

MON: Cooler! Cold front passing through, rain possible. High 85, low 78.

TUES: Great day, not as humid. Fall is coming. High 78, low 58.

Commonwealth Times

Monday, September 28, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 30, No. 71

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Charles Harmon/Commonwealth Times

PARTY REMNANTS. Recycling containers and trash cans full of empty alcohol containers are frequent sights in areas surround VCU's academic campus.

VCU examines notifying parents of alcohol abuse

Dusty Smith
CT NEWS EDITOR

Nicole Breckenridge will never know the role she played in promoting alcohol awareness.

Riding home from the Richmond bar that illegally served drinks to the VCU student and her friends, the drivers of the two cars began racing. Breckenridge, a passenger that night, died on the scene after the car she rode in crashed into a bench and a tree in Monroe park on the edge of VCU.

Though she was legally of age, the bar was held responsible for serving intoxicated persons.

Breckenridge and four other Virginia college students died in five weeks' time from alcohol-related accidents last year, making the issue a priority for Attorney General Mark Earley.

On Sept. 3, VCU student organizations received the Report of

the Attorney General's Task Force on Drinking by College Students. Former Attorney General Richard Cullen created the task force in November 1997 and Earley continued the evaluation.

In addition to profiles describing three of the five students who lost their lives in alcohol-related incidents last year, the report lists a number of policy recommendations for Virginia universities.

"If you look through the list," said Henry G. Rhone, vice provost for Student Affairs, "you'll find many things VCU already does. [VCU's Substance Abuse Committee] is examining whether or not these are really being done appropriately by the university and what are alternatives to get them done."

The list of suggestions includes advising parents of any alcohol-related offense by their child. Of course, implementing such a policy requires either changing a federal

law or requesting that students 18 and over sign a waiver of some of their privacy rights. Otherwise, any such disclosure could violate the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

"We're not pursuing it as a requirement," Rhone said. "This is not a local issue, but a national issue."

The university, he said, would give students the option of saying they want to send the information to parents.

Many students, though, may not participate in a voluntary waiver that gives the university permission to call their parents for such an offense.

"First of all, I think it would take away from a student's ability to grow up on campus," said Charnessa Paige, Student Government Association's president. "Alcohol-related offenses are much

DRINK continued to page 3 ~

Thundering feet unify Black Caucus

Sarah Ann Hearney
CT STAFF WRITER

Sounds of thunder arose from beneath the feet of members of many organizations Friday night at the Black Caucus annual step show in front of the Business Building Auditorium.

A crowd of hundreds of students and others, including locally popular rapper Mad Skillz, came out to watch as song groups danced to songs and others stepped to their own beats.

Ebony Quest, Black Awakenings Choir, Black Student Alliance, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, Sigma Gamma Rho, Phi Beta Sigma and Delta Sigma Theta were the organization entered in the event.

All of the above are members of the Black Caucus, an entity that has existed for 26 years and facilitates communication and relations between African-American organizations in the Black Caucus.

STEP continued to page 3 ~

Step show performers

- **Ebony Quest**
- **Black Awakenings Choir**
- **Black Student Alliance**
- **Alpha Kappa Alpha**
- **Alpha Phi Alpha**
- **Sigma Gamma Rho**
- **Phi Beta Sigma**
- **Delta Sigma Theta**

Campus Briefs

• VCU students go "Into the Streets"

On Saturday, VCU students took part in "Into the Streets", a national event that encourages students to get involved in community service activities.

The students met on campus at 10 a.m. to get basic instructions and hear short speeches about community service. Then they formed groups and went to four different locations around Richmond.

Some volunteers cleaned up and painted rooms and playground equipment at the William Byrd Community House at 224 S. Cherry St.. Others cleaned up at George Washington Carver Elementary School, 1110 W. Leigh St., and helped organize the school's new science room.

Another group cleaned up and painted a new office for Hookups, a resource center that serves as an entry point through which high-risk children, adults and families can directly access a multifaceted network of community services.

Other volunteers met at 1712 Fourth Avenue on the city's North Side and the Boys and Girls Club at 2409 Bainbridge St. on the South Side to pick up garbage and improve the general appearance of the neighborhoods.

The students ended their work around 2:30 p.m.

Yolanda Jackson, assistant coordinator for student activities, organized the VCU students' involvement in the projects.

• VCU to host graduate and professional school program

The annual Greater Richmond Area Graduate and Professional School Day will be held in the VCU Student Commons Capital and Commonwealth Ballrooms on Oct. 13 from 2 to 6 p.m.

Seventy-eight representatives from graduate, law and medical schools around the United States will convene for the day to discuss programs with students and community members.

Participants will be able to attend seminars on GRE, GMAT, LSAT and MCAT test preparation; interview strategies; Internet resources; money matters; and degree transitioning.

Randolph-Macon College, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia State University and Virginia Union University are co-sponsors of the event, which is free and open to the public.

For additional information, call Angela Vogel at the VCU Career Center, 827-0409

• "Take Back the Night" to begin at Monroe Park

As part of National Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the YWCA will sponsor "Take Back the Night" on Oct. 1. The event includes informational tables and displays, speakers and a march through Richmond with people carrying lit candles in remembrance of those who have been affected by violence. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. in Monroe Park.

The march starts at 8 p.m., after a speech by Christopher Kilmartin, associate professor of psychology at Mary Washington College, who is an expert on violence prevention, diversity issues and psychotherapy. If it rains, the event will move to the VCU Student Commons. Parking is available in West Main Street parking deck.

• University police to hold Life Safety Fair

On Oct. 6, the VCU Department of Campus Police will host the second annual Life Safety Fair at the University Student Commons from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will include an organizational fair of safety, law enforcement, health

and counseling agencies from VCU and the Richmond metropolitan area, as well as a blood drive managed by Virginia Blood Services. The blood drive will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Four VCU students' films accepted by national film festivals

Four students from VCU's photography and film department had their films accepted by three national film festivals.

Rick Spears' "Apt. 2" and Scott Dupree Mills' "Muse" received the Maurice Kanbar Award for Excellence in Filmmaking at the National Student Festival in New York City. Frank Rho's "Lapse" will screen at the Austin International Film Festival in Austin, Texas and Michael Bowyer's film will screen at New York's Dance on Camera Showcase. Spears and Mills will each receive \$1,000 with their awards.

Judges selected student films from a nationwide pool of colleges and universities, including New York University, Columbia University, the University of California at Los Angeles, Harvard University and the University of Chicago. VCU was the only university or college with two winning films and a semifinalist selected for festival screening.

