

FRI: Button up, kids. Rainy and breezy in our fair city today. H63, L44.

SAT: Partly sunny and cool. Highs in the upper 60s, lows in the mid 40s.

Commonwealth Times

Thursday, April 23, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 30, No. 62

Symposium addresses education woes

Ben Wasson
CT NEWS EDITOR

Richmond's public schools need to undergo systemic change in order to prepare students for the next century, and Gene R. Carter, executive director for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The keynote speaker made this plea to the public policy makers, educators, ministers, students and community members assembled in VCU's Medical Sciences auditorium as part of VCU's Wilder Symposium Tuesday.

The program, "Education in the Richmond Public Schools: A Call to Action," coordinated by Richmond Renaissance and VCU's Center for Public Policy, focused on ways to address problems facing Richmond public schools. After the address, a panel of Carter, VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ukrop's Super Markets Inc.'s CEO James E. Ukrop, M.H. West and Co. owner Marilyn H. West and Southampton Model Elementary School teacher Jacquelin Brockington fielded questions from the audience while Virginia's former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder moderated.

The purpose of the program was to bring disparate groups together to have a helpful dialogue on the issue "rather than having them talk at each other," Wilder said.

Wilder is a distinguished professor in VCU's Center for Public Policy and known "around the world as an incisive speaker," Trani said.

In his introductory speech, Wilder noted that people are losing confidence in their public schools, and Richmond has more groups trying to help the city schools than any other city of its size.

"Everyone talks about education," he said, "but talk is cheap. The question is who is doing what and where."

Carter, a former Superintendent of Norfolk's public schools, said Richmond's urban schools need the community to work as a team, to identify problems and to institute change on a systemic level, not part by part.

Historically, the urban centers of Washington, D.C., Norfolk and Richmond were seen as places of ideas, but "conflict, growing violence, despair and a high population of disadvantaged," have changed that perception, Carter said. "We need to rekindle the sparkle in our urban centers."

Carter identified the greatest problem in urban schools as the low achievement of its school children.

To turn this around, Carter encourages the community to craft a vision with school-linked community services, culturally compatible schools and classrooms and teachers with high expectations.

"Not all teachers believe every child can learn," Carter said. "Teachers need to have high expectations for all and a belief that all children can learn."

Carter advocates collaborative, intervention-related programs between schools and their community. Also, schools need to change their mainstream approach to adjusting to the needs and background of their "student-children."

In addition, teachers need to shift from instruction to knowledge construction — teaching children how to learn, Carter said. The mind-set of how schooling is conducted also needs to change.

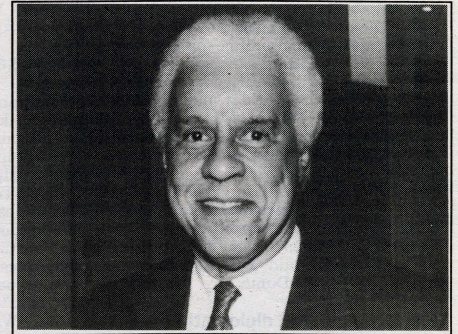
"We need to create new mental models," Carter said. "Not all of us today are playing with a full deck; if the horse you are riding on dies, you get off the dead horse."

Instead of getting a new horse, Carter said groups are more likely to buy a stronger whip, get a new rider, appoint a committee to study the dead horse or increase the standards for riding a dead horse.

Carter borrowed from Albert Einstein when he told the audience, "No problem can be solved by the consciousness that created it."

The structure of the school day is detrimental to the education of children.

Schools are organized on the old-factory model, said Carter, with "bells and whistles," and instruction time



Charles Harmon/Commonwealth Times

America's first African-American governor, L. Douglas Wilder spoke with attendees during the reception before "Education in the Richmond Public Schools: A Call to Action."

compartmentalized into 45-50 minute intervals. Students "are just starting to get excited when the bell rings and they have to stop what they are doing and move someplace else," Carter said.

In closing, Carter encouraged his audience to make a change.

"The right time is now, you have in your hands the opportunity to transform the Richmond community if you are willing to work as a team," he said. "That's your

CARTER continued to page 3▶

VCU kicks off mentoring program

Dusty Smith
CT NEWS EDITOR

It will be a done deal after students shake hands for the first time with their new advisers Friday — oops, make that their mentors.

Last spring, President Eugene P. Trani told the Faculty Senate about a mentoring program he participated in while attending the University of Wisconsin, and Terry Oggel, now Senate president, took the baton and ranked mentoring a priority for the Senate.

"Immediately (we knew) this was something we needed to do," Oggel said last week in an interview.

So he appointed Charles Byles, associate professor of management, to head a Senate task force from both campuses to develop a pilot mentoring program — now named the Faculty Senate Presidential Student Mentoring Program.

"I thought Charles would be the best person (to chair the task force)," Oggel said. "He's well-known to the Senate — he was a member last year — and was a mentee himself."

Finding out about VCU's established mentoring programs became the task force's first job. The report on the Faculty Senate Presidential Student Mentoring Program states the group found that less than 2 percent of VCU's students receive formal mentoring.

As some people describe it, the new initiative resembles that of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, where adults assist young people with their daily struggles.

"(The new program) is not an academic advising program," Oggel said. "(It) provides personal, not specific (mentoring)."

Byles said the new program should "give students a helping hand with the difficulties of transition from high school to college. The goal is to improve the quality of student life."

Mentor responsibilities include listening, maintaining friendships, encouragement, motivating students, assisting with life choices and directing students to their advisers when necessary.

Oggel pointed out that the mentors represent more than just VCU faculty because it includes provosts, alumni and members of the board of visitors to increase the scope

beyond academics.

Mentees, however, must be willing to learn, keep in touch with their mentors and give an honest view of (their) interests, concerns and abilities. In addition, they should participate with their mentors in at least three campus events during the school year, according to guidelines developed by Byles' task force.

The Senate, Byles said, encourages students to stay in touch with their mentors throughout their college careers. Thus, each year the number of participants should grow as new students and mentors join the program.

Oggel called mentoring "a pretty big thing on campuses." For instance, some of VCU's peer urban institutions, Boston, Syracuse and Temple universities, offer similar programs, but the campuswide focus of this initiative, he said, may make this stand out from others.

Next year the Senate plans to reevaluate it.

"VCU can redesign the program for semesters in the future," Byles said. "The nuts and bolts are very flexible. We are very open-minded to other possibilities."

1998-99 SGA officers elected

Michelle D. McGowan
CT STAFF WRITER

Student Government Association's new president, Charnessa Paige, intends to serve as the "eyes and ears of the student body."

This watchdog approach helped Paige, a sophomore political science major, defeat junior Rob Milesneck in SGA's elections, while Evonda Newton, a sophomore mass communications major, beat sophomore biology major Justin Gunther for vice president.

Paige, a Richmond native who envisions an active year with SGA, wants to increase membership and involvement.

There is strength in numbers," she said, "and this year we are working to increase membership. There are many positions still open for students to participate."

Paige concedes, however, that the SGA faces serious issues for fall semester.

"The \$41 technology fee will be our biggest challenge," she said. "The university hasn't made it clear what that money

ELECTION continued to page 5▶

World NEWS

News from around the globe



WORLD/NATION



• Russian Duma to vote on PM

The State Duma lower house will hold its third vote on Friday on Sergei Kiriyenko, nominated for Russia's prime minister by President Boris Yeltsin.

The Duma rejected Kiriyenko's nomination a second time Friday making this Friday's vote Kiriyenko's last.

If the Duma does turn down the nomination, Yeltsin must dissolve the chamber and hold an early election.

Speaker of the Duma Gennady Seleznyov said Yeltsin could help the nomination by appearing before the Duma to present Kiriyenko to the chamber.

The Kremlin said Yeltsin has not planned to visit the Duma.

• U.N. hands U.S. diplomatic blow

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights rejected a U.S. resolution condemning Cuba for human rights issues Tuesday.

This ended the U.S.-led seven-year censure by the committee and also ended the

commission's mandate on a special human rights investigator on Cuba.

Carl-Johan Groth, a Swede serving as independent U.N. rapporteur since 1992, reported that Cuba has a widespread policy of repression against critics of communism but said the U.S. embargo was partially to blame.

