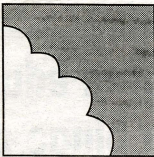


Tues: Warm and foggy.
Wear a wife beater; high
of 84, low of 58.



Wed: Windy and cloudy.
You can still dress skimpy;
high of 77, low of 48.

Commonwealth Times

Monday, March 30, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 30, No. 56

Rape survivor says she heals by sharing story

Jennie Blizzard
CT NEWS EDITOR

When Andrea Roberts was raped in her Richmond home almost two years ago, her pain from the experience continued to linger but her crusade for sexual assault victims and survivors had just begun.

"God had a reason for this happening," said Roberts, an evangelist, "and the reason is to help other women who have experienced what I experienced."

In a presentation celebrating Women's History Month and sponsored by VCU's Black Graduate Student Association, Roberts

told the audience of her traumatic experience on Thursday.

"When I speak, I speak to encourage people and give them hope," she said.

On July 5, 1996, Roberts and her son Kevin had just moved into a new neighborhood when she heard a knock on her door. Standing there was a man who asked her if she needed any one to do her yard work, she said.

The assailant later returned. Before his return, however, Roberts said she heard the voice of God telling her to lock the door but she ignored the warning.

When she went to open her door the

same man forced his way into the home, shoved Roberts through her glass door and raped her.

One week later he was apprehended and later convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Many people do not understand how Roberts can speak so openly about her experience but she said her ability to share her story is part of her healing process.

"Just because I encourage people to speak out doesn't mean that I still don't suffer from trauma," she said. "We don't totally recover. It (the experience) just becomes part of you."

Not only does she speak about her experience but also lectures on rape education, prevention and awareness.

"The majority of people think rape is about sex when it actually isn't," she said.

During speaking engagements, she often encounters women who come to her and share their stories of how they have suffered from sexual assault.

As part of her demonstration on sexual assault education, Roberts used a tree diagram. She said that many people do not realize that domestic violence, rape and

STORY continued to page 2 ►

Task force eyes banning alcohol on campus

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

If Delegate R. Steven Landes, R-Waynesboro, has his way, the tradition of keg parties and drinking with friends in the college dormitories will become extinct.

Landes, a 1983 VCU graduate, this year introduced a statewide legislative bill that would ban alcohol consumption and possession on all public college and university campuses.

"Alcoholism is starting at younger ages," Landes said. "Drinking among college students is higher than ever. Hopefully this bill will get people's attention. Something needs to be done."

The House Courts of Justice committee sent Landes' bill to Attorney General Mark Earley's Task Force on College Drinking for further study and plans to take action on it by Dec. 21, the last day committees can act on continued legislation.

The measure was continued because it stipulates that no one — students, faculty or staff — can drink alcohol in any form.

Students older than 21, the legal drinking age, faculty members and administrators must be alcohol-free. College presidents and others living in houses on college campuses also would be prohibited from possessing and/or drinking alcohol.

"I realize this measure is strict, but it must be to comply with the state's constitution," Landes said. "Everyone must be treated the same, so there can be no exceptions."

The bill's strictness, Landes explained, led to it being sent to the task force, which met for the first time during VCU's spring break. It will modify the bill so that it constitutionally restricts student drinking without affecting faculty and administrators.

At its first meeting, the attorney general's task force made no official recom-

mendation but decided to schedule public hearings throughout the state.

The most volatile issue the task force discussed dealt with lowering the drinking age to 18. Earley, a former commonwealth's attorney, said he would not even consider reducing the drinking age because it would increase the number of young people consuming alcohol.

Henry Rhone, VCU's vice provost for student affairs, said the drinking age will remain unchanged but for a different reason.

"There is a lot of federal money tied to having the drinking age at 21," Rhone said. "I don't think that will be changed because the state does not want to lose the federal money for roads that it gets."

Eugene P. Trani, VCU's president, said he believes that today's society encourages students to drink, especially on holidays like Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. He told the task force that preventing students from binge drinking must start with student groups influencing their peers.

Besides Trani, the task force heard several speakers tell how their lives changed because of alcohol-related incidents. One father, Jeffrey Levy, described the death of his son, Jonathan, a Virginia Tech student, who died in a car driven by a drunken driver.

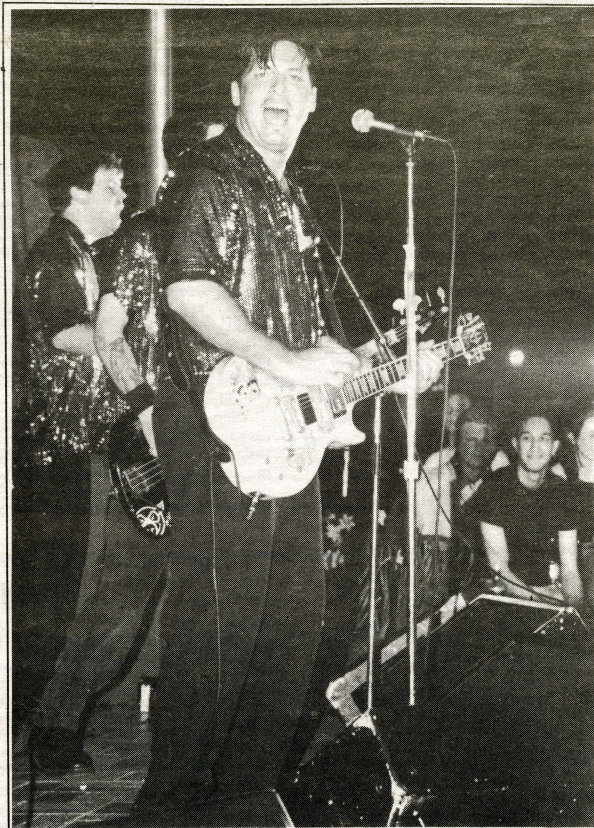
Levy supported a plan to crack down on college students who drink. His plan requires the school to call the student's parents the first time a student is caught with alcohol and for the student to be suspended or expelled for continued violations.

Rhone, who will fill in for Trani on the task force while Trani travels to Europe, said he favors alcohol education rather than more regulation.

"We need to move in the direction of alcohol education," Rhone said. "There are a tremendous number of laws on the books

ALCOHOL continued to page 2 ►

Rocket Fuel



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

Local band Rocket 69 rocked the crowd Friday night in Shafer Court on the Academic Campus. The event was sponsored by the Activities Programming Board.

ALCOHOL

continued from page 1

restricting alcohol, and I think the emphasis should be on education and changing the culture of drinking. Young people need to be taught that if they drink — drink responsibly.”

