

## WEATHER



**SATURDAY** — Showers,  
low 46, high 63



**SUNDAY** — Showers,  
low 50, high 64

# Commonwealth TIMES

## INSIDE

■ Go to page 7 of Spectrum and see which one of the "Five Guys Named Moe" is pointing to the sky.



FRIDAY, April 11, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 69

## VCU takes shots from flu season

*Outbreak hit at end  
of fall semester*

**Kristin Lambo**  
CT STAFF WRITER

Specialists soon will begin researching what next year's flu season will bring to VCU, but for now students can rest easier knowing the flu epidemic is behind them.

The assistant medical director of University Student Health Services, Dr. David Nelson, called this year's flu season atypical for VCU.

"It was unusual to have a significant flu epidemic in the first semester," Nelson said. "It was hard for students who were trying to take exams and write papers."

Typically, he said, cases start showing up early in January and increase after winter break. This year students began showing symptoms of the type-A influenza virus the week after Thanksgiving, a month earlier than previous seasons. By the end of the winter break, he said, a few other students developed symptoms.

John Herrington, an art education major at VCU, said his unexpected case of the flu kept him home from school for three days in early December.

"I got really sick before exams," he said. "I couldn't think about getting out of bed to take them." Herrington said he experienced difficulty sleeping in addition to chills and a fever.

Renee Milton, program support technician for the state health department, said a major peak in flu cases occurred all across Virginia in mid- to late-December. In early January, she said, type-A cases declined with a gradual increase in type-B cases, the less severe of the two types.

Dr. Betty Anne Johnson, health services director, recommends that most people receive a flu vaccine every fall. "Young people tend not to be severely affected, but all people with high contact to the flu should get the vaccine," she said, adding that her entire staff lined up for the shot early last semester.

Nelson recommended that people with asthma, diabetes and other chronic respiratory and metabolic problems receive the vaccine, although some side effects may occur. These include fever, bodyaches and weakness.

Flu diagnosis, he said, is based on the symptoms since no specific test exists for the illness. These symptoms include fever, chills, bodyaches and sore throat that usually last about three days. Johnson said she generally recommends flu patients drink fluids and take Tylenol (acetaminophen) to suppress the fever.

## GRTC helps to protect environment with electric buses

**Terry Scanlon**  
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Electronic vehicles are re-emerging on technology's cutting edge, and the City of Richmond is getting on the environmentally sound bandwagon.

Currently the Greater Richmond Transit Company is getting ready to employ three electronic buses that are prototypes developed by Virginia Power.

Not only are the buses an opportunity for the community to gain a leg up on environmental standards nationwide, but the plan is also getting the state's largest utility in on the ground floor of a potentially revolutionary product.

EVs are not new. They have been around as long as the combustion engine vehicles, but automakers such as Henry Ford decided in the infant days of the industry to pursue the combustion engine course. Some EVs were produced during the energy crisis of the 1970s, but difficulties arose from recharging vehicles.

"Charging technology was going down the wrong road and if it came in large numbers it would create large problems," said Virginia Power's electronic vehicle specialist Arlie Hahn.

The misguided technologies along with new federal regulations as well as potential business prompted Virginia Power to get involved, Hahn said.

"We are required to go to clean-fuel vehicles so we needed to prepare for that and we feel like we're in a leadership position," he said. "If we are an early leader in the technology we will attract a lot of manufacturers."

"We can be a good corporate citizen. It's good for the environment and it also helps reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil."

The biggest change in EVs from two decades ago is the method of charging. There is no potentially dangerous metal on metal charging.

Instead, a flat paddle-shaped plug is inserted in a port on the right rear side of the bus where a gas would be pumped into



Rob Byrne/Commonwealth Times

**MUSIC MAKERS** — Conductor Terry Austin, associate professor of music, takes a bow after the University Band gave its spring concert Wednesday night. Offered every semester, the band class is open to all students by audition.

## National model seen as standard

**Michelle Combs**  
CT STAFF WRITER

When the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education reaccredited VCU's School of Education a year ago, it identified the Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium, called MERC, as a national model.

Alan McLeod, professor and head of the Division for Teacher Education, said this consortium is special because it combines resources and efforts of school divisions and the university in researching important issues.

John Oehler, dean of VCU's School of Education, explained the program, which provides a partnership with six area school districts.

"The consortium studies educational problems mutually identified by the schools and the university," he said.

"We take those studies and publish short reports and sometimes hold seminars for the school districts."

For instance, MERC studied the impact of block scheduling and the resilience of at-risk students.

The council's board of examiners looks for certain standards while evaluating a school. Examples, Oehler said, include how courses deliver both curricula and

clinical experience, learning how to use current technology in classroom settings and asking specific questions relating to the qualifications and effectiveness of the faculty.

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### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

a diesel bus. The plug, which transfers the electrons magnetically, can be handled without fear of electrocution, Virginia Power officials said. To help dispel myths of the potential hazards of re-charging an EV, Virginia Power has put on demonstrations at trade shows of a pregnant woman and children plugging in the car while it's raining.

While Hahn's convinced they'll be a viable form of transportation in the years to come, Hahn cautions that his company's fleet of 44 vehicles is still working out the kinks.

"The technology for transit is in the

ELECTRIC continued to page 3 ►

# Weird NEWS

*Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction*



## •Virgin art angers Catholics

A quilt created by a student at Pennsylvania State University last month enraged a state lawmaker and Roman Catholics who said it mocked Christianity.

A senior displayed a quilt that features 25 pairs of underwear with red crosses sewn in the crotches. She named the exhibit "25 Years of Virginity: A Self Portrait." She told the Associated Press that the exhibit celebrated her Catholicism.

Last fall, the same student sparked controversy with another work, a 5-foot-tall sculpture of the Virgin Mary being born, but removed it amid protest. Penn State's president has stood by the quilt exhibit.

## •Where's the beef?

Rather than allow gay high school students form a club, the Salt Lake City School Board voted to ban all non-academic organizations in the city's three area high schools.

The move affects approximately 30 service, ethnic and sports clubs.

"Everyone suffers because of the gays," complained one 16-year-old student and member of East High's Beef Club, which the Associated Press reported met "to eat steaks and burgers and attend a 'monster truck' rally.

## •Setting it straight

In London, subway officials announced that they have devised a plan for ending

confusion among ticket collectors. The transit system will issue passengers undergoing a sex change two identity cards—one for the original gender and one for the new gender.

