

Tuesday: More rain. Here's the good part: high of 57, low of 48.

Wednesday: Just look at the darn graphic. High of 60, low of 40.

Commonwealth Times

Monday, February 16, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 30, No. 47

VCU grad working for Lt. Gov. Hager

Sarah Ann Hearney
CT STAFF WRITER

Some would never guess this man is a mere 33 years old. His manner and poise resemble that of a seasoned government official, while his appearance reflects that of a wise and much older man.

R. David Ross, a 1987 VCU graduate, became the policy director for Lt. Gov. John Hager, a Republican elected in November, shortly after Hager took office.

Ross, who earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and management, said his older appearance has helped promote his career in government especially while working for the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

"The first couple of years I just went to class and got bad grades," he said of his studies at VCU. "Then I gave 100 percent and did well."

He attributes his success in the business world to the education he received in

the School of Business.

"It was invaluable because governments are trying to operate more and more like businesses," he said.

Referring to practical things he learned in college, Ross described a marketing case study in a business class.

"We had to dissect a business, Wendy's International, I remember, and analyze the current situation," he said. "Whether it was good or bad, we had to try to find ways to serve the consumer better."

"My work as vice president of public affairs at the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce required the same practical ways of viewing things. I had to analyze things and find out better ways of serving the people."

While lobbying and handling public relations duties in the chamber, Ross met Hager 10 years ago.

Hager, then the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, was active in community service, and the two sometimes found them-

R. David Ross, a 1987 VCU graduate, became the policy director for Lt. Gov. John Hager, a Republican elected in November, shortly after Hager took office.

selves working with each other.

"It's great to work for someone you believe in personally and professionally," Ross said.

Hager views Ross' leadership abilities as assets to the lieutenant governor's office.

"I chose Ross for my policy director because of his dedication, enthusiasm, experience and training," Hager said. "His leadership, work in the General Assembly,

good way with people and communication with the press are great strengths," he said.

Still, Hager isn't the only administrator who thinks highly of the former VCU student.

Eugene Trani, VCU's president, also met Ross while working with the chamber. Trani worked on the board of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce for six years and has been on the executive committee for three years as chairman of the board.

"The strengths Ross will bring to the office of lieutenant governor are his great personality and the fact that everyone likes him," Trani said.

As Hager's policy director, Ross serves as the lieutenant governor's point person for legislative, administrative and media matters, according to Hager's office. While Hager presides in the Senate, Ross plays a key role in keeping the lieutenant governor's office on track.

Time Out



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

A lone skateboarder braves last week's chill for a bit of recreation in front of the VCU student commons. Next week's forecast calls for more rain, but with temperatures in the 50s and 60s.

UVA officers give arrested VP support

By Lisa M. Regelman
CAVALIER DAILY (U. VIRGINIA)

CHARLOTTESVILLE -- (U-Wire) -- Following his arrest Monday for allegedly attempting to obtain "money by false pretenses" in connection with a September Student Council retreat at the Omni Hotel, Dan Soschin, Council vice president for administration, maintains full support from many Council members, who said they believe his actions were unintentional.

The supposed adjustments on the retreat bill in question totaled more than \$3,600, according to a University Police press release. But Council members said Soschin did not have any wrongful intent.

"All charges are based upon an assumption of intent," Council Executive Vice President Howard A. Foard III said.

The charges involve the mishandling of Student Activity Fee monies.

Each student pays a \$32 SAF with tuition to help pay for University activities. This money is allocated to Council and dispensed to Contracted Independent Organizations. The SAF is considered "public funds" -- similar to state funds, but differing in that the latter are allocated by the General Assembly, Student Activities Business Manager Bill Hancher said.

The allegations "are in regard to an altering of the bill and a discrepancy between SAF and non-SAF accounts," Council President Sajeena Geevarghese said.

As reimbursements are required throughout the year, a receipt is presented to either the Council's chief financial officer or the vice president for administration, one of whom certifies the expense as fundable in accordance with Council and Board of Visitors guidelines. A reimbursement voucher is filled out and, if approved, is sent to Hancher, who then writes a check. The whole process takes about seven to 10 days, Butler said.

In the event of a discrepancy, Council officials typically discuss the situation with Hancher. In this case, however, Hancher did not consult Foard before the allegations were made, Foard said.

There was a "missing link, and when there was a question we were not contacted and the wheels started turning," he said.

Hancher said he followed the procedures for reporting a conflict as delineated in the University's Financial and Administrative Procedure Manual.

Council was first made aware of the allegations against Soschin Oct. 8 in a meeting with the state auditor, Geevarghese said.

Council members point to their initial inexperience and unfamiliarity with state laws as the main cause of their difficulties.

"It happened in the first few weeks of school, and many of us had just started in

UVA continued to page 2 >>

POT-SHOTS

What do you think of the Bill Clinton sex scandal?



Cribbs

"I think if he did it, he shouldn't have lied about it on national television. Also, he shouldn't

have put up with this accusation while he is president because he has more important issues to deal with."

Brooke Cribbs, 19, art education and sculpture



Wheeler

"It is not as big of a deal as it is made up to be."

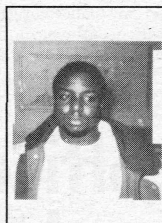
Aaron Wheeler, 21, biology



Holmes

"I don't think it is true because I think the president is too nice of a guy."

Dionne Holmes, 18, pre-nursing



Gordon

"Out of all of the secretive things that go on in the White House, President Clinton got caught doing the wrong thing."

Artis Gordon, 19, mass communications

—Reporting by Mike Regan, CT Staff Writer

UVA

continued from page 1

our positions," Foard said. "We never had a briefing on state guidelines for spending money."

He said Council members support Soschin and see the need for the public to take a step back and look at the overall situation and wait for the truth to come out.

"I firmly believe that Dan didn't do anything intentionally," College Rep. Emmanuel West said.

"His integrity has been unquestioned," College Rep. Cathy Crump said.

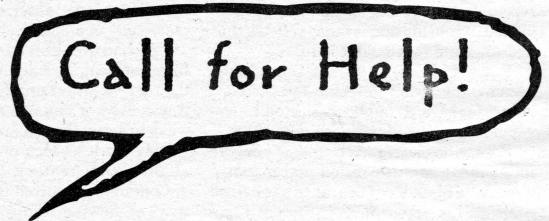
The effects of this case will have great implications not only on Soschin -- ac-

ademically and extra-curricularly -- but on the image of Student Council as well, Council members said.

"When the truth comes out, [students will ask] 'Why should I get involved? Why should I take the risk?'" of making a mistake such as Soschin's, Foard said. "We perform administrative tasks that other [schools] employ a staff to do."

A case testing the legality of Student Activity Funds now is pending before the the U.S. Supreme Court.

Soschin did not return phone calls. University Police officials charged Soschin with a Class IV felony.



Virginia Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1-800-552-7096 (Voice/TDD)



Use this 24-hour hotline to report child abuse and neglect or to be referred to community programs for help with the stress of parenting.

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A 24-hour hotline to provide support, information and referrals to people in violent family situations, including sexual assault and elder abuse. (A program of Virginians Against Domestic Violence)

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Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocate Association
Virginia Department of Social Services
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Health

NOTES

News from the medical community



•HIV drugs linked to fat build-up

An unusual side effect in HIV-infected patients taking protease inhibitors is the build-up of fat on the back of the neck, shoulders, abdomen and other areas not normally associated with weight gain, say researchers.

Researchers believe that the "buffalo hump" symptoms may be due to metabolic changes caused by the drugs.

The findings were reported by researchers at the 5th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Chicago, Ill., last week.

