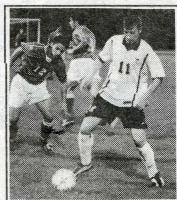




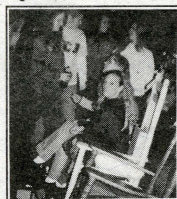
Editorial: More opinions about parking and censorship, page 7.



WOMEN'S SOCCER: VCU and Richmond renew their rivalry, page 11.



MEN'S SOCCER: Rams take down Highlanders, page 12.



ROCKATHON: Alpha Sigma Delta and Delta Chi participated in a Rockathon to raise money for the Daily Planet.

FORECAST
Tuesday: sunny, high 81, low 56.
Wednesday: sunny, high 84, low 56.

Trani, Huff reveal plans for changes in life science program

Ty Bowers
CT STAFF WRITER

"It will literally consume us for the next five years."

Those are the words VCU President Eugene P. Trani used to describe the life sciences program now under way on the academic and medical campuses.

Trani and Thomas F. Huff, professor of microbiology and immunology and the interim vice provost for life sciences, last Wednesday outlined the developments and goals of the program in a presentation to faculty members at the Medical Sciences Building auditorium.

The stage, Huff said, is set for this "enormous opportunity" to develop an interdisciplinary approach to life sciences education and scholarship at both campuses. As a national research university with a comprehensive health center, he said, VCU is obligated to take advantage of this opportunity.

In his presentation, Trani discussed possible gains the program would provide, saying it would present the university with the opportunity to assume a national niche in life sciences as well as

SYMPOSIUM continued on page 5



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

Dr. Thomas Huff, interim vice provost for Life Sciences, speaks to the faculty about VCU's Life Science's Initiative.

Clinic to address sexual harassment boundaries, rules

Jay-Anne Casuga
CT NEWS EDITOR

In the workplace, a fine line separates flirting from sexual harassment.

But how can you distinguish one from the other?

VCU employees — administrators, faculty, staff and student workers — will have the opportunity to know this fall by attending a sexual harassment prevention training session sponsored by the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Services.

"We want to familiarize employees with the laws that govern relationships in the workplace," said Velma Jackson-Williams, director of EEO/AA and assistant to the provost. "Even if your intent is innocent, it's all about how the other person re-

acts to your action."

Williams conducts the training sessions along with Shirley McDaniel, assistant director of EEO/AA, and Anna Ruiz, the university's American with Disabilities Act coordinator.

Although the EEO/AA office aims the sessions, titled "Preventing Sexual Harassment: Your Responsibility," toward employees, Williams said all university students are welcome to attend.

The sessions, which last an hour and a half, focus on the definition and types of sexual harassment, the university's policies, procedures and resolution techniques.

"The program can only be a positive thing," Ruiz said. "The

TRAINING continued on page 3

Federal law requires VCU to hand out voting information

Laura K. Davis
CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Time's almost up.

Absentee ballots must be in by Nov. 2, and people must register to vote before 5 p.m. on Oct. 10, the last day of registration. The sooner the absentee ballots come in, the better, said Judy Bradley, assistant registrar for Richmond City.

Steve Calos, executive director of the Common Cause of Virginia, said students who were unaware of this should have been more informed because VCU, along with other universities and colleges that receive any type of federal funding, has to supply them with voting information.

Common Cause and the American Civil Liberties Union, or ACLU, of Virginia sent letters to college and universities, informing them of the Higher Education Resources and Student Assistance Act last week.

This federal law, only several years old, mandates that schools supply each student with voter registration material.

"A quick handful of calls indicated schools aren't doing what was required," Calos said.

William Duvall, dean of student affairs at VCU, said it would be difficult to give every individual student material.

"I was not aware that there was a requirement," he said. "I don't know of anyone doing that (here)."

He added that voting registration drives on campus have encouraged students to register, and the League of Women Voters will sponsor another drive Wednesday in the student commons.

State schools that receive the letter from ACLU and Common Cause must respond within five days, a Freedom of Information Act requirement, said Kent Willis,

VOTING continued on page 3

Campus Crime Log

Crimes reported by VCU Police during the week of Sept. 23 - 29.

MCV

Arrests

401 N. 12th St., Green ER, room C. Police arrested a male campus visitor for disorderly conduct on Sept. 26 at 3:13 a.m.

401 N. 12th St. Police arrested a male campus visitor for trespassing on Sept. 28 at 12:21 a.m.

Fraud

1202 W. Marshall St., A.D. Williams Pharmacy. A known person attempted to obtain a prescription by fraud on Sept. 22 between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Grand Larceny

410 N. 12th St., Smith Building, floor 6, room 615. Unknown person(s) removed state property from a secure location on Sept. 24 at 12:50 p.m., a female employee advised. Total value: \$1,900

1220 E. Clay St., Visitors Deck, level 6. An unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecured location on Sept. 27 between 7 p.m. - 7:38 p.m., a male visitor advised. Total value: \$300.

Petit Larceny

410 N. 12th St., Main Hospital, floor 9 Central. A known person removed personal property from an unsecured location between Sept. 2 at 11:00 p.m. and Sept. 3 at 7:00 a.m., a female employee advised. Total: \$150.

1112 E. Clay St., McGuire Hall, room 216. An unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecured location on Sept. 19 between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., a female employee/student advised. Total value: \$40.

410 N. 12th St., Main Hospital, room 340A. An unknown person(s) removed U.S. currency from its unsecured location on Sept. 23 between an unknown time to 11:10 p.m., a male visitor advised. Total value: \$50.

401 N. 11th St., Nelson Clinic. An unknown person(s) removed personal property from its secured location on Sept. 25 between 8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m., a male patient advised. Total value: Unknown.

401 N. 11th St., Nelson Clinic, room 212. An unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecured location on Sept. 25 between 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., a female employee advised. Total value: \$80.

