

TGIF: Cool Friday. Cloudy and colder with a high of 62 and low of 42.

Sat: Tell the rabbit the whites are ok, but the yolk is just plain bad. H60, L30.

Commonwealth Times

Thursday, April 9, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

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Author devotes life, books to fight child abuse

**Joe Rogalsky &
Christian K. Finkbeiner**
CT STAFF WRITERS

A family relative beats, burns or rapes a child and says the acts do not constitute abuse but are justified. Such thoughts inspired New York attorney and nationally known author Andrew Vachss to start a crusade against child abuse.

"I was disgusted that people felt entitled to abuse their children," he said. "Parents were thinking that the children were property."

Vachss, in Richmond Wednesday to promote his newest novel, "Safe House," has been fighting child abuse for more than 30 years. As an attorney, his only clients are abused children and his only revenue comes from his book sales.

While working as a federal investigator tracing the spread of syphilis, he discovered a child suffering from being raped. Thus he began his fight against child abuse - a fight that some television and radio show hosts as well as book critics contend has turned to rage.

Vachss agrees.

The author of 10 novels, most dealing

with child abuse, Vachss considers mental abuse to be the most damaging form because of its long-term mental effects.

Now that his latest work has been released, he has been touring the country autographing books.

"How do you distinguish the incest from the cigarette burning from the beating?" he asked during an interview while signing books in Richmond Wednesday. "Each case is the worst for the victim."

Suddenly, his rage became evident to bystanders at Carytown Books. Whenever the word or idea incest enters a conversation, it sparks Vachss' temper.

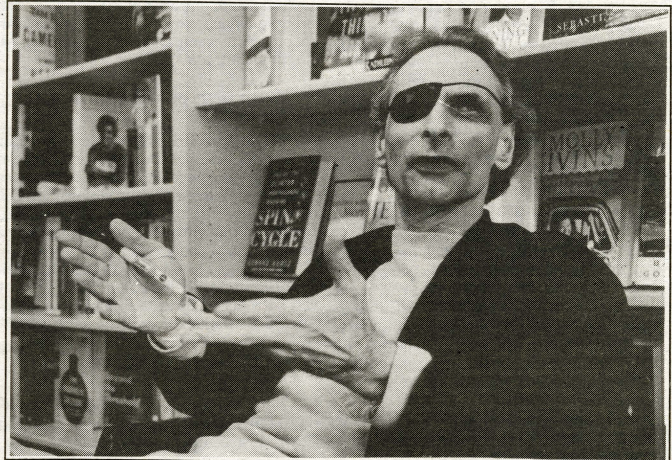
He calls for changes in current laws that treat children as chattel. Vachss, who said dogs sometimes receive more protection than children, disagrees with contemporary methods used to counsel victims.

"I don't like the modern therapeutic methods for treating incest victims," said Vachss, previously a director of a maximum security correctional facility for juvenile offenders.

"That is a job for the police, who should put the perpetrator behind bars. I am a firm believer that treatment doesn't begin until there is vengeance."

And Vachss doesn't stand alone with that notion. Reports of incidents of severe child abuse led to more legislation to protect children in Virginia.

For instance, the death of 4-year-old Annie Leftwich last year inspired the General Assembly to pass legislation



Photos by Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

HEAR THIS — Author Andrew Vachss, who lost his right eye in a gang fight, discusses his views on children's rights Wednesday at Carytown Books.

making the fatal torturing of a child a capital crime known as "Annie's Law."

Associated Press writer David Reed reported that Leftwich suffocated while gagged with electrical tape. She was found tied to a urine-soaked bed in the utility room of her family's trailer in Dickenson County. The toddler had puncture wounds, possibly from squirrel bites, all over her body.

Last month, Leftwich's mother and stepfather each were sentenced to 50 years in prison for second-degree murder and child abuse, the maximum penalty when the crime was committed.

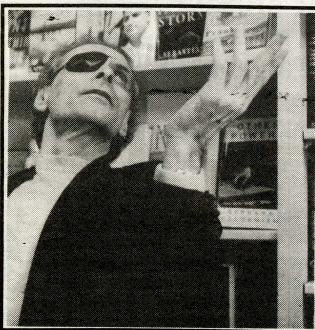
In January 1995, 12-year-old Valerie Smelser's emaciated body was found in a Clarke County ditch. Her mother plead

guilty to second-degree murder, saying she allowed her boyfriend to beat the child to death.

Because of Smelser's death and the publicity surrounding it, the General Assembly proposed legislation stipulating that local social services departments keep evidence collected in unfounded child abuse cases on file for three years and that these records could be reported from county to county and city to city. At that time, files of that nature were purged after 30 days.

In the past 30 years, Vachss watched Americans' attitudes toward child abuse improve, but three decades ago, the media did not report child-abuse cases.

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"How do you distinguish the incest from the cigarette burning from the beating? Each case is the worst for the victim."

Andrew Vachss, author

VCU to remove 825 sprinkler heads from buildings

Kim Thomas
CT STAFF WRITER

"Burning down the house" almost took on a new meaning for VCU's academic and medical campuses when Gov. Jim Gilmore proclaimed this week as "Building Safety Week" in Virginia.

In his proclamation, Gilmore ordered the inspection of all state-owned buildings and the removal of Omega sprinkler heads.

According to state records, 825 of these sprinkler heads exist at Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals.

"You're looking at a major problem," said Dean Broga, director of Environmen-

tal Health and Safety, citing the difficulty involved in replacing some of the sprinkler heads. "It's one thing if it's in an office but another (if it is) in dorms, hospitals — where people are sleeping, eating."

The removal order was precipitated by the Associated Press reporting in August that the Omega sprinkler heads had a 31 percent to 35 percent failure rate in tests conducted for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and by the Underwriters Laboratories.

As of late Wednesday, Broga said no one knows the exact number of sprinkler heads needing replaced in the hospital buildings, because replacing some could be as simple as screwing in a lightbulb or as difficult as

repiping the area involved.

"Some of the heads are easy to replace," he said, "but these are much more involved. You actually have to repipe (and/or) redesign (the sprinkling system)."

Richard Swistock, executive director of the physical plant division, doesn't think removal of the sprinkler heads will be too difficult.

"It's not that major," Swistock said, adding that his office inspected the buildings in his jurisdiction. "Only a handful on VCU's campus had them. I think it's six" located in McGuire Hall. Although he said no repiping needed to be done in the buildings his department had inspected, some in buildings under the hospital authority's

supervision may need repiped.

"All we know is (that the) ones in university-controlled buildings we'll do — ones in (the) hospital authority — I don't know," Swistock said.

Still, Broga estimated that a small number of heads needed replaced.

"Ten (percent) to 15 percent of buildings need repiping," he said. "We tested 30 (sprinkler heads) — none failed."

Moreover, he said this could be a "statistical fluke," but he didn't know for sure.

Regardless of how much work will be required, a funding question remains to be answered. Omega offered to replace the

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World NEWS

News from around the globe



WORLD/NATION



• Team to take out Everest garbage

Robert Hoffman announced Wednesday that a twelve-member team, called the Everest 98 Environmental Expedition, will pick up discarded oxygen tanks, fuel canisters and used batteries from Mount Everest.

In a similar expedition in 1995, a team removed 120 oxygen tanks, over 200 batteries, more than 100 fuel bottles and almost 800 pounds of assorted garbage.

The trash will be brought to the United States to be recycled and used as mementoes.

• Chinese protest razing for subway

Residents of Beijing made a public protest Wednesday over government plans to raze a residential area to make way for a new subway line. Authorities were able to persuade the protesters to leave in a bus.

"We tried to go through the courts, but that didn't work," one protester complained. "The government said it would resolve the problem, but it hasn't."

She went on to complain that the new housing offered was too far away and buildings were in disrepair.

• Greek Citibank hit by guerrilla rocket

Police suspect the November 17 guerrilla group of a rocket attack on an Athens Citibank Tuesday. No one was injured in the explosion.

"The rocket was among the ones stolen by November 17 from the army depot in Larissa," said one official. "It looks like the group is back, and if they don't claim responsibility soon, there may be more hits. It's their pattern."

• North Irish peace deal in offing

After British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern held talks this week to prevent the peace talks from floundering amid new violence and last-minute disagreements, both countries voiced optimism about meeting today's deadline for a peace deal.

"There are clear difficulties but both prime ministers believe that an agreement can be reached in time to meet the deadline," a British spokesperson said.

• Starr report to House on way

The Washington Post reported yesterday that independent counsel Kenneth Starr's prosecutors have written large portions of their report to the House of Representatives concerning alleged offenses committed by President Clinton.

The alleged offenses concern the President's involvement with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"Starr and his legal staff have — for the first time in their four-year investigation of the president — assembled evidence that they believe requires a report to the House of Representatives," the Post said.

