

FORECAST
Friday: sunny, high 73,
low 43.
Saturday: sunny, high 74,
low 44.



SPORTS: Women's soccer
battled East Carolina
Tuesday, see page 12.



NEWS: Women learn to
defend themselves against
sexual assault, see page 4.



SPECTRUM: One way
Richmond gives back:
Coats for Kids, see page 6.



EDITORIAL: Senior fatigue
spreading through VCU,
page 9.

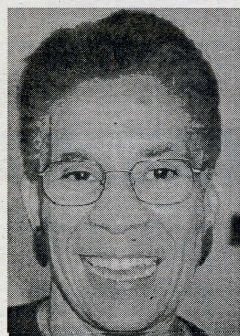
COMMONWEALTH TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Vol. 33, No. 15

African-American Studies Program prepares degree plan for SCHEV



Jessica Brown
CT STAFF WRITER

If everything goes as planned, M. Njeri Jackson, director of the African-American Studies Program, said she hopes to complete her work on the African-American Studies degree proposal by early next week.

Once that occurs, she said, VCU administrators will decide when to resubmit the proposal to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Jackson, who became director of the program in 1998, said when the state council denied its proposal in 1997, President Eugene Trani and VCU's Board of Visitors committed the university to continue submitting the proposal until it is accepted.

"We are fairly confident that when we submit it this time it will be approved," Jackson said, adding that SCHEV did not provide substantive critiques of the proposal when it rejected it in 1997. "The state council was reluctant to approve it (the proposal) given the opposition of the only African-American member of the state council." Jeff Brown, the state council member who led the opposi-



Collins

"There is a presumption behind it that there's nothing you can possibly do with a degree in African-American Studies and, nobody thinks that about biology -- nobody thinks that about English"

**Njeri Jackson, director
African-American Studies Program**

tion, argued that VCU should incorporate the representation and influence of African Americans into all liberal arts programs; that such topics should not be segregated into separate courses. Furthermore, he questioned the availability of jobs for students with an AAS degree.

L. Victor Collins, director of multicultural student affairs who works directly with students, said not only do black students want the program but also a number of white students want to major in AAS. The program, he said, especially appeals to those who want to teach and to those seeking to immerse themselves in the African-American experience.

"There are a lot of avenues and professions," he said, "that students can apply that major toward if they were able to, in fact, major in African-American Studies."

Shawn Patterson, president of the Student Black Caucus, said for VCU to maintain its diversity, implementing the AAS program is important to him personally as well as to his organization.

"You can study any other culture and language except African American," he said. "I see it as unfair because you can take a class but cannot major in African-American Studies."

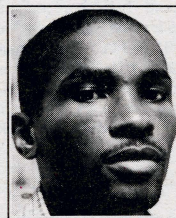
Jackson described several accomplishments since the SCHEV rejection three years ago. First, the program experienced a change in leadership when Ann Creighton-Zollar, the former director, stepped down in 1998 and recommended Jackson for the position.

During Jackson's first year heading the program, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy awarded it a grant to research African-American representation at the state's historical sites. Last year, Jackson said, the program completed the fieldwork and research required

by the grant.

Another asset — one Jackson identified as a main goal when she accepted the leadership position — involves increased visibility outside the university. For instance, a group of students last spring attended a conference in Chicago, where they met and talked with scholars who deal with African-American studies throughout the country.

Jackson and Collins, who serves on a citizens advisory board that studies minorities in higher education for the state



Patterson



legislature, said too many people question what a student can do with an AAS degree.

"That's kind of a loaded question," Jackson said when asked what can one do with such a degree. "There is a presumption behind it that there's nothing you can possibly do with a degree in African-American Studies, and nobody thinks that about biology — nobody thinks that about English."

Like other undergraduate liberal arts degrees, Jackson said, the AAS degree would provide students with a stepping stone for graduate studies as well as help students learn to run small businesses plus teach and be consultants in government agencies and other professions.

In the process of revising and preparing an addendum to the proposal submitted to SCHEV, Jackson said the new proposal details what the program has accomplished since 1997. If approved by SCHEV, the degree would combine five core courses with the 45

AAS continued to page 3

Proposed AAS Degree

First year: AAS 103: "Introduction to African-American Studies" and a 100-level survey of African history plus general education requirements such as ENG 101 and a life science lecture and lab

Second year: AAS 208: "African-American Social Thought" plus general education requirements, including electives within the program such as Sociology of Racism

Third year: AAS 308: "Modes of Inquiry," a methods course plus three other AAS courses, including two at the 300-level

Fourth year: AAS 408: "Seminar in AAS" that requires students to write a thesis plus AAS 416: "The Evolution and Origin of the Idea of Race"

Source: African-American Studies Program

Campus Briefs

MCV Hospitals to present free cancer seminar for women

"A Focus on Women's Health," a free seminar focusing on cancer will be offered by MCV Hospitals from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26, at MCV Physicians in the Park at Stony Point, 9000 Stony Point Parkway.

Offered in recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the seminar will address topics such as breast health, estrogen, alternatives to estrogen replacement therapy and how women can reduce their cancer risk.

Each session will be offered twice, at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. From 6 to 6:30 p.m., participants can view educational exhibits at VCU's Massey Cancer Center at Stony Point.

The seminar is free and open to the public. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call 560-8996 by Oct. 25.

VCU Mini-Medical School to hold fall lecture series

"Bioscape: The Medical Connection," is this fall's topic of the VCU Mini-Medical School, a series of adult-education lectures featuring clinical medical information and scientific research.

These lectures are held at the Science Museum of Virginia on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. through Nov. 8.

On Oct. 25, Michael Marron, National Institute of Health's associate director for

biomedical technology, presents "Technology in Medicine."

