft, VCU	122	45	.369
Randy Leek, W&M	121	44	.364
Joe Troilo, ODU	166	60	.361
Derek Williams, UNCW	151	54	.358
Scott Morrison, GMU	90	32	.356
Tony Gsell, ODU	152	54	.355
J Capetta, UR	96	34	.354
Justin Lamber, UR	94	33	.351
Nate Turner, JMU	77	27	.351
Ray Baksh, JMU	123	43	.350
Andrew Slater, UR	106	37	.349
Greg Whitt, JMU	141	49	.348
Dennis Champagne, VCU	111	38	.342

### RUNS BATTED IN

(Through April 7)

PLAYER	G	RBI
Ron Walker, ODU	37	55
Matt Pusey, UR	33	46
A. Forell, ODU	37	42
Mike Colangelo, GMU	32	39
Chris Luther, UNCW	39	38
Tony Gsell, ODU	37	37
Joe Troilo, ODU	37	36
Brian Rogers, W&M	35	35
Jake Anthony, VCU	33	35
Randy Rigby, ECU	38	33

### HOME RUNS

(Through April 7)

PLAYER	G	HR
Ron Walker, ODU	37	15
Tim Flaherty, ECU	38	13
Ryan Massimo, ECU	38	8
Five players tied at		7

### PITCHING

(Through April 7)

Team	G	IP	R	ER	ERA
Old Dominion	37	319.1	227	170	4.79
William & Mary	35	292.0	218	161	4.96
George Mason	32	255.0	194	141	4.98
Richmond	34	286.2	214	163	5.12
UNC Wilmington	39	328.1	282	195	5.35
East Carolina	38	315.2	239	193	5.50
VCU	33	276.2	214	175	5.69
James Madison	36	302.2	259	219	6.51

### EARNED RUN AVERAGE

(Through April 7)

PLAYER	W	L	IP	ERA
Brian Brantley, ODU	4	2	40.0	2.70
Andy Cook, W&M	6	2	51.2	3.31
Chad Berryman, VCU	5	3	61.1	3.38
Jason Roach, UNCW	3	2	52.2	3.76
Brian Fields, ECU	5	2	56.2	4.13
Jesse James, ODU	7	1	68.2	4.19
Brooks Jernigan, ECU	5	6	66.0	4.23
Mike Huller, GMU	1	4	38.0	4.26
John Cocco, ODU	3	4	53.1	4.39
Mike Dwyer, UR	4	3	48.2	4.44
Travis Harper, JMU	5	1	48.1	4.47
Randy Leek W&M	4	2	52.0	4.50
Shawn Camp, GMU	3	2	45.1	4.57

### STRIKEOUTS

(Through April 7)

PLAYER	IP	Ks
Brooks Jernigan, ECU	66.0	73
Jessie James, ODU	68.2	69
Will Malerich, W&M	62.1	61
Matt Burch, VCU	58.1	60
Brian Fields, ECU	56.2	57
Justin Lamber, UR	47.1	52
Travis Harper	48.0	52
Jason Roach, UNCW	52	49

## ROLEX COLLEGIATE GOLF RANKINGS

### TEAM RANKINGS

(Through March 27)

RANK	SCHOOL	POINTS
1	UNLV	346.397
2	Alberto Ochoa, TCU	303.641
3	TCU	278.814
4	Clemson University	266.506
5	Southern California	229.886
6	North Carolina	220.477
7	New Mexico	218.594
8	Arizona	217.189
9	Arizona State	205.357
10	Wake Forest	204.504
11	Florida	198.322
12	East Tennessee St.	191.597
13	Texas	187.062
14	Ohio State	141.053
15	Virginia	136.882
16	Auburn	121.290
17	Mississippi St.	120.429
18	Georgia Tech	119.991
19	Brigham Young	104.309
20	Minnesota	103.890
21	VCU	103.616

### INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

(Through March 27)

