

FORECAST
Tuesday: clouds clearing,
high 52, low 32.
Wednesday: sunny, high
56, low 35.



NEWS: What university's graduates will Bono address? page 5.



SPECTRUM: These animals will be coming to Richmond, page 6.



SPORTS: An on-campus view of the Oklahoma State crash, page 12.



Find out what our opinion editor thinks about the XFL, page 9.

COMMONWEALTH TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Monday, February 5, 2001

Vol. 33, No. 32

Five speakers, three hours, one message

Conference explains birth options

Devon Marrow
CT STAFF WRITER

The speakers were men and women, professors and activists, all advocating the right of women to find out about their birthing options. The main topic on the agenda: midwifery.

"Women don't have to take the men's power to get our power back. Let's just get our power back," D'Anne Graham Remacaldo said at a conference last week. Remacaldo, representing Voices for Healthcare Freedom, was one of several speakers at "Women, Birth, Politics and Power: A Conference about Midwifery and Birth Options in Virginia Today," sponsored by VCU's Feminist Action Network.

Kimberly Certa, a religious studies major who is part of the network, said, "My main hope was that we would have women

who had not had children or who had had hospital experiences attend and see that there are alternatives."

Deirdre Condit, women's studies professor at VCU, opened Thursday night's conference by introducing herself as "six months pregnant, exhausted and out of breath, and way past my bedtime." She then gave a brief background of herself explaining that she entered graduate school to study why and how women structure themselves and their role in politics.

"There's been a growing fetal identity, the fetal rights have become primary. The thing is the fetus can only become foregrounded when women become backgrounded. When the fetus becomes foregrounded then the woman — the person carrying it — is erased," Condit said. Furthermore, she explained the difference between the "public and private sphere."

"The public sphere is the world of politics, a world of convention and subjectivity. A world where men hold their meetings. It's a masculinized world whereas the private

sphere, the feminine world, revolves around natural objectivity."

In addition, Condit addressed concern about the professionalism of medicine.

"Men began to dominate in the world of medicine and the doctor was put at the center of the body, he became the subject. The woman is the object of their healing and your identity has become erased," said Condit.

She proposed two questions to examine how patients become objects: How are women's bodies represented? How was physician's language of control and power taught in medical texts?

In early editions of obstetrical texts, the pictures of women experiencing "normal" pregnancies were white women and their faces were obscured to protect their identity. The other pictures portrayed pregnancies in crisis. These women were black, other minorities or white women with defects and maladies, and their faces were recognizable.

As time progressed, Condit said, the number of pictures of women decreased and after 1945 there were no pictures of healthy pregnancies. Condit said that by 1960, there were no pictures of women and since 1996 only pictures of medical instruments are included in the books.

In addition, she said chapters on normal pregnancy only constitute 5 percent of such books. Early editions advised doctors to provide "strict supervision" to their patients; they were instructed to create a little card to give to the patient telling them when and what to eat, when to get up and to avoid female friends. Inevitably, Condit said, women would gossip and misinform and undermine the power of the physician. If a woman questioned her doctor, the doctor was told to inform the woman that her pregnancy was in serious danger without his assistance.

Jessica Jordan, a certified nurse mid-



Devon Marrow/Commonwealth Times

Feminist Action Network member Kimberley Certa welcomes participants to the conference.

wife, added to Condit's remarks.

"Doctors feel threatened," she said before presenting a slide show that portrays birth art throughout the ages — pictures of Japanese, Peruvian, Nigerian and French women giving birth prior to what Jordan called the "professionalism of medicine."

"There are two models of birth, the

TALK continued to page 3

"What we're trying to do is get an amendment tacked onto any health bill that would decriminalize midwifery for the next year until we sit down at the table and negotiate some reasonable regulations."

- Steve Cochran

VCU police teach self-defense course for women

Vicky Masi
CT STAFF WRITER

Rape.
Aggression.
Defense.

Recognized together as RAD, these elements constitute the theme of VCU's latest class. The twelve-hour course, offered by the VCU police department, trains women in self-defense. It is free to students and costs \$10 for non-students.

Once a student has completed the course, they can train for free to become an instructor at locations where the RAD program is taught. Some RAD instructors are women who have taken the course and been trained to instruct, while others are male or female law enforcement officers with recommendations specific to the course.

Frank Weaver, a VCU police officer, instructed Thursday's class. He said that attending the first class is often one of the most difficult steps of the program.

The program is divided into four three-hour classes, the first of which involved an explanation of the RAD systems participant manual.

Weaver encouraged the class of about 30 women to look forward to the physical training ahead. The objective of the class, Weaver said, is "to develop and enhance the options of self-defense so they may become viable considerations to the woman who is attacked."

He added that while the course does not provide a guarantee against attack, it is an attempt to "awaken the instinct to survive" and teach women how to use that instinct.

Johanna Rosen, an MCV employee, at-

tended Thursday's course. She recently moved to Richmond's Church Hill from a place she called a "safe neighborhood" in California. Rosen decided to enroll in the course to increase her awareness and security.

Patty Williamson, a nursing student at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, asked about recent events in the Willow Lawn area, during which two women were abducted.

Williamson said that Willow Lawn is a "good neighborhood" with a populated shopping district. She prompted a discussion involving certain mannerisms that attackers look for in their victims.

During Thursday's class, Weaver offered several safety tips that can be used at home or in a car. He then explained the goals for the remainder of the course. The

second and third classes involve physical training and the final class involves a "dynamic simulation," in which students volunteer to test their skills in a full-contact confrontation with a trained "attacker."

RAD offers "Basic Physical Defense for Women" twice each semester at the MCV campus.

Tiana Urgolites, an MCV student and graduate of the RAD program stopped by Thursday night to ask whether a second, more advanced course would be offered. Weaver explained that there are five RAD systems: Basic Physical Defense, Advanced Self-Defense, Aerosol Defense Options, Flashlight Keychain Defense, and RAD Kid's Defense.

To learn more about these programs, contact RAD systems at (757) 868-4400, or e-mail Frank Weaver at foweaver@vcu.edu.

Campus Crime Log

Crimes reported by VCU Police between Jan. 28 and Feb. 1

VCU

Arrests:

Idlewood/Laurel St.: Police arrested a man at approximately 12:35 a.m., Jan. 27, for possession of an alcoholic beverage and littering.