Educating students about alcohol, Rhone said, should happen before students leave for college.

“A lot of the education has to start before college,” he said. “Some students come to VCU already knowing how to drink and some come to college feeling they have to drink — like a rite of passage that it is part of college.”

When Earley's predecessor, former Attorney General Richard Cullen, formed the task force, he wanted it to look at the reasons college students drink and what can be done to change their drinking habits.

Therefore, he gathered a task force of college presidents, students, legislators and law enforcement agents.

“It is going to look at how to deal with the problem,” said Lewis Charles, VCU's student liaison on the task force. “They will be looking at ways to moderate alcohol use.”

At VCU, Rhoads and Johnson halls, primarily freshman dormitories, prohibit alcohol. Gladding Residence Center, the other student-housing on the academic campus, allows students older than 21 to have alcohol in their rooms but not in the open-air courtyards or common areas.

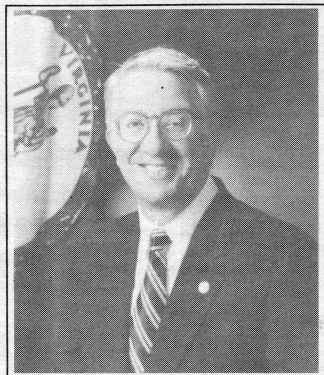
“I wouldn't support banning alcohol in GRC,” said Charles, a Johnson Hall resident assistant. “They are over 21 and have the right to drink.”

Other than GRC, the Student Commons is the only area to allow alcohol on VCU's campus, and it must be served by a licensed caterer to a student group sponsoring a private party.

“People realize that a party can be successful without alcohol,” Rhone said, adding that there has been no event serving it in the commons the past four years.

Charles said he solicited opinions from VCU's student organizations but has not received any feedback yet. He solicited opinions via the Student Organization Listserv, which sends e-mail to all members of VCU student organizations, and

- After five Virginia public college student died within five weeks from alcohol-related accidents, the state attorney general's office established a task force on college drinking.



Attorney General Mark Earley

plans to do so again.

Landes said he has heard from a handful of students who oppose the bill but still maintains his support for the legislation.

“I was in college once, too, and have heard the arguments that if you are old enough to be drafted and old enough to vote then you are old enough to drink,” he said. “I have heard from a few students but not that many. Drinking is a major problem in our colleges and needs to be handled.”

After five Virginia public-college students died within five weeks from alcohol-related accidents, Cullen decided to establish the task force.

At VCU, Nicole Breckenridge, a 21-year-old VCU art major, died when the car she was riding in crashed into a tree at Monroe Park.

The car was racing another vehicle and traveling at excessive speed. Police said alcohol was a factor.

Landes, whose district includes James Madison University, pointed to the deaths plus his constituents' concerns as the catalysts behind his proposed legislation.

“Parents of students and residents near the JMU campus have voiced their concerns to me,” Landes said. “The deaths have prompted people to want to do something about it.”

The alcohol ban would extend to on-campus sporting venues such as the University of Virginia's Scott Stadium and George Mason University's Patriot Center. VCU's Stuart C. Siegel Center, to be completed this summer, also would be included.

“Some students use sporting events as an excuse to drink,” Landes said. “At the tailgate parties before the UVA football games the adults are worse than the students. It's a chance to show young people that a good time can be had without alcohol.”

Trani, Rhone agree education is key to curbing binge drinking

Jennie W. Blizzard

CT NEWS EDITOR

Delegate Steve Landes, R-Waynesboro, and Attorney General Mark Earley have played a important role in initiating a full-fledged attack against excessive alcohol consumption on college campuses in Virginia.

But is binge and underage drinking a major problem on VCU's campus compared to other universities in the state?

“I don't think it is as big as a problem at VCU as it is at other universities because we are not dominated by the traditional age of college students,” said President Eugene P. Trani, a member of the attorney general's task force on drinking by college students.

Only 15 percent of students enrolled at VCU live in college dormitories and 75 percent spend a multitude of their time working, Trani said.

Henry Rhone, vice provost of student affairs at VCU, who will take Trani's place on the task force in April when Trani leaves for Europe, said that based on a campus survey 71 percent of students at VCU do not binge drink.

“Because we're more of a commuter school,” Rhone said, “we don't have the traditions of fraternities and tailgating parties such as those at UVA.”

However, for those who do live on campus, Trani said “it's (underage drinking) a difficult issue for a campus like ours' where there is a bar near campus.”

Suggestions recommended to the task force include lowering the drink-

ing age, which Earley said he would not support, and banning all alcohol on college campuses, supported by Landes.

Trani said he does not believe banning alcohol on college campuses will solve the problem but instead enforcing laws dealing with alcohol consumption.

“I'm not interested in changing the drinking age but instead enforcing the law that minors are not able to drink and those who do and are the appropriate age, drink responsibly.”

Both Trani and Rhone agree that education about the dangers of overdrinking is the primary tool that can be utilized to alleviate the problem and that peers can contribute to this education.

“VCU has a number of groups that emphasize healthy living such as the RA's in the residence halls and also through the health education office,” Rhone said.

Lenard Godfrey, a junior at VCU also agrees with the importance of educating students about the dangers of binge drinking.

“If you want to stop people from drinking, you have to want to stop them from drinking,” Godfrey said. “They need to be shown what happens when you binge drink.”

Final recommendations to the task force must be submitted to Earley by July 31.

esides more alcohol education programs, Rhone will suggest the promotion of events where alcohol is not involved.

STORY

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incest are the roots of the problems where people display the fruits of the tree, certain emotions such as fear and anger.

“The sexual assault issue is bigger than people realize,” she said.

Roberts travels around the country to deliver her message. She has appeared on television shows such as “The 700 Club” and “The Oprah Winfrey Show.” She is also the author of “Born to Live: God's Plan For Your Life.”

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Commons & Activities

March 1998

Commons Collage

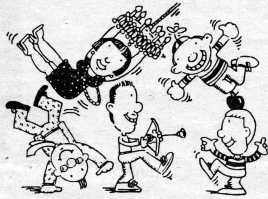
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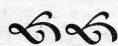
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Organization Leaders!

The Student Activities Center announces a new Organization Recognition Program. This is a fantastic opportunity to tell us what your group has accomplished this year - we'll brag about it to the entire campus! Check your SAC mailbox in the next two weeks for application materials and more details.



Leadership & Service Awards



April 26th



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March 31 1998

6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

University Student Commons / Capital Ballroom

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For more information contact Rachel Skyer at 828-3648.