1300 E. Broad St., West Hospital. An unknown person(s) removed personal property from its unsecured location on Sept. 28 around 3:15 p.m., a female visitor advised. Total value: Unknown.

VCU

Arrests

710 W. Franklin St., Rhoads Hall. Police arrested two male students for possession of marijuana on Sept. 22 at 1:12 a.m.

500 block N. Harrison St. Police arrested a male campus visitor for being drunk in public on Sept. 23 at 8:23 a.m.

Grace and Lombardy streets. Police arrested a campus visitor for possession of

an open container of an alcoholic beverage in public on Sept. 23 at 4:57 p.m.

900 block of W. Grace St. Police arrested a campus visitor for possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage in public on Sept. 23 at 8:09 p.m.

710 W. Franklin St., Rhoads Hall. Police arrested a male campus visitor for trespassing on Sept. 23 at 11:24 p.m.

931 W. Grace St. Police arrested a male student for underage possession of alcohol on Sept. 23 at 11:45 p.m.

931 W. Grace St. Police arrested two male campus visitors for purchasing alcohol for an underage person on Sept. 23 at 11:45 p.m.

Vine and Main streets. Police arrested a male campus visitor for DUI on Sept. 24 at 1:04 a.m.

Laurel and West Franklin streets. Police arrested a male campus visitor for drinking in public on Sept. 24 at 1:24 a.m.

1100 block W. Franklin. Police arrested a male visitor for DUI, attempt to elude, possession of marijuana, refusal of breath test, driving with a revoked license and resisting arrest on Sept. 24 at 2:17 a.m.

Monroe Park. Police arrested a campus visitor for being drunk in public on Sept. 24 at 4:15 p.m.

900 block W. Grace St. Police arrested a male campus visitor for DUI on Sept. 25 at 12:09 a.m.

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George Templeton. Address comments, complaints or suggestions regarding any other aspect of the CT to J. Edward Rogalsky.

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FAX: 828-9201

E-MAIL: CTVCU@hotmail.com

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J. Edward Rogalsky, executive editor

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TRAINING continued from page 1

more education there is, the more awareness there'll be. It makes for a better environment."

Veda Bellamy, program support technician for alumni activities, has worked at VCU for 25 years. She attended her first training session this past spring to learn more about sexual harassment.

"I thought it was very informative," she said. "A lot of us think we know all there is to know about sexual harassment, but it's always good to refresh yourself on old subjects."

After a brief lecture, attendees interact with the instructors during question-and-answer sessions and role-playing exercises.

"Ms. Williams is a dynamite speaker who held the audience and presented the information well," Bellamy said. "We learned about the fine line between things to say and things not to say."

Defined as an unwelcome sexual advance, sexual harassment violates Title IX of 1971's Education Amendment Act and Title VII of 1964's Civil Rights Act.

According to the University Guidelines on Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, conduct of a sexual nature constitutes harassment when submission to or rejection of the behavior affects an individual's employment or academic status, unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Several categories of harassment exist.

Verbal harassment includes sexual innuendo and remarks about clothing, physical appearances or activities; jokes about sex that denigrate women or men; propositions and invitations for sex; implied or overt sexual threats; and gestures of a sexual nature.

Physical harassment involves unwelcome touching, such as patting, pinching, brushing against the body and attempted or actual kissing or fondling; coerced sexual intercourse; and sexual assault.

Displaying sexually suggestive photographs or literature can also be interpreted as harassment.

Williams pointed out that women aren't

the only victims of harassment.

"Women can do it to men too," she said. "Harassment happens in any combination you can think of — male to female, female to male, male to male or female to female."

The EEO/AA office deals with supervisor-to-employee, faculty-to-faculty and faculty-to-student cases reported to the university. Student-to-student harassment is handled by the Division of Student Affairs.

The number of sexual harassment cases reported to the EEO/AA office could not be obtained because the office said the provost was uncomfortable with releasing those figures at this time.

William Duvall, dean of student affairs, said student-to-student cases are relatively rare.

"We've been fortunate. I'm not aware of any from last year," he said. "There were a few reports a year or two ago that were resolved informally, but I'm hard pressed to remember any that went through the entire process."

Williams said many university divisions require employees to attend the courses.

"We have a lot of support from directors, deans and chairmen," she said. Last semester, she said approximately 900 employees attended the sessions. This year, she expects around 1,200 attendants.

Bellamy said she didn't want to attend the sessions at first.

"Then I heard a rumor that it was mandatory," she said. "Later, I heard it wasn't mandatory but by then I decided to go for myself."

"If everyone gets the opportunity, they should at least go to one," Bellamy said. "I'm glad I did."

She added that she would certainly attend future sessions.

"You can never know too much about something," she said. "There's always something new to learn."

Offered on the academic and medical campuses, the courses begin Oct. 5 and last until Nov. 15. The sessions have existed at VCU since 1995.

To register for a session, call the Office of EEO/AA at 828-1347, or visit the office in Ginter House room 114.

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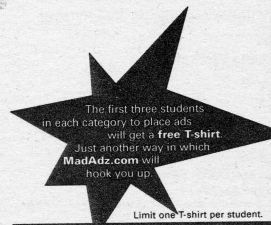
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Turn to page seven

to find out if you're eligible for an absentee ballot
and what the deadlines are for absentee voting.

VOTING continued from page 1

executive director of Virginia's ACLU, a group that advocates individual rights, according to its Web site.

The letter asks whether institutions comply with the act, and it asks how institutions encourage and plan to encourage voting and registration on campus this November and for next year's statewide elections.

ACLU and Common Cause, a nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' lobbying organization that promotes open, accountable and honest government, according to its Web site, offer assistance in promoting registration, as well, Willis said.

"We will take it upon ourselves to educate them in what they need to do," he added.