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Chris Hannel, Arizona St.	201.409
2	Alberto Ochoa, TCU	188.286
3	Chris Wollmann, Ohio St.	177.840
4	Bo VanPelt, Oklahoma St.	159.908
5	Doug LaBelle, New Mexico	157.042
6	Michael Connell, Mississippi St.	151.453
7	Arron Oberholser, San Jose St.	150.000
8	Steve Scott, Florida	149.111
9	Brad Elder, Texas	144.200
10	Tim Clark, N.C. State	137.143
11	Jonathon Byrd, Clemson	118.900
12	Keith Nolan, East Tenn. St.	116.667
13	Joel Kribel, Stanford University	112.404
14	John Rollins, VCU	112.296
15	Mark Wilson, North Carolina	111.031
16	Clint Jensen, Tulsa	106.256
17	Ray Floyd Jr., Wake Forest	104.125
18	Hank Kuehne, Southern Methodist	99.436
19	Roger Tambellini, Southern California	94.967
20	Lee McEntee, North Carolina	94.462
	Other Rams ranked: No. 90 Miguel Reyes, 27.632	

## ROLEX COLLEGIATE TENNIS RANKINGS

### TEAM RANKINGS

(Through March 24)

RANK	SCHOOL	RECORD	AVG.
1	UCLA	16-1	50.98
2	Georgia	12-1	34.07
3	Mississippi St.	13-1	33.97
4	Boise St.	17-2	33.95
5	Kentucky	11-3	32.35
6	Mississippi	13-2	30.14
7	Stanford	11-1	28.01
8	Middle Tennessee	12-2	25.97
9	Pepperdine	14-4	25.95
10	South Alabama	12-7	25.87
11	Notre Dame	14-4	25.61
12	Duke	8-5	25.43
13	LSU	12-2	24.67
14	VCU	19-1	24.59
15	Illinois	9-6	24.00
16	Texas	13-5	22.68
17	Southern California	10-2	21.33
18	Kansas	10-5	21.31
19	Auburn	9-4	20.38
20	Alabama	11-7	16.28

### INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

(Through March 24)

RANK	PLAYER	AVG
1	Thomas Dupre, Mississippi State	25.25
2	Matthieu Bailly, Mississippi State	22.43
3	Sebastian DeChaunac, Mississippi	22.01
4	John Roddick, Georgia	21.19
5	Cedric Kauffman, Kentucky	19.15
6	Mike Russell, Miami (Fla.)	18.69
7	Fredric Niemayer, Middle Tenn. St.	17.56
8	Johan Landsberg, Mississippi	14.86
9	Eddie Jacques, Georgia	14.58
10	Eric Taino, UCLA	14.47
11	Paul Goldstein, Stanford	14.28
12	Richard Wernerjelm, VCU	12.72
13	Mitch Sprengelmeyer, Clemson	12.70
14	Johan Hede, Mississippi	12.61
15	Ludde Sundin, Kentucky	12.55
16	Enrique Abaroa, Kansas	12.39
17	John James, South Alabama	12.26
18	Olivier Tauma, VCU	11.87
19	Ryan Wolters, Stanford	11.82
20	Ignacio Hirigoyen, SMU	11.76

Other Rams ranked: No. 45 Daniel Andersson, 6.36

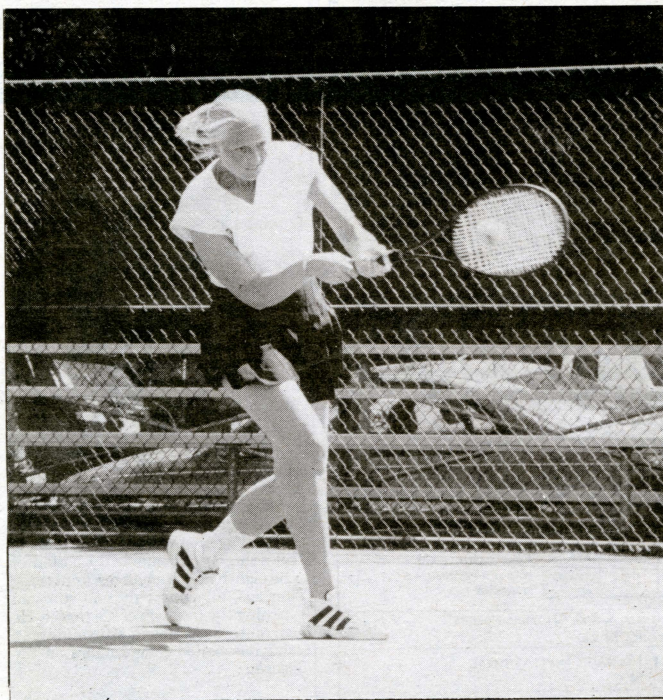


■ Women's tennis player Iona Poljakova (1992-95) holds the school record for singles victories in a career with 63.