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Wednesday April 1, Noon-1pm,

Capital Room A

Facilitators: Joy Bressler, University Counseling Center
The Organized Leader

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VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University

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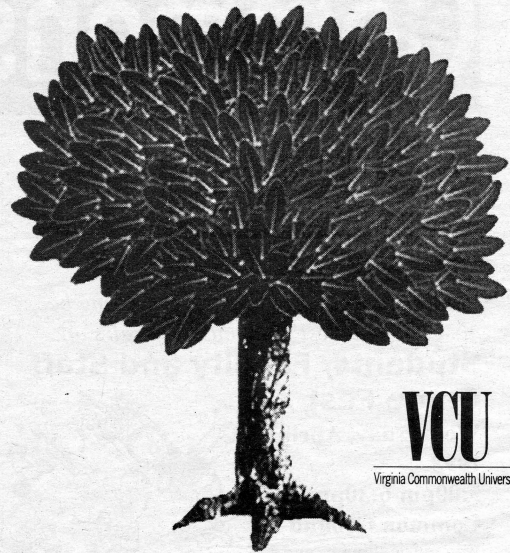
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Justin M. Wilson

'God help us all'

Our schools are turning into war zones

Very few people in life get to do what they truly love. Shannon Wright was just one of the lucky few. From childhood she yearned to be a teacher. As a small child, Wright would create lesson plans and issue homework to her younger brother. She was a natural.

Wright was exactly the type of person who should go into the teaching profession. She would give all of herself to her students.

On March 24, 1998, she gave all of herself and then some. She made the ultimate sacrifice for her students.

During the melee that ensued as two students of Westside Middle School fired upon a helpless student body, Shannon Wright jumped in front of young Emma Pittman, a sixth grader and became one of the five killed in the tragedy in Jonesboro, Ark.

There is not much that can explain something like this. Nothing can justify an occurrence like this. The experts must struggle to categorize something like this. Why must something like this occur?

The marquee of Westside Middle School read "God Help Us All" after this travesty. How many Jonesboro's will it take?

This is not the first time this has happened! This will not be the last time this will happen! Our schools are becoming war-zones. This is not a reflection of new found school violence. It is a reflection of society.

We have lost all sense! I have lost all hope!

The respect for the sanctity of human life is depleted in America today. We have children growing up with desensitized minds. Murder means nothing to them, except a blurb on the nightly news.

Everyone will rush to the defense of his or her pet issues. They will say, "It's not gangsta rap!" They will say, "It's not guns!" They will say, "It's not video games!" They will say, "It's not movie and television violence." They will say, "It's not the way the children were raised!"

I am sick and tired of hearing what it is not, and waiting to hear what it is. If it's not all of those rationales, than what the heck is it? This is a scourge like no other.

We cannot continue to stand by and make excuses for what happens. We must prevent such tragedies from happening!

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "It takes a village to

raise a child." One of her predecessors as first lady, the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis said "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do will matters very much."

In this context, we as a "village" or for that matter we as a society have failed an entire generation of children, and as Jackie said, nothing else matters.

Where have we gone wrong? That is exactly what the parents of 11-year-old Andrew Golden and 13-year-old Mitchell Johnson are asking. The boys gained access to a vast arsenal by breaking into Golden's grandfather's house. It is always so difficult to assign ultimate blame in situations like this.

Was it the parents' fault for not raising their children right? Golden was taught early on how to use guns but safety was always emphasized.

Parenthood, like most endeavors, is a result-oriented undertaking. In this case, the result is five people lying dead under the portico of Westside Middle School. I

would hazard a guess what type of result that indicates.

Possibly we are all complicit in these five deaths. If our first lady is correct, a society raised these children to become killers. In addition society gave them the tools to exercise their instincts to kill.

Those against gun control will say "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." Their argument has a damnable flaw. Without those guns, Natalie Brooks, Brittany Varner, Paige Ann Herring, Stephanie Johnson and Wright would have been able to see another day. That is the irrefutable, black and white fact!

In turn, as harsh as it may sound, anyone who has ever opposed gun control measures, has blood on their hands.

There are those that claim that in past we also had guns yet these types of things didn't happen. Granted they are correct.

The difference is that times are different. The same solutions to problems that may have worked 30 years ago could be largely ineffective today. Much has changed. It is time we as a nation realize that the same laws that worked 30 years ago may not work today.

The mentality of people is different. Thirty years ago, children didn't carry guns. You could go up to someone smaller than you, talk about his "momma" and not worry about whether he was packing heat or not. Violence has become the solution of this generation.

As ironic as it sounds, I sincerely wish that if we must resolve our grievances through violence that we return to the good old-fashioned fistfight. At least you know that after a fistfight, both fighters live to fight another day.

I am hopeful that this incident will cause many to rethink their feelings about law and order in America. However, I am a realist by nature. I realize that this is already the third time this had happened this year, and nothing had changed.

Sadly, I can foresee a day when five people killed at a middle school won't make the front pages.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stop staring and accept who I am

This isn't a response to Justin Wilson's last editorial, but it runs in the same theme.

This will be the fourth year that I've been at VCU, and for all four years I've become aware of something first through my freshman year roommate and now just by noticing things.

Just to clarify things, my name is John Sunyup Emanuel. I am Korean American and proud of who I am. I am adopted, my mom is white, and I have had little contact with any type of Asian influence, but I have no bones about myself.

There's this word I heard my old roommate say. I never heard this word before coming here, and quite honestly I was a little shocked when I did. Twinkie -- yellow on the outside, white on the inside. My roommate and I used to fight over this, and rightly so. But then I noticed many Asians tend to stare at me with a certain disdain.

Now I've had people stare at me before, but I know a certain stare when I see it and this stare cries out, "Sell Out." Now I may be wrong; actually I hope I'm wrong, but nowadays I'm just sick and tired of it.

I want to say to all Asians who think that I'm some sellout, you need to take a look at yourself. For you it seems to be all about wearing the latest WESTERN fashion and driving around in the nicest cars. I want to tell you kids that if you have a problem with who I am, what I stand for or what I look like, you need to tell me.

Four years I've dealt with this and I'm sick of it. This is one reason why I stopped going to Good Taste on Grace Street. If you don't know who I am, let me remind you: I have my nose, chin and ear pierced, bleached red hair, and I wear a jacket with patchest, combat boots and a chain. Excuse me if I don't fit your idea of how an Asian should look.

