

Tues: This is Spring weather?
High 67, low 46.

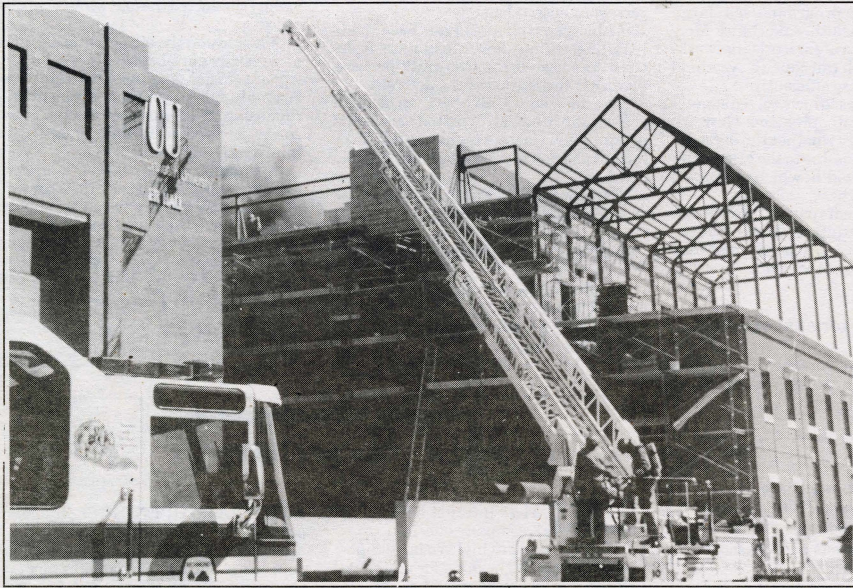
Wed: No, this is hockey weather
High 63, low 43.

Monday, April 10, 2000

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol 32, No. 20

Flames damage Life Sciences Building



Jessamyn Miller/Commonwealth Times

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE. A firetruck crane sits ready while a firefighter battles a blaze Thursday afternoon on top of the Life Sciences Building. No one was hurt and the building's opening will not be delayed.

Cause of fire undetermined

**Jay-Anne Casuga and
Laura K. Davis**
CT STAFF WRITERS

Confusion reigned as a thick cloud of gray smoke blanketed the academic campus Thursday afternoon, interrupting classes in surrounding buildings.

"It looked like a dust storm. My eyes started burning," said sophomore and business major Letesha Gregory. "I was thinking 'what the hell was going on?'"

But, the thick haze didn't herald doomsday for VCU.

Instead, the smoke originated from a fire that broke out on the roof of the \$22 million Life Sciences Building construction site on West Cary Street.

The Richmond Fire Department arrived at the 140,000-square-foot-site just four minutes after receiving notification at 2:44 p.m.

With the use of 100-foot aerial platforms, fire fighters extinguished the flames quickly, within 15 minutes of their arrival.

On Friday Capt. Don Horton of the Richmond Fire Department said the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The fire's location in an unoccupied area minimized danger, fire officials said. Also, steel decking under the roof helped stop flames from spreading.

Brian J. Ohlinger, assistant vice president for VCU facilities management estimated damages at \$25,000.

"It was a lot of smoke, but not much fire," he said, adding that the contractor's insurance will pay for the damage.

But will the fire delay opening? "Absolutely not," Ohlinger said, explaining the building will open as scheduled in fall 2001. "Things are back on track already."

VCU honors Va. communications professionals

Six inducted to hall of fame

Jay-Anne Casuga
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Virginia Communications Hall of Fame inducted six new members last week to join the ranks of the state's best and brightest in the field of mass communications.

"Our honorees are models of excellence in their fields," said Eugene P. Trani, president of Virginia Commonwealth University. "They represent professional stan-

dards of excellence for our students."

VCU's School of Mass Communications established the Hall of Fame in 1986 to honor individuals with distinguished careers in the fields of print, broadcast, public relations, advertising, education and interactive media.

"We recognize people who have made significant contributions to communications in the state of Virginia," said Terry Oggel, associate director for the School of Mass Communications.

This year's inductees were Raymond H. Boone, R. Beverly Orndorf, Sandra Mims Rowe, John R. Shreves Jr., Joseph R. Slay and Frank P. Soden.

All the honorees said they considered

the induction as an extraordinary honor.

"It's a wonderful feeling," Soden said. "I can truly say I didn't expect to ever be here and therefore (the induction) makes (tonight) extremely special."

The Virginia Communications Hall of Fame 2000 inductees made significant contributions to communications in Virginia.

Boone, founder of Paradigm Communications Inc., and the Richmond Free Press, where he also served as editor and publisher. He was an associate professor of journalism at Howard University. He

• HALL OF FAME continued to page 3

Campus Calendar

- April 10 - 12-1p.m., Academic Success Workshop "Writing Tips for Organizing a Paper," Commons Forum Room
- April 10 - 4-6p.m., SGA Student Senate Meeting, Commons Forum Room
- April 10 - 6-7p.m., H.E.A.L.T.H. meeting (eating disorder support group), Commons Metro Room
- April 11 - 1-2:30p.m., Student Computer Initiative Open Forum, Medical Sciences Building Auditorium
- April 13 - 11a.m.-6p.m., Blood Drive, Commons Plaza
- April 13 - 3:30-4:30p.m., Academic Success Workshop "Writing Tips for Organizing a Paper," Commons Forum Room
- April 13 - 1-5p.m., Talking About Alcohol Program, Commons Canal Room
- April 14 - 8:30-9:30p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Hibbs 403
- April 15 - 10a.m.-6p.m., Intercultural Festival, Commons Plaza

INSIDE

Sports
Recap of VCU's upset of No. 16 East Carolina page 14
Spectrum
Profile of the "Hardest Working Man in Show Business" pages 8-9

College Briefs

Gusty winds bother protests

The toughest enemy that student protestors at Penn State University have to face may not be their school's administration, but Mother Nature.

Protestors battled with gusty winds to stake three tents and set up camp for a protest they said will last "indefinitely."

Students for Accountability and Reform (STAR) organized the demonstration as part of its continuing effort to urge Penn State to join with the Worker Rights Consortium, a sweatshop-monitoring organization.

Penn State is currently affiliated with the Fair Labor Association, but protestors question the organization's ties with the corporations it supposedly inspects.

Dan Sieminski, assistant vice president for finance and business, was concerned the group's tents might blow away at some point, effectively ending the protest.

Although student government officers questioned the effectiveness of the camp-out, they supported the overall cause of the protest.

