

Tues: Enjoy the slightly warmer weather. High 65, low 50.

Wed: Break out the umbrella and jacket. High 58, low 39.

Commonwealth Times

Monday, November 9, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 30, No. 83

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LAP TOP LAB – The 21st News Center will teach new ways of collecting and distributing information through the use of audio, video and print technologies.

“Red hot and ready to go”

VCU launches 21st Century News Center

Ben Wasson
CT News Editor

VCU faculty and media professionals gathered under a white pavilion outside the T. Edward Temple Building to witness the launch of the university's 21st Century News Center.

The university will provide \$650,000 in start-up costs for the program, President Eugene P. Trani said during his opening remarks.

“This is an important new initiative for VCU... a unique opportunity to create a news center like no other,” he said.

Although News Center Executive Director Joyce Wise Dodd announced that the program is “red hot and ready to go,” those in attendance could have used a little warmth as the white pavilion billowed with chilly gusts of wind.

The center will begin training professionals from Media General Inc., owner of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, before the end of the academic year as Phase One of its development. Phase Two, a one-year master's program in multiple media journalism, begins in 2000.

The News Center will teach people new ways of collecting and distributing information, said Jeff South, coordinator of training and program development.

“We liken multiple media in terms of developing something for components of all the different media

out there,” he said. “We will teach people... new journalism skills like online research, computer assisted research, audio and video editing and digital recording for a website.”

The program also offers a course in International News Law and Global News Publication Protocols. This course examines journalism outside the United States and incorporates ethics and the role of media in democracies.

Recruiting goals for Phase Two are 30 students for the first year and 50 students by 2002. The courses in the program are taught in workshops and roundtables.

The program will “close the gap between what is taught and what happens in the real world,” said John Stewart Bryan III, chairman and CEO of Media General Inc.

Bryan also offered his services in helping the News Center reach its fund-raising goal of \$10 million. Media General Inc. has already contributed funds to the \$1.25 million the program has managed to raise in the last 18 months.

With the planned increase of students, the News Center also intends to expand in size.

The program plans to expand from its current 2,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet in the future, Trani said. The planned future location was not disclosed.

The program, still short of its fund-raising goal, needs “support from the communications community,” said Trani.

Web Boom!

Personal pages newest form of communication

April Duran
CT Staff Writer

Web-based communication is catching on at Virginia Commonwealth University.

“There are probably around 70 Web servers on the VCU campus... (that) are run by the individual departments,” said VCU Webmaster Kenneth Guyre.

In today's fast-paced world, more and more people seem to be turning to the World Wide Web as their primary means of communication and information retrieval. Many utilize this information resource by publishing, or posting, a personal Web page.

A personal Web page is used as an information resource mechanism, said John Dayhoff, vice provost of Office for Information Technology, who explained that it acts as a sort of resume that tells the readers about one's interests and field of study.

Although students do not have general access to Web server space through the university, some can obtain server space through a class like “Web Course in a Box” or through one of the departmental servers if it is offered. Another potential option is to have a server dedicated to student pages, which currently does not exist.

Last year, Jim Yucha, Web coordinator, said the Student Government Association proposed setting up a partnership with University Computing and Commu-

WEB continued to page 5 >

VCU Web Guidelines

The university's Web publishing guidelines are posted at:

- <http://www.vcu.edu/guidelines/>

The SOWEB directory is posted at:

- <http://www.vcu.edu/safweb/soweb>

College Briefs

• Groups want to help university fight lawsuit

Student groups at the University of Minnesota will try to join the university in its defense against a lawsuit filed by students about the use of student services fees.

The La Raza Student Cultural Center, the Queer Student Cultural Center and University YW student groups will attempt for the third time to be included in the lawsuit.

Five students sued the university in February saying the funding of political and ideological student groups violates their First Amendment rights.

Pat Logue, the lawyer for the student groups, said the groups should be included in the lawsuit because "the university doesn't have the First Amendment rights the student groups have."

Jordan Lorence, the lawyer for the student suing the university, said that if the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals allows the student groups to join the university in the lawsuit his clients would lose their case.

"If (the student groups) are found to be correct, then we would have no lawsuit whatsoever," he said.

Members of the student groups said they believe the fee system is fair to everyone.

"It's like a bus system," said Kjersten Reich, co-chairperson of the Queer Student Cultural Center. "It's up to student organizations to apply for funding just like it is up to citizens to use the bus."

The three-judge panel will rule on the

group's case Nov. 20.

• "Roofies" allegedly used at MSU fraternity

East Lansing police are investigating a report that a female ingested the "date-rape" drug Rohypnol. Two fraternities at Michigan State University are conducting an internal investigation in the matter.

"With the information we have now, I don't want to name any chapters," said Kelli Milliken, president of the Pan Hellenic Council. "If these allegations are found to be true, the police will intervene and the individuals will be sent through the judicial process."

One of the fraternities conducting a self-investigation is also being investigated by its national headquarters.

"I don't want to perpetrate any rumors that there is a Rohypnol epidemic, but if you are going to drink, make sure you're careful," police Capt. Louis Muhn said. "You don't want to give people the opportunity. If you're at a party, don't leave your drink unattended."

• Seven arrested after fire

Police arrested five Murray State University students and two others in connection with a fire that killed MSU sophomore Michael Minger.

The lead investigator in the case, Lt. Dean Hayes said telephone records led authorities to the suspects.

"We obtained certain phone records and combed Hester Hall (where the fire took

place) ... The telephone records are a direct tie from one location to another," he said.

Commonwealth's Attorney Mike Ward said Fred McGrath is the only suspect charged with murder and that the death penalty would not be sought.

McGrath denies any involvement with the fire, which is still being investigated.

• U. Penn students stricken with flu-like symptoms

Three dozen students complained of nausea and vomiting last week, some students said food served at three of the university's dining halls was to blame.

School officials dispute those claims, saying an influenza bug caused the outbreak of nausea.

"There's no common thread that would tie the illnesses to food," said Ken Wildes, university spokesperson. "The thinking now is that it is ... some sort of viral infection."

• Fire alarms at Texas A&M fail to activate for three minutes

A fire in a Texas A&M University dormitory broke out last week but fire alarms failed to activate immediately after being pulled.

Students in Dorm 9 said they didn't hear the alarms even though they pulled the fire emergency switches.

Charles Sippial, assistant vice president of the Physical Plant, said he received permission from local fire officials to put a three-minute delay on the fire alarms because of a number of "nuisance" alarms in

the past.

• Students mourn passage of Initiative 200

Fifty University of Washington students turned out to demonstrate against the passage of Initiative 200.

The legislation, passed with a 59 percent approval, prohibits "the state government from discriminating or granting preferential treatment based on the race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in public employment education and contracting."

Jim Rodriguez, a doctoral student in educational psychology, sent e-mails to students urging them to respond to the legislation's passage.

"We need to mourn," he said. "But quickly, so we can move to action. Many of us knew it could happen. It happened in California and it passed here. But it hurts, especially for people who fought for civil rights."

• Former Hoya arrested for harassing basketball coach

Kevin Millen was arraigned last week on two counts of misdemeanor threat and one count of misdemeanor unlawful entry after Millen made numerous threatening phone calls to men's basketball Head Coach John Thompson.

"Due to Kevin Millen's past behavior, he had been banned from campus," a university statement said.

Millen had played for the basketball team from 1991 to 1995.

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The Commonwealth Times

will hold an election for the position of Executive Editor on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. in Temple 1149.

Anyone may run for the position. Qualified applicants must have completed MAC 300, MAC 303 and MAC 305 or demonstrate equivalent experience through references and work samples.