•Partying, smoking linked

A study published in the current issue of the American Journal of Public Health found that "High risk behaviors, such as using marijuana, drinking heavily and having multiple sex partners, are the strongest correlates of smoking status among this population," say researchers led by Dr. Karen Emmons of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Mass.

The study was based on a random survey of 17,500 college students at 140 campuses across the United States.

•Minorities more likely to die at work

African-Americans were found to be 30 to 50 percent more likely to die from a job-related injury than whites, according to a study of North Carolina workers.

A report published in the American Journal of Public Health says this may be due to inequality in access to the labor market and unequal distribution of risk on the job.

"The jobs held by whites and African-Americans in North Carolina were different, and this distinction appears to account for much of the overall mortality differential," say authors Dr. Dana Loomis and Dr. David Richardson of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health in Chapel Hill.

The study does note that "African-Americans had the higher mortality in some occupations, while that of whites was higher in others."

•Suicides rise after natural disasters

The rate of suicide tends to increase in local areas in the time following natural disasters, says a study published in The New England Journal of Medicine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say their study shows that "suicide rates increase after severe earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and confirms the need for mental health support after severe disasters."

The incidence of suicide differed according to what type of disaster was experienced.

Compared to localities which did not suffer from disasters, post-hurricane suicides rose by 18.9 percent, post-earthquake suicides rose by 63 percent and flood-related suicides rose by 13.8 percent.

Tornadoes and large storms had no noticeable effects on local suicide rates.

•Senate confirms new Surgeon General

The U.S. Senate confirmed Clinton nominee Dr. David Satcher as the nation's new Surgeon General last Tuesday.

By a vote of 63-35, the Senate filled the post which has been vacant for three years. Satcher grew up poor in Alabama and nearly died from whooping cough at age two.

"This is an American dream come true — to go from a humble farm in Anniston, Alabama to the office of Surgeon General," said Satcher in a statement following his

confirmation.

Satcher did not go through the confirmation process without some resistance. Senate Republicans criticized Satcher for supporting late-term abortions for mothers where there is a health risk and for his support of needle exchange programs.

•Physicians' lab tests more likely to err

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reports that results from labs in physicians' office laboratories are three times more likely to be inaccurate than tests sent to licensed labs.

The study results "suggest that testing personnel in many physician office laboratories might lack the necessary education, training and oversight common to larger facilities," researchers write.

•New drug may curb pedophilia

Triptorelin, a drug which suppresses the secretion of testosterone, may eliminate abnormal sexual fantasies and behaviors in men with histories of child molestation and other deviant acts, a new study in The New England Journal of Medicine reports.

State police to look at VMI spankings

LEXINGTON (AP) — A prosecutor has asked the state police to investigate the case of a former Virginia Military Institute cadet who was one of six freshmen periodically struck with a belt by three upperclassmen.

Rockbridge County Commonwealth's Attorney Gordon Saunders said Friday that he met for more than 90 minutes Thursday with George Wade Jr., his parents and a state police investigator.

Wade, 20, of Henrico County, said the beatings occurred about three times a week from Sept. 11 to mid-October, leaving the students with welts and bruises on their buttocks and legs.

He withdrew from the school, but the other five freshmen are still enrolled.

After a school investigation that con-

cluded the incidents amounted to "horseplay" spankings, VMI suspended the three seniors last week for one semester.

The school has not released to identity of the seniors.

Wade's family contends the case should have been treated as hazing.

No criminal charges have been filed against the seniors.

Saunders said he asked the state police to investigate because VMI is on state property. He said the investigator will interview VMI students and others who may have observed the bruises Wade said the beatings caused.

A VMI doctor found no evidence of injury when he examined the cadets several weeks after the incidents stopped.

POT-SHOTS

What do you think of the issue of the alleged hazing at VMI?



Hallie Smith, 53, Special Student

"My husband went to VMI. I'm not in favor of beatings. It doesn't sound like a good thing, what happened to the boys."



Dianett Phifer, 30, Criminal Justice

"It's possible because that's something that is a historical event that usually takes place."



Jonathan Terrell, 21, Psychology

"It is tradition. A few spankings aren't much. They are being trained to defend our country. If it happens, it happens."



John M. Mahoney, 52, Associate Psychology Professor

"Does it occur? The concept is dangerous. They do in a group what they would never do alone. It doesn't do much of anything."

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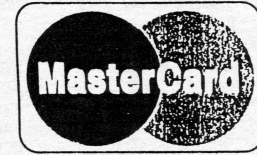
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Justin M. Wilson

'Give me that barbell — or else!'

Last week, the House of Delegates effectively killed legislation that would have banned guns in recreation centers. The measure has been sought for several years now by a county in Northern Virginia. Yet again, the state of Virginia has allowed the National Rifle Association to make policy for its citizens.

I would ask those in opposition to this legislation: What use is a firearm in a recreation center? Maybe now, when someone takes the Nautilus machine that you were on before you went to the bathroom, you could put a slug in his stomach to get back at him. I never knew that while you are pumping iron, you needed to be packing steel.

This article of legislation was of course nearly entirely symbolic, but it sheds lights on a far more important issue. Virginia has some of the most liberal restrictions on guns in the country. With a permit in Virginia, one may carry a concealed weapon. We are reverting to the days of old where everyone carried a gun on the streets and used them regularly to resolve any conflicts. It is sad, unfortunate and unprogressive. We supposedly have come a long way from the gun-toting days of the 19th century.

Those against responsible gun legislation tend to hide behind the protection of the second amendment. This amendment is long overdue for reinterpretation. The Founding Fathers' intention was to allow for a well-regulated militia in each state. They had no intention of having citizens

strut through the streets carrying concealed handguns. We have, in our effort to assure freedom for all, made our nation the laughingstock of the world.

How can we justify our system? In 1996, New Zealand, Japan, Great Britain, Canada and Germany had a grant total of 364 handgun murders COMBINED! The United States, during that same period had 9,390 handgun murders! Something is pervasively wrong with our mentality toward firearms. Great Britain has now banned private ownership of handguns, and 95 percent of their police force still don't carry weapons, and don't mind.

People bring these weapons into their homes for a sense of security. They say that they will be able to attack an intruder if he or she were to unlawfully enter their homes. Yet, statistics reveal that by having a handgun in your home, it is 43 times more likely that the weapon will kill a family member than be employed in self-defense.

Everyday responsible outdoorsmen use their rifles for the purpose of hunting. They are law-abiding citizens against whom gun control activists are not fighting against. Those against gun control will tell you that the gun control activists are out to pull the weapons from the hands of the sportsmen. That is hardly the case.

The goal is to make handguns and assault weapons that never reasonably need to be used for hunting unavailable. They are made for one purpose — to kill. That is just unreasonable if we are trying to pass ourselves off as a progressive nation.

U.S. right to oppose Hussein

Indiana Daily Student
(Indiana U.)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — (U-Wire) — The Clinton administration has come under some recent criticism for the lack of support for military stationing in the Middle East. While the number of Middle Eastern countries publicly supporting the United States is certainly nothing to brag about, the United States, with increasing numbers of Western allies coming to its support, should be confident in its firm position against Iraq.

Secretary William Cohen's recent trip to the Middle East in an attempt to drum up support for military action against Iraq might appear to have failed because only three nations — Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain — are publicly supporting (though not embracing) the possibility of U.S. and British-backed action against Saddam Hussein. These public stances shouldn't give the impression the vast majority of Middle Eastern nations oppose action against Iraq. Many regional leaders down-right despise Hussein but are afraid any backlash from Hussein will fall upon their own people. Despite this absence of support from major U.S. allies such as Egypt and Israel, after meeting with representatives from various Gulf States, Secretary of State Madeline Albright said the United

States should use force.