The U.S. resolution was defeated by a vote of 19-16 with 18 members abstaining.

• Chinese dissident set to travel

Wang Dan will be in New York on Thursday to speak with reporters for the first time since his release.

Doctors in the Detroit hospital where Wang stayed gave the former student leader of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy protest a clean bill of health.

Wang's family members were concerned he had a brain tumor after he complained of headaches.

"Any issue of a brain tumor was quickly laid to rest," said Dr. Robert Hyzy. Hyzy attributed Wang's symptoms to eye strain.

• Supreme Court overturns state court on jury bias

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that white defendants in criminal cases may sue over the exclusion of blacks from grand

juries

The ruling overturns a Louisiana Supreme Court decision that the defendant must be the same race as an excluded grand jury member.

Terry Campbell was convicted of second-degree murder in Louisiana but claimed the state illegally excluded blacks when selecting a grand jury foreman.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia dissented.

"I fail to understand how the rights of blacks excluded from jury service can be vindicated by letting a white murderer go free," said Thomas.

• White House accuses Gingrich of siding with tobacco

The White House criticized House Speaker Newt Gingrich for playing down the influence of Joe Camel advertisements.

"He's adopted the industry line," White House spokesperson Mike McCurry said. "It's becoming clearer that the speaker is speaking on behalf."

Gingrich told those attending a fundraiser that Hollywood stars smoking on screen had more to do with teens smoking than Joe Camel on Monday.

In an interview on Monday, Gingrich asserted he was "not at all sympathetic" to the tobacco industry.

VIRGINIA



• Teen "pimp" sentenced

A 13-year-old boy who admitted to setting up a sex club at a Reston middle school was sentenced to 60 days in a juvenile detention center and ordered to seek counseling.

The unidentified boy said he was nicknamed "Mr. Pimp" at his school.

He will remain on probation until turning 21.

The boy confessed to the crime before being able to set up meetings with boys and girls who paid to be in his club.

• Supreme Court upholds Virginia anti-stalking law

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed with a series of Virginia court rulings this week that Michael Parker broke the law by making harassing phone calls to his ex-girlfriend after he was convicted of stalking her.

During his six-month sentence, Parker made 30 phone calls to the victim.

Parker asserted the anti-stalking law violated his free speech rights.

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CARTER

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compartmentalized into 45-50 minute intervals. Students "are just starting to get excited when the bell rings and they have to stop what they are doing and move someplace else," Carter said.

In closing, Carter encouraged his audience to make a change.

"The right time is now, you have in your hands the opportunity to transform the Richmond community if you are willing to work as a team," he said. "That's your challenge, I think you are up to the challenge because if you are not, you won't be here tomorrow . . . you are competing with the world."

Wilder also shared his views on the issues facing urban education.

"Certainly we need smaller class sizes, certainly we need well-paid teachers, and certainly we need job training to take place," he said.

He emphasized the need for schools to prepare students to enter a job market driven by technology.

"Seventy percent of jobs . . . require technical skills," he said. "Our approach to vocational training has to change."

County school systems around the region could also benefit from the symposium.

"There is a unique relationship with cities and counties here today, but they will not always be separate," Wilder said. "Eventually, inefficiency and crime will spill over."

During the panel discussion, the participants voiced their approval of Carter's address.

"Everything that Dr. Carter said seemed to apply to me and my classroom," Brockington said. "The most important reason for what we are here for is the children."

Trani also stressed the need to prepare children for the next century.

"If we can't get them that technical training, they will not be a part of the

prosperity of the 21st century," he said.

Questions from the audience ranged from how to teach children without demeaning their parents who don't have the same education and how should Richmond go about attracting home-buyers.

One concern from the audience dealt with the issue of charter schools in Virginia.

"I can't speak for Richmond," Carter said, "but as we prepare for the next century, public schools will not exist the way we now know them. If public schools are excellent, they have nothing to fear from charter schools."

The symposium attracted several VCU students.

"I'm interested in education issues today," said Marc Johnson, a senior in political science. "I want to see what's going on in the Richmond schools."

During the panel discussion, Kenisha Wiggs, a junior in mass communications, directed a question to Trani.

"A lot of (VCU) students are not happy with what they're getting . . . are you asking students what they want out of school?"

Trani said students were asked for their input on all the major projects at VCU, such as the Stuart C. Siegel Center and the engineering building.

VCU also "completely re-did core requirements to make them more relevant and more focused . . . to make sure your major prepares you for your future," Trani said.

Wiggs later said she did not receive a complete answer from Trani.

"I think he tried to answer the best he could," she said. "If more VCU students had shown up maybe he would have taken our views more seriously."

Co-sponsors for the symposium included the City of Richmond, the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the Richmond Public Schools, the Richmond Council of PTAs, the Richmond Education Association, Virginia Union University, Virginia State University and the Richmond Tenants' Organization.

FUNNY FACE

Charles Harmon/Commonwealth Times

John Fudala, a VCU film student, clowns around. Other VCU students also dress up as clowns in their spare time.

Administrators brace for influx of new students

Sarah Hearney
CT STAFF WRITER

University administrators predict that with an estimated 2,200 freshmen and 1,500 transfer students entering the university this fall semester, they are preparing for the influx by implementing the Academic Success Center program and limiting Rhoads and Johnson halls to freshmen.

Insufficient dormitory space can be a problem for first-year students, but they often face other problems in adjusting to college life in an urban city — especially those who come from rural areas. The change from living in tight-knit communities to a metropolitan area can seem awesome and sometimes overwhelming to them.

"Some kids from small towns are really put off by the homeless people they see around VCU, while we (people from Richmond) take it for granted," said John Borgard associate dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences.

Therefore, he said, the university developed programs to help students from any background adjust to the VCU community. As a result, Grace Harris, provost and

vice president for academic affairs, plans to announce next month the fall opening of the Academic Success Center program.

"The Academic Success Center," Borgard said, "will be operating for the first time to help first-year and other students with their education."

Since it's a reorganization of support services, Borgard said, he's excited about what the center can do for students and he wants students to take advantage of it.

Still, even before the center opens, administrators are readying for the incoming students. For instance, some work on the Student Testing, Advising and Registration, the program required of all first-year and transfer students that begins in June and lasts through July.

Eric Williams, acting coordinator of the new student programs office, called the program a nuts-and-bolts activity that introduces students to the university's services.

The three-pronged S.T.A.R. program includes required testing in areas such as foreign language and math, advising for course selection and registering for classes.

During New Student Orientation, a three-day program in late August, newcomers can see and learn more about the

university campus, academic services and the more than 170 registered student organizations.

Although not mandatory, the orientation offers students a tour of the school's facilities and activities like last year's Casino Night.

"We are trying to make NSO a program with both academic and social activities," Williams said. "Some introductory computer classes may be offered to new students during this summer's NSO."

When students later visit the Organization and Services Fair they can quench their thirst for knowledge about college activities by checking on VCU's organizations, fraternities and sororities that provide information and sign-up sheets at their tables in the Commons Plaza.

Since just being on a college campus can frighten freshmen, some establish friendships through Freshman Interest Groups.

"A FIG consists of three or four courses with the same 20 students in each class," said Marcia Zwicker, director of the academic advising office. "Students are able to make friends and form study groups with their classmates."

Every fall semester, each academic campus school provides these interest groups

for first-year students.

"The goals of the program are to create a learning community with other people going through the same experience, give students someone to call for notes if they missed class and also help people feel comfortable at VCU," said Jean Yerian, associate dean for student affairs.

Attending VCU 101, a one-credit 10-week class mostly for freshman became evident in almost every interest group.

"VCU 101 is a student-success type of course that updates students in college-learning skills," Yerian said, "and teaches what the university is like while also discussing life-management skills."