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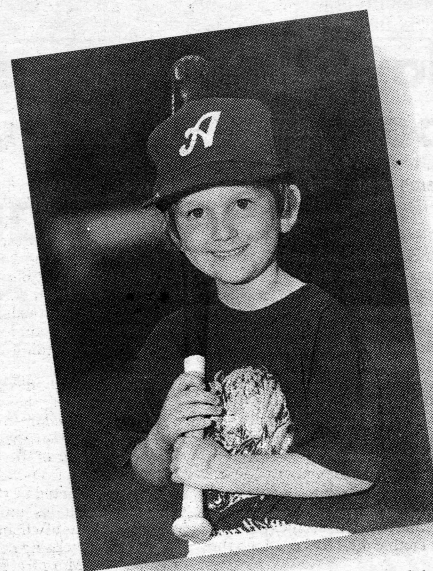
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FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

APSA president speaks to VCU political science faculty

Sarah Ann Hearney
CT STAFF WRITER

When he was 7 years old Matthew Holden became interested in politics.

"I was 7 and living in a small Mississippi town, a little black town, and there have not been an election contest in some years," said Holden, now a political science professor at the University of Virginia. "Then there was one, and all the kids in school knew which side they were going to vote on except me. I decided to examine both sides first."

Holden went on to do many other political activities in his childhood, such as helping a local precinct captain obtain votes from neighborhoods when he was 15, but he has made major accomplishments in his adult life.

Since he's now president of the American Political Science Association, a prestigious political science professor and an author of many books on the subject, many VCU professors considered it an honor to have Holden as a speaker Thursday.

"This is the first time a president of the American Political Science Association has spoken at VCU," said Nelson Wickstrom, professor of political science at VCU. "Dr. Holden has spoken at places such as Harvard and the University of California Los Angeles."

When Holden began to speak, he immediately lit up the room and seemed to captivate the audience of nine professors and a student.

"I'm not sure that I've done all that much," Holden said following a gracious introduction by Wickstrom.

Holden began to speak of subjects he is working on at this time, including urban politics, conflict management, political order and black-white relations.

Public administration was a major area of interest for Holden in his presentation. He seemed particularly concerned with why this area of government did not try to present a positive public image.

"When J. Edgar Hoover was head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he worked with the movie industry and Hollywood to ensure that FBI officers were always pictured as the good guys," Holden said. "Why hasn't public administration been concerned, as the FBI was, about their image?"

After presenting his works in progress, Holden spoke about the APSA, which has 15,000 members and produces the American Political Science Review, a prestigious journal.

"The most significant issue is the need to think through a scholarly society in an electronic era," Holden said, while calculating the loss of funding for the APSA due to the review being published online — for free.

Holden then began to recruit for his organization.

He discussed many attributes of the association, including the many awards given every year to some of the 15,000 APSA members.

The presentation concluded with a question-and-answer and a small reception.

STEP

continued from page 1

"The purpose of the step show is to let (students) know about the organizations on campus," said Tiffany Armstead, treasurer of VCU's caucus.

"This is not a competition. Not all of the groups step. Some will give a short presentation of what their group is about."

The Black Student Alliance and the Black Awakenings Choir did just that — members from each group came on stage and told the crowd a little bit about themselves.

One member of the BSA shouted, "If you a black student at VCU, you are already a member of the Black Student Alliance."

A member of the BAC sang the "Black National Anthem" to the crowd and a call was made to the crowd for all "closet Christians" to come out and join the choir.

Then the dancing began.

Ebony Quest, a dance troupe, was the first to perform. They came out in purple and teal shirts, moving to the tune of popular rap and R&B songs.

Alpha Kappa Alpha stepped with all their might and at one point screamed at the top of their lungs "AKA is the bomb." Fake smoke came out in front of them on the stage and added extra effect to the already powerful routine.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority took a few minutes between stepping groups to tell about their sisterhood.

In overalls and yellow shirts, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority stepped, followed by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity brothers, who wore black cloaks with hoods and white masks on their faces.

The group then shed the cloaks to reveal formal attire and started dancing to a slower song, then stepping to more upbeat tunes.

The show ended with performance by Phi Beta Sigma, when each member brought two sticks out on stage and began pounding them on the ground while stepping. The loud sound of an ambulance could not overpower the noise of their stomping feet.

Fellowship recognizes importance of teachers

Sarah Ann Hearney
CT STAFF WRITER

The VCU Board of Visitors has developed a new society of professors through a teaching fellowship.

The fellowship program was established to recognize the importance of teachers and the teaching mission of VCU, according to the office of Eugene P. Trani, VCU's president.

All full-time faculty are eligible and may be nominated for a teaching fellowship that comes with a no-strings-attached \$2,500 stipend for two years and a certified letter from Trani.

"I received a beautiful chair with 'Board of Visitors Teaching Fellow' (printed on it)," said Clifford W. Edwards, a professor of philosophy and religious studies at VCU. "That is how I found out I had received the honor."

Edwards, along with Dr. Russell Blinder on the Medical Campus, was one of the first two teaching fellows recognized in 1997.

1998-99 Teaching Fellows

• **Daisy F. Reed**, professor of education; Ed.D from Columbia University's Teacher's College

• **M. Samy El-Shall**, professor of chemistry; Ph.D. from Georgetown University

"Being a fellow is symbolic of teaching's special emphasis at VCU," Edwards said.

"Since I received the teaching fellowship, I have made myself available for a number of mentoring works such as working with faculty members to improve teaching strategies. I am teaching teachers."

The stipend Edwards received will help him develop new and creative ways of teaching by attending education conferences, he said.

"The stipend was designed to help one to do extra traveling, buy extra books and allow further freedom to do other things. I have been to two or three conferences on teaching because of the stipend," he said.

The Board of Visitors consists of 16 members appointed by the Virginia's governor and includes lawyers, physicians and others, some of whom are VCU alumni.

"It is the governing policy setting board of VCU," said Margaret F. Price, executive assistant to Trani and the board.

"They are involved in policy concerning building programs and appointing faculty, among other things."

Price noted that serving on the board is an unpaid position and board members do it for the love of VCU.

The board considers faculty of every rank and level of experience and looks at many aspects of a faculty member's work when choosing the recipients of the two fellowships.

When nominated, faculty submit information about their current curriculum, a personal statement of teaching philosophy and goals, student and peer evaluations and other evidence of teaching excellence.

VCU looks at notification of alcohol abuse

DRINK

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worse than minor incidents, but it (the waiver) takes away (students') freedom."

Jonathan Amacker, deputy press secretary for the attorney general said (via e-mail), "Our focus is to ensure that parents understand what is going on in their student's life. Just because a young adult turns 18 and goes off to college doesn't mean their parents no longer have a right or responsibility to be involved."

The report listed many more recommendations, such as postponing fraternity rush, promoting alcohol-free facilities for fraternities and indicating student substance dependency on college applications and financial aid forms.