• Mary Bono elected to House

Three months after her husband's death in a skiing accident, Mary Bono was elected to fill his vacant seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bono won 64.6 percent of the vote in her California district, defeating Ralph Waite, a former television star from the series "The Waltons."

"Sonny would have said 'This is big,'" said Bono. "He would have been very, very proud. He always believed in me."

• Service for Wynette today

The memorial service for Tammy Wynette will take place today in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium and will be open to the public.

Perhaps her most recognized songs is the popular "Stand by Your Man", but she

also collaborated with artists such as The KLF, Elton John, Aaron Neville and Smokey Robinson.

Wynette died Monday from a blood clot in her lungs.

• Retailers to train clerks how to stop sales to minors

A group representing 4,000 retailers has launched the month-long "We Card" program.

The initiative will train clerks on the prevention of underage cigarette sales. Clerks are invited to attend seminars in nine Virginia cities this month.

The effort is an attempt to improve Virginia's 68 percent compliance rate determined by "stings" last year. The federal government said it will tie anti-drug funding to a 90 percent compliance rate.

• Shad Planking begins next week

Politicians will gather near Wakefield to participate in Virginia's 50th annual Shad Planking next week.

The spring event involves beer, bourbon and shad. Blacks were not invited to the event until the late 70's, with women being withheld invitations until the late 80's.

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ABUSE

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"Thirty years ago, you couldn't say incest on the radio or write it in a magazine," Vachss said. "There is no question more attention is being paid to it, but there is nowhere near enough being done about child abuse."

To effectively combat child abuse, Vachss suggested forming a single-issue interest group similar to the National Rifle Association.

"If you don't have focus, you don't have power," he said. "People need to get obsessed — use the NRA as a role model. The group needs to be completely focused on one issue and not concerned with any others."

Besides his 10 novels, Vachss has written many articles discussing different issues of child abuse for magazines and newspapers. Vachss, in several different pieces, refutes the notion that homosexuality leads to pedophilia. He contends that pedophilia is a sickness and not sexual.

"There is no link between homosexuals and pedophilia," Vachss said. "There is no confusion between a 9-year-old girl and a 19-year-old girl. Does the word puberty mean anything?"

According to the president's statement proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, one million cases of substantiated child abuse occur nationwide annually and more than 1,000 children die every year from abuse.

• The nation pays added attention to child abuse during April, which has been declared Child Abuse Prevention Month nationally by President Bill Clinton and in Virginia by Gov. Jim Gilmore.

In Virginia, state social services reported 49,049 cases of abuse in 1996-97, Richmond having the most reported cases, 3,364, of all counties and cities.

"Of all people in our society, those who can least defend themselves are often those who are treated the worst," Gov. Jim Gilmore told the Commonwealth Times. "Physical and emotional abuse of children by their caretakers is inexcusable."

More than half of Virginia's victims were white and 52 percent were females, and 56 percent of the state's victims also suffered physical neglect. Mental abuse was the least reported of substantiated claims, making up only 3.2 percent.

During that same period, 377 of the individuals who requested a state clearance to work with children were identified as perpetrators of child abuse or neglect.

"More cases of child sexual abuse are never reported," Vachss wrote in a 1996 Parade Magazine article, "than are ever tried."

VCU occupational therapy celebrates OT month

Lindsay Kastner
CT STAFF WRITER

Graduate student Lan Van decided to study occupational therapy because she says it offers her an opportunity to help people regain their physical functioning abilities while using what she learned as an undergraduate psychology major.

Occupational therapists "try to help the individual achieve an independent life," said Van. She is learning how to help people perform activities like bathing, household chores, and job tasks, after an illness, disability, or injury such as a stroke or severe burn has made it difficult for them to return to their normal lifestyle.

"Occupational therapists help people with the job of living," says associate professor and chair of VCU's occupational therapy department, Shelly Lane.

Van says she was drawn to the profession because "it takes a holistic approach" by focusing on the entire patient and his or her needs, not just the person's injury. "It's really challenging and rewarding," she commented.

April is Occupational Therapy Month, which was created, says Van, "to get more people interested in the profession," and to let the public know what occupational therapy is all about.

According to Lane, there will always be a place for occupational therapists in the

everchanging field of health care. "The jobs we do are critical to the quality of life for individuals with disabilities," she says.

Last month, VCU's occupational therapy graduate program was ranked 12th in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. Only about 20 students are admitted to the program each year, said Lane.

Students interested in the occupational therapy graduate program should have some background in the biological or social sciences, notes Van. VCU also offers an undergraduate occupational therapy program and a post-professional graduate program for registered occupational therapists who wish to earn a master of science degree in their field.

Practicing occupational therapists work in a variety of settings such as schools, nursing homes and private practices.

VCU's occupational therapy department is offering free tours for interested students on the fourth floor of the VMI building on the MCV campus. The tours are held at 1 p.m. on June 5, July 17, August 14, September 11, October 2, November 13, and December 18. Reservations are not needed for tours.

To learn more about occupational therapy, check out the American Occupational Therapy Association's website at <www.aota.org>, or the VCU occupational therapy department's website at <views.vcu.edu/sahp/occu/>.

SPRINKLER

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sprinkler heads with new ones, but VCU did not accept the offer.

"That would absolve Omega of liability," Broga explained, saying he's not sure where the funds will come from.

Swistock predicted that the physical plant would contract the work to a private company, but no commitments have been made.

"(It's) not gonna break the bank," he said about the expenses involved.

Funding questions remain but removing the sprinkler heads will proceed without any specific plan in place.

"Maybe our plan is to have a plan,"

Broga said. "Too many intangibles (are) flying around right now."

Nonetheless, removing and replacing Omega sprinkler heads will not be an easy job.

"(There's) not a simple solution," Broga said. "No simple answers. But also not a life-threatening situation."

So why did Gilmore issue the proclamation?

"I didn't quite understand the governor's urgency," Broga said. "I don't know if he thought it was a political issue or what."

Perhaps the answer simply could be that April also is National Safety Month and this week coincides with National Safety Week.

World games gives students lessons in geography

Sarah Ann Hearney
CT STAFF WRITER

The world's largest and most accurate map of the world drew a crowd of less than 25 people Tuesday night at the VCU Student Commons. By the time the game ended, the cost to play averaged \$156 per student participant.

World Game Institute, a small non-profit organization in Philadelphia, has eight of these world maps created in the 1940s.

"We rent the maps out to colleges, high schools and organizations all around the world. Congress participated in the World Game Workshop in the 1980s," said Jim Tantum, senior marketing manager and

facilitator for the institute.

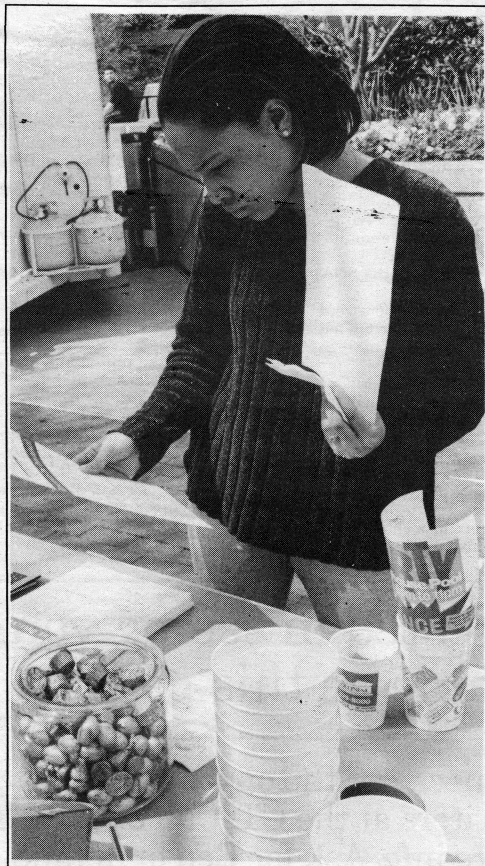
Students and others participating in the game were assigned game cards with the name of a region like Latin America or an international organization such as the United Nations.

Three 20-minute rounds consisted of trading between countries and solving of their nation's problems.

"Those students will have a better awareness of global and world issues along with geography," said Rachel Skyer, coordinator for leadership education and volunteer services for the Student Activities Center, after the game.

Jeff Bush, a VCU freshman, represented

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Virginia Gray checks out what University Village has to offer at the Off-campus Housing Fair Wednesday outside the Commons.

Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

University seeks student input on tech fee

Ben Wasson

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Virginia Commonwealth University's executive budget committee is reviewing the tuition and fees subcommittee's recommendations for use of the technology fee.

Ed Blanks, executive budget committee chairperson, insists that student input is a priority, saying the executive budget committee March 24 approved the fee, but details for its implementation still are being ironed out.

The subcommittee recommended that all full-time students be charged a \$41 fee per academic year and \$18 for summer school students. Part-time students would pay \$2 per credit hour, according to the

recommendations.