One must also have served as a section editor, associate editor, copy editor, production assistant or in the business department of the CT for at least one semester or demonstrate equivalent experience.

If you're interested, contact Chris at 828-1058 or s2cwwood@titan.vcu.edu for more information on how to apply.

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Gottfredson stresses teaching, cooperation

Christian K. Finkbeiner

CT NEWS EDITOR

Stephen D. Gottfredson, dean of Virginia Commonwealth University's College of Humanities and Sciences, said one of his goals is to cultivate the relationships between the university's schools, departments and programs.

"You can build new programs much more quickly," Gottfredson said, "if you capitalize on resources of different schools within the university, rather than relying heavily on external resources."

Gottfredson, 48, joined the college in July 1997 after serving for seven years as associate dean for academic affairs at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was the principal academic affairs officer at the school on six of the university's eight campuses, including the two largest campuses, at Bloomington and Indianapolis.

Among his accomplishments at IU, he said he is most proud of his leadership in the revitalization of the university's criminal justice program, which had been in a state he described as "moribund." Also under his watch, the university implemented its first joint degree program. Gottfredson's school and the arts and sciences school developed a curriculum for a B.S. in environmental science.

"Often when you try to do something like that," Gottfredson said, "there are turf battles. Arguments over who gets credit for what. We worked through those problems."

"That kind of cross-campus cooperation is what I would like to have here at VCU."

He said discussions with university President Eugene P. Trani have led to a redevelopment plan for the undergraduate life sciences programs within the college.

"With the Virginia Biotechnology Research Park here in Richmond," Gottfredson said, "VCU is really strategically placed to concentrate on life sciences."

"We have a fine biology department on the Academic Campus and very strong departments on the Medical Campus, but we have not had a coordinated effort between the life sciences majors. We are going to look at the possibilities of new majors, and we are going to find out what students want, what we need to offer."

"You can build new programs much more quickly if you capitalize on resources of different schools within the university, rather than relying heavily on external resources."

Stephen D. Gottfredson
Dean, College of Humanities and Sciences

Gottfredson said the Department of Engineering and the chemistry and physics departments in the College of Humanities and Sciences are planning collaborations and cross-listed courses and he would like to see the same kind of things go on within the college. He said encouraging and developing such cooperation has been his greatest accomplishment since coming to VCU.

Department and program heads in the College of Humanities and Sciences expressed satisfaction with Gottfredson's progress since he came to VCU.

"Two things I have noticed about Dr. Gottfredson," said M. Njeri Jackson, director of the African-American Studies program, "are his capacity to hear and listen and his integrity. If he says he is going to do something, he does it. He has really indicated that he is supportive of our program, and he has granted considerable autonomy to individual units within the college."

DEAN continued to page 5 >

New info system now operational

Ben Wasson

CT NEWS EDITOR

Do you have a question about your account balance or need to peek at your transcript but don't want to wait in line for help at Founder's Hall?

With the Nov. 2 completion of the SIS Plus conversion students receive more accurate account and grade information than was previously available.

But some students said using the new system takes longer.

"We can't even figure out how to work it," said Blasla Franklin, a freshman biomedical engineering major.

While trying to receive a copy of a course schedule, Kathryn Brown, also a freshman biomedical engineering major, printed a copy of the student information access page instead.

"I've used it before to get my schedule," Brown said. "But it wasn't this hard."

Bringing a system created in the 1970s into the 1990s, officials expected some problems.

"It will take a while for operators to get used to the system," said Mark Willis, executive director of administrative services. "Students may find a delay as we are easing into the new system."

Some operators appear capable of handling the new system already.

"It seems to me to be a piece of cake," said Alex Ghazarian, a program support technician in student services. "It seems complicated (at first) but once you get into it it's pretty simple."

Even if the operators are up to speed, response times for information requests may be slower than before the conversion.

Because the old system is still operational and runs in conjunction with the new one, the computer system has an extra burden that affects its performance, Willis said.

The old system serves for reference purposes in case operators need to double-check information and will remain in operation until at least the end of the calendar year.

The first real test of how the new system will work comes Nov. 18 when students begin registering for the spring semester.

"It's going to work," said Charles E. Scott III, student systems manager. "It's been tested thoroughly and people are using it now."

During a campus-wide information shutdown that began Oct. 23 and ended Nov. 2, University Computing Services and SCT consolidated registration, financial aid, admissions and student accounting information into one database.

People involved with the conversion said they were pleased with the results.

"We've still got little things that are unusual," said Sherry Mikuta, assistant vice provost for enrollment services. "But nothing we haven't anticipated."

Even though computing services employees moved hundreds of thousands of pieces of information, their work isn't over yet.

"It's been a long project," Scott said. "But you never finish with information systems, you just get to the next point."

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Web pages newest way to communicate

WEB

continued from page 1

tions Services to provide students server space for personal pages.

If this were done, OIT would handle technical maintenance. The SGA would maintain the page for content — a primary priority — because it would be responsible for enforcing the university's Web guidelines. The SGA would serve as the executive officer and students would then be considered creators.

"As soon as you put anything on the Web," Guyre said, "under the law you have become a publisher."

Students also may obtain Web server space through an Internet Service Provider like Online@VCU or AmericaOnline. The university, Guyre said, does not have a directory established for students with personal Web pages.

Student organizations can store Web pages on VCU servers through the directory called SOWEB, or Student Organization Web. Organizations receive funding from the student activity fees to pay for mailboxes, Web pages, copying privileges, office space and storage.

Kirsten Hirsch, the assistant director for commuter and information resources in the Division of Student Affairs, said about 42 of the 150 organizations have Web sites, where they advertise or promote the organization. These are limited to one megabyte of space on a VCU server. Some utilize non-VCU servers that are freesites with a link back to the university's home page.

Since organizations posting on a VCU server do not have direct access to the Web

page, they must submit changes and updates on a floppy disk. But, they are limited to three changes per semester.

"I've noticed personal pages are popular overseas like in England," Hirsch said.

Dayhoff said VCU's publishing guidelines are undergoing a revision, which he expects to be ready by the end of the semester after preliminary approval by the provost and the president.

Most elements being revised concern the cosmetic appearance of university Web pages such as format, official links, university nomenclature, colors and logos.

"(The university's home page) is a marketing tool representing VCU to the world," Dayhoff said, adding that the content of official university pages is especially important.

Publishers need to be aware of copyright laws and post disclaimers at the bottom of each page stating that it does not reflect an official position of the university. Furthermore, pornography or derogatory statements of a religious or racist nature cannot be posted on official pages.

"University computers are state property, not private," Dayhoff said. "What is mine and what is not? State-owned equipment (means that) all information stored on it is owned by the state." When the issue becomes publishing on the Web instead of searching on the Web, the same situation applies. This means, Dayhoff said, that there is no privacy for students while using campus computers.

The same applies to employees. E-mail, files, word processing and Internet searches — all are considered public domain. Users cannot use state equipment to access pornographic material.

The vice provost said to trigger an investigation into someone's viewing material, the offended must file a complaint. Once started, investigators utilize a "sniffer," a network diagnostic tool, as an investigative tool to examine someone's Web browsing activities.

"A sniffer . . . traps all activity on a subnet, a portion of the VCU network like a snapshot of traffic," Dayhoff explained.

Both Dayhoff and Guyre advise students not to expect privacy on any computer they use at VCU.