Students dissatisfied with ban

Students at Ohio State University are displeased about a ban placed on a popu-

lar software program that allowed students to download MP3s, a popular digital format for compressed audio files.

"To me it seems even though I am paying for full (internet) service, I am not getting it," said Corey Davis, a sophomore electrical and computer engineering major.

Ohio State, along with many other schools nationwide, blocked the program from its Internet service because the high traffic from multiple users trying to download MP3s created performance problems.

The software program used large amounts of bandwidth, said Chuck Morrow-Jones, director of enterprise networking at OSU, which can cause a system to run slower and less efficiently.

The block seems to have solved some of OSU's network traffic problems. Network officials are unsure whether the decrease in network traffic is due to the block or an increase in bandwidth, which is doubled every seven months.

Although students pay for the Internet service in their tuition, Morrow-Jones said that the university needs to protect the academic uses of the Internet service first.

ATO chapter suspended

Officials at the University of Georgia

suspended its local chapter of Alpha Tau Omega after linking the death of a sophomore, Benjamin Folsom Grantham III, in a traffic accident two weeks ago with fraternity hazing.

An autopsy showed that Grantham was handcuffed and may have been blindfolded while riding in the cargo area of the sports utility vehicle, driven by a fellow fraternity member, that flipped over and hit a tree.

Four additional ATO pledges involved in the crash survived. Two other passengers were hospitalized.

Although no charges have been made regarding the incident, the university decided to suspend the fraternity pending further investigation of the accident.

The incident, University of Georgia spokesman Matthew Winston said, could possibly lead Georgia to change its future hazing policies to prevent hazing-related deaths.

"We always reevaluate (policies) after circumstances of this nature," he said.

Students protest tuition hike

A proposed six percent tuition increase at the University of Arkansas spurred a protest of about 400 students, faculty and staff last week.

The rise in tuition would result in a 2.8

percent salary increase for faculty and staff, Chancellor John A. White said.

Carrying signs ranging from "Fight 'White' Supremacy," to "No tuition hike without representation," protestors wished to show the administration, particularly White, that they were against raising tuition without their input.

"It is time to stand up for your rights," International Student Organization president Chin-Foong Lieu told the crowd.

Protestors demanded a freeze on planned tuition increases until the university conducted the following three measures:

- A study on the effects of tuition hikes on minority enrollment.
- An official examination of the university budget to determine the percentage of funds used to improve the quality of education as opposed to increasing the administrative salaries.
- A public forum where all students and their families can voice their concerns about tuition directly to the administration and have their questions answered.

Want to write for the CT. Call George or Joe at 828-1058

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 George B. Templeton. Address comments, complaints or suggestions regarding any other aspect of the CT to J. Edward Rogalsky. PHONE: 828-1058 or 828-1059 FAX: 828-9201

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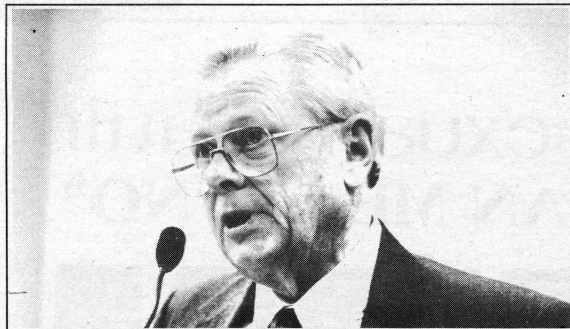
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Jessamyn Miller/Commonwealth Times

ETHICAL LECTURER. John Hasty, Director of Department of Health Professions of Virginia.

Medicine ethics stressed at MCV

Lu Duong
CT STAFF WRITER

A mock hearing and speech by a health profession expert educated students and faculty last week about medical ethics as part of Medical College of Virginia campus' Honor Awareness Week.

"I feel as if this week was a great experience for me," said MCV dentistry student Chin-Oh Sung. "The issue of the honor code is never brought out in the open, so having these forums to attend allowed everyone to freely discuss."

John Hasty, R.P.H., the Director of the Virginia Department of Health Professions, said, "Professional misconduct in health care carries great consequences that affect numerous people," in a speech given on Wednesday.

Professional misconduct within health care is on the rise because of a lack of structure within health care organizations. According to recent statistics from the *New York Times*.

"With medical care on the rise," said Hasty, "the conduct of health professionals must be honest, accurate and truthful. Nothing less can be accepted."

Students seem to agree with Hasty's contention.

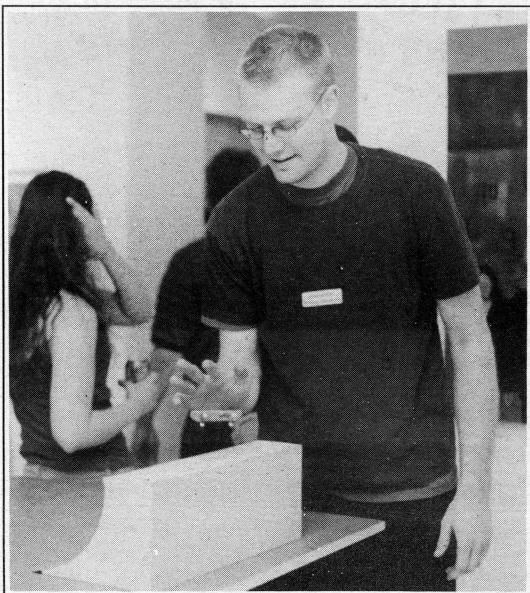
"I feel as if there is a struggle within honor in the health profession," said medical student, Nadeem Amit. "Hopefully, with all the publicity of this week, people will begin questioning themselves and their moral obligations in health care."

Last Thursday, a luncheon and mock hearing were held in the main auditorium of the Larrick Student Center. During the luncheon, two fictitious honor council hearings were discussed and the audience was invited to vote on the outcome.

"This activity is a perfectly appropriate one for the MCV campus," said Peter Dyke, chair of the MCV campus honor council. "Our honor council is comprised of students, not administrative officials, therefore allowing students to see how students in the council handle situations, everyone feels more acquainted with the process."

All students and faculty of the MCV campus and VCU's academic campus were invited to attend the week's activities.

"I had a wonderful time," said Jennifer Grey. "I had no idea how the honor council handled situations here, and now I have a clear picture of how things work."



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

PLAYING WITH SCULPTURE. Daniel McGuire, a junior in VCU's School of the Arts, interacts with his sculpture, "Tricks", at the of the Juried Fine Arts Exhibition.

HALL OF FAME: Award winners include Pulitzer Prize winner and

• continued from page 1

served as a Pulitzer Prize juror from 1978-1979, playing a major role in getting African-American journalists and women onto the Pulitzer board at Columbia University.