Recently, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that prosecutors plan to charge a Massachusetts Institute of Technology fraternity with manslaughter and hazing because of a student who drank himself to death at a party last year.

While pledging Phi Gamma Delta, Scott Krueger slipped into a coma during a drinking binge and died two days later. The fraternity organization, not its members or the university, faces these charges.

As far as displaying dependency on applications, Rhone said he thought the notion was not to penalize dependency, but rather abuse, because certain things are protected by law.

"If you are an alcoholic, that is a disease and you wouldn't be refused admission (for that reason)," Rhone said.

Paige said, "I see (listing dependency) being no problem as long as it doesn't

affect admission." She added, however, that losing financial aid for a drinking offense made sense.

A poll taken on campus last year showed that 71 percent of VCU students do not binge drink using the definition of five drinks in one sitting for a male and four drinks for a female.

Some people disagree, however, on what constitutes one sitting.

"I've always interpreted it as five drinks within a short period of time," said Rhone, "which I always thought of as an hour."

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Statistics Association gives a definition of five or more drinks on one occasion.

When asked to clarify the definition, Amacker wrote, "Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks in one sitting for a male, four or more for female."

Montina McElroy offered a different perspective. "What about someone who gets drunk on three drinks?"

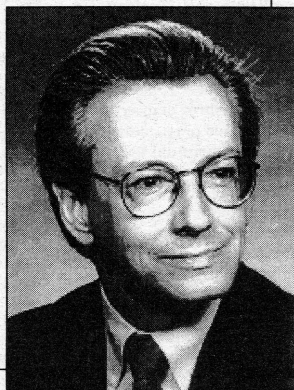
The attorney general's report, though, named abuse as the focus, not just binge drinking.

A chart in the report lists several alcohol-related problems on campus such as violent crime, unwanted or unplanned sexual intercourse, property damage, residence hall problems, arguments between friends, injuries, loss of memory, missed classes and late school work. Additionally, it says students spend \$5.5 billion annually on alcohol with a rate of \$446 per capita and students living in fraternities and sororities consume an average of 15 drinks per week.

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Killing or Healing?



James Childress

PRO

Edwin B. Kyle Professor of Religious Studies and Professor of Medical Education at U.Va. Co-director of the Virginia Health Policy Center at U.Va.

A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and The Hastings Center

Presidential appointment to the National Bioethics Advisory Commission

Named 1990 Professor of the Year in Virginia by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education

Education: B.A., Guilford College B.D., Yale Divinity School M.A., Ph.D., Yale University

Author of several books, including: Priorities in Biomedical Ethics Who Should Decide? Paternalism in Health Care Practical Reasoning in Bioethics

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Daniel Callahan

CON

Director of International Programs and Senior Associate for Health Policy at the Hastings Center.

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▼ Elected member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences

▼ Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

▼ Member of the Director's Advisory Committee, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

▼ 1996 Freedom and Scientific Responsibility Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

▼ Education: B.A., Yale University M.A., Georgetown University Ph.D., Harvard University

▼ Author of more than 35 books, including: False Hopes What Kind of Life: The Limits of Medical Progress

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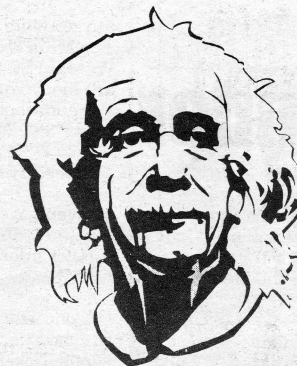
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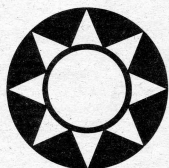
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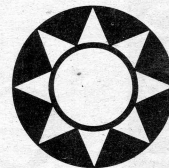
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Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

WILLIE NELSON

STILL FLYING HIGH AT 65



KINGSFORT, TN. - Willie Nelson is as American as the flag. A blue collar American, that is. Long known for his love of the road, he will perform nearly 200 concerts this year. From California to Maine, Florida to Washington, Nelson will log thousands of miles on his home on wheels, his bus, Honeysuckle Rose II. Nelson completed a successful tour of Europe in May. Truly, he's seen nearly every corner of the world. Like his song says, Willie Nelson really "can't wait to get on the road again."

Kinda makes you wonder, though, just how he can record so darned much. Earlier this month, Island Records, Willie's primary label, released "Teatro." Earlier this year, Luck Records became the first company to market a country album solely over the Internet, Nelson's album with The Offenders, "Me And The Drummer." In June, Rick Rubin's American Recordings label released an album by Nelson and Johnny Cash, "VH-1 Storytellers," gleaned from the hit cable TV show.

In short, Willie Nelson is a busy man. He did, however, take the time to sit with me aboard his bus after shows in Vienna, Va. and Kingsport, Tn., and talk about his ever-changing life and career.

Both nights, he was visibly tired yet ready as usual with a smile, handshake and hearty "hello," the 1970s Outlaw King is

mellow, neatly dressed in a golf shirt and black levis. His famous once-red mane of hair, in foot-long braids is now iron grey. Lines criss-cross his face like a series of never-ending highways.

His sister Bobbie and wife Annie sit in the back of the bus, beyond a woodgrain door. A large group of fans cluster outside. Waiting, they hope their hero will emerge to sign autographs. The steady hum of the bus' engine means the road beckons. Willie is in his element.

And music is on his mind.

TEATRO

Produced by Daniel Lanois (Emmylou Harris, U2, Bob Dylan), "Teatro" is yet another sound departure for the enigmatic Nelson. Composed of several cover tunes - yet mostly originals, the album's title, Nelson says, is Spanish for "theater."

Fitting in that it was recorded in Lanois's new studio, which is "an old converted Spanish theater in Oxnard, California," Nelson said, "and the name of the theater is Teatro."

Lanois, who has produced classic albums for a spectrum of acts, including U2 (1987's "Joshua Tree"), Emmylou Harris (1995's "Wrecking Ball"), and Bob Dylan (Grammy-grabber "Time Out of Mind"), appears to have worked a similar magic with Nelson.

Nelson has worked with a litany of legendary producers, chief among them Don Was ("Across The Borderline") and Booker T. Jones (1978's "Stardust"). He indicates a simi-

lar confidence in Lanois. "Well, there's a lot of similarities (of the producers), first of all," Nelson said. Each has the ability to "turn it into a finished product — and you know that it's being done right. It's gonna sound great when they get through with it. Those three guys particularly."

ME AND THE DRUMMER

As for his album with The Offenders, his band of old cronies (Johnny Bush, Johnny Gimble, Jimmy Day), the 65-year-old Nelson says he had a great time recording with his pals. "This is the old band I used to play with (as a part of Ray Price's legendary Cherokee Cowboys), you know, years and years ago. We traveled together," Nelson said, "and recorded some, too."