## •Smooth moves

A man in Nashua, N.H., was charged with dispensing a narcotic. Bailiffs caught the gentleman handing a packet of heroin to a woman sitting at the defendant's table in a courtroom awaiting arraignment on another drug charge.

## •Nice try

The U.S. Supreme Court in January rejected the appeal of a man convicted of possession of illegal drugs. The man claimed he did not receive a fair trial because there were no obese people serving as jurors.

## •Weathermen beware

An Israeli woman sued a popular television weatherman for \$1,000 after he predicted a sunny day, but the day turned out to be stormy. The woman claimed that because of the weatherman's forecast, she left home lightly dressed, was caught in the rain, caught the flu, missed four days' work and spent \$38 on medication.

## •Schizophrenia strikes again

A Virginia man serving a 23-year sentence at a Chesapeake correctional center

admitted it was his own fault that he became so intoxicated and committed breaking and entering and grand larceny, and filed suit against himself for \$5 million for violating his own religious beliefs over drinking. The judge said while the man had presented an innovative approach to civil rights litigation, his claim was ludicrous.

## •Some never learn

Two teenage boys in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., after a hearing before a judge for stealing a car, which according to police was the 25th car theft committed by the boys in two years, walked out of the courthouse, realized they had no bus fare home, and promptly swiped No. 26, which they crashed into a fence 45 minutes later.

## •Free the hypocrites

Two weeks after an embittered Montana Freeman had a sign nailed to his fence that began, "Freemen are NOT a part to the de facto corporate prostitute aka the United States," a newspaper reported that the man and his ranch partners received \$676,082 in federal assistance over the past 10 years.

## •Big boys and their toys

A bicyclist who confronted three well-dressed men walking to their hotel in Alexandria pointed what looked like a 9-mm - automatic handgun at them and demanded

money. The three men turned out to be off-duty federal agents, who drew their own weapons and fired more than 20 shots, hitting the would-be robber, as well as three cars, a truck, two homes and an office building. The injured suspect's weapon turned out to be a pellet gun.

## •When a nicotine craving gets ugly

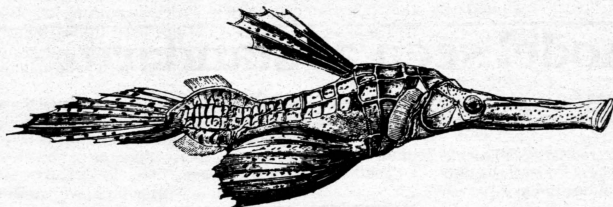
A New Jersey state trooper stopped a car for speeding and was asking the three occupants routine questions when one of them, a 30-year-old woman, asked if she could have a cigarette from a pack in the car's glove compartment. While handing the pack to the woman, the officer noticed it contained a marijuana joint. Authorities reported that a search of the vehicle turned up \$32,000 in suspected drug-buy money, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

## •At least it wasn't the Macarena

Dr. Hector Corona, an American scientist, reported that dolphins sing along to the radio. Corona claimed that when he slowed down the dolphin's recordings to one-quarter speed, he discovered they were actually singing popular hits, like those of Mariah Carey and Bryan Adams, which he claims the dolphins heard by picking up sound waves from radios on boats and beaches.

—compiled from news sources

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**THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST** —Students line up to be recognized Wednesday night at the College of Humanities and Sciences' annual awards ceremony. Eighteen department awarded their most outstanding students for their achievements.

Chieu Nguyen/Commonwealth Times

## VCU honors outstanding students and faculty

It was the best night of the year, said Susan E. Kennedy, interim dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, as the college recognized the achievement of more than 160 students and faculty for their hard work, promise of a bright future.

Those students in the top one percent of their class were recognized along with outstanding students in eighteen departments as well as those who received scholarships in from a variety of different organizations.

### •DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Robert Talbert  
associate professor of history and philosophy  
and religious studies

### •DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Tom De Haven  
professor of English

### •DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

John McGrath  
professor of sociology

### •DISTINGUISHED ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBER

Jack Spiro  
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

### •OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Gregory Wingfield  
B.S. Urban Studies 1974  
M.S. Urban and Regional Planning 1976

## ELECTRIC

continued from page 1

early years," he said. "They're not perfected yet.

"The one area that still needs to improve and is improving is the battery technology."

Charles Mitchell, GRTC's director of maintenance, said the city is still running tests on its small fleet of electric buses to determine how far they'll run. Virginia Power has said that on a fully charged battery the buses will run for 50 to 70 miles. Mitchell pointed out that that's under ideal circumstances. Driver abuse and cold weather are just two factors that can play into weakening the battery.

"We're not sure how far they'll go," he said.

While each of the major automobile makers are planning to market electric cars in the coming years (and Hahn said the Washington, D.C., area may be one of the first test markets) promoters of the new industry are attempting to dispel myths. One such myth, Hahn said, is that EVs can't climb hills. Mitchell said the electric city buses will scoot up a hill just as well as a diesel bus when it is running on a full battery. But after the battery wears down it becomes noticeable.

"If you wait too long (before recharging) you might not make it up the hill," he said.

The problem there, Mitchell said is that a drained

battery takes up to eight hours to recharge. Most of this would be done during non-peak hours at night so Virginia Power would be able to handle the excess demand.

Also, the city is training its operators how to drive the new buses. Mitchell said there's a definite difference from normal diesel buses, especially acceleration. Picking up speed too quickly drains energy from the battery and the bus warns the driver, he said.

"They have a little alarm that tell you when you're accelerating too fast," Mitchell said, "and it's really annoying."

The advantages to the electric-powered vehicles is the environmental impact — or lack of it.

"You only need to ride on a bicycle behind an electric bus and then behind a diesel bus to figure out which is better for the environment," said Sierra Club lobbyist Albert C. Pollard Jr.

Mitchell acknowledged that the electric buses are not economical for the city at this point, but they could be and a long term investment and they are kind to the air quality.

"We knew it's not as economical right now as a diesel bus," he said, "but when you look at the environment — and that's what people are looking at — it's a lot cleaner

for the environment."

In addition the vehicles are much simpler. There's no oil needed to be changed, there's no tailpipe and exhaust system and there are much fewer hoses and pumps under the hood.

