

Tuesday: Chance of rain (again!). High of 45, low of 33.

Wednesday: Windy and rainy. Highs in the 40s, low near 40.

Commonwealth Times

Monday, January 26, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 30, No. 41

VCU lends hand to rural AIDS patients

C. Alexander Smith
CT STAFF WRITER

The more than 436 persons living with AIDS in rural Virginia will soon be able to connect to the most recent information available, thanks to a grant recently awarded to VCU.

This grant will expand VCU's assistance on AIDS research to rural communities lacking resources such as hospitals, medical libraries and access to infectious disease specialists like Lisa Kaplowitz, who heads VCU's AIDS Research Center.

"It's very important to have the latest information about the disease because the treatment is changing so rapidly," Kaplowitz said.

"This can make a dramatic improvement with survival and the quality of life for people with HIV and AIDS."

The Tompkins-McCaw Library at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital will carry out the 18-month project designed to enhance the knowledge and skill levels of the community-based organization's staff members.

It will provide access and utilization of HIV/AIDS electronic information resources.

"It's our responsibility to educate all the people in the schools and the workplace by informing people about the do's and don'ts on AIDS prevention," said Lorraine Sitler, AIDS resource librarian at Tompkins-

McCaw Library.

In the first stage of the outreach project, the organizations will be given computers, modems and the software necessary to access electronic information resources.

The second stage involves the organization's staff, board members, volunteers, and clients who will receive training on accessing Internet accounts and electronic resources.

The third stage, the evaluation process, involves many organizations including librarians from Tompkins-McCaw Library.

"Following the training we will look at the outcomes reported by participating organizations and track and changes," Sitler said.

The project will give the targeted groups rapid access to up-to-date information already accessible in urban areas.

The AIDS Information Outreach Project offers the library staff an opportunity to work with rural local organizations and the communities affected, as well as the communities-at-large.

Technologies such as computerized literature searching, electronic mail, and FAX, along with traditional methods will be used to help speed the delivery of information to the regional AIDS rural organizations.

"The more that the general public knows about HIV and AIDS and the more access to the latest information the better," Kaplowitz said.

VCU helps elementary students through e-mail

Malcolm J. Venable
CT STAFF WRITER

A seemingly never-ending winding pastoral road leads to Byrd Elementary, a school nestled in the woods in Goochland County. The winter sun shines over the small school, suggesting that the journey from Richmond to Haydensville may prove promising.

Inside Ms. Glenna Huskey's fifth-grade classroom a cheery cloud floats, much like the cloud inside a carnival tent. Decorated with banners and posters of brilliant reds, yellows, and blues, the walls harbor life. The animated wide-eyed bees, frogs, and other creatures stuck to the wall invite strangers.

Part of the bubbling energy immediately present derives from the time of day — welcomed by teachers and students alike — the three o'clock bell.

Aside from the ten-year-olds' routine anxious dash for the bus the announcement of a visitor provided some schoolday

spice. With friendly inquisitive glances (that provided some form of "cool approval") they quickly assessed the guest's intention.

"(You're here to talk about) the e-mail program, right?" a rather occupied boy announced as if he was clued in by the administration.

After confirming his belief, their blitzkrieg of boisterous response forced me to take cover in an undersized plastic chair.

"It's great," said Nikki Melton, clutching her band instrument speaking matter-of-factly. "We do real-life math problems," she said proudly with an informed look on her face.

"Yeah . . ." a miniature linebacker said. "we do mileage (word problems) and . . ." Mike Bonaster struggled to spit out a familiar word. "You know . . . with the lines . . ." he scanned his brain while stroking his curly locks.

"It's called fractions Mike," Nikki said

E-MAIL continued to page 2 >

Never Mind The Cold



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

VCU student Paul Brown took time out last week to bike between Hibbs and the Performing Arts Center despite frigid temperatures.

Special Message To CT Readers:

- The CT will not publish this Friday. Starting next week, the CT will publish on Mondays and Thursdays.
- We welcome any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the change. Please drop them off in the CT office at room 1149 of the General Purpose Academic Building or e-mail them to Angela Hill at s2adhill@titan.vcu.edu.

E-MAIL

continued from page 1

as if disgusted, looking down at him through her glasses.

The children then drowned out each other in their haste to tell what they enjoyed most in their e-mail correspondence. Even the boy preoccupied with his doodling joined the discussion.

"It's phat (good)," said Donell Ellis.

Despite the code of emotional indifference strictly adhered to by adolescent boys, Donell showed his approval. Though he said he enjoys football, cars and basketball, Donell rated the e-mail mentorship program a maximum ten on his scale.

"The mentors have been good," he said, then turned away as if to have been distracted.

The mentors of Ms. Huskey's class, whose names the children repeated as quickly as their own, comprise a team from VCU's School of Education. The 14 faculty and staff mentors include John Oehler, dean; Alan McLeod, professor, and Thomas Hephner, director of continuing education.

VCU's educational family connected with Goochland Superintendent Warren Steward this past fall to match students with education professionals.

Steward's school system was one of the first in the state to integrate technology like internet and e-mail access into public schools.

Byrd's mentorship relationship with VCU provides edu-technological experience for students as professionals correspond to students with practical math and applied science problems, plus friendly conversation.

Administrators of the program, teachers and mentors hail the program and compliment its success proudly.

"It (the mentorship) has worked real well and there is interest from other groups," said Harold Cothern, director of Instructional Services and assistant to Dr. Steward.

School teachers enjoy the program too.

"Oh I love it. It makes life more pleasant," Ms. Huskey said sighing with a hint of innuendo. "It gives them insight to the business and college world."

Insight to the adult world comes from applying the technology in the correspondence. The pupils, instructed in keyboarding since third grade, love to write with computers, Ms. Huskey said. Students benefit by their ability to make revisions and corrections easily.

Challenging practical math problems increase the utilitarian value, she said, and add to the children's self-esteem and sense of accomplishment.

"It means a lot to the kids that they're given real problems," she said.

That same pride is instilled in children in conversation as well as work.

Mentors step beyond the roles of the abstract invisible grown-ups punching keys from a distance upon meeting with the children for the first time. The mentors dined on tater tots and meatloaf with them in the Byrd elementary cafeteria.

Even through the impersonal machines VCU faculty mentors know when their child aces a math test, plans a trip or has braces removed.

"It's like conversation with a good friend. Students are eager to share what they're learning," Oehler said.

However, not all school systems wish to foster technological student mentoring.

"One of students' primary needs is one-on-one interaction," said Martha Frickard, director of Chesterfield county's community program.

Frickard said the county has no intention to promote such a program.

Still, Oehler's associate Hephner relayed the importance of the correspondence.

"He (mentee) has things I need to relate to and I hope that he sees I have things to relate to," he said.

When the door authoritatively opens for the last time today, Ms. Huskey frees her pupils for the afternoon.

As all of Nikki's classmates dash madly for their buses without regard for their guest, she assertively pops her head back into the room and makes instant eye contact, a feat many adults dread.

"It (the program) makes me feel good," she said. "You can tell them that," she finished and bolted out the schoolhouse doors.

Instantaneously the classroom emits a strange quiet. No human voices interrupt the room's slumber, yet the presence of another is inarguable.