The album wasn't planned. "Jimmy Day was in the studio (Nelson's own Pedernales Studio in Spicewood, Texas) doing some instrumental stuff and he had called Floyd Domino (piano), David Zetner (bass), Johnny Bush (drums) and Johnny Gimble (fiddle) to play with him," Nelson said. "I just happened to be home and he asked me if I'd come in and sing a couple of things. I said 'sure.' It was so much fun we decided to do a lot more songs, so we just stayed in there and did song after song."

The album has a freewheeling aspect to it that seldom appears on contemporary releases. Nelson and his merry band of buddies, it's obvious, had a blast. "It was fun to do it again," a smiling Nelson said. "It's good stuff. Old

stuff."

The album is about as different from "Teatro" as rain and snow.

REGGAE AND BLUES

Speaking of different, several completed albums yet to see a record store shelf are that and more. Willie Nelson doing reggae? Yep. And a blues album? Not as much of a reach, but yep again. In fact, for much of his concert dates over the past two years he has incorporated several of the reggae tunes in his act. Most notably, Jimmy Cliff's "The Harder They Come" and "Sittin' Here In Limbo."

So, what gives? When will eager fans get to buy them? Nelson said that the blues album "was supposed to have come out back with the reggae album with Island (Records). That sort of got side-tracked when the business end changed around up there (in Island's New York office)." Furthermore, "I don't know when it's coming out."

Recorded in Jamaica over the past several years, the reggae album, which Nelson said he wants to call "One In A Row" (after his 1966 song that, along with several other originals, got the reggae treatment), was recorded mostly with Jamaican musicians. The singer's long-time harmonica player, Mickey Raphael, and Nashville steel guitar player, Robbie Turner, appear also. Don Was produced the as-yet-to-be-released album.

As for the blues album, it was recorded nearly two years ago.

Nelson said that a bunch of Austin, Texas blues players backed him on the recording. Like the reggae album, it too sits, collecting dust awaiting release.

HOLLYWOOD

Willie Nelson is never still. Hollywood, also, wants him. Several movies over the past year featured him in supporting roles playing, who else, characters pretty much like himself. He played opposite Danny Glover and Joe Pesci in "Gone Fishin'." He won decent reviews for his part of an aging musician (great type-casting!) in "Wag The Dog" with Dustin Hoffman and Robert DeNiro.

Now, one or two memorable lines of dialogue are worth noting. When asked about one in particular, from the critically unacclaimed "Half-Baked" (in the film Nelson mentions that he can remember when a dime-bag cost a dime . . . great type-casting, huh?), he nearly fell from his seat laughing, finally saying "Damn near!"

But, back to the music...

JOHNNY CASH

Last summer Nelson and Johnny Cash appeared on VH-1's hit series "Storytellers." The format for the show is similar to MTV's Unplugged series in that music is presented acoustically. The exception lies in the manner of presentation. Interspersed between songs, the musicians tell of the song's origins. Indeed, stories are also told, as one may rightly assume, through the songs themselves.

Entertainment Calendar

Monday, Sept. 28

Prayer Meeting: The Campus Crusade for Christ will meet today and each weekday for a morning prayer meeting in the Metro Room at 7:15 a.m..

Workshop: Academic Success Workshop: "Note Taking." 12 noon in the Commons' Forum Room.

Art Exhibit: Ongoing through Sept. 30, "Retrospective: 1982-1997," a photo exhibit by selected former M.F.A. photography gradu-

ate students from VCU, showing at The Main Exposure Gallery, 1435 W. Main St. Regular gallery hours are Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For additional information call either 828-7465 or 648-3686.

Tuesday Sept. 29

Event: Weekly Karaoke Night at Twisters - 929 W. Grace St. For further information call 353-GAME.

Concert: Elton John will appear in concert at the Richmond Coliseum. Tickets, however, are sold-out.

Wednesday Sept. 30

Meeting: International Student Coffee Hour will take place in the

Commons, Capital Room D, 12:30 p.m. The program is provides an opportunity for international students to practice conversational English and make new friends. Sponsored by the Center for International Programs.

Meeting: VCU student publication The Vine Magazine will meet in Capital Room D in the Commons Building at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting: VCU's NAACP Chapter will meet in Capital Room B in the Commons Building at 7 p.m.

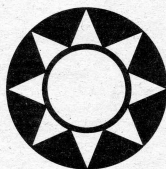
Thursday Oct. 1

Lecture: VCU History professor Dr. Robert Talbert will present "The Splendors of Ancient Egypt" at 7:30 p.m. in the Business Build-

ing Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

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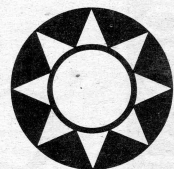
KINGSPORT, TN. - Willie Nelson is as American as the flag. A blue collar American, that is. Long known for his love of the road, he will perform nearly 200 concerts this year. From California to Maine, Florida to Washington, Nelson will log thousands of miles on his home on wheels, his bus, Honeysuckle Rose II. Nelson completed a successful tour of Europe in May. Truly, he's seen nearly every corner of the world. Like his song says, Willie Nelson really "can't wait to get on the road again."

Kinda makes you wonder, though, just how he can record so darned much. Earlier this month, Island Records, Willie's primary label, released "Teatro." Earlier this year, Luck Records became the first company to market a country album solely over the Internet, Nelson's album with The Offenders, "Me And The Drummer." In June, Rick Rubin's American Recordings label released an album by Nelson and Johnny Cash, "VH-1 Storytellers," gleaned from the hit cable TV show.

In short, Willie Nelson is a busy man. He did, however, take the time to sit with me aboard his bus after shows in Vienna, Va. and Kingsport, TN., and talk about his ever-changing life and career.

Both nights, he was visibly tired yet ready as usual with a smile, handshake and hearty "hello," the 1970s Outlaw King is

WILLIE NELSON STILL FLYING HIGH AT 65



mellow, neatly dressed in a golf shirt and black levis. His famous once-red mane of hair, in foot-long braids is now iron grey. Lines criss-cross his face like a series of never-ending highways.

His sister Bobbie and wife Annie sit in the back of the bus, beyond a woodgrain door. A large group of fans cluster outside. Waiting, they hope their hero will emerge to sign autographs. The steady hum of the bus' engine means the road beckons. Willie is in his element.

And music is on his mind.

TEATRO

Produced by Daniel Lanois (Emmylou Harris, U2, Bob Dylan), "Teatro" is yet another sound departure for the enigmatic Nelson. Composed of several cover tunes - yet mostly originals, the album's title, Nelson says, is Spanish for "theater."