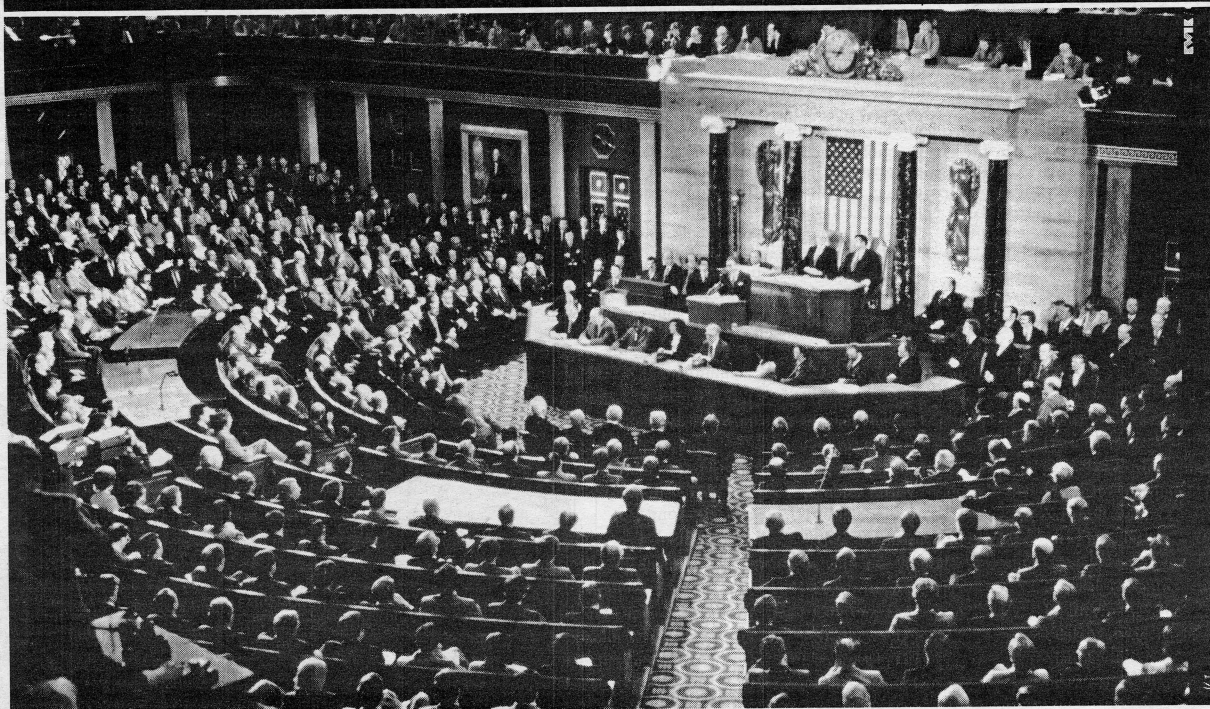
Many students in courses such as biology find themselves drowning in a sea of faces in an auditorium style classroom. Because of this, student failure rates in such large classes sometimes rank higher than in non-auditorium style classes.

To curb these low grades, VCU offers individual help to students through its Supplemental Instruction program.

"Upperclass students that have already taken a course such as biology go to every class and form study groups with students

FRESHMAN continued to page 5 ▶

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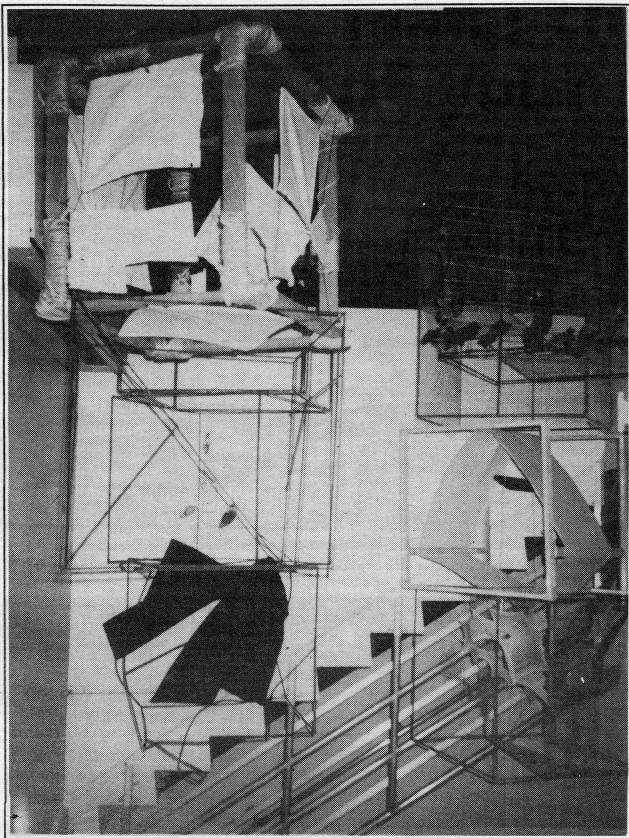
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On display



Gina Lofaro/Commonwealth Times

Displays of student art work, like the ones pictured, are common sights in the Theresa Pollack Building.

FRESHMEN

continued from page 3

such large classes sometimes rank higher than in non-auditorium style classes.

To curb these low grades, VCU offers individual help to students through its Supplemental Instruction program.

"Upperclass students that have already taken a course such as biology go to every class and form study groups with students new to the class," Borgard said.

"Research shows that group study is good. They really help each other and you see more and more of it these days."

Yerian said she's also seen statistics favoring supplemental instruction.

"Some courses are just simply difficult," she said.

"Out of all students enrolled in biology courses in fall 1996, 53 percent received a grade of D, F or W in the class.

"The one-third of enrolled students who voluntarily and consistently come to the SI study groups earn one-half to a whole letter grade higher than students who do not attend."

Nonetheless, when it comes to programs for first-year students, Yerian called VCU a school among schools in the mainstream of educational learning-skills.

ELECTIONS

continued from page 1

sity hasn't made it clear what that money will be used for. Students want to know, and we don't have answers to give. No one has any idea how it will be spent."

If voter turnout is indicative of anything, it shows students want information and representation on these issues. Voter turnout increased this year from last year's nearly 700 votes this year, said Rachel Skyer, co-adviser to SGA's Election's Committee.

"The presidential debate went very well," she said, citing it as providing an open forum.

Previous involvement in student organizations also may have helped improve the turnout for the candidates. William Duvall, associate vice provost and dean for student affairs, said the candidates who ran for office were involved with other large student organizations such as the Black Caucus and the Interfraternity Council.

Skyer noted that this year was just the second year students could cast their votes on a computerized system. Voters swiped their VCU ONE cards or provided Social Security numbers at one of the four computerized polling stations.

"This might have helped our voter turnout as well," Skyer said.

Other elected 1998-99 SGA officers for the academic campus include Maria Michaels, assistant speaker; Justin

Gunther, speaker of the house; Brooke Butler, clerk; and Beth Andrachek, parliamentarian.

Meanwhile, Kristen Anderson will chair the appropriations committee for financial affairs; Montina McElroy will head the appointments for senate affairs; and Minal Patel will chair the services for student affairs.

In addition, other committee leaders are Kunoor Jain of publicity for communications, Mike Menefee of governmental affairs, Dhanya Puram of human relations for community affairs and Russell deLeon for programming. Maggy Kriebel will chair elections.

Officers must be returning students enrolled in an academic program for the 1998-99 school year, and they must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average. Furthermore, they cannot be on academic warning or probation and must gain 30 signatures to run for any SGA position.

Senators are not required to have previous experience with SGA, although Skyer said "it is recommended."

Serving in an elected SGA office can be time-consuming.

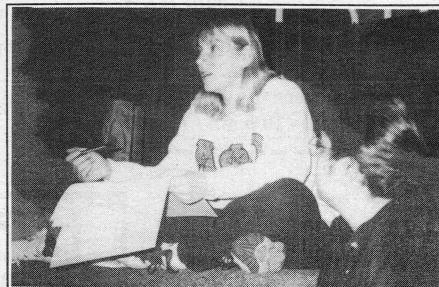
"There are hours of meetings each week," said Duvall, an adviser to the group, "and that individual still must stay on top of their coursework."

The newly elected president said time commitment won't be a problem for her.

"I've scheduled my classes so that my evenings will be free," Paige said, "and that is when the meetings are."

Time to talk

Kim Gardner, a member of Alpha Phi Omega, presides over a committee meeting in the commons Wednesday.