The subcommittee proposed that Cabell Library receive 20 percent of the revenue generated from the schools for universitywide initiatives. The remaining 80 percent would stay in those schools to be used for technological improvements.

The Faculty Advisory Council for Library Services would determine how the fees collected would be used.

Not all schools at VCU, however, will assess the new fee.

The business and pharmacy schools already collect fees for technological improvements, but some of those funds still go to the student library.

Specifically, the pharmacy school would return \$8 per full-time student and 40

cents per part-time student credit hour to the library. The business school would return 40 cents per credit hour for all students.

The subcommittee also recommended that the Office of Information and Technology review the use of the technology fee in all schools including business and pharmacy.

Sherry Mikuta, chairperson of the tuition and fees subcommittee, met Monday with the academic campus Student Government Association to discuss the technology fee. During the meeting, some SGA members criticized Mikuta, contending that students were excluded from the preliminary stages of determining the amount and use of the fee. Furthermore members expressed concern over the lack of a pay-for-print subsidy provided by the fee.

The SGA sought assurances that students be included in implementing the fee, requesting that spending plans include input from at least two student representatives "selected, trained and managed by the academic campus SGA."

In an interview on Tuesday, Blanks

refuted the students' complaints of inadequate student representation.

"They certainly had representation," Blanks said, adding that five students were included in the process with two coming from the medical campus and three from the academic campus.

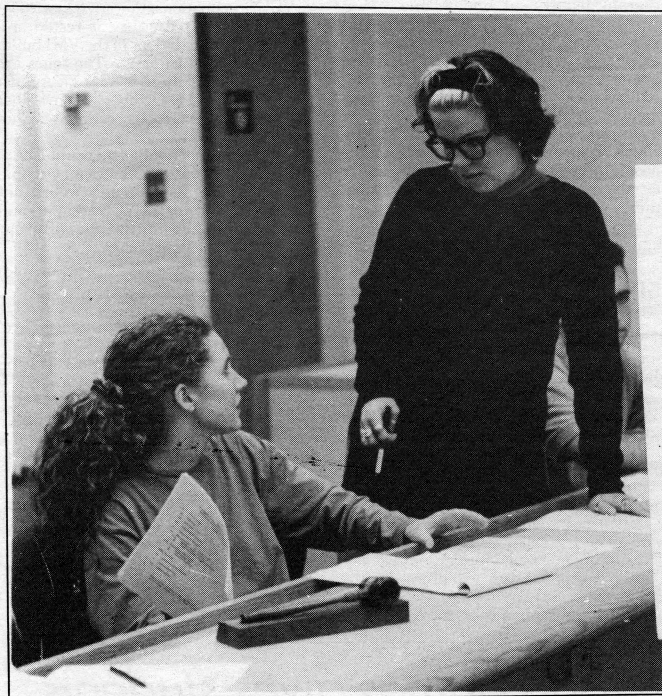
"The executive board is still ironing out the details," he said. "The proposal would send the money back to the schools assuming they have a plan that includes student input — that's a key."

Blanks said he expects the plan to implement the technology fee to be completed by the last meeting of the executive board.

The Faculty Advisory Council for Library Services already requested student representation in the review of spending plans for the library initiatives.

In an e-mail to Charlie Bryan, student body vice president, Shannon Mitchell, chairperson of the council, asked for two student representatives.

"We have already discussed the possibility of including student reps and agreed the idea was a good one," Mitchell told Bryan in that correspondence.



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

During a recent SGA meeting, members asked questions about the new technology fee students will be charged in the fall.

SGA member raises question about technology fee

Michael Regan

CT STAFF WRITER

At the SGA's open hearing Tuesday concerning the recommendation for the technology fee rates and usage, one student spoke harshly about not receiving a straightforward answer from the administration on the pay-for-print fee.

Carlotta Reynolds, chair of the SGA's appointments committee, argued for an answer about there would be an alternative to offset the current pay-for-print program now used in some areas of the university.

Reynolds challenged Sherry Mikuta, assistant vice provost for enrollment services, asking her why the SGA has never received a straight and fair answer to a question that has been asked several times.

"I think that what we were saying wasn't being heard," Reynolds said.

"Pay for print is why the tech fee came, up and we felt that it (the technology fee) should be implemented, but if we do that

how do we pay for print?"

Reynolds said that after the tech fee was proposed, the SGA wanted to see if the money already in the budget could be used to offset pay-for-print, and if not, it wanted to see what could pay for it.

"The students are willing to work with the administrators to find answers to these questions that are being posed as long as they are straight with us," Reynolds said.

In response Mikuta said she felt awkward trying to respond to Reynolds.

"I am not in the department of technology," she said.

"I just head the tuition and fees subcommittee and do not really know much about the technology fee."

Even though there were notices about the hearing sent to several campus organizations there were no non-SGA students at the meeting.

"That is pretty normal," Reynolds said.

"The students on campus often feel that we will handle these issues for them, and they feel like they do not need to get involved."

GAMES

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Japan in the game.

"My resident assistant told me about the map and I thought it would be fun," he said. "It was fun, but I think with more people it would have been a lot easier."

As marketing manager of the institute, Tantum noted that the World Game has been to more than 26 countries.

"A typical turnout is between 80 and 120 people," he said.

Sheila DeCuyper, one of two facilitators presiding at the world game, did not expect a large crowd.

"The workshop was optional so I didn't

expect that many students to come out," she said.

The VCU Student Activities Center and Student Government Association paired up to bring the World Game Workshop to VCU.

Skyer, SAC coordinator of the event, said she had seen the game played elsewhere.

"The idea of the game was mentioned to me, and I remembered that I had played the World Game before in graduate school," she said. "It was a lot of fun."

The total cost to bring the World Game Workshop to the university was \$3,900.

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Forum addresses business challenges in Latin America

Christian K. Finkbeiner
CT STAFF WRITER

Five national business leaders recently discussed the issues people face when conducting business in Latin America. Some speakers disagreed and one mentioned President Clinton more than once in a somewhat negative context.

It all happened at this year's International Trade Forum organized by the School of Business and funded by the Richmond-based Universal Leaf Tobacco Co.

In his opening comments, Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, said that the panelists speaking before he did talked as if Latin America were problem-free. He criticized the Clinton administration for concealing the region's bad points, calling Mexico a "cesspool."

"Latin America is an extremely troubled area," Birns said. "Many Latin American countries have 30 (percent) or 40 percent of their population living below the poverty level."

Besides Birns, speakers included Gerald F. Barber, marketing managing partner at Coopers & Lybrand LLP; Eugene M. Desvernine, senior vice president at Reynolds International Inc.; Salvador Rivera, vice president of manufacturing at Philip Morris USA; and Regina K. Vargo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Western Hemisphere.

Van R. Wood, Philip Morris chair in international business at VCU, served as moderator for the event.

In his talk, Birns cited the Clinton administration's "scandalous" handling of the North American Free Trade Agreement, saying there was no real policy concerning trade and drug-smuggling problems between the United States and Latin America.

"I resent the fact," he told the audience, "that Bill Clinton is using the presidency to say that those who recognize these problems that exist in Latin America are alarmists."

Vargo, responsible for the implementation of NAFTA, quickly responded to Birns' comments.

"I don't think we suggested that Latin America is problem-free nor would we suggest that any area in the world is problem-free," she said.

Vargo cited the fact that U.S. exports have more than doubled since 1990 with Latin America accounting for two-thirds of U.S. exports growth. All the panelists, including Desvernine and Barber, agreed corrupt governments and illegal drug trades exist in Latin America, but they want to improve on these problems, not cause further deterioration.

"The primary misconception about doing business in Latin America," said Rivera, a native of El Salvador, "is the idea that you

can't succeed there unless you are unethical and crooked. That is simply not true.

"Something else that many Americans may not understand is that you cannot look at Latin America as one single region with one single culture. Each individual nation is different and that fact needs to be recognized."

Rivera also stressed that business people must have entrepreneurial experience to succeed in Latin America because they will not receive as much support as they would in the United States. They will have to make their own decisions.

And what did students take away from the forum?

"I really enjoyed the forum," said Paul Nesmith, a senior business major. "I liked the interchange between (Birns) and the other panelists and I learned a lot about the Latin American business community."

Nesmith said he sees much opportunity not only in Latin America but also in the Latin American community in the United States. While this year's International Trade Forum focused on Latin America, previous forums focused on business issues in Russia, in China and in Europe.

In an interview before the forum, Allen King, president and chief executive officer of Universal Leaf, said he has been very pleased with student turnout in previous forums and expected 300 or 400 students to attend this year's event.

Symposium focuses on little-known work

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Henry Fielding, an 18th-century British novelist, and his works receive little attention from literary scholars. But during Lawrence Laban's symposium on Fielding's novel "Tom Jones," the late author received plenty.