711 W. Main St./GRC: Police arrested a woman at 10:44 p.m., Jan. 27, for possession of marijuana.

801 W. Franklin St.: Police arrested a man at 8:02 p.m., Jan. 28, for possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana.

327 W. Main St.: Police arrested two males at 1:07 p.m., Jan. 27, for possession of an open container of alcohol.

1000 block of S. Harrison St.: Police arrested a man at 2:40 a.m., Jan. 28, for being drunk in public.

1000 block of W. Grace St.: Police arrested a man at 1:53 a.m., Jan. 30, for urinating in public.

1000 block of W. Grace St.: Police arrested a man at 1:56 p.m., Jan. 30, for being drunk in public.

Petit Larceny:

711 W. Main St., Student Health: At approximately 11:07 a.m., Jan. 30, a female employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location.

327 W. Main St.: A female employee advised that between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., Jan. 30, an unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location.

901 Park Ave., Cabell Library: A female student advised that at 6:00 p.m., Jan. 17, an unknown person(s) removed personal property from its location.

Grand Larceny:

901 Park Ave.: A male student advised that between 5-5:20 p.m., Jan. 30, an unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location.

901 Park Ave.: A female employee advised that between Jan. 29 at 10 a.m. and Jan. 30 at 12 p.m. an unknown person(s) removed personal property from its secured location.

MCV

Harassing Telephone Calls:

401 N. 12th St.: A female staff member advised that at 1:50 a.m., Jan. 28, she received harassing and threatening phone

calls from a known subject. Suspect Info: black male, 5-foot-10-inch, 225 pounds, black hair, brown eyes.

Petit Larceny:

401 College St.: Between 12:30- 3:00 p.m., Jan. 29, an unknown person removed property from its unsecured location. Suspect Info: black male, 6 feet, thin build, short hair, last seen wearing black leather jacket, dark pants.

401 N. 11th St.: A female employee advised that between Oct. 26 at 12 p.m. and Jan. 29 at 8:45 a.m. an unknown person(s) removed property from its unsecured location.

1200 E. Broad St.: A female employee advised that between the end of October 2000 and Jan. 24 an unknown person(s) removed personal property from its secured location.

Grand Larceny:

600 N. 8th St.: A female student advised that between an unknown hour and 11:54 p.m., Jan. 28, a known person removed personal property from its secured location.

515 N. 13th St.: A female employee advised Jan. 31 that an unknown person(s) removed personal property from its secured location.

1300 E. Marshall St.: A female employee advised that between 10 a.m., Jan. 29, and 12 p.m., Jan. 30, an unknown person(s) removed state property from its secured location.

Computer Trespass:

1101 E. Marshall St.: A male employee advised that between 5 p.m., Jan. 26, and 9 a.m., Jan. 31, an unknown person(s) used computers without permission.

Arrest:

1111 W. Broad St.: Police arrested a man at 2:14 p.m., Jan. 29, for grand larceny.

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Purdue policy now protects homosexuals

Lucas Lineback
INDIANA DAILY STUDENT

(U-WIRE) BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—After months of pressure from students, faculty and local taxpayers, Purdue University amended its nondiscrimination policy last month to include sexual orientation.

Purdue has had an anti-harassment policy in regard to sexual orientation, but with the change Jan. 9 it became the last Big Ten school to include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy.

In March, the Purdue Equality Alliance, which was formed that month, collected 1,300 signatures from students, faculty, staff and taxpayers who wanted the non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation, said Purdue senior Bryan Szyper, the group's treasurer and co-founder.

Szyper said the group delivered the signatures to Purdue President Martin C. Jischke in September.

During last semester the group invited speakers and held rallies to raise awareness about discrimination.

Szyper said making sexual orientation an official part of the nondiscrimination policy is important for two reasons.

"First, a nondiscrimination policy sets an atmosphere of tolerance," Szyper said. "Second, Purdue wants to attract the best and brightest students and faculty, and some of the best and brightest happen to be homosexual."

Jischke said he agreed with Szyper about the importance of including sexual orientation in the nondiscrimination policy.

"Purdue consistently has prohibited discrimination toward any group, but this clarification is designed to make it absolutely clear that these categories are covered," Jischke told the Purdue News Service Jan. 9.

"Some people have suggested erroneously that failing to include these groups in our policy statement means Purdue permits or condones discrimination against them. Such is not the case."

"Purdue is dedicated to fostering diversity and providing a welcoming atmosphere for all people. I hope this clarification makes that position unmistakable to everyone."

Purdue University's nondiscrimination policy now resembles Indiana University's policy in meaning and content.

IU's policy states: "Indiana University prohibits discrimination based on arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status."

Some people in the community believe it is important to have sexual orientation included.

Senior Dru Clark, a COMMUNITY educator at Collins Living-Learning Center, said it is important to include a policy of nondiscrimination for sexual orientation because it is important to have different ideas in the mainstream.

"The majority benefits from different perspectives," Clark said. "The longer you discriminate against a group, the more likely their opinions will be excluded."

IU Student Association Students Rights Director Erin Moran echoed Clark's sentiments.

"Race, sex and sexual orientation shouldn't be considered when you consider the capability of a person," Moran said.

Not everyone on campus subscribes to these beliefs.

In January, Collins Center was the target of anti-homosexual graffiti.

Szyper said Purdue has also seen its share of homophobic graffiti and other vandalism. He said he hopes the new nondiscrimination policy will stop this type of activity.

"Hopefully, this sends a message to the community," Szyper said, "that Purdue won't stand for discrimination and harassment."

VCU honors Nobel Prize winner

Mike Powell
CT STAFF WRITER

Last week, VCU's School of Engineering honored Alan G. MacDiarmid, 2000 winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry, with an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters. This honorary degree is the "highest degree that VCU bestows," said Baxter Perkinson, vice rector of VCU's Board of Visitors.

MacDiarmid shared the prize with Alan Heeger, a professor from the United States, and Hideki Shirakawa, a professor from Japan. MacDiarmid earned a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin in 1953 and a second at the University of Cambridge in 1955. In addition, he holds an honorary Ph.D. from Linköping University in Sweden, earned in 1990.