Gina Lofaro/Commonwealth Times

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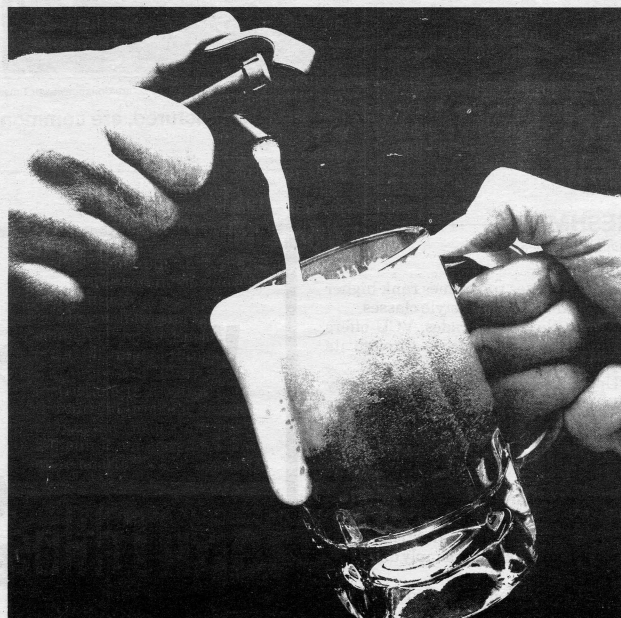
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the other person's consent is considered rape. A felony, punishable
by prison. And drinking is no excuse.

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Robert Downey Jr. Heather Graham Natasha Gregson Wagner

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VCU alumnus speaks to students about his Hollywood acting career

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Character actor Reynor Scheine, a 1973 VCU graduate, recently spoke to professor Trent Nicholas's Western Revision film class.

The week previous to Scheine's appearance the class viewed "The Quick And The Dead," a 1993 western starring Sharon Stone and Gene Hackman, a film in which Scheine also acted.

Scheine, who played Ratsy, a typical western riff-raff figure, had plenty to say regarding the big-budget bust that also featured an 18-year-old Leonardo DiCaprio. It was "not a good script," Scheine said. "Gene Hackman was very upset" with how it was written.

Though he thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which included hanging out with Stone ("She couldn't have been nicer" to the cast) and other veteran cast members such as longtime western character actors Woody Strode and Pat Hingle, nevertheless "that film lost money," the actor said.

Scheine first appeared on screen in "Run, Run," a 1978 film starring Michael Douglas. "I think I got paid \$225" for the part. Scheine has appeared in many other films,

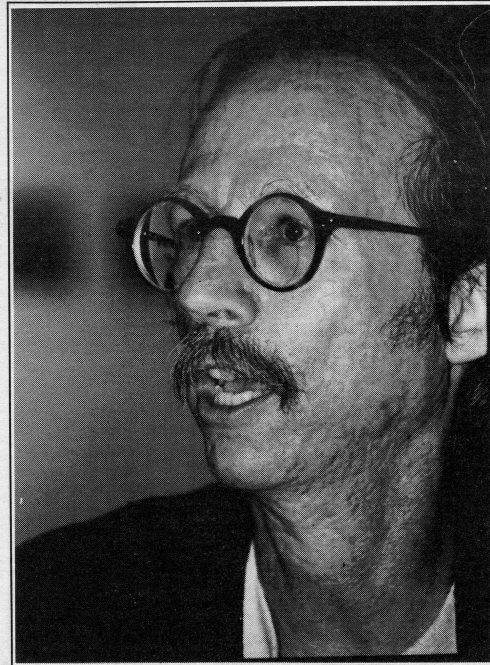
including "My Cousin Vinny," "Johnny Handsome," and "The Cable Guy." Speaking of one particular acting experience with tough guy Charles Bronson, Scheine noted "Everybody was afraid of him," he said of Bronson, though "he was great."

Character actors can sometimes take a beating. "I have been beat up by the best," Scheine said. "Kim Basinger, Drew Barrymore, Sharon Stone...I've been beat up by the best." Scheine was even killed by O.J. Simpson in the film "Naked Gun." "I was murdered by O.J.," yet because the scene was filmed on separate days, "I didn't get to meet him."

Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke, Bill Cosby, Chevy Chase, Jim Carrey, and Ellen Barkin have acted on film with Scheine. Still, dispelling with some of the glamour of his occupation, Scheine remarked: "I acted in three films with Barkin and never met her."

Scheine's latest role was in the Joe Pesci/Danny Glover film "Gone Fishin'." Scheine plays a rather scummy campgrounds landlord in the film which he emphatically noted was "really bad."

The affable, unimposing Scheine, who now lives in New York City, said "I love coming back to VCU." And indeed, professor Nicholas' class enjoyed his brief visit.



Actor Reynor Scheine's long list of accolades includes a role in the movie "Naked Gun" where he is killed by O.J. Simpson. photo: Peter S. Martin

Big Band Blues

Gatemouth Brown Style

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Now in his early 70s and celebrating his 50th year of making records, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown goes retro on his latest, "Gate Swings."

And does he ever swing! From the outset - on the jazzy Brown original, "Midnight Hour" - Gatemouth Brown takes dandy liberties with the instrumentation. Of 13 tunes, 6 are instrumental while the other 7 are basically jam sessions with a few lyrics thrown in for good measure.

In the blues mode, Gate's performance on "Caladonia" rivals that of B.B. King's, no small achievement considering the power that King wrought with his legendary version. On 1963's Lenny Welch hit, "Since I Fell For You," Brown's lonely interpretation aches clear to Texas and back. On each, Gatemouth stretched his smoky, aged voice to its limit,

producing a couple of his finest moments in years.

Of the instrumentals, Count Basie's "One O'Clock Jump" and Billy Strayhorn's "Take the 'A' Train" most obviously excel, not simply due to each tune's status as classics, but



because Gatemouth's tasty arrangements do respectful justice to each, making his own mark with his understated guitar licks. Considering that the inimitable Duke Ellington perfected the latter, Brown can't be expected to best it, but he does evoke an era when big

band music was king.

The tunes on "Gate Swings" all but leap off the disc and through the speakers. Check out Gatemouth's fat guitar tones on "Gate's Blues Waltz" and "River's Invitation" for further evidence. If that's not enough (and indeed, a blues fan can never get enough of Gatemouth Brown), listen hard while his swinging arrangements on the Benny Goodman/Lionel Hampton number, "Flying Home," all but incite one to jitterbug round the living room.

Gatemouth Brown's never been appropriately honored like B.B. King. He'll never be linked to any one particular segment of the blues, like John Lee Hooker and his Delta blues. However, the multi-talented Brown will forever be known for versatility. Whether he takes on a cajun fiddle and accordion tune, a twanging country number or, as with "Gate Swings", a big band motif, Gatemouth Brown swings at the head of the pack.

Chaotic country style is a winner . . .

Jason & The Scorchers

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Call them country, rock, or whatever, but as exemplified on their latest, the double live CD "Midnight Roads & Stages Seen," Jason & The Scorchers continue to bulldoze their own scathing peculiar way along a crowded-of-late alternative path.

As The Clash's country cousins, Jason & The Scorchers have long danced outside the parameters of mainstream acceptance. Country radio doesn't know them and rock and roll can't get past their twang, yet somewhere along the avenue of good taste an underground following as diverse as the band itself blossomed around the band's idiosyncratic sound, thankfully saving the band from extinction.

In lieu of a greatest hits (they've had none) album, a live set is most appropriate, especially for a band that has built its following via the concert stage. Recorded over several nights last November at Nashville's legendary Exit/In, near hits ("Golden Ball & Chain") and covers ("Walkin' The Dog"), shoulda been hits ("Going Nowhere") and improvisational classics ("If You've Got The Love (I've Got The Time)") comprise the essence of the vast 23-song set.

New tune, "This Town Isn't Keeping You Down," on which lead

singer Jason Ringenberg wails with typical abandon, resounds in the resolute strength that has kept the band together. Immediately thereafter, on what could be a band motto, "Good Things Come To Those Who Wait," thrives in a shroud of positivity, even in the face of perilous circumstances. The Mavericks' Jerry Dale McFadden provides keyboard accompaniment on several tracks, including "Broken Whiskey Glass," the song that began the band in 1981.