Another problem encountered by designers of EVs, Hahn said, is the lack of noise. Without the rev of the engine other noises, such as tires on the pavement, are more noticeable to the driver and passengers. Also when the vehicle is moving slowly, such as in parking lots, it can sneak up on pedestrians that are used to hearing cars coming. Hahn said noise makers, such as though used by trucks when driving in reverse, may need to be installed on EVs.

Mitchell said the city will probably use the buses mainly for its express routes — Glenside, Parham, Gaskins and Stony Point — because they are short.

The buses will only need to drive from the maintenance lot to the satellite lots, into downtown and back to the bus yard. He emphasized that they will not try to overwork the vehicles.

"There would be nothing worse than to put that vehicle on a 70-mile route and have it quit after 60 miles," Mitchell said.

## MODEL

continued from page 1

McLeod said the school's reaccreditation means its graduates are more marketable across the country.

"All states recognize the importance of an NCATE-accredited school," he said.

Senior education student Kathryn Curran said although the reaccreditation is positive, as a substitute teacher in many area schools, she is disappointed in some of the educational theory classes she has taken at VCU.

"A lot of the theory cannot be used in the classroom. It may apply to one or two students," she said. "I want to be able to use what I learn."

"Use more case studies," Curran recommended, saying studying unusual programs that worked for other schools will better prepare students for classroom teaching.

Although there is always room for improvement, McLeod called VCU's School of Education exceptional.

Other strengths McLeod sees in the

school include nationally recognized faculty and ties to the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, which focuses on employment for the mentally impaired.

One weakness NCATE's board of examiners identified came with the suggestion that the school employ more minority faculty.

Although minority groups are represented on the faculty, McLeod explained that 95 percent of the teachers in the United States are Caucasian. In contrast, he said the U.S. student population is rapidly shifting toward less than 50 percent Caucasian.

"The lack of minority faculty," McLeod said, "has an impact on students in the sense that they need to be exposed to teachers who have different teaching styles as well as different cultures."

To remedy this problem, he advises using more minority professionals as adjunct teachers and managers of clinicals.

"Many of the openings we have are

entry-level and many of the minorities in the field are senior (faculty)," he said.

Even hiring retired teachers with extensive experience in public schools is a possibility, McLeod said.

In addition, Oehler said the examiners requested information on the recruiting process to ensure the broad recruitment of men and women.

"Minority students are a concern because there are so few going into teaching in the past 15 years," the dean said.

Reaccreditation means the school continues to meet the standards of the national accrediting body. Of the almost 2,000 teacher preparatory programs in the nation, Oehler estimated that 700 are nationally accredited.

Although the School of Education can choose not to be reaccredited, Oehler said, it provides an opportunity to review programs against national standards.

"It is a quality assurance mechanism that the public can work toward," he said.

## Life on Jupiter, too?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**PASADENA, Calif.** — "Mind-blowing pictures" of large icebergs on the surface of Jupiter's frozen moon Europa are tantalizing scientists with the possibility they've found evidence of a dynamic ocean, which could have spawned life at some point.

The close up pictures taken by the unmanned Galileo spacecraft during a Feb. 20 flyby have scientists more eager than ever to explore the icy moon's interior. Their enthusiasm was palpable Wednesday as those images, including an animated video, were released at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"These are really mind-blowing pictures," said Richard Terrier, an astronomer at the JPL. "How often is an ocean discovered? ... There is very strong evidence that there is an ocean here." But, JPL's Torrence Johnson cautioned "We have no evidence directly bearing on life."

# Crime Shorts

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

4/3

## Petit Larceny

A female patient reported that between 10:30 a.m. and 12:50 p.m. on 4/1 unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its unsecured location on the 6th floor of MCV's Main Hospital.

Total Value: \$100.00

## Grand Larceny

A male patient reported that at 1 p.m. on 4/2 unknown person(s) removed personal property from the 3rd floor of MCV's North Hospital.

Total Value: \$350.00

4/5

## Damage to State Property

A female employee reported that between 4 p.m. on 4/3 and 8:35 a.m. on 4/4 unknown person(s) damaged state property in Johnson Hall.

4/6

## Petit Larceny

A male patient reported that between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on 4/5 unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecured location in MCV's Main Hospital.

Total Value: \$15.00

4/8

## Grand Larceny

A female employee reported that between 4/3 and 4/7 at an unspecified time

unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its secured location in the MCV Sports Medicine Center.

Total Value: \$400.00

## Petit Larceny

A female student reported that on 4/7 between 12:56 a.m. and 1:04 a.m. unknown person(s) entered her residence and removed personal property from its unsecured location on the 1st floor of Gladding Residence Center.

Total Value: \$100.00

4/9

## Credit Card Fraud

A female student reported that on 4/2 at 9:41 p.m., 4/3 at 5:57 p.m., 4/5 at 5:45 p.m. and 4/7 at an unknown time, a possible known party used her credit card without her permission.

Total Value: \$45.00

4/10

## Grand Larceny

A female employee reported that on 4/9 between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. unknown person(s) removed state property from its unsecured location in MCV's A.D. Williams Clinic.

Total Value: \$500.00

## Threats

A female student reported that between 12:17 a.m. on 3/21 and 11:21 p.m. on 4/7 an unknown subject sent her threatening messages via electronic mail.

# Disagreement need not necessitate bad manners — except on House floor

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON**—In the House, members routinely refer to each other — and themselves — as gentlemen. Sometimes they're just kidding.

Two senior members — fiery Democratic liberal David Obey of Wisconsin and feisty Republican conservative Tom DeLay of Texas — squared off on the floor Wednesday. DeLay uttered a vulgarity and shoved Obey before the two were separated by a DeLay aide.

The dust-up came a month after a much-publicized weekend retreat in Hershey, Pa., designed to increase the civility level in the House following two years of sharply partisan battling.

DeLay, the No. 3 GOP leader in the House, was irked when Democratic Rep. George Miller of California referred to news articles alleging lobbyists had written bills in DeLay's Capitol office. He sought to have Miller's comments expunged from the record, but was overruled.

"This gentleman denies it categorically that it ever happened," DeLay said afterward. "They are trying to smear another member of this House."

Watching the squabble on television in his office, Obey, former chairman of the Appropriations Committee, grabbed a 2-year-old newspaper article that referred to lobbyists shaping a regulatory moratorium bill in DeLay's office in January 1995.

Obey rushed to the House floor, con-

fronted DeLay, and the two argued in an aisle, away from microphones. DeLay could be heard shouting a vulgar expression and shoved Obey with both hands before the aide intervened.