The United States is also gradually gaining more support from western nations. France has recently joined Great Britain and the United States, making three out of the five members of the U.N. Security Council supportive of a military operation. In addition, other allies, such as Canada and Australia, pledged their support Tuesday to the possible U.S.-led action.

This pressure is needed now more than ever. Analysts say, somewhat paradoxically, we will come closer to a diplomatic end to the situation because of the increasing threats of war. They say Hussein has been backing down little by little the closer we come to a military confrontation.

But this game of wait-and-see can't go on forever. Intelligence information has shown us Hussein does in fact possess numerous chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, including some western powers have never heard of before. We can't let Hussein try to circumvent the law and avoid inspections any longer. The ultimate decision as to whether or not we go to war will be up to Hussein. To show him how serious we are, we must continue to stand up firmly to his threats and to rally others in support of an end to the standoff.

Hopefully, military action will be a last resort, and this end will be a peaceful one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Smokers have the right to smoke too

People are always complaining about something now-a-days, huh? If it's not one thing, it's another. I guess they feel good that way . . .

But on the matter at hand, everyone's so concerned with a non-smoker's right, but how about a smoker's right TO SMOKE?

Now, I'm not advocating smoking, but to us people who do, I think we deserve the same amount of respect as well.

So let's talk about VCU — hmmm . . . I may be wrong about this, but the only smoking areas INSIDE of VCU are over at GPAB, the Business building, the second floor of Hibbs and a smoking lounge in the Commons.

The smoking lounge in the Commons is separated from everything, so no one really goes through there unless they plan on sitting down and smoking a cigarette. The second floor of Hibbs is the same way, unless you're there to get a drink or you work there. The area in the Business Building is, for the most part, again separated from everything else, unless you plan on going to the 1121 computer lab or to a class right next door, which I guess you do. And then there's GPAB, right smack dab in the middle on the first floor.

Let me just say every one of these buildings has alternate routes. You don't HAVE to take the primary route which sends you to the hell you call a smoking area. There are alternatives.

You say that smokers are inconsiderate? To this I say bull. Do I smoke in an area not designated as a smoking area? No. Do I blow smoke in your face? No. You might smell it if it's close to you, but hey, here's a novel idea, move away from the smoke!

If you know you're going through an area that's designated a smoking area, GO AROUND. And if it's outside, well tough. Maybe if you hold your breath long enough you won't inhale any. And really, being surrounded for five seconds by smoke is not going to kill you. And guess what? You can wash out the smell of smoke too. Isn't that amazing?

So quit whining about, again, something completely inane. Maybe if you got outside more often you wouldn't be bothered with smoke. But I forgot, we're everywhere! You know we're doing it just to bug

you; just because we know you don't like it. So there! Get a freakin' life. You're going to live longer than me, so don't worry, be happy.

— John Emanuel
VCU student

Non-smokers, use another door!

There has been some debate lately about the university policy regarding smoking in the designated areas of the Business and General Purpose buildings. Mr. Hance-George claims that he is "disgusted and awestruck at the fact that VCU allows smoking inside public areas." That he is "forced" to pass through these areas to get to class seems to be an injustice worthy of revolution.

But what leaves me "disgusted and awestruck" is not the unfortunate exercise that Mr. Hance-George must endure on his journey to class, but the fact that he has not yet (in this, his junior year of college) noticed that VCU has designed this marvel of modern architecture with MULTIPLE ENTRANCES!

Can you believe it? It's almost as if they wanted to give students a choice concerning which way they entered the building!

Seriously though, the business building has five entrances that open into non-smoking rooms (including the entire north wall). If you can't walk for ten seconds through a smoke-filled room, or if you can't stand walking the extra fifty feet to another entrance, then I seriously question how you've managed to survive this long. This doesn't mean I'm a rabid smokers' rights advocate. I don't long for the good ol' days of smoking in classrooms and airplanes, or sitting surrounded by smokers in a movie theater, trying to enjoy a movie through the haze. I'm not even saying whether I myself am a smoker or not, because it doesn't matter.

I think steps should be taken to protect those who do not smoke from the second-hand smoke of those who do, but demanding that every space surrounded by four walls be designated no-smoking territory is simply unreasonable and unnecessary.

What I'm trying to say, without seeming too rude, is that it's time to find a new cause; because as it stands, you just sound lazy.

— Travis Ely
VCU student

Commonwealth Times

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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: s2dhill@titon. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: 1149 General Purpose Academic Building (outside of the Commonwealth Times office).

Titanic gets 14 Oscar nods

Nicholson nets eleventh nomination, sets academy record

Best Picture:
 "As Good As It Gets"
 "The Full Monty"
 "Good Will Hunting"
 "L.A. Confidential"
 "Titanic"

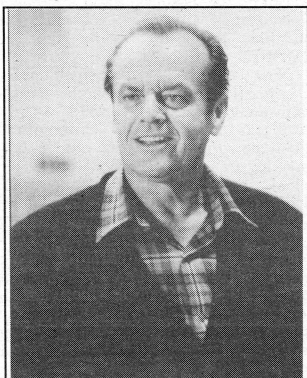
Best Actor:
 Matt Damon, "Good Will Hunting"
 Robert Duvall, "The Apostle"
 Peter Fonda, "Ulee's Gold"
 Dustin Hoffman, "Wag the Dog"
 Jack Nicholson, "As Good As It Gets"

Best Actress:
 Helena Bonham Carter, "The Wings of the Dove"
 Julie Christie, "Afterglow"
 Judi Dench, "Mrs. Brown"
 Helen Hunt, "As Good As It Gets"
 Kate Winslet, "Titanic"

Best Director:
 Peter Cattaneo, "The Full Monty"
 Gus Van Sant, "Good Will Hunting"
 Curtis Hanson, "L.A. Confidential"
 Atom Egoyan, "The Sweet Hereafter"
 James Cameron, "Titanic"

Best Supporting Actor:
 Robert Forster, "Jackie Brown"
 Anthony Hopkins, "Amistad"
 Greg Kinnear, "As Good As It Gets"
 Burt Reynolds, "Boogie Nights"
 Robin Williams, "Good Will Hunting"

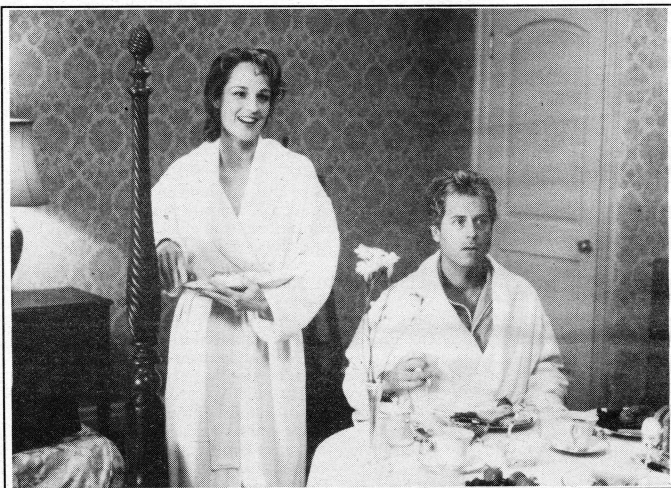
Best Supporting Actress:
 Kim Basinger, "L.A. Confidential"
 Joan Cusack, "In & Out"
 Minnie Driver, "Good Will Hunting"
 Julianne Moore, "Boogie Nights"
 Gloria Stuart, "Titanic"



by **Russell de Leon**
 CT ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

The film "Titanic" continued its success last Tuesday when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences rewarded it with a record-tying 14 nominations. "Titanic" still rakes in the money as the current number one movie in America and is now all-time fourth in total gross sales. The movie's soundtrack is currently number one as well, not falling to Pearl Jam's "Yield" as many expected.