Calos said the groups plan a statewide campaign to promote voter registration for college students.

Institutions, Willis said, will be penalized if they fail to comply with the law.

For example, the universities and colleges could no longer participate in the federal student loan program.

Universities and college presidents weren't the only people to receive letters from ACLU and Common Cause last week.

The groups sent letters to Virginia registrars, Calos said, informing them that students can register to vote in their college towns.

Last April, Willis said a student from Mary Washington College called the ACLU, saying that the Fredericksburg registrar would not allow him to register to vote because he lived in a dorm.

"That doesn't make sense," Willis said. "Most students are going to live nine months or more for four years or more in the place they go to college."

Because of the Mary Washington student's dorm address, Willis said, the registrar did not consider him a Fredericksburg resident.

"Homeless people can register to vote without an exact address," Willis said, explaining that the homeless just have to describe to registrars where they sleep at night. "If homeless people can register to vote, then students living in dorms ought to be able to register to vote."

The ACLU surveyed registrars across the state to find out if similar treatment toward college students occurred frequently, he said.

Registrars develop their own guidelines when it comes to college students, Willis said, explaining that no guiding criteria have been established for them to determine whether students should register using their parents' addresses or their college addresses.

He said registrars need to realize that some people can have more than one possible place they can register, but they cannot register in two places at once.

The organizations also sent copies of a questionnaire to registrars.

These will help each student, who may fill the form out with the help of a registrar, decide the best place to register.

So has the Richmond registrar shown hostility toward students?

"I don't know of any reason (why it would)," Bradley said, adding that students can even call to have the registrar send them applications.

Willis said the ACLU has heard no complaints from VCU students about this.

When questioned, the registrar said to register to vote in Richmond, Willis said, people must have a city street address, so it does not matter if students live in a dorm.

"We would like to see full (student voting) participation," Calos said. "This seems to be one largely disaffected group that has not been reached out to."

UNIVERSITY STUDENT COMMONS & ACTIVITIES, DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

COMMONS & ACTIVITIES

October 2000

WORK IT!

Commons & Activities Workshops in October

Reservations & Events WorkshopsMonday, October 2
Thursday, October 12**Students Actively Involved in Leadership (S.A.I.L.)**

Wednesday, October 4
12:00 Noon in the Alumni Association Board Room
"The Leadership and Service Journey"
Facilitated by: Chris Mays, Coordinator of Student Organizations and Leadership Development
This is an excellent workshop for anyone interested in the benefits of starting the journey toward involvement with leadership and service on campus. This multi-layered presentation includes quotes, video, participant interaction, and personal experiences to create a personal journey for the future of VCU.

Wednesday, October 18
12:00 Noon in the Commonwealth Ballroom A
"Effective Confrontation"

Facilitated by: Steven Bowen, SGA Student Service Chair and Chris Mays, USC&A Student Organizations & Leadership
Confrontation is often viewed as a negative experience and a task that most would rather not assume. Confrontations need not be negative. This workshop will explore models of effective confrontation, as well as do's and don'ts. Come learn ways to reduce the anxiety produced by confrontation and become more comfortable confronting others.

Mentor Training Workshops

Learn what to expect in a mentor-protégé relationship. Learn about the do's and don'ts. Participate in creative sessions to gain tips and ideas that make mentoring and tutoring more enjoyable.

Saturday, October 7
11 am - 2 pm in the Commons

Spending Student Activities Fees

A workshop for student organizations who have received funding and want to learn the procedures for spending. Pre-registration is required.
Register online at <http://www.students.vcu.edu/activities/SACspending.html>

Tuesday, October 10
Thursday, October 26



Break Point Tournament

October 8th, 2000

Register in Break Point
by October 7th
Entry Fee: \$2.00
(due at time of registration)



Commuter CoffeeBRAKES

take place bi-weekly, offering free coffee, snacks and lots of information for commuter students. All CoffeeBRAKES are from 9 am - 11 am, in the Commons Lobby.

Tuesday,
October 10th

Co-sponsored by the Office of Health Promotion

Wednesday,
October 25th

Co-sponsored by VCUCard and VCU Dining Services

60 Minute Service Tuesdays

Start October 17th

Got an hour? That's all it takes for the 60-minute Service Tuesday Series. This is designed for college students with busy schedules who want to get involved in community service.

October 17: St. Francis Home
October 31: Adult Care Services
November 7: Science Museum of VA
November 21: Richmond Area ARC
December 12: MCVH - Volunteer Services

- Only 3-4 volunteers per event
- Volunteers will meet in the Student Activities Center 30 minutes before project.
- Transportation provided!
- Sign Up in the Student Activities Center



WOW !

40+ VCU

students signed up to go
INTO THE STREETS,
Saturday, September 23!
Where did they go?

- Richmond Area ARC
- Science Museum of Virginia
- Children's Museum of Richmond
- Bryan Park
- St. Francis Home
- MCV Hospitality House
(Trigon Gruey Tournament)



These organizations
are with it!

Service cards submitted in
September show that they are
committed and dedicated
to providing service
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Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.



The Week's End

Looking for something
to do this weekend?

Find a weekend list of events
on and off campus at
www.students.vcu.edu/commons/



Virginia Commonwealth University

Commons & Activities online:

www.students.vcu.edu/commons/

VCU is an EEO/AA institution. If you should need special accommodation, contact Janet Howell at (804)828-9502.

SYMPOSIUM continued from page 1

opportunity to assume a national niche in life sciences as well as boost incoming research money and unite the two campuses.

"At every opportunity we're trying to look ahead with this," he told the faculty attending the event. "We're really pressing the envelope with this initiative."

Not only that, but plans call for the life sciences program to be featured extensively in the marketing of VCU to out-of-state students, who Trani predicted could bring as much as \$10 million in tuition fees for the university and its health centers.