Among the many honors bestowed on MacDiarmid are the American Chemical Society's Chemistry of Materials Award, which he received in 1999, and the Frederic Stanley Kipping Award in silicon chemistry, awarded in 1970.

The ceremony for MacDiarmid's honorary degree was held in the Ethyl Corporation auditorium in the School of Engineering, where Eugene P. Trani, president of VCU, presented MacDiarmid's diploma. MacDiarmid, a Blanchard Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, summarized his award-winning discoveries and the progress in electronically conducting polymers.

MacDiarmid played a major role in the discovery within the field of conducting polymers, more commonly known as "synthetic metals." In 1977, he was responsible for the chemical and electrochemical doping of polyacetylene and the "rediscovery" of polyaniline, now the foremost industrial conducting polymer.

His interest in organic conducting polymers began in 1975 when he was introduced to a new form of polyacetylene by Shirakawa at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. The resulting collaboration between MacDiarmid, Shirakawa and Heeger, who was then at the Department of Physics at the University of Pennsylvania, led to the historic discovery of metallic conductivity in an organic polymer.

MacDiarmid, a major contributor to the work and success of this discovery, then acknowledged and thanked VCU's Kenneth Wynne, professor of chemical engineering.

MacDiarmid said he wants to diffuse the importance of learning to as many students as possible; thus, he has asked to teach a freshman level chemistry course at the University of Pennsylvania.

When asked why students should study organic polymers — commonly known as plastics — MacDiarmid said, "What is the use for a piece of poetry?" Both poetry and science are made for "emotional and intellectual stimulation," he said.

For more information about MacDiarmid's Nobel Prize discovery, click on the Web at www.nobel.se/announcement/2000/chemistry.html

TALK continued from page 1

technocratic and the holistic," Jordan said. "The technocratic sees the baby as a product and holistically the baby and the mother are one inseparable unit."

In closing remarks, she said that "as long as we [women] let men lay us flat on our backs and in the stirrups, then they will have the power."

Christa Craven, an anthropology professor at American University, talked about the ability to choose home or hospital birth as a privilege.

"Women want control and choice... a continuity of care and respect."

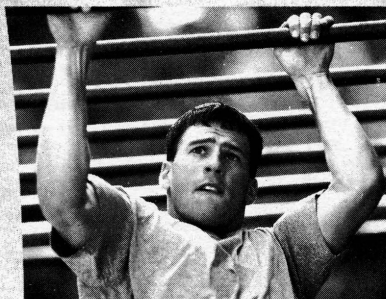
Steve Cochran, member of Virginia Birthing Freedom, presented a man's perspective on home versus hospital birth, citing recent hospital mortalities.

"What we're trying to do is get an amendment tacked onto any health bill that would decriminalize midwifery for the next year until we sit down at the table and negotiate some reasonable regulations," Cochran said.

Elizabeth Hodges, an English major, said she attended the conference because she wanted to know

how birthing centers differ from hospitals.

"I really enjoyed Jessica Jordan and they all really answered my questions. The video really got to me; it's hard to get over the prejudices but it's crazy how they (the government) sell the whole hospital package," she said, referring to a film by Suzanne Armes, "Giving Birth: Challenges and Choices."

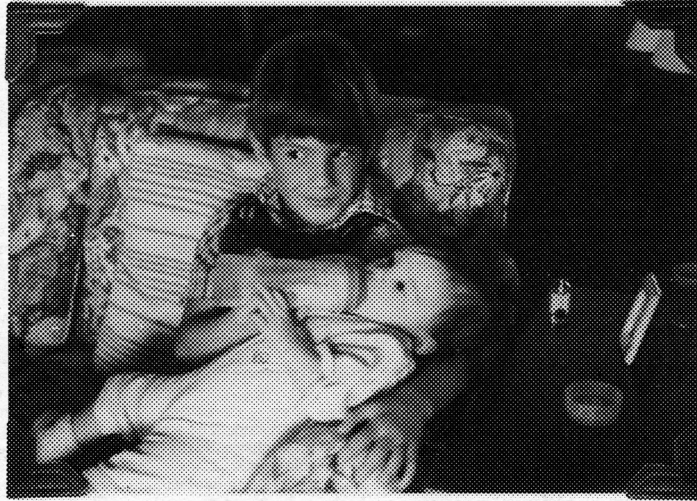


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U.S. Department of Transportation



U2 lead singer Bono will offer advice to graduating Harvard seniors

Justin D. Gest
HARVARD CRIMSON

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Harvard University Senior Class Committee has landed "the sweetest thing" as their Class Day speaker — Bono, the lead singer of the popular Irish rock group U2.

First Class Marshal Amma Y. "Yo' Mama" Gharthey-Tagoe announced the selection in front of the Science Center yesterday to a crowd of seniors.

"Our choice has used his fame to help people throughout the world," Gharthey-Tagoe teased the crowd before revealing the speaker's identity. "He is the epitome of cool, and he is very instrumental in what he does best."

Gharthey-Tagoe credited an unusual connection with bringing the legendary rock star to campus: Stone Professor of International Trade Jeffrey D. Sachs, who worked with the singer on a debt relief campaign for Third World countries.

"He's a remarkable person, and his persuasive charm, talents and moral commitment helped to convince presidents and prime ministers and key legislators around the world to support debt cancellation, a process which is now underway for a couple of dozen of the world's poorest countries. He's also an amazing musical talent," Sachs wrote in an e-mail.

"Professor Sachs cared so much," Gharthey-Tagoe said. "It's going to be such an awesome and phenomenal graduation."

Bono follows in the footsteps of last year's unconventional selection — late-night comic Conan C. O'Brien.

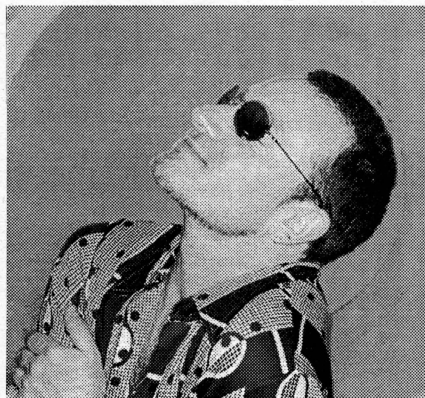
Other past speakers have included home-run king Hank Aaron, musician Quincy Jones, former Senator Alan K. Simpson and news anchor Tom Brokaw.