Demonica A. Sica, clinical pharmacology professor and division chairman, will present "Hypertension: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" on Nov. 1. Free blood pressure screenings will be available on this date as well.

Amy Foxx-Orenstein, gastroenterology assistant professor, will make the last presentation "From Enamel to Porcelain: A Journey Through the GI Tract" on Nov. 8.

For registration information about attending these free events, call 367-6558. Virginia Commonwealth University, the Annabelle R. Jenkins Foundation and the science museum sponsor VCU Mini-Medical School.

YWCA accepting nominations for its outstanding women awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 21st Annual Outstanding Women Awards, sponsored by the BB&T companies and the YWCA.

Ten local women, nominated by family, friends and peers, will be honored at an awards luncheon on Friday, March 30, 2001 for their achievements in categories such as education, business and the arts.

The luncheon not only raises funds for the YWCA through ticket sales, but it raises awareness of the programs the agency provides to help those in need in the community.

Nominations must be received by Nov. 30. For more information, or to request a

nomination form, contact the YWCA at 643-6761.

Grant money for students, faculty inventors available from NCIIA

The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance, or NCIIA, will award \$2 million in grants to faculty and student innovators over the next two years.

Students and faculty can submit proposals by Dec. 15 for the first of two annual application deadlines to fund student projects and faculty courses.

Two types of grants -- the Advanced E-Team Grants of up to \$20,000 for students, and Course and Program Development

Grants of up to \$50,000 for faculty -- are available.

For more information, visit the NCIIA Web site, call (413) 587-2172 or e-mail NCIIA at info@nciia.org.

Campus Calendar

Thursday, Oct. 19

On Campus Talking About Alcohol.

1 - 4 p.m. in the Student Commons, ask for location at the information desk. Sponsored by Student Health Services, an educational program on responsible use according to individual characteristics, setting and other factors.

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Student enrollment reaches record high

Ty N. Bowers
CT STAFF WRITER

It's quiz time.

Q1. How many students are enrolled at VCU this fall?

Q2. How many are first-year students?

If your answer to Q1 is 24,000 students, then you are correct. If your answer to Q2 is 1,000, you are incorrect, because 2,732 first-year students enrolled at VCU this fall.

VCU — like many other universities — found its student enrollment reaching a record level this fall. However, its 24,000 mark wasn't the highest jump in the state.

According to records maintained by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, a small private college in Farmville, Longwood College, reported the highest proportional increase in student enrollment.

Nonetheless, the largest crop of first-year students in VCU's history now attend classes on the academic and medical campuses after university recruiters encountered a national trend of swelling numbers of high school graduates seeking college degrees.

Fletcher Mangum, chief economist for SCHEV, said that trend is expected to continue through 2007.

Regardless of the trend, University President Eugene P. Trani last year issued a mandate for the school to raise its out-of-state student enrollment to 15 percent during the next five years.

Out-of-state tuition revenues will help create more faculty positions as well as fill

other academic needs, Trani said, suggesting that this push should help the visibility of the university and bolster its rankings and retention rates.

In a relatively recent development, Sue Ann Messmer, vice provost for the Division of University Outreach, said the College of Humanities and Sciences and the business, arts and engineering schools hired their own recruiters to draw more out-of-state, degree-seeking students to their programs.

In addition to those specialists, she said, the university last week procured the services of a high school counselor with college admissions experience in New Jersey to recruit for VCU at college fairs in that state, as well as in other northeastern states such as New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maryland.

This year, Messmer said, more than 200 first-year students came from states other than Virginia, up from last year's 173 students. Out-of-state students now constitute about 9 percent of VCU's student population, much less than the 35 percent figure at the University of Virginia and 30 percent at Virginia Tech.

"VCU will always remain committed to taking more Virginians than some of the other Virginia schools who have over one-third of their students coming from out-of-state," Messmer said, explaining the reasons for the differences in the colleges' out-of-state percentages.

Still, this year's increased enrollment created headaches for some university

administrators, including Stephen D. Gottfredson, dean of humanities and sciences.

With almost a week left in fall registration, humanities and sciences officials discovered that nearly all of its first-year English composition and introductory math classes were filled to capacity. Gottfredson authorized last-minute maneuvers to create space and to open 50 more classes.

The college increased the number of seats in sections and hired more faculty, including seven full-time instructors and more adjuncts.

"Those are the kinds of things that have to be done with an 11th hour surprise like that," Gottfredson said, pointing out that space is at a premium at VCU because the university has reached its maximum capacity with large classrooms and can't expand much further with large classes.

"Anytime you get up to 80 to 90 (students), you might as well go up to 200," he said, noting that he thinks smaller class sizes are better.

Calling the situation a logistical nightmare, Gottfredson said VCU would be better served in the long run by not having to scramble to accommodate the numbers of students that will continue to swell in years to come.

VCU utilizes three types of faculty: full-time, tenure-track professors, collateral, full-time instructors and part-time instructors known as adjuncts.

Though he said he knows of no university that doesn't make use of part-time faculty, Gottfredson said "the struggle is to

find the ideal mix of those types of faculty."

For his part, Gottfredson said that he wants to change the mix by increasing the number of full-time faculty and decreasing the reliance on adjuncts.

Many, he said, come from the professional environment who can provide students with a perspective not offered by full-time professors but who often are unavailable for student advising.

"We have set an aggressive enrollment goal and went out and pursued it aggressively," Gottfredson said, pointing out that the university is also riding the crest of a good demographic wave where the number of degree-seeking students will continue to increase during the next several years.

Mangum said colleges saw flat enrollment numbers throughout the 1980s that continued into the early 1990s and bottomed out mid-decade.

SCHEV figures show that the state's colleges and universities have experienced a 1 percent increase in enrollment for each year since the mid-1990s.

But with a 29-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio in the humanities and sciences that is much higher than the 12-to-1 universitywide ratio, Gottfredson said, more must be done to deal with expected enrollment increases in the coming years.

While he commended the university's successes in recruitment, the dean said VCU needs to continue to invest in its infrastructure to provide much-needed space.

"We'll need more classrooms," he said.

AAS continued from page 1

already offered. A 400-level thesis class, also would require students to conduct original research.

Students especially are interested in the African-American family, Jackson said, identifying her course on the politics of race, class and gender as one of the most popular. Classes that concentrate on civil rights movements, evolution of race and African dance and music are also popular, Jackson said, "if you measure popularity by enrollment."

Nonetheless, the director expressed interest in receiving student input to determine what kind of classes they would like to see offered once SCHEV approves the degree program. In addition, Jackson said

she would like to see students develop an AAS student association that would serve as the student arm of the African-American Studies Program by sponsoring activities, lectures and field trips.

As for enrollment, Jackson, calling herself realistic, estimated that 10 students would sign up the first year for the degree, although 41 students have graduated with an AAS minor since 1997.

Still, no administrator can pinpoint just when the proposal will be resubmitted to the higher education council or when it will be approved.

"My hope," Collins said, "is that the university will remain committed to being able to offer this program as a major and that, in fact, will hopefully become a reality over the next year or two."

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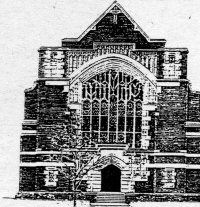
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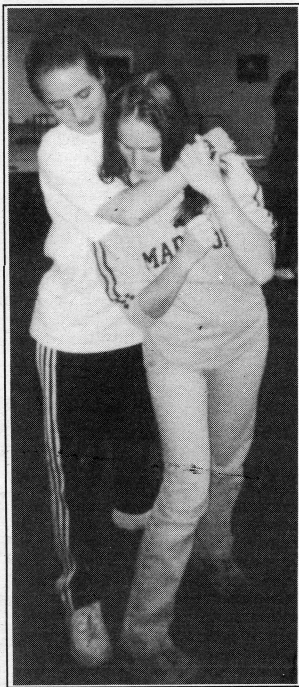
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Women take control in Rape Aggression Defense classes



Nicole Johnson/ Commonwealth Times

Two class participants practice a "striking motion."

- Want to learn more about sexual assault?
- Think you've been a victim?
- Need Help?

Call Gay Cuthchin, coordinator of sexual assault programs and services, in the Office of Health Promotions; 828-2085.

Nicole Johnson
CT STAFF WRITER

Eleven women appear as though they are attending an aerobics class dressed in loose T-shirts, sweatpants and sneakers. With ponytails or tousled hair, their faces have no mascara, lipstick or eyeliner anywhere.

The visitor arrives wearing stretch pants, a T-shirt, sneakers and no jewelry; only a reporter's notebook could be seen stuffed in the waistband of her pants.

Some participants chatted with each other while others shared car accident stories and other tidbits of their lives. A few sat alone cherishing their own personal space under the fluorescent lights of the heavily carpeted floor.

All of the women in the room were there to learn to defend themselves from an assault through the study and practice of the Rape Aggression Defense System adopted at the University of Virginia and later at VCU.

"We've had a positive response from the community," said Frank Weaver, community-policing officer for the VCU Police Department.

The program teaches physical protection, legal defense rights and methods for reducing the risk of sexual assault and domestic violence. The wide gamut of topics the women learn come from manual training, class discussions, demonstrations and actual physical contact.

It's the second meeting of the defense class, and Weaver opens by telling the women the importance of being mentally capable to defend themselves. One of the eight members of the RAD team, he teaches the class in conjunction with the obser-

vance of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence during October.

RAD's participant manual describes risk awareness, risk reduction, risk recognition and risk avoidance as being 90 percent of self-defense education.

"Use your judgment," Weaver told the all-female class. "Take control of your mind and turn fear into anger and anger into power."

After a conversation on preventing an assault without physical force, the women form a circle to prepare for their defense skills session. Weaver advises the students that repetitious actions cause their brains to get a wrinkle, so "practice, practice, practice."

Briefly reviewing the skills learned in the previous RAD session, the instructor yells "defensive stance!" Each female jumps into the position. Crouching slightly with the body turned, one foot ahead of the other and hands positioned to protect weak spots, the group resembles a class of martial arts students.

They spend an hour on defensive stances combined with various striking motions, which are moves used to hit the person while being attacked. Weaver asks each student to approach him one by one to demonstrate a striking motion on him while she, portraying the victim, yells the word "NO!"

A small student packs an unsuspected powerful blow to the protective pads Weaver wears on both hands. The class spirit ignites as the yells of "NO!" become louder and the punches harder.

Students pair to demonstrate moves on each other, while Weaver offers tips on being more effective.

Roving Reporter

CT staff writer Ty Bowers asked students around campus:
What do you think a woman can do to prevent rape?

Amanda Arnall,



criminal justice major

"Most of the time it's a random event. A woman that portrays a high self-confidence is less likely to be attacked. Don't put yourself in situations where you are alone."

Aaron Sanders,



history major

"It's hard to say one thing. Know your surroundings. Know what neighborhoods not to go through alone. Always keep yourself in control. Get out of uncomfortable situations."

Maggie Kriebel

parks and recreation major

"Whenever you're out, try to be with at least one other person. Always be aware of your surroundings. Be informed and protect yourself."

Sarah Hufford

political science major

"First, you can take a personal defense class. Then try not to put yourself in a situation where you're with unfamiliar people and in unfamiliar surroundings."

Personalities may predict likelihood of alcohol abuse

Conor Welch
CT STAFF WRITER

Could it be that due to our personality types, some of us are more likely to abuse alcohol or other substances?

This was a point that Linda Hancock, a nurse practitioner at VCU's Office of Health Promotion, made during a speech she gave to a group of students as part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

"I hope you try to be seekers of truth when you leave here and you realize that everyone is a genetic snowflake — that we do things for different reasons," she said.

Kimberly Bradley, a graduate assistant for the Office of Health Promotion, said VCU, one of many universities participating in this nationwide event, hopes to increase awareness about different problems alcohol can cause.

"We also hope to show students through activities like the 'Buzz Blast' that you do not need alcohol to have a good time," she said.

Hancock, who has been at VCU for 15 years, has given educational speeches for the past 10 years. "Knowledge is Power" was the theme of her hour-long talk on Tuesday.

Hancock began by handing out the Tri-dimensional Personality Questionnaire, a personality test designed by Robert Cloninger, a professor of psychology and the director of the Center for the Psychobiology of Personality at the University of Washington in St. Louis.

The TPQ is similar to the Meyers/Briggs Inventory and it tries to identify three types of personalities — novelty-seeking, harm-avoiding and reward-dependent.

To identify these personality types the TPQ uses one hundred true-false statements that people might use to describe themselves. For example, one entry stated, "I usually think about all the facts in detail before I make a decision — True or False."

Students were instructed not to spend too much time on a question and to answer every statement, even if they guessed.

Jeremy Conrad, a digital-imaging major, enjoyed "how she defined the different personality types, and put labels



Conor Welch/Commonwealth Times

Linda Hancock, a nurse practitioner with the Office of Health Promotions, shows a student how to grade her personality test, the Tri-dimensional Personality Questionnaire.

on them, and described how people are different."

Hancock went on to explain how the personality test was relevant to Alcohol Awareness Week. She said she believes that the more you know about your personality, the better you will be able to understand how and why everyone approaches substances in a unique way.

For instance, Hancock spoke of how people with high levels of dopamine, or novelty-seekers, are more likely to drink because they tend to be risk-takers.

"I have a passionate hatred for the 21 drinking age," Hancock said, adding that she believes people, no matter how old they are, should obtain a drinking license, much

like a driver's license, to prove that they understand how drinking can affect them as well as the people around them.

Hancock explained that "it doesn't matter what age you are, anybody can use alcohol in a harmful way."

The media, she added, glorifies drinking in many ways, also pointing out that studies prove that most people have four or fewer drinks at parties. Explaining that people who drink at parties often are the ones who stand out the most.

"No one ever remembers the guy who only had one drink," she said.

ANNOUNCEMENT! ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2001

The Schedule of Classes is available at this VCU web site <http://www.vcu.edu/schedule/>. Copies of the Schedule of Classes can be picked up in Founders Hall, room 104, the school or college of your major, and in the University Student Commons.

Monday – Friday, October 23 – 27 – Advising for Spring semester

Monday – October 23 – Advance telephone registration for Spring semester 2001 begins.

See schedule below.

Honors students
Graduate students
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate seekers
Seniors
Juniors
Sophomores
Freshmen
Special Students (non-degree seeking)

October 23
October 30
November 1
November 1
November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27

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

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

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If you have questions, please call Records and Registration at 828-1349. Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, ethnic origin, or disability. If special accommodations are required, please contact Henri-Etta Burke at 828-2021

Coats for Kids gives warmth during cold weather season

Ty Bowers
CT STAFF REPORTER

Joe, a 6-year-old child on the streets, spent Halloween in a shelter with his mother because she didn't want him outdoors in the cold without a coat. But it won't always be winter and he won't always be without a coat.

Joe's situation is hypothetical, but he symbolizes children who could have a warm coat this winter if one or both parents go to the right place at the right time.

After Thanksgiving, "Coats for Kids," an annual clothing drive sponsored by Puritan Cleaners with the help of the Salvation Army, offers winter coats to Richmond families-in-need.

"It's a labor of love," said Gary Glover, president of Puritan Cleaners, as he sits in his office overlooking the cleaning floor of the company's headquarters on Staples Mill Road.

"Coats for Kids," now in its 11th year, collects, cleans and distributes as many as 12,000 unwanted or outgrown coats donated each year. To date, Glover estimated the number of people receiving



coats stands at more than 115,000.

Why did Puritan begin its "Coats for Kids" drive?

The idea, Glover said, came to him after learning of a similar program sponsored by other companies in the cleaning and laundry industry in the Milwaukee area. At first, he said, he thought it would be a great public relations tool for the company, but then "we all got caught up in it" and he now looks at it as a "win-win thing."

Area residents take their coats, mostly children's coats that Glover describes as "basically like new," to area locations during the Thanksgiving to Christmas drive. Besides Puritan's 14 locations in the Richmond area, donors can leave coats at two Spitzer-The-Cleaner collection sites. Puritan, Glover said, cleans the donated coats, repairs the damaged ones and delivers them to a Salvation Army distribution center.

"We clean them up beautifully," he said. "It's really something to be proud of."

The Puritan staff members volunteer time to the project, he said, pointing out that the company's media partner, WRIC Channel 8, helps promote the drive in conjunction with a radio partner that changes yearly.

At the height of the "Coats for Kids" drive, Glover said, the company daily sends a full truck of coats to the distribution center.

Once the coats arrive at the distribution center, members of the Salvation Army's Richmond chapter sort and display them inside a building, which is a different one each year. Although the 1999

distribution center, for example, was a building managed by a realty trust, Lt. Col. Danny R. Morrow of the Salvation Army said he doesn't know where it will be this year.

Joe, shuffling his feet, can hardly contain his excitement as he waits for his mother to return. He's cold. He smiles. He thinks about a blue coat with shiny buttons instead of a zipper.

"It's something to see them lined up -- all without coats," Glover said. "And here we are (referring to himself) with two or three. It's a great day for these people."

Early in December, the Salvation Army displays the coats in a specified building where a qualified family member-- usually the mother -- picks them up. Volunteers assist the recipients with their selections. Morrow said the Salvation Army maintains the privacy of families filing for assistance so Christmas can be a family event.

Why the Salvation Army?

Glover said that his company could collect and clean the coats without a problem, but it really needed a fair and credible system to distribute them free. Using its qualifying system for families, Glover said, the Salvation Army does a good job getting the coats to those who need them.

Morrow, who participated in the "Coats for Kids" drive the last three years, said the Army qualifies families through interviews that assess their needs.

"Essentially, it's social casework," he said.

Joe's mother watches the other mothers and bites her lip to hold back the tears. Soon, very soon, her son can leave for school with a coat -- perhaps, in her mind, a red one.

During his three years with the program, Morrow said, the community gives so many coats to the Salvation Army it doesn't have the space to display all of them. The excess coats remain in storage until space becomes available at the center.

A Community Gives Back

Editor's Note: This is part one in a seven-part series of stories featuring the programs and projects of local organizations that help the less fortunate.

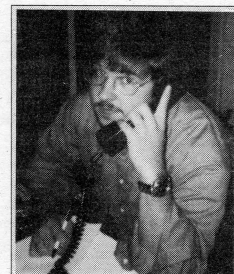
This week:
Puritan Cleaners and
Coats for Kids

Next week:
Salvation Army

"Often it's the difference between having a warm coat and not having a warm coat," Morrow said, describing the recipients as "very appreciative."

Joe's eyes light up as he sees his mother coming in the shelter carrying a blue coat in her arms. He sees shiny buttons. His mother opens her arms to help him into the sleeves. The coat feels warm --so very warm. Joe buttons it, starts to run.

After all, he wants to play outdoors on Christmas.



Ty Bowers

Junior Ty Bowers, 21, is a news-editorial major in mass communications. He attended Mills E. Godwin High School in Richmond where he worked with the literary magazine. He transferred to VCU from Mary Washington College.

Puritan Community Outreach

In addition to "Coats for Kids," Puritan sponsors three other community outreach programs.

- "Great Bears for Kids" -- Residents bring stuffed animals to area locations, which will be donated to fire and police departments who give them to children in trauma situations.
- "Pledge of Allegiance" -- Puritan cleans residents' American flags free of charge to promote patriotism.
- The company recycles its hangers and donates the proceeds to area schools. Richmond residents recycle more than 80,000 hangers each month.

Source: <http://www.puritancleaners.com>

Gomez's third album fuses rock, blues, commercial jingles

Kelly Gerow
SPECTRUM EDITOR

Critically acclaimed rock band Gomez's new release "Abandoned Shopping Trolley Hotline," a collection of previously unreleased material, offers more of the psychedelic blues-rock music that the Liverpool, England band makes so well.

With more apparent American influences than British, Gomez's third album, following the debut "Bring it On" and last year's "Liquid Skin," offers more insight into the band's three-year career.

Of the three vocalists in the group, Ben Ottewill's deep, aged voice makes the biggest impression. For a man in his 20s, he sure can belt it out.

Ottewill's growling vocals first appear on "Bring Your Lovin' Back Here" and continue to carry most of the album. The alternate versions of "78 Stone Shuffle" from the debut album and "We Haven't Turned Around," from "Liquid Skin" and also from the "American Beauty" soundtrack, show the band's creativity with its own music.

"The Cowboy Song" is a whimsical track, leading into the last song, the Beatles' tune "Getting Better." Used recently in the Phillips-Magnavox commercial wherein a couple tries to find a place to put their flat TV, the song, not that appealing in its jingle format, sounds much better in its full length version.

The first two Gomez albums sound essentially the same, but "Abandoned Shopping Trolley Hotline" showcases their ability better than its predecessors. Gomez is a creative band that doesn't belong to any current scene but the one they're making for themselves.



gomez.co.uk

Also available by Gomez:
Bring It On (1998)
Liquid Skin (1999)
Machismo EP (2000)

Dogs! Dogs! Dogs!

Kelly Gerow
SPECTRUM EDITOR

My dad bought a cheap electronic dog that doesn't do much, but its eyes make fake shapes and it barks Beethoven. This little dog has caused me to revise my stance on dogs to, "I don't like them unless they're fake, or can bark Beethoven." The previous stance being, "I hate dogs."

I've never owned or lived with a dog. Neighbors have always had them, and they did nothing but howl all night and eat my cats. Sometimes someone owned a dog that I liked, but often the dog had a physical ailment, like it had three legs or was dying.

Almost everyone in my neighborhood owns a dog, and for every one person who doesn't have a dog, my neighbor has an extra one.

I hate non-electronic dogs, and my roommate, who never enjoyed the fake dog I brought home, hates all dogs. We spend more time plotting against the four dogs below us who bark at everything and keep us out of our own backyard than we spend doing school work (of course, we spend more time doing anything more than we spend doing school work).

The largest dog is a Doberman and the smallest of the four is a Chihuahua. The two in between are mid-sized. They're like nesting dolls of annoyance.

I can't understand the purpose of owning so many dogs. I don't think they offer any comfortable companionship because they act as if they use a lot of

speed in lieu of eating dog food. They're a nervous pound.

My worry is that an intruder will try to kill my roommate and me while we sleep, but his attempt will be thwarted by the dogs. We'll be interviewed as the head story on Channel 12. I'll look glassy-eyed and tell the news "We wouldn't be alive if it weren't for those dogs—those fabulous dogs." My roommate, sitting beside me on our couch, will sob and tell the cameraman "I wish the burglar has killed me. I hate those dogs."

It's safe to say I'm not a dog person. They've always been able to sense that. I don't like the noise, the smell, the messes they make, the way they jump on everyone. They're clumsy animals and it would make me nervous to own one. I'm not a cat person, either. Though I like cats because they're peaceful and can be fun, they, as all animals do, require more love than I can offer. I'm more of a plastic bug person. I collect them. They're colorful, they're fake, they fit in pockets and they only have to be fed once a week.

I say I hate dogs, but it's that kind of hate where there are exceptions. Like in high school, when everyone said they hated cheerleaders, but then there was that really nice one in your sociology class that was funny and made you feel bad about speaking out against the whole group.

People love their dogs, and that's great. Someone has to. It would be nice if, like a whistle only a dog can hear, only dog lovers would have to deal with their animals. Have dogs. Have fun with them. I'll just sit here and play with my plastic grasshoppers.

Bill Nye the Science Guy will be at the Science Museum of Virginia on Saturday. Other things will happen, too. Calendar of Events

The department of dance and choreography opens its 2000-01 season with the dance theater work "No Less Black" at 8 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Grace Street Theater, 934 W. Grace St. A Mason/Rhynes production, the show deals with race and identity issues and features choreography by Gesel Mason, who has just completed a weeklong residency with VCU Dance. Chelès Rhynes provides the lighting design and technical direction. VCU dance students and dancers from Washington, D.C.'s Mason/Rhynes Productions will perform the show. Tickets for "No Less Black" are

free for VCU students with a valid ID and \$10 for the general public.

Theatre VCU's production of the "Madness of George III" runs Oct. 19-22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shafer St. Playhouse. Directed by Christopher Shorr, a third-year graduate student, the comedy focuses on Great Britain after it loses the Revolutionary War and the illness that causes the king to go insane. Tickets are available by calling the Theatre VCU box office at 828-6026. Admission is free for VCU students with a valid student ID, \$8 for VCU faculty and staff and \$10 for general admission.

Thursday, Oct. 19

Rene Marie- St. Paul
Episcopal Church

Friday, Oct. 20

Crooked Fingers, Empire
State, Mensa Select -
Hole in the Wall

Closure, Superboot- Canal
Club

Saturday, Oct. 21

Festival of India, Richmond
Center, 400 E. Marshall
St., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Free Admission.

Science Museum of Virginia
Grand Re-opening
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bill Nye, 11:15 and 1:15
Patricia Cornwell, book
signing at 12:30.
Free Admission

Magnolia- Canal Club

Sunday, Oct. 22

Silverado, Red Angel Drag-
net - Hole in the Wall

Frenchie & the German
Girls, Gene Defcon,
Bratmobile - Black Cat

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Mary Beth Thomsen

Senior fatigue spreads

It is that time of year. The air is becoming chilly and the leaves are lining up along the sidewalks. Halloween costumes are being concocted. Students are back into the swing of things. However, seniors are about to catch a dangerous disease: Senioritis.

Seniors are now into their 12th year of formal education. They are learning up approximately their 85th teacher's last name.

The days are flying by. They start to ask themselves why they are still in school; why they are wasting another minute listening to lectures on economics.

They have convinced themselves that they are ready to hold a real job and start a career. They are well educated and prepared to take on the world!

But before they make an appointment to meet with their trusty adviser to prepare for graduation, anticipation bombards them.

Facing the real world in only a few short months keeps them up at night. The realization that they will be financially independent turns a few hairs prematurely gray.

Seniors soon realize they won't be able to make up their own hours at work and arrange their schedule so that they have a three-day weekend every Friday.

They won't be able to stroll into work late with the same t-shirt they slept in. They won't be able to call mommy or daddy persuading them to give up some more money because they're broke.

Seniors understand that they won't be getting free dentist, optometrist, and dermatologist exams during the holiday breaks. The idea of growing up and leaving school doesn't look so appealing anymore. Senioritis seems to diminish as graduation grows closer.

All of a sudden, they don't mind sitting in a class they've retaken two or three times.

They don't mind zoning out to a professor's monotone voice. They don't mind sitting through a lecture from 7 to 9:40 p.m. and walking home alone in the dark.

They don't mind losing their balance on Richmond's uneven, ancient sidewalks as they sprint to class. They don't mind waiting five minutes on Main Street to cross as traffic just keeps coming.

They don't mind pushing and shoving their way into Hibbs' one working elevator.

They don't mind suffering from the cooling and heating system; freezing during the summer and virtually melting during the winter. They no longer wish their way out of school.

As a senior all I've known since I was five years old is school. So I guess what I am trying to say is: I would like to get on the five year plan.

Editorial

Gov. Gilmore helps with federal tax repeal

Last week the U. S. Senate passed legislation repealing the three percent federal telephone tax. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the bill in May.

The Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce, chaired by Gov. Jim Gilmore, R-VA, championed the tax repeal last year and helped the proposal reach Congress.

"I applaud the members of the U.S. Senate who voted to repeal the archaic and regressive three percent federal telephone tax," Gilmore said in a statement. "This tax cut will let Americans keep \$5 billion of their own money each year."

Gilmore and tax reduction (fiscally responsible or otherwise) have long been associated with each other.

Ridding the code books of the telephone tax, however, does not compare with Gilmore's pandering-for-votes, state-budget-busting, politically expedient expunging of the car tax.

Congress rightly voted to eradicate the telephone tax, which was first enacted during the last century to fund the Spanish-American War. At the time, telephones belonged to the upper end of society and had not come close to being the staple of life they are today.

Amul Madan

Look out: West Nile virus has arrived

The West Nile virus reached Richmond. A virus that was once unknown to the common man, much less the common college student, has made its way from the jungles of Africa and Asia to New York and now Richmond.

Fittingly, on Friday, Oct. 13 Anne Peterson, Virginia Commissioner of Health, reported a crow infected with the West Nile virus 40 miles from Richmond, in Farmville. That means that it is possible for that entire area to be infected.

How is someone affected by the West Nile virus? Well, as it turns out, you can't be affected if another person interacts with you.

Rather, one gets infected if they are bitten by an infected mosquito or if they have any bare hand contact with dead animals.

The West Nile virus is a disease that was contracted by mosquitoes and ticks in the heart of Africa and Asia. It arrived here a few months ago in New York via infected birds that were returning for the spring. Now, after infecting birds in various counties in Maryland, it has leaped 200 miles to Richmond.

Although Virginia officials have stated time and again that the risk of human infection is low due to the cold weather, Richmond residents are not sure whether the virus has been completely wiped out of their area yet.

There are several things you can do to prevent yourself from getting infected. For example, it is suggested that one

Gilmore has positioned himself as a leader on the front of emerging governance of Internet commerce and communication. He has taken strong positions nationally on cyber issues such as whether to impose sales taxes on Internet purchases.

Gilmore opposes an Internet sales tax, evidently choosing to give Web vendors an advantage over the retail businesses operating on America's Main streets.

The Old Dominion's position as "The Internet Capital of the World" has provided the pulpit.

Gilmore needs to take his stands and have those positions receive attention and carry clout.

Gilmore's outspokenness on technology and his campaigning for GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush have led to talk of his being bound for Washington, D.C., and a Cabinet job, should Bush defeat Al Gore, the Democratic presidential candidate.

Whether Gilmore would be or should be willing to leave the governor's mansion for a Cabinet position is another question with all sorts of possible angles and repercussions.

Virginia's chief executive will continue to highlight his takes on key technological issues that have greater implications nationally than in Virginia.

Virginians, being citizens of America, will receive relief should the phone tax be no more. Gilmore served this state well by the tax's death.

The bill now goes to President Clinton's desk for his signature. Should he veto the measure, Congress can override his veto.

That scenario ought not to develop. Clinton administration officials have been slow to back the telephone tax repeal.

In this election year one would think nixing a tax cut wouldn't go over well with voters. It can be expected that eventually, President Clinton's pen will make the bill a law. This is not an issue to play partisan politics with.

"Now that Congress has acted in the best interests of American taxpayers, I urge President Clinton to change his position and to join congressional leaders in providing \$5 billion tax relief for the working men and women of this country," Gilmore said.

Some taxes are needed and some rank as overkill. Gilmore did well in working to bring about the end of the phone tax.

As students at a state-supported institution, we certainly understand the benefit of tax dollars. The Spanish American War has long ended and now the tax to pay for it should end as well.

should stay indoors during dawn (unless you have a class), dusk and the early evening hours.

Also, it is suggested to wear long-sleeved shirts and jeans when outdoors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. It can be said that these precautions are somewhat ridiculous seeing that we are already into

fall and cool weather.

If one wants to protect himself or herself from getting bitten from infected mosquitoes, however, they must comply with the suggestions.

It is unknown as to when the West Nile virus scare will be over but one thing is for certain: it is not going away without a fight.

Commonwealth Times

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in the Commons Theater

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5:00 pm

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Saturday 9:30 pm

Shaft
Friday 9:30 pm
Saturday 7:00 pm

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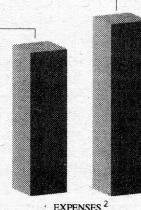
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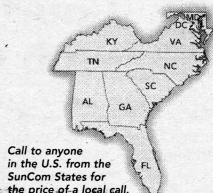
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Ram Stat

Ted Brown of men's golf fired a 69 on the final day of the Duke Golf Classic to finish in a tie for 13th.

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Sports

Commonwealth Times • 12

Coming up next issue

Recap of men's soccer and volleyball in key Colonial Athletic Association matchups.

Late goal: Rams' asset

Genevieve Trembley's goal with 2:30 left in the match pushed the VCU women's soccer team past East Carolina University 2-1 in an evenly-matched Colonial Athletic Association match.

Trembley's opportunistic strike helped the Rams (3-4-0, 7-8-0) tie one school mark. For the first time in two years and only the third time in school history, the Rams have won back-to-back CAA matches.

On Oct. 17 and 21, 1998, VCU won at American University and James Madison University. The first time the Rams did it was in 1996, when they defeated Old Dominion University and ECU.

VCU also has assured itself of its best record in the CAA since 1996, when they went 4-4 in conference play. Since that year the Rams have won no more than two matches against CAA foes.

The winning play for the Rams began when Leigh Brown grabbed a loose ball and uncorked a drive that the Lady Pirate goalie, Brook Crews, tipped off the crossbar. Trembley pounced on the rebound and beat Crews to win the game for VCU.

"Ending a game as strong as we did and scoring a goal in the last few minutes shows a lot of heart," said VCU coach Denise Schilte.

Trembley's marker gave the Rams a victory in a contest where neither team distinguished itself in any statistical cat-

egory.

Each team fired nine shots, with VCU holding a 5-3 advantage in shots on goal. The Lady Pirates (1-4-0, 8-6-2) held a 5-4 edge in corner kicks and Crews made three saves, while Lindy Brown made two saves for the Rams.

"The way Lindy played for us tonight almost makes us unstoppable," Schilte said. "She is a great leader for us back there."

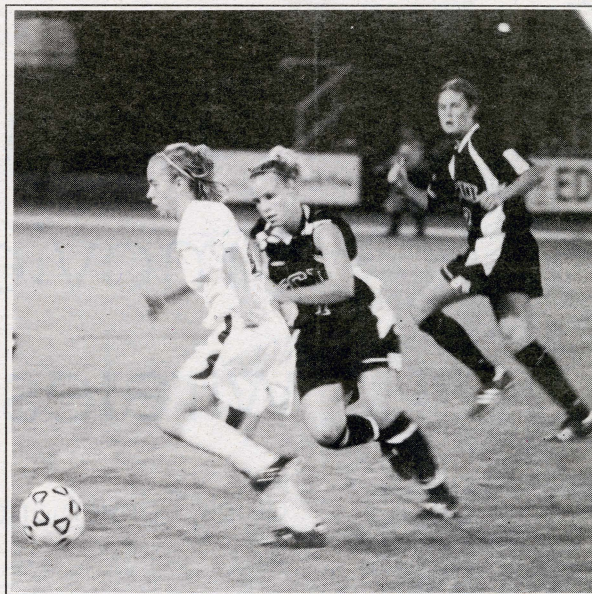
After a scoreless first half Leah Robinson opened the scoring for VCU early in the second stanza. Robinson beat two Lady Pirate defenders and struck a shot that beat Crews in the upper right corner of the goal for a 1-0 lead 1:41 into the second half. It was Robinson's team-leading eighth goal this season.

ECU hit back in the 74th minute through Kelly Gray. Mindy Nixon took the ball on the left side and crossed it into the VCU goalie box. The pass found the head of Gray who nodded the ball home for a 1-1 tie.

Lauren Boucher had a chance to put the Lady Pirates in front when she collected a rebound from another Gray shot, but she fired over the crossbar.

VCU will seek their third consecutive win against Mercer in their home finale Friday night.

— compiled from news sources



Rita Botts/ Commonwealth Times

Shanna Ziegenfuss drives ahead to evade an East Carolina defender during VCU's 2-1 victory Tuesday night.

Rams sweep aside Bison

After playing on the road since September 9, the VCU volleyball team marked their return to the Siegel Center with a 15-8, 15-11, 15-10 win Tuesday night over Howard University.

Laura Heffner recorded a match-high 10 kills for the Rams (13-6). Karyn Engel chipped in with nine kills out of 13 attack attempts. Julie Motluck added a team-high eight digs and four aces.

Denise Corbett recorded nine kills and 11 digs to lead the Bison (7-14).

VCU will have two opportunities to break their winless run in the Colonial Athletic Association when the face George Mason Friday night and the CAA's top team, American University, Saturday afternoon.

— compiled from news sources

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Court sides with CAA

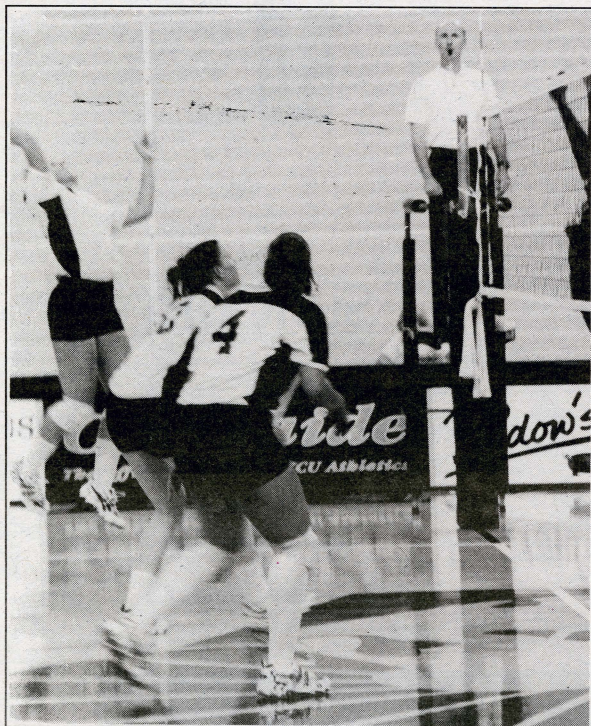
U.S. District Court Judge Thomas F. Hogan denied a preliminary injunction American University brought against the Colonial Athletic Association to allow its teams to participate in team championships in the 2000-01 academic year.

While the court didn't rule on the CAA's motion to dismiss the case completely, the court dismissed all of the claims made against CAA commissioner, Tom Yeager. The court also deferred to the CAA's interpretation and application of its rules and its method of disciplining schools that violate conference rules.

Like American, who is leaving the CAA for the Patriot after this academic year, East Carolina, heading for Conference USA, and Richmond, going to the Atlantic 10, are barred from competing for team titles.

Athletes at the three schools can compete for individual championships, but not have their points accumulated toward a team's score.

— compiled from news sources



Lauren Edwards/Commonwealth Times

Karyn Engel and Summer Segars stand ready against Howard

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S SOCCER

(6-6-2, 0-2-1)

Oct. 21	Oct. 25	Oct. 28
ODU	UNCW	GMU

VCU TIED RICHMOND 1-1 AT SPORTS BACKERS STADIUM WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

(7-8-0, 3-4-0)

Oct. 20	Oct. 24	Oct. 28
MERCER	JMU	CAMPBELL

THE RAMS HAVEN'T WON THREE STRAIGHT GAMES SINCE OCTOBER 17-25, 1998.

VOLLEYBALL

(13-6, 0-4)

Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 27
GMU	AU	ECU

VCU HAS A 5-0 RECORD THIS SEASON AGAINST THE MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE.

FIELD HOCKEY

(3-10, 0-3)

Oct. 21	Oct. 25	Oct. 28
W&M	AU	TEMPLE

THE RAMS MATCHUP WITH AMERICAN WILL BE THEIR LAST COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GAME THIS SEASON.

indicates home games.