DeLay's press secretary, Tony Rudy, said two witnesses told him Obey initiated the confrontation when he ran across the House floor, repeatedly poked his finger at DeLay and addressed him using an obscenity.

"It's an outrageous example of how this town should not work, but often does," Obey told reporters later. But he was speaking not of the shouting and shoving but of the access and influence of lobbyists and political contributors. Obey said both parties have let lobbyists write bills.

DeLay's spokesman, John Feehery, said DeLay acknowledges that lobbyists offered suggestions for the regulatory reform bill, but takes issue with assertions that they "drafted" the legislation in his office.

Besides, he contended, Democrats are raising the issue to divert attention from an investigation of President Clinton's fund-raising practices.

The incident was just the latest nastiness in a legislative session marked by acrimony and partisanship. About 220 members from both parties went to the retreat in Hershey last month to get to know each other better.

Obey said he was at home in his district at the time of the retreat. DeLay attended the session and enjoyed it, Feehery said.

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# Affirmative Action: The Debate Continues to Rage

The most bitter struggles of human history have not been over territory, money or mere survival, but over the meaning of ideas.

An idea is something that can not be touched or seen, yet it is differing concepts of an idea that causes consternation and distress. One of these battlegrounds for ideas is the one over affirmative action.

Affirmative action and the strife that surrounds it centers on an idea that is central to the American psyche: fairness. The idea of what is fair, when it comes to hiring for a job, getting into a college and other competitive aspects of our society is a touchy issue. The debate over what is fair is similar to what is beautiful, it is often in the eye of the beholder.

Where one person sees a fair and just society that needs no regulation, others are not so certain. The latest skirmish over affirmative action was in California. Proposition 209 was passed last year by California voters to end affirmative action programs in that state.

The law states that affirmative action is a form of racial discrimination. After it was passed, it was challenged in court by groups like the American Civil Liberties Union, claiming that the new law was unconstitutional.

This court decision is by no means the end of the debate. If other states decide to pass their own Prop 209 laws, this battle could be replicated on a nationwide basis.

Defined in its most elementary terms, the affirmative action dispute centers around the idea of freedom of opportunity. Those who support it say that affirmative action allows opportunities for minorities to set up businesses and get into distinguished colleges. This is not a handout, but a way of making amends for the years when discrimination was the law of the

land.

The opposite argument is that the country has turned the corner on racial discrimination.

That after realizing the pain caused by a society that practiced legalized racism, the law finally has addressed the issue. The law now prohibits the abuses of the past and recognizes that all people are equal.

To use a system that gives any sort of special preference to anyone is going against the progress we have made. Affirmative action is reverse discrimination that goes against the free and open nature of our society, a step backward instead of a step

forward.

Each side of the issue brings its share of facts and

rationalizations for it viewpoints. Right now the battle is concerning the law. Is the idea of affirmative action a legal one? Is it actually opening doors for people who need them, or is it just a way of using numbers and statistics to say our society is really fair?

But numbers and philosophical discussion rarely provoke the explosive response that affirmative action has. This debate is merely the gateway to a more disturbing and important debate: is our society truly fair and colorblind?

The opponents of affirmative action say the time of legalized bigotry has passed. We no longer have segregation and the notion itself, which was the law of land up until the 1960s, has been thoroughly discredited.

True, we still have bigots among us, such as the Aryan Nation and the skinhead movement, but those are the fringes of our culture who are not recognized as having any legitimacy.

For the most part, we have buried the chimera of racism, not just in how we socialize, but in how businesses hire and

promote. To keep affirmative action around is to keep an antiquated system that divides rather than unites people.

This concept seems comforting. It would be nice to think that we have come so far in little over 30 years. That a society that once embraced the idea of racial separation could transform itself into a model of racial harmony. This is the America we would like to live in.

But this viewpoint cannot be accepted by many because they see our country otherwise.

To some, racism may no longer be visible in the open, but it is still a presence in our culture.

There are no longer laws or signs in public places that visibly and legally segregate the races, but the mentality that created that system is still alive and well. It is more like a termite infestation now, hiding under the paint and bricks, but just as destructive.

The recent court cases involving Texaco

and Circuit City are the fallout from this. Affirmative action supporters contend although there are laws that protect from discrimination, there is "stealth racism" happening inside the business world.

Discrimination is illegal and damages a company's reputation, so if it conducted by management or other authorities it has to be discrete and deniable.

The fact of the matter is that years after the civil rights movement, though there has been notable progress, the top of the corporate ladder remains largely in control of white males.

Though racial makeup of society continues to diversify, it is not reflected in who has economic power.

The legal and legislative battle over

affirmative action will likely rage for some time.

But the real battlefield is not going to be in a courtroom or in the hallowed halls of our government. Ground zero on this issue is going to be our entire country. We still have to come to grips with the residue from so many years of alienation and resentment.

Those who oppose affirmative action cannot just simply state their plan for bringing it down and leave it at that. It is difficult to believe that we created a totally loving and color blind society.

Not every racist wears a swastika tattoo or a white sheet. If affirmative action is ended, then how are they going to address the clear inequities that still exist in our society?

In some ways the affirmative action debate is moot. The law can force people to fulfill a legal obligation, but not a moral one.

No law can stop people from viewing their fellow human beings as inferior, nor can it erase the memories of past wrongs. The citizens of a country ultimately

are the ones who have to decide what kind of society they will live in.

If they decide to let the bigotry of the past continue to flourish in the present, then they are making a statement of who they are.

Future generations will judge them by that.

As the debate on affirmative action continues, we should examine where it originates.

This goes beyond jobs and college admission.

It is not just about who gets hired for a job in our society, but what kind of society do we wish to live in the first place.