If you want to get in contact with me, I work down in the basement of Cabel B-8 computer lab Tuesday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

Right now I have little respect for any of you. You have a problem with me? Tell me. I'd do the same. If I'm wrong, then tell me why you keep on staring at me and stop it because I consider every one of you a bunch of cowardly Asians who talk crap.

This editorial is not directed at the Asian community at VCU as a whole, just at the ones that feel as though I am a "Sell Out." I've no problem with any of the Asians at VCU, and I do know a few here, but for the most part the Asians here have never chosen to talk to me for some reason.

— John Emanuel
VCU Student

Commonwealth Times

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'Yonkers' easily finds audience

Rosie McNally
CT STAFF WRITER

OKAY, LET'S FACE IT: sometimes dysfunctional families can be funny. We've seen it hundreds of times in movies and on television; families so exaggeratedly backwards, all we can do is sit back, laugh and be glad it's not us. Sometimes, however, we laugh for a different reason. Sometimes these people on the screen are eerily reminiscent of people we know, or even (shudder) live with.

In "Lost in Yonkers," Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize winning play, the audience is presented with such a group. The show runs from March 25 to April

18, at TheatreVirginia in the basement of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave. Ticket information can be obtained by calling 353-6161.

The play, set in Yonkers, NY in the early 1940s, opens with the two youngest members of the Kurnitz family facing a serious dilemma; they're forced to spend 10 months with their grandmother while their father is away. Jay (Ben Rauch) and Arty (Brian Deutsch) wonder if they'll survive. We soon learn through their dialogue that grandma is no sweet old lady.

Described as "cold as steel," Grandma Kurnitz (Elaine Grollman) is quicker to deliver



Left to right: Dan Mason (Louie), Ben Rauch (Jay), Brian Deutsch (Arty)

a blow from her cane than a kind word. Also pivotal to the story is Grandma's mildly retarded daughter Bella (Kate Konigisor), who longs to break free of her mother and start her own family.

Eventually, we also meet the rest of the family, none of whom seem to have escaped childhood without some heavy emotional baggage. The rest of the play revolves around the process the grown children must undergo to finally confront both their mother and

their pasts.

The acting throughout the play was excellent, with each performer bringing life and a distinct personality to his character. Rauch and Deutsch were easily convincing as children, and Grollman, with her chilling manner and biting soliloquies, controlled the mood of the show.

Also definitely worth noting was the superb set, designed by James W. Hunter. The entire play takes place inside grandma's apartment, which

was decorated in a typical 1940s style. The toned-down scheme added to the mood and there were just enough doilies and curios to show that an older woman lives there.

While it is often sad, "Lost in Yonkers," considered Neil Simon's best play, does have a great deal of comic relief.

It showcases real life problems in an ordinary family, but does it with wit and ingenuity. You'll definitely laugh, you might cry and you'll probably relate.

Calendar

MONDAY, MARCH 30

Event: The James River Festival of the Moving Image begins today until April 5 at various different locations including the VCU campus, University of Richmond Campus, the Byrd Theatre and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. For more information call 278-2542.

Speaker: A talk on spirituality and art will be given at 1 p.m. in Commons Capital Room C.

Art Exhibit: "Hallowed Ground: Preserving America's Heritage" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave., until May 31. See the hills and valleys of Virginia's Northern Piedmont that cover an area of about 3,000 square miles. For more information call 367-0878.

Play: "The Sisters Rosenweig" is playing at the Barksdale Theatre, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, until April 4. This is a story about three sisters living in Brooklyn. For more information call 282-2620.

Exhibit: "Inside/Out: The Underpinnings of Fashion, 1800-1900" at the Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay St., until February 1999. See the fashions of 19th Century women. For more information call 649-0711.

Art Exhibit: "Tara Donovan: New Sculpture" at the Reynold's Gallery, 1514 W. Main St., until April 18. For more information call 355-6553.

Concert: Patience Over Pressure performs at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666.

Workshop: Academic Success Workshop on oral presentation skills at noon in the Commons Forum Room, sponsored by Counseling Services.

Performance: "Fairy Tales" is being performed at Fielden's Cabaret Theater, 2033 W. Broad St., until April 4. For more information call 346-8113.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Program: World Game Workshop will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons Capital Ballroom. For more information contact Rachel Skyer at 828-3648.

Concert: Slaid Cleaves and the Arthur Brothers perform at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666.

Program: The Xt-102 Dead Night at Alley Katz, 10 Walnut Alley, for more information call 643-2816.

Program: There is a Commuter Student CoffeeBRAKE in the Commons Lobby. Commuter students can receive a free cup of coffee and a snack for filling out a survey.

WEDNESDAY, April 1

Performance: "Lost in Yonkers" premieres at TheatreVirginia, 2800 Grove Ave. It runs until April 18. For more information call 353-6161.

Performance: Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish perform at Moondance, 9 N. 17th Street. For more information call 788-6666.

Concert: BR549, Dirt Ball and Terry Garland perform at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 643-2816.

Movie: "Pather Panchali" is shown at noon in the Commons Theatre, sponsored by the APB/Alternative Films Committee.

Program: There is an International Student Coffee Hour in Commons Capital Room D beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Program: There is an open mic night in Commons Commonwealth Ballroom B beginning at 8 p.m.

'Yonkers' easily finds audience

Rosie McNally
CT STAFF WRITER

OKAY, LET'S FACE IT: sometimes dysfunctional families can be funny. We've seen it hundreds of times in movies and on television; families so exaggeratedly backwards, all we can do is sit back, laugh and be glad it's not us. Sometimes, however, we laugh for a different reason. Sometimes these people on the screen are eerily reminiscent of people we know, or even (shudder) live with.

In "Lost in Yonkers," Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize winning play, the audience is presented with such a group. The show runs from March 25 to April

18, at TheatreVirginia in the basement of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave. Ticket information can be obtained by calling 353-6161.

The play, set in Yonkers, NY in the early 1940s, opens with the two youngest members of the Kurnitz family facing a serious dilemma; they're forced to spend 10 months with their grandmother while their father is away. Jay (Ben Rauch) and Arty (Brian Deutsch) wonder if they'll survive. We soon learn through their dialogue that grandma is no sweet old lady.

Described as "cold as steel," Grandma Kurnitz (Elaine Grollman) is quicker to deliver



Left to right: Dan Mason (Louie), Ben Rauch (Jay), Brian Deutsch (Arty)

a blow from her cane than a kind word. Also pivotal to the story is Grandma's mildly retarded daughter Bella (Kate Konigisor), who longs to break free of her mother and start her own family.