Laban, director of undergraduate studies of English at VCU, discussed Fielding's portrayal of heroes in his works at last month's English Symposium.

During that time he cited many examples from Fielding's novel "Tom Jones" — the same piece of work that aired earlier this week in film version on the Arts and Entertainment cable network.

"Tom Jones" chronicles the life of a child born out of wedlock, which troubles him (Jones) as he grows up.

After Jones cannot marry the woman he loves because her family forbids the union, he decides to leave his hometown to travel.

While traveling, Jones becomes a person whose life centers around heavy drinking, sexual escapades and other vices.

Laban attributed today's scholars to ignoring Fielding because of their interest in female writers of that period.

"There has been more and more access to texts written by women that were very popular in their own time but were never available before," Laban said.

"The 18th-century male writer has tended to be ignored recently because the people with the new ideas are focusing on the female of that time period."

Laban's symposium, "Of True Greatness: An Inquiry into the Rhetoric of Henry Fielding, as Illustrated in the Characterization of the Hero," was drawn from the first two chapters of a book he is writing about Fielding.

Laban's manuscript titled "Of True Greatness: Character and Rhetoric in Tom Jones" came from the title of one of Fielding's best-known poems, "Of True Greatness."

Saying scholars often neglect this 18th-century author, Laban pointed out the importance of Fielding's works.

"It is important to study Fielding," Laban said.

"He is the novelist who most represents the position of the benevolent hero beginning in the 18th century."

For instance, "Tom Jones," published in 1749 and often considered one of the best English novels because of its plot, moral vision and characters, symbolizes Fielding's ideal man — a person who uses common-sense to govern his goodness.

Since Fielding studied law, after a stint as a political journalist he served as a justice of the peace before retiring because of health problems. The symposiums, scheduled three times each semester, are conducted by members of VCU's English department and previously explored Shakespeare plus many other works.

Terry Oggel, professor of English at VCU who schedules the symposiums, said that the series received local positive reviews from the Richmond Times-Dispatch and from Public Radio International on WCVE-FM.

A Bidder's Suite Ending



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

The Bidder's Suite, a restaurant on West Grace Street close to VCU's academic campus, recently closed down. A popular hang-out for VCU students, the basement space was known for its art shows and espresso.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good luck poor John

Poor John Emanuel. He's so alone in this world, and there's no one to accept him. Such a sad story indeed.

The more I read of this saga, the more disturbed I become. In his first letter, Mr. Emanuel comments on all the dirty looks he has been receiving, especially those from the Asian community.

He felt ostracized for not being the typical Asian. What I don't understand is, how does Mr. Emanuel know that others are not looking at him with racial indifference? What evidence is presented other than a dirty look? It seems that the only person who is making this a race issue is Mr. Emanuel himself.

In his second letter, Mr. Emanuel calls Greg T. Reedy "Mr. European-American Male," verbally taunting his accuser. Whether Mr. Reedy's letter was accurate or not, he never refers to Mr. Emanuel in a stereotypical context.

From what I have read, it seems Emanuel is bitter. He sites past abuses of the Asian community and uses them to wave his sword of self-righteousness. Yes, those injustices that were done were terribly wrong, and I too feel for the Asian community, I too am angered.

But I have to ask you this — did anyone you know do those things? Just because a person is white doesn't mean he or she is a racist — actions determine that.

Emanuel is prejudging his peers. That is no more evident than in his statement, "So if you're trying to help out the Asian community, stay out. You have no business there."

Excuse me, but this nation has reached where it is today by growing and learning together, not by shutting one another out because they are not of the same ethnic background. If everyone had an attitude like yours, Mr. Emanuel, no one would interact.

If you must know, I am a mix of many ethnic backgrounds. My father is a third-generation Jewish emigrant and my mother was born and raised in Thailand.

So don't think for a second that I don't understand what it's like to be hit in the face with a racial slur, or discriminated

against because of your skin color.

But I've raised above that ignorance. I have made a point to get along with others no matter where they come from or who they are.

Are you paying attention Mr. Emanuel? I don't think the real issue here is race at all. It's obvious that you like attention Mr. Emanuel. Your appearance is evidence of that. You seem to be feeding off of all the hoopla surrounding your "struggle," when you're the one who is making all the noise.

I'm not a psychologist, but your outcries for racial acceptance seem to be the oar that you're using to rock the boat. Instead of writing racially charged and offensive letters, maybe you should spend time to learn the joys that your culture has to offer you.

Then when someone gets in your face who is racist, you can drop some knowledge on them and prove who the better man is. I'm not saying that you don't know anything about your culture, but you should be accenting the positive.

I am requesting Mr. Emanuel's rebuttal, then I would like this issue to cease. If anyone else would like to comment to me about the situation, my e-mail address is s2aojaco@titan.vcu.edu.

The sad part about this whole issue is that had he never written his letters, I would never have looked at Mr. Emanuel any differently than anyone else. In fact, we might have gotten along. Now, every time that I go into the lab, I'll have to wonder whether he's staring at me with animosity.

Good luck in the struggle, John Emanuel.

— Adam Jacobowitz
VCU Student

All races please read

This is directed toward John Emanuel. I would like to say you don't flatter anyone with your one-cent words. Deep down inside, you are a paranoid person who hates Asians when you are one yourself. Mr. Reed was talking about your lack of professionalism at your place of work, not your ethnic background.

And to you, Glen T. Edwards, you need

to be quiet. When you become a full-time working professional, do you think you can scream at your peers without being unnoticed?

I'm sure your co-workers and your boss would appreciate that. I would hate to work with you and John.

I am Asian myself, and have a white girlfriend, and being called a twinkie is not as bad as it seems. It sounds like you have a self-esteem problem. John Emanuel thinks that people, especially Asians, stare at him because he's a sellout.

I've seen you before and I have no problem with who you are or with other people acting white, black, etc. People stare at you not because you're a sellout or a twinkie.

People stare at you because you are a freak.

Anyone who dresses like you do with chin and nose rings and whatever other stuff you do to yourself will undoubtedly get looks no matter what race or gender that person is. It sounds as though you enjoy what you do to yourself, and that's fine, but don't think that your actions will not attract stares from PEOPLE — not just ASIANS.

You sound like you are about to take on all Asians in a brawl or something. Surely you do not think you can dress like that and find a decent job? I don't think your Asian interviewer will stare and laugh at you because you are a sellout.

He'll laugh at you because you are unprofessional.

— Kiet Tu
VCU Senior

Stop the ignorance

Bravo to John for bringing to light a subject rarely discussed — prejudice against Asians. I was born and raised in a typical middle class suburb and being one of the few Asians there, I was constantly subjected to ignorant, stereotypical remarks about how my family always eats rice.

I was forced to listen to pathetic attempts at mocking Asian languages. And because I am Asian, everyone assumes that I like karate.

First of all, yes, my family eats rice. So what? Is it such a strange and bizarre thing? It is one of the staple products of many Asian countries, just like wheat is for other countries. Asians do like other foods too. I like Italian.

Secondly, do not attempt to make fun of any of our languages because, believe it or not, we can curse you out without you even knowing.

Finally, yes, I may be Asian, but I do not know karate. Not everyone from that continent is as good as Bruce Lee.

I cannot tolerate ignorant, racial slurs, but if you must call me anything, do not call me the c-word or the g-word because I am neither Chinese nor am I Japanese. I am Vietnamese, and proud of it.

I hope that the goal of those involved in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s will soon be achieved.

— Tram Nguyen
VCU Student

Justin M. Wilson

The last safe prejudice

They are called the last safe prejudice. A majority stay safely tucked away in the shadows denying their true identity. They are one of a few unprotected classes still denied protection by the Federal Government.

The act of being one is still considered illegal in many states. They are uniformly reviled by religions. They suffer from the injustice of hate crimes and pain from overt discrimination.

They are regularly lampooned in the mass media. In 1997, 997 of them were kicked out of the U.S. Armed Forces for the plain fact of being what they are.

The journalist Armistead Maupin once said, "I think a lot of gay people who are not dealing with their homosexuality get into right-wing politics." Although a sweeping generalization, Maupin gives us a humorous look at a subject that conjures up so many ugly feelings in normally mainstream people.

We as a society have been pressured by religion, and other influences to attach an incredible stigma to homosexuality, almost like no other lifestyle choice in recent times.

Still seen as the "last safe prejudice," we use the ridiculing of homosexuality as a mask for our own insecurities about ourselves. Many refuse to see that anyone defending homosexual's rights, could be anything but a homosexual himself or herself. A double standard still is very much enforced.

We have to look no further than this past month, when Green Bay Packer Reggie White attacked homosexuals with reckless abandon at a speech in front of the Wisconsin Legislature. White, an ordained minister, said that the nation has gotten away from God by allowing homosexuality to "run rampant."