The presence felt does not belong to the festive walls that still illuminate, nor the cartoon friends that still invite. But before leaving, I cast one last glance over the room and discovered three computers neatly arranged in a cubicle, resting until tomorrow.

Information Systems offers new programs

Jennifer Reilly
CT STAFF WRITER

Virginia has been known for its mining, agriculture, and manufacturing but recently it has become a national leader in technology.

Technology workers are needed for businesses that manufacture computer parts, design software, search for cures for diseases, and handle Internet traffic.

The only problem is there aren't enough workers in the technology field to go around.

Since the demand for these jobs has increased, Virginia's public and private colleges are pushing to expand engineering and computer-related departments.

The growing need for skilled workers in Northern and Central Virginia appeared in a series in The Richmond Times Dispatch in September.

"I really don't think you can find a better information systems program at the undergraduate or graduate level anywhere in the state of Virginia," said Richard T. Redmond, director of Virginia Labor Studies in the School of Business.

The VCU Information Systems program has recently updated its curricula at the undergraduate level. Redmond says that the ever-changing curriculum allows students to specialize in areas within information systems.

"Our curriculum probably changes more than any other curriculum on campus," Redmond said.

Redmond says enrollments have increased significantly at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The faculty tries to provide an up-to-date technical skill-oriented information systems education with a strong foundation of business course work and managerial concepts.

The Department of Information Systems also created

the Information Systems Research Institute (ISRI), which provides a diversity of services.

The ISRI has worked with the business community in offering students the opportunity to gain experience through internships and cooperative programs.

Students can be placed in varieties of industries in both the manufacturing and service areas. The ISRI offers continuing education, consulting and technical assistance.

The technology department also offers multimedia workstations and facilities for multimedia prototyping and presentations.

The School of Engineering plays a part in bringing engineering education and technology to VCU. Information on the Engineering Program can also be found on the VCU website.

Virginia Tech and VCU have joined together to form a competitive engineering school.

Students of engineering also attend technical society meetings and seminars. They receive hands-on engineering experience from the beginning.

Students are able to receive a distinctive education through the help of corporations, local government and engineering firms.

The VCU Career Center plays a role in helping students and industries pair up. Many employers recruit VCU students each semester, such as CarMax, Circuit City, Federal Reserve Bank and MCI. The Center also offers mock interviews and the opportunity to talk with counselors.

Susan Gunn, director of the Career Center, says they try to recruit employers according to the demand of the students.

She has also observed that most students tend to stay in Virginia after graduation. No matter what the field of study, Gunn says all students should have computer knowledge.

Write for
News!
Call
Jennie or
Ben at
828-1058.

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Campaign '98

The Power Is In Your Hands!



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Meet people.

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Be an active participant in your Student Government.

Enjoy early registration for classes.

Influence University policies.

Control over \$300,000 in student activity fees.

Pick up your registration form at the SGA office
located in the Student Activities Center on the lower
level of the University Student Commons.
Registration is due no later than Friday, February 6.

**The biggest threat to
depression is your
awareness of it.**

Serious depression strikes millions. Serious depression strikes indiscriminately. Serious depression is MOST dangerous when it goes unrecognized. That's why it's so important to always be aware of the threat of depression. And if your life is ever interrupted by a period of depression, remember that it is readily, medically treatable.

**UNTREATED
DEPRESSION**

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

CALL FOR ENTRIES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

COMPETITIONS

SEVENTH ANNUAL CREATIVE ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

THEME: "FREEDOM'S LONG
QUEST"

Deadline for entries: February 13, 1998

Awards:

First place, \$75 gift certificate
Second place, \$50 gift certificate
Third place, \$25 gift certificate

**All students, regardless of race,
are encouraged to enter!**

Results will be announced on Feb. 19, 1998, at
the Black History program hosted by African-
American Studies

**Complete contest rules now available from
Minority Student Affairs, 901 Floyd Ave. Telephone
828-6672. Entries due with completed entry form
by 4:30 pm on the respective deadline date in the
Office of Minority Student Affairs.**



FOURTH ANNUAL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH JURIED EXHIBITION

THEME: "FREEDOM'S LONG
QUEST"

All entries must be two dimensional,
suitable for hanging, and matted or framed.
No more than three entries per artist.

Deadline for entries:
February 6, 1998, 4:30 pm.

Pick up date:
February 13, 1998.

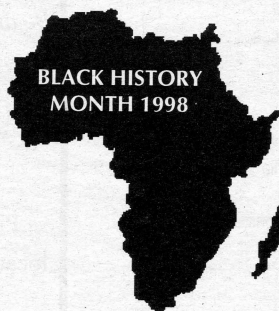
Exhibition dates:
Feb. 12, 1998 – Feb. 27, 1998

Awards:

First place, \$200 gift certificate;
Second place, \$150 gift certificate;
Third place, \$100 gift certificate;
Honorable mention, public recognition.

**All students, regardless of race,
are encouraged to enter!**

Results will be announced on Feb. 19, 1998



VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University
Division of Student Affairs

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity / affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, ethnic origin, gender, religion, political affiliation or disability. If you need special accommodation, please contact Rhonda Hall at (804) 828-6672.

UCLA's required diversity courses take away choice

LOS ANGELES — (U-Wire) — In this age of "political correctness" it is fashionable to study the cultures of previously ignored/overlooked groups, such as women or minorities. There is nothing wrong with this. What is wrong is that some people are talking about making ethnic/gender studies mandatory.

The concept of a university is to allow intellectual freedom so that we can study everything we desire about any area we are interested in; that is why we have double majors, minors and specializations. That is why we have courses that cover every area and group under the sun and are open to everyone.

One of UCLA's best assets is that it allows students to study absolutely anything, regardless of how widespread their interests are.

For example, this year the university created a Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies major for those who are interested in taking courses in that field. You can major in geography, take a whole year of Armenian, minor in classical civilization and

specialize in African studies, if that suits your interests.

Enrolled in a western civilization course once, and the professor spent half of his first lecture talking about the debate over whether western civilization should be studied at all, because there are some who believe that it somehow "puts down" or ignores other cultures. There is, however, a world history series that studies all parts of the world, not only

astronomy classes and a course in earth and space sciences and fulfill the physical science requirement.

Foreign language is required, but there is no specific language that we have to study, and we are certainly not forced to take a course in "languages" that will cover every major language there is.

If you feel French is too "European," you can take a year of Chinese.

We are used to this freedom of choice regarding our intellectual pursuits. To suddenly force people to take a course or more on a specific field violates such freedom.

Instead of a course in diversity, maybe we should have a new set of general education choices under a label like "Cultural Studies," with several options from every department: African-American studies, Latin American studies, LGB studies, Classics and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, to mention a few.

If it includes every branch of ethnic, cultural and ethnic studies in the university, then maybe it would not be a bad idea, as long as it allows us to choose which group we want to study.

But it must be kept as a choice, not a requirement. The university does not require students to take history, why should any cultural studies be required?

We are used to this freedom of choice regarding our intellectual pursuits. To suddenly force people to take a course or more on a specific field violates such freedom.

Europe. But for some, that is not good enough.

What about GE's? The purpose of general education is to "broaden one's perspective of the world," or as many of us view it, to add an easy "A" to our transcripts while filling a gap in our schedule.