WEDNESDAY, April 9, 1997

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 28, No. 68



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

**BRIGHT SPOT** — Sofia Hiort, seen practicing for her match Thursday, won in straight sets against Old Dominion's Michelle Tyson to up her personal record to 10-2 on the season. As a team, the Lady Rams are 0-14.

## ODU whips Lady Rams; VCU remains winless

Oren Briesse  
CT STAFF WRITER

The injury bug is starting to take a big bite out of the Lady Rams tennis team's season as they lost another player during the 7-2

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

loss to conference foe Old Dominion Tuesday afternoon at the Thalheimer Tennis Center.

Freshman Greta Perovic retired from her match early in the first set with back spasms. She is expected to return to the lineup for Thursday's match against No. 4 William and Mary.

"It's really frustrating. I was fine this morning and I was looking forward to playing today, but my back acted up when I started serving and I couldn't continue," Perovic said.

The team continued its struggles managing only one singles victory while dropping their record to 0-14 on the year. Sofia Hiort continued her outstanding season with a 6-2, 6-0 demolition of ODU's top seed, Michelle Tyson.

The win improved Hiort's singles record to 10-2 on the year. Hiort has accounted for over 60 percent of the team's victories this year, including doubles.

Helena Karlsson and Siri Thayaprasat both dropped tough matches to their Mon-

arch opponents. Karlsson lost 6-7 (6-8), 3-6 while Thayaprasat, using a strong backhand, lost 3-6, 5-7.

"The best thing that came out of the match today was the play of Thayaprasat. She picked her game up a notch today, and that is good to see entering the conference tournament," said coach Eva Bard.

Thayaprasat drops to 0-14 on the season, and the Lady Rams' bottom four seeds have gone winless in 48 tries.

The only other victory came from the doubles tandem of Hiort and Karlsson. They held on for a 8-7 (7-1) victory over the ODU team of Lucianna Araujo and Holly Rivers.

Hiort and Karlsson built a 6-3 lead and then watched as ODU rallied for a 7-6 advantage before winning convincingly in the tie breaker.

Hiort and Karlsson improved their doubles record to 7-6, the only winning record on the team.

The loss of Perovic early in the day forced VCU to concede her singles match as well as the doubles match.

"In the past month we have all gained a great deal of confidence, and therefore our play has also improved. The teams that we have played have been just too tough," Perovic said.

The Lady Rams close the regular season against W&M Thursday afternoon at the Thalheimer Tennis Center. They will then likely compete in the play-in game of the Colonial Athletic Association Championship on April 19 in Norfolk.

## Rams roll over Highlanders

Big innings propelled the VCU baseball team to an 11-5 victory over Radford Tuesday afternoon at Dedmon Center Park.

The Rams (19-15) had 16 hits, four of which were homers.

### BASEBALL

Left fielder Jay Ashcraft went four of five from the plate, shortstop Brandon Inge drove in five runs on three hits and catcher Cory Whitby drove in four runs. Each man went yard.

VCU struck early, getting a solo homer from Ashcraft and a two-run shot from Inge in the first inning.

The Rams then added five more runs in the top of the second to jump out to a quick 8-0 lead. Designated hitter Anthony Linhardt hit a solo shot, Whitby drove in two runs with a double and Inge knocked in two more runners with a single.

VCU starter Bryan Farkas improved his record to 2-0 allowing just one run and three hits in three innings of work.

After Radford rallied to get within three, Brad Simpson closed it for the Rams throwing three scoreless innings and Inge added a three-run homer in the ninth.

The Rams have the next three days off, their longest break until early May, before traveling to Harrisonburg this weekend for a pair of games with James Madison. They return next week for a five-

game homestand highlighted by a three-game weekend set against cross-town rival Richmond.