Yet, White's endorsement contracts are still intact. His supporters are standing by him. Just a year ago though, when golfer Fuzzy Zoeller made a litany of comments which were racially charged, all of his endorsement contracts were dropped like a lead ball, and rightfully so. We continue to look the other way, however, when homosexuals are the brunt of the bigotry.

The U.S. Armed Forces has instituted a policy that in effect, if you lie about who you truly are you can keep your job. They say that openly homosexual soldiers in the military will have an adverse effect on troop morale.

That argument is certainly flawed. Is it adverse on troop morale when a soldier doesn't whoop it up at the latest copy of Playboy passed around in the troop barracks?

This all goes back to the same insecurity that was mentioned before. Many are so insecure about their own sexuality that they feel that just by associating with those of a different preference, they may become

SEE Prejudice, page 9

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Prejudice

homosexuals themselves.

Even more haunting is the fact that the arguments those so vehemently opposed to homosexuals in the military are using are the same arguments utilized prior to Truman's integration of the military in the middle of this century. It's just a different time, different oppressed party.

What I have never understood, is how you can oppose anyone who is willing to give his or her life for the United States? It seems foolish.

The military is of course not the last bastion of this discrimination. The American Red Cross still refuses to accept blood from someone who admits they have participated in homosexual activities regard-

less of whether protected or not.

They have no problem, however, with someone who has participated in rampant unprotected heterosexual sex. These types of double standards stand in our way of being a truly free country.

In 41 states it is still legal to fire someone because he or she is homosexual. It is also still legal to deny them hospital beds because they are homosexual in many of those states.

The bottom line here is I am not espousing the cause of homosexuality. This is not a homosexual issue. This is a human rights issue.

Nobody should be denied the basic human rights that we are all entitled. It was true in the '60s and it is true now.

Shannon Jennifer Ely

Guest Editorial

Sorry, no room at the VCU dorms

I arrived at VCU with excitement in my belly. I was happy to be living on campus; something I'd never done. I went to a community college, but never experienced anything close to dorm life. Living at home with Mom and Dad never prepared me for this.

I went to VCU Housing and found out I'd be living at Rhoads Hall, when I thought I'd be at the Historic District Hotel since I'd applied late in the summer. I moved in and became acquainted with the girls on my floor and became good friends with my next-door neighbors.

The year went by quickly and everything was generally great. We had our problems, but who ever lives with people and never has any problems?

Time came around for people to sign up for on-campus housing for the fall, and I went to Housing early to fill out the form for the lottery. My roommate went a week or two later.

The numbers came out. Housing originally said that there would be only 600 spots, which is all I thought available before squatter's rights. I went to the mail office in Rhoads where the numbers were posted and saw mine. Number 634.

Wait a minute! 634? You've gotta be kidding me. I was the one who made sure to get her butt over to housing and fill out the form and I got 634? And my roommate, who went in two weeks after me got 127?

Hold up. Calm down, Shan, I said to myself. There may be something when I go in. I specified I wanted a suite at Gladding Residence Center before I even thought of an apartment. I didn't go in with a group of people, I went in by myself. My parents made me go to GRC and see what they had.

So I went to GRC on March 25, with a fever of 102, weak from strep throat, but eager to see what they had for me.

"Sorry, all the ladies' rooms are booked for next fall. But we can put you on this waiting list."

OK. Fine. My name, Shannon J. Ely, is halfway down the second page of the waiting list.

"Oh, and by the way, don't depend on the list. I'd start looking for off-campus housing if I were you."

Don't worry. I wasn't going to depend on the list anyway.

But what is the deal here? I came to college thinking that all students were

guaranteed housing of some sort. And I'm basically kicked out? I come from Charlottesville, land of the University of Virginia and plenty of housing. I'm used to seeing dorms everywhere.

VCU basically has two dorms and a residence center, and I can't live in Rhoads again because it and Johnson Hall are designated for incoming freshmen.

Why a lottery? Why not a first come, first served? That's much more fair to those of us who made the effort to sign up early.

One of the resident directors at Rhoads and I were talking about this problem and he agreed that it should be first come, first serve. I asked, "Why are we building a whole new engineering complex and a new athletic facility when VCU needs either to add onto GRC or build another residence center like GRC?"

Then he let me in on the secret that Motorola was funding the engineering complex and it's obvious that McDonald's is funding the athletic facility. At UVA., other departments fund all new construction. Why doesn't VCU do that?

Why do we have to bow down to big corporations? Why must the Commons be turned into McCommons? And why doesn't someone think of a way to bring students back to living on campus? I'd much rather live on campus than have to commute or walk to and from a crappy apartment in the Fan.

Living off-campus limits interaction with new people and limits the time I spend on campus. It also limits my school spirit. Shouldn't people at least be happy they're going to the school they chose?

But, getting back to my point, Trani should think about those students who want to live on campus and find either a big corporation to fund a new dorm — I think he's fond of those guys — or have a fundraiser among the Alumni Association or ask the departments to help out in the construction of a new place.

I feel like I've been gypped out of a life experience. Now, those of us denied, all still women as of right now, are forced to scramble for a place to call home for the next year. All because Housing decided to play God and do a lottery!

What really gets me is my next-door neighbors, who went to Housing after me, got a suite, and they're complaining about it?

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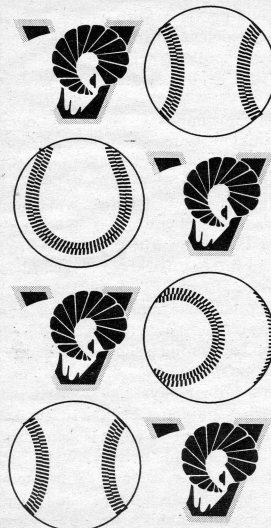
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WHO ARE MR. & MS. VCU?

Melissa Taylor
CT STAFF WRITER

Just exactly who are Mr. and Ms. VCU? Is Ms. VCU a tall, Barbie-style blonde who peers picked because of her beauty and gleaming white toothpaste smile? Is Mr. VCU a muscle-bound macho man who likes to flex his muscles and looks good for the camera?

CD REVIEW

Clapton reveals sad side on 'Pilgrim'

Tom Netherland
CT STAFF WRITER

Eric Clapton's solemn new set of 14 lamentations, "Pilgrim," features the legendary guitar god, once reverently referred to as "god," in a decided departure from his rock-based blues sound of old.

Clapton recently noted that "I wanted to make the saddest record I could make." On that count, he succeeds with dark flying colors.

Loss seems to have been riding shotgun with Clapton in recent years.

Despite his flourishing career, his personal life places him firmly alongside we mortals.

On "Pilgrim" Clapton bares his soul to the world as if to say that he's lived to tell it all, and that yes, he too is quite mortal.

Considering the laundry list of personal problems and tragedies surrounding Clapton over the past decade or so, songs such as "Broken Hearted," on which his wounded voice counters the

song's schipper accompaniment by saying "I would rather be alone," should have been expected.

Still, he is a musician. As you glide across the hot coals of emotion inherent in "Pilgrim," Clapton buffers the somber tone and essence of his lyrics with a 90s pop sheen redolent with drum programming and an overall sleekness that exudes R & B, circa 1998.

No doubt "Slowhand" wishes to continue his chart successes of recent years.

Lead track "My Father's Eyes," in which Clapton wails "I'm like a bridge that's washed away," sets the tone for the album with its slight nod to hip-hop backbeat and dour lyrics. "River Of Tears" features Clapton's ever improving voice way out front on a tune that has him bemoaning a separation from one whom he loves.

Clapton's guitar lays low through much of the album. Still, "One Chance," a more vigorous lively Clapton wields his guitar on some rather tasty, though short, leads. The album's cathartic pace momentarily sheds its incessant crawl with "Fall Like

The answer to both questions is no.

Mr. and Ms. VCU are actually Lewis Charles and Kristen Anderson, both friendly, community-oriented students whose warm personalities, active student organization involvement, and effective speaking skills earned them the titles of Mr. and Ms. VCU during Homecoming Week last October. The titles are both fairly new; Charles is only the second Mr. VCU in the university's history, and Anderson the third Ms. VCU.

And no, they were not judged by their looks, dazzling smiles or how good they looked on camera.

"People think [the contest] is a joke. They are under the stereotype that it is a beauty contest. A lot of people still don't understand the position. They don't realize it is community service oriented," said Anderson, an English major.

Anderson's path to becoming Miss VCU was a bit more

complicated than Charles' gaining his title. She went to an information section and her friends encouraged her to apply. She said she was stunned when she won the competition.

"Going through the interview process, I was impressed by [the other contestants'] level of involvement, poise and speaking skills. I was surprised and excited to win."

Anderson is involved in Alpha Sigma Alpha, the SGA appropriations committee. She was also a VCU ambassador. The student said she plans to go to law school.

"I like to work in the criminal justice system as a prosecutor. Most people who attend have majored in English, business, and history." She likes to read books by John Grisham and Patricia Cornwell, and listens to Pearl Jam. Anderson also works as a disc jockey over at Richbrau Brewery.