Fitting in that it was recorded in Lanois's new studio, which is "an old converted Spanish theater in Oxnard, California," Nelson said, "and the name of the theater is Teatro."

Lanois, who has produced classic albums for a spectrum of acts, including U2 (1987's "Joshua Tree"), Emmylou Harris (1995's "Wrecking Ball"), and Bob Dylan (Grammy-grabber "Time Out Of Mind"), appears to have worked a similar magic with Nelson.

Nelson has worked with a litany of legendary producers, chief among them Don Was ("Across The Borderline") and Booker T. Jones (1978's "Stardust"). He indicates a simi-

lar confidence in Lanois. "Well, there's a lot of similarities (of the producers), first of all," Nelson said. Each has the ability to "turn it into a finished product — and you know that it's being done right. It's gonna sound great when they get through with it. Those three guys particularly."

ME AND THE DRUMMER

As for his album with The Offenders, his band of old cronies (Johnny Bush, Johnny Gimble, Jimmy Day), the 65-year-old Nelson says he had a great time recording with his pals. "This is the old band I used to play with (as a part of Ray Price's legendary Cherokee Cowboys), you know, years and years ago. We traveled together," Nelson said, "and recorded some, too."

The album wasn't planned. "Jimmy Day was in the studio (Nelson's own Pedernales Studio in Spicewood, Texas) doing some instrumental stuff and he had called Floyd Domino (piano), David Zeitner (bass), Johnny Bush (drums) and Johnny Gimble (fiddle) to play with him," Nelson said. "I just happened to be home and he asked me if I'd come in and sing a couple of things. I said 'sure.' It was so much fun we decided to do a lot more songs, so we just stayed in there and did song after song."

The album has a freewheeling aspect to it that seldom appears on contemporary releases. Nelson and his merry band of buddies, it's obvious, had a blast. "It was fun to do it again," a smiling Nelson said. "It's good stuff. Old

stuff."

The album is about as different from "Teatro" as rain and snow.

REGGAE AND BLUES

Speaking of different, several completed albums yet to see a record store shelf are that and more. Willie Nelson doing reggae? Yep. And a blues album? Not as much of a reach, but yep again. In fact, for much of his concert dates over the past two years he has incorporated several of the reggae tunes in his act. Most notably, Jimmy Cliff's "The Harder They Come" and "Sittin' Here In Limbo."

So, what gives? When will eager fans get to buy them? Nelson said that the blues album "was supposed to have come out back with the reggae album with Island (Records). That sort of got side-tracked when the business end changed around up there (in Island's New York office)." Furthermore, "I don't know when it's coming out."

Recorded in Jamaica over the past several years, the reggae album, which Nelson said he wants to call "One In A Row" (after his 1966 song that, along with several other originals, got the reggae treatment), was recorded mostly with Jamaican musicians. The singer's long-time harmonica player, Mickey Raphael, and Nashville steel guitar player, Robbie Turner, appear also. Don Was produced the as-yet-to-be-released album.

As for the blues album, it was recorded nearly two years ago.

Nelson said that a bunch of Austin, Texas blues players backed him on the recording. Like the reggae album, it too sits, collecting dust awaiting release.

HOLLYWOOD

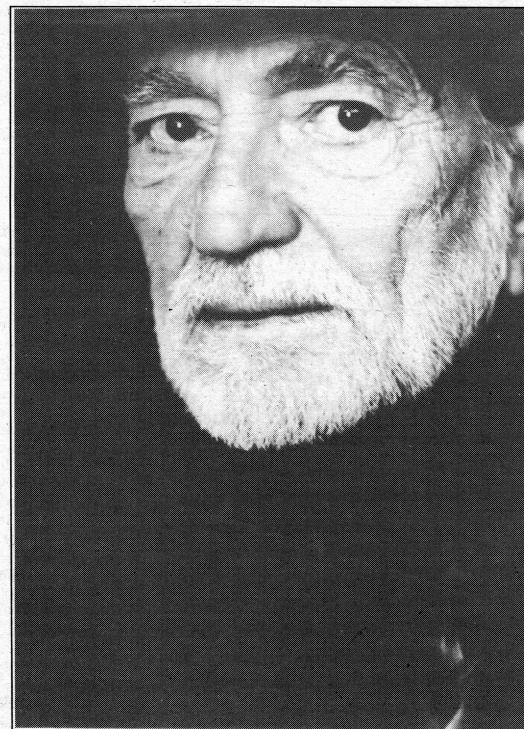
Willie Nelson is never still. Hollywood, also, wants him. Several movies over the past year featured him in supporting roles playing, who else, characters pretty much like himself. He played opposite Danny Glover and Joe Pesci in "Gone Fishin'." He won decent reviews for his part of an aging musician (great type-casting!) in "Wag The Dog" with Dustin Hoffman and Robert DeNiro.

Now, one or two memorable lines of dialogue are worth noting. When asked about one in particular, from the critically unacclaimed "Half-Baked" (in the film Nelson mentions that he can remember when a dime-bag cost a dime . . . great type-casting, huh?), he nearly fell from his seat laughing, finally saying "Damn near!"

But, back to the music...

JOHNNY CASH

Last summer Nelson and Johnny Cash appeared on VH-1's hit series "Storytellers." The format for the show is similar to MTV's Unplugged series in that music is presented acoustically. The exception lies in the manner of presentation. Interspersed between songs, the musicians tell of the song's origins. Indeed, stories are also told, as one may rightly assume, through the songs themselves.



selves.

And so, for one televised half-hour the two legends sang solo, duets, and supported one another on guitar. Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" featured an improvised, jazzy guitar solo by Nelson. "On The Road Again" sounded like a campfire sing-a-long from two world-revealing buddies. The set list was made up on the spot as the cameras rolled. "We didn't rehearse anything," Nelson said. "We had played 'Ghost Riders In The Sky' on the Highwaymen thing (Cash and Nelson's several tours with

Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson as The Highwaymen), and most of those songs John did I'd heard and played along behind him. I enjoyed it. I had a lot of fun."

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Willie Nelson's tough, too. How can he not be? Try canvassing America's highways night and day for the better part of four decades aboard a bus and you'll know. Fight the I.R.S. to the tune of millions of dollars — and win. Record over a hundred albums, and still be able to top yourself. Write indelible, classic songs by the dozen. Lose a child to suicide. And still wear a smile and possess a handshake that's as genuine and honest as a neighborly farmer's. It can't be easy.

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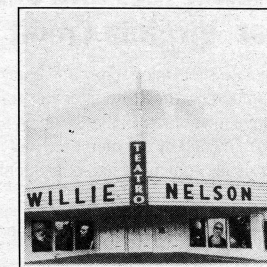
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Of the stark album's 14 songs, 11 flow from Nelson's illustrious pen, four of which are new. Of those, the sweetly whimsical love song "Everywhere I Go" is a modern day masterpiece. Its simple message of innocent love could apply to almost anyone, a wife, child, friend or whomever. And just as with songs such as "Home Motel," written more than 35 years ago, Nelson's very best are songs that say a great deal with very little. Roger Miller once said that the best songs say the most when they say the least. "Teatro" is full of those kinds of simple songs.