However, there are no specific courses that we are required to take, with the exception maybe of English 3.

If you have no interest in math, for example, you can still take a couple of

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We need to watch ourselves, not 'Big Brother'

I am writing in response to Cliff Hicks' editorial entitled "Big Brother is Back."

Firstly, just what exactly is his point? It is that Germany will necessarily and inevitably abuse the power of electronic surveillance to combat crime? Is he insinuating, as he unfairly and unsubstantially writes, "History of racism dictates it" (the "rampant" abuse of government power), that Germany has some predilection for wanton spying? Or is he trying to express a fear of governmental spying on individual citizens in general?

While I am a complete advocate of a healthy distrust for any institution, one must remember the responsibility of being an individual in a democratic society: the government should not be anything "other" or "outside" of the electing people.

It should be representative and it is up to the voting people to make sure it stays this way. The basis of Mr. Hicks' argument of legality as floodgate to abuse (if indeed this is his point) is as erroneous as assuming the government is truly worried about two ridiculously vacant university, "Irish mocha" slugging students pretending to talk subversion.

Perhaps if there were anything to worry about in this situation it would be the risk of anyone actually taking Mr. Hicks' article seriously.

True subversion was not created by MTV and as far as his attitudes toward present-day Germany are concerned, it would be wise for Mr. Hicks to look at his own written words: "Malicious, isn't it?"

Before speeding to conclusions about the growth of a totalitarian, paranoid government, it would be advisable to look closer at a culture that worships voyeurism and then elects its government.

The idea of a government watching its people is no surprise when the people who comprise the state and the government so quickly run to step into the bedrooms of its own neighbors.

We need to watch ourselves.

— Alexander Booth
VCU student

CommonwealthTimes

EDITORIAL BOARD

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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. Editorial e-mail: s2adhill@vtan. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: 1149 General Purpose Academic Building (outside of the Commonwealth Times office).

Lindsay Kastner

Citadel 'hazing' clearly dangerous

The Justice Department concluded last week that Jeanie Mentavlos and Kim Messer, two women who, as Citadel cadets, had their clothes set on fire, were not subjected to any gender bias.

This conclusion, which came after a 13-month investigation, has ended the prospect of the United States prosecuting the Citadel.

It is fair to say that if men received the same abuse, a sex bias would not have been present.

The incidents, however, should not be dismissed.

While hazing is a common and accepted practice at military schools, setting a person's clothes on fire should be considered far beyond standard initiation harassment.

These women, and any other cadets who suffered similarly, were clearly treated unfairly. Such abuse is more than harsh — it is dangerous.

Setting fire to someone's clothes seems more akin to assault with a deadly weapon than to a mere rite of passage.

This space could be filled with your editorial cartoon.
Call Angela at 828-1058
or stop by the CT office in GPAB room 1149
for more information.

EXERCISE YOUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OR GUEST EDITORIAL.
DROP OFF SUBMISSIONS IN THE CT OFFICE, GPAB, ROOM 1149.
DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME, ACADEMIC STATUS AND PHONE NUMBER.

Budget Preparation Workshops

for student organization leaders who need information and assistance with completing budget request forms and requesting student activity fees.

Thursday, January 22, 3:00 pm

Monday, January 26, Noon

Tuesday, February 3, 3:00 pm

University Student Commons, Forum Room

Spending Activity Fees Workshops

for student organization leaders who need information and assistance for spending student activity fees.

Thursday, February 12, 3:00 pm

Friday, March 20, Noon

University Student Commons, Alumni Board Room

Workshops last approximately one hour. Please sign up at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled workshop at the receptionist desk in the Student Activities Center. Contact Mrs. Henrietta Brown at 828-3648 if you have questions.

**REMINDER: Budgets
for the 1998-99
academic year are due
no later than Friday,
February 6 at noon.**



S.A.I.L

Students Actively Involved in Leadership
for more information call 828-3648

Characteristics of Leadership

Wednesday, January 28,
Noon-1:00pm, Capital Room A

What makes a leader? Are there certain traits and characteristics that every leader possesses? This session will explore various leadership characteristics. Participants will engage in an interactive activity that will allow them to determine the most important characteristics of a leader. Individual and situational differences will be discussed.

Effective Communication Skills

Wednesday, February 11,
Noon - 1pm, Canal Room

Whether you are exploring new involvement opportunities or you are the leader of an organization, it is important to find a common language, discuss the plan, and monitor your progress. This session will give you tips on how to effectively communicate with others, whether that person is the head of a group, a friend, or someone who works for you.

Office Space for Student Organizations!

Yes, that's right! There are two cubicle office spaces available in the Student Activities Center located in the lower level of the Commons, Suite 018.

The Student Activities Center is currently accepting applications from registered student organizations. If your organization is interested and meets the criteria listed below, you may pick up an application from the Student Activities Center today. The due date for all applications is January 26, 1998.

If you have questions about this process, you may contact Yolanda Jackson, the Student Activities Specialist, or Carly Massey, the Student Supervisor, at VCU-DO IT (828-3648).

CRITERIA USED FOR ALLOCATING CUBICLE SPACE

1. Demonstrated need for space
2. Scope and breadth of activities and functions of group (i.e. how many students impacted, variety of activities)
3. Current & previous number of active members in the group
4. Demonstrated stability of the group (i.e. how long in existence, consistent record of activities and functions)
5. Programs planned for the student body at-large vs. the organization only
6. Other considerations may be given at the discretion of the Space Allocating Committee.

Alternative Spring Break

March 7-14, 1998

Find out more at the information sessions or call Rachel Skyer at 828-3648.

Thursday, January 22 at 7pm

in Capital Ballroom D, University Student Commons

Tuesday, January 27 at Noon

in Capital Ballroom C, University Student Commons



Virginia Commonwealth University

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Is your new year's resolution to get involved? Get a life? Get happy? Look no further than the University Student Commons! Inside you'll find everything you need to get your life moving! With over 160 student organizations, the Student Activities Center is the best place to channel your new year's energy into an exciting group or club! The Commons also has tons of services to make your academic and social time at VCU the easiest and most rewarding time spent. Commuter Student Services, Off-Campus Housing, the Information Center, the Break Point Games Room and the Commons Collage are all available to students no matter what your major!! Check it out!!