The process Mr. VCU differed from Anderson.

Charles' friend, Marion Klatt, nominated him, and then he filled out an application. Charles was the only contestant left in the competition after the other contestants dropped out.

Charles is involved in Alpha Phi Omega, BEER PEERS (chemical health educators), and Operation Student Smile, a fund-raiser for students with facial deformities. He is also a resident assistant in Johnson Hall, a caregiver at MCV child care and a mailroom assistant. The student said he likes watching "ER," "Unsolved

Mysteries," and "Bill Nye the Science Guy" on television. Charles also enjoys Tae Kwon Doe, and playing the guitar and piano.

As mentioned earlier, the roles of Mr. and Miss VCU still need defining. According to both Anderson and Charles, the school organizations barely realize they exist. Charles said he sent an e-mail, defining the positions of Mr. and Miss VCU to almost one hundred organizations and received only two responses.

"We want more input from organizations about what we can do for them," both he and Anderson said.

But their obscurity as Mr. and Miss VCU doesn't seem to bother them too much. In fact, Charles admits that he is not always fond of the limelight.

"But I don't mind because it helps me to interact with people," he added. Often, he is an optimistic person. "If something bothers me, I try to look at the better aspects of it. I don't find any use finding bad in a person when there's good in him or her."

Anderson felt the same way. "There's something positive to find in everyone, and that's what you should focus on."

Although the students say they may not get much publicity, their roles still need creating.

Charles and Anderson are already setting the models. Future winners will be able to use them as examples of what Mr. and Miss VCU should be.

THE ROLES OF MR. AND MISS VCU

still need defining. According to both Anderson and Charles, the school organizations barely realize they exist.

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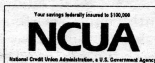
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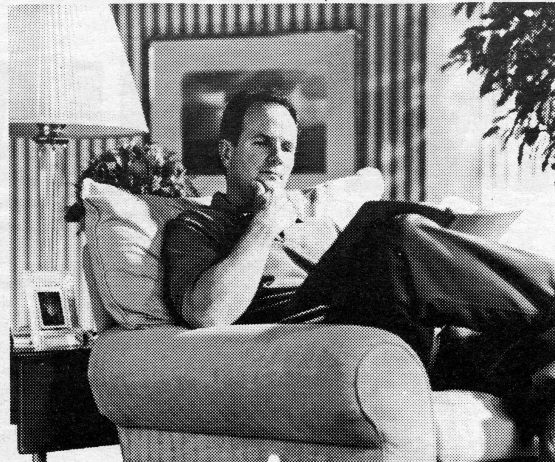
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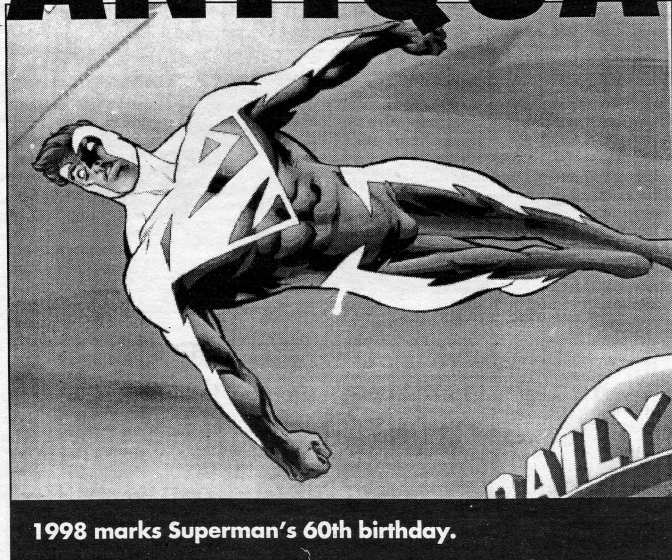
BY CHRISTOPHER IRVING

Although it may be hard to believe, the sky in the city of

Metropolis' four-color world has had Superman flying

through it for 60 years this month...

Superman, who has been dubbed the first superhero in comic books, first appeared in "Action Comics #1" in April of 1938. Audiences today know the "Man of Steel" as one of the biggest boy scouts in fiction, but he didn't originally start that way.



1998 marks Superman's 60th birthday.

Written by Jerry Siegel and drawn by Joe Shuster, both Cleveland natives, Superman was seen throwing around wife beaters and threatening to drop hoods from stories above the ground.

In addition, Superman didn't originally fly; he literally "leapt tall buildings in a single bound," as the 1940 radio show declared. It wasn't until later in 1940 that it was acknowledged that he could fly.

What more could a character who has survived a radio show, three television shows, a Broadway musical, two movie serials, numerous cartoons and five feature-length movies have? He was killed in 1992, only to be returned the next year in 1993.

A year ago, Superman's powers were altered from their more infamous incarnation to electronically based, a move that both amazed and frustrated fans of the book and character.

"One of the things that we have found in our fan mail and other information we have suggests that what we have is a situation where younger readers, kids who I think are more inclined to buy our comics on a news stand, as opposed to a comic store, have taken to [the new powers and costume]," noted Dan Jurgens, writer on the "Superman" comic book. "Part of it is they don't have this long familiarity with Superman built up; they don't necessarily expect him to be the same as he has for fifty-five years. In fact, it gave them something to sort of embrace as their own, something sort of new and fresh."

"Older readers, long-time readers, the more die hard type comic fans—they don't go for it. What we have is a real sort of schizophrenia-like reaction where there are two very polarized opinions, and you don't get that very often. I won't say it's a surprise necessarily, but I haven't really seen anything quite like it before."

However, Mike Carlin, executive editor

at DC Comics, said the new powers and costume didn't change who the character was.

"I think that Superman, even in his new costume and new powers, has done nothing but be a strange visitor from another planet with powers and abilities far beyond those [of mortal men]. And, he fights for truth and justice; he has never wavered from that. He is now married to Lois Lane, that's different...For all intents and purposes, what Superman is, no matter what he's wearing, is the same."

Recently, DC Comics took the new costume one step further by splitting Superman into two versions of himself, dubbed Superman Red and Superman Blue in homage to a series of stories from the 1950s.

It wasn't until last Wednesday that Superman returned to his old costume and powers, in a one-shot special titled "Superman Forever," which is the starting point for the "Man of Steel's" yearlong 60th birthday celebration.

"Rather than call any of it the '60th Anniversary Special,' we decided to take it upon ourselves to schedule more than the usual interesting, cool and different Superman projects over the course of the whole year. Probably the most significant story event is the much clamored for return to Superman's original costume and powers."

"As was planned right for the start," Carlin said, "we wanted to make April 1998 literally the 60th anniversary of 'Action Comics #1,' and its publication, be the return to greatness for The Man of Steel."

One part of the "return to greatness" takes form in a story line that has each of the four Superman titles: "Superman," "Superman: The Man of Steel," "Adventures of Superman," and "Action Comics," each written and drawn in a style reminiscent of different eras in the character's existence.

"Without explaining the whole story, the 'Superman: Man of Steel' title will have

Superman having adventures in 1938, and the costume will look like it did the first day. Action Comics will cover a Superman from the Silver Age of comics," Carlin said.

"They are really cool, and it turns out to be a story about time and perception being altered by a villain. It is the way to do tribute."

After 60 years of various interpretations by different artists and writers, Carlin added that Superman as a character has not changed much.

"[I]t's more of a visual evolution. On day one, he was fighting against spousal abuse and [wrong doers]; he always fought for the right thing. What you'll see, as sometimes a criticism of comic books, and what they'll sometimes do to show the human ideal; the Superman that I grew up with in the '60s, and even the Superman before that, was based on the ideal body types of the time—the Buster Crabbes, and the Jack LaLane types. Superman has visually grown the same as the human ideals of musclebound heroes like Arnold Schwarzenegger and beyond. Otherwise, he himself has not changed, it's just what the world has come to see as the ideal physique."

One of the most startling announcements regarding Superman is that film maker Tim Burton of "Batman" fame will direct a new Superman film, "Superman Lives," which will follow the death and return of Superman, and is tentatively scheduled for Summer of 1999. The original script, written by Kevin Smith, director and writer of "Clerks," and "Chasing Amy," is currently being rewritten under Burton's supervision, a move that angered many fans of both the comic and of Smith's work, citing the original script as the best comic to film adaptation ever written.

While rumors abound for Lois Lane, the current word is that Chris Rock will play Jimmy Olsen, Kevin Spacey will play either Lex Luthor or Brainiac, and it has

been definite for some time that Nicholas Cage will be donning the red and blue tights for Superman, a controversial announcement that has generated a torrent of differing opinions.