The announcement that Bono will be the featured speaker on Class Day, June 6, comes after more than three months of discussions by the Class Day speaker committee.

The band will be in Boston in early June for concerts at the Fleet Center as part of its current Elevation Tour 2001. The group has been performing since 1977.

Bono — whose real name is Paul Hewton — was born in Dublin and was ostracized as a child, partially due to his mixed Catholic and Protestant background.

His rise to fame began when he saw drummer Larry Mullen's ad on a high school bulletin board. Together with Dave "The Edge" Evans and Adam Clayton, they formed



one of the most prolific rock bands in history.

Their repertoire includes hits such as "The Sweetest Thing," "With or Without You," "New Year's Day," "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" and "Pride (In The Name of Love)."

Their most recent album is entitled All That You Can't Leave Behind and features the hit song "Beautiful Day."

Bono has been involved in the fight for human rights worldwide, and has met with leaders including Pope John Paul II and former President Bill Clinton to discuss such issues.

"He's not just cool — he is going to inspire us," Class Marshal Xunhua Wong said of Bono.

Gharthey-Tagoe said that the committee has contacted Sachs about the possibility of getting concert series, but that she does not really consider the possibility feasible at this point, with the concerts technically sold out.

Nevertheless, she said she sees the pick as a success.

"All those people will be sitting in the Fleet Center in the way back, and all our people will have the pleasure of sitting in the front and interacting with Bono in the last days of our Harvard careers," she said.

The Senior Class Committee comprises house representatives and marshals, and has a subcommittee responsible for the planning of Class Day.

Legislator wants to offer students money to stay in Montana

Jason Mohr
MONTANA KAIMIN

(U-WIRE) HELENA, Mont. — A Billings lawmaker said he would like to stem the flight of Montana's college graduates to other states by offering them cash bonuses for working in Montana.

But the measure proposed by Sen. Corey Stapleton, R-Billings, might not be able to scrape together the necessary funds.

Stapleton's measure would give Montana college graduates \$500 after they were employed for six months; graduates would be given an additional \$1,000 if they stay with the same employer for two years. Their employers would be given tax credits of equal size.

Stapleton, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, said his legislation is an effort to retain Montana's "cream of the crop." He presented his bill Wednesday to the House Education Committee.

"Long after that \$1,000 is spent, the appreciative feeling towards the government goes a long way," he said.

It's estimated that Stapleton's bill would cost the state more than \$2 million per year. But Stapleton said any college graduates who would get the bonus money would help Montana in the long run by paying for goods, services and taxes.

Sen. Jon Ellingson, D-Missoula, said he likes Stapleton's idea but would like to see it include more people. Ellingson, a member of the House Education Committee, said the measure should include vocational and technical school graduates or even Montana high school graduates who might return to the state after receiving a degree elsewhere. Stapleton's measure does not include bonuses for graduate students.

But Ellingson said the government just doesn't have money in its account.

"The state's bankrupt in the sense that we don't have the money for the basic services that the citizens expect," the Harvard University graduate said.

Justice Department releases national college rape statistics

Kadie Bye
CAVALIER DAILY

(U-WIRE) CHARLOTTESVILLE — According to a recent Justice Department report, almost 3 percent of college women will experience rape or attempted rape each academic year.

The researchers interviewed 4,446 women attending two- or four-year colleges. In the survey, 2.8 percent of women reported they had been raped or had escaped an attempted rape. The report claims that 27.7 rapes occur per 1,000 female students in an academic year. The statistic for the entire year, including reports made in the summer and during vacation times, jumps to 4.9 percent.

The 4.9 percent incident rate of rapes may also be a misleadingly low statistic because the "reported number (of rapes)" vastly understates the actual number," said John Foubert, assistant dean of students at the University of Virginia.

Many rapes go unreported each year because the victim may feel embarrass-

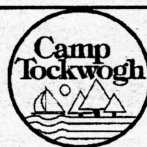
ment, fear that she will be blamed, misunderstand rape terminology or be reluctant to identify her attackers, the report said.

Research shows nearly 60 percent of rapes occurred in the victim's residence, 31 percent in other campus living quarters and 10.3 percent took place in a fraternity house.

The university tries to combat incidents of sexual assaults by preventative education, Foubert said.

Programs include sexual assault discussions for all incoming first-year students during orientation and programs in residence halls, sororities and fraternities. Student education groups such as One in Four and the Sexual Assault Education Office lead these efforts.

One in Four, an all-male peer education group with 31 student participants, targets its education exclusively at men. One in Four defines rape, discusses survivor empathy and advises men how to help a rape survivor regain control over her life, fourth-year college student and member Dan Carille said.



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'Cecil B. Demented' is John Waters close up

Kelly Gerow
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Movies by John Waters can be seen two ways: as a movie or as a John Waters' movie.

His latest, "Cecil B. Demented," is now on video (it didn't have a theatrical release in Richmond) and only survives one way — as a Waters' film.

"Technique is nothing more than failed style," Cecil, played by Stephen Dorff, says in this movie about guerrilla film making. Waters definitely has style.

As a John Waters movie, "Cecil" is funny, lewd, deviant and obscene. As an actual movie, "Cecil" is hard to take seriously.

Featuring the three token Waters' actresses — Ricki Lake, Patricia Hearst and Mink Stole — "Cecil" is about a group of underground filmmakers who each worship one particular director, from Almodovar to Spike Lee. They kidnap Hollywood actress Honey Whitlock (a very thin Melanie Griffith) during the opening of her new picture, "Some Kind of Happiness," to star in Cecil's anti-commercial film "Raving Beauty."

The plot is reminiscent of Patty Hearst's kidnapping by the Symbionese Liberation Army, a group that forced her into terrorism for the sake of their movement. However, Whitlock begins to feel the same way as her kidnappers, especially after

a few violent productions where she has to "prove herself." She gets to know the crew better and begins to accept what she's doing. Every member of Cecil's crew, the Sprocketholes, has one overwhelming characteristic, such as drug addict Lyle (Adrian Grenier), Raven the Satanist and adult film star Cherish (Alicia Witt).