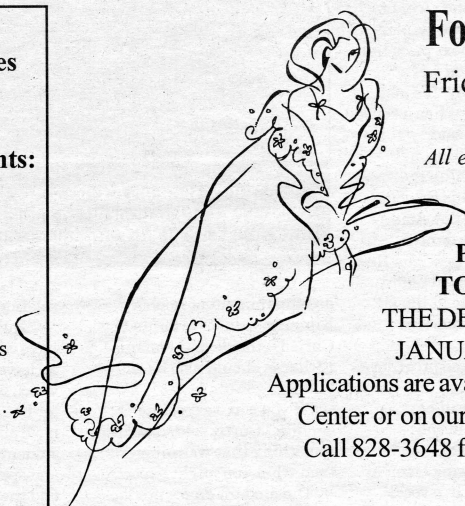
Commons & Activities

www.vcu.edu/safweb/commons/

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 1997-1998

Congratualtions to the following students:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Major</u>
Emilie A. Aguerre	Dance
Henry H. Barlett	Sociology
Iain R. Bolton	Political Science
Donna R. Boyd	Pharmacy
Jasver Chahal	Clinical Library Sciences
Ann L. Daniels	Medicine
Charles C. Conyers	Political Science
Audrie R. Dougherty	Gerontology
Jennifer H. Edwards	Pharmacy
Keisha D. Entzminger	Fashion
Marc H. Ferrera	Biology
Carin L. Gegen	Occupational Therapy
Sharon L. J. Gray	Social Work
Robdisha A. Hibler	Criminal Justice
Anna S. T. Hiort	Social Work
Stephanie L. Holland	English
George A. Hong	Medicine
Amanda M. Howie	Mass Communications
Joel B. Hughes	Health/Physical Education
LaToya M. Jackson	Criminal Justice
Elizabeth A. Jansen	Social Work
Otis R. Jones Jr.	Criminal Justice
Bethany J. Lafon	Mass Communications
Dean D. Lin	Medicine
Michelle B. Lucero	Pre-Physical Therapy
Carly L. Massey	Sculpture
Evonda F. Newton	Mass Communications
Margaret F. Price	Nontraditional Studies
Kembah B. Richardson	Spanish
Naomi P. Robinson	Biology
Catherine A. Ryle	Pharmacy
Christophyer J. Saladino	Political Science
Susan J. Samuel	Religious Studies
Jennifer E. Sanford	Psychology
Thelma H. Stockton	Nontraditional Studies
Jennifer A. Weiss	Nursing
Alice L. Westerberg	Nontraditional Studies
William E. Wirt	Marketing



Formal Sorority Rush

Friday, January 30th through
Sunday, February 1st

All events take place in the Commons

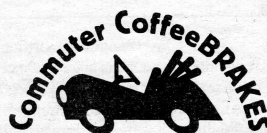
**YOU MUST
PRE-REGISTER IN ORDER
TO PARTICIPATE IN RUSH.**
THE DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 28th AT 4:00PM.

Applications are available at the Student Activities
Center or on our WorldWide Web page.
Call 828-3648 for more information.

**COMMUTER
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LOCKERS**

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**only \$10
for the semester
call 828-6492 for more info**



Commuter CoffeeBRAKES take place bi-weekly, offering free coffee, snacks and lots of information for commuters. All CoffeeBRAKES take place from 9 am - 11 am, in the Commons Lobby.

Tuesday, January 27

VCU Child Care and the University Career Center

Wednesday, February 11

Parking & Transportation Office and GRTC

Tuesday, February 24

Office of Health Promotion and NBA Peers

Peak Performance:

It's an all new high—full of energy, excitement

Jennifer Bowen
CT STAFF WRITER

Virginia Commonwealth University will shine its best in the upcoming dance exhibition Peak Performance: Four Generations of Modern Dance. The presentation will take place at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the Carpenter Center. The hour and a half production will feature nationally acclaimed choreographers and VCU dance students.

"This is a very unusual event. We call it a gala or showcase because this is not something we plan to take on the road, although, some pieces will be performed again. This is a coming together of artists from all over the country. This program is specifically designed for VCU," Martha Curtis, chair of the VCU Dance and Choreog-

raphy Department, said.

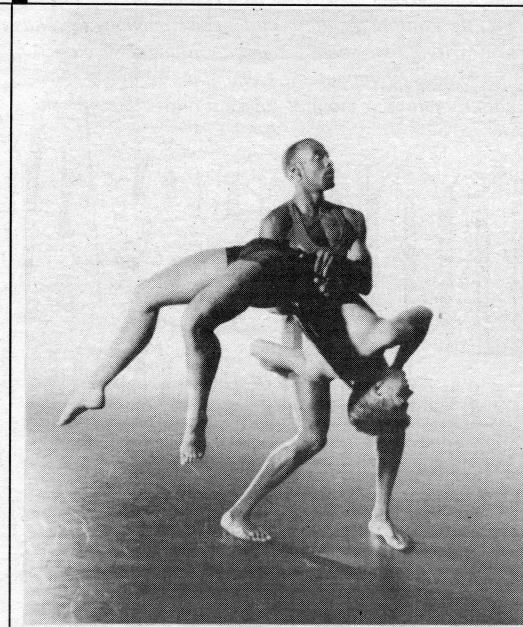
Peak Performance will be presented in eight components of both dance and vocals. The compositions will display a variety of themes.

"If you look at one piece of the program, and you feel one way about it, the next piece that comes will make you feel a totally different way. It's just that kind of show. It has a sense of variety," Curtis said.

Some of the professional artists choreographing the performance are Gus Solomons Jr., former Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer; Nicholas Licher, a previous New York University teacher; and Amy Chavasse, who in the past performed at the American Dance Festival.

"The dances in the program are full of high energy and pure movement. There will be dancers of all ages in the program," Curtis said.

Besides the dancing element of the program the live vocal



VCU dance students Monte Jones and Russell Farrar will be two of the dancers in Peak Performance tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Carpenter Center.

accompaniment of Robbie Kinter to a duet performed by Chris Burnside and Melanie Richards should also be entertaining.

"If you come expecting singing," Curtis said, "you'll see something that was different than what you might expect."

The modern dance production, which has been in the works since the fall semester, brings together VCU students and choreographers to continue on an already established

relationship.

"The reason that these artists have come together is that they all have worked as Guest Artists, which is founded by the Carpenter Foundation, at VCU. They have all worked with the students here. They all taught and spent time with students, and they've collaborated with our facility," Curtis said.

The performing dance students of VCU seem to have gained a great deal from the development of their relationship with the expert choreographers.

"It's been a really enriching experience to work with choreographer Barbara Grubel as well as an enlightening one. As

a VCU dance student it's an excellent way to get to know the real world. It's been an invaluable experience," Emilie Aguerre said. She will perform in Grubel's piece "Pages" in which she will personify the ideas of the stories in the work.

The head of the VCU Dance Department also felt that the students have highly benefited from working with the skilled choreographers and stressed that the collaboration of the different varieties of talent influenced the naming of the program.

"The name Peak Performance came from the idea that we wanted to do an event that was culminating performance and that really reflected how we are reaching and pushing ourselves to have the very best. The Guest Artist program that we have has just challenged every member of our dance department, from our facility to our students and to the musicians who work with us," Curtis said.

However, Aguerre feels that the chance to perform at the 2100 seat Carpenter Center is what should be emphasized of the event.

"The opportunity to perform in the Carpenter Center is awing. Just to be on stage and see out at all the seats that will be filled with people who will bring an energy to the program is really exciting," exclaimed the VCU senior who has been practicing the art since age three.

"I hope the audience walks away feeling satisfied and just full from seeing a complete dance program. I hope they feel a little bit more enriched and alive," Aguerre exclaimed.

"I want people to walk away from this program with an excitement about dance. This is a professional program. The people in the program are doing this because this is their life's work. It has the discipline of an athletic sport and the artistry of a concert pianist," Curtis said.

Jay and Silent Bob plague the comic book page

Christopher Irving
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Filmmaker Kevin Smith has just added one more title to his resume: comic book writer.

Smith is best known as the producer, director and writer of the "Jersey Trilogy" of films: "Clerks," "Mallrats," and "Chasing Amy." The only factor linking the three movies was his characters Jay and Silent Bob, two troublesome potheads. Jay is hyper, vulgar and always look-



ing for trouble, while Silent Bob is his quiet cohort.