Rowdy, beer-bottle-flyin' interpretations of Bob Dylan's "Absolutely Sweet Marie" and "Jimmie Rodgers' Last Blue Yodel" finely translate to record the rambunctious feel of a Scorchers concert, while band chestnut, "Ocean Of Doubt," augmented by Don Herron's (of BR5-49) sweetly swaying fiddle and Warner Hodges' acoustic guitar, brings the Scorchers' country elements to the fore. Likewise, the two-stepping "Pray For Me Momma (I'm A Gypsy Now)" and the harmonica laced "Somewhere Within" make the case that Jason & The Scorchers are, indeed, country.

Turn it on, turn it up and keep it loud, longtime hipsters Jason & The Scorchers' moshpit country live retrospective comes at a time when country could use a few jolts of down home recklessness and chaos.

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Justin M. Wilson

Yet another ineffective task force

Once again, the government has fallen victim to regulation madness. Desperate to find some type of solution for the plague of binge drinking, Virginia Attorney General Mark Earley's task force on college drinking, meeting around Virginia, has now turned to parental notification.

What better way to counteract the maturation of college students then to start contacting their parents whenever they get in trouble?

Radford University pre-empted the committee's work by adopting the parental notification policy itself. Now, if you are caught with alcohol at Radford, the university has the option to contact your guardian. This is so counterproductive, it is quite laughable.

One of the underlying purposes of a college education is forging independence from parents. College education encourages a student to take responsibility for their own actions and not go crying to Mommy whenever something goes wrong.

In effect, Radford's administration will become the tattletale that goes to the student's parent and reports them for drinking.

The next thing we will have is a professor calling home when students forget to turn in their homework assignments.

Gosh, I hope they don't make us stand in "time-out!" It is just a ludicrous proposition.

Do not forget that a majority of students at VCU and other state universities are adults, technically not subject to their parents' authority. This seems so petty and unproductive. This type of proposal has the familiar smell of a cop-out.

It seems as though there is a dearth of solutions, and this seems like the best Band-Aid to give the task force the appearance of productivity.

As I will continue to assert, the problem of binge drinking will not be solved by more restrictions!

Just like prohibition in the first half of this century, restrictions against drinking cannot be effectively enforced. The

solution to binge drinking will continue to be proper education and individual personal responsibility.

The task force continues to fall victim to the lobbying efforts of organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The task force needs to realize that binge drinking and drunken driving are different things.

Drunken driving is not combated by combating binge drinking, just as burglary is not combated by combatting fraud. Until the powers that be realize the distinct difference and lack of correlation between the two, we will continue to be barraged by these ineffective, laughable proposals.

The members of MADD will continue to parade the parents and families of those killed by drunken drivers in front of our faces, desperately trying to establish a connection. As sad as these stories are, college students partying with alcohol did not cause them.

College students partying with alcohol and then making the fatal choice to get on the road caused them. We are deluding ourselves by believing these two are not mutually exclusive.

The focus of this task force should be assessing why we now have a degradation of personal responsibility.

The task force should then make the appropriate recommendations to solve these problems. The solution lies in education and parental guidance early in life.

Once a student gets to college, it is way too late for any meaningful parental intervention.

It is apparent that the task force is presently heading down the path of least resistance.

They will finish and present their recommendations to Earley in late July after accomplishing nothing substantial. They will propose a litany of regulations and restrictions that will do nothing to combat the current problem.

Students will continue to drunkenly fall out of windows and down stairs and more heartache will persist.

I hoped for more.

CT should increase student group coverage

This letter serves as a response to the past issues of the Commonwealth Times as well as a plea for the future of the student newspaper.

It reflects on the growing opinion that the CT is turning into a tabloid paper and that the writers, as well as the editors, are selectively reporting.

For at least the past year, the Commonwealth Times has gone down hill. The headlines of the paper have tended to be more eye-catching than factual. The articles are selectively written, leave out a lot of factual information and tend to constantly misquote people.

I feel that due to the declining image of the paper it has lost a lot of funding and was required to cut back to two issues a week.

After that general overview here is what I recommend for the future:

1. More Stories!!! Student organizations on campus participate in events weekly. Report these events more. You will find that there are a lot of little things people do that others would like to hear about.

By reporting more news, you will find more people will read the CT, more people would advertise, and the paper would grow.

2. Don't Discriminate! When I mean don't discriminate I mean don't ignore certain organizations. Examples of this are numerous and I will list some recent "bad articles" at the end of this letter that will further this point.

3. Get the facts straight. If the reporter isn't sure, don't report it right away. I can recall more than one article this semester where the information was hearsay, yet when reported, it led people to believe it was factual.

4. Use sources on campus. The Office of Health Promotions, the Student Activities Center and many other parts of VCU can provide the CT with a lot of information such as upcoming events, people to contact, and awards people have received.

The rest of the letter is a complaint on some "bad articles" and some missed stories that groups I represent are upset about.

In the most recent article of the CT there is a front page story called "Friends bring life to HIV message." The headline is excellent, the story however, has a major flaw.

The program the article covered was a very expensive program that was planned by a student organization. The Greek Council hosted this event, and what recognition did they get in paper?

NOTHING.

The article could at least have stated that it was presented by the Greek Council.

Greek organizations provide a lot to this university. We know it, the administration knows this, and the students know it, however I cannot recall an article involving us that was completely positive.

Instead headlines insinuating rape are written, organization representatives are misquoted and good information involving the Greeks is omitted, such as in this past article.

I have complained to the past editor and the advisor about some of these issues, but I have seen no improvement. It is time for the paper to make some changes.

Here are some missed stories that we filled you in on or we were interviewed for: The Annual Halloween Good presented by Alpha Kappa Lambda, Pi Kappa Phi received an award from the city, The Interfraternity Council mandated a program for all new members for education on Sexual Assault Awareness & Substance Abuse, The Interfraternity Council did a Domestic Violence Awareness Poster, The AIDS Walk that took place this past weekend, Greek Week events that supported charities and so forth.

I am sure there are a lot of non-Greek organizations with the same complaints. Check into it.

It is not being promotional to tell about good deeds, its reporting the good news. VCU needs school spirit. Good news can and will promote school spirit.

For the future of the paper and the students I ask that the new group of editors and staff writers to attempt to do better this upcoming year.

I believe a better effort will lead to a better paper.

Jeremy Slivinski
Interfraternity Council Pres.

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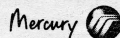
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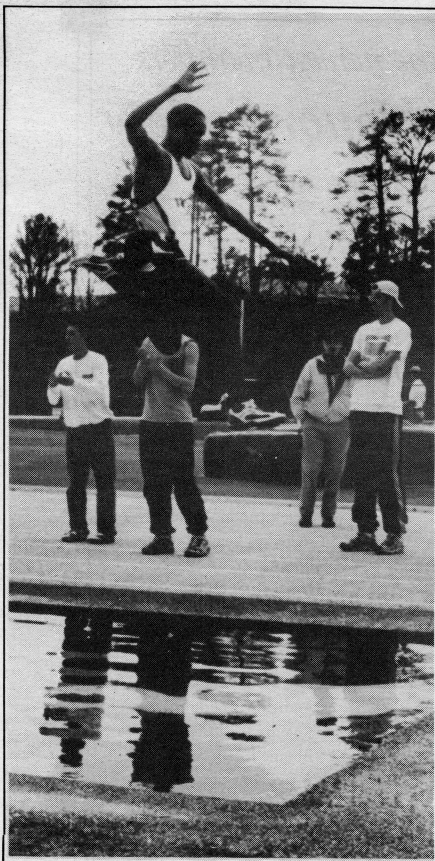
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James Green Jr./Commonwealth Times

FLYING HIGH — Ram Francis Rono soars over an obstacle in the 2,000 meter steeplechase during a March meet. Rono won that race and finished second in the 3,000 meter race in last weekend's CAA Championships.

Track and field captures pair of CAA event titles

VCU's track and field squad won individual titles in the 1500 meters and in the pole vault at the Colonial Athletic Association track and field championship meet, held this past weekend.

The event was held at Walter J. Zable Stadium at William & Mary in Williamsburg.

In the pole vault, Bobby Wilson, a junior from Newport News, took the title with a height of 14' 11", defeating second place Brendan Curl of UNC Wilmington.