Waters makes fun of Hollywood films in the most obvious ways, attacking films like "Patch Adams: The Director's Cut" and "Gump Again" (starring Kevin Nealon). The best scenes involve the public's attitudes toward underground movies (a group of mothers shout "straight to video!" at Cecil). Cecil is undoubtedly Waters in some form, especially with the way he can manipulate the personas of mainstream actors or actresses.

"Cecil B. Demented" borderlines on satire and bad taste. The message of the film is to not trust bad films that spew forth from Hollywood, though the quality of "Raving Beauty" is questionable.

The biggest surprise about the movie is Griffith's performance as a vapid actress turned celluloid reformer. She's an actress I never paid attention to, and I hardly recognized her until her makeover during the film. She acted like a lively Patricia Arquette. Waters has a talent for transforming a person, and I'm sometimes surprised by the roles people will take. Kathleen Turner's performance in

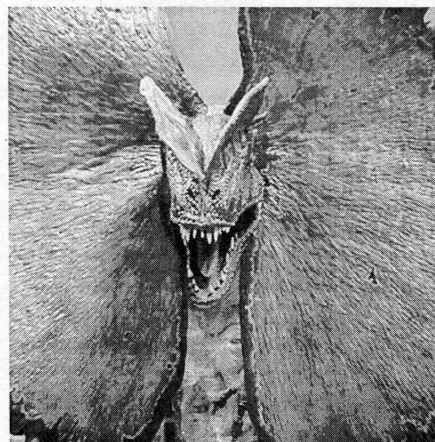
"Serial Mom" was amazing and it's always nice to see Ricki Lake in something unrelated to her talk show. This movie, like every other Waters movie, is set in Baltimore. That never ceases to be amusing.

"Cecil" is a so-so Waters movie that is better than "Pecker," tamer than "Desperate Living" yet not as likable as "Hairspray." The obscene sexual content has been toned down a bit, but other signature anti-social John Waters elements are present. Still, the movie could have been funnier. A director and writer like Waters surely has a more substantial statement to make about commercial films.



"Cecil B. Demented," starring Melanie Griffith and Stephen Dorff, is John Waters' latest film.

Digging for dinosaurs



The Children's Museum of Richmond presents "Digging for Dinosaurs: An Adventure of Prehistoric Proportion," open Feb. 2 to June 3. Two full-size skeletons, a skeleton imbedded in a matrix and two realistic (full-size) models will be on display. Some of the hands-on activities include a 12-foot by 20-foot Dig Pit and stamp and rubbing tables. The exhibit includes field trips, workshops, and lectures by 'Dino' Don Lessem and other dinosaur experts.

Denise Richards dishes attitude on new 'Valentine' horror flick

Brian Bandell
THE MIAMI HURRICANE

(U-WIRE) CORAL GABLES, Fla. — On the big screen actress Denise Richards is known for playing assertive characters who don't put up with bad attitude. In real life she doesn't like to put up with reporters, treating a simple interview like a boxing match as she snaps back at the questions she doesn't like.

After she stated that "Valentine," her latest film, is different from other horror films such as "Scream," a reporter asked her, "How so?"

"How so?" the former model shot back. "Have you see 'Valentine'?"

There was dead silence. None of the reporters had seen the movie.

"Uh, I liked it," one reporter lied. Then everyone else simultaneously agreed that they all enjoyed the movie, which they didn't see.

"I am [like my characters]," she said at the beginning of the session. "I go after what I want. I think in 'Wild Things,' the character was manipulative, but Paige, in 'Valentine,' is not. She just doesn't put up with anything."

Richards sure didn't put up with anything during the interview.

When one reporter asked her what the biggest misconception about her in Hollywood was, she responded, "I don't know. You'd have to give me an example of different things. I don't read what people say about me. I really don't read my own interviews either."

Now bumbling his speech, the rattled reporter suggested that some people might think of her as "just looks, not personality."

"This is the first I've heard of it," said a frustrated Richards. "You know what, I'm done...I'm done." And with that she said a brief goodbye and stormed off. Talk about giving a feisty performance. It's no wonder that she's always cast in the more aggressive roles.

To start her tale at the beginning, Richards, 28, grew up in a suburb of Chicago and moved to San Diego, Calif., at the age of 12. Before her acting career, the 5-foot-6-inch green-eyed beauty spent some time in New York as a model.

"I never wanted to model," said Richards. "It's just that

I made more money doing that than scooping ice cream at Haagen-Dazs."

Richards first made a name for herself in 1997 when she battled giant alien bugs in "Starship Troopers." Most of her fans fondly remember her performance as the sleazy seductress in "Wild Things," which was capped off by her steamy lesbian love scene with Neve Campbell.

When asked about the way her sexuality has been portrayed in her films, Richards insisted on skipping the question. She did, however, comment on her role in the James Bond movie "The World is Not Enough" where she played a nuclear physicist who had both brains and cleavage.

"[In the Bond movie] it's all about the action," said Richards. "It's not about characters having real truthful scenes. I took that movie for a different reason. It was to be part of a franchise that is internationally known and opens doors to other films. That's why I did that film. I didn't do it for the acting."

In Richard's latest role, she'll be taking on a masked killer in "Valentine." It's her first time in a horror film and she made it a point to show reverence to the great scary movies of the past.

"I think that horror films still appeal to people because they make money," explained Richards. "But I think with this one it's a bit of a throwback to the older horror films like 'Friday the 13th,' 'Halloween,' 'Nightmare on Elm Street.' It's not spooky like some of the modern ones, although I loved those. I like the humor in this movie as well."

In the movie, the school geek comes back to get vengeance on the girls who rejected him when he was in junior high and uses Valentine's Day as a premise for some nasty tricks.

Ironically, it was Richards who was dealing with rejection in junior high.

"I was actually that guy in junior high," said Richards. "I was made fun of. People teased me. Junior high was a very awkward stage for me. I was actually flattered that they cast that girl to play me, because she was so cute and I was not so cute when I was in junior high."

There's a valuable lesson to be learned here. Don't be mean to the unpopular kids in school, because one day they might become sexy movie stars and take their inner rage out on unsuspecting reporters.