"I went to both of [Cage's] movies this summer...to sit there and say 'Alright, I'm not looking for Nick Cage on that screen, I'm looking for Superman,'" Jurgens said. "Seriously, it's a face I've drawn umpteenthousand times and I wanted to see if it was there. I don't think it was there in the face or in the voice. Particularly the voice...I think there's also a particular problem in that Nicholas Cage played a loser in virtually every movie he's ever done!"

"I do think that, for an actor who plays those roles over a long period of time, you accumulate that pre-conceived idea that the audience will have. That is a huge amount of baggage to overcome, and I don't know that he can...All I can see is Nicholas Cage in Leaving Las Vegas as the total loser of all time in all movie-making history...."

"To me," Jurgens added, "Superman has to have a particular sort of attitude on-screen, a sort of stature. I think it has to be a Superman who has sort of a majestic, regal quality about him, even though it's sort of a subdued one. Christopher Reeves had that. I think those are the main ingredients in the character that you have to find."

However, Carlin seems to hold himself to a more reserved level.

"I will reserve judgment and comment, except to say I thought Michael Keaton was a bad idea until I saw the Batman movies. I was wrong."

"I think Nicholas Cage is a phenomenal actor, and this will be something, if he can pull this off, I'd like to see it happen. It's time for the world to have another version of Superman that really knocks the predecessors out of the way."

Classified

Thursday April 9, 1998

Commonwealth Times 13

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***Friday, March 13** -- Summer Schedule Books will be available to pick-up in Room 104 of Founders Hall, the school or college of your major and the University Student Commons.

***Friday, March 20** -- Fall Schedule Books will be available for pick-up in Room 104 of Founders Hall, the school or college of your major, and the University Student Commons.

***Summer and Fall Schedule Books can be found on VCU's Web Site at <http://www.vcu.edu/safweb/>.**

Monday - Friday, March 23 - 27 -- Advising for Fall semester.

Monday, March 23 -- Advance Fall registration begins for University Honors students, and students with disabilities.

Monday, March 30 -- Advance Fall telephone registration begins in accordance with the following timetable:

**G1, G3
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Seniors
Juniors
Sophomores
Freshmen
Special Graduates
Special Undergraduates**

**Monday, March 30
Wednesday, April 1
Wednesday, April 1
Wednesday, April 8
Wednesday, April 15
Wednesday, April 22
Wednesday, April 29
Wednesday, April 29**

**Telephone registration hours:
Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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Phone registration number: (804) 828-1495

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RAMS

continued from page 12

and Andrea Ondrisova (12-0) is ranked 25th in the Rolex rankings.

VCU has two more matches, both against Colonial Athletic Association opponents, before heading into the CAA tournament to be held in Richmond.

On Wednesday, VCU was scheduled to play at Old Dominion before traveling to James Madison to close out the regular season.

Bard said staying focused over these last two match will be the toughest part of the Lady Rams remaining schedule.

"They need to stay focused and keep the goal in mind," she said. "The goal is to do well in conference and look good for regionals."

RESULTS:

VCU 6 def. Rice 2

Singles: Nedelkova(VCU) def. Elle Lewis, 6-0, 6-3; Sofia Hiort(VCU) def. Jennifer Velasco, 6-2, 7-6(6); Lenka Zacharova(VCU) def. Vessie Ivanova, 6-0, 6-3; Ondrisova(VCU) def. Justyna Gudowska, 6-0, 6-1; Erin Waters(R) def. Carmen Beitzer, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3; Charlotte Feasby(R) def. Thayaprasat, 6-2, 6-0.

Doubles: Nedelkova/ Ondrisova(VCU) def. Feasby/ Lewis, 8-3; Zacharova/ Hiort(VCU) def. Velasco/ Erin Walton, 8-3.

VCU 6 def. Penn State 1

Singles: Nedelkova(VCU) def. A. Montgomery, 6-0, 6-3; Hiort(VCU) def. A. Barnett, 6-3, 6-3; Zacharova(VCU) def. K. Margolis, 6-0, 6-4; Ondrisova(VCU) def. T. Whiteside, 6-0, 6-3; Beitzer(VCU) def. C. Drum, 6-4, 7-5; K. Luff(PS) def. Thayaprasat, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6.

Doubles: Nedelkova/ Ondrisova(VCU) def. Montgomery/ Barnett, 8-6; Zacharova/ Hiort(VCU) def. Margolis/ Luff, 8-5; Whiteside/ K. Ovelman(PS) def. Beitzer/ Thayaprasat, 8-3.

Track sets two records

VCU set two school records at last week's 36th running of the Colonial Relays hosted by William & Mary.

Gabrielle Deshong placed first in the high jump with a height of 5'6 1/2", breaking the old mark of 5'5" set in 1993.

The women's sprint medley team also broke a school record with a time of 4:11.17.

In men's action, Joe Reid took first place in the College Men Frosh 1,500 meters with a time of 3:56.21, while teammate Saeed Basweidan finished first in the College/Open Men's 1,500 meters with a time of 3:56.14.

Also in men's action, VCU's Francis Rono won the College Men 3,000-meter Steeplechase with a time of 9:05.1.

Others top 20 finishers for VCU were as follows: Michelle Rademacher (6th place, 10:19.26) in the College/ Open Women's 3,000 meters; Floretta Sample (10th, 35'1") in the College/ Open Women's Triple Jump; and Rebecca Snellings (20th, 18:54.97) in the College Women 5,000 meters.

Also of note was the performance of former VCU runner Mary-Elena Calle, who ran without a team, and won the College/ Open Women's 3,000 meters with a time of 9:48.82.

VCU Cycling wins two races

Last weekend the VCU cycling club team competed in Individual Time Trial, and Circuit Road Races at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

In the A time trial Terry Ashby finished second, Leigh Carter finished third and Thomas Gillespie finished seventh. The B time trial saw Hugh Wallace pick up an individual victory for VCU. Jason Meidhof finished 11th in that race.

In the Circuit Road Race VCU also saw one rider pick up a victory. The victory came in the B race thanks to Sean Jones. Wallace followed up his time trial victory with a sixth place finish in that race. In the A race Carter finished third and Ashby placed sixth. In the C race VCU put two in the top six with Meidhof finishing third and Kevin Sprovs finishing sixth.

The other schools competing were Virginia, Virginia Tech, Johns Hopkins, the Naval Academy, West Virginia, and Maryland.

This is the first year VCU has had a cycling club team.

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CAA BASEBALL LEADERS

STANDINGS

(Through April 6)

Team	W-L	%	W-L	%
VCU	7-1	.875	26-8	.765
Richmond	11-3	.786	23-9-1	.712
James Madison	5-3	.625	18-16	.563
East Carolina	6-6	.500	17-17	.500
Old Dominion	6-6	.500	16-17	.485
George Mason	4-5	.444	12-16	.429
UNC Wilmington	3-8	.273	15-18	.455
William & Mary	0-10	.000	15-18	.455

BATTING

(Through April 6)

PLAYER	AB	H	AVG.
Greg Miller, JMU	97	43	.443
Tim Hummel, ODU	129	55	.426
Shawn Pearson, ODU	127	53	.417
Corey Hoch, JMU	128	53	.414
Kevin Raler, JMU	118	47	.390
Ian Rauls, ODU	117	42	.359
Jason Dubois, VCU	114	40	.351
Randy Rigbsy, ODU	134	47	.351
Anthony Forelli, ODU	149	52	.349
Nate Rewers, UR	101	35	.347
Greg Filson, GMU	104	36	.346
Derek Morrison, GMU	87	30	.345
Mike Dwyer, UR	142	49	.345
Ryan Massimo, ECU	127	48	.339
John Williamson, ECU	110	37	.336
Jeremy Hays, W&M	90	30	.333
Mark Gibbs, GMU	99	33	.333
John Avent, UNCW	114	38	.333

RUNS BATTED IN

(Through April 6)

PLAYER	G	RBI
Anthony Forelli, ODU	33	47
Jason Greiner, ODU	32	39
Tim Hummel, ODU	33	38
Mike Dwyer, UR	33	38
Eric Bender, JMU	33	36
Jason Dubois, VCU	34	33
Ryan Massimo, ECU	34	33
Brandon Inge, VCU	34	31
Nic Jackson, UR	33	31
Randy Leek, W&M	32	31

HOME RUNS

(Through April 6)

PLAYER	G	HR
Mike Dwyer, UR	33	12
Josh Lamborg, UR	32	11
John Williamson, ECU	31	10
Brandon Inge, VCU	34	9
Jason Greiner, ODU	32	7

EARNED RUN AVERAGE

(Through April 6)

(Min. one inning pitched per game)