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Entertainment Calendar

Monday, Sept. 28

Prayer Meeting: The Campus Crusade for Christ will meet today and each weekday for a morning prayer meeting in the Metro Room at 7:15 a.m..

Workshop: Academic Success Workshop: "Note Taking." 12 noon in the Commons' Forum Room.

Art Exhibit: Ongoing through Sept. 30, "Retrospective: 1982-1997," a photo exhibit by selected former M.F.A. photography gradu-

ate students from VCU, showing at The Main Exposure Gallery, 1435 W. Main St. Regular gallery hours are Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For additional information call either 828-7465 or 648-3686.

Tuesday Sept. 29

Event: Weekly Karaoke Night at Twisters - 929 W. Grace St. For further information call 353-GAME.

Concert: Elton John will appear in concert at the Richmond Coliseum. Tickets, however, are sold-out.

Wednesday Sept. 30

Meeting: International Student Coffee Hour will take place in the

Commons, Capital Room D, 12:30 p.m. The program is provides an opportunity for international students to practice conversational English and make new friends. Sponsored by the Center for International Programs.

Meeting: VCU student publication The Vine Magazine will meet in Capital Room D in the Commons Building at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting: VCU's NAACP Chapter will meet in Capital Room B in the Commons Building at 7 p.m.

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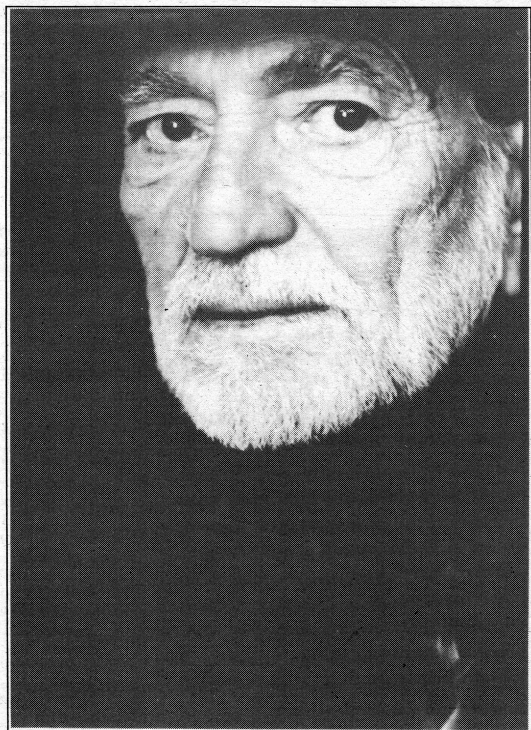
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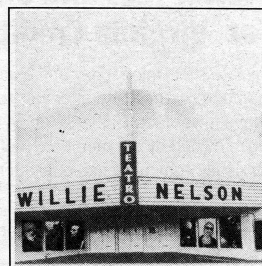
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8-98

Justin Wilson

Towing of students' vehicles an outrage

If you ask most students their number one complaint about VCU, more than likely your response will be one word: parking. There are not many issues at VCU that rile up more students than parking on or near this campus.

VCU, in a proactive move, has decided to not only do something about parking, but to make things worse. It began by closing several free lots spread around the campus, and now instead of just ticketing those errant drivers who park too late in the Academic Deck, they have begun towing cars out of the deck. What better way to get students to come to VCU than display images of students' cars being towed out of the deck to some across-town location?

Rules are rules, and if you park illegally then you place yourself in the peril of having your car ticketed. Many students have to play that game every day just to get to class. It is ridiculous

to me to have students' automobiles towed. Every student here is paying tuition to attend, and with that should come some common sense deference. Many of our commuting students also attend work during the day and lead busy lives as it is. Usually these busy lives cannot easily accommodate trips to pick up towed vehicles in the midst of having to pick up children and spouses. Why make students' lives more difficult? Is VCU over-enrolled and looking to agitate a few students, so we can cull our numbers? It just doesn't make sense to me.

I could understand this madness if during the evening, there were too many day students still parked in the lot, and that kept those with the overnight passes from parking there, but that is just not the case. The reasoning behind this parking enforcement is just plain annoyance. Give the tickets if you must, but just stop towing the vehicles! It is just mean-spirited and unnecessary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

USC&A strives for ease of use

I read with great interest Justin Wilson's commentary ("Hands Off Student Activities," Sept. 14) on the reservations process and policies in University Student Commons and Activities (USC&A). As the new director here, I want to thank him for expressing his opinion about our services even if it casts a negative light on the department. After many years of working with student activities and the student press, I respect and honor the right of self-expression through the student media.

I have only been on the campus for seven weeks so this is the first strong criticism I have read concerning USC&A. Contrary to Mr. Wilson's perception that students are turning away from our services, the demand for our facilities and services is so great that we are now considering adding another section to the Commons to meet the needs of the ever-growing VCU population. Our procedures are designed to fairly assign to all who might require it. My regret is that Mr. Wilson did not bring his concerns to me for detailed information, but then I have been remiss in

not introducing myself to the campus yet. Let me do that now.

I came to VCU from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg because I believe the USC&A is a well-run department with good people who care about serving students. The vibrancy, vitality and diversity in the students of VCU make this campus unique in Virginia. Most importantly, I came because I want to help this department and this institution meet the needs of students as we enter the next century. To do that, I need to gather constructive information about all our services. We need to hear from you as we have all heard from Mr. Wilson. To that end, I make this offer:

USC&A has a Student Activities Advisory Committee (SAAC). This committee, comprised of students, faculty and staff, provides insight and advice to the staff of USC&A. We meet once a month for about an hour. Any student who wants to have a voice in how we operate our facilities, plan programs or set policies can attend meetings of this committee. If you are interested, call me at 828-6500 or come by the administrative offices, Room 216 in the Commons. I will be glad to add you to the committee so you can help us make this the best possible place for students. The committee does have a limited size

to remain functional, so contact me soon if you are interested.

Also, if you have a question, concern or complaint about the services or the programs in the Commons, let us know first. We have comment boxes at the information desk that we read and to which we respond. I read all my mail, both snail and electronic, and will return phone calls. Comment to us first. Then, if you feel you must, exercise your rights and make your comments public like Mr. Wilson.

Timothy A. Reed
Director, University Student
Commons and Activities

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Ram Stat

This weekend's wins sent Field Hockey above the .500 mark for the first time since 1994.