Eventually, we also meet the rest of the family, none of whom seem to have escaped childhood without some heavy emotional baggage. The rest of the play revolves around the process the grown children must undergo to finally confront both their mother and

their pasts.

The acting throughout the play was excellent, with each performer bringing life and a distinct personality to his character. Rauch and Deutsch were easily convincing as children, and Grollman, with her chilling manner and biting soliloquies, controlled the mood of the show.

Also definitely worth noting was the superb set, designed by James W. Hunter. The entire play takes place inside grandma's apartment, which

was decorated in a typical 1940s style. The toned-down scheme added to the mood and there were just enough doilies and curios to show that an older woman lives there.

While it is often sad, "Lost in Yonkers," considered Neil Simon's best play, does have a great deal of comic relief.

It showcases real life problems in an ordinary family, but does it with wit and ingenuity. You'll definitely laugh, you might cry and you'll probably relate.

'Hammer' is hard hitting

Tomoroh Tanaguchi plays the warped protagonist in "Tetsuo II: Body Hammer"

Christopher Irving
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

"Tetsuo II: Body Hammer," the sequel to Japanese director Shinya Tsukamoto's cult hit "Tetsuo — The Iron Man," is hard to follow and not well-written.

The film is about a mild-mannered business man who turns into a cybernetic killing machine after his life takes a tragic turn at the hands of a bizarre street gang. Tsukamoto's disturbing cyber-punk vision makes up for the lacking plot.

MOVIE REVIEW

The movie follows Tamoo Tanaguchi, played by Tomoroh Taguchi, whose son is randomly kidnapped from him and his wife Kana.

Tanaguchi makes many attempts to train himself at a gym to become strong enough to counter the thugs and defend his family, fueled by an obsessive hate for his

enemies.

Unfortunately, a supernatural power that forms his flesh into a living weapon surfaces at the wrong time and kills his son.

From there, Guy, the gang's odd and adrogynous leader, experiments on Tanaguchi.

As the movie progresses, Tanaguchi eventually begins to shed his Clark Kent-like manner and becomes a killing machine bent on destruction, especially after Kana is kidnapped by the same gang, now enhanced into cyborgs like Tamaguchi.

The story for "Tetsuo II"

places action before characterization whose personalities are not explored until a third of the way through the movie. The history behind Tamaguchi and his nemesis is not explained until after their climactic battle.

When Tamaguchi asks himself "What the hell is happening?," the viewer almost has to agree with him. Still, if one pays attention and sits through the whole movie, the puzzle eventually pieces together.

"Tetsuo II's" true saving grace, however, lies in its disturbing quality of a low budget production.

Most of the film takes place in the gang's abandoned warehouse headquarters, and most of the camera angles are done in a jarring and handheld fashion.

"Body Hammer" is a 90-minute music video similar to the Crow movies, yet there's something more.

The crudity of director Tsukamoto's visions, everything from guns bursting out from flesh to corroding cyborgs, leaves the audience with a sour taste in their mouths and a bad feeling in their stomachs.

As a result, Tsukamoto is successful for the horror/sci-fi genre he has established with

the first "Tetsuo," making it more of a movie to watch with friends rather than a date.

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IN CONCERT

Queen of hip hop, Mary J. Blige performs with seductive newcomer, Usher at 7:30 on Thursday, April 2 at Richmond's Landmark Theater.



Calendar

MONDAY, MARCH 30

Event: The James River Festival of the Moving Image begins today until April 5 at various different locations including the VCU campus, University of Richmond Campus, the Byrd Theatre and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. For more information call 278-2542.

Speaker: A talk on spirituality and art will be given at 1 p.m. in Commons Capital Room C.

Art Exhibit: "Hallowed Ground: Preserving America's Heritage" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave., until May 31. See the hills and valleys of Virginia's Northern Piedmont that cover an area of about 3,000 square miles. For more information call 367-0878.

Play: "The Sisters Rosenweig" is playing at the Barksdale Theatre, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, until April 4. This is a story about three sisters living in Brooklyn. For more information call 282-2620.

Exhibit: "Inside/Out: The Underpinnings of Fashion, 1800-1900" at the Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay St., until February 1999. See the fashions of 19th Century women. For more information call 649-0711.

Art Exhibit: "Tara Donovan: New Sculpture" at the Reynold's Gallery, 1514 W. Main St., until April 18. For more information call 355-6553.

Concert: Patience Over Pressure performs at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666.

Workshop: Academic Success Workshop on oral presentation skills at noon in the Commons Forum Room, sponsored by Counseling Services.

Performance: "Fairy Tales" is being performed at Fielden's Cabaret Theater, 2033 W. Broad St., until April 4. For more information call 346-8113.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Program: World Game Workshop will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons Capital Ballroom. For more information contact Rachel Skyer at 828-3648.

Concert: Slaid Cleaves and the Arthur Brothers perform at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666.

Program: The XL102 Dead Night at Alley Katz, 10 Walnut Alley, for more information call 643-2816.

Program: There is a Commuter Student CoffeeBRAKE in the Commons Lobby. Commuter students can receive a free cup of coffee and a snack for filling out a survey.

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Program: There is an open mic night in Commons Commonwealth Ballroom B beginning at 8 p.m.

Art Exhibit: "Sofa Size Paintings" by Susan Hankla premieres at the Gallery Space at Fine Art Framing-Poster Gallery, 2308 W. Main St.. For more information call 355-6333.

Lecture: Two religion scholars will explore the fusion of biblical, classical imagery at 10 a.m. at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave.. For more information call 367-0878.

THURSDAY, April 2

Performance: The Larry Brown Memorial Step Show will take place at 7 p.m. in Commons Commonwealth Ballrooms A-B, sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma.

Concert: Damian Wolf and Friends perform at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666.

Concert: Mary J. Blige and Usher perform at 7:30 at the Landmark Theater.

FRIDAY, April 3

Concert: Genghis Angus performs at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666.

Concert: The Richmond Symphony's student concert starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Landmark Theater.

Program: There will be a Cultural Cafe in Commons Capital Ballrooms A-C beginning at 6:30 p.m. The topic of discussion will be gendernism.

Movie: "Scream 2" and "An American Werewolf in Paris" play tonight beginning at 7 p.m. at the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay St. For more information call 649-1861.

Seminar: Documents of Surrender will be the topic of discussion from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay St. For more information call 649-1861.

Event: Mr. Greek VCU will take place in the Business Building Auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Poetry Reading: Jo Kennedy will present a public reading of her work at 8 p.m. in the Virginia Commonwealth University Meeting Center.