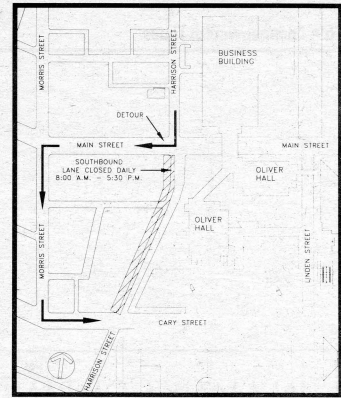
Melvin Urofsky, director of the Ph.D. program in Public Policy and First Amendment scholar, said that the current guidelines are not unusual. The First Amendment covers political or viewpoint speech and the expression of creativity.

"Creativity is a much more difficult thing to define," Urofsky explained. "One person's beauty may be another person's obscenity..."

The university encourages students to be creative, he said, within the limits of the law — specifically copyright protection and obscenity, which is not protected by the First Amendment. The only exception to the pornography prohibition for Internet searches involves research as a class assignment.

The university, Urofsky said, abides by federal and state laws upheld by the Supreme Court, and they apply to students, faculty and staff. He pointed out that the enforcement procedure adequately follows due process.

"All the university is saying with these guidelines is, 'Don't break the law,'" Urofsky said.



Southbound lane of Harrison St. closing

Starting Nov. 16, the southbound lane of Harrison Street between Main Street and Cary Street will be closed to general traffic between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily for about four weeks.

This will allow the City of Richmond to complete underground utility work before the construction starts for the new Life Sciences Building, which is scheduled to begin in January.

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— Compiled from news sources

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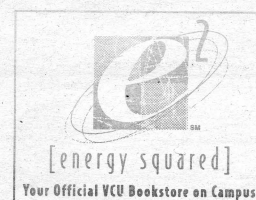
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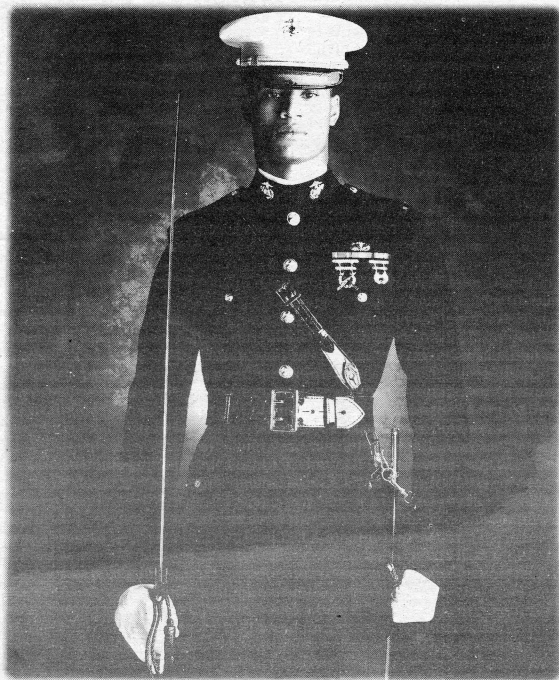
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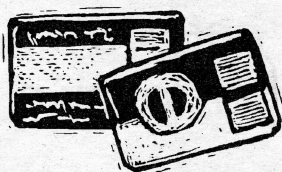
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Gottfredson bringing university together

DEAN

continued from page 3

Jackson said Gottfredson has "demystified" the budget process in the college and held workshops for unit heads to help them better understand budgetary matters and their role in those matters.

"Some units are operating on 20-year-old budgets," she said. "The budget process cannot remain a mystery. It needs to be changed."

Richard Fine, chair of the Department of English, said Gottfredson has taken an active role in confronting an issue facing institutes of higher education all over the country.

"Gottfredson is the first dean in my memory," Fine said, "who has really focused on our overuse of adjunct faculty to teach lower level classes."

"Though he is limited by budget concerns, he has really made this issue a priority."

Fine said the English department uses part-time adjunct faculty for nearly half of all of its classes. Gottfredson called this situation, and others like it around the nation, a "large problem."

"As budgets get tighter and tighter and enrollment increases," he said, "people are increasingly turning to part-time faculty for assistance. We need to be careful and make sure we are not relying on part-time faculty to the detriment of full-time faculty."

Shortly after Gottfredson's arrival at VCU last year, the College of Humanities and Sciences Faculty Council, led by its then-president, chemistry professor Sarah C. Rutan, began preparing a report on adjunct faculty use in the college.

"We wanted to look at the issues we thought would be important to (Gottfredson)," Rutan said. "We agreed that, because it is a national problem, we had to address the adjunct faculty situation."

The report the council submitted to Gottfredson included results of a survey of adjunct faculty in the college and "common sense" proposals such as parking passes for adjunct instructors, Rutan said.

Fine added that while Gottfredson's manner is quiet, "he is very smart and give good advice."

"I am very impressed by his commitment to teaching," Fine said. "It's not just rhetorical with him. He truly believes that quality teaching is at the heart of what we do."

"He has been supportive and encouraging toward faculty research and our work with the Hurston/Wright Foundation."

The Hurston/Wright Foundation, founded by VCU English professor Marita Golden, supports emerging African-American fiction writers. The university has partnered with the foundation to sponsor annual awards and week-long summer writers' workshops.

"We're very proud of our involvement with the Hurston/Wright Foundation,"

Gottfredson said. "These kind of cooperations are terribly important. The program not only attempts to recognize African-American writers, but also encourages development of interest in African-American literature."

Fine and Jay S. Albanese, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice & Public Safety, both cited Gottfredson's assistance in acquiring photocopies for their departments as examples of his interest in and understanding of their needs.

"He has been extremely helpful," Albanese said. "Our old copier broke down almost every week. He helped us secure a new one, along with new computers for a few of our faculty members. These are things that are vital to the day-to-day operations of our department."

"This dean seems to have a vision for where he wants the college to move and he is making the best of the resources available to him."

Gottfredson, who has a Ph.D. in psychology from Johns Hopkins University, said he has a mission, made up of three components, for the College of Humanities and Sciences. Those three components are instruction, scholarship and public service.

"I am going to do everything I can," he said, "to see that the college clearly demonstrates excellence across all three components."

"Obviously, there may be a tendency, in any particular program, to focus on one or two of those components and place less emphasis on the third."

"For example, I can understand how the biology department might concentrate more on instruction and scholarship than on public service. In the same way, the School of Mass Communications might tend to place a larger emphasis on public service."

Both these departments are doing a fine job in all three areas, but it is my goal to have equal emphasis placed on the three components throughout the college."

Gottfredson said he wants the college, made up of 13 departments, 5 programs and the School of Mass Communications, and with an enrollment of 7,450 undergraduate and graduate students, to fulfill its role in the university's strategic plan and be firmly recognized as the heart of VCU.

He also said he knows there are obstacles in the path of such an advancement.

"We are confronted by many challenges," he said. "Not the least of which are budget limitations, legislative problems and the recent politically-motivated calls for financial accountability in higher education."

"As dean, I have to help minimize the influence of disturbing factors on the faculty and students."

"At the same time, we have to educate people outside the university community about what goes on inside. In order to meet our goals, we need their help and support."

"Gottfredson is the first dean in my memory who has really focused on our overuse of adjunct faculty to teach lower level classes. Though he is limited by budget concerns, he has really made this issue a priority."

Richard Fine
English department chair

MANSON RETURNS

*You'd better not pout ...
the Guru of Goth is comin' to town*

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Legend is a powerful thing.

But so is truth. And the truth is, Marilyn Manson has come a long way from the days after first forming the band that carries his adopted name.

Those were the days when he often slashed himself with razor blades on stage.

Today, his band sells millions of albums. He has been the subject of scads of articles and several books. Controversy loves him. Many hate him. Others just don't understand him.

He's come a long way.

Drugs and Satanism

But not that far, at least according to several recent accounts.

The scars remain.