— compiled from news sources

### VCU 11, RADFORD 5

(At Dedmon Center Park)

VCU (19-15)	ab r h bi	RADFORD (17-19)	ab r h bi
Mohr, 3b	4 1 0 0	Elms, 3b	3 1 1 0
Martin, cf	5 2 2 0	Lombardi, ss	5 2 3 1
Ashcraft, lf	5 2 4 1	Dumpeier, 2b	4 0 1 0
Inge, ss	5 3 3 5	Carr, lb	2 1 1 0
Whitby, c	5 1 2 4	Thomas, ph/1b	2 0 1 1
Champagne, rf	4 0 1 0	Collins, c	4 0 1 1
Searcy, rf	0 0 0 0	Gordon, dh	3 0 0 0
Anthony, lb	5 0 0 0	Reed, rf	2 1 1 0
Linhardt, dh	4 1 2 1	Nowak, ph/rf	1 0 1 0
Sipe, pr/ph	0 0 0 0	Pattier, c	4 0 2 1
Tomes, 2b	3 1 2 0	McLadden, lf	1 0 0 0
Farkas, p	0 0 0 0	Whitting, ph	3 0 0 0
Berryman, p	0 0 0 0	Zimmerman, p	0 0 0 0
Simpson, p	0 0 0 0	Cooke, p	0 0 0 0
		Anderson, p	0 0 0 0

TOTALS 40 11 16 11 TOTALS 34 5 12 4

VCU 350 000 003 — 11 16 0  
Radford 001 110 200 — 5 12 1

E—Lombardi, DP—VCU 3, Radford 3 LOB—VCU 5, Radford 8, 2B—Ashcraft, Whitby, Collins, Patter, Reed 3B—Lombardi

HR—Ashcraft (6), Inge (3), Whitby (4), Linhardt (3) SB—Inge (5), Martin (2), Elms (1), CS—Gordon

VCU IP H R ER BB SO

Farkas, 2-0 3 3 1 1 2 1

Berryman 3 6 4 4 2 1

Simpson, 51 3 3 0 0 0 3

Radford IP H R ER BB SO

Zimmerman, 1-1 1 1 7 8 8 10

Hankey 5.2 4 0 0 0 2

Cooke 1 2 0 0 0 2

Anderson 1 3 3 3 1 1

WP—Farkas.

HBP—by Zimmerman (Mohr), by Farkas (Gordon), by Farkas (Carr).

## Senior lets bat do talking

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CT STAFF WRITER

In today's commercialized sports world, heroes have become giants off the field as well as on.

One reason athletes have become larger than life is simply because they are now bigger than anyone else.

But baseball is a unique sport in that it doesn't reward anyone for size. In football and basketball the prerequisites for success seem to be that one must be a giant or big as a mountain. Those shorter than 6 feet tall and weighing less than 175 pounds need not apply.

But baseball is a sport for the man of any size. It rewards those who can persevere through struggles at the plate — where failing 70 percent of the time is a feat to be proud of — more than it does those who can touch a basketball net without jumping.

Standing at 5 feet 9 inches, Jay Ashcraft could easily be mistaken for your average Joe found at the Lombardy Market or somewhere else in the Fan. But don't let his average height and quiet demeanor fool you.

He may not be able to dunk a basketball, but he is VCU's leader on the diamond and on the statistic sheet.

After two years with averages just under the .300 mark, Ashcraft has exploded as one of the Rams' main offensive threats, carrying a .350 average last year and hitting .369 this season.

The native of Lexington, Ky., attributes his rise up the statistical ladder to two things — "getting bigger and getting smarter." The size has come via the weight room and the intelligence at the plate from experience.

The biggest improvement is his newly discovered plate savvy, said VCU coach Paul Keyes.

"Jay has worked hard to become a real good player," Keyes said. "He's really improved his mental aspects."

However, one of the toughest roles he has had to learn to play this year has little to do with workouttime or batting practice. As one of the few seniors who receives consistent playing time, Ashcraft now has to play the role of leader.

Ashcraft

He said he's tried to be vocal and talkative to his younger teammates, but the best way he's found to lead the team is by sticking to what has put him in the leadership role — his bat.

"You can do all the yelling you want," he said, "but it won't do you any good if you aren't getting the hits."

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