**Affirmative action and the strife that surrounds it centers on an idea that is central to the American psyche: fairness.**

***The fact of the matter is that years after the civil rights movement, though there has been notable progress, the top of the corporate ladder remains largely in control of white males.***

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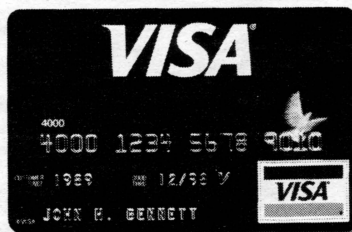
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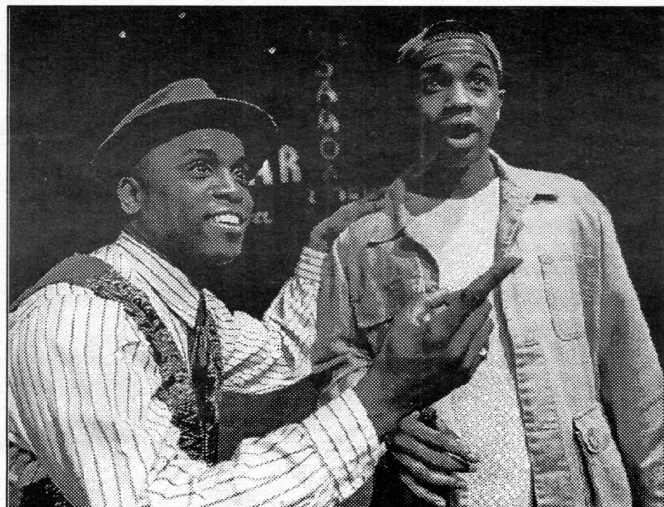
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**LOOK UP** — Little Moe (Steven X. Ward) helps to cheer Nomax (James D. Beeks) in the musical "Five Guys Named Moe," which will run through April 26 at Theatre Virginia.

# Moe to see at Theatre Virginia

Jenny Swiger  
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Imaging combining a calypso beat with a bit of country twang and a splash of tap dancing. This is the diversity included in "Five Guys Named Moe," now playing at Theatre Virginia.

A musical written by Clark Peters, "Five Guys Named Moe" features the music of early rhythm and blues artist Louis Jordan and creates an atmosphere that spilled into the audience because of the intense energy on the stage.

Kent Gash, who directed "Five Guys Named Moe" for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival last season, directed and choreographed the show.

The charisma with which Big Moe (Robert F. Chew), No Moe (Timothy Cole), Four-Eyed Moe (Darren Lee Frazier), Eat Moe (Erich McMillan-McCall), and Little Moe (Steven X. Ward) help Nomax (James D. Beeks) through a difficult time is captivating.

The scene began with Nomax drinking because he is depressed that his girlfriend Lorraine has just broken up with him. The five Moes mysteriously appear in his living room to convince him to stay sober and to ask Lorraine out again.

Each Moe told Nomax a bit of personal history through a song and offered him advice.

Little Moe showed Nomax that some people have enjoy dating people who look a certain way, as he sang of and impersonated his overweight girlfriend.

Eat Moe lets Nomax see that material desires must come after that one special someone in his life, if he is to continue his relationship with her.

Nomax learned that loosing control in

passion could have a positive effect even for the most reserved person from No Moe. He spoke of his gentle mannerisms while in public and of his loss of control behind closed doors.

In addition, when the topic of marriage arose the Moes advised Nomax to remain "Safe, Sane and Single," just as they were, while performing a country line dance.

Audience participation was encouraged for a song called "Push Ka Pi Shi Pie." The lyrics of the song were delivered to the laps of audience members, who sang along with the actors. After learning the song, the audience was invited to join the actors on stage by dancing in a conga line, which closed the first act.

The second act focused on a performance of the five Moes at The Funky Butt Club, with Nomax becoming a member of the audience. Each Moe performed his song and dance, some of which were dedicated to Nomax, while others were purely for entertainment.

The Moes were joined on stage by the live orchestra, which was behind a screen while they played during the first act. The orchestra consisting of Ron Barnett, Paul Bakeman, Allen Cole, Greg DeBruyn, Forrest Johnson, Rob Lytle, Matt McCarty and Gary Shaver performed each of the 25 musical numbers with the preciseness of true professionals.

The play will run through April 26 at Theatre Virginia, located in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2200 Grove Ave. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and Sundays at 7 p.m. For ticket information, call 353-6161. Student rush discount tickets are available with a student I.D. on the day of the performance.

## Jazz legend Taylor delights, educates VCU

Richard Taliaferro  
CT EXECUTIVE EDITOR

He is a walking, talking, piano-playing icon of jazz history. His body of work in the field is not limited to tickling the ivories — lecturer, author and composer are some of the hats he wears.

Tuesday night Dr. Billy Taylor guided a full house at the Grace Street Theater through a history of what is known as "America's Classical Music," surprising some and delighting all with his vast musical knowledge and mastery of the piano. Taylor's appearance marked the close of the New Perspectives in the Arts series sponsored by the Honors Program and the School of the Arts.

During the lecture/demonstration, Taylor interwove his music/history lesson with pieces highlighting his points. He also fielded questions from the audience.

Taylor described jazz as "a personal expression — expressing the feelings or emotions of a particular moment in music." He called jazz "the most influential, if not important, music of the 20th century. It defines who we are as a people."

That definition stretches back to the African continent before slavery began in America. Taylor said Africans used music as a way to express themselves and to signify any occasion, including waking up in the morning.

As slaves were brought to America, music was used to communicate with groups from different regions of Africa. Taylor said the work song was one of the best examples of this, as slaves made changes to fit the situation.

"They restructured the work song so the rhythm of the work dictated the rhythm of the song," he said.

Taylor also noted the difference in American jazz from that of Latin America — the drum.

"In Haiti, Cuba and South America, slaves from Africa retained the drum," Taylor said. "In America it was different. From Maryland south the drum was forbidden."

"Slavemasters discovered that slaves could talk with the drum and send messages beyond mere semaphore. When the drum was taken away, they internalized the rhythms, and the music changed."

Spirituals were also a major part of the slaves' musical experience. The solemn songs helped to express feelings that couldn't easily be put into words. Taylor demonstrated to the audience what this meant by playing "I Wish I Knew How It Felt to be Free," showing them the wide range of emotions that can be expressed in one song. His ren-



ditions also showed a few technical variations, from the hymnlike sound to the way a spiritual and a jazz tune intertwine.

Though many think of it as part of the blues, Taylor said ragtime was the first identifiable style of jazz. The genre of music most linked with Scott Joplin had a lasting effect on some of the giants of jazz in the first half of the 20th century. Pianist Eubie Blake and trumpeter Louis Armstrong are just two whose early musical influences were shaped by listening to ragtime. Taylor recalled the reason Blake gave when he was asked about the flexibility that was a ragtime hallmark:

"It was basically because we couldn't remember they'd played the last time!" he said.