Drawn by comics legend Matt Wagner, in an almost unrecognizable style, the duo make their comics debut in the first issue of "Oni Double Feature," by the fledgling comic book label Oni Press.

The story "Walt Flannagan's Dog" follows Jay and Silent Bob as they decide to wreak vengeance on a chihuahua-like guard dog that belongs to a comic book geek Walt Flannagan, with disastrous and hilarious consequences. Smith's dia-

logue for Jay seems even more long-winded without the actor to shoot it off machine-gun style. Still, "Dog" is a funny read that fits in right before "Mallrats" — the continuity Smith has set up is interesting.

Wagner's art style is so different from the one he uses in his other comics "Grendel" and "Mage" it seems cartoonier than usual, although it does have his trademark use of heavy zip-a-tone.

Also in "Oni Double Feature" is "Secret Broadcast" by the Pander Brothers, Arnold and Jacob; a story

about a trio of friends who start a pirate radio station which plays cool music (in comparison to the manufactured alternative.) The concept is bright and daring, yet the execution is not interesting.

Also, for characters who are "outside the norm," they look like the normal manufactured "alternative" people they seem against in the story. Another irony is that the story line deals with bringing down mainstream commercial alternative, yet both in the story and on an ad page lies an adver-

tisement for "The Secret Broadcast" compilation CD.

The story has good intentions, yet it bleeds so much "pseudo-hipness" that it hurts.

Wrapping up the anthology is a one page "Milk and Cheese" strip by Evan Dorkin. Milk and Cheese are described as "diary products gone bad" — a violent pair consisting of a carton of milk and a block of cheese, who involve themselves in violent and, in the case of this strip, amusing misadventures.

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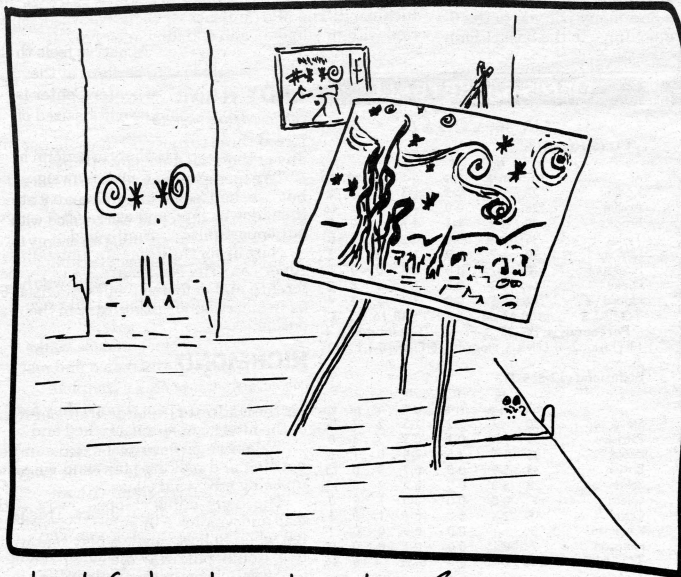
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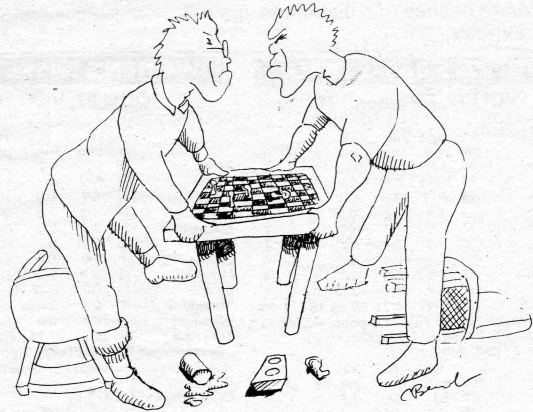
LAMBZ

by Charles Anderson



Lamb Gogh returns to work on Starry Night

by Chris Bennardo



The chess game began aggressively, so when Ed forked Dwayne's queen, things turned ugly.

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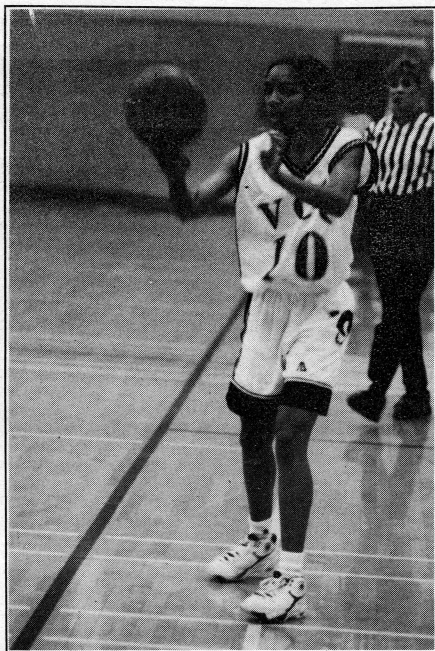
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LOOK FOR THE COMICS BOX

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Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

HERE YOU GO — VCU's ShaVohn McKinnon passes to a teammate against ODU Sunday.

Freshman McKinnon sets career mark against ODU

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

During her career at Menchville High School in Norfolk, ShaVohn McKinnon a freshman forward on the VCU women's basketball team, has heard about Old Dominion's women basketball squad.

"Menchville's (nickname) is the Monarchs," she said. "They called us the Little Monarchs and ODU the Big Monarchs. We were always compared to them."

McKinnon gave ODU a reason to notice her Sunday afternoon as she scored a career-high 15 points in the Lady Rams' 82-70 loss to the third-ranked Monarchs at Franklin Street Gymnasium. McKinnon also recorded four steals, several coming against Ticha Penicheiro, the Monarch's Kodak All-American point guard.

"I wasn't intimidated at all," McKinnon said. "I wanted to show that if you get down and dirty with her (Penicheiro) and beat her up a little bit, she's not unstoppable."

Following one of her steals, McKinnon found herself one on one with Penicheiro. McKinnon faked a layup to the right before going left, completely faking out Penicheiro.

"She's really quick and anticipates well," Penicheiro said of McKinnon. "When she came into the game she did a couple things well and that gave her confidence."

McKinnon had another encounter with a Monarch All-American, this time it was center Nyree Roberts, an Associated Press Honorable

Mention All-American. McKinnon, who stands 5-foot-10-inches, gives five inches and many pounds to the 6-foot-3-inch Roberts. McKinnon drove to the basket for a

layup, but was fouled by Roberts who was attempting to block the shot.

"She (Roberts) probably would have knocked the shot into the stands," McKinnon said. "I was just trying to draw the foul."

Before Sunday, McKinnon's career-high in scoring had been 12 points. She achieved that mark in the season-opener versus Wake Forest Nov. 15 and against American Jan. 9.

"She has lots of hustle," said VCU coach David Glass. "She takes some gambles and misses sometimes, but does good things. She gave them (ODU) problems."

McKinnon was part of a VCU team that gave the Monarchs what may be ODU's most competitive Colonial Athletic Association game of the season.

"Everyone pumped them up so much," McKinnon said. "We wanted to prove that if you put pressure on them, they can't do much."