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ALL STUDENTS WELCOME



Mary Beth Thomsen

Eight suggestions for making Hibbs better for students

I wonder why some buildings at VCU are glamorous looking and some are just plain disgusting. Now these thoughts are uneducated -- I'm sure there are some explanations, but for the time being, I'm going to vent.

In my recreation leadership class, we were assigned to take 15 minutes with our group and come up with five changes we would make to our classroom in Hibbs. At first we were a little slow, but before long we couldn't write fast enough.

Our final list was as follows:

1. Get rid of broken blinds and replace their motorized shades.
2. Paint over the ugly blah dirty white color with bright colors or add artwork.
3. Get rid of the chained up overheads and Televisions with a projection system (like in Temple).
4. Add carpet instead of crusty looking tile.
5. Update small desks with either one large conference table or just plain old nicer desks, maybe with padding on seats for those 2 hour and 40 minute classes!

Yes the list continued beyond the classroom...

- 6). On the 4th floor add skylights
- 7). Fix the elevators so they work!
- 8). Completely wipe out the kindergarden style bathrooms so that when you're standing up inside the stall you can't make eye contact with everyone waiting in line.

So the time was up and all four groups had what looked like a long grocery list.

My question is: Why was I informed that the Engineering Building and some others had many of these characteristics? The engineering building has mainly engineering students, right? Yet Hibbs has English, history, foreign language and political science students and has the nastiest looking building.

Like I said -- I'm sure there are reasons why Hibbs has been neglected, but it makes me angry. It is like every building has some type of high quality rooms (even the business building has the huge conference-looking room with multiple study rooms). Would somebody please help Hibbs?

Mary Beth Thomsen

Now I am turning into my parents

I grew up critiquing my parents. I judged their decisions and weighed the successfulness of their outcomes. I convinced myself that, "I will never be like my parents, ever!"

As a child, I watched my dad spend his money like he was getting paid for it. He always whipped out his plastic card and handed it to the cashier so gracefully.

I couldn't believe how much he charged to that thing. I thought to myself, "I'm never getting a credit card. I'll never get myself into debt."

I observed my dad's compulsive behavior and thought he was nuts. He always wrote himself reminder notes, as well as the rest of the family. He didn't just leave one note, but two or even three 'reminders' around the house.

After so long, it got extremely annoying.

My mother would sometimes shop at K-mart. I thought she was so cheap. I made fun of her and judged her harshly for shopping at the Big-K.

I promised myself that I would never be caught dead in the aisles of a discount

store.

My mom was always strict as well. She was constantly grounding my brother and me. I 'hated' her for being a witch and thought I would never be so protective.

Well, all of my promises and decisions have been tarnished.

I ended up owning four credit cards and accumulated \$3,500 in bills. I have an obsession with shopping and spending money.

I often write notes for reminders on Post-it Notes. I find the need to organize and sort things out.

I love Walmart, Target, and occasionally stop by K-mart. The cheaper, the better!

My little brother is a clone of Dennis the Menace. Although I was not a saint as a teenager and although he does things that I did -- I am still very protective of him for some reason. I feel like his mother sometimes.

There you have it. I am turning into a carbon copy of my parents. Oh well -- at least now I have something to blame my behavior on!

Robb Crocker

XFL: more football excess or success?

On the heels of the NFL season comes the XFL. The XFL is the brainchild of World Wrestling Federation President Vince McMahon and is hoping to attract the same audience that watches wrestling.

Although I do not watch wrestling, I do plan to be a fan of the XFL. Of course, I'm such a football junkie; I'm a fan of Arena Football.

The XFL will have some different rules than the NFL to make the games more interesting and exciting.

For example, a receiver can catch a ball with only one foot in bounds. In addition, players will be able to actually celebrate a touchdown or a big play.

The league will consist of former NFL players who did not gain the success that most thought they would and a few who never really got a fair shot for one reason or another.

I think that the league will be a huge success with people like myself -- people who go into mourning when the NFL season is over.

I also think that the next Kurt Warner

will come out of this league. Players who have been overlooked now have a chance to prove themselves.

The NFL claims that the league is not a threat but I would think otherwise. Already, teams will be sending scouts to games.

I also think it is a novel idea to put professional sports teams in different areas like Birmingham, Orlando, Las Vegas and Memphis. These are all areas that constantly get overlooked and turned down for professional teams.

Next year when Washington gets a team, I plan to attend as many games as possible. For one thing, tickets will be cheaper and more accessible.

And as far as I'm concerned, the other Washington football team is already out of the playoffs with some of the off-season personnel moves that have been made. So I am looking forward to seeing something new and exciting.

I think when the NFL sees how much fun the fans have at XFL games, they may have to reconsider how to create a similar atmosphere for their fans.