"Good Will Hunting" and "L.A. Confidential"



Helen Hunt and Greg Kinnear were both nominated for their performances in "As Good As It Gets." Hunt was nominated for best actress and Kinnear for best supporting actor. (Above left) Jack Nicholson becomes the most nominated actor ever with his eleventh nomination.

weren't tied for the second most nominations this year with nine each. In other notables from this year's nomination,

Jack Nicholson becomes the most nominated actor of all time picking up his eleventh nomination.

Calendar

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Art Exhibit: Nora Sturges' Imaginary Landscapes and James Bradford's Retrospective are showing at the 1708 Gallery, 103 E. Broad St., until March 1. Sturges' work is based on the visions of the artist while Bradford's, a former VCU professor that passed away last July, paintings are in the photorealism style. For more information call 643-7829.

Art Exhibit: 1992 VCU graduate Jason Shelley's "Colony" will be shown at the Coincidence Gallery, 2401 W Main St., until Feb. 27. For more information call 353-5102

Concert: A Ska Jam at Twisters, 929 W Grace St., featuring The Instigators and Roosevelt's Plan, with Friday Funkalicious afterwards. For more information call 353-GAME.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Art Exhibit: Daniel Serra-Badue's Dream Reality is at the Collegiate School until March 3. This is an exhibition of 37 black and white lithographs. For more information call 741-6528.

Concert: River City Stage performs at 9 p.m. at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666

Concert: Jack Black, The Glenmont Pops, and The Independents play at Twisters, 929 W Grace St. For more information call 353-GAME.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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Best Picture:
"As Good As It Gets"
"The Full Monty"
"Good Will Hunting"
"L.A. Confidential"
"Titanic"

Best Actor:
Matt Damon, "Good Will Hunting"
Robert Duvall, "The Apostle"
Peter Fonda, "Ulee's Gold"
Dustin Hoffman, "Wag the Dog"
Jack Nicholson, "As Good As It Gets"

Best Actress:
Helena Bonham Carter, "The Wings of the Dove"
Julie Christie, "Afterglow"
Judi Dench, "Mrs. Brown"
Helen Hunt, "As Good As It Gets"
Kate Winslet, "Titanic"

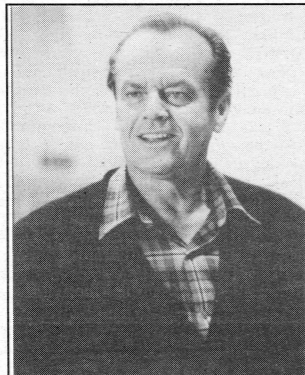
Best Director:
Peter Cattaneo, "The Full Monty"
Gus Van Sant, "Good Will Hunting"
Curtis Hanson, "L.A. Confidential"
Atom Egoyan, "The Sweet Hereafter"
James Cameron, "Titanic"

Best Supporting Actor:
Robert Forster, "Jackie Brown"
Anthony Hopkins, "Amistad"
Greg Kinnear, "As Good As It Gets"
Burt Reynolds, "Boogie Nights"
Robin Williams, "Good Will Hunting"

Best Supporting Actress:
Kim Basinger, "L.A. Confidential"
Joan Cusack, "In & Out"
Minnie Driver, "Good Will Hunting"
Julianne Moore, "Boogie Nights"
Gloria Stuart, "Titanic"

Titanic gets 14 Oscar nods

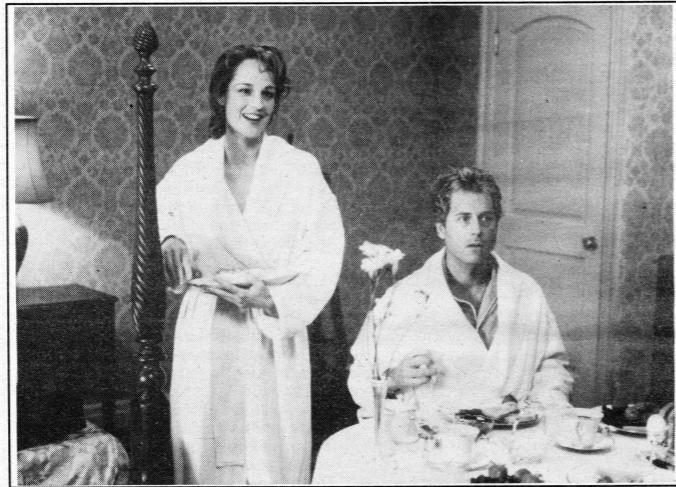
Nicholson nets eleventh nomination, sets academy record



by Russell de Leon
CT ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

The film "Titanic" continued its success last Tuesday when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences rewarded it with a record-tying 14 nominations. "Titanic" still rakes in the money as the current number one movie in America and is now all-time fourth in total gross sales. The movie's soundtrack is currently number one as well, not falling to Pearl Jam's "Yield" as many expected.

"Good Will Hunting" and "L.A. Confidential" were tied for the second most nominations this year with nine each. In other notables from this year's nominations, Jack Nicholson becomes the most nominated actor of all time picking up his eleventh nomination.



Helen Hunt and Greg Kinnear were both nominated for their performances in "As Good As It Gets." Hunt was nominated for best actress and Kinnear for best supporting actor. (Above left) Jack Nicholson becomes the most nominated actor ever with his eleventh nomination.

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by Tom Netherland
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Calendar

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Art Exhibit: Nora Sturges' Imaginary Landscapes and James Bradford's Retrospective are showing at the 1708 Gallery, 103 E. Broad St., until March 1. Sturges' work is based on the visions of the artist while Bradford's, a former VCU professor that passed away last July, paintings are in the photorealism style. For more information call 643-7829.

Art Exhibit: 1992 VCU graduate Jason Shelley's "Colony" will be shown at the Coincidence Gallery, 2401 W Main St., until Feb. 27. For more information call 353-5102

Concert: A Ska Jam at Twisters, 929 W Grace St., featuring The Instigators and Roosevelt's Plan, with Friday Funkalicious afterwards. For more information call 353-GAME.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Art Exhibit: Daniel Serra-Badue's Dream Reality is at the Collegiate School until March 3. This is an exhibition of 37 black and white lithographs. For more information call 741-6528.

Concert: River City Stage performs at 9 p.m. at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666

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Movie: "Kiss the Girls" starts at 7 p.m. and "187" at 9:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by APB.

Event: "Follow the Drinking Gourd," a Black History Month celebration is a live Sky program that tells of how the slaves used the Big Dipper to find the Underground Railroad. Admission is free, call 367-6552 for more info.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Play: The Barksdale Theatre opens "From The Mississippi Delta," a dramatic comedy about an African-American woman's journey from poverty to empowerment

during the Civil Rights Movement. Tickets range from \$15.50 to \$24.50, call 282-2620 for more information.

Concert: The Virginia Hardcore Fest starts at 2 p.m. at Twister's, 929 W. Grace St. For more information, call 353-GAME.

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Speaker: Dawn Kenny will speak on A Healthy You: Part 1: The Mind/Body Connection. Runs from 12-1 p.m. in the Student Commons.

Event: The Kaissa Chess Club meets at the Arts Cafe in the Virginia Museum at 5:30 p.m. to play chess and drink cappuccino or tea. Dues are \$20 for six months. Call 367-1154 for more information.