Taylor is no stranger to the Richmond area. He grew up in Washington, D.C., where he learned how to play piano. He attended college at Virginia State University in Ettrick, where he was part of a dance band led by Benny Layton and later started his own group, the Virginia Statesmen.

After college, Taylor traveled to New York, where he got his first job on 52nd Street, known in the mid-1940s as "Swing Street." There jazz clubs were lined up shoulder to shoulder, and anyone could hear the major styles of the times — New Orleans, Chicago, Kansas City and New York.

Taylor played for, and sat in with, some of the people who were pioneers and would become legends — Al Haig, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker and his mentor, Art Tatum. Sometimes as Taylor played with some of his elders, he wanted to prove he could run with the big guys. But the results were almost always the same:

"Every time I went up against one of the old guys, he made me go home and practice," he said.

After the performance, Taylor spoke about where jazz stands in America, especially after Wynton Marsalis received the first Pulitzer Prize for a jazz artist Monday for his work "Blood on the Fields."

"I think (Marsalis winning) says more about the Pulitzer Prize people than it does about jazz," he said. "It shows that they have come of age. ... Wynton received the Prize by virtue of his accomplishments; it wasn't a token gesture."

## Film Festival this weekend By Chris Irving

For the past three years, movie fanatics and aspiring directors alike have gathered together at the James River Festival of the Moving Image, and this, its fourth year will be no exception.

One of the first movies shown will be "Microcosmos," an offbeat nature documentary shown Friday at the University of Richmond, and Saturday in the Hibbs Building.

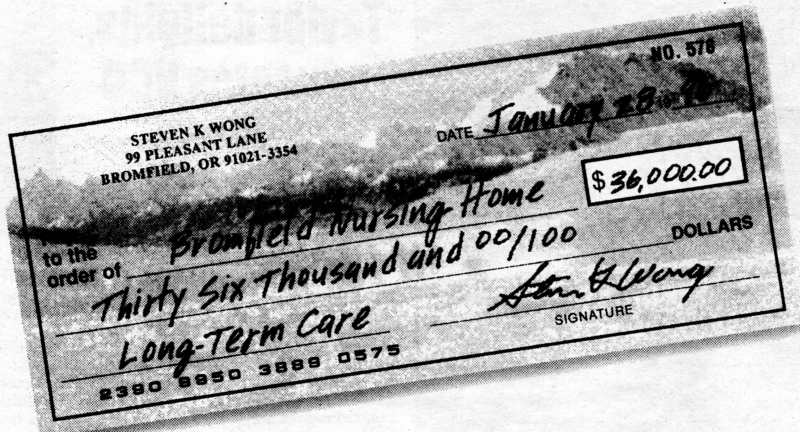
Also being shown will be "Paradise Lost," a 1993 film about three small town murders. This will be shown Saturday at 9 p.m.

in room 203 of the Hibbs Building.

"Dialogues with Madwomen," an Emmy-winning 1993 documentary about seven women's bouts with madness will be shown Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium.

The Ululating Mummies will play music to the silent Buster Keaton classic "The General" Saturday at midnight at the Byrd Theatre. This will be the third time that the band has played with this film.

Tickets for each film will be \$5.00 or \$3.00 with a VCU student ID.



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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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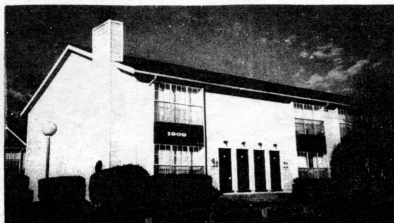
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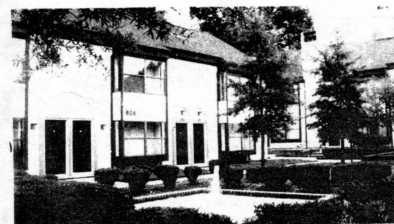
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# Former Ram adds to trophy collection

## Hopkins earns CBA honor

For two years Bernard Hopkins ran up and down the Richmond Coliseum impressing opponents as VCU's big man in the paint.

That trend hasn't stopped in the Continental Basketball Association.

The 1996 Colonial Athletic Association player of the year was recently named the CBA co-rookie of the year.

A 6-7 forward for the Yakima (Wash.) Sun Kings, Hopkins averaged 15.3 points and 7.7 rebounds in 51 games. He also shot a league-leading 61 percent from the field. He scored 20-plus points 12 times and tallied a season high 39 against Connecticut. Season highs in rebounds were 17 on two occasions.

In a press release, Hopkins said the honor meant a lot to him.

"First of all I thank God and my teammates," said Hopkins, who shared honors with former Texas Tech standout Jason Sasser. "It was not for those guys, I could not have gotten this award."

Professional success didn't come easily for Hopkins. At the beginning of the season, he spent most of his time on the bench watching his teammates play. An experience he credits for his success.

"Earlier in the year, I was not playing a great deal," he said. "But I learned from watching and listening to some of the older

guys like Kevin Holland and Sylvester Gray."



Hopkins

Suns coach George Whitaker said upon the announcement that Hopkins deserved the recognition.

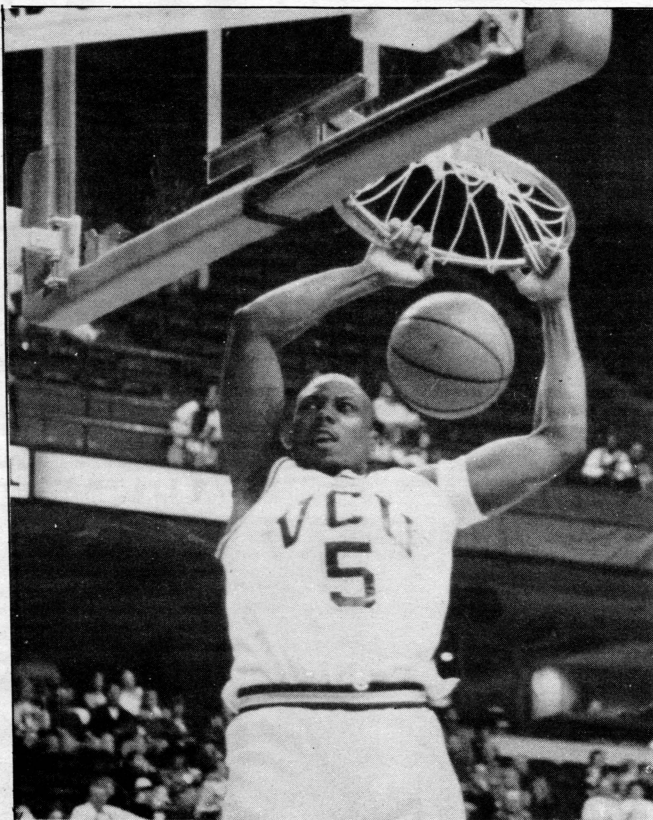
"I do not think there was a better inside player, rookie or veteran, the last three weeks of the season," Whitaker said. "That was proven by Bernard

winning back-to-back player of the week awards and the increase in his scoring and rebounding over that period."