SATURDAY, April 4

Movie: "Everest" plays at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St. until Sept. 7. For more information call 367-6552.

Lecture: David Breashears talks about his film "Everest" at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St. For more information call 367-6552.

Concert: The Richmond Symphony Pops along with Ben Varen will perform at the Landmark Theater beginning at 8 p.m.

Concert: Page Wilson and Reckless Abandon perform at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For

more information call 788-6666.

Program: The Vietnamese Student Association presents their annual New Year's Festival all day, beginning at 2 p.m. and all night in the Commons.

Event: "Virginia Harmony: Our Musical Past" will be at the Museum of Virginia History, 428 N. Boulevard. For more information call 342-9665.

SUNDAY, April 5

Concert: Tom Eure performs at Moondance, 9 N. 17th St. For more information call 788-6666.

Movie: "The Apu Trilogy" will be shown in the Commons Theater starting at 5 p.m., sponsored by APB/Alternative Films Committee.

Art Exhibit: "Surfacing" by Sally Bowring and Joan Gaustad will be shown at the Coincidence Gallery, 2401 W. Main St., until May 1. For more information call 353-5102.

'Hammer' is hard hitting

Tomoroh Tanaguchi plays the warped protagonist in "Tetsuo II: Body Hammer"

Christopher Irving
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

"Tetsuo II: Body Hammer," the sequel to Japanese director Shinya Tsukamoto's cult hit "Tetsuo — The Iron Man," is hard to follow and not well-written.

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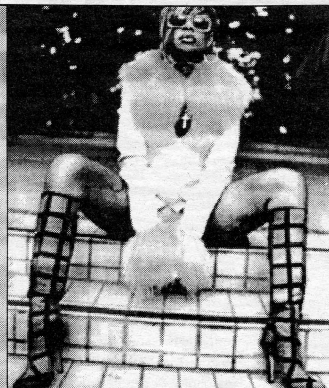
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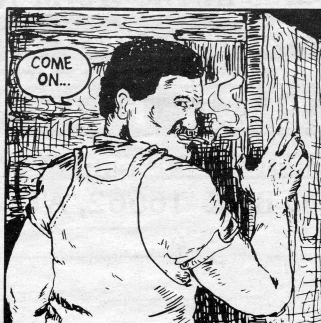
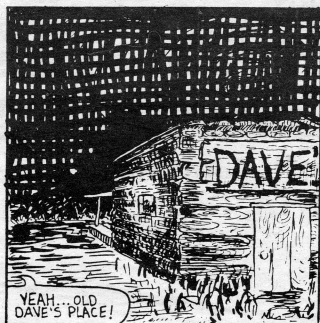
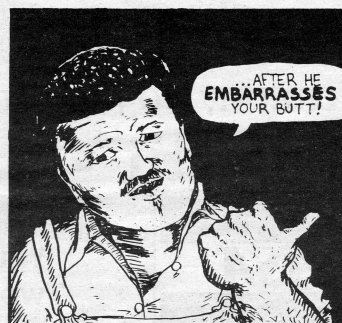
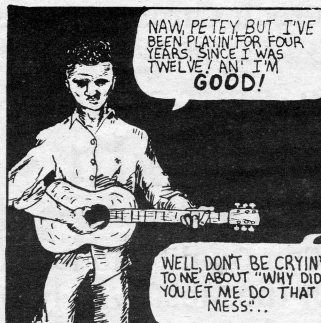
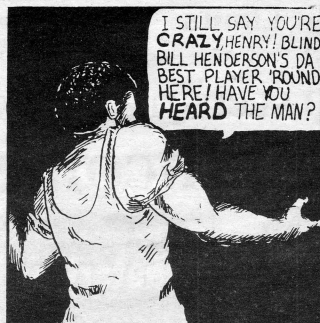
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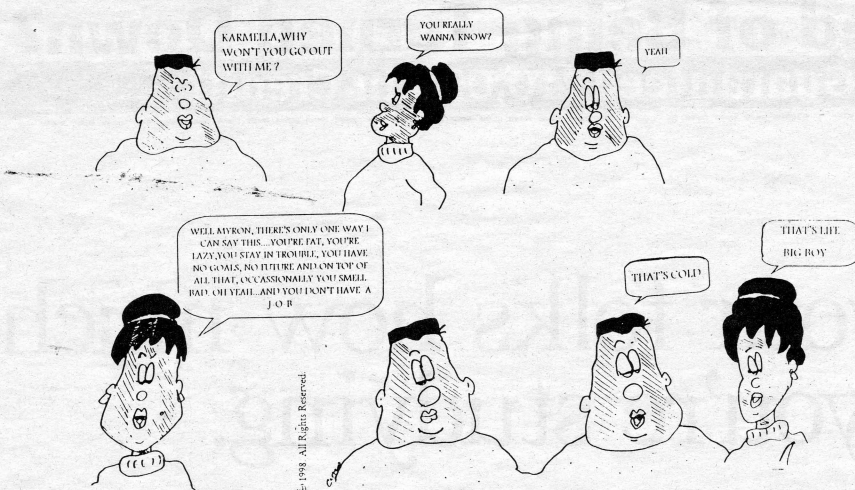
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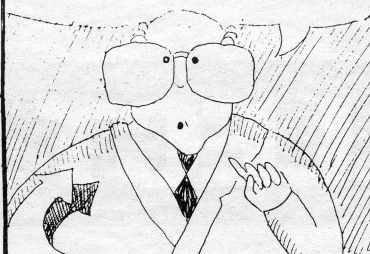
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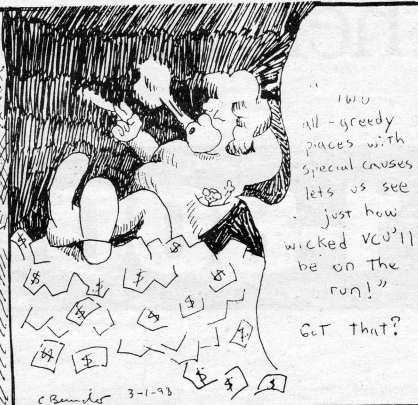
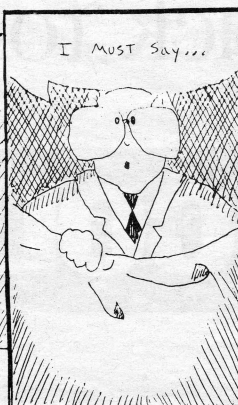
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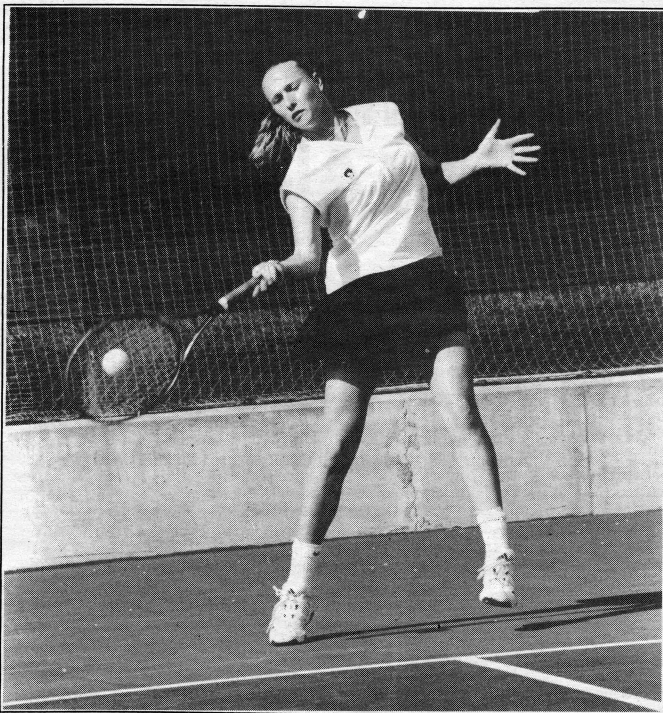
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Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