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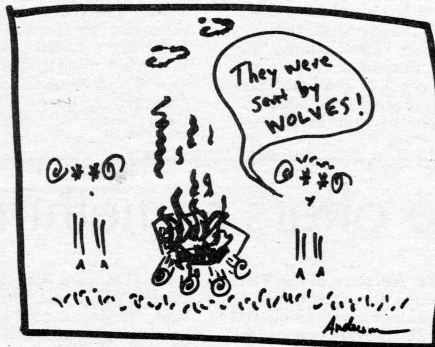
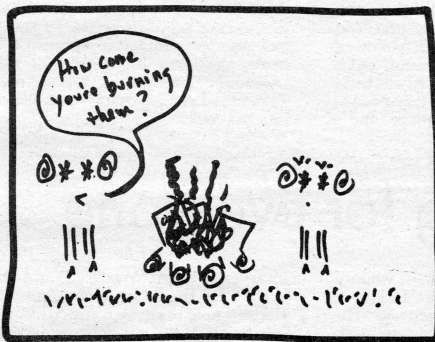
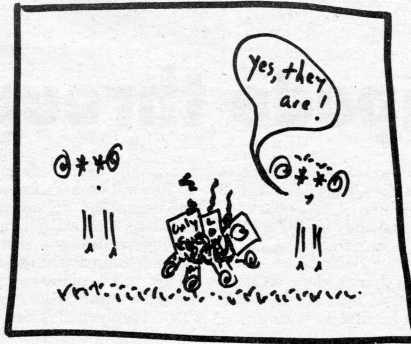
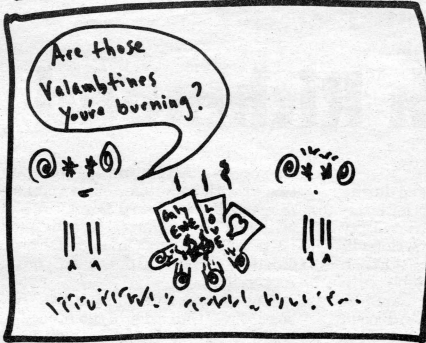
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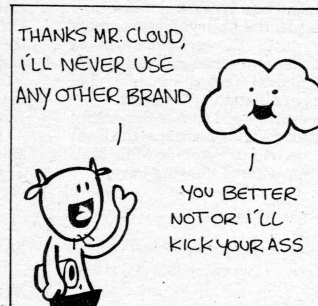
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LAMBZ

— Charles Anderson



— Travis Dandro



Leold www.leold.com by Roger and Salem Salloom © 1997

We have a famous painter who lives in our neighborhood.

Yesterday afternoon I was sitting on the grass with some other kids watching him paint the Johnson house.

He was saying that at his old age he can finally focus on his work now that his sex drive is completely gone.

We were once again amazed by him.

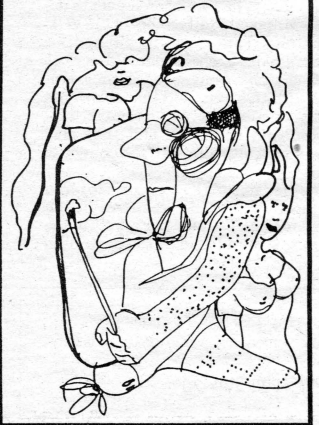
I asked him where his sex drive went. He answered, "San Francisco."

I asked him if he could go there and get it back. He said he "didn't drive and didn't have a car."

I said, "Too bad."

After that we all drifted off home for dinner because he wouldn't answer anymore of our questions... not a word.

Celebrities won't answer some questions and I was pretty hungry.



Clams — Melodie Namkoong

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miscellaneous

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SITUATION WANTED. Visually handicapped person seeks employment. Has master's in counseling. For further information call John Dunnivant at (804) 639-7360.

Classifieds are accepted Monday through Friday in the offices of the

Commonwealth TIMES, 901 W. Main St. Classifieds must be prepaid in cash, check or money order. Classifieds will be accepted by mail if full payment is enclosed.

The deadline for classifieds is noon Friday for the following Monday edition, noon Tuesday for the Wednesday issue and noon Thursday for the Friday issue. Classifieds are \$7 for the first 25 words or less, plus 10 cents for each additional word.

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 For more information, call 828-1058.

At White Oak Semiconductor, we're getting ready to unveil a masterpiece of ingenuity and opportunity—our brand new \$1.5 billion advanced memory products manufacturing facility in sunny Richmond, Virginia.

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Test Engineers

WEB Frame System Administration

For information about on-campus interviews see your Career Placement Center.

If unable to see us on campus, please forward your resume to: White Oak Semiconductor, Attn: Employment Dept. W007, 6000 Technology Boulevard, Sandston, VA 23150; FAX: (804) 952-7210; E-mail: jobs@whiteoaksemi.com. We are an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer dedicated to diversity for the value it brings to our lives and work M/F/D/V.



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Lady Monarchs all over VCU in rematch

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The difference between the first meeting of VCU women's basketball team and the No. 3 Old Dominion and the second is night and day literally.

In their first encounter with the Lady Monarchs, played Jan. 25 at Franklin Street Gymnasium in the afternoon, the Lady Rams trailed by six with less than a minute to play before falling 82-70.

In the rematch played last Friday night in the ODU Fieldhouse, the Lady Monarchs jumped out to a quick lead and never looked back, coasting to a 86-48 win.

"We didn't do the things we've been doing all year," VCU guard Gabrielle Khylistedt said. "We didn't have the confidence we had the first time, either."

The Lady Monarchs controlled the game from the outset, building a 16-2 lead in the first five minutes and led by 27 at halftime. In the first game, a late flurry gave ODU an 11 point lead at the half, but not before VCU was within six.

"I thought they came out more intense and more focused (than the first game)," VCU coach David Glass said. "ODU played awfully, awfully well. I think they played a lot better (than the first game)."

ODU set a goal to start strong. A pair of forward Aubrey Eblin three-pointers spurred the Lady Monarchs on an 11-0 run to open the game.

"We talked about making a statement

"With the crowd and everything you just had the feeling of the Christians going to the lions."

David Glass
VCU Coach

early," ODU coach Wendy Larry said. "We started the game very aggressive and that paid dividends. The first five minutes was the best this team has played collectively since the new year.

"That first five minutes set a tone not only for the game, but also hopefully for the rest of the year as well."

Playing against the nation's third-ranked team whose mission was to define the rest of their season becomes more difficult when the game takes place on their home court in front of 5,171 screaming fans.

"With the crowd and everything you just had the feeling of the Christians going to the lions," Glass said.

VCU put 70 points on the scoreboard the first time it played ODU, with forward ShaVohn McKinnon leading the way with career-high 15 points. McKinnon led VCU Friday, but with only nine. The 48 points the Lady Rams scored were their second-worst output of the season.

Glass attributed the lack of offense par-

tially to the number of players he used Friday, when all 14 VCU players saw action. In the first meeting 11 Lady Rams saw action.

Being down 27 points at halftime, however, usually leads a coach to empty his bench and use players that normally do not receive playing time with the game's outcome in question.

"We didn't do anything different, we just played more people," Glass said. "We've got different people playing and playing with people they are not used to."

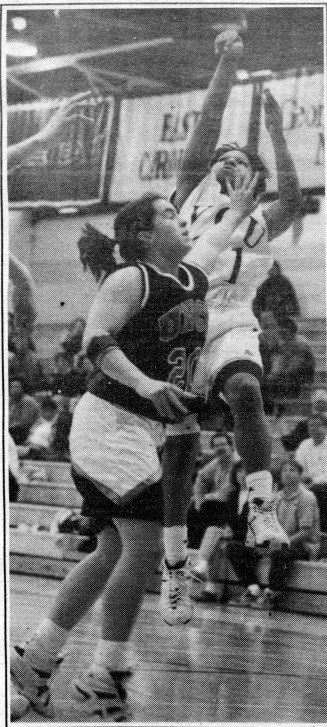
As might be expected, Glass' opinion of VCU's performance differs from his preception of the first game.