VCU coach Sonny Smith said Hopkins' play should enhance his chances of making a National Basketball Association team.

"Now, he's proving himself like we knew he would," Smith said, noting that if the 24 year old doesn't make it into the NBA, opportunities in Europe are available that could be financially rewarding. Smith added that former VCU forward Sherron Mills (1990-93) will make about \$400,000 next year in France.

— compiled from news sources



File photo

**AWARD WINNER** — Bernard Hopkins, the 1996 Colonial Athletic Association player of the year, was recently named Continental Basketball Association co-rookie of the year. Hopkins averaged 15.3 points and 7.7 rebounds for Yakima (Wash.)

## GRADUATE WITH HONORS

Bernard Hopkins' list of accomplishments in the past year:

- 1996 CAA player of the year
- 1996 CAA tournament MVP
- 1996 CBS player of the game vs. Mississippi State
- 1996 Commonwealth Times player of the year
- 1996 Portsmouth Invitational Tournament MVP
- 1997 CBA co-rookie of the year

# Solid pitching seen as key to Rams' future

Joe Rogalsky

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

When the Rams travel to Harrisonburg this weekend to play a three-game series with James Madison, VCU will try to remain atop the Colonial Athletic Association.

"The conference is wide open," said VCU manager Paul Keyes. "Hopefully, we can play like we did at Old Dominion and win two out of three games."

The Rams hold a two-game lead over ODU and East Carolina, who are tied for second. The Dukes are in a three-way tie for third with a 6-6 record in conference play.

The Ram offense has been potent of late, scoring 44 runs in the last five contests. Keyes said hitters are swinging the bats well, however, it's the starting pitching that will figure prominently in the home stretch of the CAA schedule.

"The starters have to do a better job," said Keyes, who added that he would stick with his normal starting trio of Chad Berryman, Matt Burch and Eric Finley against the Dukes this weekend. "Burch has pitched well, but Berryman and Finley need to step up."

Though Berryman has a 3.38 ERA, among the best in the CAA, his past two outings were not good ones. Most recently he worked three innings of relief Tuesday at Radford, allowing six hits and four runs. As a starter Saturday against William & Mary, he gave up six runs in three innings. Finley too has not had much success recently, surrendering four runs in three innings against the Tribe Sunday afternoon. After a rocky start, Burch has been hot, amassing a stingy 1.70 ERA in his last six appearances, and striking out a team-high 60 batters.

Though VCU's bullpen was scorched by the Tribe in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader for 11 runs, the Rams bounced back Sunday as Brandon Inge and Mohr blanked W&M over six innings. Brad Simpson added to the success of the bullpen by earning his first save (the team's third) by working three scoreless innings against Radford.

Statistically, JMU has the worst pitching staff in the CAA with a 6.51 ERA. The Dukes' staff does, however, have a potential number one draft pick in Travis Harper. The junior is 5-1 this season, and ranks 11th in the CAA with a 4.47 ERA in 48.1 innings. The downside on Harper is that his pitches tend to leave the ballpark. He has given up 10 home runs this season, the

most of any pitcher on JMU's staff.

"Their pitching is pretty solid," Keyes said. "Conference play always brings good competition. Hopefully, we can rise to the occasion."

JMU is hitting .306 against CAA foes and .313 overall. Outfielder Kevin Razzler, a .371 hitter, is the Dukes top man at the plate.

"Their hitting has gotten better as the season continued," said Keyes. "But scouting reports say they're just average."

Following this series with JMU, the Rams will entertain three non-conference opponents at The Diamond. VCU will play Howard on Tuesday, followed by Virginia Tech on Wednesday and UNC-Greensboro on Thursday.

## BASEBALL

TEAM		UPCOMING EVENTS		Notes
<b>MEN'S TENNIS</b> (22-1)	APRIL 13 VA. TECH	APRIL 17-20 CAA	THE RAMS HOPE TO HOST THE NCAA REGIONAL MAY 9 THROUGH MAY 11.	
	APRIL 19-21 CAA TOURNAMENT		VCU'S BOTTOM FOUR SEEDS HAVEN'T WON THIS SEASON.	
<b>WOMEN'S TENNIS</b> (0-15)	APRIL 12 JMU	APRIL 13 JMU	APRIL 15 HOWARD	VCU CURRENTLY HAVE A TWO-GAME LEAD IN THE CONFERENCE STANDINGS.
	APRIL 18-20, CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLDSBORO, N.C.			
<b>GOLF</b>		APRIL 11-12, DUKE INVITATIONAL DURHAM, N.C.		
<b>TRACK &amp; FIELD</b>				

☐ INDICATES HOME GAME ☐ INDICATES AWAY GAME

■ Ten players have left the women's basketball team in the past 17 months.

■ A preview of the baseball team's series against James Madison this weekend in Harrisonburg.

FRIDAY, April 11, 1997

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 28, No. 69

## Kyhilstedt, Miller leaving women's hoops team

**Terry Scanlon**  
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Three-year starter Gabrielle Kyhilstedt has decided to quit the women's basketball team in order to spend more time on her artwork, and said she plans to leave school after this semester.

Kyhilstedt, a junior from Spanga, Sweden, said the sport has become more of a job than a game, and that the increased demands on her time from basketball were too much. So after struggling with the decision much of the year, she said she finally got the courage to leave.

"I can't focus on both basketball and art and do good with both," she said. "It's getting to be too much and I want to focus on my art."

Kyhilstedt, who has played small forward as well as both guard positions in her three seasons, averaged more than seven points, four rebounds and four assists last season.

Sophomore guard Krista Miller also recently decided to leave the team.

Miller was believed to be at odds with coach David Glass at times during the season, including sitting out one game because of a disagreement. University officials said she left to be closer to her family and friends in Connecticut. Glass said Miller didn't leave because of any personal reasons but simply to get closer to home.