Orndorf is a retired reporter with the Richmond Times-Dispatch where he was the newspaper's science-medical writer and science columnist from 1960 to 1992.

Rowe is the executive director of The Oregonian in Portland. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1999. She has served as the former executive editor and vice president of the Virginia-Pilot and Ledger-Star from 1984-1993.

Rowe has also served on the advisory board for the Poynter Institute for Media Studies and the Knight Foundation, both based in Florida, the Freedom Forum Pacific Coast Center in California, James Madison University and Northwestern University.

Shreve is the president of the Jefferson-Pilot Communications television group.

In 1970, he served as the producer, promotions director and program and operations manager at WWBT-TV.

He returned to WWBT-TV in 1986 as special projects manager and marketing and program manager.

Slay is the president of Martin Public Relations, which he created in 1982 and is the largest public relations firm in Richmond.

He is the former managing editor of the *Alberta Report* magazine in Edmonton, Canada, and of *Richmond Lifestyles* magazine.

Soden has been general manager and executive vice president of WRNL Radio for the past 20 years. He served as the first director of athletic public relations at the University of Richmond and served as assistant athletic director for 15 years.

Soden is the former voice of the Richmond Braves and is considered to be a major radio sports personality in Richmond.

Researchers map out human genome

(U-WIRE) MINNEAPOLIS — Private researchers announced Thursday they have sequenced the genome of a single human being, a major step toward understanding the human genetic blueprint.

Celera Genomics Group, a biotechnology firm in Rockville, Md., has been working to uncover DNA pieces since September 1999 and will now begin the crucial step of fitting them together in their proper genetic order using high-powered computers.

"This is big-time," said Dr. Richard King, a University of Minnesota genetics professor, of Celera's advancement. "They now have the ingredients; they need to bake the cake."

"Now that we have completed the sequencing of one human being's genome, we will turn our computational power to the task of ordering the human genome," said Dr. J. Craig Venter, Celera's president and chief scientific officer, in a statement about the next step in the mapping process.

A final draft of the human genome is still not expected for several years.

The human genome is a biological blueprint of the 3 billion pairs of chemicals inside human DNA. It maps how those pairs are arranged to construct the genes that serve as instruction manuals for life functions.

Researchers can study genetic variations in different people to locate where eye color, height and genetic diseases are genetically located.

Scientists said they hope to pinpoint specific genetic diseases and develop effective treatments by understanding the human genome.

"This is expected to allow researchers worldwide and our subscribers to utilize our data to make important medical advances," Venter said in the statement.

A complete human genome is like having a periodic table for genetic disease, King said.

Despite the potential benefits the human genome might offer, many are concerned about the ethical issues raised with the availability of genetic information and Celera's practice of charging a subscription fee for access to their data-

base search tools.

"This information can be misused," said Dr. Jeffrey Kahn, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Bioethics. "It can be used to discriminate in employment and insurance."

There are no federal laws on the books protecting citizens from genetic discrimination.

President Bill Clinton, however, signed an executive order in February outlawing the use of genetic information by the federal government.

"Genetic information has the potential for discrimination because it can predict what's ahead," King said.

However, trying to gauge future health would not be a departure from the traditional business practice of conducting physicals, King added.

Concerns have also been raised about who will be able to afford the presumably expensive genetic treatments.

"It may divide between the haves and have nots," Kahn said. "People who can afford therapy will get it and many might not have access."

A federally funded effort to map the entire genetic code, The Human Genome Project, has been researching DNA since 1990.

The nonprofit organization, unlike Celera, publishes each gene it decodes on the Internet. So far, 2.3 billion subunits of DNA have been posted, all of which is available for free public use.

Celera and the Human Genome Project use different methods to decode and map DNA.

Celera uses what it calls a "shotgun technique," the same technique the company used to successfully map the genome of a fruit fly earlier this year. Using the method, researchers quickly identify fragments of DNA and then try to fit the pieces together.

Much of the genetic information Celera uses in his research comes from the data made available by the Human Genome Project.

In contrast, the technique used by the Human Genome Project identifies DNA fragments and orders them as they are discovered.

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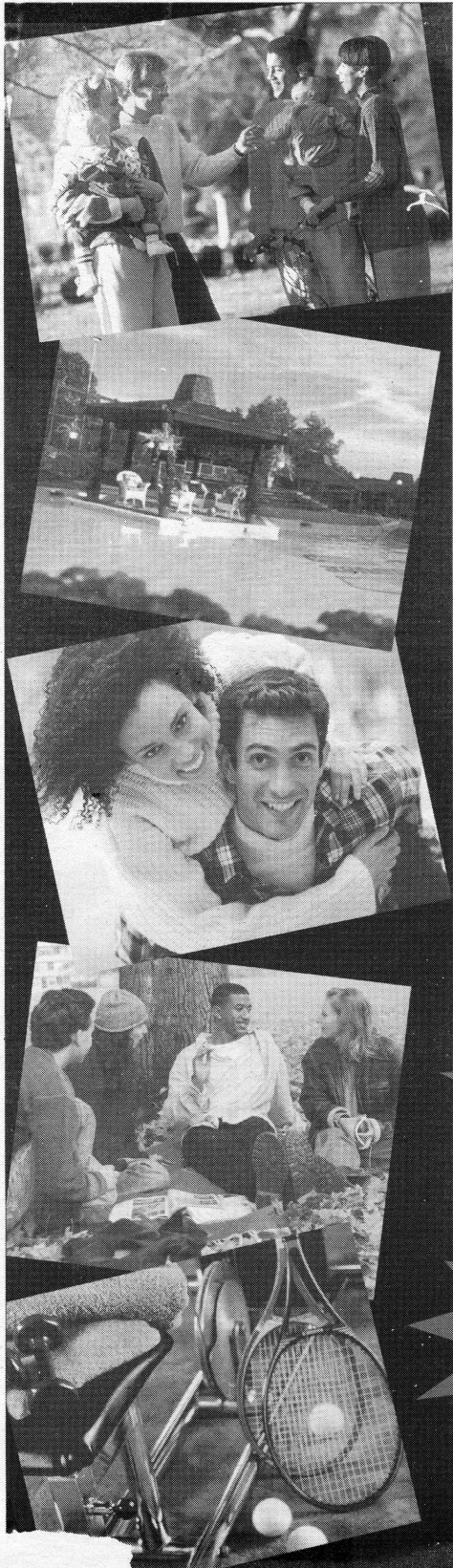
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| CRI-N-05818-O | 4-1/4 X 7" | "Goal" |
| CRI-N-05818-P | 4-1/4 X 7" | "Career" |
| CRI-N-05818-Q | 2-1/16 X 5-1/4" | "Support" |
| CRI-N-05818-R | 2-1/16 X 5-1/4" | "Grades" |
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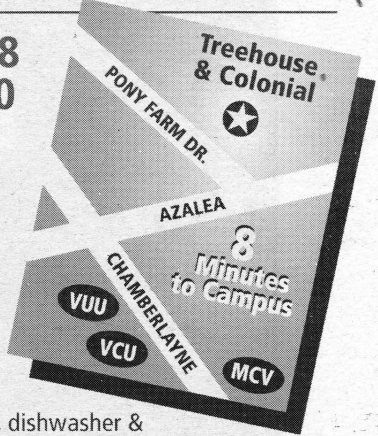
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The Godfather of Soul comes to Richmond

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Richmond's Landmark Theater has witnessed greatness time and time again.