Throughout the season, McKinnon has seen time at both the guard and forward position and is averaging 4.6 points per game. She has scored in double-digits four times this season, against Wake Forest (12), AU (12), ODU (15) and Santa Clara (11).

"He (Glass) was letting me play today, letting me play with more freedom" McKinnon said of her performance against ODU.

McKinnon's contribution helped compensate for the absence of Lady Ram senior guard Meredith Sisson. Sisson missed the ODU game and Friday's 79-76 win over Richmond. The Myrtle Beach, S.C. native was hospitalized with pneumonia and a kidney infection.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VCU 79, Richmond 76

VCU (9-8,5-2)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Rasmussen	36 4-13	1-2	1-3	0	3	9
Waller	34 10-26	7-10	5-7	3	3	27
Karlsson	36 7-12	3-3	4-10	2	4	17
McKinnon	14 1-4	0-0	0-0	3	1	3
Kyhilstedt	22 2-5	1-2	1-3	4	2	7
Remus	20 2-3	2-4	12	1	2	7
Millsaps	7 1-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
McKenna	23 2-6	0-0	2-7	4	2	4
Burns	8 2-4	0-0	3-3	0	2	4
TOTALS	200 31-75	14-21	20-45	18	19	79

Percentages: FG-.413, FT-.667, 3-point goals: 3-10, 300 (Kyhilstedt 2-4, Remus 1-1, McKenna 0-3).

Richmond (10-8, 4-4)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Meade	25 2-11	3-4	2-6	2	3	9
Constantakis	28 2-4	1-1	1-4	0	2	5
Center	29 2-6	6-9	1-4	3	3	10
Detollenaere	33 3-8	1-2	0-6	8	4	7
Hester	29 5-7	0-0	0-4	2	5	12
Florin	26 9-14	1-1	0-1	1	2	23
Edwards	8 1-3	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Barcus	15 3-5	2-2	1-2	0	1	8
Aleshire	7 1-3	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
TOTALS	200 28-16	14-19	9-39	16	20	76

VCU 39 40 — 79
UR 43 33 — 76

Technical fouls: none. A: 611

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VCU 82, VCU 70

VCU (9-9,5-3)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Rasmussen	28 3-10	0-2	3-6	1	5	6
Waller	26 4-11	3-3	2-5	2	5	11
Karlsson	34 6-7	9-9	1-2	0	2	21
McKinnon	26 4-9	7-8	0-3	3	4	15
Kyhilstedt	29 3-5	2-2	0-4	3	5	9
Remus	26 1-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	3
Millsaps	1 0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McKenna	12 1-3	2-2	1-1	0	3	5
Burns	14 0-2	0-0	1-4	0	3	0
Mergenthal	4 0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Washington	1 0-1	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
TOTALS	200 22-51	23-26	7-28	9	26	70

Percentages: FG-.431, FT-.885, 3-point goals: 3-7, 429 (Rasmussen 0-1, Remus 1-1, Kyhilstedt 1-2, McKenna 1-3).

Old Dominion (16-1, 9-0)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Penicheiro	33 6-11	7-7	3-6	9	3	20
Andrade	33 2-8	8-12	4-9	4	4	12
Roberts	35 10-15	28	7-14	0	3	22
Eller-Paul	26 3-9	7-9	0-2	0	2	14
Eblin	23 1-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	3
Levens	12 0-0	0-1	0-1	0	1	3
Keenan	6 1-2	0-0	1-1	0	1	2
Small	21 0-3	2-2	3-6	2	2	2
Dias	12 1-4	0-0	0-0	0	2	2
Williams	5 1-2	0-0	1-2	1	1	2
TOTALS	200 26-60	26-38	21-45	17	19	82

VCU 34 36 — 70
ODU 43 39 — 82

Technical fouls: none. A: 912

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UR 56, VCU 52

VCU (6-10, 2-4)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Kodjoe	27 1-3	0-2	1-3	0	3	2
Archie	25 8-13	0-0	5-10	1	2	16
Brooks	30 4-9	1-1	4-7	1	0	9
Taylor	35 4-14	0-0	0-2	6	1	10
Lilly	30 1-7	0-0	1-4	4	0	3
Hoggatt	10 2-7	0-0	0-2	0	0	5
Drake	17 0-3	0-0	1-1	1	1	0
Moore	12 2-5	0-0	3-7	3	2	4
TOTALS	200 23-64	1-3	17-38	16	11	52

Percentages: FG-.3593, FT-.333, 3-point goals: 4-13, (Taylor 2-8, Lilly 1-5, Hoggatt 1-6, Drake 0-1, Mills 1-2).

Richmond (12-5, 5-2)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Stevenson	30 4-9	2-2	1-5	2	2	11
Patrick	39 4-10	0-1	0-5	3	3	8
Poole	35 1-5	3-5	2-8	0	1	5
Brown	33 5-9	0-0	0-2	5	0	13
Baker	28 5-9	0-0	0-2	2	0	13
Cueto	7 0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Oliver	16 2-4	0-0	0-1	1	0	4
Kauffman	5 1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Houston	7 0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
TOTALS	200 22-48	5-8	6-31	14	6	56

VCU 19 33 — 52
UR 30 26 — 56

Technical fouls: none. A: 613

LADY RAMS

continued from page 12

forced three turnovers but could not turn any of those mistakes into points.

"We made some steals late in the game, but we had some mental and physical breakdowns late, and we couldn't convert our opportunities," Smith said.

Next up for the Rams is a matchup with American. The Eagles are 3-4 in the conference and defeated James Madison 61-54 in Harrisonburg, Saturday in their last outing.

RICHMOND

continued from page 12

get the lead up to 18 points, the biggest lead of the afternoon for ODU.

"When we got down by 18, our team kept battling and making plays and we ended up being OK," said Glass.

The Lady Rams chipped away at the lead and was down by only 67-55 with 7:20 left when Roberts made a play that would help finally put away the host team.

After Roberts missed a free throw, ODU was able to get one of their many offensive rebounds and eventually worked the ball back to Roberts.

She then made a layup and was fouled by Karlsson. Roberts made her free throw to complete the three point play and give the Monarchs a 70-55 lead.

Although VCU did cut the lead to as close as a six, 76-70 with 55 seconds left in the game, the Monarchs made their final six free throws to seal the win and provide the final margin of victory.

"The VCU team deserves some credit. They played an excellent game," said Penicheiro.

In the first game of the weekend the Lady Rams defeated city rival Richmond, 79-76. VCU was led by Waller who had 27 points and seven rebounds, and also held Richmond's leading scorer, Jennifer Meade to just seven points. Meade had been averaging 20.2 points per game entering the contest with VCU.

CT PLAYER OF THE GAME

CHEVETTE WALLER FORWARD, VCU

■ Scored 27 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

■ **QUOTE OF NOTE** — "I love to play Richmond. The game was in front of my home fans, on my home floor."
— Chevette Waller, VCU forward

CT Player of the Game

SHAYOHN MCKINNON FORWARD, VCU

■ Scored 15 points and recorded 4 steals against third-ranked ODU

■ **QUOTE OF NOTE** — "She's very quick and anticipates well."
— Ticha Penicheiro, ODU guard

CT Player of the Game

JONATHAN BAKER GUARD, UR

■ Scored 13 points, made three of six three point attempts.