SWINGING IT — VCU's Carmen Beitzer turns around on a shot during her match with George Washington's Holly Huntley Thursday.

Lady Rams remain on hot winning streak

Tom Leiss

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

VCU beat the University of Virginia and George Washington last week, extending its winning streak to 11 matches.

On Thursday, VCU defeated the George Washington Colonials 7-2 at the Thalhimer Tennis Center.

The Lady Rams swept the five singles matches that were played thanks to a two set victory by No. 4 seed Carmen Beitzer. Beitzer and Siri Thayaprasat both played one seed higher (at No. 4 and No. 5 respectively) because the regular No. 4 seed Andrea Ondrisova did not play singles because of an injured wrist.

The only two points VCU lost, Ondrisova's singles match and the No. 2 doubles match, were by default.

VCU coach Eva Bard said she was impressed with the team's performance versus GW.

"I was pleased that we could still win without one of our best singles players," Bard said referring to Ondrisova.

On Wednesday, the Lady Rams faced a more difficult challenge in 33rd ranked UVA. VCU held on for a hotly contested 5-4 victory.

The highlight of this contest was

Ondrisova's match against UVA's Leslie Cook.

With the teams tied at 3-3, Ondrisova fought through her wrist injury, winning the match in three sets, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 to give VCU a 4-3 at the end of the singles matches.

The Lady Rams then won the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles matches to earn the 5-4 victory.

"(Ondrisova) went out there with a terrible wrist injury and fought," Bard said, "then went out and helped win the decisive doubles match."

"Yesterday was huge. It was the first time we've ever beaten them (UVA)."

The two wins improved VCU's record to 11-2 overall.

Both of these matches and the matches remaining on the Lady Rams' schedule should help VCU be more prepared for the CAA Championships and a run at the regionals.

"They seem to respond no matter what, which is great," Bard said.

VCU traveled to Raleigh, N.C., on Sunday to take on North Carolina State.

Next up for the Lady Rams is a trip to State College, Pa., on Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5. VCU is scheduled to face Penn State on Friday and Rice on Saturday.

RESULTS:

VCU 7 def. George Washington 2

Singles: Martina Nedelkova def. Julie Kim, 6-1, 6-0; Sofia Hiort def. Ghada Skaff, 6-1, 6-2; Lenka Zacharova def. Sarine Weingarten, 6-2, 6-0; Beitzer def. Holly Huntley, 6-4, 7-6(4); Siri Thayaprasat def. Brandy Rosenberg, 6-4, 6-0; Aarthi Rajaraman (GW) def. Andrea Ondrisova, Default.

Doubles: Nedelkova/ Ondrisova def. Kim/ Weingarten, 8-0; Skaff/ Huntley (GW) def. Hiort/ Zacharova, Default; Beitzer/ Thayaprasat def. Rosenberg/ Rajaraman, 8-4.

VCU 5 def. UVA 4

Singles: Nedelkova def. Paige Boike, 6-1, 6-0; Stacy Gingold (UVA) def. Hiort, 6-4, 6-2; Zacharova def. Emily Hill, 6-2, 6-0; Ondrisova def. Cook, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Christie Schweer (UVA) def. Beitzer 6-3, 7-5; Kelly Weaver def. Thayaprasat, 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: Nedelkova/ Ondrisova def. Hill/Gingold, 8-2; Hiort/ Zacharova def. Boike/ Kendall White, 8-1; Cook/ Schweer (UVA) def. Beitzer/ Thayaprasat, 8-1.

RAMS

continued from page 12

"did not play up to our expectations. Coach told us whoever won this series would be in position to win the conference."

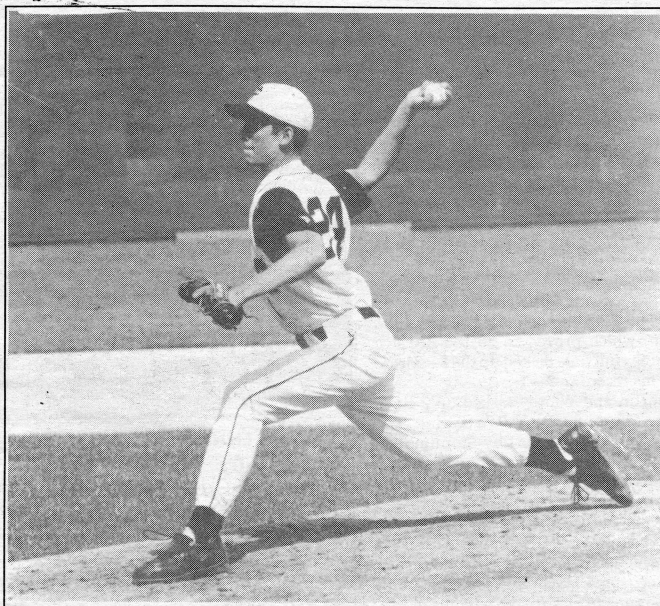
Martin was impressed that the team was able to pick up offensively to compensate for the mini-slump of Brandon Inge. "It's the sign of a good team when your best people are slumping that others can pick it up."

Inge, who came into the weekend batting .287 with eight home runs and 23 RBIs, hit just 1 for 12 over the weekend, far below his usual contribution.