CommonwealthTimes

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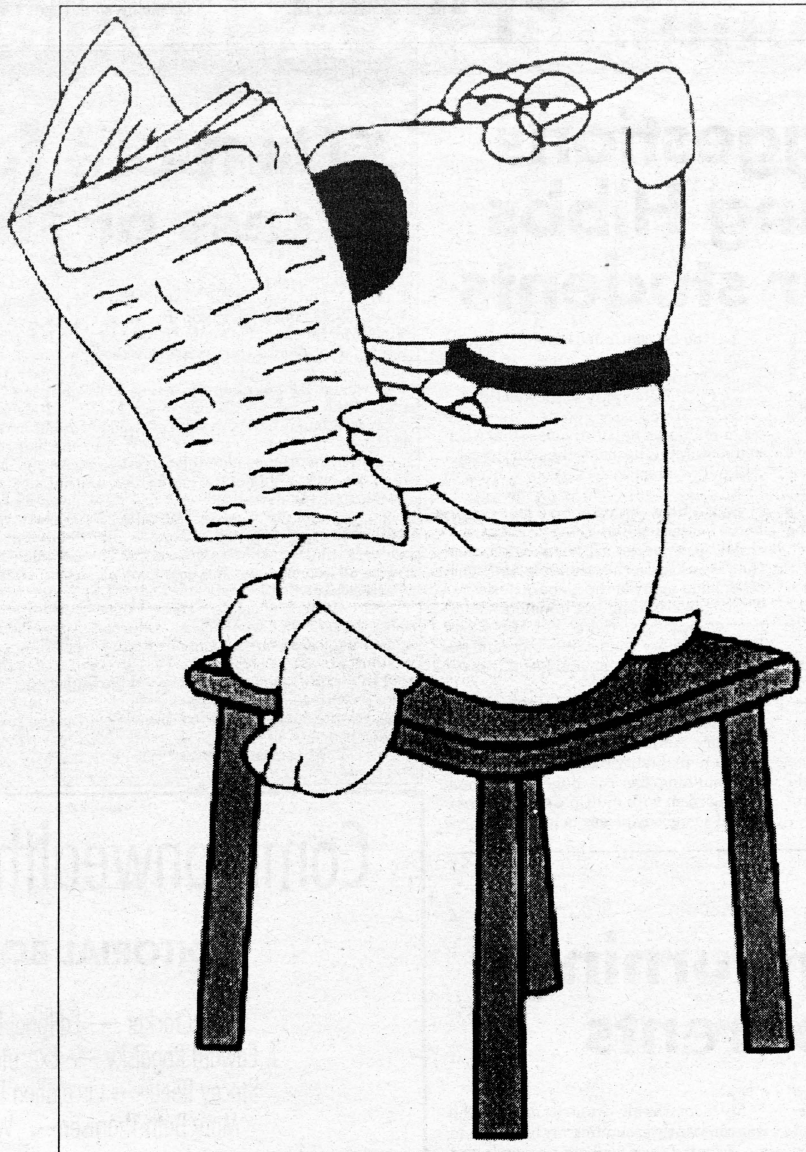
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Commons & Activities



Commuter CoffeeBRAKES


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

**Wednesday,
February 14th**

LOVE A COMMUTER! Special Valentine's Day treats and Body Awareness information sponsored by the Office of Health Promotion!

**Tuesday,
February 27th**

Co-sponsored by Recreational Sports & University Career Center

 Look for the little coffee mug in your Commuter Student Handbook calendar for upcoming CoffeeBRAKE dates!

FEBRUARY



Tuesday,

March 6th, 2001

University Student Commons Lobby

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Free Music, Food & Fun!!!



60 Minute Service Tuesdays

A mini service series providing an avenue for people with a full schedule who want to do quality service. Transportation provided. Volunteers must meet in the Student Activities Center by 2:30 pm on the day of service. Service hour is from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Three to four volunteers needed for each day.

February 6, 2001: Richmond Children's Museum

February 27, 2001: William Byrd Community House

Break Point Tournament

Beat the ACU-I Competitors
February 11th, 2001

Warm-Ups at 12 noon - Play starts at 1pm. \$2 entry fee. Call Adam Scarano at 828-6500 for more information.



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Workshop Dates & Times:

Day	Date	Time / Place
Tuesday *	February 20, 2001	7:00 pm, Forum Room
Wednesday	February 21, 2001	7:00 pm, Commons Theater
Monday *	February 26, 2001	7:00 pm, Forum Room

* Representatives from Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.) will be at these sessions to talk about renter's rights and navigating leases.

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1. Anyone can start a student organization! All it takes is...
 - a) 12 members
 - b) 25 members
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For more information about Student Organizations or help in starting an organization, visit the Student Activities Center, located on the lower level, in the Underground of the University Student Commons (Room 018) or call (804)828-3648.

ANSWERS: 1. C, 2. B and C



Looking for something to do this weekend?

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



Commons & Activities online:
www.students.vcu.edu/commons/

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

Ram Stat

The VCU women's basketball team fell to 1-16 all-time at James Madison with a 79-59 loss to the Dukes Sunday.

Monday, February 5, 2001

Sports

Commonwealth Times • 12

Coming next issue

Take a look at how the Rams women's basketball team fares against American, plus CAA stats and standings.

Late run helps Rams dump shorthanded Eagles

Bobby Parks
CT STAFF WRITER

While far from perfect, the VCU men's basketball team did what it had to do to win, and they did enough.

Bo Jones and Willie Taylor scored 16 points each as the Rams kicked off the first of two consecutive home games Saturday night, with a 71-61 win over Colonial Athletic Association rival American University before a crowd of 7,421.

This win marks the seventh straight game the Rams have won at the Stuart C. Siegel Center, improving their home record to 10-1 for the season. VCU also completed a sweep of American. The Rams kicked off their CAA season with a narrow 62-58 win against American in Washington on Jan. 3. The Eagles have never beaten the Rams in Richmond.

L.F. Likholitov chipped in with 14 points and a team-high eight rebounds, and LaMar Taylor had 12 points.

Likholitov's rebounds were key to the Rams' 42-34 edge on the glass, including an 18-12 advantage in offensive rebounds.

"For the most part, I think we did a great job limiting their second chances," said VCU coach Mack McCarthy.

Patrick Doctor of American (2-9 CAA, 6-16) was the game's top scorer, with 24 points, hitting 10 of 15 from the field. Eagles coach Jeff Jones said Doctor had a very solid performance, but "he certainly could have played better."

VCU (7-3, 14-9) went up 10-8 with 14:46 remaining in the first half to take their first lead of the night. The Rams held that lead throughout the entire night, stretching it to as many as 12 points with 17 seconds remaining in the game.

The game was very evenly matched, but a few Rams runs and some sloppy play from the Eagles settled the game. The first run came in the first half, when the Rams went on a 13-3 run to go up 19-11 with 12:10 remaining. Willie Taylor had six

points and an assist to spur the run, and Scott Lilly added a 3-pointer.

The Eagles had their share of runs, cutting a 36-28 halftime deficit to one, 38-37, with 15:25 left in the half. The second Rams run came when they scored nine straight points to take a 47-37 lead with 12:16 remaining in the game.

The undermanned Eagles answered the Rams' second rally, cutting the 47-37 deficit to two, 52-50, with six minutes remaining. American had two opportunities to take the lead, but didn't score either time. Injuries have plagued American, leaving them with only seven healthy players for the game. "That was a heck of an effort by our kids," Jeff Jones said. "We've been playing pretty hard."

The game-clinching run came with six minutes in the game. The Rams were up 54-52 with six minutes remaining in the game before Willie Taylor poured it on, scoring two 3-pointers and another basket near the end of the game, to put it away.