■ **QUOTE OF NOTE** — "Baker really hurt us early with the three's."
— Sonny Smith, VCU coach

VCU aids in opening of new soccer facility

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

In an effort to provide practice fields closer to campus for its soccer teams, VCU in cooperation with the Richmond Department for Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, will donate \$50,000 toward the construction and will help pay the maintenance costs of a soccer complex at Bryan Park, located on Richmond's northern border with Henrico County.

The contribution for maintenance costs will not exceed \$10,000, said Jeff Cupps, VCU athletic director for business affairs.

Currently the men's soccer team, 1997 Colonial Athletic Association Champions, practices at Striker Park in the West End.

The women's soccer team holds its workouts at Henderson Middle School in the North Side. The Bryan Park facilities provide practice fields that are closer to VCU's campus than the present practice sites.

"The Striker Park people have been nice enough to donate the fields for practice time," said Cupps. "But the downside is that the men's team has to travel 30 to 40 minutes each way and the women have to go to Henderson."

The Rams' soccer teams will practice at the facility, which should be ready for VCU's use in August 1998, during the day on weekdays, with Richmond's Youth Soccer League and Richmond city school teams using the complex weeknights beginning at 4:30 and on all day Saturdays.

On Sunday afternoons, the Central Virginia Soccer Association, which raised \$400,000 for the complex, will use the fields for games and practices.

"What really works with Bryan Park is that the main thrust is youth soccer," Cupps said. "Working in cooperation with them helped with fund raising. The Central Virginia Soccer Association really led the charge with fund raising."

The ever-growing youth leagues in addition to VCU will get much-needed fields when this project is completed. The Richmond-based Youth Soccer League will be adding a girls' division of 12 teams this spring, creating a need for more fields which Bryan Park will help to meet.

"Youth soccer is growing phenomenally," said Elaine Lidholm, spokesman for the Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities. "Right now we have a couple thousand players, with a few girls' teams. There will be a huge increase when we add the entire girls' division."

Though building the fields at Bryan Park will benefit both VCU and the local leagues, some residents of the neighborhoods surrounding Bryan Park were not pleased with the project.

"Anytime there is change, there will be people who do not like it," Cupps said. "People like Bryan Park the way it is, but they realize that this provides important opportunities for young people."

Friends of Bryan Park, a civic organiza-

tion, supports the soccer fields because of the benefit to Richmond's youth.

The young soccer players will receive more than just playing fields from the project since VCU student-athletes agree to perform community service in Richmond. If the student-athletes perform their hours working with the soccer leagues, they would conduct soccer skills clinics and serve as coaches or referees.

"We have an agreement with several schools including VCU," Lidholm said. "The athletes agree to give so many hours of community service to the city. To this point, we have not nearly taken full advantage of that, but we will."

This is the second new soccer facility that VCU is helping to construct. Last spring, VCU began constructing a soccer and track and field stadium near The Diamond, on the land where the Richmond Arena previously stood. Both the men's and women's soccer teams will play their home games at the stadium.

That stadium, which has not been named, should be finished in the spring of next year in time for the start of the track and field season.

Despite this new stadium, VCU's soccer teams still need the practice fields at Bryan Park.

"With the track team using the stadium, there is a lot of competition for time on that field," Cupps said. "The fields at Bryan Park allow us to have the practice fields we need."

Rams in Action				
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S BASKETBALL (6-10, 1-4)	JAN. 26 AU	JAN. 29 JMU	JAN. 31 ODU	BOTH RAM HOME GAMES WILL BE TELEVIEWED BY HOME TEAM SPORTS.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (9-9, 5-3)	JAN. 30 W&M	FEB. 1 JMU	FEB. 3 AU	THE LADY RAMS ELIMINATED AU FROM THE CAA TOURNAMENT LAST SEASON.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDICATES HOME GAME <input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES AWAY GAME				

Rams' Archie steps forward

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

For senior Torrance Archie, a forward on VCU's men's basketball team, his past two games have been among his best.

Archie, who hails from Jacksonville, Fla., has scored 34 points and grabbed 20 rebounds in VCU's games against East Carolina (18-10) and Richmond (16-10).

"He's playing with so much confidence right now," said VCU coach Sonny Smith. "He's really playing well."

The pair of double-doubles Archie recorded in those two games were the second and third of his VCU career.

Last season he scored 15 points and snatched 17 rebounds in VCU's 86-71 win over Richmond on Jan. 25, 1997.

The success Archie had in the Rams' 56-52 loss to the Spiders was tempered when he suffered a strain of medial collateral ligament in his right knee at 12:35 of the second half. Archie did not return to the contest and will miss VCU's game against American Monday in Washington.

At the time of his injury, Archie was VCU's top offensive performer, scoring 16 of VCU's 32 points at the time of Archie's departure.

"Archie's injury had to be some kind of factor," Smith said. "But we still had a real good chance to win the basketball game."

Archie shot 61.5 percent against UR, compared with VCU's paltry 35.9 percent.

"His shots were going in," said VCU freshman guard Scott Lilly, who had scored 10 points against ECU and four versus the Spiders. "When he left the game, everyone had to step up."

Against ECU, whom the Spiders knocked off 60-54, Archie shot 75 percent, while VCU as a team shot 40.8. He grabbed 10 of the Rams' 30 rebounds and converted six of his 10 free throw attempts.

"If I had to single out one player individually (in the ECU game), I would say Torrance Archie," Smith said following his team's defeat of the Pirates. "He was the man late in the ballgame."

Having Archie, who started every VCU game since the beginning of last season as an offensive leader, is something that Smith wants to continue.

"We would love for Torrance Archie to be a go-to guy, but he is reluctant to accept that role because he has always been a complimentary player," said Smith.

"He is a hard hat guy. He plays just as hard as he can and with as much heart as he can."

Though Archie has been the Rams' leading scorer in their past two games, he is second on the team in scoring, averaging 8.9 points a game, behind senior center Brooks who is averaging 13.3.

The only other game in which he was VCU's leading scorer was against William and Mary, when he scored 12 points. Archie is the team's leading rebounder, averaging 6.8 boards per game.

Against UR, both Archie and Brooks were playing in the post, but it was Archie, not Brooks, who had the big day. Brooks managed only nine points and seven rebounds.

"Teams have their game plans to stop Mylo Brooks," said Smith. "That leaves Torrance open and able to take advantage."

Archie came to VCU from Daytona Beach Community College where he averaged 14.6 points, 6.4 rebounds, 1.6 steals and 1.1 rebounds per game.

Before playing at Daytona Beach, he spent his freshman year at South Florida, where Archie appeared in 27 games, averaging 2.6 points and 1.8 rebounds per contest.

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Ram Stat

•Forward Chevette Waller is the only Richmond native on the VCU women's basketball roster.

Monday, January 26, 1998

Sports

Commonwealth Times

Inside

•Features on men's basketball player Torrance Archie and women's basketball player ShaVohn McKinnon

Lady Rams split weekend games

George Templeton
CT STAFF WRITER

In the second game of the weekend the Lady Rams' basketball team improved by leaps and bounds over their 47 point defeat at home last year.

The Lady Rams (9-9, 5-3) hung with the Monarchs, but were defeated 82-70.