Both administrators focused on an integrated approach to life sciences in the study of biological complexity and the need for faculty involvement at all levels of the program.

It will integrate several areas of study based in the soon-to-be completed Life Sciences Building at Main and Harrison streets.

Huff said he hopes to help establish an institute for the study of biological complexity there that can serve as a think tank for the life sciences approach at VCU.

In outlining the long-term vision for the program, Huff called it a comprehensive plan involving undergraduate and graduate students as well as post-doctoral fellows and professionals in the theoretical, empirical and applied study of complexity in biological life.

"Scientists have defined many of the individual elements involved in the mechanisms of biological life," he said. "Defining the principles of interactions between these individual elements is biological complexity."

Trani said the School of Engineering

also would be involved.

"It (life sciences program) is the culmination of a 10-year, \$400 million investment in the infrastructure for the life sciences, engineering, biotechnology, health-care education and research and patient care," he said, noting that he sees a convergence of nanotechnology, biotechnology and medical technologies.

The two administrators also discussed research funding, faculty recruitment plus new and refitted space as well as curricula with faculty from both campuses in the room.

Short-term goals, Huff said, would be developing core instrumentation centers, citing the nucleic acid core and the mass spectrometry core as two examples that would be important elements to the study of proteomics, bioinformatics and genomics.

Trani

said state funding would be necessary. Of the \$1.8 million allocated this year by the General Assembly, \$100,000 went to the university library.

The remainder goes to life sciences—an amount that could create 15 to 20 faculty positions.

Huff and Trani envision the life sciences program as boosting VCU's extramural research funds and positioning the school "ahead of the curve in regards to where life sciences will be 10 or 15 years from now."

One grant proposal now at the National Science Foundation would allow univer-

sity life sciences research to impact the local community, specifically the business community, and Huff said the university continues to explore all funding opportunities.

Calling a university a "unique instrument of society," Huff, in an interview last Thursday, said the life sciences revolution is here, and he sees VCU as being more capable of seeking that opportunity.

"I believe its impact will be enormous and far-reaching," he said. "In dealing with that impact, it will take a university. Universities are in a unique position of opportunity and responsibility in regards to the life sciences revolution."

Although the life sciences curriculum remains in its developmental phase, Huff said one proposed course would target incoming first-year students: Life Sciences 101.

Designed to utilize both campuses with "star lecturers" to attract incoming first-year students into the life sciences, the lectures would be scheduled for the Medical Sciences Building with recitations at the Life Sciences Building.

Through what Huff identified as "leveraged hiring," existing department chairs and deans would collaborate to recruit more faculty.

For instance, the chairs and deans would function similar to the way the Massey Cancer Center administration operates with partial salary support or with setup costs. As for now, however, Huff said the university is conducting job searches for faculty in bioinformatics and genomics fields.

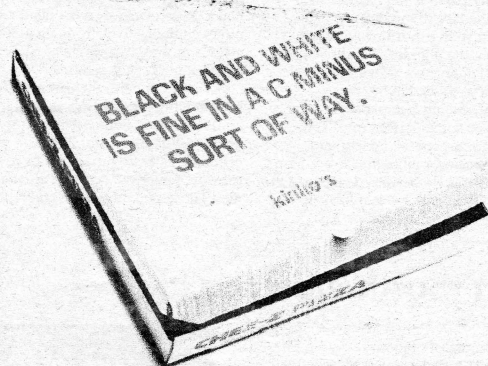
Moreover, the vice provost, whose specialty is immunology and microbiology, sees converting the biology labs housed in the fourth floor of the Temple Building into "wet lab" space for proteomics and the mass spectrometry core.

Though no specific plans are in place to utilize space in Oliver Hall south, especially the student lounge, the vice provost said it could be converted into "dry labs" or offices.

Life Sciences Highlights VCU life sciences will:

- Establish a cross-disciplinary approach
- Create curricula blending biology, engineering, medicine, math and technology
- Attract more research funding
- Draw more faculty to specialized fields

Source: Thomas Huff and Eugene Trani at a life sciences symposium, Wed. Sept. 27, 2000



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By Susan Yankowitz

The stunning tale of a gifted astronomer's journey through aphasia.

Directed by Noreen Barnes-McLain

Featuring Janet Rodgers
Raymond Hodges Theatre
October 5-8, 11-14, 2000

The Madness of George III

By Alan Bennett

A full romp of royal and near-royal characters in witness to George III's tragic illness.

Directed by Christopher Shorr
Shafer Street Playhouse
October 19-22, 2000

Umbilical Discord

By Lora Lee Cliff and Janet Wilson

World premiere of this hilarious and loving female farce of family life.

Directed by Robin Armstrong
Raymond Hodges Theatre
November 9-12, 15-18; 2000

The Day the Bronx Died

By Michael Henry Brown
One family's poignant face-to-face with violence.

Directed by Gary C. Hopper
Raymond Hodges Theatre
February 15-18, 21-24, 2001

Sueno

By José Rivera

Dreams and reality eclipse in this adaptation of Calderon's tale for the Spanish Golden Age. Loyalty and family honor battle illusion with shimmering swords and shattered hearts in time suspended.

Guest director Bill Roudebush
Raymond Hodges Theatre
March 29-April 1, 4-7, 2001

Food, fun and midgets in cowboy hats: an evening at the Virginia State Fair

Kelly Gerow
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

When I think of the last time I went to the Virginia State Fair, my memories get mixed up with scenes from the movie "Grease" and then I drop the images completely. I didn't know what to expect when my parents took me to the state fair this year. Apparently a Mexican-themed event, the state fair offered food, rides, forms of fun and tractors.

Many things made this past Thursday night at the fair an interesting way to spend a few hours. First, I went in lieu of writing a paper for my English class. I thought, "Write a paper about 'Jane Eyre' or eat a big pretzel and watch a pig race." Obviously, the pretzel and pig won. Jane Eyre would understand. Also, I went with my parents, which isn't that odd for me because I'm in that slim percentile of young adults who actually like to spend time with their parents. But since I've moved out of their house, we've had an amusing relationship that I can't really define. Another weird thing about the evening was that despite everyone owning cell phones, it was like a blast back into the 1980s. Everyone wore bad clothing, and Hall and Oates and Ray Parker Jr. played while families rode the Tilt-A-Whirl and other rides.

My parents and I walked around for while, checking out the various sausage vendors and ring toss games. We rode one ride, then walked around some more. We passed by a tent that offered a look at the "World's Smallest Woman" for 50 cents. I don't know why I didn't go look. Later, my friend told me she saw her once and couldn't figure out what the trick was because she looked so real. Then I kicked myself for about 20 minutes after our conversation for letting such an opportunity go. We also saw a tent that advertised acts such as "Elephant Skin Man" and "Exorcist Girl." Sadly, we walked by that, too.

The parents wanted to look at mobile homes, so I made my way back to the tent to see the circus freaks. (I don't know what the correct term for their kind is—State Fair Freaks, perhaps?) I paid \$2 to go inside. A woman stood on stage in front of an audience of about eight people and showed us a magic

trick that involved a plastic mouse moving from one hand to another. Then she sold the "gimmick" that made the trick work. I was a bit disappointed that the performers were in it for the money, and not for the love of exploiting themselves. A midget (I forget the proper term for dwarfed people, so excuse me. The people in the show called him "midget") wearing a cowboy hat took the money. Then a man with rotten teeth explained the show. Along with two women and a cowboy, he performed acts that vaguely resembled the ones advertised on the outside of the tent. A wall-eyed woman billed as a snake charmer held a 5-foot boa constrictor. She also lit a light bulb using her skin. The woman who earlier sold the "gimmick" also participated in dumb magic tricks that made her head appear to spin (inside a box) and also made her look like she had the body of a spider. The creepy master of ceremonies stuck a screwdriver inside his nose—the center of his head—and said "heh, heh, oh boy" every time he laughed. He also lied across a bed of nails while the cowboy stood on top of him. By then only about four people, including myself, were watching. Sometimes we didn't clap.

When the cowboy, who also ate fire, asked for a brave volunteer for the next act, I offered to help because I didn't want to see how embarrassing it would have been if no one volunteered. I went through the back of the trailer and got onstage. The cowboy stood next to me and explained that I was going to be beheaded like Marie Antoinette and I placed my head and hands in a guillotine. I couldn't raise my head while in the contraption, and I wasn't sure what was going on or what happened to me that led me onstage, but I looked at the wee cowboy boots next to me and thought, "This little guy's going to kill me."

The blade "went through me" and I kept my head, but lost dignity. I hopped offstage and then ran to find my parents, in disbelief with how I had spent the last 20 minutes. When I found them a horn went off, followed by the announcement that the pig races would be held in 15 minutes. Of course we walked inside the Virginia Lottery tent to see the big race.

I'm not a pig racing fan, per se, but I very much wanted to see some piggies run. The actual Lady Luck was present, a fact that I found to be odd because I thought she would have something else to do besides dance to "Oh Yeah" by Yello. Obviously I was mistaken. There were three races, and the last

featured Asian pot-bellied pigs. I cheered on the pigs, especially during the last race, which took longer than the first two because pot-bellied pigs don't run. All the while I thought, "This is wrong for so many reasons." But then one of the pigs got loose and walked around the tracks. It was cute, and all moral responsibility vanished.

A parade passed by as we walked away from the tent. A high school's ROTC, a dance squad, a few guys on a tractor, a half-dozen enormous horses, Senor Fair himself, a puppet rock group, a truck filled with men in Confederate soldier costumes and a solemn man in a headdress wearing a blanket all participated in the parade. I guess the other cars filled with characters such as the harpoon-holding Eskimo or the Frenchman carrying a baguette were tied up at the livestock exhibit.

We went back to the entrance to ride a few more rides. By then my mom was feeling ill from the food and almost got sick on the Tilt-A-Whirl. My dad and I rode the Rock-N-Roll ride. It was a strange moment being on a Midway ride with my father, spinning in circles while Motley Crue's "Girls, Girls, Girls" blasted overhead. Since I probably won't have a traditional wedding wherein I dance to a sentimental song with my Dad, I guess this will have to do.

My parents went back to the mobile homes and I tried to cram as much absurdity into my evening as possible by going into a fun house. It was nothing but two dark hallways with walls that appeared to be closing. Every few feet a rubber stick hit my ankle, which I first thought was someone's arm. A terrified girl behind me clung to my waist and her brother held my hand. When we got back outside, they removed themselves from me and walked away, ignoring that we had just experienced something together.

I met up with the parents after I bought a big pretzel. We wandered aimlessly again before leaving for good. Though it happens to millions of people in different states at various times of the year, the state fair was a surreal experience for me. Those pigs sure were cute, though.

Radiohead still 'OK' with fourth album 'Kid A'

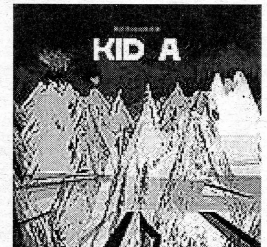
Kelly Gerow
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Radiohead's third album, "OK Computer," saw the band depart from mediocre rock groups by creating songs inspired by technology and paranoia and placing them on a tenderly-crafted album. Considered by many critics to be the best album of 1997 and one of the greatest rock

albums of all time, "OK Computer" set a standard for the future of modern rock. So far, only Radiohead has met the standard, as evident in their fourth album, "Kid A."

Using the same tone as their previous album, Radiohead puts forth 10 more haunting and beautiful tunes. More of an ambient electronic sound than before, "Kid A" begins with "Everything in its Right Place." The album continues with a similar sound, the most outstanding tracks being "The National Anthem" and "Optimistic," which sound more like "OK Computer" songs than the others do. "Kid A" continues in the same vein of "OK Computer," but sounds quieter and more graceful.

Those who have doubts if the band could make a proper album following its milestone will be pleased. "Kid A" proves that Radiohead is one of the most interesting and creative groups in modern music.



On their fourth album 'Kid A' Radiohead expand on the sound they created on 1997's 'OK Computer.'

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Editorial

Beware:
Censorship
at work

In case anyone thought small-minded thinking and censorship went out of style, that's not the case. Authors who write about topics other than straight-laced lifestyles and Puritanic thoughts find one extremist group or another trying to prevent their works from being seen.

Here are the books that were most frequently challenged in school and public libraries during the 1990s, according to an Associated Press report:

1. "Scary Story" series, Alvin Schwartz, violence, occultism, cannibalism.
2. "Daddy's Roommate," Michael Willhoite, "promotes a dangerous and ungodly lifestyle."
3. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," Maya Angelou, "portrays white people as being horrible, nasty, stupid people."
4. "The Chocolate War," Robert Cormier, "contains profanity, sexual situations, and themes that allegedly encouraged disrespectful behavior."
5. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," Mark Twain, "offensive and racist language."
6. "Of Mice and Men," John Steinbeck, "blasphemous," "offensive and racist language."
7. "Forever," Judy Blume, a sexual "how-to-do book for junior high students. It glamorizes (sex) and puts ideas in their heads."
8. "Bridge to Terabithia," Katherine Paterson, "profanity, disrespectful of adults, and an elaborate fantasy world (that) might lead to confusion."
9. "Heather Has Two Mommies," Leslea Newman, a "skillful presentation to the young child about lesbianism/homosexuality."
10. "The Catcher in the Rye," J.D. Salinger, profanity, sexual references, "centered around negative activity."

Editorial

On the parking
quandary

The Editorial Board of the Commonwealth Times would like to thank Paul Jez, assistant vice president for business services, recent letter to the editor concerning VCU's parking issues.

It is commendable that he has taken an interest in the issue and gave the administration's point of view of the situation. That being said, we would like to point out some additional concerns.

Two additional decks will be completed within 2002 and 2004. That is why Robb Crocker stated that the parking situation is hopeless — because for upperclassmen like him, it is.

Those of you, who are freshmen and sophomores, as well as any incoming stu-

dents, have something to look forward to while our current juniors and seniors must basically deal with the parking dilemma.

Of course there is always the option of taking the city bus for free, but as it was pointed out in Crocker's column, most VCU students are on a very tight schedule and might not find the bus schedule as accommodating as the administration might think.

Again, we commend the administration's efforts to find a solution to this growing concern, but before the school adds another building, closet or even a bathroom, parking should be considered a first priority.

Bill Atkinson

First Amendment 'War'
rages in society*reprinted from Virginia's Press*

There is a war going on in the United States, and basic freedoms will become the biggest casualties unless reporters fight for those rights.

That was the underlying theme Ken Paulson presented in his remarks at a Freedom of Information Act seminar Sept. 14 at the Richmond Times-Dispatch's Hanover plant.

Even though the presentation was laced with humor, the points made by the director of the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center were nothing short of serious.

"We have a real concern," Paulson said.

"We've never seen a wave of assault on free expression than we have right now."

He cited the federal government's current attempts to crack down on the entertainment industry's alleged marketing of violence to juveniles, calling it a "witch hunt."

"When legislators get involved," Paulson said, "it's never a win-win situation."

"There is a war on the First Amendment," Paulson, a former newspaper editor, later told his audience. The five freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights — press, religion, expression, assembly and petitioning the government — are under siege, with the most popular attacks aimed at press freedom.

Paulson turned to a recent survey conducted for the First Amendment Center in which a majority of respondents claimed the press has too much free reign to delve into matters both public and private.

The press, Paulson said, has "such a critical mission" in the fight to save the five freedoms. "We've been put on this planet to be watchdogs," he noted.

He closed his presentation by urging his audience to "beat your chest for the First Amendment" and to "stay on the front lines of this war."

Editor's Note:

The Commonwealth Times thanks the Virginia Press Association, especially Bill Atkinson, editor of the association's publications, for covering Paulson and for allowing us to use his article.

-- Joe Rogalsky, Executive Editor

ABSENTEE
VOTING
INFORMATION

Deadlines for absentee voting in the Nov. 7 General Election:

• **Thursday, Nov. 2, 2000 is the last day to apply for a ballot to be mailed.**

• **5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, 2000, is the last date to vote absentee in-person.**

• **Ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. to the Office of the Electoral Board Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2000, to be counted (Post-mark does not matter).**

You may vote absentee if you cannot go to the polls on Election Day because you:

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- will be away from your county on business
- will be at your workplace for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- will be away from your county on personal business or vacation
- are unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability
- are the primary caretaker of a confined family
- have a religious obligation
- are confined awaiting trial
- are confined having been convicted of a misdemeanor
- are an election official
- are on active duty in the military
- are the spouse or dependent residing with a member of the military

Electoral board begins mailing ballots 45 days before each general election.

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Commonwealth Times

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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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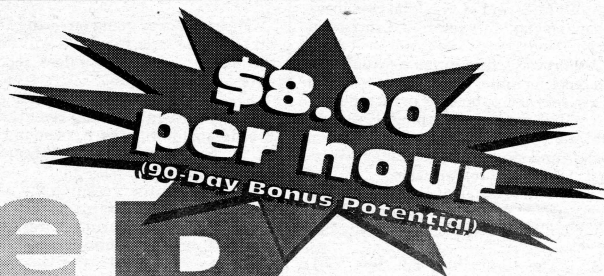
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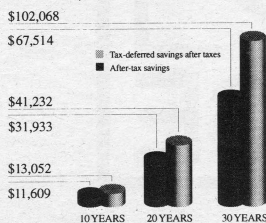
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- BLOOD DRIVE Capital Ballroom 10 AM - 4 PM

Spiders topple Rams with three late goals

Dionne Waugh
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The women's soccer team fought a close match against Richmond, but the Spiders held off the Rams to take a 4-1 victory. This Colonial Athletic Association loss drops VCU to 1-2-0, 5-5-0 overall.

The Spiders started off the scoring when Ann Rieser headed in a goal off a corner kick from Jenna Merriam in the third minute of play. The Rams held the Spiders

scoreless for the rest of the first half despite the fact that Richmond (3-0-0, 6-2-0) outshot VCU 12-0.

The Rams came back with a goal of their own early in the second half when Genevieve Trembley scored on a breakaway to tie the game.

"My goal felt good. It was beautiful," Trembley said. "But it was not just me. All the team worked for that goal."

Leah Robinson sees Trembley's goal as the turning point of the game. "After our

goal, we kept so much pressure on them, kept going forward. They couldn't even get in our end for a while and then they scored another goal and we just seemed to breakdown a bit. But we can work on that."

Richmond broke the tie when Laura Gincel scored in the 71st minute of the game. The Spiders sealed their win with two more goals from Molly Rettig two minutes later and Lauren Alberts in the 81st minute.

"I'm very proud of the team," said Coach Denise Schilte. "I think we've come a long way. I think we earned some respect today on this field. (Richmond) coach Albright is a good coach and this is a good team. So I think, hopefully, that for the years to come, we'll always have a good competitive ri-

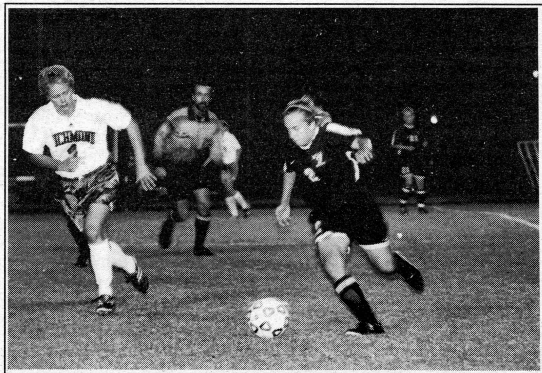
valry here and I guess that's the best thing we can look forward to."

Richmond outshot VCU 23-4 throughout the match. Lindy Brown recorded five saves for the Rams during the first half while teammate Chrissy Lloyd recorded four in the second.

"I think we played really well," Trembley said. "We wanted to win very badly."

"I think we played the way we wanted to play," Robinson said. "I think we kept our style. The result doesn't really reflect the game, I think."

Teammate Shanna Ziegenfuss agreed. "We put together the game that we wanted to play, but we just have to keep our heads up if we get scored on, basically," she said.



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

The Rams' Shanna Ziegenfuss (right) makes her run with the Spiders' Edda Gardarsdottir trying to cut her off. Richmond defeated VCU 4-1.

Rams drop third CAA match in a row

The women's volleyball team finished a tough weekend at the William & Mary Invitational with a win.

Shelley Sprouse who had a game-high 14 kills and five blocks led the Rams to a 17-15, 15-10, 15-7 win over Maryland-Baltimore County.

Sprouse compiled a .440 hitting percentage while teammate Lauren Nussman totaled 36 assists and a .571 hitting average. Kristin Didio compiled 11 kills, four service aces and a team-best 12 digs for the game.

VCU (11-5, 0-3) received its second loss of the tournament against Virginia Tech.

The Rams started off strong, taking the first game 15-11 before falling to the Hokies by the same score in the second match.

Virginia Tech then grabbed a pair of 15-8 victories to win the match. Nussman led the team with 37 assists and 10 digs. Sprouse added 11 kills and a .391 hitting average throughout the match.

The Rams took its first loss of the tournament in its opener against the Tribe. Nussman led the team with 32 assists and 18 digs, but it was not enough for the Rams as they fell 15-15, 15-12, 5-15, 14-16.

--- compiled from news sources



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Freshman lead Rams

Dionne Waugh
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Newcomers Matthew Delicate and Ignacio Talamante each scored to lead the men's soccer team past Radford 2-1.

The Highlanders kept the Rams scoreless until the 40th minute in the first half when Delicate sailed in a header off a cross from Sven Roper. This was Delicate's fourth goal of the season.

"I was very happy about the assist and that Delicate made the goal," Roper said. "It doesn't happen very often that I make an assist because I'm in the back, so it was very nice to make an assist like that."

Coach Tim O'Sullivan said that this was a good match for Delicate. O'Sullivan said that Delicate was a true freshman and that it was good that he had three more years for the team. "He's still finding his

way a little bit," said O'Sullivan. "Tonight was great for him because tonight he really came alive and showed a little bit about what Matthew can do long term."

Radford came back early in the second half to tie it up when Erik Sokolik knocked in a goal past Adam Mead who had come out to meet him.

The Rams outshot the Highlanders 15-7 throughout the match, but their winning goal did not come until Talamante kicked in a shot over the head of RU's goalie in the 65th minute of play off an assist from Roman Otten.

"Nacho (Talamante) just needs to figure out ways to keep himself under control a little bit and he's done better and better at that," O'Sullivan said. "He can be a very dangerous figure, scored a great second goal for us and can add a lot to the group in many ways."

O'Sullivan was pleased with how the

game went overall.

"I thought that for the first half, we were pretty sharp in all areas," said O'Sullivan. "We were really trying to get in behind their defense. I was pretty pleased with the first half. The second half, our shape wasn't quite as good and that caused some problems, both attacking and defending for us."

The game was colored with rough play. Both teams totaled 19 fouls, and VCU's Otten and James Daley received a yellow card each and two RU players received one as well.

"The referee wasn't as sharp as maybe he could have been," O'Sullivan said. "He could have eliminated some of the problem, but it wasn't overly aggressive game."

"(The roughness) is American style," Otten said. "It's different. It's always tough."

"Because Americans are athletes. They may not be the best skilled, but they'll work hard," Delicate added.

Overall the players were happy with the result of the game. "Collectively, I think we played very well," Roper said. "There are still some parts where we have to improve. Overall, it was very enjoyable because it's like everybody fights for each other. That's what soccer is about. We play as a team, to feel as a team."

Otten looked at the game another way. "I didn't think the chemistry was very good," said Otten. "We have to integrate a lot of new guys. They have to adjust and that takes time. We're a whole new team. We're also a target for every team we play because we're in the top 25. Every team can beat every team. It's very competitive, compared to last year."

Delicate agreed with Roper's assessment of the game.

"We're playing well, but there are spells during the 90 minutes where we just lack a bit of organization," he said.

Unbeaten Hoyas drop Rams

Dionne Waugh
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Georgetown narrowly defeated VCU's women's field hockey team 3-1 in a closely matched game.

The Hoyas took an early 2-0 lead when Elena Elster and Leeanne Rizzo scored in the 16th and 19th minutes of the game respectively.

The Rams' Tavis Parker answered with a goal of her own one minute later to score her first goal of the season.

"I took a rebound off the goalie. She basically swept it back to me and I just hit back into the goal," Parker said. "It felt good. I'm just happy and there's more to come. My teammates make me play good. If they step up, I step up and I lead off of everybody else."

VCU (1-7) created many chances for goals, but could not follow through. The Rams closely matched the Hoyas in shots, 13-16. "We did create a lot of shots," said coach Dawn Hill. "But the bottom line is that you gotta finish it. You gotta get the ball in the cage. We can't be so soft on

defense. There's no way we should have allowed three goals today."

Down by one at the half, VCU could not catch up to Georgetown. The Hoyas solidified their win when Elster scored her second goal of the game on a penalty corner in the 51st minute.

"I'm still not happy," Hill said. "I liked that we came out with energy and enthusiasm, but it turned into a panic and that's not good. We had no reason to panic. Then we finally started settling down and playing our game. I'm still struggling with a person here and there. It's a team game and everybody needs to be doing their part."

"So I kept trying to change up our lineup, trying to keep a combination in there to keep things moving. We're still not doing what we can do. Is it better? Yes, but we're still not doing what we can do and that's why I'm disappointed."

Parker saw the team's improvement as well. "I think we played much better than our last games. We looked like VCU," she said. "The team really stepped up towards the end, but we just couldn't make the goals."

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S SOCCER (6-2-1, 0-0-0)

Oct. 3 AU	Oct. 7 UCONN	Oct. 11 JMU
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THE RAMS' VICTORY OVER RADFORD IS THE TEAM'S SECOND WIN AFTER BREAKING A THREE GAME LOSING STREAK.

WOMEN'S SOCCER (5-5-0, 1-1-0)

Oct. 3 W&M	Oct. 8 LASALLE	Oct. 10 ODU
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VCU WILL PLAY THEIR SECOND OF FOUR CAA FOES IN FIVE GAMES AGAINST WILLIAM AND MARY.

VOLLEYBALL (11-5, 0-0-3)


Oct. 3 NSU	Oct. 13 JMU	Oct. 17 HOWARD
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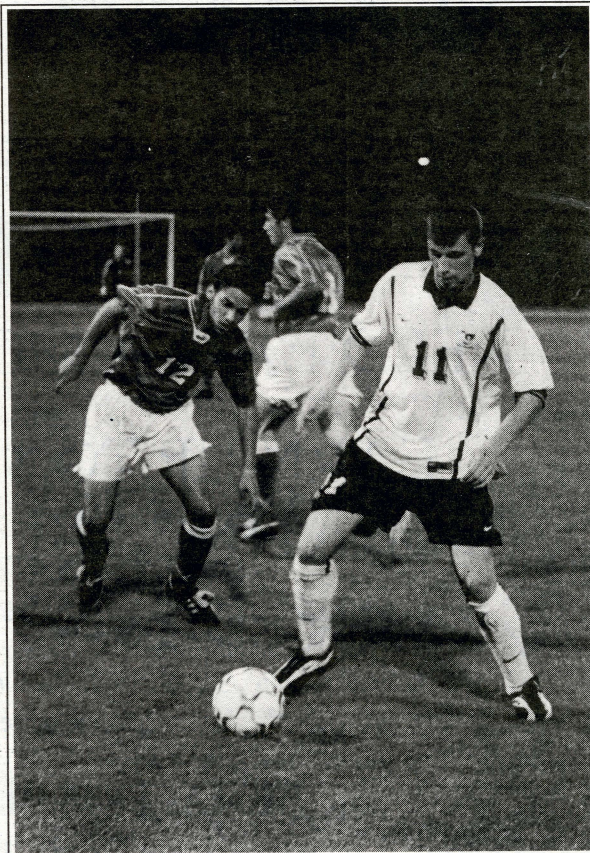
THE RAMS DEFEAT OF UMBC BROKE THE TEAMS' FIVE-GAME WINLESS STREAK.

FIELD HOCKEY (1-7, 1-2-0)

Oct. 4 U.V.A.	Oct. 7 RADFORD	Oct. 8 UR
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VCU'S RECORD NOW TIES ITS 1-7 START OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

 indicates home games.



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

Freshman Matthew Delicate Scored the first goal for VCU in their win over Radford this past Saturday. The Rams open Colonial Athletic Association play with American tomorrow.