Marilyn Manson is not real. Theater of the bazaar set to music, it's an act that borrows from many sources. David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust. Alice Cooper. The New York Dolls - and even Kiss - have also contributed in the making of Manson.

Indeed, the character is not some crazed-brain concoction.

Or is he.

Read the deluge of magazine and newspaper articles over the past couple of years, for example, and it's pretty easy to see why so many may believe the worst about Manson.

He has openly admitted to his love and use of drugs. Last month during an interview with Rolling Stone's Chris Heath, Manson and bandmate Twiggy, gathered around "rivulets of cocaine" as the Manson song "I Don't Like The Drugs (But The Drugs Like Me)," played on a nearby stereo.

In his recently published book written with rock journalist Neil Strauss, "The Long Hard Road Out Of Hell," Manson relates a number of stories that play firmly into the hands of his many detractors.

For example, while enjoying an October day off in San Francisco during the band's 1994 tour as the opening act for Nine Inch Nails, a meeting was arranged between Manson and the late Anton Szandor LaVey, founder and so-called high priest of the Church of Satan.

Manson - who writes in the book, "Christianity's war against the devil has always been a fight against a man's most natural instincts" and "The idea of heaven is just Christianity's way of creating a hell on earth" - says he became a Satanist "the day the allied forces of Christianity and conservatism" began to protest his concert appearances.

It was at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City, Utah that the aforementioned "forces" dropped in on Manson. Refusing

an offer of \$10,000 to not play, the band's namesake instead appeared with Trent Reznor's Nine Inch Nails. He proceeded to

rip apart, page by page, a copy of the Book of Mormon while repeating the phrase "He loves me, he loves me not."

Local police and religious officials were not thrilled.

Brian Warner

Before there was

Marilyn Manson there was Brian Warner, one-time Catholic school student from Canton, Ohio. Raised by Hugh and Barbara Warner, the boy's youth was quite tempestuous, according to Manson's book and several recently published articles.

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Perhaps the discovery helps to explain Manson's controversial behavior as an adult.

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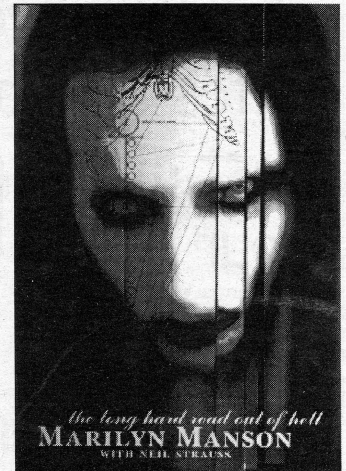
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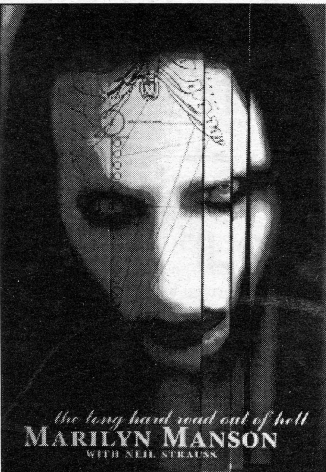


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U2: Lost boys

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

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Then, just as the Reagan administration was about to complete its eight-year tenure, in 1987 U2 released its vision of America, the masterful "Joshua Tree" album.

Tracks such as "With Or Without You" struck for the heart while fiery tunes like "Where The Streets Have No Name" prodded the collective's intellect. America was bared for all to see through the cognizant eyes of U2. The disturbing-to-gorgeous view spoke with the eloquence of a poet with an ear firm to the ground.

U2's voice was loud and clear. Bono's to-the-heart crooning coupled with The Edge's slash-and-burn guitar, made the band's sound stand alone. Its lyrics made the band important. Together, U2 burrowed its way to the top of a short pile of great '80s bands.

Soon thereafter, the crash came. The 1990s have not been nearly as kind to the band of Irishmen. Its concert tours now pack stadiums. Its records still sell well. And its name is globally known. So what's the problem, you may wonder?

Not since the band's 1988 live album, "Rattle And Hum," have they recorded songs that stuck like a nasty thorn in the side that invoked notice and raised eyebrows.

Oh, sure, U2 have enjoyed a few moments since the '80s. Its album "Zooropa" spawned several memorable tracks, most notable "The Wanderer" with country legend Johnny Cash. And its "Zoo TV" tour of the world was a resounding financial success.

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And for 90 minutes, stretched through 13 songs, the rotund legend known as 'The King of the Blues,' polished his crown to a sparkling sheen.

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Intercollegiate athletics: Good PR or waste of money?

Justin Wilson

Name recognition the name of the athletics game for VCU

The perpetual argument over intercollegiate athletics centers on whether universities should be spending the money that they do in order to finance games. Those against spending this money will say that it can better be utilized for the true purpose of academic institutions, academics. Yet, as often is the case with many topics, the fallacy here is the failure to see the big picture.

VCU is a special situation. We don't have a football team, and we honestly don't have a highly successful basketball team; we really don't have a "cash-cow" athletic team. Some of our teams do generate moderate revenue but it is hardly significant enough to call athletics a great economic boon for VCU. We spend almost \$2 million a year on athletics if you include the athletic scholarship money that is distributed. Is this justified? I would argue it is.

There are certain benefits that are not necessarily as tangible as pure revenue is, and these benefits are what make athletics at VCU important and necessary. At a school like VCU, where our name recognition is probably the biggest barrier against recruitment of students, the fact that we can inject our name into arenas not limited to academics is a benefit to recruitment and makes all of our degrees become more important as we carry them out into the working world.

Take for example Radford University, located a bunch of miles to the west of our VCU campus. This past year, they emerged a relative unknown from the Big South conference in men's basketball and earned their first berth into the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship Tournament. As a result, Radford earned nationwide exposure and gained an integral, but unexpected recruiting tool at their

disposal. It made students who had never heard of Radford aware of it. It also gave those who had opinions of Radford already a chance to re-examine their opinions. In any event, it was a positive all around for Radford.

Yet, the recruiting aspect of athletics is hardly the most important. The most important aspect of athletics is that by dispensing athletic scholarships and by giving preferential admissions to athletes, VCU is giving students who otherwise wouldn't have a chance at attaining a college education that opportunity. This primarily benefits those who are economically disadvantaged and would need such a helping hand to get their education. With a commitment toward emphasizing the "student" in "student-athlete," VCU can make athletics a force for good off the field as well as on.

In a few months, VCU will open the Siegel Center on the West Broad Street corridor. This building, which already is quite impressive on an otherwise unexciting West Broad Street, will give VCU a landmark to tie to the academics that VCU pushes. Now those who sell VCU as a place for academic enrichment will have another landmark to point to in order to impress prospective students.

Athletics gives VCU exposure on alternate stages, and this infuses pride among the student body. As intangible as "pride" may be, when a VCU student succeeds on any stage, athletics or academic, we all look better in turn.

Having successful academics and a thriving athletics program is not mutually exclusive. We need not to be fighting over dollars but figuring out ways to better utilize both aspects of VCU to better VCU as a whole.

Chris Woodford

Athletics wastes money that could be put to better use

Professional athletes make millions of dollars playing before hundreds of thousands of rabid, screaming fans each year. Most of those professionals played at the college level before reaching the pros. But a new trend plagues the athletics world now: the trend of leaving college early to enter the professional world.

This disturbing trend brings us to the topic of the day. Why do colleges and universities, places dedicated to knowledge and learning, continue to participate in intercollegiate sports? Why do they continue to throw money at talented young men and women who will leave their institutions early without learning a thing?