"I'm not into to moral victories, but this is the first time we have really played decent against ODU," said VCU head coach David Glass.

The Monarchs (16-1, 9-0) were led to their 54th straight conference win by their Kodak All-American point guard Ticha Penicheiro and their main post player Nyree Roberts.

Despite an ankle injury Penicheiro had 20 points, nine assists, six steals, and six rebounds. Roberts sustained an injury above her right eyebrow in practice last week but still came up with another double-double, with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

The Lady Rams were led by Mona Karlsson who had 21 points, ShaVohn McKinnon who had 15 points, four steals and three assists, and Chevette Waller with 11 points.

"McKinnon hustled out there for us and came up with some big steals early to get us

going," said Glass.

Key to the ODU win was 45-28 rebounding edge including a 21-7 edge on the offensive boards.

"We really attacked the glass today, but we didn't convert as many as we should have," said ODU head coach Wendy Larry.

Early in the first half of the game, the Monarchs jumped out to a 17-6 lead in the first 5:30 minutes and eventually built the lead to as high as 13, leading 34-21 with 4:57 left in the half.

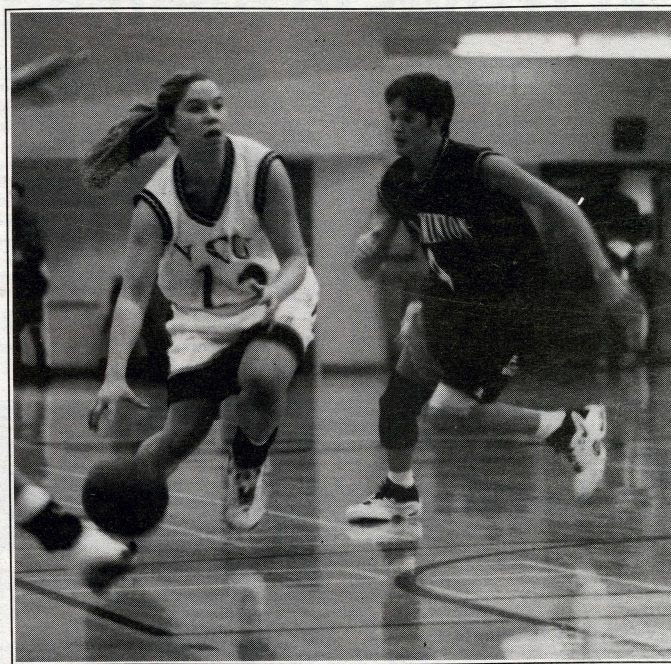
VCU slowly chipped into that lead cutting it to as close as six, 40-34 with only 23 seconds left in the half. ODU then got a threepointer from Aubrey Eblin with seven seconds left in the half to give the Monarchs a 43-34 halftime lead.

"That three at the end of the half was big. When you're down only by six you feel your still in it, but when you're down by nine you feel like you have to climb mountains to get back in the ball game," said Glass.

In the second half the Lady Rams were able to pare the deficit down to a close seven at 48-41 two minutes in the half.

The Monarchs then went on a 19-8 run over the next eight minutes of the game to

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Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

HERE I COME — Lady Ram point guard Liz Remus dodges ODU's Amber Eller-Paul. VCU trailed by just six points with 55 seconds left, but fell 82-70 to the third-ranked Monarchs.

Richmond stymies Rams comeback

George Templeton
CT STAFF WRITER

Despite being down by 11 points with 4:41 left, and the leading scorer out with an injury, the Rams basketball team marshalled one last desperate comeback that almost worked.

After Lamar Taylor missed a three pointer that would have given VCU (6-10, 2-4) a one point lead, Jarod Stevenson made two free throws with five seconds left in the game to seal Richmond's 56-52 victory.

"Richmond's play in the first half was tremendous. We got off to our usual slow start and we wait until too late in the game to get the kind of effort we had been getting the last two games," said VCU head coach Sonny Smith.

Richmond coach John Beilein was elated with the win.

"I'm very pleased with the win. This the kind of win that really puts a spring in your step for your next game. Our guys really gutted this win out for us down the stretch," he said.

Despite getting hurt with 12:35 left in the game, Torrance Archie led the Rams for the second straight game. Archie had his second consecutive double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

"At the time he (Archie) went out, we weren't playing very well but he was carrying us," Smith said. Archie suffered a first-degree sprain of the medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Randy Mills said Archie's injury forced

the team to come together.

"We look to Archie as a leader and one person didn't step up to be the leader, the whole team did," Mills said.

The Spiders jumped out to a 30-19 half-time lead by shooting 50 percent (12-24) from the field. The spiders used a 9-2 run in the last 5:02 of the half to stretch the lead to 11.

Jonathan Baker keyed that run with back-to-back three pointers and closed the half way with 11 points. Baker had 13 points in the night, including a trio of three-pointers.

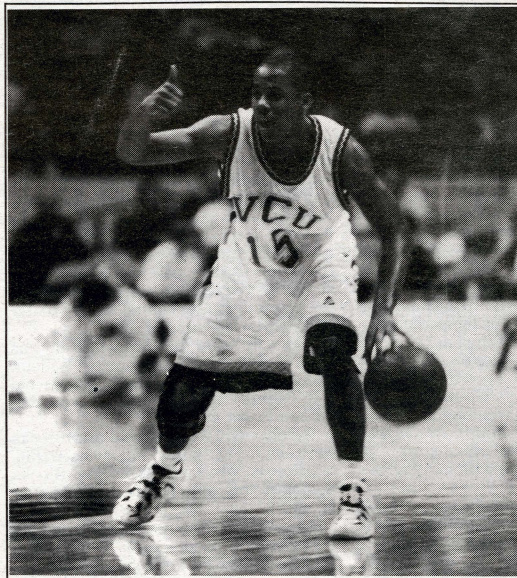
The Rams' problems can be traced to their shooting. VCU shot just 32 percent (9-30) and just 11.1 percent (1-9) from behind the three-point arch. Archie led the Rams by scoring eight of his 16 points in the first half.

The second half opened up auspiciously for VCU, as the Rams cut the halftime deficit to eight, 36-28, after an Archie layup. Richmond responded with eight straight points over the next 1:24 to give the Spiders their biggest lead, 44-28, with 14:41.

The Rams wouldn't get the lead under 10 until 5:57 left in the game when they closed to within 50-41 after a three pointer by Mills.

After a Baker layup, one of two baskets Richmond made in the final 6:23, restored the Spiders' double digit lead, VCU made their last desperate push to win the game.

The Rams' outburst began with a Hunter Hoggatt three pointer and a three-point play by Mylo Brooks. Those two plays closed the gap to 52-47 before Richmond's



ONE THUMB UP — Ram guard Scott Lilly calls an offensive play in VCU's 56-52 loss to Richmond Saturday. The offense floundered in the first half, scoring just 19 points.

Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

Nick Patrick made a shot that would help salt the win away.

The play came after the Spiders had worked the clock down to under five seconds, Patrick took a pass from Marseilles Brown and hit a jumper as the shot clock hit zero.

"Their ability to run the shot clock down was a big reason for their victory," Smith said.

Taylor responded with a three pointer to cut the lead to 54-50. The Rams then

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