But so has James Brown.

Good Gawd!

Saturday, the two came together once again as Brown brought his 18-piece band to town for an evening performance.

The Godfather of Soul flew into Richmond from his Augusta, Ga. home, was driven to the venue and went straight to work.

He's not known as the hardest working man in show business for nothing.

Born in North Carolina and reared in Georgia, Brown entered the world May 3, 1933. His family never had much -- money, food, clothing, etc.

"I came from nothing," said Brown while resting backstage hours before his show. "I've worked for everything I've got, and with the good Lord's help I've managed to make something of myself."

No kidding.

Brown's career took root with his 1956 recording of "Please, Please, Please." With that, Brown took to the road and has been there ever since.

"I've been so blessed to have been allowed to have lasted this long," he said. "I love being in front of a crowd. It keeps me young."

Dressed in a burgundy double-knit suit, Brown acted the director as he prepped his band during Saturday's soundcheck.

Brown cajoled and kidded them, corrected and instructed.

Several times the Godfather took to one of two drum kits and demonstrated a particular beat that only he seemed to hear.

To a man, his band watched wide-eyed, ears open and attention taut.

Smart move.

As Brown calls the likes of such fellow musicians as Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny

Cash friend, one can safely assume that he knows a thing or two about music.

"Jerry Lee Lewis is a good man, a good friend," Brown said. "So's Johnny and his wife, June. She's from Virginia, a good Christian lady. I love 'em both like family."

Brown speaks of religion often.

He credits his devotion for leading him from a path that took him to a two-year prison stint in the early '90s.

Drugs, booze and a somewhat erratic lifestyle derailed Brown's career from the mid-'80s into the '90s.

"God saved me," Brown said, his eyes vivid and glistening. "I slipped up, paid for what I did and lived. They saved me when they incarcerated me."

"Some folks like drugs, risque magazines, nude women and all that," he said, "but that stuff is not good."

"But I'm only human. Just like (televangelist) Jimmy Swaggert. I don't know why he did what he did, but he paid for it. Now, he's coming back better than ever." Brown said.

Brown had a lot to come back to.

Scattered through his 44-year career, Brown racked up 74 R&B Top 20 hits -- 17 of which reached No. 1.

Songs such as "Cold Sweat," "Papa's got a Brand New Bag" and "Sex Machine" helped sell more than 50 million albums.

In 1992, Brown was honored by the American Music Awards with its Award of Merit. A month later, he received the Grammy's Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Life's been real good to me," Brown said.

In 1986, Brown was honored along with such fellow rockers as Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley with induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

But with all that's come his way,

Brown doesn't simply ride the coattails of his own past.

Today, in addition to his heavy touring schedule, Brown lends his time to helping those down on their economic luck.

He said that folks are today worse off by comparison with those of 30, 40 years ago.

"Just look at gas prices," Brown said. "You tell me how somebody who's been kicked off welfare can pay that? It's bad."



OnlineTalent.com

NOW -- The hardest working man in show business, still at it in his 44th year.

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"Society needs to do better," Brown said.

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He emerged from his dressing room minutes before he was to go on stage, dressed in black. A perceptible bounce appeared in his step. A mile-wide smile pursed his lips.

"This is it, man!" Brown said. "I never get tired of that stage. Those are my people out there."



LEGEND

OnlineTalent.com



THEN -- James Brown

The Godfather of Soul comes to Richmond

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Brown cajoled and kidded them, corrected and instructed. Several times the Godfather took to one of two drum kits and demonstrated a particular beat that only he seemed to hear. To a man, his band watched wide-eyed, ears open and attention taut. Smart move. As Brown calls the likes of such fellow musicians as Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny

Richmond's Landmark Theater has witnessed greatness time and time again. But so has James Brown.

Good Gawd!

Saturday, the two came together once again as Brown brought his 18-piece band to town for an evening performance.

The Godfather of Soul flew into Richmond from his Augusta, Ga. home, was driven to the venue and went straight to work. He's not known as the hardest working man in show business for nothing.

Born in North Carolina and reared in Georgia, Brown entered the world May 3, 1933. His family never had much -- money, food, clothing, etc.

"I came from nothing," said Brown while resting backstage hours before his show. "I've worked for everything I've got, and with the good Lord's help I've managed to make something of myself."

No kidding. Brown's career took root with his 1956 recording of "Please, Please, Please." With that, Brown took to the road and has been there ever since.

"I've been so blessed to have been allowed to have lasted this long," he said. "I love being in front of a crowd. It keeps me young."

Dressed in a burgundy double-knit suit, Brown acted the director as he prepped his band during Saturday's soundcheck.

Cash friend, one can safely assume that he knows a thing or two about music.

"Jerry Lee Lewis is a good man, a good friend," Brown said. "So's Johnny and his wife, June. She's from Virginia, a good Christian lady. I love 'em both like family."

Brown speaks of religion often. He credits his devotion for leading him from a path that took him to a two-year prison stint in the early '90s.

Drugs, booze and a somewhat erratic lifestyle derailed Brown's career from the mid-'80s into the '90s.

"God saved me," Brown said, his eyes vivid and glistening. "I slipped up, paid for what I did and lived. They saved me when they incarcerated me."

"Some folks like drugs, risqué magazines, nude women and all that," he said, "but that stuff is not good."

"But I'm only human. Just like (televangelist) Jimmy Swaggert. I don't know why he did what he did, but he paid for it. Now, he's coming back better than ever," Brown said.

Brown had a lot to come back to. Scattered through his 44-year career, Brown racked up 74 R&B Top 20 hits -- 17 of which reached No. 1.

Songs such as "Cold Sweat," "Papa's got a Brand New Bag" and "Sex Machine" helped sell more than 50 million albums.