Intercollegiate sports sucks money from the budgets of institutions that are already strapped for cash. These sports bring in students that are not interested in the learning part of college. These students come to college for a chance to make it to the professional level of athletics.

Look at VCU. This university will spend an estimated \$30 million on the new Siegel Center, a big building for a mediocre basketball team. Couldn't the university find something better to spend \$30 million on then a gym?

How about medical research at MCV? Last I heard, the human race still hasn't come up with a cure for cancer. Oh, and then there's that pesky little virus AIDS. I think it's still bothering a few people in the world.

Just think how many professors, computers, research labs or parking spaces could be funded with the combined salaries of the athletic department staff. It's a staggering amount.

Speaking of waste of money, perhaps the best example is the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the govern-

ing body of college athletics. This group spends money hand over fist to ensure that member universities don't break any of its rules, which vary from recruiting to class attendance and performance. What does this do for a university? Nothing. Unless of course a university is caught cheating. That ruins the reputation of said university. Well, at least for a few years while the school is on probation.

And what does the university get out of intercollegiate athletics? A reputation as a poor competitor? An empty trophy case? Ridicule from other universities?

How about the athletes themselves? What do they get? Half an education, that's what. If they don't leave school early for the pros (an unlikely event at VCU), then they miss half of their classes because they're on the road competing at other universities. Why is it that athletes get special privileges in classes with an attendance policy while regular students don't?

The answers to these questions boils down to the illogical idea that a university benefits from athletics. Universities seem to think that students who are serious about learning will pick a school based on the performance of the football team, or basketball team or baseball team. Poppycock! Students who are serious about attending an institution of higher learning don't give a hoot about whether or not the team made the NCAA playoffs! The only thing a successful athletic team will attract is more athletes.

So I say cancel intercollegiate athletics. Put the money wasted on these sports to better use. Cure some funky disease. Find a better way to build roads, so we don't have to dodge potholes when we drive in Richmond. Or give scholarships to students who have truly earned them through academic performance.

The CT week before last received a letter to the editor concerning our coverage. Unfortunately, the signature was illegible and there was no phone number.

As our policy is to publish only signed letters, we would very much appreciate it if the writer of this letter could contact us, either by phone, e-mail or in person. Our offices are in Temple 1149, our phone number is 828-1058 and the e-mail address is s2cwwood@titan.vcu.edu.

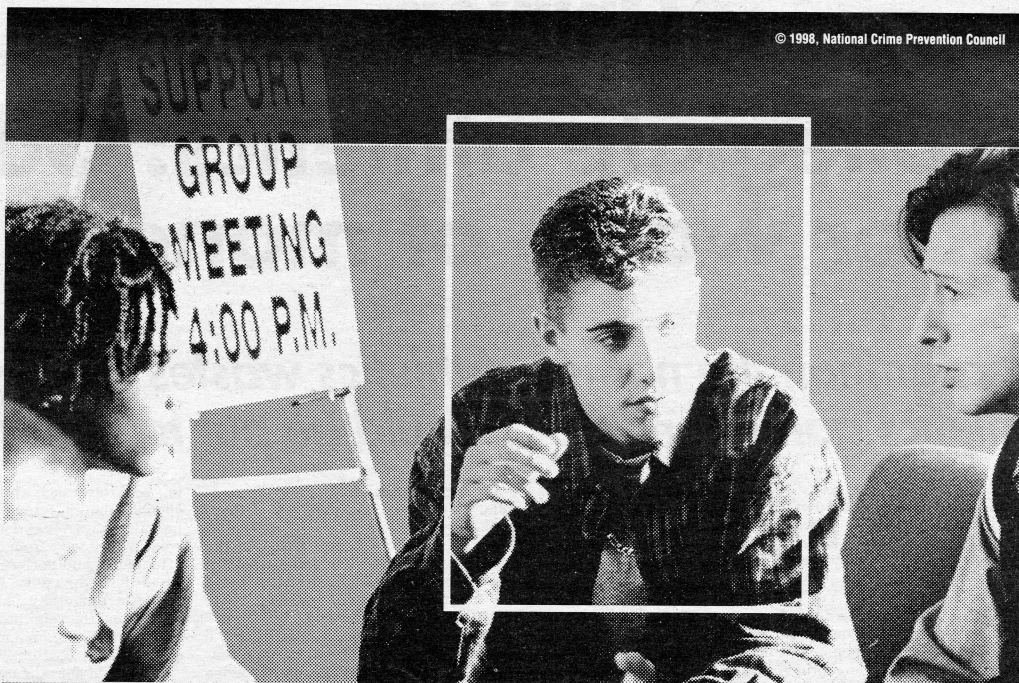
Commonwealth Times

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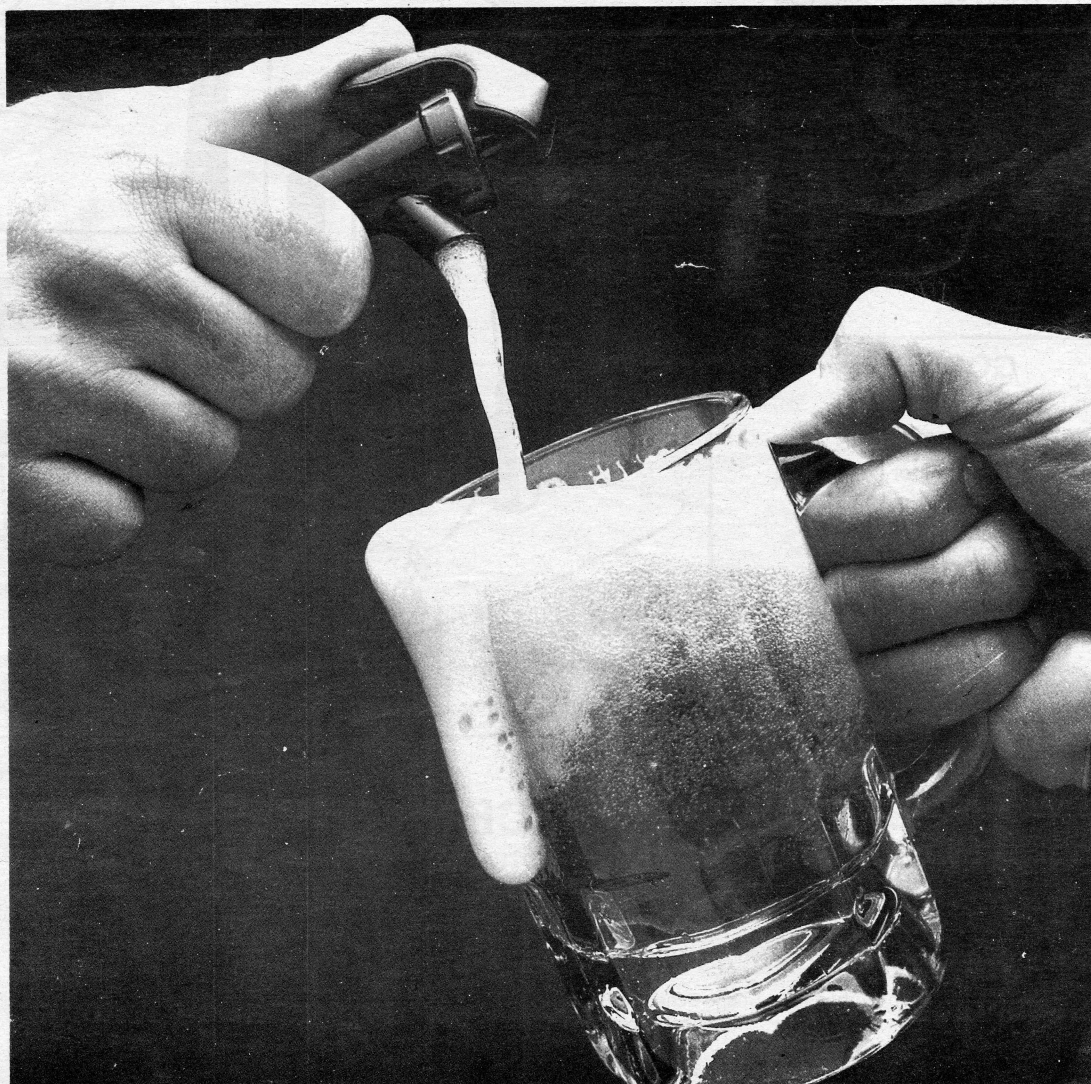
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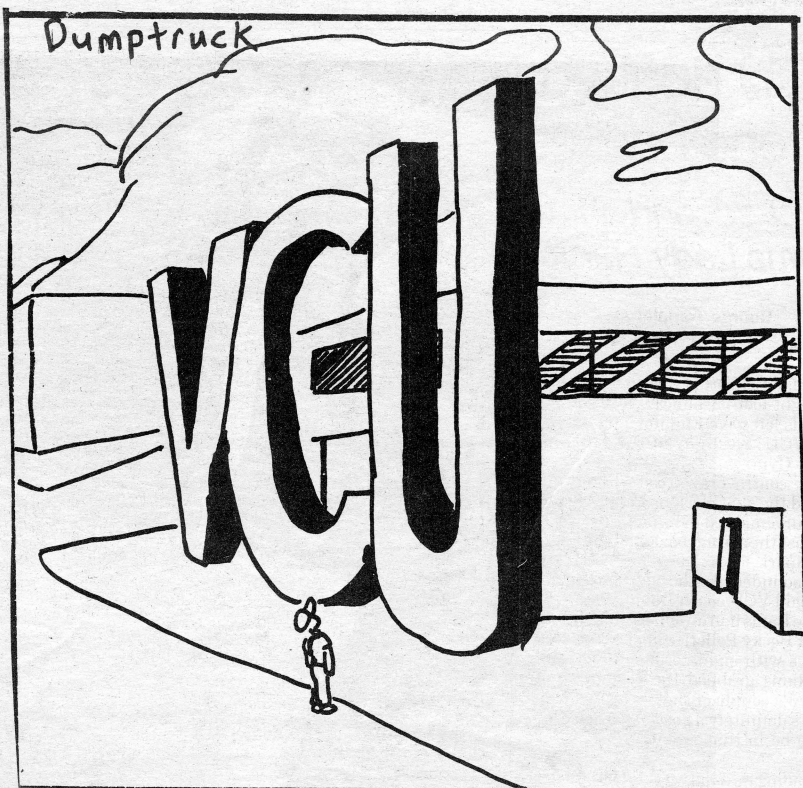
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ANNOUNCEMENT!

SPRING REGISTRATION 1999

Monday - Friday, October 26 - 30 --- Advising for Spring semester.

Tuesday, November 3 --- Spring Schedule Book available at VCU website

Tuesday, November 10 --- Spring Schedule Books will be available for pick-up in Room 104 of Founders Hall, the school or college of your major, and in the University Student Commons.

Wednesday, November 11 --- Advance Spring registration begins for University Honors students, and students with disabilities.

Wednesday, November 18 --- Advance Spring telephone registration begins for students in accordance with the following timetable:

G1, G3
Post Baccalaureate Certificate Seekers
Seniors
Juniors
Sophomores
Freshmen
Special Graduates
Special Undergraduates

Wednesday, November 18
Friday, November 20
Friday, November 20
Tuesday, November 24
Monday, November 30
Thursday, December 3
Wednesday, December 9
Wednesday, December 9

Telephone registration hours:

Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Phone registration number: (804) 828-1495

If you have any questions, please call Records and Registration at 828-1341.

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, ethnic origin, or disability. If special accommodations are required, please contact Henri-Elta Burke at 828-2021.

Ram Stat

VCU women's basketball has only one 20-win season in its history -- 1995.

Monday, November 9, 1998

Sports

Commonwealth Times 15

Upcoming

Picks standings, results from the season finale of volleyball, and a preview of the soccer tournament and the basketball season.

VCU dunked by one basket

Last-second shot slams Lady Rams

George Templeton
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Finland's Reetta Pilpari's controversial eight-foot-baseline jumper with 11 seconds left gave Finland a 69-68 win over VCU Saturday at the Franklin Street Gym.

The controversy arose when it appeared the shot clock had expired and the ball remained in Pilpari's hands. It was just the second basket of the game for Pilpari.

"It sounded like the buzzer had gone off," said VCU coach David Glass.

The Rams had an opportunity to win it, but Becky Pelletier missed two free throws with eight seconds to go, and the Rams grabbed the rebound and missed a couple of shots.

"It's definitely a good experience for me to be in that situation," Pelletier said.

Leading Finland was Mia Parvianen with 20 points and Paula Penttila and Hanna Rotinen with 16 points each.

The Rams were led by Mona Karlsson who had 14 points, Marika Rasmussen, who recorded a double-double (13 points and 10 rebounds), and 11 points from Pelletier.

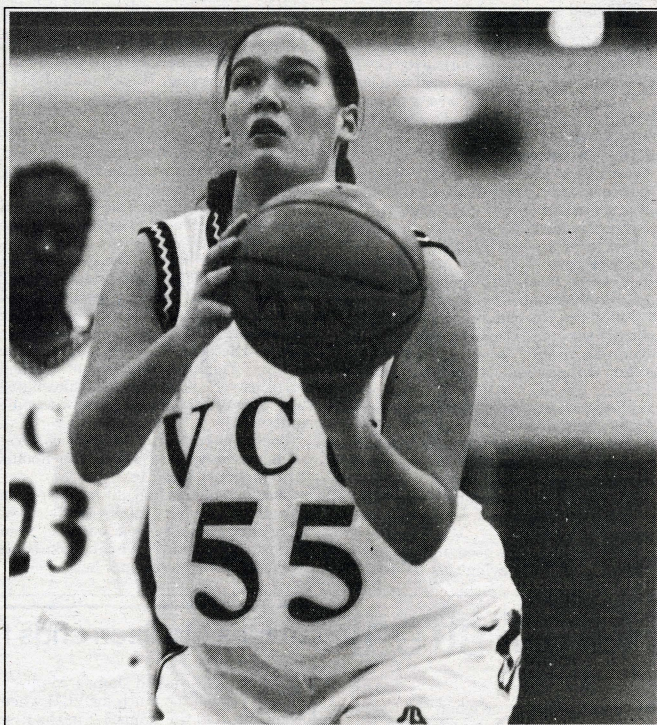
The game was nip-and-tuck early on. Rotinen had eight early points as Finland took a 12-10 lead.

A three-point play by Pelletier began a 17-0 run for VCU that gave the Rams its biggest lead of the game 27-12. The key to the run was a defense that didn't yield a field goal for nearly five minutes.

"We really played defense with intensity in the first half," Glass said.

Pelletier agreed saying, "We wanted to focus on playing tough defense, and I think we did that in the first half."

A Parvianen three pointer broke the run and Finland went on its own 14-4



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

SETTIN' UP. With eight seconds left on the clock, freshman forward Becky Pelletier concentrates on shooting the free throw.

run to close out the half down 31-26.

The second half saw Finland shoot 55.6 percent (15-27) from the field and 90.9 percent (10-11) from the free-throw line to key its victory.

"I think as the game wore on we lost a little bit of our focus and intensity on defense," Glass said. "They are a very difficult team to play, because they play a European style of fast break and a lot of running. They had Rotinen who forced Mona (Karlsson) to play defense 25 feet from the basket and could drive to the basket."

This game was the first action in a competitive situation for VCU's freshman class. Rochelle Luckett started in the backcourt, while Pelletier, Juritus Thompson and Jackie Edwards came off the bench. Besides Pelletier's 11

points, Luckett led the Rams with six assists and four steals, Thompson scored five points and had two steals, and Edwards scored three points and grabbed three rebounds.

"The freshman did fine," Glass said. "It's nice to get them some competition and get the jitters out."

Glass limited what the Rams tried to run.

"This game and the game on Wednesday is a practice test for Wake Forest," Glass said. "We didn't do half the things we've worked on in practice because we're working on stuff for Wake Forest."

VCU's last exhibition game begins at 7 p.m., Wednesday against Kazakhstan at the Franklin Street Gym.

Tribe ends it for the Rams

George Templeton
CT SPORTS EDITOR

In 1997 the VCU women's soccer team was defeated 6-0 on Oct. 28 by the William and Mary Tribe. The Rams then had to face William and Mary in a No. 2 seed versus No. 7 seed matchup in the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament just eight days later at W and M. The Tribe ended the Rams season by blanking them 3-0.

This year VCU ended the regular season with a 1-0 loss to the Tribe on Oct. 28. Six days later the Rams once again drew a first-round matchup in the CAA tournament with the Tribe.

The song remained the same for VCU.

Led by two goals from Avery Willis and three assists from Janet Sury, the Tribe ended the Rams' season for the second consecutive year with a 5-0 romp over VCU in the first round of the CAA tournament in Virginia Beach. The Tribe's next opponent in the tournament was George Mason, a 1-0 winner over East Carolina.

"We came out flat and played with fear," said VCU coach Sue Vodicka.

The W and M barrage began against VCU in similar fashion to the way they had defeated the Rams the week before. In the first game with the Tribe, they scored their only goal when Missy Wycinsky's free kick deflected off a VCU player and into the net past the charging VCU goalkeeper, Lindy Brown.

It happened again just 11:17 into the match.

Wycinsky took a pass from Sury and launched a shot that Brown saved and pushed wide. As the ball went wide, it hit VCU defender Darcy Roy and went into the net to give the Tribe a 1-0 advantage.

"That's the second straight game we have given up an 'own' goal," Vodicka said. "You can't give up that kind of goal early to a team like W and M, because they will take advantage of it and jump all over you. It also hurts because we're not a high-scoring team and that puts a lot of pressure on us when we fall behind early."

That goal became the first of three goals in a 9:15 span that put this game out of reach early.

The second goal started with Sury dribbling in the middle of the field, and she lofted a perfect pass to Carrie Moore, who

WOMEN'S SOCCER continued to page 16

Men's soccer sinks Pirates, wins CAA title

The VCU men's soccer team clinched the Colonial Athletic Association regular season title by shutting out the East Carolina Pirates 4-0 Friday in Greenville, N.C.

The Rams finished the regular season 11-4-3 overall and were undefeated in the CAA with a 7-0-1 record.

Senior Trevor Spencer scored first for VCU off a penalty kick less than one minute into the match.

Kevin Jeffrey scored the Ram's second goal off a cross from senior Dwayne Bergeron, extending his goal scoring streak to three games.

Jeffrey's nine goals leads the Rams in scoring this season.

Junior Ricardo Capilla made the score

3-0 early in the second half when he tallied his sixth goal of the season off an assist from Jeffrey.

Bergeron scored the final goal of the game unassisted with less than two minutes left on the clock to complete the shut-out.

Goalkeeper Adam Mead recorded his fifth shutout of the season as the Ram's allowed ECU only two shots.

VCU totaled 17 shots with eight of them coming from Bergeron and Jeffrey.

VCU will stand as the top seeded team in the CAA tournament that begins Thursday at the SportsPlex in Virginia Beach.

The Ram's opponent has yet to be determined.

—compiled from news sources

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			NOTES
MEN'S SOCCER (11-4-3, 7-0-1)	Nov. 10-15 CAA TOURNAMENT			THE RAMS' SEVEN CONFERENCE WINS SET A SCHOOL RECORD.
WOMEN'S SOCCER (7-9-2, 2-5-1)	SEASON COMPLETED			VCU'S TWO TIES THIS YEAR MAKES A SCHOOL RECORD.
VOLLEYBALL (8-19, 1-10)	Nov. 9 HAMPTON	Nov. 10 W&M	Nov. 20-22 CAA TOUR.	THE LADY RAMS WILL FINISH SEVENTH IN THE CAA THIS YEAR.
FIELD HOCKEY (8-11, 1-5)	SEASON COMPLETED			VCU'S EIGHT VICTORIES THIS YEAR EQUALS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VICTORIES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.
MEN'S BASKETBALL (0-0, 0-0)	Nov. 13 UVA	Nov. 18 WKU	Nov. 21 SOUTH'N ILLINOIS	VCU IS 1-9 ALL-TIME AGAINST VIRGINIA WITH THE ONLY WIN ⁰ IN 1990.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (0-0, 0-0)	Nov. 14 WFU	Nov. 21 RIDER	Nov. 24 UVA	THE LADY RAMS' HAVE NEVER BEATEN WAKE FOREST (0-5).

■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME

Rams buckle in exhibition games

JW Revercomb
CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS
EDITOR

The VCU men's basketball team struggled again Saturday in exhibition action losing to CSKA Ukraine 110-86.

It became the second straight game that the Rams allowed the opposition to shoot over 50 percent from the field.

The Ukrainian team proved especially effective from the perimeter, shooting 50 percent behind the three-point line and connecting 17 of 34 attempts.

"We gotta figure out whether that was them being great or us being poor," head coach Mack McCarthy said of the defensive effort.

VCU again had difficulty rotating out of double teams to cover the perimeter, particularly on the left side.

CSKA forward Igor Vatazhok was especially brutal on the Rams, knocking down nine of his 16 three-point attempts and finishing with 40 points. Most of those shot attempts came from the left wing and baseline where Vatazhok was repeatedly left open.

Rams rookie forward Shawn Hampton acknowledged Vatazhok's performance to great passing and the fact that VCU used different player combinations on the floor.

"We had several different guys on the court," he said. "We knew he was there but they just had great ball movement."

Guard Bo Jones, who led the Rams with 17 points, said the defense is off by a step.

"Coach told us that the wrong man was going to the corner and that's where most of their shots come from," he said. "Our defense is only off by one man."

Defense wasn't the only problem on Saturday. The Rams shot just 39 percent from the field in the first half and 40 percent for the game.

The team passed the ball around well and took good shots, said McCarthy, but they didn't shoot with much confidence, and the shots didn't go down.

"We shoot the ball well in practice, and early in the game I thought we were doing everything right," he said, "but when I looked at the scoreboard we were down 8-4."

There were some positive happenings in the game for VCU.

The Rams out rebounded the Ukrainian team 46-39 and had a 21-11 edge on the offensive glass.

Rookie forwards Hampton and Reggie Okosa combined for 17 rebounds and 19 points.

Hampton looked good in the second half. He finished having shot 3-6 with 14

points and nine rebounds and played only 14 minutes.

"I play with a little more enthusiasm in the second half," he said of his two performances this season. "Coach told me to go to the glass more in the second half, and I was able to score."

In Sunday's game against Court Authority, Hampton played well in the second half scoring 11 points and grabbing five boards.

Hampton looked more comfortable at the line on Saturday making 8 of his 13 free throw attempts, which was an improvement from last week.