In the 1500 meters, Jesus Ortega captured the title with a time of 3:48.71, one second faster than second place finisher Dan McKay from George Mason.

Ortega's time qualifies him for the IC4A championships on May 23-24 in Fairfax, Va.

VCU's Kimberly Davis, a freshman, finished second in women's 200 meter dash, covering the distance in 27.87 seconds.

In the women's 400 meter dash, Lady Ram Rebecca Bashton, a sophomore, finished second with a time of 1:02.22. Bashton also finished second in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:27.49.

VCU freshman Calvin Brown finished second in both the 110 meter hurdles (16.73) and 400 meter hurdles (57.89).

Ram sophomore Francis Rono finished the 3,000 meter steeplechase with a 9:05.61, placing him second.

In the overall competition, the VCU women's track team finished sixth scoring 36 points.

The men's track team finished fourth, scoring 93 points. George Mason's women's track team took the overall title with 179 points, their eighth consecutive CAA title.

UNCW won the men's track team title with 151.5 points. The Seahawks won the men's competition last year.

William and Mary's men's team finished in second place for the fourth time in the past five years.

UNCW junior Bryant Lowe, the long jump champion, was named the CAA's male Athlete of the Meet.

GMU's Angie Brown, a junior, garnered the CAA's female Athlete of the Meet honor.

— compiled from news sources

Lady Rams fall in CAA finals

Tom Leiss
CT Staff Writer

VCU's women's tennis team came one match short of winning the CAA Championship on Sunday, losing 5-1 to the College of William and Mary in the final.

The Lady Rams' lone win in the match came from No. 3 seed Lenka Zacharova, 6-4, 7-5. VCU also lost two three-set matches in the final and were in contention to win all but one singles match until the end.

The Lady Rams' No. 2 seed Sofia Hiort fell 6-7, 6-1, 6-2, and No. 4 seed Andrea Ondrisova fought until the end but couldn't hold on for the victory, falling 1-6, 6-1, 7-6. Martina Nedelkova (No. 1) and Carmen Beitzer (No. 5) both lost in fiercely competitive two-set matches.

VCU coach Eva Bard said if a few more breaks had gone in her team's favor, the matches could have gone the other way.

"The top four were in until the end," Bard said. "The girls are right there. They were within a couple points (of winning the match)."

"We could have been up 3-0 in the singles with a little luck."

Although the championship match was played at W&M, neither team really had an advantage.

Bard said, because of some confusion, W&M had traveled to Richmond thinking they were to play the Lady Rams at the University of Richmond at 8:30 a.m. When they arrived they found out the championship would be taking place on their home courts back in Williamsburg.

When the match finally took place, VCU had support of its own from the men's soccer team, which had traveled to Williamsburg for a match.

On Saturday, VCU beat UR 5-4 to make its way into the championship.

Although the score looked close Bard said she was not worried about the outcome.

"There was very little doubt in my mind that we were going to win," she said. "They were very, very ready for Richmond. Ready to do whatever it took."

Bard said the key to the win was the performance of Ondrisova, who was playing singles and doubles for the first time since re-injuring her wrist.

TENNIS continued to page 15 ►

VCU captures CAA title, now focused on NCAA's

George Templeton
CT Associate Sports Editor

The VCU men's tennis team encountered little resistance in taking their third consecutive Colonial Athletic Association title.

The Rams won all three matches without losing a point, and VCU players lost two sets the entire tournament, both coming in the final against Old Dominion.

"We didn't play great, but we played good enough to win," said VCU head coach Paul Kostin.

The road to the CAA championship final was an easy one for VCU.

In the first round at the Thalhimer Tennis Center, VCU defeated the No. 8 seed George Mason, 4-0. The winners in that match were Jose Sanchez, Richard Wernerhjelm, Manuel Kropfreiter, and Olle Lundberg.

VCU moved on to face the only lower seeded team to win a first round match, American, the No. 5 seed at Byrd Park.

VCU won that match 5-0 behind the play of Daniel Andersson, the sixth ranked player in singles, along with victories from Sanchez, Wernerhjelm, Lundberg, and Olli Helminen.

VCU's players only dropped 14 games between them in their semifinal rout.

VCU completed its run with a 4-0 sweep of second seeded Old Dominion at the indoor courts of the Salisbury

Country Club. Despite the 4-0 score the matches weren't as easy as the matches in the earlier rounds were.

Sanchez and Lundberg did post straight set victories, but not nearly as dominant as the previous rounds. Sanchez defeated Johan Varverud 6-4, 6-4, while Lundberg had to struggle in the second set before winning 6-1, 7-5.

Andersson and Wernerhjelm both had to struggle through three set encounters.

Andersson fought off a second set comeback by 86th ranked Alexandre Cancado to win the match 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Wernerhjelm had to rebound from a first set tiebreak loss to defeat Niclas Kohler 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

"We played on the indoor courts at the (Salisbury) Country Club and they were faster than any court we have played on this year," Kostin said. "I think they neutralized both teams."

"I think Richard and Daniel might have had an easier time if they had played outside, but they still were able to pull it out and win."

VCU not only won the CAA title but also swept the end-of-the-year conference honors. Kostin picked up his third CAA coach of the year award, while Sanchez was named CAA rookie of the year, and Andersson was named CAA player of the year.

Also honored was Kropfreiter and Wernerhjelm who along with Andersson and Sanchez were named to the singles All-CAA team. The team of Andersson and Kropfreiter were named to the All-CAA team in doubles.

"It's nice to win these awards but it's no different for us this year than any other year," Kostin said.

VCU (22-6) will not play another match until May 15 when VCU will play its first match in the NCAA regional tournament.

"The guys are going to get some rest and concentrate on finals (exams)," Kostin said. "Some of the players will continue to practice this week but the injured players won't probably practice too much."

Kostin believes that playing at home for regionals can give his team an important advantage.

"It is always better to play at home because you get to sleep on your own bed and not to travel," Kostin said. "Playing at home also means more pressure on you because you are expected to do very well."

Despite being ranked only 30th, Kostin points out that VCU is ranked third in the region and will still have a lot of pressure on his players.

"We're ranked third but Duke (ranked 15th) or South Carolina (ranked 14th) could be shipped out to a region that doesn't have as many strong teams in it. In that case we would be the No. 2 team."

Kostin points out that the regional tournament can have six or eight teams in it depending on the rankings.

"If it is just six I hope we are No. 1 or No. 2 so we can get the bye and play one less match."

"Eight is fairer because everyone must play three matches to win."

TENNIS

continued from page 14

"It was very difficult for her," Bard said. "Ondrisova being able to hold onto her tennis racket, literally (impressed me)."

VCU stomped George Mason in the tournament's opening round, winning 5-0.

The Lady Rams lost only two games in the 10 sets that were played in the tournament.

VCU will not find out who it will face and where they will play in the NCAA Regionals until after the NCAA selection committee meets May 5.

On the individual level, Bard said Nedelkova should be invited to the NCAA singles championships and there is a strong possibility that Nedelkova and Ondrisova will be invited to the doubles championships.

RESULTS: W&M 5, VCU 1

Singles: L. Nicholas(W&M) d. Nedelkova, 6-4, 6-3; M. O(W&M) d. Hiort, 6-7, 6-1, 6-2; Zacharova(VCU) d. C. van Rossum, 6-4, 7-5; T. Toro(W&M) d. Ondrisova, 1-6, 6-1, 7-6; A. Oosters(W&M) d. Beitzer, 6-4, 7-5; L. Sullivan(W&M) d. Siri Thayaprasat, 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles: DNP.