Monday, September 28, 1998

Sports

Commonwealth Times 11

Upcoming

Volleyball gears up for home games against ECU and UNC Wilmington.



Charles Harmon/Commonwealth Times

PRESSURE'S ON — VCU forward Kevin Jeffrey score's the Rams' first goal of the game off an assist from forward Ricardo Capilla. The goal was Jeffrey's first of the season.

Rams clip Eagles' wings, 4-2

Bruce Wilkinson Jr.
CT Staff Writer

VCU men's soccer beat American University 4-2 yesterday at Cary Street. The Eagles began the season ranked fifth by a National Soccer Coaches Association of America preseason poll, while VCU began at the 24th spot.

Rams forward Kevin Jeffrey scored his first goal of the season 10:45 into the game off an assist from forward Ricardo Capilla.

"Ricardo had the ball and we had practiced it before so he knew where to pass it," Jeffrey said.

"I felt overwhelmed. When you are a forward, once you make your first goal it breaks the ice."

Capilla then shot in the second goal of the game at 16:30 unassisted, bringing the score to 2-0. This marked his fourth goal of the season.

"It was a mistake from their defense," said Capilla. "They were playing back and I put some pressure on them and then took advantage of the situation."

Eagles forward Scott Weber scored American's only goal of the half at 31:53.

"We came out to win the game. Talking is one thing. Going out and winning the game is another."

Kevin Jeffrey
VCU Forward

Shortly thereafter, VCU's Trevor Spencer scored the final goal at 39:59 on a penalty kick, ending the first half at 3-1.

"They were extremely confident coming out of the first half, which concerned me, and it affected the first 20 minutes of the second half," VCU head coach Tim O'Sullivan said. "They needed to keep their killer instinct and at times during the second half, we let things get away from us on the field."

The Eagles began fighting back in the second half when forward Deryck Roberts scored the first goal at 58:06, shortening VCU's lead to one point.

"American came back against Loyola with a 3-3 tie. The mentality is so good at

this level that you don't win until the last minute," Capilla said.

Roberto Gutierrez scored the last goal of the game for the Rams off an assist from Jeffrey at 74:03, making the final score 4-2.

"We came out to win the game," Jeffrey said. "Talking is one thing. Going out and winning the game is another."

The win brought the Rams' season total to 3-3-1. The victory did not come without a price however. Gutierrez fractured his hand and may not be able to play in the next game against University of Richmond on Tuesday.

The rivalry between Richmond and VCU is compounded by the fact that from 1983 to 1995 O'Sullivan was Richmond's head coach.

"As a coach there is so little time to prepare before the game against Richmond, but I believe that this team can beat any team in the country," O'Sullivan said.

"Some of the frustration has been that we have been out shooting opponents and creating good goal-scoring chances but have been unable to score the goals."

Volleyball falls to both GMU and American

George Templeton
CT Sports Editor

VCU volleyball opened its conference season with traditional conference power, the George Mason Patriots, and the defending Colonial Athletic Association champions American Eagles. That sounds like a rough start because it was a rough start.

VCU was swept in both matches, first by GMU Friday in a 15-13, 16-14, 15-9 squeaker and then on Saturday by American 15-4, 15-4, 15-10.

"We got some good things out of this weekend," said VCU coach Cheryl Carlson. "We proved to ourselves that we can beat George Mason. They have been the dominant team in this conference ever since our seniors have been here."

Carlson also said that playing American tough on the road is a very positive result as well.

"AU is a team that has lost just two matches, one to the No. 1 team (Penn State) and one to the No. 15 team (Minnesota), who they took to five games," she said.

Against American, the Rams were done in by big spurts early in each game. In game one, VCU closed to 5-3 after Baiba Berzina's kill. Then the Eagles scored 10 of the last 11 points to win 15-4.

Two kills from Heather Wintermeyer keyed the run. Wintermeyer had 12 kills total and Ajola Berisha led the match with 13 kills. American also got a block from Vendela Kurcova during the run.

Game two played out in a similar fashion. VCU tied the game at one on a Sara Gatewood kill, one of her team-leading nine. The Eagles, sparked by four kills and a block from Berisha, then scored nine consecutive points to lead 10-1.

American went on to win the game 15-4.

"American is a very deep, balanced team, and they showed it today," Carlson said.

The final game of the match proved to be the most competitive.

VCU (5-10, 0-2) began the third game with a 4-1 lead. VCU and American would go back and forth, holding leads at 5-2, 6-3 and 8-5.

American (13-2, 2-0) fought back to tie the game at eight after an ace by Jill Ferguson. VCU retook the lead with a Kristen Didio kill, the last lead VCU would have.

"I think they might have been surprised we came out and fought like we did in the last game," Carlson said. "They were wary of us and American didn't substitute until they were solidly ahead of us."

American effectively ended the match by scoring six straight point and won 15-10.

In the first match against the Patriots, VCU fought two close games that helped

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S SOCCER

Sep. 29 UR	Oct. 3 S. C.	Oct. 7 UNC
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VCU'S MATCH AGAINST AMERICAN WAS THEIR CONFERENCE OPENER.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sep. 30 VIRGINIA	Oct. 3 UNC	Oct. 6 UR
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THE RAMS HAVE NOT PLAYED A MATCH AGAINST HOWARD AT HOME SINCE OCT. 25, 1997.

VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 2 ECU	Oct. 3 UNC	Oct. 6 HU
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LAST YEAR, VCU SPLIT WITH AMERICAN, AND EAST CAROLINA, WHILE GEORGE MASON SWEEP THEM.

FIELD HOCKEY

Sep. 30 UR	Oct. 3 TEMPLE	Oct. 4 ST. JOE.
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RAMS ARE OFF TO THEIR BEST START SINCE 1994. VCU ENDED UP 7-10 THAT YEAR.

indicates home games.

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VOLLEYBALL continued to page 12 ►

Field Hockey 2-0 after weekend victories

Rams win first conference game in 4 years

J.W. Revercomb
CT STAFF WRITER

The VCU field hockey team improved its record to 5-4 with victories over both Radford and Towson this weekend. The Rams defeated the Radford Highlanders 3-2 on Saturday and followed with another 3-2 win against the Towson Tigers on Sunday. Those wins give VCU its best record with 10 games remaining since 1994.

On Saturday, neither team could get going in the first half, with VCU managing to get only one shot on goal and Radford unable to convert on four attempts. The drought ended less than two minutes into the second half when VCU freshman Emily Mountjoy scored her first career goal off a pass from senior Colleen Englehard, giving the Rams a 1-0 lead.

The Highlanders counterattacked eight minutes later, when Rachel Wood ran through the VCU defense to score unassisted and tie the game at one. VCU responded with an offensive flurry, racking up seven straight penalty corners.