PLAYER	W	L	IP	ERA
Mike Stellar, GMU	3	1	46.0	1.76
Foye Minto, ECU	3	1	37.0	2.19
Brooks Jerrigan, ECU	5	1	55.3	2.77
David Bailey, ODU	3	2	22.7	3.20
Matt Burch, VCU	6	2	74.0	3.41
Marc Fisher, VCU	5	1	41.0	3.51
Brian Brantley, ODU	3	3	41.7	3.68
Andy Cook, W&M	3	4	64.3	3.92
Aaron Sams, JMU	7	2	57.3	3.93
Chad Berryman, VCU	8	2	67.7	4.12
Matt Williams, GMU	2	4	47.3	4.19
Mike Smith, UR	4	1	42.7	4.85
Nic Herr, JMU	4	0	46.3	4.86
John Cucca, ODU	3	3	48.7	4.94
Jason Morris, UR	6	3	65.3	4.96

STRIKEOUTS

(Through April 6)

PLAYER	IP	Ks
Matt Burch, VCU	74.0	74
Randy Leek, W&M	53.2	64
Aaron Sams, JMU	57.1	58
Brooks Jerrigan, ECU	55.1	54
Mike Reed, W&M	59.0	54
Andy Cook, W&M	64.1	53
Brian Brantley, ODU	41.2	49
Bryan Maurer, UNCW	62.2	47
Mike Stellar, GMU	46.0	44
Mike Dwyer, UR	49.1	42

SAVES

(Through April 6)

Brandon Inge, VCU	3-1	8
Travis Thompson, ECU	0-3	5
Shawn Patterson, VCU	2-0	2

WOMEN'S TENNIS

TEAM RANKINGS

(Released April 7)

RANK	SCHOOL	AVERAGE
1/1	Stanford (18-0)	56.43
2/2/3	Florida (16-0)	51.14
3/2	Duke (15-3)	50.00
4/2/3	Georgia (14-1)	48.59
5/9	Texas (13-4)	42.93
6/7	Mississippi (14-3)	36.67
7/5	Brigham Young (15-2)	36.53
8/6	Arizona State (12-3)	35.00
9/17	Vanderbilt (14-5)	31.14
10/8	California (13-4)	30.93
11/10	Wake Forest (10-5)	29.61
12/13	Pepperdine (15-5)	29.55
13/15	Kansas (11-2)	28.75
14/11	William & Mary (11-8)	25.82
15/12	Tennessee (14-5)	25.19
16/14	UCLA (10-7)	21.57
17/16	Notre Dame (12-6)	20.52
18/19	Arizona (8-6)	20.42
19/21	Wisconsin (10-8)	17.55
20/20	Arkansas (13-7)	17.50
23/22	VCU (12-2)	14.81

MEN'S TENNIS

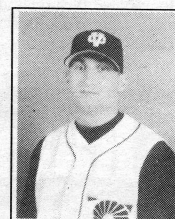
TEAM RANKINGS

(Released April 7)

RANK	SCHOOL	RECORD	AVERAGE
1/1	Stanford	13-0	40.80
2/5	LSU	12-1	29.10
3/2	Georgia	11-1	38.04
4/4	Mississippi State	10-1	30.86
5/6	Mississippi	12-2	28.46
6/3	Illinois	8-3	34.29
7/7	Texas	13-2	24.63
8/8	UCLA	12-3	23.66
9/9	Southern California	11-3	22.55
10/10	Pepperdine	11-2	22.10
11/26	South Alabama	15-3	22.00
12/21	Florida	10-8	21.15
13/22	Boise State	17-5	20.64
14/24	Notre Dame	12-3	20.52
15/11	Harvard	4-2	20.35
16/23	Auburn	10-4	20.00
17/19	Texas A&M	9-2	18.48
18/13	Duke	9-4	19.26
19/18	South Carolina	10-3	13.85
23/12	VCU	17-4	16.20



Athlete of the Week

Jake Anthony
Baseball

■ Anthony, a junior outfielder from Clover Hill High School in Richmond, knocked a grand slam homerun to lift the Rams to a 7-6 win over UMBC Sunday. The first baseman has started all 34 of VCU's games this season and ranks second on the team in homeruns and third in RBIs.

Ram Stat

• Both the men's and women's tennis teams are ranked among the top 25 in the country.

Thursday April 9, 1998

Sports

Commonwealth Times

Inside

• Take a look at the CAA baseball stats and standings.

VCU looks ahead to ACC opponents

George Templeton

CT STAFF WRITER

The VCU men's tennis team went to Atlanta last weekend and came away with a split of their two matches. VCU (19-5), ranked No. 23 in the nation, overcame the first loss by Daniel Andersson at No. 1 singles this year to win a tight match with Middle Tennessee State. 4-3 on the first day.

VCU lost the second match of the weekend 4-2 to the host team, Georgia Tech. The loss to Georgia Tech was the first against a Region II opponent after 12 consecutive victories.

"The loss to Georgia Tech was a little sad," said VCU coach Paul Kostin said. "The day before, MTSU defeated Georgia Tech. That's the way things can go when there is parity."

Kostin said he believes that injuries are not helping his team's chances against the ranked opponents.

"I'm don't want to make excuses but, Manuel (Kropfreiter) didn't play this weekend, and Daniel (Andersson) was a little tired and didn't play well either," Kostin said.

Kostin believes that Kropfreiter's wrist injury may continue to cause him problems.

"Manuel's wrist still hurts him and he might be out for the rest of the year," Kostin said. "If we lose him (Kropfreiter) that's one point in singles and a big factor in getting a point in doubles. This has been the craziest year I've had with injuries since I've been here."

Despite not playing together this weekend, the team of Kropfreiter and Andersson were ranked 44th in doubles.

Andersson moved up to No. 3 in the

nation in singles, despite losing both his dual meet matches this weekend. Richard Wernerhjelm is also ranked nationally in singles at No. 80.

Next up for VCU is a pair of Atlantic Coast Conference foes. VCU will take on Florida State (13-3), ranked No. 31, and Duke (9-4), ranked No. 18.

"I'll be happy if we go 1-1 this weekend," Kostin said.

On Friday, April 9, VCU takes on a Florida State team that doesn't have a player ranked in the top 100 in singles or a doubles team ranked in the top 50.

"Florida State is just a solid team all the way down," Kostin said. "Those kind of teams are very difficult to play. It's hard to tell which team will show up because Florida State did beat South Alabama, a team who beat us, but lost to North Carolina, a team we beat."

On Sunday, April 12, VCU takes on Duke, a team that has tormented them in the past. VCU is 0-10 against Duke since Kostin took over.

"I'm not looking forward to that match," Kostin said.

"When you face a team like Duke you need to have all your guns. Duke has beaten us a lot in the past. They were usually the better team and we wouldn't take advantage of our opportunities when we played them."

Kostin said that this week and next week are very important.

"These two weeks are big for us. We have these two matches and then we have the conference tournament next week. If we can survive these two weeks we could be alright because we get three weeks off after that."



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

BIG SWAT — VCU's Jose Manuel Sanchez winds up for a serve in the Rams' recent match against William & Mary. VCU will face Florida State on the road and Duke at home this weekend.

Lady Rams continue to roll

Tom Leiss

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Last weekend VCU's women's tennis team traveled to State College, Penn., and won two matches to improve its season record to 14-2.

The Lady Rams have not lost a match since losing their first two matches of the season and are currently ranked No. 23 in the Rolex Collegiate Tennis Rankings.

VCU coach Eva Bard said that the team performed well under some difficult conditions during the weekend.

"They competed very well and played in some very difficult conditions," Bard said. She explained that the weather was cold and windy and that the team had to play on courts that were faster than it was to.

On Saturday, VCU handed Rice a 6-2 set back as the Lady Rams won the top four singles matches and the top two doubles matches to earn the victory.

Because of the bad weather the match was moved indoors, which Bard said was to the advantage of VCU.

"We had the upper hand because we played them (Rice) indoors, which they hadn't done much of this season," she said.

On Friday, VCU took on its host Penn State and proceeded to role over the Nittney Lions 6-1.

In the singles portion of the match, the Lady Rams won all but the sixth seed match, which was lost in a closely contested third set tie-breaker by Siri Thayaprasat, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6.

With her two wins over the weekend, VCU No. 1 seed, freshman Martina Nedelkova moved up four positions to eighth in the Rolex Women's Tennis Rankings.

The Lady Rams now have a doubles team ranked as well. The team of Nedelkova

LADY RAMS continued to page 15 ►

Rams in Action

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS	Notes
MEN'S TENNIS (17-4, 5-0)	<div>APRIL 10 FSU</div> <div>APRIL 12 DUKE</div> <div>APRIL 17-19 CAA's</div>	VCU plays Florida State in Charlottesville on UVA's campus.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (14-2, 1-1)	<div>APRIL 17-19 CAA TOURNAMENT</div>	The Lady Rams defeated W&M in the first round of last year's CAA Tournament.
BASEBALL (26-8, 7-1)	<div>APRIL 12 JMU (DH)</div> <div>APRIL 18 UR (DH)</div> <div>APRIL 19 UR</div>	UR captured the CAA Tournament championship last season.

■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME