

TUES: You are my
sunshine ...
High 51, low 34.

WED: It must be
raindrops ...
High 55, low 35.

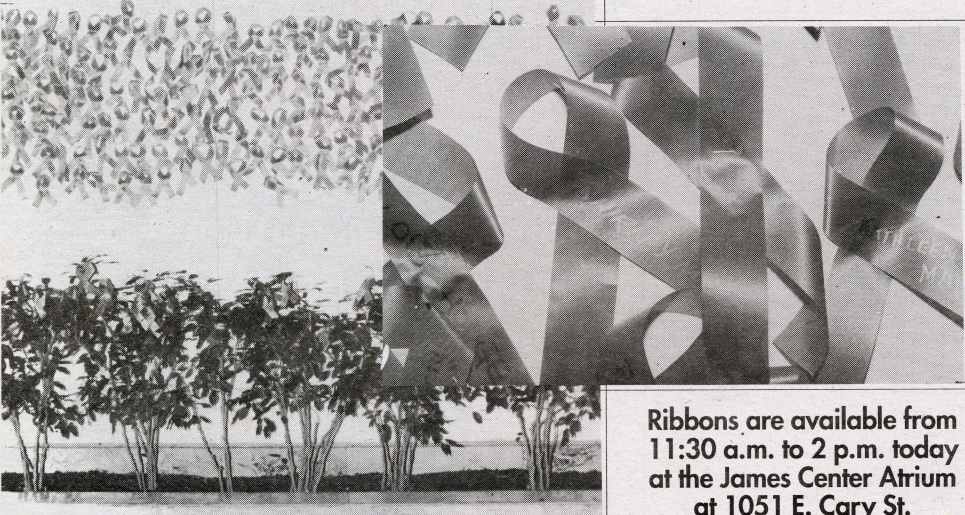
Monday, February 14, 2000

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol 32, No. 7

OMNI RICHMOND HOTEL
supports
VCU's Massey Cancer Center's
"Wall of Courage"

Ribbons for Research 2000 presented by The Junior League of Richmond and
The Board for Women's Health. Proceeds benefit breast cancer research.



Ribbons help cancer center

Pink ribbons cover the "Wall of Courage" at the James Center. With the purchase of a \$10 ribbon, a person can honor a Valentine and also benefit the Breast Cancer Research Program at the Massey Cancer Center.

Ribbons are available from
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today
at the James Center Atrium
at 1051 E. Cary St.

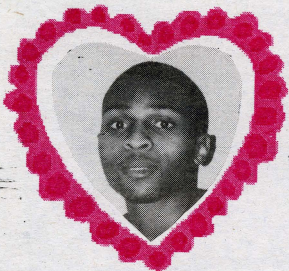
African-American leader



**William Edward
Burghardt Du Bois**
(1868-1963)

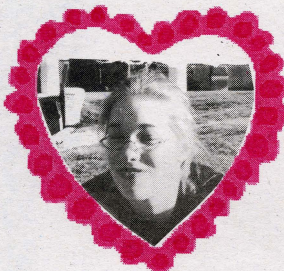
W.E.B Du Bois spent his life
fighting racial prejudice.
He was a founder of the
NAACP (National Association
for the Advanced
of Colored People).

What will you do on Valentine's Day?



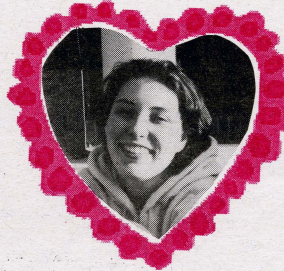
"I will be going out to
dinner and a movie with
a girlfriend."

Corey Clark



"I will be having a
candlelit dinner at
McDonald's with my
boyfriend."

Laura Froelke



"I'm going on a field
trip to the Federal Re-
serve with my friend."

Jen Ozmun



"I will be at home by
myself wishing I could
be with someone."

Tarik Kilgore

College Briefs

• Play aims to fight violence at Brown U.

Men and women alike crowded into Brown University's Rites and Reason Theatre on Thursday evening for opening night of a student production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues."

The play intends to help stop violence against women by raising awareness of this social evil, and consists of vignettes, based upon Ensler's interviews with over 200 women.

"The Vagina Monologues" is the first installment of the Vagina Events, a series of ongoing campus activities.

Thirteen female students performed the monologues, which ranged from brief facts about vaginas, to complex scenes about power, orgasms, rape, menstruation, sexuality, and birth. To deal with the varied issues raised throughout the performance, the Vagina Group, an organization of Brown students working to stop violence against women, had coordinated support groups where audience members could speak with counselors following the performance.

Counselors were also available at either door to help anyone who felt the need to leave early.

• Faculty urge N.Y. university to withdraw scholarship

The St. Bonaventure University Faculty Senate unanimously passed a motion Friday encouraging the university to cancel its hosting of the March 18 Miss Southern Tier pageant, however, the university said it has no plans to do so.

Barbara Sorochty, vice president for public relations, said the pageant will go on as planned because the organization has an agreement with the Campus Activities Board.

The motion also "strongly urges" the university to withdraw scholarship funds for the contest winner and "agree never to host a beauty contest in the future, as it is contrary to our mission statement."

"(A pageant) really violates our mission statement in terms of encouraging intellectual and spiritual development of the students and everyone on campus," said Maureen Cox, a senate member who proposed the motion. "I think beauty pageants in general are very narrow minded and only tend to look at a person in a single way."

Jon Boeckenstedt, vice president for enrollment, said he offered the scholarship

because he thought the winner would be articulate and demonstrate poise.

• Duke remembers 30-year-old integration

According to Legacy—a publication celebrating 30 years of black students at Duke—the University's official integration policy was instituted March 8, 1961, when the Board of Trustees announced students would be admitted to the University's graduate and professional schools without regard to race, creed or national origin.

University Archivist Bill King said this move came after years of attempts to change the policy, most of which came from the Divinity School. King said the final integration decision was probably motivated by moral concerns, the fear that the federal government would withdraw funding from the school and a change in the makeup of the University's governing body.

Mary Mitchell Harris, one of the first five black undergraduate students, said her initial welcome to Duke was positive. "It wasn't unnerving at all. It was great receptiveness," she said. More than anything else, Harris said, she was treated as a curiosity, but the students, especially

women, were well prepared for her arrival.

• Charges dismissed against Harvard's stowaway

B.J. Averell is now a free man. Two months after being arrested for sneaking onto a Delta Airlines flight, Delta and state prosecutors Wednesday agreed to drop all charges against him.

Last November 24, the Dunster House sophomore tried to board a Delta Express flight destined for Philadelphia. Though Averell had a ticket for the flight, airline officials told him that he had arrived at the Logan Airport gate too late and his seat had been given away to another passenger.

Averell whizzed past flight attendants, hopped over a metal security railing and boarded the plane anyway. He hid in the bathroom and was quickly discovered by flight attendants. Airport police arrested Averell for trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Ralph S. Boyd, Averell's attorney, said that the decision to dismiss the case was jointly reached by Delta, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office and the Averell family.

HOW TO REACH US

The Commonwealth Times publishes Mondays and Thursdays for distribution around VCU's Academic and Medical campuses and the Fan. Our offices are in Room 1149 of the T. Edward Temple Building, 901 W. Main St. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 842010, Richmond, Va. 23284-2010. Address comments, complaints or suggestions regarding the content of the news, sports and Spectrum sections to Tracey S. Wainwright. Address comments, complaints or suggestions regarding any other aspect of the CT to Elana P. Simms.

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VCU
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Looking for a
New Computer
Lab?
Recreational
Sports has one
located in the
Siegel Center,
Room 148

Open Now!
Computers available!
Pay for print coming soon!

Professor explores perceptions of reasoning, wisdom in Buddhism

Laura K. Davis
CT REPORTER

Daniel Perdue, professor of religious studies, examined the topic of "Reason in Tibetan Buddhism" Wednesday evening as part of VCU's fifth annual Reason, Wisdom and Spirituality lecture series.

Perdue, who specializes in Buddhism, joined the VCU's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies this year, said Peter Vallentyne, the department's chairman and a professor.

"I am greatly encouraged to see so many taking interest in Tibetan (issues)," said Perdue at the Jewish Community Center as he compared the cultural destruction of Tibet to the eradication of the tropical rainforests.

His lecture addressed spirituality, reason and wisdom in Tibetan Buddhism by examining views on the nature of spirituality, the limits and effectiveness of reason and the power of wisdom to free one from the cycle of rebirth, as well as death and suffering.

"Spirituality in Tibetan Buddhism assumes the basis of belief in a spirit, a part of one's own personality that survives past this lifetime," Perdue said.

The broader one's view of how things actually are, the more spiritually developed this person is, and "any religious system which is able to be ultimately effective must be in accordance with reality," he said. "Thus, one will not be able to achieve salvation or liberation through false views."

In Buddhism, reason and faith are compatible, added Perdue. The word "reason" is synonymous with "sign" in Tibetan Buddhism, and wisdom is knowledge of only the profound, or "emptiness" as the Buddhists call it. Perdue said wisdom also frees one from the round of rebirth in Buddhism.

"Wisdom does not arise spontaneously but depends on the bases of ethics and concentration," said Perdue. Reason and wisdom relate through seven different states of consciousness. One may have consciousness in relation to a specific belief or object, he added.

For instance, one state of consciousness is wrong consciousness. Wrong consciousness does not agree with fact. Examples of this are seeing blue snow on the mountains



Daniel Perdue, professor
Department of Philosophy
and Religious Studies

from a distance, or, Perdue said, believing that the Earth is flat.

Vallentyne organizes the annual Reason, Wisdom and Spirituality lecture series, in which a lecture is held every week for four weeks on a "topic for a good talk on spirituality, philosophy or public policy," he said.

"It's really a dynamic series," said Patty Worley, coordinator of conferences and special programs in VCU's Office of Community Programs.

"(It's) very successful. Eighty to 100 people usually show up," added Vallentyne.

Lectures in this series typically last 40 minutes, then the audience has the opportunity ask the speaker questions. Refreshments are served afterward.

The lectures take place at the Jewish Community Center on Monument Avenue from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Wednesday of the four week session. The next lecture in the series on Feb. 16 will feature Barbara Hartung, a criminal defense lawyer specializing in capital cases. She will speak about "Tinkering with the Machinery of Death." For more information, call Worley at (804) 828-1831.

"Spirituality in Tibetan Buddhism assumes the basis of belief in a spirit, a part of one's own personality that survives past this lifetime."

Academic Success Workshops for February

Time Management
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 17

Multiple-Choice Exams
Noon to 1 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 21

Multiple-Choice Exams
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 24

How to Maintain Focus Through Note Taking
Noon to 1 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 28

Government, politics lecture series begins

Va. Tech instructor compares political systems of the East, West

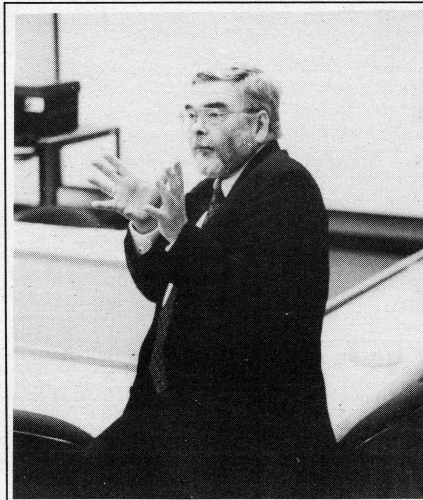
By Rama C. Van Pelt
CT REPORTER

VCU's Department of Political Science and Public Administration held its first spring lecture on Wednesday in the Forum Room of the Commons. The lecturer, guest speaker Charles Taylor, professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, addressed the emerging political party systems of Eastern Europe.

Eastern Europe is not a homogeneous area, Taylor said, but rather an area composed of different degrees of democracy and different levels to which their economies have been liberalized. Taylor explained the importance of the concept of civil society in Eastern Europe, which fosters political relationships. He described four different cultural political zones of Eastern Europe, stating that the movement toward democratization increases when moving from Western to Eastern Europe countries due to their history and culture.

Taylor, who said he spends a great deal of time doing research in Germany, has served as chair of the Department of Political Science at Virginia Tech. Taylor earned his undergraduate degree from Carson Newman College and received his master's and doctoral degrees from Yale University. He has taught in various institutions in Germany, Hungary and Scotland and is also a writer.

The next speaker of the lecture series will be VCU Professor Judyth Twigg, who will discuss "The Russian Political Scene: What's Old, What's New, and What It All Means."



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

THE POLITICAL SCENE. Charles Taylor, professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, describes Eastern Europe's move toward democracy Wednesday in the Commons' Forum Room.



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

Betty Rollin, network-news correspondent, author and breast cancer survivor, spoke Tuesday at the annual Women and Wellness Luncheon. The event at the Jefferson Hotel benefited VCU's Massey Cancer Center.

Rollin serves as a contributing correspondent for NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw and also has worked for NBC's Today. Among her six books includes First You Cry, which told of her breast-cancer diagnosis and mastectomy. The book, published in 1976, was later made into a movie.

The Massey Cancer Center conducts cancer research and treatment.

Celebrate EVERY Body!

VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University

Body Acceptance Week February 14–18, 2000



Schedule of Events

*Where else could you have FUN,
get PRIZES and a FREE MASSAGE ?*

Monday February 14, 2000

Treat Yourself to a Valentine - Get a FREE MASSAGE with Andrew Payne (sponsored by the Office of Health Promotion). Learn about body image and eating habits. Test your own attitudes towards food and weight: Ask for a Screening Form. 11 am–2 pm, Commons Lobby Table

Video Presentation: Slim Hopes. 12–1 pm, Capital Room A

Presentation and Discussion: "What's in the Music? The message, the meaning and the impact." 1–2 pm, Capital Room A

H.E.A.L.T.H. meeting: A confidential support group on disordered eating. Any persons interested in the topic may attend. 7–8 pm, Metro Room, Commons

Tuesday February 15, 2000

Commons Lobby Table: Information and Screening Test available. 11 am–2 pm

THE BODY FAIR: Play games, make a collage, learn about exercise and healthy eating. Enter the raffle to win **FREE PRIZES**. Test your own attitudes towards food and weight: Ask for a Screening Form. Get a **FREE MASSAGE** with Andrew Payne (sponsored by Student Commons and Activities) 2–5 pm, Capital Rooms A - C, Commons

Keep Moving! Exercise class besides Body Fair. 3–4 pm, Capital Room D, Commons (tentative)

Presentation and Discussion: "What's in the Music? The message, the meaning and the impact." Snacks and refreshments served. 7:30–8:15 pm, Johnson Hall TV Lounge

Wednesday February 16, 2000

Commuter CoffeeBRAKE information table. 9–11 am, Commons Lobby

"Top 10 Foods" Led by Ukrops' Nutritionist. 1–2 pm, Common Ground

"kNOw Dieting!" A healthier approach to weight management. 7:30–8:30 pm, Commons (Room TBA)

Thursday February 17, 2000

Commons Lobby Table: Information and Screening Test available. 11 am–2 pm

"Mindful Eating" Learn to eat with full awareness so that mealtime is nourishing, relaxing and mindful. 12–1 pm, Capital Room C

"Should you Supplement your Diet?" Tracy Lamb. 1–2 pm, Capital Room C (tentative)

Presentation and Discussion: "What's in the Music? The message, the meaning and the impact." Snacks and refreshments served. 7:30–8:15 pm, Rhoads Hall Multipurpose Room

Friday February 18, 2000

Commons Lobby Table: Information and Screening Test available. 11 am–2 pm

FREE trial SPINNING class
at Cary Street Rec Center



For more info, call Eric at 827-0317

Events are subject to change. For last minute information, call 828-9355

Brought to you by:

Office of Health Promotion
Academic Campus: 828-9355

University Counseling Services
Academic Campus: 828-6200
MCV Campus: 828-3964

**University Student Commons
and Activities**

Academic Campus: 828-6500

Recreational Sports (Siegel Center)
Academic Campus: 827-1100

VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University
Division of Student Affairs

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THE VINE

Commonwealth Times

Trials and tribulations of the press

Jay-Anne Casuga
CT STAFF WRITER

The Times of the Times

Serving as the voice for the student body, the Commonwealth Times, Virginia Commonwealth University's student-run newspaper, was established in 1969 after the Richmond Professional Institute merged with the Medical College of Virginia to form VCU in 1968.

The CT was originally *The Proscript*, RPI's student newspaper (previously known as *Atlas*), but its name was changed to reflect the new union between RPI and MCV.

Whereas *The Proscript* "dealt exclusively with campus affairs, the Times ... roamed all over the map, dealing with city, state and national issues," according to Virginius Dabney's "Virginia Commonwealth University: A Sesquicentennial History," which was published in 1987.

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Dabney wrote that the CT, at times, shared a strained relationship with the university's administration. He recorded several periods of time when the paper and the administration did not see eye to eye. One such period occurred in the late 70s when the CT published the salaries of university employees citing "the people's right to know" as their defense.

Another incident involved an "incredibly obscene interview containing virtually nothing but gutter language" entitled "I'm Nasty and They Don't Like It," which former VCU President Edmund F. Ackell regarded with "disappointment and displeasure." During this incident, students occasionally referred to the CT as the "Commonwealth Crimes" or "Punk Rock Rag."

"There have been times of great accord between [the student press and the administration,] but it's also true that the CT shared a powerful adversarial relationship with authority at different periods," said Dr. Richard Wilson, former vice provost for student affairs from 1969-1994. "It wasn't anything out of the ordinary."

"The student press is often at odds with the administration and perhaps they should be. They are the eyes and ears of the student body. The have the right to be assertive and confront the administration about issues that affect the students."

The CT's history hasn't been completely filled with controversy. It also won several awards over the years; among them being named the best college paper in Virginia (1977-1979) and receiving a first place national award at a New York City convention among international college and university newsmagazines (1980).

"There have been some very good years and some lean years," said George Crutchfield, former director of the School

of Mass Communications. "At some points, the paper was looked at as just a forum for opinion. They had the type of attitude where if they missed their deadline, they missed it."

"The students who've worked on the paper are all fine people. It's true that some have produced a better publication, but they all did their job to provide a voice for the students."

Issues of the CT appear in newspaper racks every Monday and Thursday.

The Seeds of The Vine

In 1978, VCU's black community found a voice with the establishment of *Reflections in Ink*, the student newsmagazine of VCU, by members of the Black Student Alliance and the League of Black Journalists.

According to Dabney, *Reflections in Ink* focused on issues such as apartheid in South Africa, the inadequate number of black faculty and the small number of blacks in administrative positions at VCU.

He wrote that "the tone of *Reflections in Ink* [was] less strident than might have been anticipated" and that "its attitude toward the administration [had] been less obnoxious than that exhibited off and on by *The Commonwealth Times*."

In the fall of 1994, the newsmagazine changed its name to *The Vine* because *Reflections in Ink* had a negative reputation around campus due to its erratic publishing schedule in the early 90s and because the name just didn't suit a campus newsmagazine, said Craig Belcher, a former executive editor of *The Vine* who played a major role in changing *Reflections in Ink* into *The Vine*.

After brainstorming for a new name, Belcher and the rest of the staff eventually agreed on *The Vine*, which they derived from "grapevine."

"The word 'grapevine' is usually associated with gossip-not that *The Vine* is all about gossip-and the name gave the magazine a kind of edge that *Reflections in Ink* didn't," said Belcher. "I went through hell getting the name changed."

"I had to get permission from all the leaders of the black student groups because the newspaper belonged to the student body and they had to be in agreement. It was stupid. I had to take care of it during our first weekend of production and our first issue looked terrible because I was caught up in all of that red tape."

The name of the newsmagazine wasn't the only thing that changed in the fall of 1994. The new name was also accompanied by a "change in the vibe of the magazine from an African-American one to a more multicultural one," said Randy L. Gaskin, editor-in-chief of *The Vine*.

"Of course [*The Vine*] still has an African-American perspective," he said. "But, we don't want to be looked at as just for African-Americans."

Belcher agreed. "We wanted to give [students] the total picture of the university by telling stories that weren't being covered by the *Commonwealth Times* and by providing all students with an alternative voice," he said.

New issues of *The Vine* can be found in

History of VCU



photos by Rita Botts

Meet the press. (top) VVCW's sports director Travis Milton talks on air during his show beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. (right) A collage of newsprint shows past appearances of such campus publications as *The Vine* and the *Commonwealth Times*.

newsstands every two weeks.

Trials of the Student Press

It is important for students to understand the importance of student publications' existence and the trials that they have faced, Crutchfield said.

"The student press serves as an information medium," he said. "They show life at the university. They are an outlet for opinion and a forum for creative expression. They provide students with guidance, education and the opportunity to learn about ethical standards in journalism."

Belcher agreed.

"We're here for the students, but I don't think they realize what we go through for them or some of the problems that we face," he said. "Putting together a paper is not easy. It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. You really have to love this job."

Difficulties faced by VCU's student publications, Crutchfield said, have primarily been economic. Student publications do not receive a substantial amount of money despite advertising revenues and the money allocated to them by the Student Media Commission, the university organization that distributes a percentage of student activity fees (23 percent) among the various student media.

The lack of money, he said, among other things (such as the dedication of the staff), can and does affect the frequency of publication or even the size of the publication. For instance, the CT used to publish in "standard format" (the size of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*) before it switched to "tabloid format" to cut down on costs. Its publication schedule also varied over the years, fluctuating between three times a week and once a week.

The problem of infrequent publication, Belcher said, would sometimes cause the SMC to step in.

"We're not here to stifle creativity," said L. Victor Collins, director of the office of multicultural student affairs and member of the SMC. "If we give them money to do something and they're not doing it, then it's our responsibility to raise questions and make those types of inquiries as to why they aren't."

According to the SMC's bylaws, it is their duty to "protect the rights of students who are required to subscribe to the student media through payment of the student activity fee."

Collins also said that these types of conversations with the student media were, in fact, pretty rare.

Contrary to popular belief, Wilson said, VCU's administration never posed a threat to the student press in terms of censorship.

In fact, the university's administration, particularly the SMC, supports the CT and *The Vine* against censorship. According to its bylaws, the SMC works to protect the First Amendment privileges of the student media by "supporting the maximum freedom of expression to all students involved in the student media" and "[affirming] the right of the student media to determine the content of their product. The SMC neither 'supports nor defends any prior reviewing of content by university personnel in an effort to enforce censorship prior to distribution.'"

Occasionally, student publications have come across the danger of potential libel lawsuits that stemmed from "our own carelessness and inaccuracies," said Wilma Wirt, an associate professor in the School of Mass Communications and the CT's faculty adviser.

"We've been lucky, very lucky to have avoided potential lawsuits," she said. "We've been fortunate because we've been able to come through and remedy situations quickly."

One case involving a potential libel suit occurred in 1992 when the CT published a

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THE VINE

Commonwealth Times

Trials and tribulations of the press

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CT STAFF WRITER

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History of VCU student media



photos by Rita Botts

Meet the press. (top) WVCW's sports director Travis Milton talks on air during his show beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. (right) A collage of newsprint shows past appearances of such campus publications as The Vine and the Commonwealth Times.

newsstands every two weeks.

Trials of the Student Press

It is important for students to understand the importance of student publications' existence and the trials that they have faced, Crutchfield said.

"The student press serves as an information medium," he said. "They show life at the university. They are an outlet for opinion and a forum for creative expression. They provide students with guidance, education and the opportunity to learn about ethical standards in journalism."

Belcher agreed.

"We're here for the students, but I don't think they realize what we go through for them or some of the problems that we face," he said. "Putting together a paper is not easy. It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. You really have to love this job."

Difficulties faced by VCU's student publications, Crutchfield said, have primarily been economic. Student publications do not receive a substantial amount of money despite advertising revenues and the money allocated to them by the Student Media Commission, the university organization that distributes a percentage of student activity fees (23 percent) among the various student media.

The lack of money, he said, among other things (such as the dedication of the staff), can and does affect the frequency of publication or even the size of the publication. For instance, the CT used to publish in "standard format" (the size of the Richmond Times-Dispatch) before it switched to "tabloid format" to cut down on costs. Its publication schedule also varied over the years, fluctuating between three times a week and once a week.

The problem of infrequent publication, Belcher said, would sometimes cause the SMC to step in.

"We're not here to stifle creativity," said L. Victor Collins, director of the office of multicultural student affairs and member of the SMC. "If we give them money to do something and they're not doing it, then it's our responsibility to raise questions and make those types of inquiries as to why they aren't."

According to the SMC's bylaws, it is their duty to "protect the rights of students who are required to subscribe to the student media through payment of the student activity fee."

Collins also said that these types of conversations with the student media were, in fact, pretty rare.

Contrary to popular belief, Wilson said, VCU's administration never posed a threat to the student press in terms of censorship.

In fact, the university's administration, particularly the SMC, supports the CT and The Vine against censorship. According to its bylaws, the SMC works to protect the First Amendment privileges of the student media by "supporting the maximum freedom of expression to all students involved in the student media" and "[affirming] the right of the student media to determine the content of their product. The SMC neither 'supports nor defends any prior reviewing of content by university personnel in an effort to enforce censorship prior to distribution.'"

Occasionally, student publications have come across the danger of potential libel lawsuits that stemmed from "our own carelessness and inaccuracies," said Wilma Wirt, an associate professor in the School of Mass Communications and the CT's faculty adviser.

"We've been lucky, very lucky to have avoided potential lawsuits," she said. "We've been fortunate because we've been able to come through and remedy situations quickly."

One case involving a potential libel suit occurred in 1992 when the CT published a



story about the arrest of two VCU athletes charged with grand larceny and breaking and entering. The CT also placed a photograph of one of the two athletes in question alongside the story. Unfortunately, they published a photograph of the wrong athlete.

"We found out about the story pretty close to deadline," said Michael Gorman, a former CT staff writer who wrote the story about the arrest. "We were all in a hurry and didn't thoroughly check everything out. We didn't mean for it to happen, but it did. It was a really bad mistake."

Gorman recalled how the staff moved as quickly as possible to remove the issues that had already been distributed to campus stands. They shredded about 10,000 copies of the issue and, after a meeting, decided to redo page one and correct the mistake.

"I was pretty scared," he said. "If we hadn't realized what had happened, the consequences could have been severe. Most of the time, this type of mistake doesn't happen, but it definitely was a good learning experience on how easily [libel] can happen. It's good to remember that it's other people's reputations that are affected when we make a mistake."

In terms of actual court cases, the number of libel suits filed against college publi-

cations is relatively low, said Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va.

"I think college journalists are generally careful because they're new, so they tend to be fairly cautious," he said. "Libel suits are very hard to win in any case so they're pretty rare."

Wirt said that people have to remember that the staff of campus publications is comprised of students and that errors are never intentional.

"Even the most well-qualified students will truly believe they understand a situation that is newsworthy," she said. "And in their excitement and eagerness to get the story in print as quickly as possible, they make errors."

"We all make mistakes. It's all a learning process and the administration has been very supportive through it."

Wilson agreed.

"The student media needs to be promoted by the administration," he said. "They're as important as anything else in the student community, if not more so."

"Journalism plays a pivotal role in society-a free press is critical to democracy and an active, alive, curious and truth-seeking student press carries the heavy responsibility of delivering the news and promoting discourse."



Laura Davis
CT REPORTER

Radio provides creative outlet on air

Sitting around your dorm room on snow days is no party. But it can be. How about a little music?

WVCW is VCU's student-run and student-managed radio station. Students can tune in at 640 AM on campus and off campus at 90.5 on Media One Cable Radio.

The station broadcasts seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. and accepts requests, according to its Web site.

WVCW began around the early 1970s in the basement of Millheiser House, according to John S. Geerdes, former WVCW station manager and television system engineer.

Back then it was WJRB, which stands for James River Broadcasting, but was later changed to WVCW.

Geerdes was manager from May 1980 to May 1982.

"We tried very hard to stay on top of transmission quality. (We had) a newscast at the top of every hour," he said.

The station's format was New Wave in the early 1980s. Current News Director Mike Liedtke said the station now plays a variety of music, "and that's appropriate because VCU is diverse."

"It's more rock than anything else," he said, but rap, old school hip hop, country and some other genres are played as well.

Working at WVCW has helped Liedtke make contacts at record labels, and it also helps with people skills and public speaking, he said.

Geerdes said, "(WVCW is) a good training ground right now for people who want to get into radio, if run correctly. A lot of students have gone on to work in radio and broadcasting."

He said that when he was manager "the students were dedicated to the student voice, but the voice was limited because it was not over air."

The station does not have an over-the-air broadcast signal, so it has never been geared to be a force for social movement in the university, he added. WVCW is more about entertainment, said Geerdes.

Getting a license poses some problems.

Geerdes said one problem is that the only place on the educational band for the station would interfere with the audio of TV's Channel 6.

Also, consistency and leadership are needed in WVCW to influence the university to hold a license for it, he said. The university, not the station itself, must hold the license, and Geerdes said the school would want some faculty members to be responsible.

"The station's been struggling with (this problem) for 25 years," he said. Because the station has never constantly had reliable leadership, Geerdes said that if he were the university, he would not grant the license.

Even without a license, WVCW continues to entertain. Liedtke said plans are in the making for a concert at Schafer Court. Nationally known performers may include Less than Jake and Cool Keith.

And, listeners can always request a song by calling (804) 828-1061 or (804) 828-1055.

WVCW
on campus -- 640 AM
off campus -- 90.5 FM

student media



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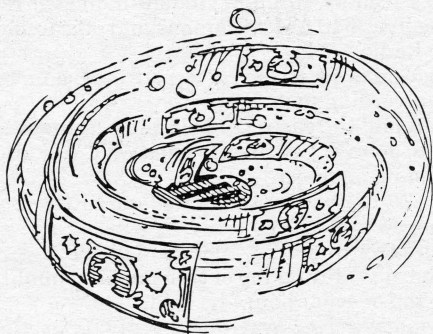
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WVCW

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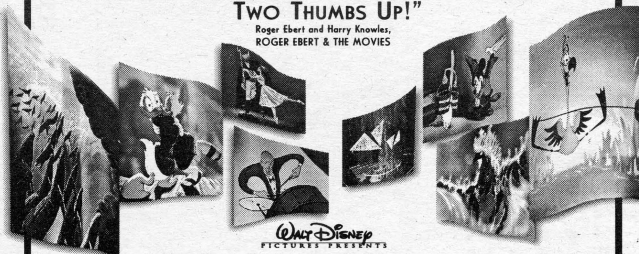
David Sheehan, CBS-TV

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Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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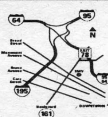
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Review: McEntire turns pages with 'The Singer's Diary'

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

In her 20-plus years career country queen Reba McEntire can be accused of much — of bending country's boundaries, of being difficult, of taking chances.

They've all worked to her benefit.

As has her current "The Singer's Diary" tour that stopped for two hours Thursday night at the Richmond Coliseum. McEntire adopted a Broadway-like show to chronicle her life to this point. Complete with a cadre of lithe dancers, bright lights and 23 songs to sing the red-headed Oklahoman wowed the smallish crowd of about 3,000 in her own inimitable way.

And what a way she has.

The show opened in Oklahoma, 1974 with her being discovered by Red Steagall as she sung "Star Spangled Banner" before a rodeo. Dressed to the nines in cowboy hat and boots, gleaming red wig and a nervous look painted like a desert sky across her face, McEntire encapsulated the audience for a ride that included bumps and bruises as well as good and bad times.

Call her honest.

Call her fortunate. Fortunate to have been at the right place and talented enough to have gotten to the right place.

Not that all proved right. An early marriage to Charlie Battles ("Prince Charming meets the Marlboro Man"), a rodeo veteran 10 years her elder led to life on the rodeo circuit. As he grew tired of the travel, her career began to lift off with a Mercury Records recording contract, noted by her tear-torn performance of "(You Lift Me) Up to Heaven."

Trouble grew.

As an actor who portrayed Battles sat sleeping before a television, a baggage-laden McEntire sang "Somebody Should Leave."

Darkness descended upon the stage, quickly replaced by a made-over McEntire and a pair of short-skirted ladies as she ripped and roared that she commands "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

No argument here.

"So I moved to Nashville after the divorce," McEntire told the crowd. "I got into the single way of living, but truth is, I was used to being married..."

And with that she eased into "New Fool at an Old Game," her mindset caught unawares at living without a man. That changed with the entry of Narvel Blackstock, her steel guitar player.

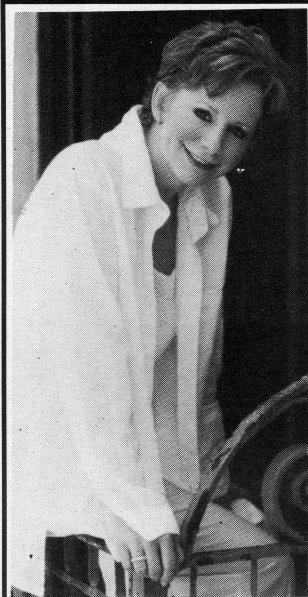
"I found the perfect person," she said. "He was sitting behind me all along."

As she spread wide the pages of her diary, Reba remembered her father with a sterling "The Greatest Man I Ever Knew," recalled her late band (they were killed in a 1991 plane crash) with "I'd Rather Ride Around with You" and served an angelic "If I Had Only Known" as a final goodbye to them.

From there, the concert left the diary's pages in the past by adding a few new ones with spirited spins of "We're so good Together" and a thought-provoking "What do You Say."

Chances taken, success reaped, Reba waved goodbye to an adoring crowd who have been along all along for the spectacle that's been the life of Reba McEntire.

Country Queen



MCA Records

SITTIN' PRETTY. Reba McEntire recently wowed concert goers with her 'Singers Diary' tour at the Richmond Coliseum. McEntire's latest work, which features songs as "What do You Say," and "I'll Be," is titled "So Good Together."

Webbin' it: Black history sites

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

In keeping with Black History Month, this column once again peers through the millions upon millions of Web sites on the Internet for pertinent sites.

There are some doozies.

Museums to your liking? Then look into the Smithsonian Institution's African-American resource at www.si.edu/resource/tours/afafam/start.htm for a substantial peek into its vast archives. Photos galore and so much more including written works and reference guides may well quench your thirst for data that extends beyond the mere curious.

If not, then turn to the Public Broadcasting System's site at www.pbs.org/history/american.html for a bit different look — if not more encompassing — look into black history. While offering little by way of breadth, the site may well appeal to those who wish to only scrape the history's surface.

Yet for those not content with mere minutiae and politics and would rather seek the effect of political policies on the culture, the Archives of the African-American Music and Culture should be more than you will ever need. Located at www.indiana.edu/~aaamc, beware that the site remains under construction. Yet a quick glance at the site's home page indicated an expansive list of items which it intends to document.

And speaking of a document, no photo in 20th century black history captured a wider array of legendary figures than the one taken of a large group of jazz musicians in Harlem in 1958. Bandleader Count Basie, saxophonist Sonny Rollins, pianist Thelonious Monk and Emmett Berry are featured in the photo that included Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes. If you wish to learn more about the photo and its inhabitants, go to www.harlem.org/greatday.html

Click on the photo to go to a search engine that will allow users to identify and cull details about each individual in the photo.

Few in black history did more to enact change to ensure and solidify equality than Thurgood Marshall. As the lead NAACP lawyer for the defense in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, the deceased U.S. Supreme Court justice helped stamp a path across which further change would travel. Several excellent Marshall biographies exist, including the most recent one by Juan Williams. Care not to buy the book or wish to augment what you've read thus far? Go to www.thurgoodmarshall.com, a companion site to Williams' book.

Still, most civil rights roads lead to Martin Luther King Jr. The late civil rights leader marched and preached, cajoled and coerced a nation into following the path to equality. Numerous Web sites document the trail that lead ultimately to Memphis and his 1968 death. One of the better ones can be found at <http://usparks.about.com/library/weekly/aa011199.htm>

Look for future Webbin' it columns or call me at 828-1058 or reach me through e-mail at wsm650@aol.com and let me know what you'd like to see in future columns.

Celebrating Black History Month

Suggested Reading:

"Beloved" (1987) by Toni Morrison (pictured right)

"On the Bus with Rosa Parks: Poems" (1999) by Rita Dove

"Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass [Written by Himself]" (1845) by Frederick Douglass

"Roots" (1976) by Alex Haley

"Louis Armstrong: An Extravagant Life" (1998) by Lawrence Bergreen



Suggested recordings:

John Coltrane - "Blue Train"

Etta James - "Best of Etta James: 20th Century Masters - The Millennium Collection"

Robert Johnson - "The Complete Recordings"

Various Artists - "From Where I Stand: The Black Experience in Country Music"

Think about it:

"If you are not courageous enough to take risks, you will accomplish nothing in life." — Muhammad Ali.



Happy Valentine's
Day
From the CT

Ram Stat

Led by Kristine Austgulen's 21 points, VCU women's basketball trounced William and Mary 80-51 Friday night.

Monday, February 14, 2000

Sports

Commonwealth Times 10

Inside

Track and field news, men's basketball wrapup and a sad death in the National Football League.

Andersson finishes dominant fall season with Indoor title

George Templeton
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Twenty-nine wins, one defeat. That's Daniel Andersson's record this year. He won the Milwaukee Tennis Classic and two of three legs of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's grand slam, the T. Rowe Price National Clay Court Championship and the Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoor Championship.

Not bad for a guy who was injured most of the summer.

"I didn't play for a month because of my back injuries," Andersson said. "I wasn't sure how I was going to play this year. I had no idea I could do something like this."

After winning in Milwaukee, Andersson charged through the draw at the National Clay courts finishing up by sweeping Ram teammate, Frank Moser, in the final.

"After I won that first tournament, my confidence was growing," Andersson said. "I worked really hard, and I just kept playing better and better."

Andersson's one loss? That came at the All-American championships, the second leg of the ITA grand slam. Andersson lost to eventual champion K.J. Hippensteel 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

"Hippensteel was really hot in that tournament," Andersson explained. "I didn't really play that bad in the match, but he was just rolling."

After helping lead the Rams to a 3-0 start and an upset of No. 9 Tennessee at O'Charley's/Vol Tennis Classic, Andersson headed to Farmer's Branch, Texas for the Indoor championship.

Andersson, ranked second in the ITA, drew Alfonso Honrado, a wild-card entry from Oklahoma City, a tiny National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) school.

"I was a little worried about my first round match," Andersson said. "Usually the first couple of matches are tough for

me. I didn't know anything about the guy I was playing against."

Andersson dispatched Honrado 6-2, 6-0, then defeated 20th-ranked Eduardo Gordilho of Louisiana-Lafayette 6-2, 7-5.

In the quarterfinal Andersson, the tournament's top seed, battled Notre Dame's Ryan Sachire, 14th in the ITA. Andersson had battled Sachire on occasion.

"I thought that if I could beat Sachire, then I had a chance to win the tournament," Andersson said. "He's been one of those tougher opponents for me."

Andersson took care of Sachire 6-3, 6-2. "That was one of my better matches this week."

In the semifinals Andersson faced Stanford's Alex Kim, No. 6 in the ITA. This match proved to be Andersson's most difficult.

"I started off in the match OK, and I was kind of lucky to win the first set," Andersson said. "He played a whole lot better in the second set and at the start of the third."

After splitting the first two sets Kim broke Andersson twice in the third set for a 3-0 lead. Andersson recovered by winning six of the last seven games of the match to win 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

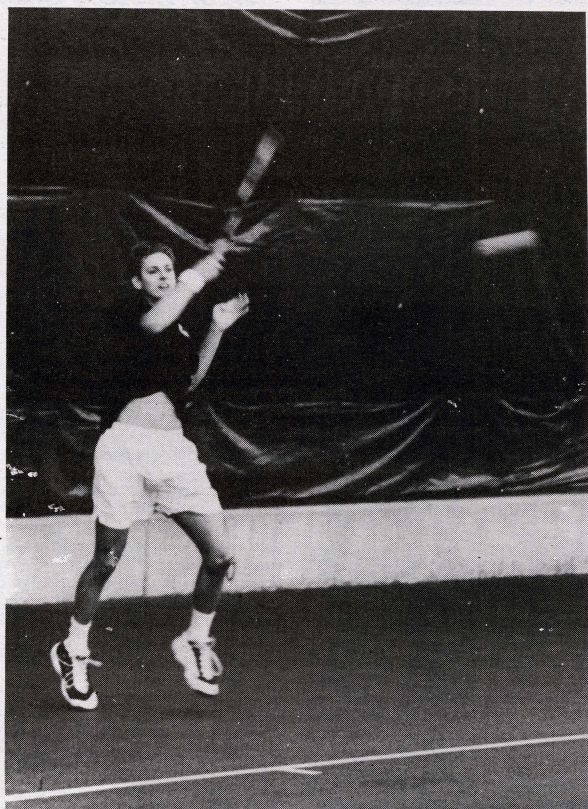
"I thought it was over," Andersson said. "I got one break and started to play flat and keep the ball low. I didn't play too much better. I think he got a little nervous."

On to the final and Florida's Jeff Morrison, the second seed in the tournament.

"I felt confident after the win that I had in the semifinal," Andersson said. "Morrison won three of the four matches I had played against him. I did feel that if I played my game I could beat him."

That's exactly what Andersson did, whipping Morrison 6-4, 6-2 to win the championship.

ANDERSSON continued to page 11



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

No. 1 RAM. Daniel Andersson (playing against Duke) became only the second player ever to win the National Clay Court and Rolex Indoor tournaments in the same season.

RAMS ROUNDUP

Offense explodes in sweep

VCU (5-1) scored 44 runs in 2 1/2 games to sweep St. Peter's (0-3) this weekend at The Diamond.

Game 1 Rams 8, Peacocks 2: VCU used a four-run first frame to set the tone in their home-opener for this season.

Danny Lopaze's three-run homer was the big blow for the Rams, who scored in the first inning for the fourth straight game. Lopaze finished the game two for five with two runs and five RBIs.

Jason Dubois started and went seven innings to pick up his first win.

Game 2 Rams 25 Peacocks 7: After a scoreless first inning for both clubs the Rams caught fire in the second frame, and played 15 runs to spearhead a 25-7 beating in the nightcap of the Friday doubleheader. The 25-run output tied a school record that was set in 1984.

Six different Rams had multi-hit performances.

Kevin Elrod smacked a home run, scored three runs, had three RBIs, and finished 4 for 5. Dubois had a pair of doubles, a triple

and six RBIs. Jose Pabon had three hits and three RBIs while Tim Allen hit his second homer this season.

John Korn pitched four scoreless innings for his first win.

Game 3 Rams 11 Peacocks 3 (4.5 inn.): SPU scored three runs in the first two innings but Marc Fisher settled down. Fisher allowed one baserunner in his last three innings to improve to 2-0 and help VCU to the triumph Sunday afternoon.

After the Peacocks at bat in the fifth, the game was called because of rain.

VCU came up to bat the first time down 1-0, but overcame that deficit with a bases-clearing double by Cory Bauswell that put the Rams ahead 3-1.

Barry Blake smacked a two-run double in the second inning to put the Rams ahead 5-3.

Lopaze doubled in two Rams and Elrod singled in two more to spearhead a six-run fourth that broke the game open.

BRIEFS continued to page 11

Rams in Action

| TEAM | UPCOMING EVENTS | | | Notes |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| MEN'S BASKETBALL (11-11, 4-7) | Feb. 16 GMU | Feb. 19 ECU | Feb. 23 AU | VCU HAS A PERFECT RECORD IN OVERTIME GAMES THIS SEASON (4-0). |
| WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (12-11, 6-4) | Feb. 18 UNCW | Feb. 20 GMU | Feb. 25 ECU | THE RAMS ARE 6-0 ALL-TIME AT HOME AGAINST THE SEAHAWKS. |
| MEN'S TENNIS (7-1, 4-0) | Feb. 19 UNLV | Feb. 20 TULSA | Feb. 24 ODU | VCU WILL PLAY NEVADA-LAS VEGAS IN TULSA, OKLA. |
| WOMEN'S TENNIS (1-2, 0-0) | Feb. 16 ODU | Feb. 20 AU | Feb. 23 UR | BEGINNING WITH OLD DOMINION, THE RAMS WILL PLAY FOUR OF THEIR NEXT FIVE MATCHES AGAINST CAA TEAMS. |
| BASEBALL (5-1, 0-0) | Feb. 19-20 ST. JOSEPH'S (3) | | | THE HAWKS ARE ONE OF TWO ATLANTIC 10 TEAMS THE RAMS WILL FACE THIS SEASON. |

■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME

ANDERSSON: Pressure not as high this year

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"I didn't let him have any free points," Andersson said. "Morrison is used to getting free points off his serve, and I didn't give him any. I broke his serve five times."

In total, Andersson said the Indoor championships was the best week of tennis he has ever played.

The rarity of winning two ITA grand slams in one year hasn't been lost on VCU men's tennis coach Paul Kostin.

"What Daniel has done is historic," Kostin said. "The Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame called me and asked for his racket. Only five other guys in college tennis have ever won two of the grand slams."

Despite likely being the No. 1 player in the country when the rankings are released next week, Andersson doesn't feel as much pressure as he did in past years at VCU.

"We have a really good team," Andersson said. "I don't feel that I have to win the match for us to beat a team, because everyone of our players is capable of winning for us. It's not like my first couple of years here when our top-3 players had to win."

Dallas coaching legend dead

DALLAS — Former Dallas Cowboys head coach Tom Landry died early Saturday evening at the age of 75. Landry was at the Baylor University Medical Center fighting his battle with acute myelogenous leukemia.

Landry was the first coach of the Cowboys and held that position for 29 years. His record with Dallas, 270-178-6, a 60.1 winning percentage, five Super Bowl appearances, two Super Bowl championships. Only George Halas and Don Shula won more games, and only Halas had a longer tenure with one team.

Landry was on the wrong end of two of the most famous games in National Football League history. Landry's Cowboys lost the Ice Bowl and the NFL Championship in Green Bay 21-17 on New Year's Eve 1967 and were defeated 28-27 by the San Francisco 49ers in the championship game of the National Football Conference by "The Catch."

— compiled from news sources

BREIFS: Rams fare well at Penn State

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Two runners qualify for NCAA Indoors

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — At the Nittany Lion qualifier, Maria Elena-Calle qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships in the 3,000 meters while Jesus Ortega qualified in the mile.

Calle won her event in a time of 9:36.32. She competed in the 3,000 meters at the NCAA Indoors last season as well as the 5,000 meters.

Ortega missed a school record for the mile by one second with his time of 4:04.18. Ortega finished second in the mile event.

Gabrielle DeShong, James Green and Joe Reid also qualified for major track events as well.

DeShong finished fifth in the long jump with an effort of 18-11 3/4, which was good enough to qualify her for the Eastern College Athletic Conference championships.

James Green and Joe Reid both qualified for the IC4A championships in the 800 meters. Green's time was 1:53.41, 14th in the run, while Reid finished 16th, in a time of 1:53.39.

Demon Deacons shutout Rams

WINSTON SALEM, N.C. — Wake Forest players dropped only one set in beating the VCU women's tennis team 7-0. Only Raluca Ciulei took her opponent to three sets. WFU (1-0) was the second top-10 opponent the Rams (1-2) have faced.

Singles

No. 6 Adria Engel d. No. 55 Andrea Ondrisova 7-5, 6-1

No. 34 Janet Bergman d. Kate Vasysleva 6-3, 6-2

No. 65 Bea Bielik d. Yana Sokolenko 6-0, 6-4

No. 69 Maren Haus d. Raluca Ciulei 4-6, 7-6, 6-3

No. 40 Jackie Houston d. Lyudmyla Teterina 6-2, 6-3

Annemarie Hilton d. Siri Thayaprasat 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

Bergman/Hilton d. Sokolenko/Teterina 8-1

• compiled from news sources

Rams bedeviled again

VCU now 0-20 all-time against Duke

George Templeton

CT SPORTS EDITOR

Over the nine years Paul Kostin has been the coach at VCU, the doubles combinations, the strategies, and the players have changed. The result has always been the same Duke has beaten VCU.

In a battle between top-10 teams at the Thalhimer Tennis Center, the Blue Devils started off hot by winning the doubles point, and the Rams never generated much of a threat in Duke's 4-1 victory.

"We didn't play that bad," Kostin said. "Duke jumped on us and never folded. They played a great match today."

In doubles, Fernando and Jose Sanchez (not related) were the only winners for the Rams, defeating Andres Pedrosa and Joel Spicher 8-5 in the No. 3 doubles match.

In the No. 2 doubles match Duke's Marko Cerenko and Ted Rueger easily dispatched Mats Norin and Olle Lundberg 8-2.

The Blue Devils won the point when the 33rd-ranked team of Doug Root and Ramsey Smith upset Daniel Andersson and Frank Moser, No. 13 in doubles, 8-5.

Smith and Root's victory was keyed

when they broke VCU's serve to take a 6-4 lead.

"Their win in doubles gave them a pretty good boost for singles," Kostin said.

In the four singles matches played, Duke players took the first set in three with only Andersson winning the first set in his match.

Andersson took the only point for the Rams (7-1) with a 6-4, 6-1 win over 44th-ranked Pedrosa.

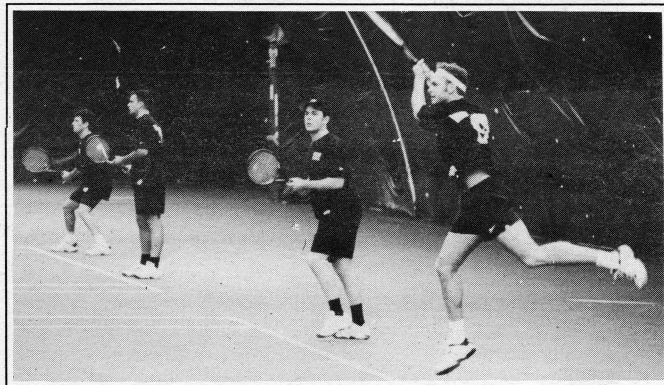
"I didn't play good at all today," Andersson said. "I tried to do too much in the beginning and Pedrosa's pace bothered me a bit. I was in more of a rhythm in the second set."

Root, 33rd in the nation, won his match in workmanlike fashion 6-4, 6-4 over 25th-ranked Jose Sanchez.

"Playing Root at two was a good move for them," Kostin said. "Normally they play him at one, but having Root play Sanchez was a better matchup for them than having Sanchez play Pedrosa."

Smith, No. 58 in the nation, frustrated No. 5 Moser all day, winning the match 6-2, 7-5.

"Frank was a little rusty today," Kostin said. "He didn't play a lot at the Indoor tournament and he needs to play a lot of matches."



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

READY. SET. SWING! Mats Norin returns a shot in doubles against Duke with partner Olle Lundberg looking on. One court down, Jose and Fernando Sanchez stand ready. Lundberg and Norin lost 8-2 in the No. 2 doubles match while the two Sanchez's won the No. 3 doubles match. The Rams lost the doubles point to the Blue Devils.

Joel Spicher clinched Duke's win with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Mats Norin.

"This isn't the end of the world," Kostin said. "This loss could help us a lot more than people think. I would rather win the big matches at the end of the year, then win now."

Tenth-ranked VCU rebounded from the loss by beating up on Colonial Athletic Association opponents Richmond, 4-1, James Madison, 4-1, George Mason, 5-0, and American, 4-1, at the VCU 4-1 Invitational.

Rams win 45 minute war over Seahawks with Hampton's foul shot

Jennifer Walker

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

VCU men's basketball team had their night cut for them as they played host to the UNC Wilmington in a physical battle in the Colonial Athletic Association.

It was close till the bitter end, with the hard-fought game decided by Shawn Hampton made the second of two free-throws with 5.3 seconds left to hand the Rams (4-7, 11-11) a 55-54 triumph. The win broke a four-game losing streak.

"I was thinking about practice and having to run a lot tomorrow," Hampton said

of what he was thinking before the winning free throw. "The ball felt heavy on the first shot. It felt lighter on the second shot."

Hampton went to the foul line after Oleg Kojenets fouled him on a rebound off a Seahawk miss.

"Come on, we had a felony before that," Wainwright said. "For them to call that after what had happened in the last three minutes, it's ridiculous."

Wainwright alluded to a collision Hampton had with Kojenets under the basket, a minute before the foul call.

VCU led for most of the first half and held a seven-point lead late in the stanza.

UNCW scored the last six points of the half to head to the locker room trailing 22-21.

"This is the most physical effort we have given all year," said coach Mack McCarthy. "UNCW will make you play that way. They guard you physically, they rebound physically, they even play offense physically."

The pace of the game was a crawl and the offensive statistics were dreadful for both teams. UNCW (6-6, 12-10) shot 32.3 percent (20 for 62) including missing seven of eight shots in the overtime.

VCU's shooting wasn't any better. The Rams shot 31.3 percent (20 for 64), and hit only 3 of 24 shots from behind the arc.

"If we could have shot anything then we would have had 25 assists," McCarthy said.

Hampton led the Rams with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Reggie Okosa had a game-high of 13 rebounds.

"Reggie and Shawn are capable of doing this every night," McCarthy said. "They are sophomores and they will still have moments where they are not consistent."

Taylor hit two foul shots with 17.6 seconds left to send the game to overtime.

On the opposing side, UNCW's Brett Blizzard tallied up 14 points, hitting 4 of 14 shots.

Most VCU students have



4

1 drink = 12 oz. Beer = 4-5 oz. Wine = 1 oz. Liquor

or

Low Risk Drinking Guidelines
No more than 1 drink per hour.
No more than 3 drinks in a sitting for women.
No more than 4 drinks in a sitting for men.
0 drinks if you are under 21 or driving.

VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University
Office of Health Promotion
Division of Student Affairs

* Based on a survey data collected by the Office of Health Promotion (Spring 1999) from 711 randomly selected VCU undergraduate students.

fewer

drinks

when they

party