Kyhilstedt

Including the recent departure of Miller and Kyhilstedt, 10 players have left the women's basketball program prematurely in the past 17 months.

Five players left the team last year when Peggy Sells took command, and now just as many have left under Glass.

Kyhilstedt didn't say that coaching styles of either Sells or Glass motivated her to leave, but she did say it's a lot different than it was under coach Susan Walvius, who led the team to 20 wins in 1994-95 season.

Glass said the Colonial Athletic Association has become a stronger league in the

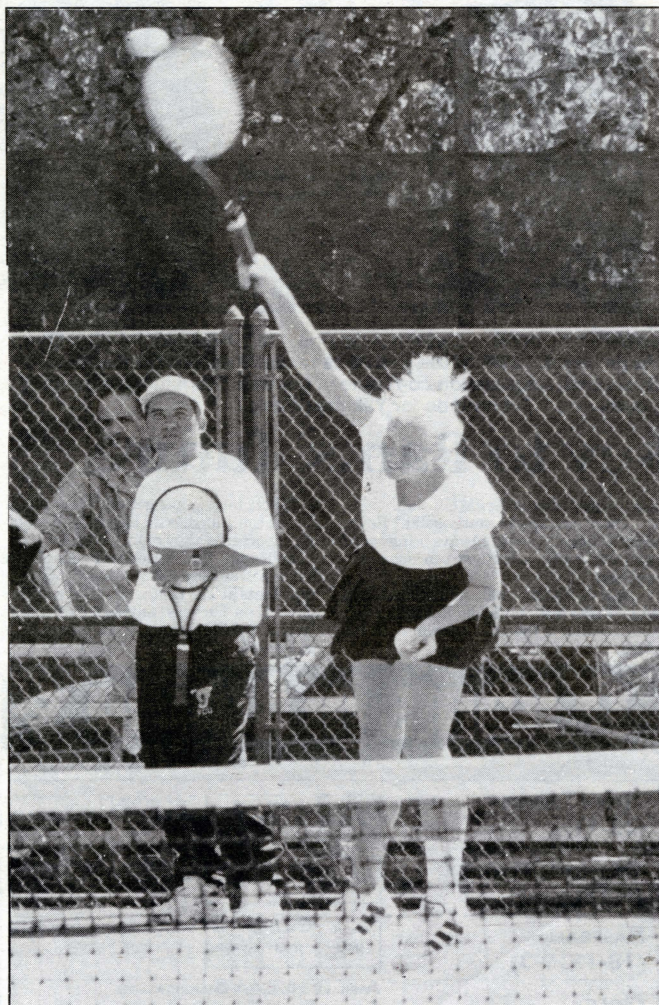
last several years and the players and coaching staff need to be able to make a greater commitment to get better as a team, or be left behind.

"I like Gabby a lot and she's a really good player," Glass said. "I'd like her to be a part of the program but at the same time we have to establish a certain level of commitment to be the best team we can."

"No one said being a Division I student-athlete was going to be easy," he said.

Glass added he thought Kyhilstedt did what was best for her, and said he's been helping her find a new home.

While she would like to stay to finish her undergraduate art degree, she can't afford to stay without an athletic scholarship. And even though her future's uncertain, she said the time had come to get out.



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

**SWINGING SINGLE** — The women's tennis team and Junior Sofia Hiort, seen here in action earlier this week, were crushed by William & Mary 6-0 Thursday afternoon at Thalhimer Tennis Center.

## Lady Rams' coffin one nail shy of completion

**Oren Briesse**  
CT STAFF WRITER

The No. 7 ranked William & Mary women's tennis team taught the Lady Rams a lesson in domination Thursday afternoon at the Thalhimer Tennis Center.

The Tribe didn't lose more than two games in any single set enroute to a 6-0 destruction of the Rams.

The Tribe's Lauren Nikolaus, ranked No. 4 in the country, handed Sofia Hiort her worst loss of the season, 6-1, 6-1. Greta Perovic managed to win four games from her William & Mary opponent, Johanna Sones, the most by any single player on the VCU squad.

"I can't recall a more dominating performance by any team in recent memory," said coach Eva Bard after the match.

The bottom four seeds on the VCU team continued their struggles, and finished the season winless in 52 tries. Kathryn Olsen dropped the No. 5 match to Maya Klavara 0-6, 0-6. No. 4 Siri Thyaprasat lost 0-6, 1-6, while No. 6 Wendy Hsu didn't fair much better in her 0-6, 2-6 loss.

Even No. 2 Helena Karlsson, who has been the only player other than Hiort to win a singles match this year, couldn't

manage to win a single game from her Tribe opponent.

Because of injuries sustained earlier in the week, the team had to cancel the doubles matches in hopes of becoming healthy for the conference tournament next week.

"I chose not to play doubles because I wanted my players rested for the conference tournament. I would like to get a win on Thursday. If we have to wait all season to get our first victory, then I would like nothing better than to get it at the tournament," Bard said.

The team finished the regular dual match season with an 0-15 record, the worst ever under Bard.

"It is definitely a historic season, and a very humbling one, but we've learned a lot this year, and I think that we will be ready for the Colonial Athletic Association tournament," Bard said.

This year's team is a far cry from last year's team that was ranked No. 33 in the country and was invited to play in the NCAA regional tournament.

"We've reached the bottom. There is nowhere to go but up. We have been here before, and we all understand what it will take to get back," Bard said.

The team's next match is in the CAA tournament play-in game, next Friday at 8 a.m. in Norfolk. If they should win that game, they will play later in the day in the next round.

## VCU ready to face Va. Tech

The men's tennis team closes its regular season Sunday afternoon at the Thalhimer Tennis Center against nationally ranked Virginia Tech.

The No. 16 Rams play host to the No. 21 Hokies at noon. Tech's biggest win came against then second-ranked Boise State.

The last time the two teams met was in the 1993 Metro Conference final. The Rams won that match 4-3.

VCU lost only its second match of the

season Sunday against Duke 4-3 at the Chapel Hill Tennis Club. The Rams, No. 14 in the nation, dropped to 20-2 on the season.

The teams split the six singles matches and the Blue Devils won the doubles point. Olivier Tauma, Richard Werner and Olle Lundberg each won their singles matches.

With the match tied at three, Duke's second seed, Alberto Brause defeated Daniel Andersson 6-4, 6-3 to clinch Duke's win.

—compiled from news sources