In 1992, Brown was honored by the American Music Awards with its Award of Merit. A month later, he received the Grammy's Lifetime Achievement Award. "Life's been real good to me," Brown said.

In 1986, Brown was honored along with such fellow rockers as Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley with induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

But with all that's come his way, Brown doesn't simply ride the coattails of his own past.

Today, in addition to his heavy touring schedule, Brown lends his time to helping those down on their economic luck.

He said that folks are today worse off by comparison with those of 30, 40 years ago.

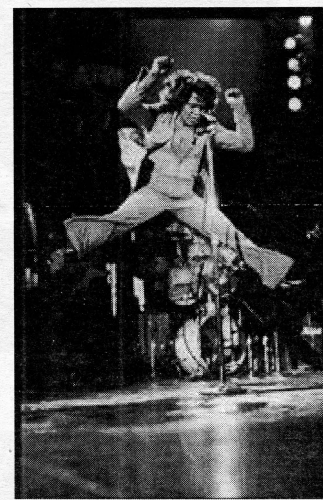
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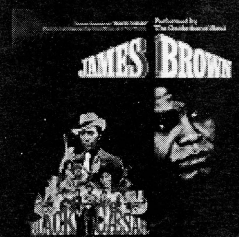
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THEN -- James Brown works an early '60s crowd into a 'Cold Sweat.'

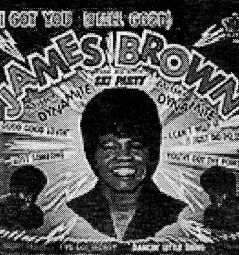
James Brown's discography

- 1959 Please Please Please Try Me
- 1960 Think
- 1961 The Amazing James Brown
- 1962 Shout and Shimmy
- 1963 Live at the Apollo Prisoner of Love

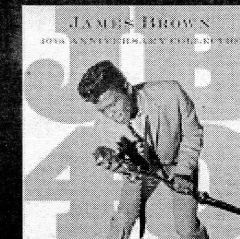


- 1975 Sex Machine
- 1976 Hot
- 1977 Mutha's Nature
- 1978 Jam 1980s
- 1979 The Original Disco Man
- 1980 People
- 1981 Nonstop!
- 1983 Bring it On

- 1964 Pure Dynamite Showtime
- Grits and Soul
- Out of Sight

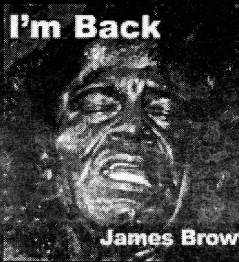


- 1965 Papa's got a Brand New Bag
- 1966 I Got You (I Feel Good)
- Handful of Soul
- 1967 Cold Sweat
- Raw Soul
- Live at the Garden



- 1985 Gravity
- 1987 Soul Session
- 1988 Soul Session Live
- I'm Real (w/Full Force)
- 1991 Love Overdue
- 1993 Universal James
- Can't Get Any Harder
- 1995 Living in America
- Live at the Apollo, 1995

- 1969 Say it Loud -- I'm Black and I'm Proud
- 1970 Ain't it Funky
- Sex Machine
- Soul on Top
- 1971 Super Bad
- Hot Pants
- 1972 Get on the Good Foot
- There it Is
- 1973 Black Caesar
- 1974 The Payback
- Hell

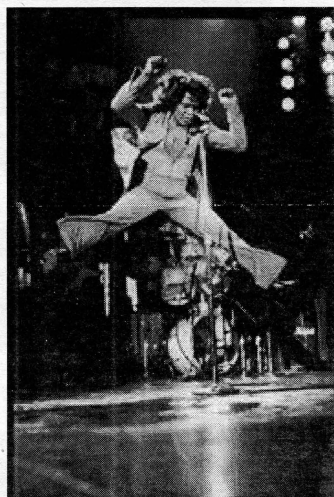


LEGEND

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Funky-stuff.com

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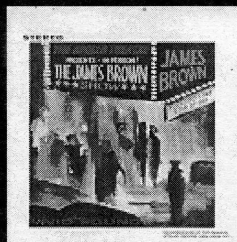
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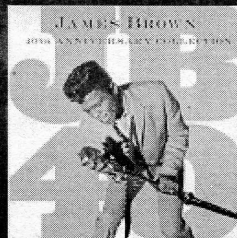
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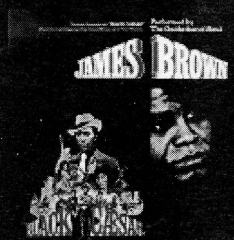
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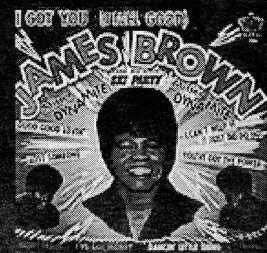
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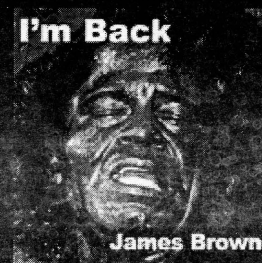
1993 Universal James

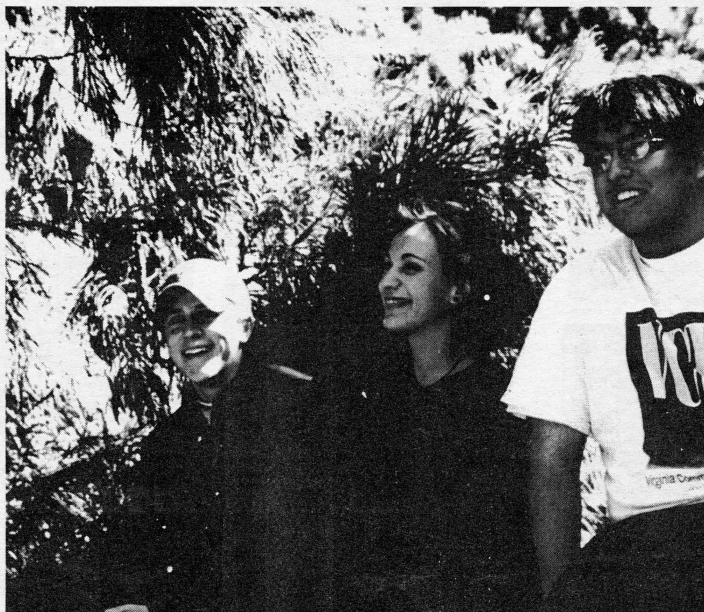
Can't Get Any Harder

1995 Living in America

Live at the Apollo,

1995





Most VCU
students
 have

4
 or

fewer

drinks

when they

party

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.



Virginia Commonwealth University
 Office of Health Promotion
 Division of Student Affairs

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

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

Robb Crocker

Let Elian go home

For four months now, controversy has surrounded 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez, the little boy from Cuba who was plucked out of the Gulf of Mexico after his mother and stepfather attempted to flee Cuba and find a better life America.

In the course of the journey, both parents were killed, leaving the boy alone at sea until his rescue.

US immigration officials placed the boy in the custody of his great uncle and cousins while his case was being evaluated.

People all over the country have viewed their opinions through protests and candle-light vigils.

Lost in all of this chaos is the fact that there is a little boy who had to witness the loss of his mother and stepfather. In addition, he has seen his family and two countries divided over where he should live.

I will make this real easy, Elian Gonzalez belongs with his father; end of story. Also, note to all politicians, the Cold War is over so there is absolutely no need to stir up bad feelings with Cuba.

If the situation were reversed, and an American child was in Cuba with some distant relatives awaiting governmental

red tape, the child would be considered a hostage.

Now after four months, Elian will more than likely be returned to his homeland. He will be considered a hero in Cuba and quite possibly refuel a new momentum for Communism.

I've bounced this subject around with some of my friends and the most common argument is that "Cuba must be a terrible place to live so the boy should be raised here."

Being an American, it is easy to say that the American way of life is the only way but our country has problems too. Poverty, crime and prejudice know no borders.

Maybe instead of creating an international incident out of this situation, U.S. immigration could have returned Elian to his father (where he belongs) and some sort of visitation could have arranged.

The results of this common sense solution may have created better relations between our two countries. Instead, relations may be strained.

This situation also allowed Fidel Castro to be in the international spotlight after many years of silence.

Ultimately, the situation is wrong. Elian

belongs with his father because he is his father. The child has been through enough trauma and I don't think capitalism and some distant relatives are going to be able to help him through this tough time.

I hope I'm wrong, but if my mother had died in front of me when I was six, I'd be pretty screwed up, so imagine what this child is like right now and possibly 20 years from now.

Think about all the people that we know that come from broken families or are raised by a single parent. From my own personal experience, I can say that it hurts and you don't understand why your daddy and mommy don't live together.

Because my parents couldn't get along, I was separated from my mother for 11 years. That's 11 years of my life that I will never get back and the emotional roller coaster ride I've been through has scarred me for life.

My point is that it is bad enough when parents screw their child's life. In this situation, the governments of Cuba and the US are just as much to blame.

Give the child back to his father and when he is old enough, let him decide if he wants to come and live in the US.

Theodore Dokko (UC San Diego)

The Good Book still the gospel truth

(U-Wire) — Judging by the rhetoric taught to students at universities and written by the mainstream media across this country, the Bible is the most error-laced and unbelievable book in literature.

We are told that the stories contained in the Bible are mere fantasies of their writers and that the people and places spoken of are not historical because they have not been confirmed by independent writing.

These critics claim there is no way that the Bible can be the inspired word of God as it purports to be.

With all the attacks on the Bible, our post-modern culture has told us to pick what we like about the Bible and reject those parts that we feel are either unloving or politically incorrect.

Upon closer investigation, the Bible contains reasons why it is such a bestseller and why it has such amazing resilience.

One amazing aspect of the Bible is that it is not a monolith, as some perceive it to be. Quite to the contrary, it is a book of great diversity. The Bible, a library of 66 books, was compiled over a period of 15 centuries.

This opening prophecy about a descendant of Eve who would one day defeat the Serpent with a fatal blow is the basis on which the whole Bible grows.

One aspect of the Bible that sets it apart from any comparable text, religious or otherwise, is the unity of theme and message that it achieves. This unity is apparent despite the diversity of literary structure and genre, authorship, viewpoint and chronology.

The Bible is a well-designed structure assembled by a single, super-intelligent

architect.

As a second set of evidence, one can look at the historical proof. Critics have tried to discredit the Bible, yet they have always failed. The Bible has consistently quieted the critics who seek independent refutation of the events that are recorded in it.

Some doubted the existence of Pilate, the Roman official who condemned Jesus of Nazareth to death. They too have been quieted by historical evidence.

Those who wish to prove away the Bible have been silenced after archaeology has confirmed the historical events and people in the Bible.

In addition to the evidence provided by archaeology, historical writings confirm

Jesus as a historical figure. Contemporary secular literature refers to him a minimum of 13 times. The most vital event in Scripture involving Jesus, the resurrection, is also confirmed by independent and historical documentation.

Clearly it is neither illogical nor an act of ignorance to believe in the Bible.

One must decide for oneself whether the Bible is truly what it claims to be, or if it is not even worth the paper it is written on.

The challenge is for all to take an objective look at the Bible for all it is. Many have done so with the intent of proving it as a farce, but have been convinced otherwise. Will you accept the challenge and decide for yourself?

CommonwealthTimes

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

J. Edward Rogalsky — Executive Editor
George B. Templeton — Managing Editor
Tim Heise — Business Manager

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J. Edward Rogalsky
Tim Heise

Letter to the editor

CT not doing what it should

Since coming to VCU in 1996, I have been a fairly regular reader of the Commonwealth Times.

As an English major, I noticed the staff's blatant disregard for proper grammar and usage. I also noticed a drastic improvement last year, particularly in the spring semester. I would assume the staff changes had a lot to do with that improvement.

The 1999-2000 year, however, has been an utter disaster.

Not only has the CT reverted back to its incredibly sloppy language routines, it has become a joke as far as accuracy. There have been misspelled headlines, incorrect photo identifications and poor page designs. I'm not an expert in journalistic style, but shouldn't the lead headline in the March 30 issue have said, "Armed robbers hit Fan; police give safety tips"?

The way it is now implies that people have been robbing the police. "Police give safety tips" is a separate clause. In the weather, the CT reminds us to set our clocks back Saturday night. The time for setting clocks back is October. This weekend, we needed to set our clocks forward.

I'm not saying I could do a much better job. I'm not trying to be a nitpicker, and I'm sure the CT staff members have other things to do, but I don't call myself "The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University" either.

A newspaper should at the very minimum be accurate, and the CT fails at this time and time again. I always read the opinion page, and in doing this couldn't help but notice that both the executive and managing editors left the paper after the first two issues last fall.

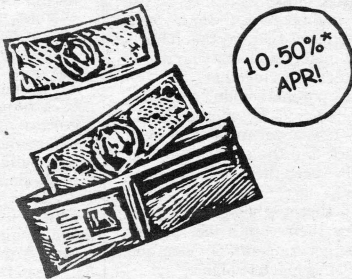
Of course, maybe the executive and managing editors were not the answer. I noticed that the managing editor returned briefly this semester and I saw no improvement.

I just wanted the powers that be at the CT to know that some students, and not just me, watch the paper and expect it to serve the student body in a professional manner and with some semblance of integrity. I fail to see that in the current product coming out of the Temple Building.

Paul R. Andercamp
VCU Student

The opinion section of the Commonwealth Times is a forum open to the public. Virginia Commonwealth University students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit letters and columns expressing their opinions and concerns. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth Times or VCU. Editorials represent the institutional opinion of the Commonwealth Times. We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.
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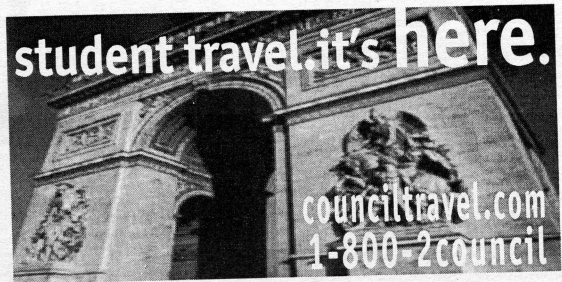
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Virginia Commonwealth University

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TERM	BEGIN DATE
Honors Students	03/20/2000
Graduates and Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Seekers	03/27/2000
Seniors	03/29/2000
Juniors	04/06/2000
Sophomores	04/13/2000
Freshmen	04/20/2000
Special students (Non-degree seeking)	04/27/2000

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 Friday: 8am - 5:30
 Saturday: 9am to 1pm

Telephone registration number: (804) 828-1495
 If you have any questions, please call Records and Registration at 828-1349.

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- **The Sound of Noise: Tuesdays 7-9 pm**

WVCW is now online @: www.wvcw.cc

Contest begins April 7th, and runs through the end of the semester.

WVCW is located in the Temple Building, 901 W. Main Street. Room 1123

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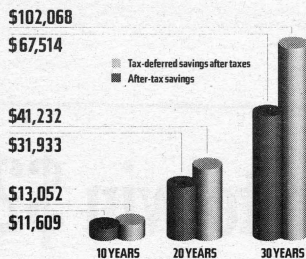
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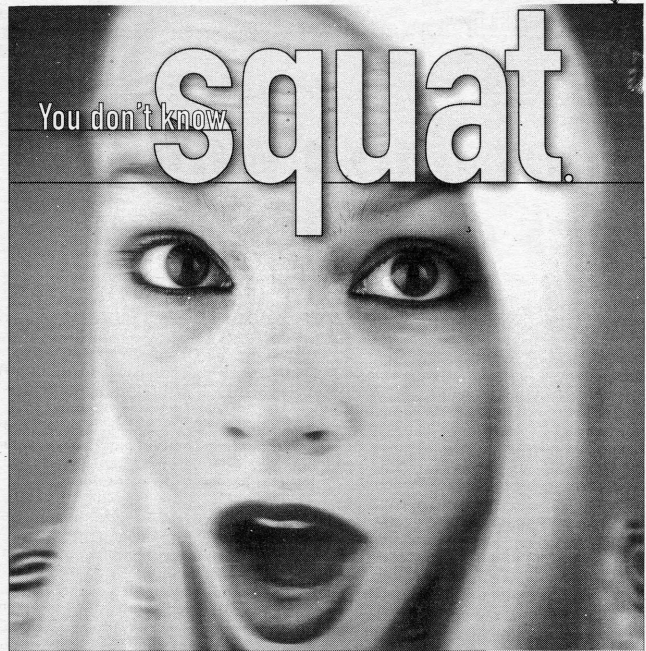
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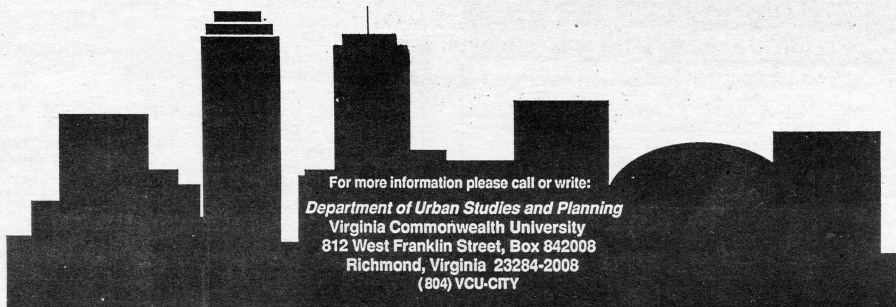
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Ram Stat

Daniel Andersson of the VCU men's tennis has won 40 matches this year, second only to his school-record 46 wins he had in 1997-98.

Sports

Monday, April 10, 2000

Commonwealth Times 16

Next Issue

Preview of the Colonial Athletic Association tournament for men's and women's tennis plus baseball's battle against Old Dominion.

Rams finish with two wins over ACC foes

George Templeton
CT MANAGING EDITOR

After falling to Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouses Duke and North Carolina the VCU men's tennis teams with impressive victories over Virginia and Wake Forest.

In the home finale on Thursday the No. 16 Rams (19-4) were near perfect losing only one singles match and one doubles match in their windswept 5-1 triumph over the 46th-ranked Cavaliers.

"I am very happy with how we played today," said coach Paul Kostin, "but it's just one match. We can't dwell on it. We have to focus on the end of the season, and the conference tournament."

The windy conditions tempered Kostin's enthusiasm for VCU's emphatic win. Nearly all of the shots were effected by the wind.

"The wind was bad enough that you could have suspended play," Kostin said. "It wasn't very good tennis out there. You usually don't want to play on days like that."

"Your timing is off. If you can win in conditions like that, then it could help you down the line."

VCU seem to handle the conditions better, winning four singles matches in straight sets after squeezing out to doubles victories to take the doubles point.

U.Va.'s (13-6) only point came from Brian Vahaly, fourth in the nation, who overcame a 5-2 deficit in the first set to defeat No. 12 Frank Moser 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

"He had a couple of errors and lost his rhythm," Kostin said. "He had chances when he was up 5-2, but he didn't take advantage of any of them."

Top-ranked Daniel Andersson played his first match all season at No. 2 singles and dispatched No. 49 Huntley Montgomery 6-3, 6-1.

"I wanted him to play two, because if he played Vahaly then he might have been out there three hours and that wouldn't be good for his back," Kostin said.

"If we were up to me he wouldn't have played. His brace has helped him and he is only a little slower moving side to side."

The match went to the Rams when Fernando Sanchez, No. 47 Jose Sanchez and Mats Norin won in straight sets in No. 3, 4 and 5 singles.

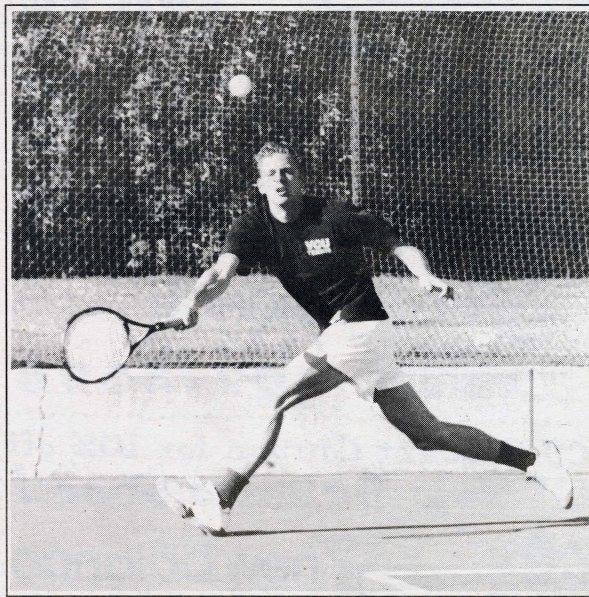
With his victories at WFU and U.Va. Fernando Sanchez upped his record to 20-1 this season.

"He (Fernando) is playing the best tennis of anyone on the team right now," Kostin said. "He has a simple game and he is very quick. He hits a lot of shots and makes the other player make plays. Fernando is a heck of a competitor."

In doubles Jose and Fernando Sanchez secured the point for the Rams by taking the tiebreak in a 9-8 victory over Brian Hunter and Michael Duquette.

VCU and U.Va. split the first two doubles matches with Andersson and Moser, the 13th-ranked doubles team, eked out a 8-6 win over the 16th-ranked pair of Vahaly and Montgomery. John Winter and Tommy Croker defeated Norin and Mattias Hoglund 8-3.

The Rams received three singles wins in straight sets and another hard fought doubles point in knocking off the Demon Deacons 4-2.



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

SHAKING OFF INJURY. VCU's Daniel Andersson shook off the effects of a back injury to knock off Huntley Montgomery in the 5-1 win over Virginia.

Ram comeback gives 2 of 3 over Pirates

Dionne Waugh
CT SPORTS EDITOR

In three one-run games, VCU grabbed two victories over No. 16 East Carolina in a battle of Colonial Athletic Association.

The Rams fell behind 3-0 in the bottom of the third inning of the final game, when Lee Delfino hit a 2-run shot, the only homerun of the game.

Back-to-back sacrifice flies by Davy Martin and Cory Bauswell in the fourth inning cut the VCU deficit to one. Robbie Gragnani knocked in Kevin Elrod, the tying run, on a single in the fifth and then the two winning runs in the seventh on a double to right field to secure victory.

Gragnani totaled three hits and three RBI. "I thought Gragnani had a lot of heart," said coach Paul Keyes. "He did a good job at third."

The Pirates (7-2, 29-8) rallied with one more run in the bottom of the seventh, but it was not enough and the Rams won 5-4. Martin recorded his second save of the season.

Starting pitcher Marc Fisher struck out two in four innings before leaving because of a leg injury.

VCU's bullpen held ECU to one run in five innings. "I thought [relief pitcher] Chad Baumann and Tommy did a good job," said Keyes. "Davy had enough to get us out."

Baumann (2-0) picked up the victory with Martin recording his fourth save of the year. Martin retired the last batters, stranding the tying run, Justin Hyde, at second base.

VCU suffered a tough 2-1 loss in their second matchup against ECU. It was a pitchers' duel, between Bo Acors and ECU's

Jason Mandryk, that was scoreless until the bottom of the sixth.

Joseph Hastings broke the tie in the bottom of the sixth on an error by Jose Pabon, who boggled the ball. ECU scored two runs on the error to break the scoreless tie.

The Rams came back with a run in the seventh.

In the top of the ninth, the Rams loaded the bases with no outs against the nation's top closer Cory Scott who wriggled out of the jam.

Scott picked up his 15th save of the season and Mandryk (3-0) grabbed the win.

Acors (2-3) went the distance in his first start since March 12. He took the loss, giving up two runs on four hits in eight innings, striking out five. "I thought he did a tremendous job keeping them off balance," Keyes said.

"I'm really proud of the way we played. I think we went toe to toe with them."

Martin (2-2) pitched and hit well to secure the Rams 3-2 win in the series opener. Martin tied the game at two with a two-run homer, his first of the year.

Chris Gerrity won the game with an RBI single in the seventh.

Edelblut recorded his first save of the season, allowing only one baserunner over the last two innings.

"I thought we showed a lot of pride, character, and what VCU baseball is all about this weekend," Keyes said. "Every time they hit a ball, we were there. We had a great defense. I hope it will springboard us."

We play Old Dominion next week and if we can get on some kind of roll and play well, it ought to be a good weekend."

Golf takes eighth place

GREENVILLE, S.C. — VCU's golf team shot the second-best final round of the tourney and finish in a tie for eighth at the Furman Invitational.

Reg Millage led the Rams with another top 10 finish. Millage shot 72 (even) for the second time in the tournament to finish seventh with a 219 (+3) total.

VCU finished 18 shots behind the champions, Virginia.

When play was suspended on the first day the Rams held third with a first-round score of 291 (+3).

VCU will try to win a fifth consecutive Colonial Athletic Association title in Manakin-Sabot next weekend.

— compiled from news sources.

Rams in Action			
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS	Notes	
MEN'S TENNIS (19-4, 8-0)	APRIL 14-16 CAA TOURNAMENT IN RICHMOND	VCU STANDS ONE WIN AWAY FROM FIFTH 20-WIN SEASON IN ITS LAST SIX SEASONS.	
WOMEN'S TENNIS (12-5, 7-1)	APRIL 14-16 CAA TOURNAMENT IN RICHMOND	THE RAMS HAVE BEEN THE RUNNER-UP TWICE IN COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS.	
BASEBALL (25-13, 4-5)	APRIL 11 VA. TECH	APRIL 12 LIBERTY	APRIL 14 ODU
	VCU HAS KNOCKED OFF TWO RANKED OPPONENTS, EAST CAROLINA AND AUBURN THIS SEASON.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES HOME GAME <input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES AWAY GAME		