"My first college game I was nervous," he said. "As the season goes on I'll feel more comfortable playing in the college atmosphere."

Guard Scott Lilly had a good game. He shot five of eight for 15 points and tallied four assists. Rookie center L.F. Likholitov shot three of four and finished with nine points.

The Rams begin their regular season at 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 13, at the Robins Center against Virginia.

"Virginia has a small quick lineup with four guards and one center; that's something we haven't seen before," said McCarthy. "Hopefully we can make some progress between now and then."

WOMEN'S SOCCER continued from page 15
made no mistake and blasted it by Brown.

Lindsay Nohl scored the third goal. Nohl caught Brown charging the ball out of the net and she struck it right over Brown and into the net for the 3-0 lead.

The fourth goal was the strangest one of the day. Avery Willis dribbled the ball, and from 30 yards out, fired a pass into the box. The ball took a funny bounce and went into the net by Brown who was caught going the wrong way.

The half ended with the Tribe up 4-0. Brown made eight saves for the Rams in the game despite not being completely healthy.

"Lindy (Brown) had a viral infection today," Vodka said. "We thought she might have had mono(nucleosis), but she gutted it out and played today."

In the second half, Willis finished off the scoring in the 53rd minute. Sury picked up the assist on the goal.

The loss left the Rams at 7-9-2 for the year, but Vodka said she was very pleased overall with the Rams' advancement.

"They did a great job considering that I didn't get here until March, and (VCU assistant coach) Skip (Thorp) didn't get here until August," Vodka said. "I think the team overcame a lot of my bad mistakes, and I've learned a lot this year."

Dukes break Rams' streak

George Templeton
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The VCU volleyball team stood in position to play spoiler in Saturday's match with the James Madison Dukes. JMU is currently locked in a battle with American for the regular season title and the top seed in the Colonial Athletic Association tournament. The Dukes entered the day with one loss as did American.

Not only did VCU have the chance to play spoiler but the Rams tried to win its third straight match, something VCU hasn't done since they won four straight matches in early September.

The Rams didn't do either as the Dukes completed its conference schedule by sweeping away the Rams 15-6, 15-5, 15-6.

"We didn't play consistently today," Carlson said. "JMU played well, but we made a lot of mistakes."

The Dukes (11-1 CAA, 20-5) jumped on the Rams early in game one. JMU built an 8-3 lead early before the Rams cut the lead to 8-4 on a Kristen Didio tip.

The Dukes scored four straight points on the strength of two Alaina Wilson aces and a kill from Karla Gessler, who had 12 kills on the day.

VCU closed the gap back to 12-6, but the Dukes scored the last three points to close out game one.

The second game was a pitched battle early. The game tied at one and at two before an error by the Rams and an ace from Gessler made it 4-2.

VCU cut the lead to one when Taryn Kirk's tip went wide. The Dukes stretched the lead to 7-3 thanks to kills from Kirk and Lindsay Collingwood, who led with 16 kills, and a VCU error.

JMU was called for a net violation, and the Rams only trailed 7-4. The rest of the game belonged to the Dukes, who out scored VCU 8-1 to close the game.

The run began with an ace by Wilson and a Gessler block. It became 10-4 thanks to a VCU error, and the Rams scored their

last point in the game when Collingwood committed an error to make it 10-5.

The Dukes scored the last five points thanks to three aces combined from Collingwood and Gianino.

"JMU didn't do anything different in the match," Didio said. "We just seemed a little flat."

The last game of the match began auspiciously for the Rams. After a block by Gessler and Sara Kidd gave the Dukes a 1-0 lead, VCU scored three straight points on a block and a service ace from Baiba Berzina, in addition to a kill down the line from Didio.

The Dukes responded by scoring the next eight points. The run began with a pair of aces from Gianino that tied the game at three.

The Dukes took the lead on a kill by Mandy Carter and increased their lead to 5-3 when Carter and Collingwood combined for a block. The Rams called a timeout but the deluge continued.

Two VCU errors made it 7-3, a Wilson tip made it 8-4, and the run completed with a kill from Collingwood.

An ace from Summer Segars broke the dry spell, but a kill from Collingwood made it 10-4. VCU cut the deficit to 11-6 but didn't score again as the Dukes ran out to a 15-6 win that ended the match.

"JMU played very well. They didn't play great but they played good," Carlson said. "JMU didn't make a lot of mistakes, when they did, we would give it right back to them. They took advantage of our mistakes."

The Dukes recorded 54 kills in 95 attempts with only five errors.

VCU's next match starts at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 9 at Hampton. The Rams play their season finale at 7 p.m., the following night at the Franklin Street Gym against conference rival William and Mary.

"We really want to beat William and Mary," Didio said. "So we can have some momentum and can hold our heads up high going into the CAA tournament."

James Madison ends field hockey season 4-1

The ninth-ranked James Madison Dukes proved too much for VCU when they defeated the Rams 4-1 in the first round of the Colonial Athletic Association field hockey championship on Friday afternoon.

JMU outshot the Rams 28-6 and had a 19-4 advantage in penalty corners.

Senior Tara Nappi put JMU on the board when she scored her thirteenth goal of the season off a turnover with 23:17 left in the first half.

Just over six minutes later the Dukes made the score 2-0 when Katrina Hunter converted off a penalty corner from Nicole Gaudette and Sara Perilla.

Sophomore goalkeeper Jennifer Burrough kept the Rams close for most of the first half and finished with 13 saves.

VCU had a chance to cut the lead to 2-1 in the final minute with a penalty corner, but the Rams couldn't convert. Seconds later Julie Weiss redirected a

Nappi shot to make the half-time score 3-0.

In the first half the Rams were outshot 15-2, and James Madison had a 9-1 advantage in penalty corners.

James Madison scored again with 14:24 remaining in the game when Liz Sanders scored her tenth goal of the season off a Coleen Kreiger pass to make the score 4-0.

Three Rams seniors refused to let VCU be shut out. With just 1:30 left in the game Jenna Stewart scored her sixth goal of the season off a penalty corner from Courtney Cutchall and Colleen Engelhard.

JMU, the second seed, improved its record to 13-8 while the Rams ended their season at 8-12.

Stewart, Cutchall and Engelhard led VCU under coach Dawn Hill to its best record since the 1993 season.

—compiled from news sources

Tennis hits it big in indoor championships

Daniel Andersson and Lenka Zacharova both advanced to the quarterfinals in tennis tournaments this weekend.

Andersson, a junior from Stockholm, Sweden, advanced to the quarterfinals of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Region II Indoor Championships on Saturday afternoon by beating Asaf Drori of North Carolina in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.

The third-seeded Andersson began the tournament by defeating James Madison's Tim Brown 62, 6-1 in the first round on Friday and beat Andres Pedrosa of Duke in three sets 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round Saturday morning.

Andersson played Wake Forest's Myles Clouston in the quarterfinals Sunday.

The sixteenth-seeded Zacharova, a

sophomore from Bratislava, Slovak Republic, advanced to the quarterfinals of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association East Regional Championships with a 6-1, 7-6 win over Jyotsna Vasisht of Princeton. Zacharova beat Penn's Karin Ridley in straight sets 6-4, 6-2 in the second round earlier in the day.

Zacharova faced top-seeded Meg Griffin from Maryland Sunday morning.

In other tennis action, Johan Barras and Myla Teterina both lost second round matches Saturday.

Barras lost to Joao Leite of Winthrop in straight sets 6-4, 6-1 at the Region II Championships and Teterina lost to eighth-seeded Lorraine Bittles of Maryland in three sets 2-6, 7-6, 6-2 at the east regional.

—compiled from news sources