With nine minutes to go, Jenny Taylor found Christine DeFebó who scored to put the Rams back on top at 2-1. Less than three minutes later, Englehard scored on a pass from Courtney Cutchall to extend the Rams' lead to 3-1. VCU outshot Radford 4-2 in the second half and racked up seven penalty corners to Radford's four.

"In the first half, I don't think we were all together," Englehard said. "Then we came out after halftime and just came

together as a team. The win is a big power booster for us."

Radford was able to pull within one with 1:40 left in the game, but the couldn't mount another scoring threat.

Coach Dawn Hill said she was very pleased with the Rams' performance, calling it "not only a win, but a good win."

"In conference it means a whole lot. The whole team was starting to gain confidence, and that's the name of the game right now . . . trying to convince them they can do it."

VCU continued its winning ways on Sunday, taking advantage of a great performance by sophomore Maria Sonina and a penalty stroke by Courtney Cutchall to defeat Towson 3-2.

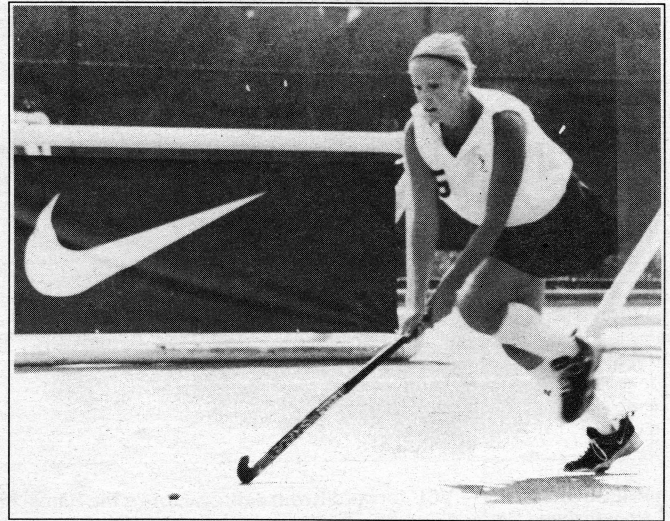
The win didn't come easy as the Rams had to overcome not only another slow start, but also being outcornered and outshot 12-4 and 10-6.

"We had a slow start in the first half," Hill said, "but I think we showed a little more poise and

made better decisions in the second half. I'm not that happy overall. We have to show up both halves if we want to win."

With 20:36 left in the first half, the Tigers were first to score when Sarah Knell deflected a shot from Casey Jiampetti into the goal for a 1-0 lead. The Rams responded a minute later when Sonina scored unassisted to knot the score at one.

"I just had to take charge," she said, "Coach told me if you don't have anyone to pass to, just dribble forward and get something from it. I got to the circle and tried to



Charles Harmon/Commonwealth Times

INTENSITY — Rams forward Jenny Taylor drives the ball down the field in VCU's 3-2 win against the Towson Tigers yesterday.

score and I did it."

Towson was unable to score again, settling for a 1-1 tie at half-time despite outshooting the Rams 6-1.

The Rams played considerably better in the second half, outshooting Towson 5-4 and scoring twice. The first goal came with 27:17 left in the game when senior Courtney Cutchall scored off a penalty stroke, whipping the ball past Towson goalkeeper Betsy Crossman and putting VCU up 2-1. Two minutes later, Sonina scored her second goal off a direct corner from senior Jenna Stewart to put the Rams at 3-1.

"Maria worked hard," Hill said. "I needed somebody to step up, and if I had to pick

somebody today she was the one who stepped up for us."

Sonina refused to take sole credit for her performance. "I tried to step up," she said. "but you need the team to help you. You can't do anything by yourself."

Towson was able to pull back to within one before the end of the game. With 20:52 remaining, Joann Engstrom found a hole in the Rams' defense and scored unassisted to bring the score to 3-2.

The Tigers had one last chance to score off a penalty corner with 46 seconds left, but were unable to convert. These two wins put the Rams at 4-4 against the teams they were 0-8 against last year.

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Georgia Southern beats VCU, 6-1

Georgia Southern handed VCU's women's soccer team its third consecutive road loss Friday night by beating the Rams 6-1. The loss drops VCU to 2-5 and moves the Eagles to 3-5.

Robin Thirsk started things off quickly for Georgia Southern by scoring a goal two minutes into the game to put the Eagles ahead 1-0.

Senior Rebecca Ruth answered for VCU, scoring her fourth goal of the season, knotting things up at 1-1, and ending the scoring for the Rams.

Georgia Southern would go on to score five unanswered goals. Tara Chaisson scored two goals within a minute of one another, placing the Eagles ahead for good at the 33:24 mark.

Vanessa Vickrey and Mandy Morris each added a goal to seal the Georgia Southern's victory.

—compiled from news sources

Volleyball suffers weekend losses

continued from page 12

decide the match.

Game one was a tight battle throughout. The biggest lead of the game was three points at 6-3 in VCU's favor. The game was tied seven times, the last at 12 after an error by Altia Hibbert.

GMU (1-11, 1-0) went ahead for good on a Jill Pearson block, and then captured a 14-12 lead on a net violation by VCU. A kill by Berzina brought VCU within one, but Patriot Lynn Hord denied the Rams with a game-winning kill.

"I think the first game was a little bit of home-court advantage for George Mason," Carlson said.

The second game of the match began with the Patriots scoring the first three points.

But the Rams went on a 9-1 run to take control of the game with a 11-6 lead. The run came with a kill and ace from Jen West and an ace from Gatewood. Four Patriot errors during the stretch

also helped VCU's cause.

Leading the game 14-9, the Rams collapsed, giving up seven straight points.

The Patriot assault started when Natalia Torres-Tirado scored one of her match-leading 18 kills. An ace and a kill by Hibbert, Hord's two scores and a VCU net violation buried the Rams, 16-14.

"We let up at game point in the second game," Carlson said. "We let them get momentum and get back in the game and we just couldn't turn it on again. If we could have won these first two games we probably would have won in three."

Game three was an early tussle.

Tied at 3, the Patriots strung a 9-0 run together to break VCU. Hord had two aces to start the run.

The Rams didn't threaten again and lost 15-9, giving the Patriots their first win of the year.

"We would have really liked to sneak away with a road win . . . We're just going to have to beat them at home."

Cheryl Carlson
VCU Head Coach

"This is a tough loss," Carlson said. "We would have really liked to sneak away with a road win. Those are key because one road win made the difference last year between fourth and fifth place. We're just going to have to beat them at home."

VCU returns home to play East Carolina on Friday at 7 p.m. and UNC Wilmington Saturday at 2 p.m.

"I fully expect us to kick ECU and Wilmington's butts next weekend," Carlson said.