After the meeting in January, Glass said hid team's performance showed the VCU program was improving and making progress. Friday, he was simply "dissappointed."

Receiving a sound defeat from one of the nation's bests teams is not all bad. Glass said he hopes that his team was taught several lessons by the Friday night by ODU's top players, point guard Ticha Penecheiro, forward Mery Andrade and center Nyree Roberts.

"Look at what they do night in and night out, and how they play all year long. They do more to help me more than anything I'll ever say. That's the greatest benefit for us," Glass said.

"Our players, playing against them have to learn something about fundamentals and the weight room and getting stronger."



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

TOUGH SHOT — VCU senior Tammy Millsaps is closely guarded by a UNCW defender.

Baseball falls to 13th ranked Auburn

VCU's baseball team lost the first two games of a three game series at Auburn University last weekend by scores of 4-1 and 12-3. The losses dropped the Rams to 3-2 on the season.

On Saturday, Auburn (4-2) pitchers Hayden Gliemmo and Colter Bean made the Tigers four-run first-inning hold up, limiting the Rams to just one run on seven hits before a Plainsman Park record crowd of 2,566.

VCU All-American pitcher Matt Burch (1-1) shut down Auburn after allowing four runs and four hits in the first inning, giving up only seven hits over seven innings while totaling four strikeouts.

VCU shortstop Brandon Inge went 2-for-4 and knocked in the Rams only run with a double in the eighth inning.

In Friday's game, Inge and first baseman Jake Anthony hit back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning to tie the game, 3-3. The home run was Inge's third of the season.

The tie didn't last long. In the bottom half of the inning, Auburn's Josh Etheredge hit a two-run home run that propelled the Tigers to the 12-3 victory.

Auburn catcher Casey Dunn hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning to cap the Tigers scoring effort.

— compiled from news sources

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VCU 70, UNCW 63
UNCW (10-14, 4-11)

	min	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Cantley	21	3-5	1-1	1-7	1	5	7
Winfield	18	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	2	0
Koukourouzova	30	5-9	1-3	1-6	0	3	11
Wakins	33	5-16	7-9	1-3	0	1	17
Walters	38	3-10	2-3	2-3	0	0	8
Casteel	21	0-1	4-5	0-2	0	3	4
Beale	10	1-2	4-4	1-2	1	4	6
Toon	9	0-2	3-4	1-2	0	2	3
Gambill	15	2-4	1-2	0-3	3	5	5
Gutshall	5	0-2	0-0	1-2	0	1	0
TOTALS	200	2052	23-31	9-38	6	24	63

VCU (13-12, 9-6)

	min	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Rasmussen	19	5-7	3-4	0-1	0	5	13
Waller	27	7-15	2-2	3-6	2	5	16
Karlsson	31	4-13	7-12	1-6	0	4	15
Remus	7	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Kyhlstedt	30	1-5	3-4	3-9	6-6	1	10
McKinnon	19	2-7	6-6	2-3	0	4	10
Mergenthal	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McKenna	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Burns	13	1-3	2-2	1-2	0	1	4
Sisson	22	1-6	0-1	1-4	1	1	2
Washington	4	1-1	1-2	1-1	0	1	3
DeLaGarza	10	0-1	1-2	1-2	0	1	0
Millsaps	13	0-2	0-0	1-2	0	3	0
TOTALS	200	19-65	4-7	13-30	16	24	48

UNCW 23 40 — 63
VCU 35 35 — 70

CT PLAYER OF THE GAME

MONA KARLSSON
FORWARD, VCU

■ Totaled 15 points six rebounds.

■ **QUOTE OF NOTE** — "Mona could have had a better game if she wasn't guarded by a 6-7 player."

— David Glass, VCU coach

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ODU 86, VCU 48
ODU (21-2, 13-0)

	min	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Eblin	20	4-10	2-3	3-6	1	3	5
Andrade	24	6-12	3-6	2-6	7	1	15
Roberts	31	11-15	5-8	5-18	0	2	27
Eller-Paul	19	0-1	0-0	2-2	0	0	3
Penecheiro	31	5-8	4-6	3-7	10	3	15
Levens	16	2-3	3-4	1-2	0	1	7
Keenan	9	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	3	0
Small	19	3-6	2-4	1-4	3	0	8
Williams	14	0-1	0-0	0-3	0	1	0
Oilly	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Love	5	0-1	0-0	2-3	0	0	0
Bellinghausen	3	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	0	0
Bradley	3	0-1	0-0	0-2	1	0	0
TOTALS	200	31-60	19-31	18-53	12	13	86

VCU (12-12, 8-6)

	min	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Rasmussen	26	2-10	0-0	3-6	1	3	5
Waller	24	2-10	0-0	0-3	5	3	5
Karlsson	20	1-5	0-0	2-3	0	3	2
Remus	17	2-5	0-0	0-3	2	0	5
Kyhlstedt	20	3-6	0-0	1-1	0	2	8
McKinnon	18	3-6	2-2	1-3	3	1	9
Mergenthal	7	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
McKenna	12	1-7	0-0	0-0	2	1	2
Burns	11	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Sisson	13	1-4	0-0	0-1	0	3	2
Washington	10	2-4	1-3	1-1	0	3	5
DeLaGarza	14	1-2	0-0	1-1	0	3	2
Millsaps	7	1-3	1-2	0-0	2	0	3
Jordan	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	200	19-65	4-7	13-30	16	24	48

ODU 47 39 — 86
VCU 20 28 — 48

CT PLAYER OF THE GAME

TICHA PENECHERO
GUARD, ODU

■ Recorded a triple-double with 15 points, 10 assists and 10 steals.

■ **QUOTE OF NOTE** — "I was just having fun out there. When I am having fun, good things happen."

— Ticha Penecheiro, ODU guard

MEN'S BASKETBALL

JMU 88, VCU 70
JMU (8-15, 3-10)

	min	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Atkinson	36	4-7	7-8	2-4	5	1	18
Boozier	33	7-12	0-0	4-5	2	2	14
Strickland	32	5-6	0-0	4-15	0	5	10
Felton	31	3-7	1-2	0-2	7	3	8
Perry	36	9-15	7-8	2-3	2	0	30
Zaaridam	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Trone	3	0-2	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
Braxton	12	2-4	0-0	0-0	0	1	4
Johnson	5	1-2	0-0	1-1	0	2	2
DiCiccio	1	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	0	0
Boyd	10	1-3	0-0	1-1	0	2	2
TOTALS	200	32-58	15-18	18-37	16	17	88

VCU (8-15, 4-9)

	min	m-a	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Kodjoe	22	1-5	1-2	1-1	1	2	3
Archie	35	8-14	7-9	7-9	1	4	23
Brooks	11	1-5	0-0	1-3	0	0	3
Taylor	38	5-14	2-2	0-0	2	4	13
Lilly	36	2-8	0-0	0-1	5	1	6
Hoggatt	7	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Drake	22	4-9	1-1	5-7	0	3	9
Moore	14	0-2	2-4	1-2	0	2	2
Mills	15	4-5	1-2	0-1	0	1	11
TOTALS	200	25-64	14-20	20-29	9	17	70