VCU 5, UR 4

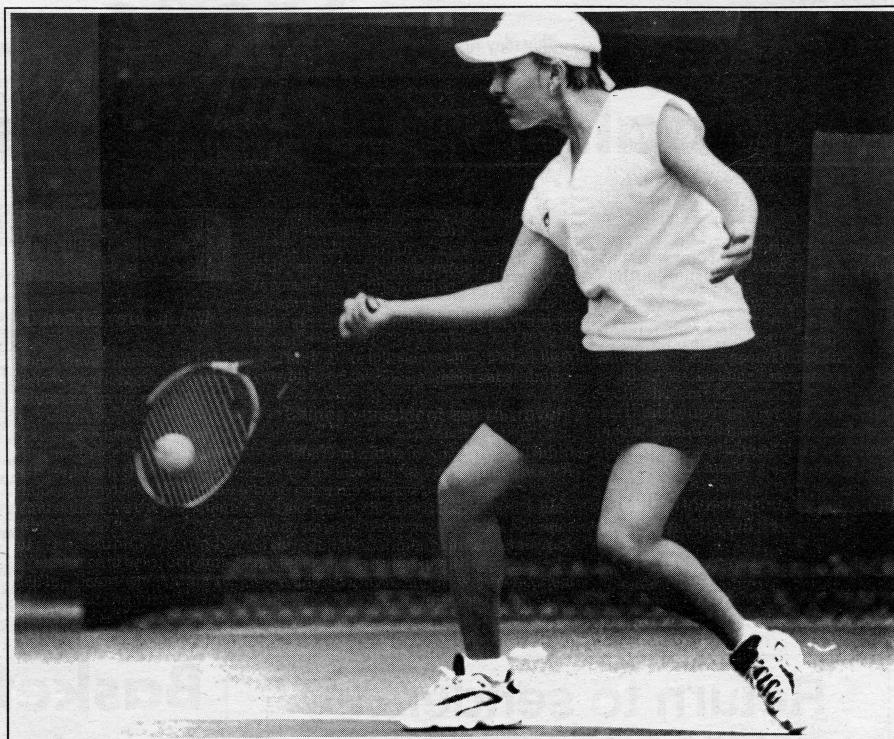
Singles: Nedelkova(VCU) d. L. Bilak, 7-6(4), 6-3; B. Merrick(UR) d. Hiort, 6-3, 6-2; Zacharova(VCU) d. E. Cascarilla, 6-1, 6-2; Ondrisova(VCU) d. J. Williams, 6-4, 6-3; A. Croker(UR) d. Beitzer, 7-5, 6-3; L. Kohl(UR) d. Thayaprasat, 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles: Nedelkova/Ondrisova(VCU) d. Bilak/Merrick, 8-4; Hiort/Zacharova(VCU) d. Williams/Woodworth, 8-5; Croker/Kohl(UR) d. Beitzer/Thayaprasat, 8-1.

VCU 5, GMU 0

Singles: Nedelkova(VCU) d. Segal, 6-0, 6-0; Hiort(VCU) d. Mange, 6-0, 6-0; Zacharova(VCU) d. B. Lee, 6-1, 6-0; Ondrisova(VCU) d. Mullenix, 6-0, 6-0; Beitzer(VCU) d. E. Katz, 6-1, 6-0; Thayaprasat v. Kaja Jansson, DNF.

Doubles: DNP.



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

THINK FAST — VCU's Andrea Ondrisova sets up for a forehand return in her semifinal match in the CAA Tournament on Saturday. VCU advanced to the finals of the tournament where they lost to William & Mary.

CAA BASEBALL LEADERS

STANDINGS

(Through April 20)

Team	Conference	W-L	%	W-L	%
VCU		12-1	.923	33-8	.805
Richmond		14-6	.700	29-14-1	.659
James Madison		7-5	.583	20-22	.476
East Carolina		8-10	.444	20-22	.476
George Mason		6-8	.429	17-21	.447
Old Dominion		6-11	.389	19-24	.442
UNC Wilmington		6-11	.353	21-22	.488
William & Mary		4-12	.250	22-21	.512

BATTING

(Through April 20)

PLAYER	AB	H	AVG.
Tim Hummel, ODU	155	62	.400
Kevin Razler, JMU	148	59	.399
Shawn Pearson, ODU	152	59	.388
Corey Hoch, JMU	161	60	.373
Greg Miller, JMU	124	46	.371
Greg Filson, GMU	140	50	.357
Ryan Massimo, ECU	159	56	.352
John Williamson, ECU	120	42	.350
Randy Rigby, ECU	127	58	.347
Greg White, JMU	127	44	.346
Jeremy Hays, W&M	116	40	.345
Ron Bush, W&M	162	55	.340
John Avent, UNCW	151	51	.338
Nate Rwers, UR	148	50	.338
Jason Dubois, VCU	141	47	.333
Kevin Hairr, UNCW	154	51	.331
Ian Rauls, ODU	151	50	.331
Mike Dwyer, UR	181	60	.331

RUNS BATTED IN

(Through April 20)

PLAYER	G	RBI
Anthony Forelli, ODU	42	53
Mike Dwyer, UR	42	42
Tim Hummel, ODU	42	44
Ryan Massimo, ECU	42	43
Jason Greiner, ODU	41	43
Randy Leek, W&M	37	37
Jason Dubois, VCU	38	36
Brandon Inge, VCU	38	35
Josh Lamberg, UR	37	35
Nic Jackson, UR	38	33

HOME RUNS

(Through April 20)

PLAYER	G	HR
Mike Dwyer, UR	42	19
Josh Lamberg, UR	43	12
John Williamson, ECU	35	11
Kevin Hairr, UNCW	42	10
Brandon Inge, VCU	41	10

EARNED RUN AVERAGE

(Through April 20)

(Min. one inning pitched per game)

PLAYER	W	L	IP	ERA
Foye Minton, ECU	4	1	52.7	2.56
David Bailey, ODU	5	2	48.3	2.61
Matt Burch, VCU	9	2	97.0	2.88
Marc Fisher, VCU	6	1	46.0	3.13
Brooks Jernigan, ECU	6	2	70.0	3.21
Aaron Sams, JMU	8	3	72.3	3.36
Andy Cook, W&M	5	4	83.3	3.46
Chad Berryman, VCU	9	2	82.0	3.73
Mike Steller, GMU	3	2	66.3	3.94
Brian Brantley, ODU	3	5	66.3	4.29
Mike Dwyer, UR	5	3	64.3	4.76
Jason Morris, UR	7	3	80.7	4.80
Nic Herr, JMU	4	2	59.3	5.01
Bryan Mazur, UNCW	3	6	76.7	5.16
Matt Williams, GMU	3	4	54.0	5.17

STRIKEOUTS

(Through April 20)

PLAYER	IP	Ks
Matt Burch, VCU	97.0	91
Randy Leek, W&M	70.1	79
Andy Cook, W&M	83.1	77
Brooks Jernigan, ECU	70.0	73
Aaron Sams, JMU	72.1	73
Mike Reed, W&M	70.1	63
Brian Brantley, ODU	56.2	61
Bryan Mazur, UNCW	76.2	56
Mike Steller, GMU	66.1	55
Greg White, JMU	51.1	55

SAVES

(Through April 20)

PLAYER	G	S
Brandon Inge, VCU	3-1	9
Travis Thompson, ECU	0-4	5
Jim Dewiler, ODU	0-1	4

WOMEN'S TENNIS

TEAM RANKINGS

(Released April 20)

RANK	SCHOOL	RECORD	AVERAGE
1	Stanford (22-1)	21-0	68.59
2	Florida (20-0)	20-0	63.88
3	Georgia (17-3)	17-3	57.79
4	Duke (20-3)	20-3	54.70
5	Texas (15-5)	15-5	51.56
6	California (16-5)	16-5	47.76
7	Mississippi (16-4)	16-4	40.35
8	Brigham Young (17-2)	17-2	39.88
9	Vanderbilt (18-6)	18-6	38.31
10	William & Mary (15-8)	15-8	36.53
11	Arizona State (12-6)	12-6	35.93
12	Pepperdine (15-5)	15-5	33.44
13	Wake Forest (13-7)	13-7	33.26
14	UCLA (14-8)	14-8	32.04
15	Kansas (14-8)	14-8	30.84
16	Arizona (10-8)	10-8	29.17
17	Arkansas (17-7)	17-7	27.05
18	Notre Dame (15-8)	15-8	25.76
19	Tennessee (15-9)	15-9	23.82
20	Miami-Fla (11-5)	11-5	25.76
22	VCU (16-2)	16-2	16.25

MEN'S TENNIS

TEAM RANKINGS

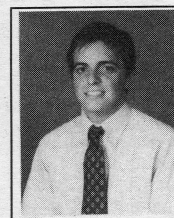
(Released April 20)

RANK	SCHOOL	RECORD	AVERAGE
1 / 1	Stanford	21-0	42.90
2 / 3	LSU	20-1	42.18
3 / 2	Georgia	18-2	40.04
4 / 4	Mississippi State	16-3	38.83
5 / 7	Texas	20-2	38.48
6 / 5	Mississippi	16-5	35.43
7 / 10	Pepperdine	20-5	28.91
8 / 9	Southern California	16-5	28.86
9 / 6	Illinois	13-5	28.73
10 / 28	California	14-4	27.13
11 / 8	UCLA	13-6	24.86
12 / 12	Florida	11-10	23.68
13 / 13	Boise State	21-6	22.70
14 / 19	South Carolina	17-6	22.63
15 / 18	Duke	14-5	22.09
16 / 15	Harvard	12-3	22.01
17 / 20	Kentucky	16-10	21.94
18 / 22	Tennessee	12-5	21.87
19 / 16	Auburn	11-8	21.80
30 / 23	VCU	19-6	14.48



Athlete of the Week

Miguel Reyes Golf



■ Reyes, a senior from Montevideo, Uruguay, led the Rams to their third straight CAA title this weekend.