"Other than just losing our patience a few times, we were very solid," McCarthy said. McCarthy added that the Rams did a good job forcing some turnovers that made the difference in the game.

The story of the night, of course, was Willie Taylor. He has been dealing with personal difficulties due to his father's cancer. Willie Taylor left the team to spend some time with his family, but came back without a lot of practice time and helped the Rams win.

Saturday's match-up marked the final meeting between the two CAA rivals. The Eagles are moving to the Patriot League next year. VCU has won nine of the 12 games in the series since joining the CAA during the 1995-1996 season.

The Rams' next home game is Feb. 8 against tough conference foe William and Mary, who has beaten VCU three straight times. The Rams will try to avenge a 65-63 Jan. 13 defeat from the Tribe, the first CAA loss for the Rams, after starting 3-0.

Moser and Marquardt fall in final

FARMERS BRANCH, Texas — In a crisp, tight doubles final, VCU's top tennis duo, Frank Moser and Florian Marquardt, didn't drop one service game. It didn't matter though.

Johan Brunstrom and Jon Wallmark of host Southern Methodist University also held service everytime and gutted out a 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-4) win over Moser and Marquardt at the Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships.

Moser and Marquardt, 12th in the doubles ranking, add their runner-up finish in the National Indoors to their victory at the T. Rowe Price National Clay Court championships.

Moser and Marquardt opened the tournament by coming from behind in their first match. The Rams duo defeated Oliver Foreman and Robert Gustafsson of Middle Tennessee State University, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

In round two, Moser and Marquardt didn't have it any easier, winning 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) over the University of Illinois' Amer Delic and Graydon Oliver.

By far the biggest win in the tournament for the VCU duo was in the semifinal round against Matias Boeker and Travis Parrott of the University of Georgia.

Moser and Marquardt overcame losing a second-set tiebreaker to the Bulldog pair, No. 2 in the nation, to advance to the finals 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3.

In the women's singles draw Martina Nedelkova rebounded from an early defeat to have a good tournament.

Nedelkova fell to the top seed, Laura Granville of Stanford University, 6-1, 6-4. Nedelkova was Granville's 50th straight victim and the top-ranked Cardinal went on to win the championship.

In the consolation draw, Nedelkova didn't lost a set on her way to winning the consolation bracket. Nedelkova, 12th in the nation, completed her run to the consolation title by whipping No. 11 Marlene Mejia of the University of North Carolina 6-1, 6-3 Sunday morning.

In the first round she swept Stanford's Keiko Tokuda 6-2, 6-2. Nedelkova dismissed Washington State University's Erin Perkins by the same score in round 2.

Nedelkova caught a break in the semifinal round when Kavitha Krishnamurthy of Princeton University had to retire with a back injury.

--- compiled from news sources

Oklahoma State place crash evokes chilling memories at other schools

Cassie DeLozier
DAILY O'COLLEGIAN

(U-WIRE) STILLWATER, Okla. — While Oklahoma State University supporters are mourning the loss of the 10 lives taken by the Jan. 27 plane crash, other universities can't help but remember their own tragic losses.

It was Oct. 2, 1970, and the Wichita State football team boarded a plane that would take them to Logan, Utah, from Denver.

The Martin 404 aircraft, which was 5,165 pounds over the maximum allowable weight, crashed when it could not climb over an obstructing mountain or successfully reverse the course.

"We lost 29 people in that crash," said Jim Rhatigan, former vice president for academic affairs at Wichita State. "Our situation was a lot like the one at OSU."

"Students and staff went through many different stages of emotions," Rhatigan said. "At first, people were traumatized; then they just couldn't believe that it had happened."

"After some time, there was recognition and then finally grieving — it really took some time for people to start healing."

Al Marinai, who was a sophomore at California Polytechnic State University in 1960, has haunting memories of his own.

The Cal Poly football team had just lost to Bowling Green State University 50-6. The players pushed the twin-engine C-46 out of the hanger and onto the runway. Shortly after takeoff, the plane jerked to the side, slammed into the concrete runway still underneath it and split in two.

Of the 46 passengers, 22 died. "That was 40 years ago — almost 41," Marinai said. "I still think about it."

Marinai, who was being scouted by professional football teams, was the most injured survivor and spent the next three years in the hospital and has permanent injuries.

But he said the most traumatic part of the crash was the emotional impact.

"You can't help but think of those young lives, what they could have been, what they could have done," he said. "There were a lot of broken hearts."

Another aspect of the crash that bothered Marinai were the circumstances that surrounded the crash.

The plane, which was put in the hanger due to weather conditions, was overloaded by 2,009 pounds. The captain's license had been revoked prior to the flight.

Norm Gomes, a student at Cal Poly at the time, was out of town when he heard the news. His roommate was aboard the plane.

"I heard it on the radio while I was driving," Gomes said. "I called a number the radio had given, and they listed off the people that had died. My roommate wasn't one of them."

Gomes said he was torn by his emotions.

"I felt grief for those who died, but I couldn't help but feel relieved for my roommate and thankful for those who had lived."

The campus mourned the loss of their football team.

"It was kind of like a rainstorm," Gomes said. "Everything shut down, and people emotionally boarded themselves up. Then there was a flood of emotions and eventually, an eeriness that was left behind."

Al Marinai never went back to Cal Poly — he said there were too many memories.

"It will haunt you," he said. "I haven't flown since that night."

Unlike Cal Poly and the crash of 1960, OSU has supported the victim's families.

"For a while, it was like it didn't happen," Gomes said. "They started having reunions of the survivors after a few years, but they really didn't seem to put out much effort to comfort the families of the victims."

"Some memorial stuff was done but nothing outstanding."

Rhatigan said he thinks the support from OSU administration has been tremendous.

"OSU has responded to this tragedy and handled everything very well," he said. "I think they should all be very proud of the people at their institution."



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (12-8, 3-6)	Feb. 7 AU	Feb. 11 W&M	Feb. 18 GMU
VCU'S 3-6 START TIES 1996-97, COACH DAVID GLASS' FIRST YEAR, FOR ITS WORST CAA RECORD AFTER NINE GAMES.			
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