JMU 45 43 — 88
VCU 35 35 — 70

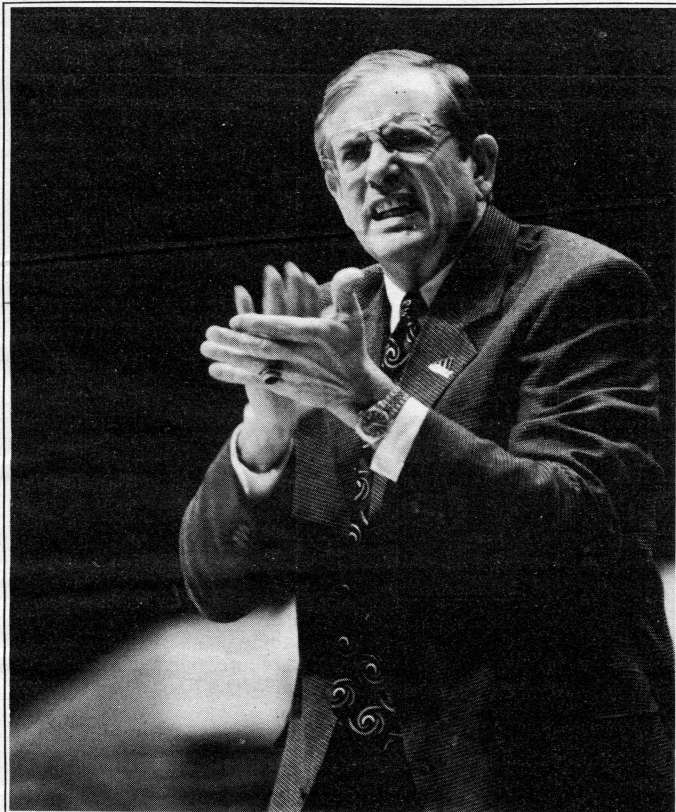
CT PLAYER OF THE GAME

MELVIN DRAKE
GUARD, VCU

■ Scored career-high 30 points, including 56 three-point attempts and 7-8 free throws.

■ **QUOTE OF NOTE** — "Perry just had a great game. He played the best I've seen him."

— Sonny Smith, VCU coach



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

ALMOST DONE — VCU coach Sonny Smith, who will retire at season's end, will coach his final regular season game at the Richmond Coliseum Feb. 23

Ali's camp to be bed and breakfast

DEER LAKE, Pa. (AP) — What was once Muhamed Ali's home away from home can soon be yours.

Ali's Deer Lake training camp, where he prepared for his fights with Joe Louis and George Forman, is being turned into a bed and breakfast by the man who once taught the former champion karate.

George Dillman along with his wife Kim purchased the nearly six-acre parcel Ali called "Fighter's Heaven" last July 17 years after Ali first offered to sell it to him.

At the time, Dillman didn't have the money to buy. When the former champion put the property up for sale this time, Ali agreed to sell it to Dillman for the same price he was asking back then — \$100,000 — a price well below today's market value.

"He is a genuine person," said Dillman, who also paid closing costs for both sides. "He made good on an offer he extended 17 years ago."

A quarter mile up a steep, twisting country road, the camp sits perched on a ridge overlooking the Poconos, about an hour and a half drive northwest of Philadelphia.

Ali began developing the site in 1972, and he trained there until his final fight against Trevor Berbick in 1981.

At first glance, it has the look of a frontier compound. The 18 buildings, clustered on both sides of the road and canopied by tall trees, are log-framed, including the 3,000-square-foot gym.

"He was really into cowboy movies, which were big then," Dillman said. He loved the look of the Old West, so he had this built like a cabin he saw in a cowboy movie."

But the 18 giant boulders that dot the landscape are the first clue that this isn't an ordinary camp. Painted on each in block letters is the name of a great boxer that Ali admired.

Joe Louis hangs on a 40-ton rock. A 20-ton lump of coal is Jack Johnson. Rocky Marciano covers a flat rock.

There are other reminders of Ali inside the gym, including the hooks that supported his punching bags, and the movie screen he would spend hours in front of studying great fighters of the past and upcoming opponents.

There are a series of one-room log cabins that housed sparring partners and staff members. One is painted white and a minaret just up from the roof. It was where Ali knelt toward Mecca everyday to pray.

At the time, Ali lived in Cherry Hill, N.J., just outside Philadelphia. While he had longed dreamed of building a training camp, he never thought it would be in the country.

"It's in my blood to be around people while I was training," Ali wrote in his 1975 autobiography, "The Greatest, My Own Story." "I thought I'd go crazy if I left the city."

MENS

continued from page 16

"This was the most complete game we've played this year," Dillard said. "We've been playing better, and I told our guys to just have some fun and relax."

The Dukes (8-15, 3-10) were led by Perry who had a career high 30 points to lead four JMU players in double figures. Perry connected on 9-15 shots including five three pointers.

"Perry was outstanding, he was such a big factor for them tonight," Smith said.

Also getting into double figures was the front line of Eugene Atkinson, Lamont Boozer, and Rob Strickland. The trio combined for 42 points, 24 rebounds, to help key the JMU victory.

Atkinson had 18 points, Boozer had 14 points, 10 in the second half, and Rob Strickland came up with a double-double, 10 points and 15 rebounds. Strickland also came up with blocked six shots for JMU.

"Me and Lamont got tired of people calling us soft," Strickland said. "I just wanted to come out and show everybody that I could play tough."

Dillard said that Strickland and Boozer both provided a major role in the win with their dominant play in the frontcourt.

"Strickland provides us with a major league presence up front," Dillard said. "Lamont has struggled but as he has gotten healthier his game has picked up. They both help each other and complement each others game very well."

The Rams had three players go into double figures led by Torrance Archie, who had a career high 23 points. Lamar Taylor chipped in 13 points, and Randy Mills had 11 points.

"Tonight Archie was just tremendous," Smith said.

With JMU leading 10-9 with 15:48 left in the first half, the Dukes would break away from the Rams with a 16-6 run that allowed JMU to get a big lead that VCU couldn't overcome for the rest of the game.

That run gave JMU their biggest lead of the half 26-15 with 11:23 left in the half. Perry would have 11 of the 16 points, including a stretch where Perry scored eight straight points for the Dukes.

VCU did get as close as six but JMU would coast into halftime with 45-35 lead. Rebounding played a major factor for the Dukes in the first half. JMU outrebounded the Rams 21-9, including 12-6 on the offensive boards.

The Rams came into the game leading the conference in rebounding margin. VCU outrebounded their opponents by an average of 2.5 per game.

"Them (JMU) getting all those rebounds really hurt us," Smith said. "They did a better job rebounding and got every loose ball in the first half."

The second half saw the Rams close the lead to eight, at 50-42, with 16:02 left. JMU then responded with a 9-0 run that gave them a 17 point lead and put the Rams away for good.

The second half saw the Rams close the lead to eight, at 50-42, with 16:02 left. JMU then responded with a 9-0 run that gave them a 17 point lead and put the Rams away for good.

RAMS IN ACTION				
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S BASKETBALL (8-13, 4-7)	FEB. 18 UNCW	FEB. 21 UR	FEB. 23 W&M	VCU is 0-3 on its current five game road trip.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (13-12, 9-6)	FEB. 22 UR	FEB. 25-MARCH 1 CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS RICHMOND, VA.		Last year VCU upset second-seeded American in the first round of the CAA Tourney.
MEN'S TENNIS (4-0, 0-0)	FEB. 18 UNC	FEB. 21 UVA	FEB. 28 ILLINOIS	The Rams were ranked No. 19 in the nation going into last weekend's matches.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (0-1, 0-0)	FEB. 20 UR	FEB. 22 W. VA.	FEB. 28 PENN	The Lady Rams next four matches are at the Thaljimer Tennis Center.
BASEBALL (3-2, 0-0)	FEB. 18 G'TOWN	FEB. 21 ST. JO'S	FEB. 22 ST. JO'S (DH)	VCU's first CAA game is March 7, when they host North Carolina Wilmington.

INDICATES HOME GAME INDICATES AWAY GAME

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Lady Rams hold off charging Seahawks

George Templeton

CT STAFF WRITER

In the second game of the weekend the VCU women's basketball team celebrated Senior Day by holding off the North Carolina-Wilmington Seahawks 70-63.