Reyes recorded a total score of 216, finishing in second place.

The senior was one of three VCU golfer's finished among top 10 individual scores.

Ram Stat

• The VCU baseball team is ranked 24th in the CNU/SI coaches poll.

Thursday April 23, 1998

Sports

Commonwealth Times

Inside

• The Rams are atop the CAA baseball standings.

Baseball slays NSU, raises ranking

George Templeton

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The VCU baseball team won its 13th consecutive game by roughing up the Norfolk State Spartans 13-5.

This was the first game VCU (34-8) played after sweeping conference rival Richmond, and the Rams did not show any signs of a letdown except during the top half of the first inning when Norfolk St. scored two runs to take a 2-0 lead.

"It's easier to get up for a game like this later in the year, because the weather is nice, and we're back in the stadium," said VCU head coach Paul Keyes.

Starter Jason Dubois gave up a double, an RBI triple to Shawn Bradley and a RBI sacrifice fly to Eric Crozier.

Dubois (1-0) then settled down to pick up the win by giving up just four hits and two earned runs in six innings of work.

"I thought Jason (Dubois) tried to over-throw early on," Keyes said.

This is the fifth straight game that the VCU starter pitched deep into the game and picked up the win.

In the previous four games, Matt Burch, Chad Berryman and Marc Fisher have combined for two shutouts, and only five earned runs.

"I expected us to pitch well this year, and a game like this was good because we got Jake (Moon) and Brian (Farkas) some work," Keyes said.

"That helps our pitching depth for this year and next."

The Rams used the bottom of the first and second to give Dubois all the support he needed.

In the first inning Ian Caballero and Justin Martin both hit doubles to start the offense for VCU, with Caballero scoring on Martin's double.

After a bunt single by Cory Whitby put runners on first and third, shortstop Brandon Inge singled home a run to tie the game at two.

The single was the first of four hits for Inge, who led the 17-hit Ram offense by going 4 for 5 with two doubles, three RBI and four runs scored.

"This was a game that (Brandon) Inge really needed for his confidence," Keyes said.

With two out, the bases loaded and the game tied, Cory Bauswell struck the big blow of the inning, a two run single.

Bauswell got caught in a run down between first and second, and Kevin Elrod scored all the way from first before Bauswell was tagged out, and VCU led 5-2.

The Rams tacked three more runs on in the next inning to put the game out of NSU's reach.

After the first two batters were retired, Martin got the inning going with a triple.

After Whitby walked, Martin scored on a wild pitch and Whitby stole second. Inge followed with an RBI single.

Inge stole second and scored on Martin's single, putting the Rams ahead 8-2. VCU

never looked back after that.

VCU put together their offensive onslaught against Spartan starter Christopher Gibson.

Gibson (2-1) would take the loss after giving up 14 hits and 12 runs in five innings of work.

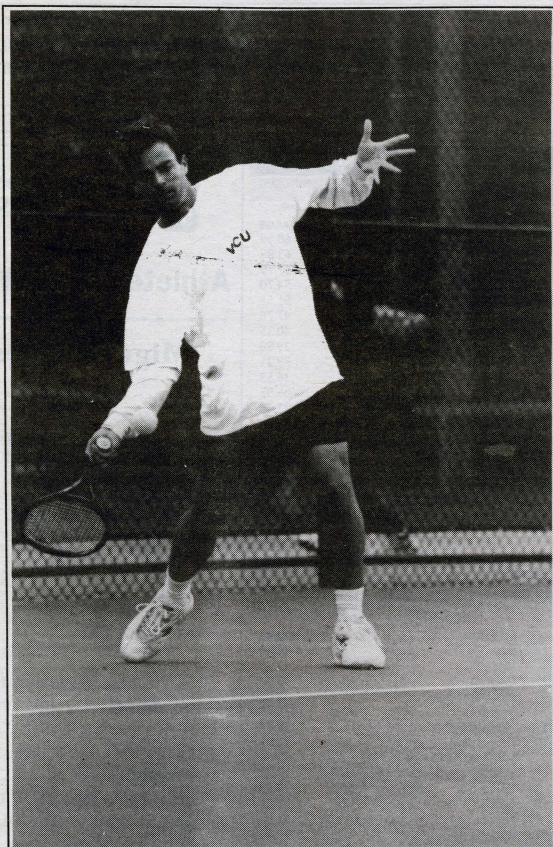
Besides Inge's big night, five other Rams would have multiple-hit games. Caballero (2 for 5), Martin (2 for 2, 1 RBI, 3 R), Dubois (3 for 4, 2 RBI), Bauswell (2 for 5, 3 RBI) and Brian Mohr (2 for 5) all contribute to the thirteen run-explosion for VCU.

"We haven't really hit well collectively this year," Keyes said. "We haven't had two weeks where every body has gotten hot."

"Our team batting average is only .280 but if we can string six 15-hit games together we could bring that up to .300 really quick."

Fellow Colonial Athletic Association member William and Mary will meet the Rams in Williamsburg this weekend for a three game series.

Return to sender



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

Jose Sanchez returns an opponent's shot during the CAA Tournament. The Rams won the tournament and are now preparing for the NCAA's. See story on page 14

Basketball coaches court student support

Joe Rogalsky

CT EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A new arena, top teams and the best seats in the house are all things the VCU Athletic Department used to attract students' attention to the men's and women's basketball teams.

Men's basketball coach Mack McCarthy and women's coach David Glass spoke to students Wednesday afternoon to generate excitement about the upcoming season.

"The reason VCU is committed to strong basketball teams is it improves student life," McCarthy said.

To illustrate the importance of student support, Glass pointed to his team's February home victory over Richmond in a game that VCU mostly trailed.

"The game was an uphill battle, but the crowd pushed us and we were able to take the lead in the final two minutes," Glass said.

"There's no doubt that student support made the difference in that game."

Highlighted during the coaches' talks, given in the commons' Capitol Room A, was the Stuart C. Siegel Center, slated to open in October. The building, which will also house recreational facilities, seats 7,500 and boasts a pair of state-of-the-art video replay boards.

"It's an absolutely fantastic facility to see a basketball game in," said Glass, a 1986 VCU graduate.

Students attending VCU home games this season will sit in the first six rows on both sides of the court, which have been exclusively reserved for students.

The men's basketball team opens the Siegel Center with a game versus Virginia and plans to bring in national powers such as Ole Miss. The Lady Rams open at home with Wake Forest and also will host Tulane and Louisville — two teams often ranked in top 25.

Both coaches said VCU wants to create a festive atmosphere for basketball home games. Included in this effort are t-shirt and hat giveaways to students. Another idea involves a half-court shot at half-time.

Rams in Action

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS	Notes
MEN'S TENNIS (22-6, 8-0)	MAY 15-17 NCAA REGIONALS	VCU slipped seven spots and is now ranked 30th in the country.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (18-3, 5-2)	MAY 15-17 NCAA REGIONALS	The Lady Rams are now ranked 22nd in the country.
BASEBALL (34-8, 12-1)	APRIL 24 W&M (DH) APRIL 25 W&M APRIL 27 VPI	The Rams are ranked 22nd in Baseball America's poll.
■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME		