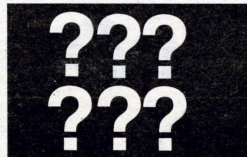


FORECAST
Friday: sunny, high 45,
low 26.
Saturday: partly cloudy,
high 50, low 29.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
Our subject is drugs and
financial aid, see page 3.



SPECTRUM: Read *Krunk*,
the strip that will change
your life, maybe, page 7.



SPORTS: A Richmond
product leaves his college
team, see page 12.



As graduation nears one
student reflects on her time
at VCU, see page 5.

COMMONWEALTH TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Thursday, January 25, 2001

Vol. 33, No. 29

Sending your financial aid up in smoke

Ty N. Bowers
CT STAFF WRITER

When college students applied for federal aid in fall 2000 they found a new question on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms.

Yet, more than 810,000 of the 9 million students who applied for aid last year failed to answer the 28th question on their FAFSA forms because they forgot to, were confused by it or didn't think it applied to them.

More than 1,000 students who answered the question lost their federal aid eligibility while more than 6,000 others must wait for their eligibility to be restored before the end of the academic year.

Why?

The question required students to inform the U.S. Department of Education if they had ever been convicted of drug possession or distribution and warned them that a conviction would prohibit them from receiving federal aid.

The new question appears on the FAFSA as a result of a law enacted July 1, 2000, that bars students convicted of drug offenses from receiving financial aid from the federal government.

"The most common student questions were, 'What is this?' or 'What does this have to do with financial aid?'" said Janel Cassara, VCU's director of financial aid.

VCU students were not alone in their confusion.

The nationwide failure to respond to the question prompted a change in this year's forms, Cassara said. The department changed the number of the question

to 35 and placed it at the bottom of the third page of the form to increase its visibility and enforce its importance.

A spokesperson with the Education Department's office for student financial aid, Karen Freeman, said that after students who left the question blank were contacted, the number of unanswered questions fell to just more than 275,000.

This problem could have only occurred on the paper forms, she said, maintaining that the online version of the application will not allow a student to leave the question blank.

Still, she said, students received aid even if they didn't answer the question on the condition that they report any change in their drug conviction status to the department or face possible legal action.

"A lot of student groups have been inciting students (saying) that the DOE would not give aid to blank questions," said Freeman.

The question and the law, however, drew criticism from lawmakers, the American Civil Liberties Union, the U.S. Education Department and student groups.

"A cultural attitude of acceptance surrounds college drug abuse," said Angela Flood, a spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., who authored the provision that passed overwhelmingly in the U.S. House and Senate as part of the 1998 renewal of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

"This law sends a message to drug users and sellers who attend college on taxpayer-subsidized loans that there will be a consequence for their actions," she said, pointing out that the law suspends aid eligibility for one year for students with first-time convictions of drug



Cassara



possession.

Students convicted a second time lose aid for two years and indefinitely with the third offense.

Students having first convictions of drug distribution lose aid for two years and indefinitely with the second offense.

Convicted students can, however, cut their suspensions short if they successfully complete a federally or state-licensed drug rehabilitation program.

FINANCIAL AID continued to page 3

Campus Renovations

Cabell Library

- More restrooms
- Coffee bar and lounge
- More computer workstations

Library

- Adding refreshment area
- Relocating journal stacks
- More computer workstations

Sanger Hall

- Updating building to contemporary standards

Hunton Hall

- Renovating student lounge

University Student Commons

- More restaurant choices
- New multipurpose room
- Better study and lounge space
- Enclosing the breezeway between the commons and the commuter lounge
- Moving the student organization offices to first floor

Source: University Administration

Campus renovations target students' comfort

Kevin Crossett
CT STAFF WRITER

To meet the changing needs of the student population, some campus buildings will soon face renovation.

While construction continues on projects already in progress, the state legislature and the university have allocated funds to renovate portions of the James Branch Cabell and Tompkins-McCaw libraries, the University Student Commons and Hunton Hall.

In addition, work will continue on Sanger Hall to update the building's systems to contemporary standards.

Citing perceptions that the student body lacks cohesion, Edwin Blanks, vice provost for academic administration, said that students need a place to relax and socialize

between classes.

Building renovations will concentrate on expanding the student lounge and study spaces, providing more refreshment areas and updating the basic infrastructure for some buildings.

While still in the design phase, work on the University Student Commons expansion—known as Phase 3—should begin by late 2001, said Timothy Reed, director of the commons and student activities, after students' ideas are incorporated into the renovation process.

"We've had a student member on the architect selection and design committee," Reed said, adding that the university also assessed student needs through survey and informal conversations to develop rec-

RENOVATIONS continued to page 4

Campus Briefs

Free flu shots available

VCU Student Health has approximately 400 remaining doses of the flu vaccine and employees urge students to take advantage of this opportunity.

The free vaccine is available to all VCU students at the health centers on the academic and medical campuses. No appointment necessary—call ahead or simply stop by.

Super Bowl XXXV party

If you're looking for a party this weekend, The Week's End has a suggestion. From 5 p.m. – 12 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, all VCU students are invited to enjoy free snacks, prizes and — oh, yeah, — the biggest game of the year. The party will be in the Common Ground in the basement of the University Student Commons. Co-sponsored by APB Mosaic. For more information or special accommodations, contact Corbin Ailer, 828-6500.

Program series maps highway to success

The Academic Success Program series provides informative workshops for students from both campuses. The workshops, sponsored by VCU counseling services, are designed to benefit students by teaching different methods to improve grades,

studying habits and other areas contributing to academic success.

The first workshop of the semester, How to Make the Dean's List, will be held from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m., Monday, Jan. 29, in the University Student Commons Theater. For more information or special accommodations, contact Martha Ann Spruill or Joy G. Bressler, 828-6200.

Workshop explains Internet search engines

Most college students use the Web every day to research information, buy clothes, listen to the latest music or chat with their friends.

For those who still can't find what they're looking for, VCU libraries has a suggestion: a workshop.

Designed to highlight Internet search engines and directories, the hands-on program will begin at 5:30 p.m., Jan. 30, in the third floor classroom of the Cabell Library.

The session will feature a brief Web introduction; thus, no previous experience is necessary. For more information or special accommodations, contact Dan Ream, 828-6545.

Campus Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 25

HOW TO REACH US

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

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News Department: 278-2249

Sports Department: 278-2229

The Commonwealth Times doesn't endorse the advertising that runs in the newspaper.

Speaker: Cheryl Mills, former Deputy Counsel to President Bill Clinton, will speak at 5:30 p.m. at the VCU Performing Arts Center as part of the 23rd Annual Living the Dream Program. Sponsored by University Outreach.

Friday, Jan. 26

Seminar: The human resource division of the Office of Training and Development will host an informative seminar on benefit programs from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in McGuire Hall Annex B20 on the medical campus. For more information contact Steve Smith, 828-0179. Film: "Remember the Titans" will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by APB/Film Committee.

Film: "Bring It On" will be shown at 9:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored

by APB/Film Committee.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Film: "Bring It On" will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by APB/Film Committee.

Film: "Remember the Titans" will be shown at 9:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by APB/Film Committee.

Sunday, Jan. 28

Meeting: Narcotics Anonymous will meet at 8 p.m. in the Hibbs Building, room 326.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Seminar: John Everett from the VCU School of Business will offer tips for filing and understanding income taxes at 12 p.m. in the Forum Room, first floor, University Student Commons.

Forum: Delta Sigma Theta will host a forum on healthy eating from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. in the Forum Room, first floor, University Student Commons.

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Correction: In the last issue a picture of the new dorms was incorrectly credited. The photo was taken by Jessica Brown.

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UVa. restarts program to post students' bail

Antoinette Alston
CAVALIER DAILY

(U-WIRE) CHARLOTTESVILLE — After nearly 15 years of dormancy, the University of Virginia's Student Legal Defense Fund is back in operation.

The fund was brought back in December because of a recent rise in minor legal offenses.

The Fund originated in the 1960s as a bail bondsman service for student war protestors. Demand for its services gradually declined and the organization eventually shut down in the 1980s.

At a December meeting, the University Judiciary Committee agreed to restart the service as a subcommittee.

The Fund is an interest-free service designed for students who encounter minor legal difficulty, namely misdemeanors and non-violent felonies.

Trained bondsmen are available 24 hours a day for students arrested in Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Bail is posted at no expense to the student or the University, pending the student's appearance in court.

"Lately we've had more incidents where students are arrested at football games for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct," said Isaac Gradman, Student Legal Defense Fund chairman. "Now it seems

the service is in need again."

Original demand for the Student Legal Defense Fund was high, but as the Vietnam War ended and protests subsided, fewer students required aid from the Fund.

"The Fund fell by the wayside," UJC Chairwoman Lissa Percopo said. "It became less and less of a priority because it was used less often."

Although no students have requested assistance since the fund reopened last semester, Gradman said all eligible students deserve the right to post bond.

"A lot of times students need a second chance," Gradman said. "If a judge has said you can be released for a certain amount of money, every student deserves the right to be released no matter what their financial situation."

Max Wiegard, UJC vice chairman for first-years, agrees that students should not be penalized too harshly for one-time mistakes.

"We want to protect our community and at the same time protect our students," Wiegard said. "We don't want our students to be hampered because of their mistakes."

Gradman said the new Student Legal Defense Fund has undergone several revisions from its earlier days, as a means of better meeting the needs of students.

FINANCIAL AID continued from page 1

"What does this bill accomplish?" asked U.S. Rep. Robert C. Scott, D-3rd. "It will not, by any stretch of the imagination, make a dent on the rate of drug use by young people."

Scott last year co-sponsored legislation that would repeal the provision, saying that the law disproportionately affects minorities who most need the aid. The proposed legislation has yet to pass.

"If you have been convicted for the possession or the sale of drugs," Scott said, "then you also forfeit your opportunity to turn your life around."

Kent Willis, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia, voiced similar concerns about the effect of the law on students.

"We're talking about young people committing crimes," he said, "not hardened felons."

The ACLU subscribes to a rehabilitative approach to dealing with young offenders, he said, and this policy further alienates them, possibly excluding a large part of the student population who most need the government's assistance.

"When you create a law like this, there is a negative impact on minorities," he said, pointing out that blacks are more likely to be convicted for drug offenses than whites.

Flood disagreed, saying, "It's blatantly racist on the ACLU's part to think that minorities attending college are more likely to be convicted than whites."

No statistic supports that claim, she said, adding that she thinks the ACLU deserves minority students by placing that assumption on them.

Last year, whites accounted for more

than 60 percent of all arrests nationwide, according to U.S. Department of Justice statistics, but blacks accounted for more than 50 percent of drug convictions. More than 1.5 million Americans were arrested for drug abuse violations in 1999.

Yet Jim W. Dyke Jr., former Virginia Secretary of Education who chaired a task force that studied sexual assault and drug and alcohol abuse on the state's college campuses, said that drug abuse cuts across race and class lines.

Dyke, now an attorney and partner with the McGuire, Woods, Battle and Booth law firm, called the law a step in the right direction.

"I am sympathetic to their (the ACLU's) concerns, but the law needs to be enforced fairly and equally," he said. "Don't get rid of the law just enforce it properly."

But Flood said Souder expresses concern with the way that the Education Department enforces the law.

He intended for the law to cover convictions after the enactment date, she said, but the Education Department applied the law retroactively, affecting students convicted before the enactment date.

Students with convictions before July 1, 2000, still could lose their aid, according to the federal aid eligibility guide published by the department.

For instance, a first-time conviction for drug possession in February 2000 rendered a student ineligible for aid until Jan. 31, 2001, or the successful completion of a rehabilitation program.

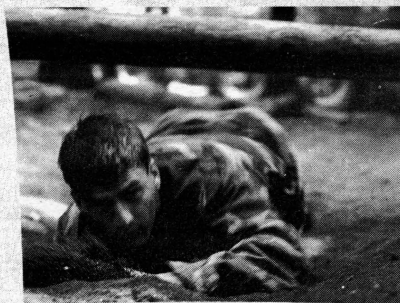
"The department enforces laws the way it interprets them," said Freeman, noting that the Education Department disapproves of the provision.

In letters written in 1998 to the house speaker and committees regarding passage of the law, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley wrote that President Clinton's administration opposed the provision because it lacked judicial discretion.

Cassara, who worked in the Education Department when the law passed, said that many people in the department believed the law infringed upon students' rights, wrongfully burdened those in the financial aid community with its enforcement and hindered efforts to service students' needs quickly.

"There's no perfect way to do this," she said, adding that VCU urges students to answer the question and to talk with the university's financial aid officers even if they have a drug conviction.

"Our hands are tied without access to this data."



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THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

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The Question of The Week

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WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT STUDENTS LOSING FINANCIAL AID BECAUSE OF DRUG CONVICTIONS?

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ A July 1, 2000, a federal law bars students with drug convictions from receiving federal aid.
- ☐ 9,028,400 students applied for federal aid in 2000.
- ☐ 1,435 students lost their aid eligibility for the entire academic year due to drug convictions.
- ☐ 6,135 students with drug convictions lost their aid for part of the academic year.

RENOVATIONS continued from page 1

ommendations.

Proposed renovations include:

- incorporating new technology to update the food court as well as providing more restaurant choices for students,
- building a new multipurpose room roughly twice the size of the current ballroom,
- overhauling the communal space to provide better study and lounge areas as well as improving the student information center,
- enclosing the breezeway between the commons and the commuter lounge, and
- making the student organizations more visible to the student population by moving their offices from the basement to the first floor.

"This addition and renovation is going to change the center of campus as much as building the original building did," Reed said. "I think this will be another quantum leap."

The university estimates the cost for the 24-month renovation at \$10- \$12-million, though the university has allocated only \$9 million for the project.

Unless additional funds are raised, Reed said, only the most important renovations will be done.

The university has appropriated \$1 million to upgrade the student lounge in Hunton Hall on the medical campus.

"We don't have the same facilities that the other campus has," said Hermes Kontos, vice president for health sciences. "We need a place for the students to sit and relax."

After the renovations are complete students will be able to socialize, study or grab a snack and relax without bothering others in the area, said Brian Ohlinger, assistant vice president for facilities management.

"We want the students' input in what they want in a facility," he said, adding that student fees will pay for the student commons and Hunton Hall renovations.

Pouri Amiri, a junior who occasionally eats lunch at the student commons, said he supports the proposed changes.

"All the students rallied," he said, "and this is something they wanted."

Libraries on the academic and medical campuses also are slated for an 18-month state-funded \$3.6 million makeover starting this semester.

Renovations at the James Branch Cabell Library include building public restrooms on the first floor, adding a full-service coffee bar and lounge as well as providing more computer workstations.

To implement these changes, the library's main entrance will move temporarily to the building's southeast corner facing Floyd Avenue, said John Ulmschneider, executive director of library services.

The Tompkins-McCaw Library on the medical campus will undergo similar changes including the addition of a refreshment area with vending machines, expanding the public restrooms, adding more computer workstations and relocating the journal stacks to the first floor.

Like the academic campus' renovation, Ulmschneider said, the main entrance of the medical school's library will move temporarily to facilitate construction.

Expansion plans also include installing sprinkler systems in both libraries to protect the buildings and their resources.

The libraries will maintain regular hours of operation during the construction, which will be completed in two phases, Ulmschneider said. Noting the exception for the sprinkler system installation, he said the work should be completed by late September or early October.

The administration will modify its food and drink policy, Ulmschneider said, allowing light snacks and drinks. He added that the continued privilege, however, will depend on how well the student body embraces the new policy.

"The whole thrust of the renovation," he said, "is to improve the space for the students."

This semester work will continue on Sanger Hall, a building that houses lecture halls and administrative offices on the medical campus, which has been going through a systems renovation since 1999. Built in 1963, Sanger Hall's aging infrastructure needs work, Ohlinger said, because buildings need updated every 25 to 30 years to meet contemporary standards.

The Virginia General Assembly appropriated about \$13.3 million in 1999 to modernize the building's aging elevators and ventilation system.

About one year from completion, six of the building's eight elevators have been replaced as well as the chillers that cool the water for its ventilation system. The remaining two elevators as well as the air-handling units will be updated this semester.

Sanger Hall also suffers from water infiltration problems.

"Water seeps into the building through the outside walls," said Ohlinger, whose office oversees the renovation projects on the medical and academic campuses. Funds have been allocated for replacing the windows and the outside curtain wall, he said, to fix the water problem as well as to update the building's appearance.

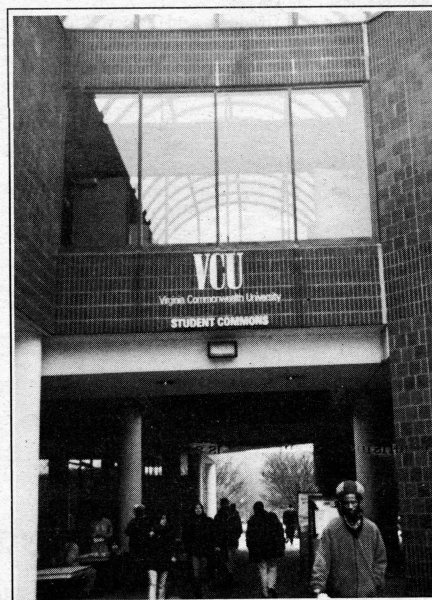
Future university projects include a \$2.7 million renovation of the Business and Hibbs buildings to replace furniture, add new technology to the lecture halls and change their aging color schemes.

"The university is committed to providing the best facilities we can," Ohlinger said. "We don't want a student to leave because they are dissatisfied with our facilities. We're trying to stay ahead of that."



Jessica Brown/Commonwealth Times

Hunton Hall, slated for renovations this year, houses administrative offices and copy centers on the medical campus.



Jessica Brown/Commonwealth Times

During upcoming construction, this breezeway between the commons and the commuter lounge may be enclosed to provide more space for students to congregate between classes.

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Amul Madan

New super train makes historic debut

In the past, many people, including those students who go to college, have made trips to various places by either car, train, plane or boat.

These modes of transportation have often sufficed and allowed one to get from one place to another with ease. Now, a new train has been developed that allows a person who wants to travel to Boston, for example, in seven hours.

This train, called the Acela, is owned and operated by Amtrak. It is part of a fleet of trains just like it that make up the Acela express. The trains reach top speeds of 140

mph and allow a normal college student to travel Florida for Spring Break, for example, in under two hours.

These trains are relatively new (they are a little over a month old) and have surprised many people who ride the train, unaware that they are making history by riding such a sleek train that could quite possibly be the new wave in the near future.

The French-Canadian trains were introduced as a new fleet of trains that could one day replace the entire Amtrak fleet of trains that are currently running. Most

people are surprised at the trains' speed and the ability to get from one state to another quickly.

The train's ride was best described by the passengers who rode the first train a little over a month ago. Some said it was "unusually quiet, went smoothly, was bright inside and didn't look as if it was going as fast as it really was."

In comparison to the Amfleet cars used on the Metroliner by Amtrak, the Acela Express travels far more smoothly yet it does produce a very small and constant bounce on a less than perfect track.

That appears to be the main problem. Some of the track along the Eastern seaboard does need work in order to ensure a perfectly smooth ride. This problem is especially noticeable between Washington D.C. and Wilmington, NC.

Although the lone problem with Acela trains is the track, many people have been enjoying a comfortable ride to and from their destination ever since service commenced a little over a month ago. It can be easily said that the Acela Express will change the future of transportation forever.

Mary Beth Thomsen

One graduate-to-be reflects on time at VCU

Only one more semester until graduation. I never thought this day would come.

I went through high school and college with the aspirations of receiving a diploma. However, I am now terrified of graduating. I don't know exactly what my problem is - probably fear, fear of being independent. I am scared to pay my own bills and I'm worried that I won't save enough money.

I am fearful that I'll go crazy having to work 9-5. I'm anxious that I won't get the job that I want.

I am terrified that I'll lose touch with all of my friends I've gained...just like after

high school.

I am worried that my utilities might be turned off at some point.

I'm not looking forward to paying off my \$15,000 of student loans.

I don't know where I want to go. Should I stay in Richmond or should I move away? Do I take any job offer or do I keep trying until I get a job I want?

As a soon-to-be graduate, I am at a very unstable time in my life.

I was always told that "college would fly by and be over with before you know it." I never believed that warning-I should

have.

As I reflect back on the past four years, numerous gains and losses come to mind.

I've gained lots of knowledge and lost lots of money after selling my used books back to bookstores.

I've gained too many CDs and videos from those damn mail away clubs. I've gained pounds and lost old friends.

I've gained a better knowledge of Richmond's streets and lost a desire to go home every weekend.

I've gained a vast knowledge of the aisles in Target.

I've lost my desire to live with roommates from now on.

I've driven and gained many miles on my car as well as lost too many hours of sleep staying up watching the Discovery channel.

Through all of my gains and losses, I've enjoyed my four years here.

Although we are one of the largest public universities in Virginia, it doesn't always feel like that.

The last time I walk through the breezeway will not be the last time I think about my memories from VCU.

Robb Crocker

Robb's bits and pieces

Here are a few nuggets of information and observations:

The home court advantage is playing to VCU's favor. The basketball team is in first place and looks strong at home. If the place ever gets filled, watch out.

Here's an early prediction - Johnnie Story will be a force to reckon with in the CAA for the next couple of years.

I've had a chance to catch a couple of games this season and this guy's a tough player and hustles hard on the court...

Speaking of sports, this year's Super Bowl should be a good one. I don't really care for either team but if I had to make a prediction, I'll say the N.Y. Giants will win 17-13...

Protesters rallied at the Capitol in support of a bill that would end the death penalty. I hope some serious consideration is taken on this proposal.

Virginia is second to Texas in killing criminals. I'd hate to live in an area known as "Texas-East"...

In other legislative news, a bill to raise the driving age, as well as impose a curfew is in the books in light of the

recent accidents involving teens.

I think the curfew issue will be more trouble than it is worth but overall, the age requirement is a good idea.

Maybe the state should also consider not giving out licenses to any breathing soul.

There are just as many poor driving adults and elderly persons as there are teens...

Have you notice certain areas in the Fan have restrictions on parking on certain days of the week for "street cleaning" and yet, the streets don't seem that clean to me...

Former President Bill Clinton admitted on his last day in office that he lied under oath during the Monica Lewinsky trial.

I couldn't believe my ears, Clinton, lying! I hope that was the only lie he told while in office...

Update on an column I wrote in the fall about financial aid, books and parking:

This semester, I got my financial aid earlier than I expected, I was able to get all my books and ... well two out of three ain't bad!

CommonwealthTimes

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Urban thrift store in the fan offers more than usual fare

Kelly Gerow
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Meredith Tracey, owner of Urban Artifacts on Main Street, said she has always been interested in vintage artifacts. She bought things from the '40s to the '70s and said she comes from a family of pack rats.

"I found myself having a lot more than I needed," Tracey, 33, said. "Either I stopped buying things or start a store."

In July 1997, Tracey opened Urban Artifacts. The thrift store is located near the VCU campus.

"We specialize in 1970s and earlier," she said. "We look for stuff that is interesting to students and those starting with apartments."

Tracey and Didi Chisholm, her business partner of two years, run Urban Artifacts. Both from Massachusetts where they lived about 20 minutes apart, they didn't meet until a mutual friend introduced them a few years ago. Chisholm worked at a thrift store in Carytown, and they decided to combine their stores.

"We have more room to be creative," Chisholm said about the job and partnership, "which is very important to both of us."

The inventory for the store comes from estate sales, auctions and customers. Some new items, like feather boas and silver jewelry, come from New York, where Tracey shops for the store about three times a year.

Tracey said that the difference between Urban Artifacts and general thrift stores is that other thrift stores have mostly newer things from the last 10 years.

VCU sophomore Nila Sok said, "Urban Artifacts is a good place to go for nice decorations for your room or apartment, as long as you have some money because some things are overpriced. But there are good, small inexpensive things there, too I couldn't find anywhere else."

Another big part of the store is the local artwork. Tracey, a graduate of the School of

Arts at VCU in crafts and textile design, said she remembers how difficult it is to approach galleries, and helps local artists by letting them display their work. The store looks great with their work, she said.

"I never expected to sell thousands of dollars worth of artwork," Tracey said of the local artists' in-store success. "Main Street Art Association asked us to be part of their gallery walk and be part of the association."

Urban Artifacts is also known for renting and supplying props and clothing to films and commercials. Most stores in the vintage circuit rent out clothes, and Tracey recently supplied 900 pieces of clothing for a Penny Marshall movie being made in New York for a scene set in the '60s that shows clotheslines. Tracey did shopping as a buyer for the television show "Dawson's Creek" for a scene filmed in a retro club. She got a local artist work on the set. She also got the work of four local artists to appear in last summer's version of "Shaft."

Urban Artifacts has good business outside of the two-story building, and both Chisholm and Tracey said they want to expand the store to sell more furniture, artwork and used books and records.

Tracey said she would like to stay in the Fan area, and that if they were somewhere with better parking that they would get more customers.

As for other Richmond thrift stores, Tracey said, "We work as a team. It's competitive, but not in an unfriendly way." A group of store owners put together a pamphlet called "Retro Richmond: A Guide to Vintage Shopping in the Fan District." Other thrift stores in the area include Bygone's, Halcyon and Exile. As long as retro fashion remains popular in its own cyclical way, thrift stores will be in need.

"When swing was really big two years ago we did really well," Tracey said of the swing movement that stormed into mainstream pop culture. "Didi and I sold clothing at swing dances." She said that movies like "Boogie Nights" have done a lot to bring '70s

styles back. "Seventies parties always happen."

Tracey said that both she and Chisholm love styles from the '40s to the '60s, and think it's funny that '70s clothing is in style. "We look for the sexiest, grooviest clothes," Tracey said. "And buy polyester if we have to."

Tracey and Chisholm both say they enjoy their job and the freedom that comes with it.

"The store isn't a huge moneymaker, but it's a good lifestyle job," Tracey said. She said she loves to crawl around peoples' attics looking for things to buy, and that she's crazy about the customers. "I'm so much happier doing this than I ever was."

Chisholm said she got started in the thrift business for extra income, and found that she enjoyed it and was able to quit her job as a waitress at the Village.

Tracey said that while she worked as an interior designer, she saw the building that she would later turn into Urban Artifacts. She said she thought it was a great place for a store and if she hadn't seen the standalone, aged building everyday during her lunch break, she doesn't know if she would have opened the store.

And now she has a place for all her stuff.

Urban Artifacts is located at 1208 W. Main St.
Open Monday through
Friday from 11 a.m. to 6
p.m. Open Saturday 11
a.m. to 6 p.m.
(804) 355-9692

New exhibitions at Anderson Gallery

The Anderson Gallery opens its Winter 2001 season with "Time Memory and Meditation: Works by Jim Campbell" and "A Century of Innovative Book Design."

The nine pieces in Campbell's "Time, Memory and Meditation" include installations, electronic sculptures that utilize computer technology, and works that feature collapsed film sequences, titled "Illuminated Averages."

Campbell, who works three days a week as an engineer in Silicon valley, calls his art "a search for truth more than a search for beauty."

The second show is a travelling exhibition from the Myers School of Art at the University of Akron, Ohio. "A Century of Innovative Book Design" shows book design in a wide cultural context, highlighting innovations in text and image presentation.

Titles of the more than 100 books displayed include: "The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer" by William Morris; "A Toute Epreuve" by Joan Miro; "The Alphabet and Elements of Lettering" by Frederic W. Goudy; and "Jazz" by Henri Matisse.

Also included in the exhibition are nine sculptures inspired by pop-up books.

The exhibitions shows Jan. 26 through March 4. The Anderson Gallery on 907 1/2 W. Franklin St. is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. For details, call (804) 828-1522. --compiled from news sources

New feature!

Snack item of the week

Kelly Gerow
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Snacks. Everyone loves snacks. On the go, or on the stop, snacking is for anyone who can't sit tight long enough for an actual meal. In a new, possibly weekly venture, Spectrum will feature a snack that's worth worth ruining an appetite.

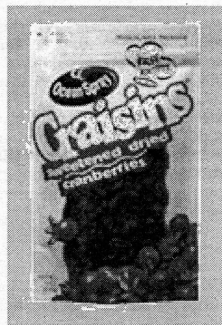
Ocean Spray, bottler and mass producers of various juices and juice-related beverages has released their finest product to date -- dried cranberries.

With Craisins, cranberries get the raisin treatment. Hailed by Ocean Spray as an "exciting snack sensation," Craisins packs a crantastic punch that will leave the consumer wanting more.

The raisin-sized fruit bits have the bitter taste of most cranberry juices (not the sugary cranberry juice cocktails). At first, Craisins may not seem that tasty, but one bag and fifteen minutes later will disprove that initial impression.

Craisins have all the nutrition of regular cranberries, plus a special ingredient. Some say it's sugar. Others, magic.

Available at the finest grocery stores, Craisins may be the best cranberry-related product yet. Or, ever.



Craisins! The name says it all, except that they're really good.

St. Mary's College closes 'Vagina Monologues'

Molly McVoy
THE OBSERVER

(U-WIRE) SOUTH BEND, Ind. — St. Mary's College president Marilou Eldred told student organizers of "The Vagina Monologues" on Tuesday that the play would not make a re-appearance on the campus this year.

The play is part of a nationwide movement on college campuses to increase dialogue about women's sexuality.

In response, the student organizers called for a speak-out on Wednesday evening to discuss if the play has a place on the St. Mary's campus and, if so, what place that is. In part, the speak-out comes in response to the college administration's position that the play should not be presented this year.

"The administration's position is that we don't want [The Vagina Monologues] performed on this campus again," said Eldred.

The nationally acclaimed play, currently playing off-Broadway, was written by playwright Eve Ensler. Ensler's work is performed solely by women and addresses issues of women's sexuality. In particular, the movement to perform the monologues on college campuses is part of an effort that began three years ago to stop violence against women.

Last year's February production at St. Mary's was sponsored by the Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination (CARE). After the performance, CARE offered counseling.

The play generated needed dialogue about the issues of women's sexuality, lesbianism, rape and the need for women to recognize that their bodies should not be violated but celebrated, according to "Monologues" supporters.

"I think what happened last year after the 'Monologues' was that people had a healthy discussion on sexuality," said senior Julia Malczynski, the women's studies representative to the student activities council.

Although the administration supports the idea of generating discussion, the play would cause more controversy than healthy discussion, according to Eldred.

Issues of lesbianism and explicit discussion of sexuality have caused some to question its appropriateness for a Catholic campus. In response to last year's presentation and a subsequent letter to the South Bend Tribune by a former professor, several members of the College Parent's Council expressed concerns to the president about the presentation of the monologues.

"I think the discussion is necessary," Eldred said. "My issue is clearly with redoing the play."

"We have to be responsible to all our constituency — students, alumni and supporters," said Linda Timm, director of student activities. "Voices on the other side of the issue [opposed to the 'Monologues'] have

seldom been heard."

The supporters of "Monologues" feel that Wednesday's forum is the best way to generate a substantial amount of discussion and no other venue that they have encountered causes a large number of men and women to talk about issues of sexuality.

"Of all the programming I have seen in the last four years at St. Mary's, there has been nothing that has brought so many people out and generates so much discussion," said Emily Koelsch, one of the organizers and supporters of "Monologues."

"It's your peers putting on a production that talks about things that you're usually not supposed to talk about."

"I think the shock value of the play is very valuable," said Julie Frischkorn, another organizer of the monologues. "I've never been to anything else that draws the number of people that 'The Vagina Monologues' does."

In order to advertise on the campus and reserve facilities to present the "Vagina Monologues," the students must have administrative approval. Although Linda Timm, college vice president for student affairs, explained that the college has the power to deny advertising on campus grounds and deny access to facilities, she hopes it won't come to that.

"Typically, our response has not been to flat out say no," Timm said. "I've always felt that we have been able to work with students in a non-adversarial way. We don't always agree, but I have not felt that these students have listened to our arguments. I'm confounded by their response."

Frischkorn and Koelsch said there is a need to present the "Vagina Monologues" on campus and hope that, after Wednesday, some option will become clear.

"We recognize the administration's ability to say no, but we don't want it to come to that," Frischkorn said. "We do feel so strongly about our cause that we are going to try to have the same effect as last year, but, as of now, we do not have a specific plan."

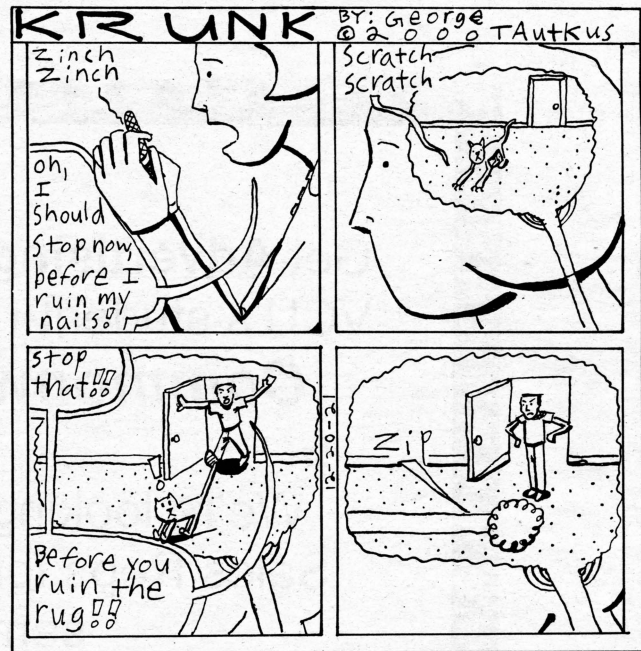
"Not letting us have it on this campus is going send a bad signal to women who have finally started talking about their bodies," Koelsch said. "It tells the students 'last year, you could talk about these issues. This year, you can't.'"

Both sides of the issue hope the speak-out generates discussion from those in favor of the monologues and those with concerns.

"I don't feel that, at this point, there's much dialogue happening," said Timm, the director of student activities. "I feel like we [the administration] weren't heard. I felt that we were very reasonable."

"If this is not going to happen on this campus this year, the student body needs to know why," Koelsch said. "We're just going to have to wait and see what happens Wednesday."

"Why so many people support this is because it is promoting the end of violence towards women," Koelsch said.



Blur's frontman, Deltron 3030 stars connect for Gorillaz collaboration

Neal Obermeyer
DAILY NEBRASKAN

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. -- Rock star collaborations, for all their potential, don't always add up in a 1 + 1 = 2 fashion. Rather, it's usually more of a 1 + 1 = -43 sort of mess.

Case in point: When David Bowie and Mick Jagger got together for "Dancing in the Street" it was no Ziggy Stardust meets the Rolling Stones. Ohhhhhh no.

And when George Michael and Aretha Franklin hooked up, it was nothing like the "Respect" meets "Monkey" masterpiece we wanted. Well, that's I wanted, at least.

The latest looking-good-on-paper superstar collaboration is Gorillaz, featuring the combined talents of Damon Albarn from Blur, Del the Funky Homosapien and Dan the Automator.

The three formed this little group after Damon appeared on Del and Dan's "Deltron 3030" album last year. And now together, they've made the 4-song "Tomorrow Comes Today" EP.

The difference between this and other collaborations is that Damon has gone and hooked up with two other musicians who, like Blur, have quite a reputation for sonic playfulness.

And that, my dears, is why Gorillaz shine. These are three genre-crossing geniuses who have demonstrated a proven ability to work with other artists in a collaboratively creative context and turn out incredible results.

The whole EP has a very laid-back feel, which is somewhat predictable given the members of the team. Each song is also equally infectious and inventive.

"Tomorrow Comes Today" and "Latin Simone," with their rhythm tracks and piano loops, start out sounding very hip-hop until Damon starts his raspy whisper of a tune, and they transform into songs that could have easily fit on Blur's "13."

Placed around the solo Del song "Rock the House," the underlying theme of this album emerges.

It's hard to tell from the opening seconds of these songs whether they will be indie rock or hip-hop. You have to wait for the vocalist to be able to categorize these songs, demonstrating how the lines between the genres have been blurring especially in the past few years.

Music makers these days grew up on their Joy Division and Black Flag, but the cooler kids on the playground were the ones who also knew about the Bomb Squad, Dre, Terminator X and Yella.

And so today we have artists like the Beta Band, Modest Mouse, the Super Furry Animals and Blur that display their indie rock credentials proudly on the surface, but betray an underlying understanding and appreciation for hip-hop masters of the past.

"Tomorrow Comes Today" is a perfect celebration of that. These are three masters at their respective crafts, and together they build a beautiful tribute to the paths that led some of the most inventive indie rock to where it is today.

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Web sites change the face of recruiting game

Chris Jacobs
DAILY NEBRASKAN

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — Every day, Gary Thompson, an insurance agent, sits down at his desk and reads about his favorite college football team. Today, however, his medium for recruiting news isn't limited to a newspaper. He can find much of the information he wants online, and it's mostly reliable, too.

"Several years ago, I had a subscription to Huskers Illustrated," said Thompson. "Now I just check the sites once a day."

Thompson is referring to the numerous recruiting sites such as rivals100.com and, more specifically, ToughTony.com for University of Nebraska Husker fans.

"We're disappointed if we don't receive at least 500,000 hits a day," said Jeremy Crabtree, editor of rivals100.com, referring to the site's increasing popularity.

Crabtree said the site was dedicated to finding verbal commitments of players, keeping track of college visits and posting comments from anyone on message boards about each player.

"The recruiting process has been revo-

lutionized by these sites," Crabtree said. "A good coach nowadays must use the Internet as a tool or be left behind."

Former Nebraska I-back Tony Davis, editor of ToughTony.com, said his site received around 300,000 hits a day.

But the sites aren't only catching the attention of players, fans and coaches. Reporters are using the information to their advantage as well.

"During prime recruiting season, I check rivals100.com about five times a day," said Steve Sipple, sports reporter for the Lincoln Journal Star. "The sites save us a lot of work."

Omaha World-Herald reporter Mitch Sherman also admitted to viewing the sites on a daily basis.

The recruiting sites are a good source of up-to-date information and tips on possible commitments to universities, Sherman said.

"The sites do a good job of providing accurate information," said Sherman, "but I always wonder if everything on them is true."

Sipple said the nature of recruiting information could be ambiguous, but he found

the majority of the information on the sites reliable.

The sites create a symbiotic relationship with the press, Crabtree said.

"We gather about 90 percent of our information ourselves," he said. "We use some newspaper reports and swap and exchange information with other reporters."

The site rivals100.com is composed of 18 different regional experts who go out and find specific information about recruits, Crabtree said.

"Before, we wouldn't have ever gotten the news out this fast," he said.

Both reporters expressed concern about the pressing impact of the sites on recruits.

"I'm uncomfortable with how this relates to the kids," Sipple said. "The sites have good and bad effects. They cut down on a number of calls the kids receive and go a long way to help newspaper people because we don't have to bug the recruits all the time. But it puts 18-year-olds in an interesting situation."

Said Sherman: "The sites create more of a nuisance for the recruits. Five to 10 years ago, only newspapers were contacting the

players."

Just ask Brodie Croyle of Rainbow City, Ala., who is the No. 1 quarterback recruit according to rivals100.com.

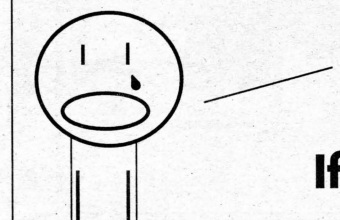
Croyle, who has committed to Alabama, said he tried to stay away from the distractions created by all the attention he received from scouts. "For a month or two, I received 20 or 30 calls a day," he said. "At first it was fun, but after awhile it got old. I found myself not wanting to go home as much as before."

The rivals100.com No. 1 running back prospect Kevin Jones, a Chester, Pa., native, said the site gave him extra attention that was helpful, but at times agitating.

"Sometimes I'm tired, and it can be menacing at times to take the calls," Jones said. Coaches and members of the media contacted him so much that he lost count of how many calls he received on several days, Jones said.

Crabtree said the job of rivals100.com was to report recruiting news and refrain from becoming a part of the recruiting process.

"We don't influence the kids on their decisions," he said.



I'm sad. Sad. Sad. Sad. Sad. Sad.

No one will be a sports writer or sports editor for me.

Please call George Templeton 828-1058 for more information.

If you don't, there's no telling what I might do!

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

(Through Jan. 23)

Team	W-L	Conference	Overall
George Mason	6-2	.750	11-7 .611
VCU	5-2	.714	12-8 .600
Old Dominion	4-3	.571	8-11 .421
Richmond	3-3	.500	11-5 .689
East Carolina	4-4	.500	12-7 .632
UNC Wilmington	3-4	.429	10-8 .556
William & Mary	3-4	.429	6-11 .353
James Madison	2-5	.286	6-11 .353
American	2-5	.286	6-12 .333

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

(Through Jan. 23)

DATE	VCU	GAME	OPP
Nov. 18	82	GARDNER-WEBB	67
Nov. 20	80	@Tulane	84
Nov. 22	63	@ E. Tennessee	53
Nov. 25	84	MISSISSIPPI(OT)	88
Nov. 28	81	N. CAROLINA A&T	61
Dec. 2	107	TEXAS A&M	106
Dec. 6	82	@ Texas Christian	101
Dec. 9	70	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	57
Dec. 17	96	PITTSBURGH	73
Dec. 20	70	vs. Evansville	82
Dec. 21	88	vs. So. Methodist	94
Dec. 22	75	vs. Kent State	81
Dec. 30	61	@Ala. Birmingham	70
Jan. 3	62	@American*	58
Jan. 6	84	EAST CAROLINA*	81
Jan. 10	72	GEORGE MASON*	65
Jan. 13	63	@ William & Mary*	52
Jan. 16	65	JAMES MADISON*	65
Jan. 20	65	@Old Dominion*	77
Jan. 22	70	UNCV*	55
Jan. 27		@ East Carolina*	7:00 P.M.
Jan. 31		@ James Madison*	7:00 P.M.
Feb. 3		AMERICAN*	7:30 P.M.
Feb. 8		WILLIAM & MARY*	7:30 P.M.
Feb. 14		@George Mason*	7:00 P.M.
Feb. 17		@ Richmond*	7:30 P.M.
Feb. 21		@ UNCW*	7:00 P.M.
Feb. 24		OLD DOMINION*	4:00 P.M.
Feb. 27		RICHMOND*	7:30 P.M.

Colonial Athletic Association Championship
Mar. 3-5 Richmond TBA
* — CAA game

VCU STATISTICS

(Through Jan. 23)

Player	fg	3-pt.	ft	avg.	avg.
B. Jones	95-209	42-102	69-84	3.1	42 15.8
V. Taylor	90-178	21-51	63-89	4.9	22 13.9
Likholitov	74-127	0-0	37-87	6.5	6 9.7
D. Jones	60-137	6-20	30-46	1.1	29 8.2
Story	48-98	0-1	33-42	5.2	22 7.2
L. Taylor	46-129	16-50	32-54	3.4	80 7.0
Nesterov	44-91	15-30	23-34	4.0	15 6.3
Lilly	31-86	19-46	14-21	1.6	27 4.8
Graham	19-65	7-33	12-25	3.0	18 3.2
Treadwell	20-34	0-0	10-19	2.5	10 2.5

TOTALS

VCU 533-1169 129-339 325-505 38.5 273 76.0
Opponents 509-1248 104-305 348-502 39.9 250 73.5

CAA SCORING LEADERS

(Through Jan. 23)

Player	gp	fg	3-pt.	ft	pts.	avg.
George Evans, GMU	18	146	0	52	344	19.1
Greg Stevenson, UR	16	116	27	46	305	19.1
Erroyil Bing, ECU	18	95	41	55	286	15.9
Bo Jones, VCU	19	95	42	69	301	15.8
Gabriel Mikulas, ECU	19	93	0	105	291	15.3
Fred Primus, ECU	19	84	63	42	273	14.4
Ed Williams, UNCW	18	101	7	47	256	14.2
Mike Johnson, W&M	17	75	37	54	241	14.2
Willie Taylor, VCU	19	90	21	63	264	13.9
Pierre Greene, ODU	19	93	3	67	256	13.5

CAA REBOUNDING LEADERS

(Through Jan. 23)

Player	g	no.	avg.
George Evans, GMU	18	161	8.9
Greg Stevenson, UR	16	142	8.9
Erroyil Bing, ECU	19	167	8.8
Clifton Jones, ODU	19	157	8.3
Mike Johnson, W&M	17	125	7.4
Ed Williams, UNCW	18	124	6.9
Keith Gray, AU	18	117	6.5
L.F. Likholitov, VCU	19	123	6.5
Pat Mitchell, JMU	13	81	6.2
Tim Lily, JMU	17	104	6.1

CAA ASSIST LEADERS

(Through Jan. 23)

Player	g	no.	avg.
Tremaine Price, GMU	19	85	4.72
Scott Ungerer, UR	16	73	4.56

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

(Through Jan. 23)

Team	W-L	Conference	Overall
Old Dominion	5-0	1.000	9-5 .643
East Carolina	4-1	.800	9-7 .562
George Mason	4-2	.667	13-4 .765
Richmond	4-2	.667	10-8 .556
James Madison	3-2	.600	10-6 .625
VCU	2-4	.333	10-6 .625
William & Mary	1-4	.200	5-11 .312
American	1-4	.200	3-13 .188
UNC Wilmington	0-5	.000	7-8 .467

CAA SCORING LEADERS

(Through Jan. 23)

Player	gp	fg	3-pt.	ft	pts.	avg.
Kristine Austgulen, VCU	16	105	2	43	255	15.9
Jen Sobota, W&M	16	76	34	55	241	15.1
Okiesha Howard, ODU	14	62	19	65	208	14.9
Hamchetou Maiga, ODU	14	85	0	34	204	14.6
Jen Surlas, GMU	17	83	36	39	241	14.2
Rochelle Luckett, VCU	16	83	5	37	208	13.0
Liz Remus, VCU	16	67	20	54	208	13.0
Quintina Walker, W&M	16	75	0	50	200	12.5
Candice Edwards, UR	18	93	16	21	223	12.4
Nadine Morgan, JMU	16	71	1	52	195	12.2

VCU STATISTICS

(Through Jan. 23)

Player	fg	3-pt.	ft	avg.	avg.
Austgulen	105-191	2-15	43-61	6.2	22 15.9
Luckett	83-166	5-20	37-57	3.7	87 13.0
Remus	67-147	20-50	54-63	4.4	67 13.0
Washington	56-116	0-2	28-45	5.6	8 8.8
Pelletier	35-84	10-28	19-25	2.7	22 6.2
McKinnon	28-71	0-3	22-35	1.7	14 4.9
Phelps	19-43	0-0	17-26	2.3	1 3.7
Wilks	15-44	10-23	14-19	1.3	6 3.4
Evans	16-32	4-11	5-12	1.1	9 2.7
McKenna	11-29	5-19	3-7	1.0	5 2.2

TOTALS

VCU 442-948 56-176 250-361 35.3 247 74.4
Opponents 373-908 65-218 261-357 37.0 221 67.0

CAA ASSIST LEADERS

(Through Jan. 23)

Player	g	no.	avg.
Michelle Koclanes, UR	18	126	7.00
Joana Fogaca, ECU	16	102	6.38
Jen Sobota, W&M	16	96	6.00
Rochelle Luckett, VCU	16	87	5.44
Jess Cichowicz, JMU	16	86	5.38
Alli Spence, ODU	14	71	5.07
Liz Remus, VCU	16	67	4.19
Jen Derevjank, GMU	17	65	3.82
Chrystal Avery, ECU	16	53	3.31
Jeri Lynn Coker, UNCW	15	43	2.87

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

(Through Jan. 23)

DATE	VCU	GAME	OPP
Nov. 18	93	@Iona	76
Nov. 21	59	SETON HALL	54
Nov. 26	98	COPPIN STATE	73
Nov. 29	89	LOYOLA	56
Dec. 4	57	@ Minnesota	72
Dec. 10	76	LEHIGH	65
Dec. 16	62	LIBERTY	60
Dec. 18	83	DREXEL	70
Dec. 20	63	GEORGIA	77
Dec. 30	83	UMBC	53
Jan. 5	84	@ Richmond*	96
Jan. 7	72	@American*	56
Jan. 11	73	EAST CAROLINA*	74
Jan. 14	57	GEORGE MASON*	58
Jan. 18	79	@ William & Mary*	68
Jan. 21	62	JAMES MADISON*	64
Jan. 24		@Old Dominion*	7:30 P.M.
Jan. 28		UNCW*	2:00 P.M.
Jan. 31		@ Kentucky	7:00 P.M.
Feb. 4		@ James Madison*	2:00 P.M.
Feb. 7		AMERICAN*	7:00 P.M.
Feb. 11		WILLIAM & MARY*	6:00 P.M.
Feb. 18		@ George Mason*	2:00 P.M.
Feb. 22		RICHMOND*	7:00 P.M.
Feb. 25		@UNCW*	2:00 P.M.
Feb. 28		OLD DOMINION*	7:00 P.M.
Mar. 4		@ East Carolina*	2:00 P.M.

Colonial Athletic Association Championship
Mar. 8-10 Norfolk TBA
* — CAA game

Ram Stat

The VCU women's basketball team fell at Old Dominion 80-52 on Wednesday night to fall to 2-5 in the conference.

Thursday, January 25, 2001

Sports

Commonwealth Times • 12

Coming next issue

Men's basketball tries for its second CAA road win, plus coverage of the women's basketball battle with between VCU and UNC Wilmington.

Rams improve to 9-1 at home

After scoring three points in a little more than 5 1/2 minutes late in the second half, the VCU men's basketball team looked to be teetering on the edge of blowing an 10-point lead.

Instead, the Rams responded to the challenge. After seeing a 10-point lead shaved to 57-55, VCU scored the last 13 points of the game to turn a nailbiter into a comfortable Colonial Athletic Association victory.

L.F. Likholitov had six of the Rams' final 13 points and finished with a double-double, 14 points and 10 rebounds. Likholitov's boards were key to VCU's (5-2 CAA, 12-8) 40-32 rebounding advantage.

Willie Taylor led all scorers with 17 points, grabbing nine rebounds as well, and Bo Jones had 14 points, including hitting 7 of 9 foul shots. LaMar Taylor scored seven points to pass the 1,000-point plateau.

Unlike last the season-ending loss in the CAA Tournament last year, Brett Blizzard didn't bury the Rams from outside.

Blizzard, the Seahawks' (3-4, 10-8) top scorer, 1999 first-team all CAA selection and tournament most valuable player, was

held to 3-of-15 shooting and just eight points.

Ed Williams had 13 points to lead UNCW while Craig Callahan had 10 points and seven rebounds.

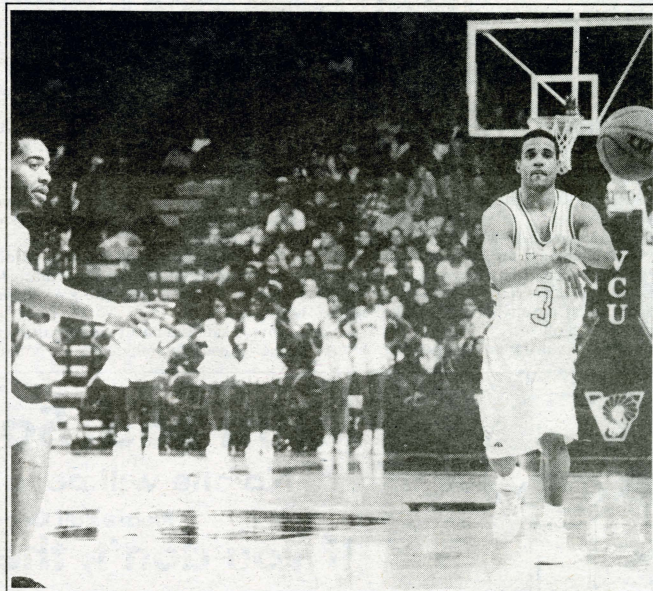
UNCW outshot the Rams in the first half, but VCU hit 9 of 11 free throws to go into the half tied at 33.

The Rams grabbed control with an 8-0 run that put them up 44-37 with 15:19 left in the game. VCU increased that lead to 54-44 after a 3-point basket from Scott Lilly.

UNCW made its move over the next 5:33 with an 11-3 run that sliced the deficit to two, setting up a possibly tense finish. Instead the Rams pulled away to their ninth home win in 10 games this season.

"What makes me smile about tonight's game is that we were the aggressor at the end of the game," said VCU coach Mack McCarthy. "Our defensive rebounds for a stretch in the second half gave us the win and allowed us to get points off our fast break and avoid their half-court defense, which is very good."

— compiled from news sources



Rita Botts/ Commonwealth Times

LaMar Taylor and VCU face East Carolina in Greenville, N.C. in a key Colonial Athletic Association matchup. The Rams defeated the Pirates 73-65 in Greenville for their only CAA road win last season.

CAA to gain four new schools in 2002

WASHINGTON — During the Christmas break, the Colonial Athletic Association, the league VCU has been in since the 1995-96 school year, announced the addition of four schools from the America East Conference: Towson University, Drexel University, University of Delaware and Hofstra University.

The CAA currently stands at nine members but East Carolina University, the University of Richmond and American University are leaving after this school year.

Originally the target date for the expansion was July 1, 2003 - the date necessary for the four schools to give the America East enough notice and avoid monetary penalty.

Because the America East will add Division I newcomers Stony Brook University and Albany University after next year, the conference announced January 19 that the four departing schools will be allowed to leave after the 2001-02 academic year.

"Make no mistake, we'd love to have the (the additions) in September and ready to go for next year," said CAA commissioner Tom Yeager, "but this is a good compromise for both leagues. Everybody kind of met halfway. This is the conference's first

expansion since VCU joined the CAA in 1995.

The benefits of the additions are numerous for the CAA.

First, the conference now stretches from North Carolina up to Baltimore (Towson), New York (Hofstra) and Philadelphia (Drexel).

Second, the CAA will now offer 20 championships, with addition of women's softball and men's lacrosse along with a possibility for championships in other sports.

Third, the CAA will gain programs that have performed at a high level in the flagship sport of men's basketball. Drexel, Delaware and Hofstra have accounted for eight of the last nine America East tournament championships.

The Delaware Fighting Blue Hens have won titles in 1992-93, 1998-99. The Drexel Dragons won titles from 1994-96 and the Hofstra Pride (formerly Flying Dutchmen) won the title in 2000.

In addition to Drexel's success on the basketball court, the Dragons men's basketball program had the sixth-highest graduation rate in the nation according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

— compiled from news sources

WVU's Moss apologizes for spitting at cheerleader

Michael Pehanich
THE DAILY ATHENAEM

(U-WIRE) MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Sunday's ugly incident involving West Virginia junior Chris Moss, a former standout at Richmond-area L.C. Bird High, may have been the final straw.

In what has been a frustrating and difficult year for the 6-8 center, Moss announced Monday that he is taking an indefinite leave of absence from the Mountaineers.

He also apologized for his temper tantrum, subsequent ejection and spitting on a Notre Dame female cheerleader during WVU's 78-61 loss to the Fighting Irish.

"I would like to publicly apologize for my actions on Sunday at Notre Dame," Moss said. "I'm sorry for my behavior that occurred within the heat of competition which caused me to overreact to a situation. This was totally out of character for me. I embarrassed myself as well as West Virginia University. This will never happen again."

Moss, whose mother is suffering from multiple sclerosis, believes he needs to take some time off, Mountaineers coach Gale Catlett explained.

"I've met with Chris Moss. He wants to take some time away from the team to get his personal life in order," Gale Catlett told reporters. "He is very sorry about the incident at Notre Dame."

Moss came into this season as a co-captain and was expected to be an offensive leader. Moss averaged 9.1 points per game and 7.8 rebounds per game, but was frustrated by playing out of position as an undersized center.

"He's a great young man and this was totally out of character for Chris," Catlett said. "He has never been a problem. Chris comes from a great family. I'm sure he will get this corrected and get on with his life."

Rams in Action			
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS		
MEN'S BASKETBALL (12-8, 5-2)	Jan. 27 ECU	Jan. 31 JMU	Feb. 3 AU
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (10-7, 2-5)	Jan. 28 UNCW	Jan. 31 KEN-TUCKY	Feb. 4 JMU
<small>WITH A WIN IN EITHER OF THEIR NEXT TWO GAMES THE RAMS CAN SURPASS LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OF CAA ROAD WINS.</small> <small>UNCW WILMINGTON IS THE ONLY TEAM IN THE CAA WITHOUT A CONFERENCE WIN THIS SEASON (0-5).</small>			
<small>■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME</small>			