"We didn't want to look at the last game and say 'Boy I wish we could have won this one.' We didn't want to lose to a team we felt we should beat," Meredith Sisson said.

Sisson along with Gabrielle Khylstedt, Chevette Waller, Tammy Millsaps, were honored on Senior Day as they played their last game at home.

"This was Senior's Day and I thought they set the tone for the game," said VCU coach David Glass.

The Lady Rams also played their last game at the Franklin Street Gymnasium. VCU (13-12, 9-6) finished with a 7-4 record at home this year. Playing at Franklin Street from 1975-1998 the Lady Rams posted a 147-106 record.

VCU was led by Chevette Waller who had 16 points, before fouling out with 4:45. Karlsson chipped in 15 points and a career high six blocks. Also getting into double figures was Marika Rasmussen with 13 points, and ShaVohn McKinnon with 10 points and three steals.

The Seahawks (10-14, 9-6) were led by Chandra Watkins with 17 points and Ioulia Koukourouzova who had 11 points, all in the second half.

The Lady Rams used a 9-2 run midway through the first half to stretch the lead to 19-9 and give VCU a lead that the Lady Rams maintain throughout the first half. Waller was the catalyst to the run with six consecutive points.

The Lady Rams never let UNCW get any closer than seven points during the half, and used a suffocating defense to give themselves a 35-23 halftime lead.

VCU held the Seahawks to just 33.3 percent (9-27) and forced 15 turnovers.

"Our pressure defense was incredible in the first half," Sisson said.

The Lady Rams also reversed a trend of rebounding

problems by staying even with UNCW after one half and rebounding them by two for the game. The Seahawks outrebounded VCU by 27 in the first game.

"We talked about ODU and we looked at the way they played after coming off a loss, and then we looked at ourselves and what we should do after losing to this team and being outrebounded by 27," Glass said.

With the help of three early baskets from Koukourouzova, the second half saw the Seahawks cut the lead to six on three occasions. The Lady Rams then made a 12-4 run to extend the lead to 54-40, their biggest lead of the game.

UNCW responded with a 14-4 run to help cut the VCU lead to 58-54. Watkins led the Seahawks charge by getting nine of the 14 points.

VCU responded by quickly extending the lead to eight at 64-56 with 3:28 left.

UNCW then scored seven straight points to close the gap to 64-63 with 1:04 left.

"We let up on our intensity a little bit in the second half, and they just executed better down the stretch," Glass said.

The Lady Rams were saved by timely free throw shooting. VCU went 6-6 from the free-throw line in the final 45 seconds to seal the win.

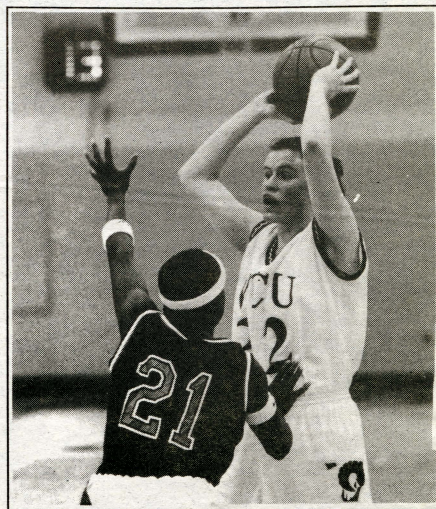
In the first game of the weekend the Lady Rams were pummeled by the Old Dominion Lady Monarchs 86-48.

"I'm disappointed with the way we played, but ODU came out and played with much more intensity than they did the first time," Glass said.

The game was never in doubt as ODU led the Lady Rams 16-2 after the first five minutes and was up 27-4 with 11:33 left in the halftime.

"That was the best five minutes this team has played since the new year," Wendy Larry ODU coach said. "It was enjoyable to watch, and I hope those first five minutes set a tone for the remainder of the season."

VCU was able to close the gap to 13, at 33-20 with 5:24 left in the half. The Monarchs then scored the last 14 points of the half to help spur the rout.



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

LAST HURRAH — Guard Gabrielle Khylstedt was one of four Lady Ram seniors to play their final VCU home game Sunday afternoon. Khylstedt recorded five points and nine rebounds in VCU's 70-63 win over UNCW.

The Monarchs were led by Ticha Penecheiro, who had a triple-double, 15 points, 10 assists, and 10 steals. ODU also got a double-double, 27 points, and 18 rebounds from Nyree Roberts. Mery Andrade added 15 points, while Aubrey Eblin had 14 points.

The Lady Rams had a miserable day offensively. VCU committed 28 turnovers, shot 29.2 percent (19-65) and didn't have anyone score more than nine points.

"I felt I wasn't prepared and neither was the team," Gabrielle Khylstedt said. "Everything was messed up and weren't confident in anything we were running."

Rams can't Duke it out with JMU

George Templeton

CT STAFF WRITER

With a win over the James Madison Dukes Saturday night, the VCU men's basketball team could have pulled into a three way tie with American and East Carolina for sixth place in the conference.

The Rams (8-15, 4-9) however could not stop JMU guard, Jamar Perry or anyone else, as VCU lost their third straight game, an 88-70 drubbing at the hands of JMU.

"I am very disappointed with our effort tonight," VCU coach Sonny Smith said.

The Dukes had one of their most productive nights offensively this year. Against a VCU team who only allows opponents to shoot 41.6 percent, the Dukes were red hot, shooting 55.2 percent (32-58). This was the first time this year that the Rams allowed a team to shoot over 50 percent.

"This was our poorest effort defensively this year," Smith said. "We couldn't control their penetration, and they hurt us inside as well."

JMU coach Sherman Dillard was very pleased with his team's performance.

MEN'S continued to page 11 >

Men's tennis stays unbeaten

George Templeton

CT STAFF WRITER

VCU men's tennis ran their record to 9-0 with four wins this weekend at the VCU 4-1 Invitational. VCU defeated Richmond and James Madison by the same 4-1 score on Friday night. VCU completed their sweep of the matches by beating East Carolina 4-0 and American 5-0.

"We're playing well right now, but we can play better," Paul Kostin, VCU coach said. "We're 9-0 now and now we're going to start playing a lot of ranked teams now. That is really what the whole season is about."

VCU's No. 1 singles player, Daniel Andersson, also is looking forward to the upcoming part of the schedule.

"This part of our schedule is kind of boring," Andersson said. "I'm looking forward to these tougher matches coming up."

VCU's next matches are at North Carolina on Feb. 18 and at home against Virginia Feb. 21. Kostin does like the way his team is playing right now.

"I feel pretty good about the team right now. I don't know how I will feel a month from now but I feel good at this moment."

VCU has won with relative ease so far, but the matches do promise to get more difficult.

"I am very superstitious, so I always start out easy with

my schedule, because I don't want to put my players on the line early," Kostin said.

The team's goal is to make the NCAA championships in May. VCU fell just short in the regional semifinals last year.

"We want to make it to the NCAA's because we should have been there last year," Andersson said. "We were the best team not to make the tournament and were a little more motivated to make it this year."

Kostin echoed those sentiments.

"It really doesn't matter how we do during the season, we liked to win all of our matches, but we want to make the NCAA championships, and it doesn't really doesn't matter how we get there," Kostin said.

Virginia, one of the teams VCU will face, made the regionals as well. Kostin sees the improving level of play in the state as a difficult obstacle.

"I think when we got into the CAA conference. Everyone started to do more to play better, so they don't get snowpiled by us," Kostin said. "When I went to the NCAA regionals the first time, we were the first team in Virginia to ever go. Now last year there were three teams, Virginia, Virginia-Tech, and VCU who went."

"It's hard being the target, and everyone playing there hardest against you but it is better than not being anything."