- Coach Keyes was generally pleased with what he saw this weekend.

"We played our best game last night in the first game. We had great base running and well as pitching. Patterson did a great job in relief today. Both Elrod (freshman outfielder Kevin Elrod) and Ian (junior infielder Ian Caballero) had super weekends."

The Rams will travel down to Mr. Jefferson's Grounds in Charlottesville to take on the Cavaliers of the University of Virginia at 3 p.m. The Rams do not return home until April 6 to face the Bison of Howard University at 4 p.m.



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

KING OF THE HILL -- VCU freshman pitcher Marc Fisher earned the win as the Rams defeated ODU 3-1 Sunday at The Diamond.

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Ram Stat

•The CAA men's tennis tournament will be played in Richmond April

Next Issue

•Coverage of the women's tennis team's final home match of the season.



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

HERE IT COMES — VCU's Manuel Kropfrierer gets ready to hit a volley during his doubles match with Daniel Andersson against South Alabama. Andersson and Kropfrierer lost their match.

VCU suffers defeat to South Alabama

George Templeton

CT STAFF WRITER

The VCU men's tennis team lost to South Alabama 4-1 on Sunday at the Thalhimer Tennis Center. The defeat was the first this year for VCU at home and just the fourth loss in 85 matches at home since, VCU head coach Paul Kostin took over.

"This was a good team that played very well today," Kostin said. "We lost, life goes on, I will live tomorrow."

After a 16-0 start, VCU has lost four out of their last five matches.

"It's frustrating to see ourselves not play well, because we know we can play really good tennis," said Richard Wernerhjelm. "I'm a little frustrated myself because I've lost three of my last four matches."

One of the keys to VCU's success this season has been their improved doubles play. VCU however lost just their third doubles point this season in the match with South Alabama. VCU is 0-3 in matches where they don't win the doubles point.

"I wasn't pissed about losing my match in doubles because the team was the best we have played all year," Wernerhjelm said. "I couldn't get upset because Jose (Sanchez) and I did all we could do."

Led by the team of John James and Claes Westin, the ranked No. 14 in doubles nationally, South Alabama swept the doubles matches.

VCU needed four out of six wins in singles but had a difficult start to the singles matches. Four of VCU's players

losing the first set of their matches.

Only Daniel Andersson and Sanchez won their first sets.

Sanchez was able to finish off Jonas Westberg to win his match but the rest of the team ran into major difficulty.

Olle Lundberg, who didn't play a match last weekend, lost in straight sets to Paul McInerney. Two other VCU players suffered the same fate as Lundberg.

Manuel Kropfrierer lost in straight sets to John James, ranked 67th in the country. The loss was just the fourth this year for Kropfrierer.

Anders Bjorkholm also went down in straight sets, losing to Jonas Piibor.

Bjorkholm's loss clinched the match for South Alabama.

Because the match was clinched the coaches decided that the Daniel Andersson-Nic Chisolm match, and the Richard Wernerhjelm-Westin match wouldn't be completed because the outcome of the team match was already decided.

Both matches were tied at one set apiece when they were called off.

"I would have like to continue because I think a win would have helped my confidence," Wernerhjelm said.

Wernerhjelm sees a silver lining in the difficult period VCU is having right now.

"If we can stay healthy we should be okay," Wernerhjelm said. "We usually play well the whole regular season and then choke in the regionals. Maybe it's better that we have our tough period now instead of at the end of the year."

VCU's next match well be at home against unranked William & Mary on Tuesday.

Rams win two, lose one game in weekend baseball

Justin M. Wilson
CT EDITORIAL EDITOR

On a Sunday afternoon in March, with the game-time temperature at 86 degrees, the most heat was being put on across town, as the University of Richmond Spiders won another conference game forcing the VCU Rams to keep pace against the Old Dominion University Monarchs.

The three-game weekend series began on Saturday with a doubleheader. The Rams picked up a decisive 11-0 shutout in the first game scrapping together 16 hits with Coach Paul Keyes getting at least one hit from every one in his lineup.

Junior centerfielder Justin Martin went 3 for 5 with 2 RBIs and 2 runs along with senior Cory Whitby who went 3 for 4 with 3 runs of his own. Senior Chad Berryman picked up the win to run his record to 7-2 going 8 innings and giving up only 3 hits and striking out 6. Junior David Bailey picked up the loss for the Monarchs dropping his record to 3-2.

In the second game, the will of all in attendance was tested. The game began at

9:15 Saturday evening and ended on Sunday morning at 12:07 after traveling into extra innings. However, VCU ended up at the wrong end of the result for this one. In the top of the 10th inning Old Dominion pushed a run home to pick up the win and VCU was unable to match it.

Junior Matt Burch pitched 8 1/3 innings scattering 10 hits and 4 runs, but picked up a no-decision. In the top of the ninth Junior Brandon Inge entered the game to pitch and went 1 2/3 innings giving up 2 hits and 1 run, which proved to be the decisive winning run. Inge picked up the loss dropping his record to 3-1.

Martin and Whitby picked up 2 RBIs apiece to account for VCU's scoring. The Monarchs were led by sophomore rightfielder Joseph Troilo who went 3 for 4 with 1 run and 2 RBIs including his 4th homerun of the year.

In the third game, VCU had another close game. Freshman Mark Fisher started on the mound and turned in a solid performance going 4 1/3 innings yielding 3 hits and no runs to pick up the win, his fourth of the year. Sophomore Brian Mohr and

then junior Brandon Inge relieved him, with Inge picking up the save, his sixth of the year.

The Rams received an extremely good performance from Justin Martin who went 2 for 3 with a solo homerun in the bottom of the third as well as a RBI single in the

bottom of the first. VCU finished with a 3-1 victory.

Justin Martin, who went 6 for 12 with 6 RBIs, two doubles, and a homerun during the series, expressed regret that the team

RAMS continued to page 11 ►

Rams in Action

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S TENNIS (17-4, 5-0)	MARCH 31 W&M	APRIL 4 MID TENN	APRIL 5 GA TECH	The Rams match versus Middle Tennessee State will be played in Atlanta.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (12-2, 1-1)	MARCH 31 PSU	APRIL 4 RICE	APRIL 5 ODU	The Lady Rams match versus Rice will be played in State College, Pa.
BASEBALL (19-8, 5-1)	MARCH 31 UVA	APRIL 1 UMD	APRIL 4 UMBC	VCU defeated Maryland 7-6 and 7-0 earlier this season at The Diamond.

■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME