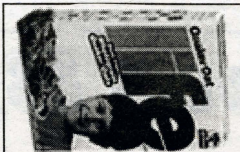


FORECAST
Friday: mostly sunny, high 56, low 30.
Saturday: cloudy, high 45, low 34.



NEWS: Teen-age driving and what VCU students think about it, page 4.



SPECTRUM: The snack of the week has a breakfast theme to it, page 8.



SPORTS: This women's soccer player is heading to Portugal, page 12.



The President of VCU has written a letter on the budget cuts, page 6.

COMMONWEALTH TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Vol. 33, No. 40

Tanzanian native teaches Swahili language

Vanessa DeBrew
CT STAFF WRITER

Recognize the phrase "hakuna matata" (ha-koo-na-ma-ta)?

If so, you speak Swahili — a little, anyway.

The expression, which means "no worries," titled asong in Disney's "The Lion King." Other examples of the Swahili language were incorporated into the movie: Rafiki (Raf-fee-key), the baboon, means friend. Simba (Sim-ba), the main character, means lion.

While the names fit, this film may be long forgotten to some VCU students. But to those who study with Zarina Fazaldin, the Swahili terms are familiarities that must be mastered.

Fazaldin is an adjunct professor who teaches the Swahili language course at VCU. She has been at VCU for two years, the lone professor who teaches this language here.

Fazaldin is originally from Tanzania, a country located on the southeastern coast of Africa. She is part Indian and lived in India before coming to America.

Fazaldin arrived in America in 1988 to pursue her master's degree in sociology. She said she liked what VCU was trying to accomplish internationally.

"I received a very welcoming letter from VCU," she said. Fazaldin then made Richmond her home.

In addition to teaching Swahili to VCU students, she now manages her real estate business and sits two classes shy of earning a master's degree in special education from Virginia State University.

Besides Swahili, Fazaldin speaks Hindi (India) and Urdu (Pakistan) and can read and write the Arabic language.

The Swahili language is actually called Kiswahili. Kiswahili means the language (ki-), spoken by the people of the coast (-swahili).

It is the most widely spoken language in Africa, used by 45 million people in the eastern and central regions. People who live in countries near Tanzania including Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, usually speak Swahili.

Fazaldin said the language has an Arabic influence and is spoken in countries such as Kuwait and Oman in the Middle East.

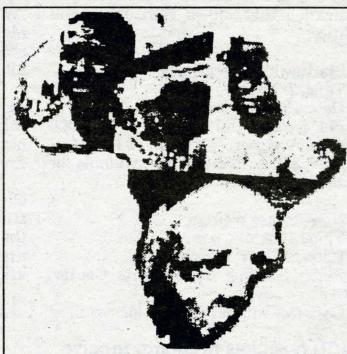
Other languages of influence include English, Portuguese, Persian, Gujarati (India) and Hindi (India).

Swahili 101 and 102 are the levels offered at VCU; each class counts four credits. This semester, the course is offered 5:30-6:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the

Business Building.

The two levels are taught in conjunction and each level sits on opposite sides of the classroom. Welcomed by their "mwalimu" (mwa-lee-moo),

or professor, the students practice pronunciation through



SWAHILI continued to page 3

Biology chairman talks hydropolitics

John King
CT STAFF WRITER

Leonard A. Smock

Title: Professor and chairman, Department of Biology at Virginia Commonwealth University

Research Interests: Aquatic ecology, streams and wetlands, ecology of aquatic insects and water pollution

Education: 1969 University of Illinois B.S., biology; 1970 University of Illinois M.S., zoology; 1971 University of North Carolina, Ph.D., environmental biology

Professional Position: Aquatic Biologist, U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, 1972-74; Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1979 to present

Honors: Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science

How do people and governments throughout the world use their water? How many VCU students, staff and faculty know that 65 percent of the world's freshwater comes from 10 countries?

Leonard A. Smock, chairman of VCU's biology department, discussed these two items and many others in his Elske v.P. Smith Lecture titled "Water Resources and the Development of Civilization."

Smock began his speech by discussing the importance of water and how it has affected civilizations the past 50,000 years.

"The foundation and success of the development of civilization," Smock said, "has been our ability to harvest and control water resources."

The first word in the Persian dictionary, Smock told the audience, is "ab," which stands for water. Another word, "abadav," means civilized. This word, he said, means that water and civilization are linked together.

Clean water, for example, made possible the growth of cities in early civilization, which, the speaker said, saved many lives by preventing water-borne diseases.

Still, unless water is sanitized properly the large cities today never would have

developed. Even today with advanced technology, he said, half the world's population doesn't have basic sanitation.

"Water management, especially irrigation," he told the audience, "was a technological invention that controlled these civilizations in food production and economic, social, cultural and political involvement."

"The bigger the irrigation, the bigger the government."

Overirrigating land can lead to salt buildup, causing the land to be worthless for growing crops.

Thus, the cities began to diminish to the size of a village when salts increased on the land.

Eventually, Smock said, the high amount of salt in the soil led to a rapid decrease in food production.

Changing to the political scene, Smock told the audience that rulers have controlled water supplies to gain and exercise political control of their people — something even today's governments do with most of the world's water supply.

Smock predicted that the increased demand for water will lead to conflicts between nations as populations increase. Citing data, he said, only 10 countries

Campus projects may feel state budget pinch

Jessica Brown
CT NEWS EDITOR

The General Assembly adjourned Saturday without enacting amendments to the state's budget. Therefore, Republican Gov. Jim Gilmore must balance the commonwealth's budget himself unless or until the General Assembly reconvenes and approves budget amendments.

The governor said he will call a special session in late March to offer negotiators from the House of Delegates and Senate another chance to reach a compromise.

Until the General Assembly agrees on budget amendments, however, Gilmore must slash \$421 million. He announced Tuesday plans to balance the state's budget by freezing discretionary spending as well as hiring at colleges and universities.

"On behalf of the people of Virginia, I am asking you to work with us to minimize any problems your institutions may face as we proceed to balance the budget," Gilmore said in Tuesday's letter to state college and university presidents.

VCU has already halted plans to

BUDGET continued to page 3

SMOCK continued to page 3

Campus Briefs

Spiritualist author visits Richmond to perform spiral dance

Best-selling author, feminist and peace activist Starhawk will visit Richmond this weekend. She performs a ritual drum trance and spiral dance Friday. She then conducts nonviolence training for students and other community members.

Starhawk is the author or co-author of eight books, including "Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex and Politics" and "Truth or Dare: Encounters with Power, Authority and Mystery."

A San Francisco native, Starhawk works with Reclaiming, a nonprofit religious organization that unites spirituality and politics.

Starhawk's performance:

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Date: Friday, March 2

Place: First Unitarian Church, 1000 Blanton Ave., across from Byrd Park

Cost: \$10 with discounts available for students

Nonviolence training:

Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Date: Sunday, March 4

Place: Shockoe Bottom Arts Center, 2001 E. Grace St.

Cost: free with no registration required

VCU business students receive \$130,000 in scholarships

Since 1997, VCU School of Business students have received more than \$130,000

in scholarships from the university's Real Estate Circle of Excellence, which represents real estate and mortgage-lending executives across Virginia.

Established in 1990, the circle's scholarship program has grown considerably. In the past four years, the circle has awarded \$72,000 in scholarships to 47 students. This year, \$32,000 is slated for scholarship awards.

Midsemester deadline approaches

The last day for students to withdraw from classes this semester with a grade of "W" is Friday, March 9. Roderick J. McDavis, provost and vice president for academic affairs, advised university faculty of this deadline in a letter last week.

University policy requires that faculty provide students with feedback regarding their academic performance so students may consult their advisers and withdraw from the course if necessary.

McDavis said that feedback in the form of a letter grade is not required, but that students have a better understanding of their academic standing if presented with a letter grade at the time of midterm evaluation.

J. Sargeant Reynolds offers GRE and GMAT preparation classes

All spring classes will be held at the Parham Road Campus and cost \$110 for 10 hours of instruction. Call 371-3413 to register for the following courses:

GMAT Verbal (EDCA 220)

Section 90A - Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., March 28 - April 25

Instructor: Joy Barnes

Section 91A - Mondays, 6-8 p.m., March 12 - April 9

Instructor: Robbie Williams

GMAT Math (EDCA 221)

Section 90A - Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., March 22 - April 19

Section 91A - Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., March 22 - April 19

Instructor: Albert Scimone (for both sections)

Campus Calendar

Thursday, March 1

Program: Deborah Potter, ex-correspondent for CNN and CBS News, presents a lecture on broadcast writing skills, 2-3:30 p.m. in the University Student Commons, Forum Room. Sponsored by the VCU Chapter of the Radio and TV News Directors Association.

Program: Richard Salsman lectures 3:30-6 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. Sponsored by Students of Objectivism.

Film: "Sankofa" shows 7-9 p.m. in the Gladding Residence Center's community room. Sponsored by multicultural student affairs.

Friday, March 2

Program: APB/Expressions Showcase presents a comedy show 7-9 p.m. in the University Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom A-B.

Film: "Little Nicky" shows 7-9 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by the APB/Film Committee.

Film: "Pay it Forward" shows 9:30-11:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by the APB/Film Committee.

Saturday, March 3

Film: "Pay it Forward" shows 7-9 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by the

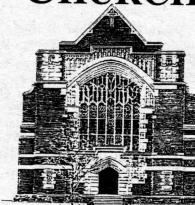
APB/Film Committee.

Film: "Little Nicky" shows 9:30-11:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater. Sponsored by the APB/Film Committee.

Sunday, March 4

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

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



1627 Monument Avenue
Three Blocks from Campus

Come and join us for:
Worship, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
Supper, Wed., 6:00 p.m.

James Goodloe, Ph.D., Minister
Christopher Martin, VCU '92,
Choirmaster and Organist

www.grace-covenant.org
359-2463

*Make Grace Covenant
your church home
away from home.*

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.

PHONE: 828-1058 or 828-1059

FAX: 828-9201

E-MAIL: CTVCU@hotmail.com

Administration

J. Edward Rogalsky, executive editor
George Templeton, managing editor
vacant, business manager

Advertising Department

J. Michael Fisher, director

Production

George Tautkus, production assistant

News Department

Jessica Brown, editor

Sports Department

Bobby Parks, writer

Spectrum Department

Kelly Gerow, editor

Olympia Meola, associate editor

Photography Department

Josh Taylor, photographer

Circulation

Stacy Reed, director

Voice Mail

Executive and managing editors: 278-2005

Business Office, Advertising Department and Spectrum Department: 278-2008

News Department: 278-2249

Sports Department: 278-2229

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

help wanted

CAMP COUNSELOR --- YMCA
Camp Thunderbird is seeking professional role models for summer employment. Positions are full time with overtime available. Great experience working with kids. Competitive pay and YMCA membership benefits, call 276-9622, ext. 111 for application and interview dates.

LIFEGUARDS/SUPERVISORS
Now hiring for summer! All positions in No. Va. Training available! Full/Part/Time!
Top Pay! Call 1-800-3692.

travel

SPRING BREAK 2ND SEMESTER SPECIALS!!! Cancun from \$439 with the most reliable air. Meat and drinks available. Space limited, call today. Group or

ganizers travel FREE!! 1-800-SURFS-UP or www.studentexpress.com

for sale

FURNITURE -- Oak finished entertainment center, \$40. Matching wicker (brown): coffee table, end-table w/glass top, clothes hamper, \$60 all together or sold separately. Call 217-8277.

fund raising

FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, STUDENT GROUPS Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with the easy campusfundraiser.com three-hour fundraising event.

No sales required. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so call today! Contact campusfundraiser.com at (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com.

SMOCK from page 1

control 65 percent of the fresh water in the world.

Moreover, 40 percent of the world's population depends on water flowing from another country.

The way a country uses its water affects countries depending on that water.

"We need to formulate on a regional basis long-term water objectives and a plan to reach those objectives," he said, adding that the demand for water will lead to political problems called hydropolitics.

"If we don't think about where we have been or where we want to go, we will end up where we are heading," he said, ending his talk with this Chinese proverb. In terms of water resources, Smock advised the night's participants that this is not where people want to go.

After the speech, two students offered laudatory remarks about Smock's delivery in combining the historical perspective of water with its flow through the life and death of different peoples of the world.

"I like how he related to life and death and how water goes through our life system," said Mary Beth Quirk, a geology major at Randolph Macon College in Ashland, adding that her geology professor and classmates attended the event.

Another RMC student said that she liked the historic scale Smock used and how it applies water to the future water systems.

Smock's presentation honored a former dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, Elske v.P. Smith, who established the environmental studies program after she stepped down from the deanship.

BUDGET from page 1

begin Phase I of library renovations on both campuses. This initial project was expected to cost \$1.9 million.

Paul Timmreck, vice president for VCU finance and administration, said the university may be forced to freeze maintenance and renovation projects across campus.

University administrators, Timmreck said, must find a way to reduce spending by as much as \$2.7 million now. During the next fiscal year, reductions of as much as \$5.7 million may be required.

Projects already under way, however, will not be affected by budget reductions because they are protected under contracts. Such projects include parking decks and student recreation facilities as well as student housing complexes.

SWAHILI from page 1

role-playing or by conversing with the teacher.

The students are taught how to speak and travel in areas where Swahili is spoken. Beth Powell, a junior, said the combination class works well.

"I like the way the class is taught. This gives the 102 students a chance to learn and review with the 101 students," she said.

Students in the class are from Ethiopia, Korea, South Africa and India as well as the United States.

A majority of the students said they like the course and agreed that the language is fairly easy to learn.

"This language was easier to learn than English," said Tae H. Cho, a senior from Korea.

Sophomore Lindsay Velasco agreed. "I recommend this class. It's unique," she said.

Students said they hope one day the course will continue further than the 102 level.

Tax cut, education proposals highlight Bush's budget plan

Sarah Lechner
U-WIRE

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush dismissed criticism of his new \$1.6 trillion tax plan in his first speech before a joint session of Congress Tuesday night, saying his proposal is both "reasonable and responsible."

In the nationally televised address, he outlined changes for the nation, including an increase in education, health care and defense spending and protection of the Social Security surplus, while stressing the importance of congressional bipartisanship to pass a tax plan he says will give money back to the American people.

"A budget's impact is counted in dollars, but measured in lives," Bush said before introducing Steven and Josefine Ramos, a family from Pennsylvania. The Ramoses will save more than \$2,000 under the proposal, Bush said.

The average family with two children will save \$1,600 a year on its federal income taxes, he said. Bush also proposed lowering the number of tax rates from five to four, which will give relief to every person who pays income tax. He also said the child credit should be doubled to \$1,000 per child.

"In my opinion, government should never stand in the way of families achieving their dreams. The surplus is not the government's money, it is the people's

money," Bush said while the crowd rose to its feet.

Bush said Congress owes it to America's children and grandchildren to pay down \$2 trillion of the national debt in the next 10 years.

"That is more debt repaid more quickly than has ever been repaid by any nation at any time in history," he said.

The highest percentage increase in the budget will go to education, helping to train and recruit teachers, increase academic standards and accountability, and support nationalized testing. Bush's budget proposal would triple education spending in the next five years, adding \$5 billion to the Department of Education's budget.

While Bush's discussion of increased education spending brought applause from the entire chamber, Republicans and Democrats were obviously split on the president's school choice proposal.

Only Republicans rose in applause as Bush said parents should be given federal money to send their children to a different school — public, private or religious — if their current school is failing nationalized tests.

"In the end, every child in a bad situation must be given a better choice, because when it comes to our children failure is simply not an option," he said.

The budget outline doubles Medicare spending over the next 10 years, dedicat-

SPEECH continued to page 5

BRAD PITT JULIA ROBERTS

THE MEXICAN

love with the safety off

DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEWMARKET A LAWRENCE BENDER PRODUCTION A BOB VERONSKI FILM JAMES GANDOLFINI "THE MEXICAN" CASTING BY ALAN SILVESTRI COSTUME DESIGNER WILLIAM TYLER CHAIRS J. RALL ADAM RYDER JILL WYMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER LAWRENCE BENDER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES GANDOLFINI AND JOHN BALDRESCHE WRITTEN BY JILL WYMAN DIRECTED BY BOB VERONSKI

RESTRICTED R PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 17

Official The Mexican website at www.mexican.com www.dreamworks.com

OPENS FRIDAY, MARCH 2 IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE

Announcing

The

Commonwealth Times

elections for executive

and managing editor.

March 23, 2 p.m.

In the Temple Building

Room 1145.

Call:

J. Edward Rogalsky by March 21

@828-1058 for more information.

VCU & Teen Driving

The 2001 General Assembly considered several bills that restrict teen-age drivers. Legislators want to raise the minimum age requirement for a driver's permit from 15 to 15 1/2. If the governor approves, these bills could become laws this year.

Roving Reporters

Staff writers Holly Clark and John King hit the streets to ask students the following questions:

1. "How old were you when you first started driving a vehicle?"
2. "What do you think about the age for the driver's permit being increased from 15 to 15 1/2?"
3. "What effect will this decision have on teen-age driving? Will anyone in your family be affected?"

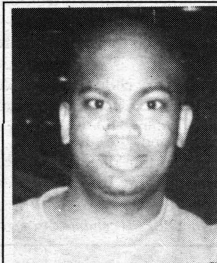
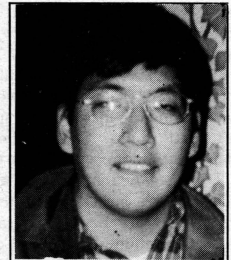


Sharon Diana
undecided

- 1: 15
- 2: I agree because I have children and I was careless when I was a kid.
- 3: Hopefully they will be more mature with more practice. My children.

Robert Park
psychology

- 1: 17
- 2: It is better that way because most teen-agers are reckless. It will keep places secure from careless drivers. In New York City you have to be 17 to drive.
- 3: A lot of people are killed by young drivers and this will lessen that. I am glad for the age change. No.



Wayne Welch Jr.
physical education

- 1: 15
- 2: Good, because you have more time to listen to instructors teach you to be more careful.
- 3: It will lower fatality rates as they will know to slow down and take time. No.

Donovan Finch
information systems

- 1: The day I turned 15.
- 2: I think it's fine where it is right now.
- 3: I don't think it will have any effect. No matter what age you are, there is no magic age where you are not a kid and suddenly an adult. No family.



Juanita Barber
psychology

- 1: 16
- 2: It won't make that big of a difference in only a half-year.
- 3: It won't change the maturity level that drastically. No.

Jennifer Lee
physical therapy

- 1: 16
- 2: OK, because it has the limitations with it like curfews. Also, because of the accidents, they really need to raise the age. I wasn't ready to drive when I was 15 1/2.
- 3: I don't think it will have any effect. Kids will be just as anxious when they are behind the wheel. My small cousins will be affected.



Braxton Wallace
engineering

- 1: 15 1/2
- 2: I don't see where six months is really going to make a difference.
- 3: I don't see it having any relative effect. I don't believe the difference between a 15- and 16-year-old makes them an adult. My son and daughter.

Anthony Derby
philosophy

- 1: 16
- 2: All right.
- 3: None — or little to none. It isn't the time frame — it's the actual real-life experience. Changing the statute won't make a difference. No family.



Gary Jenkins
nursing

- 1: 13.
- 2: Good. I don't think they are fully mature at 15.
- 3: It cuts down on learning time but also cuts down on inexperienced drivers. No.

Vicky Sin
marketing

- 1: 16
- 2: I think it is a good idea. It gives more time to read and study before taking the test.
- 3: It may help teen-agers who drink and drive and listen to their music real loud. No.

Erin Gray
elementary education

- 1: 15
- 2: Depends on who you are. I think it's a good thing because I don't think I was ready to drive when I got my learner's permit.
- 3: I hope it makes them better drivers — seems like a majority of the things you hear about on TV and around here are about teen accidents. No family.

Bruce Hoar
information systems

- 1: 17
- 2: It won't matter.
- 3: I think if you are going to do something to change the way kids drive, this is not the solution. No.

ing \$238 billion next year to the program. The money would fund all of Medicare's current programs and begin a new prescription drug benefit for low-income seniors.

"No senior in American should have to choose between buying food and buying prescriptions," Bush said.

Bush also emphasized the importance of access to health care for all Americans, helping uninsured families by providing them with refundable tax credits to purchase insurance.

Debate in Congress continues over whether the tax plan is too much or little money.

Democrats responded to the president's plan Tuesday night by saying that the numbers are deceiving.

"The president's tax plan is far more

expensive than the \$1.6 trillion he claims," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.). "When you add interest on the debt and other hidden costs, the true cost of the president's tax cut is well over \$2 trillion.

"It will consume nearly all of the surplus — at the expense of prescription drug coverage, education, defense and other critical priorities."

Other Democrats also expressed their reservations.

"The key will be whether the numbers add up," said Sen. Thomas Carper (D-Del.). "When things sound too good to be true, they usually are too good to be true."

While some Republicans said Bush was successful in his first speech before Congress, they are concerned about the number of programs in which Bush intends to increase spending.

Vicky Masi

CT STAFF WRITER

Last week, VCU celebrated Body Awareness Week, an annual event held to honor the national Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Colleges across North America sponsored various events aimed at increasing students' awareness of eating disorders.

Sandy T. McGinnis, a health educator at VCU's Office of Health Promotion, which sponsors the week's events, said she decided to broaden the scope to encourage an overall awareness and appreciation of one's body.

McGinnis said she wanted to show that living a healthy and balanced life requires well-balanced nutrition and exercise as well as mental, emotional and spiritual improvements.

"Regarding eating disorders," McGinnis said, "my goals are to increase awareness by teaching the signs and symptoms and to let people know that there are caring individuals out there who are willing to help out in a variety of ways, including counseling."

"By the time someone is in college, it is often too late to prevent eating disorders so we focus on intervention and resource referral."

While many events addressed symptoms and management of eating disorders, general nutrition and overall wellness were discussed as well.

A particularly popular event was the Body Fair, held in the lobby of the University Student Commons, where students lined up for samplings of healthy lunch alternatives and for a free massage.

Jihan Babik, a student and yoga instructor at the medical campus, waited for

a massage from Maryanna F. Fisher, a masseuse from Richmond-based Relaxation Etc.

Eric W. West, a fitness and wellness coordinator at the Stuart C. Siegel Center, and several peer health educators from VCU's medical college were available to answer questions and offer advice to students.

The focus of the Body Fair was to encourage healthy eating and exercise habits that provide for a healthy body image.

Students were handed mirrors and asked to recognize positive aspects of their appearance.

Handouts included information on eating disorders, suitable exercise regimens for men and women as well as useful techniques for managing stress.

Other events included games such as "Nutrition Jeopardy" and a fitness program titled "What's Buff Enough?"

Interactive workshops were held, including one conducted by Elisabeth Peterson, a corporate nutritionist for Ukrop's grocery stores. Peterson presented the "Top Ten Foods" considered important in every adult's diet. She said that a diet that incorporates these foods as well as other whole foods is a fairly reliable regimen.

Available at the event and at VCU's Office of Health Promotion are quizzes, such as "Do you have a healthy relationship with food?" This quiz attempts to lead an individual to self-realization concerning their health and diet.

McGinnis said she encourages students to visit the health promotion office in the Gladding Residence Center, where they can speak with health educators.

Part Time Help

Part time help needed for busy plasma center. Flexible hours, but must be able to work Saturdays. We will train. For more information, contact Ed at 648-1685. Sera-Tec Biologicals.

© 2004 Folgers

sip

and

sic 'em

Folgers

Don't take a break from your day.
Break into it.

CT Editorial

Car-tax cut has become Gov. Gilmore's sacred cow

The giant rumbling sounds flowing from Charlottesville is the great Thomas Jefferson rolling over in his grave.

The same day President George W. Bush called for a way-too-huge national tax cut, Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore announced the commonwealth's colleges and universities would have to offer sacrifices at the altar of his almighty car-tax reduction program.

Gilmore, apparently more concerned with his ability to issue sound-bite rhetoric than the education of Virginia youngsters, has ordered public institutions of higher learning to hack their budgets by a combined \$32 million over the next four months and by \$70 million next fiscal year, which begins July 1. He has to do this, Gilmore says, because the General Assembly failed to amend the state's two-year budget during its just-ended session.

Jefferson valued creating the University of Virginia more than being president — just look at his tombstone. Gilmore, on the other hand, cherishes his sanctified car-tax phaseout more than the learning environments of Virginia's colleges and universities.

Gilmore likes to say that continuing his elimination of the first \$20,000 of the personal property tax on automobiles fulfills a promise made to the people of Virginia. The governor omits a key fact.

When the General Assembly and Gilmore made this promise, they pledged not to cut programs and to proceed with the cuts if the state revenue collections increased by certain amounts each year. No increase in revenue, no progression of the tax cuts.

The revenue for fiscal year 2002 has barely increased over last year. Gilmore was able to trigger the next round

of cuts by using a suspect scheme involving the state's share of the Master Tobacco Settlement. His plan would have resulted in the state receiving several hundred million dollars in the long run for an immediate cash infusion and was rejected by General Assembly budget writers.

To reach the debacle in which Gilmore finds himself now, he had to use that infamous fuzzy math. To further his car-tax reduction plan, Gilmore had to include in his budget more than \$200 million in bonds, replacing cash that was reallocated to fund his cherished initiative. The GOP-controlled state Senate refused to thrust Virginia in debt and refused to go along, setting up the current budget stalemate between the legislature and the governor.

Senators chose to be proper stewards of the state budget, rather than tying themselves blindly to a tax cut, unlike Gilmore and the fortitude-lacking House of Delegates. The Senate concluded correctly that current economic conditions are not favorable for cutting the car tax.

The Senate offered compromises, such as cutting the tax 50-55 percent instead of 70, but Gilmore stood as still as a potted plant and refused to budge. Instead, Gilmore accused the Senate of not living up to its responsibility to craft a budget.

But alas, the opposite is true. Gilmore has shirked his responsibility to do what is best for Virginia. The governor's full-speed-ahead, damn-the-torpedoes approach benefits Gilmore more than the entire citizenry of Virginia.

By shaping himself as a tireless tax-cutter, Gilmore makes himself look better at his new job, the chairman of the Republican National Committee. When his term ends

in January, Gilmore will drive up I-95 and take up running the RNC full time. He won't have to deal with the havoc wrought by his now fiscally inept car-tax plan.

Gilmore's RNC job has caused Democrats and other critics to dub him "Gov. Gone-more." He seems to be spending more time working in D.C. than on the state's business for Democrats' taste.

"Gone-more" needs to revisit astronomy and to note that the world does not revolve around the car tax. Top-notch colleges and universities in this state will benefit the Old Dominion's citizens much more than just about any political initiative — especially the car-tax cut. Colleges and universities educate students from all over Virginia. This includes students from Southwest Virginia where the per-family car-tax savings do not amount to the proverbial "hill of beans."

When Gilmore first proposed ridding Virginia of the now-demonized car tax, it was a sound plan. In today's scenario, the brakes need to be applied to the reduction.

Trying to reduce the tax burden is always admirable, but not at the expense of all-important higher learning. Before he hurts the education being provided at Virginia's colleges and universities, Gilmore may want to realize his legacy could be shaped by the damage he inflicts on state schools and other agencies, not a slogan-savvy political program.

The car-tax cut program has already carried Gilmore to the Governor's Mansion and his cushy RNC gig. Maybe he should just leave well enough alone.

God save Virginia . . . especially from the car-tax cut's fallout.

Eugene P. Trani

VCU bracing for Gilmore's budgetary ax

To the university and health system communities:

As has been widely reported, the General Assembly failed to reach a budget accord during the 2001 session. As a result, the 2000-02 state budget, which was passed last year, remains in place. Since that time, however, state revenue growth has slowed, resulting in a projected budget shortfall.

According to the governor's Chief of Staff, Mr. M. Boyd Marcus Jr., state budget expenditures could exceed revenues by \$421 million by July 1, 2002.

On Feb. 24, 2001, the governor issued executive order No. 74 to ensure that actual expenditures in this fiscal year and the next not exceed estimated revenues.

This executive order requires state agencies, including higher education institutions, to submit plans outlining the means by which targeted savings will be achieved.

The VCU Health System will be exempt from these budget actions, including the hiring freeze, because of its status as an authority of the commonwealth.

Mr. Marcus also acknowledged that the administration is committed to accommodating unique budget issues, and we expect that special consideration will be given to the need to ensure adequate funding for indigent care provided by the VCU Health System.

On Feb. 27, college and university rectors, presidents and chief financial officers

met with Mr. Marcus to discuss the development of reduction plans and to receive specific savings targets for each institution. Reduction plans are due to the Governor's Office by noon on Friday, March 2, 2001. Implementation of the spending reduction plans, following approval by the Governor's Office, is expected to occur in about two weeks.

For VCU, the targeted general fund reductions are \$2,765,693 in fiscal year 2001 and \$7,462,434 in fiscal year 2002. These amounts represent reductions of about 1.6 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

The reduction targets are preliminary and have been calculated based only on day-to-day operating programs.

Mr. Marcus emphasized that the savings targets will be reduced based on savings realized from a freeze on capital building and renovation projects not yet under contract.

We believe the cumulative savings from all frozen capital outlay projects, at all institutions, will result in reduced savings targets for each school in proportion to its operating budget.

At VCU, the capital-outlay freeze will have a major impact on renovations to the university's libraries, which are valued at \$1.9 million. Several maintenance reserve projects also could be put on hold.

In addition to the spending reductions, the governor has instituted a temporary

hiring freeze as of Feb. 24, 2001. Exemptions may be made by the cabinet secretaries to fill vacancies needed to provide essential services.

The hiring freeze will not affect those who have already been given offers of employment. We believe the hiring freeze will be lifted once the spending reduction plans have been approved.

The governor has indicated that he will call the General Assembly back into ses-

sion in late March for the purpose of resolving the budget impasse. If a budget accord can be reached at that time, we believe the spending reduction plans will be modified to reflect legislative actions.

We will continue to keep you apprised on the budget as information becomes available.

Eugene P. Trani, VCU's president, sent this open letter on Wednesday.

CommonwealthTimes

EDITORIAL BOARD

Robb Crocker — Editorial Editor
J. Edward Rogalsky — Executive Editor
Stacey Reed — Circulation Director
Mary Beth Thomsen — Writer

The opinion section of the Commonwealth Times is a forum open to the public. Virginia Commonwealth University students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit letters and columns expressing their opinions and concerns. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth Times or VCU. Editorials represent the institutional opinion of the Commonwealth Times.

We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.
CT e-mail: CTVCU@hotmail.com. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building.

Mentoring strengthens Virginia's future

In my travels across the commonwealth, I met a 15-year-old boy serving time in a juvenile detention center. After we introduced ourselves, I asked him to tell me a little about his family. He responded that he really did not have much of a family. His father had left home when this young man was only four, and his mother was usually away. Without any parental supervision or guidance, he was often in trouble at school and around the neighborhood. But at 14, this young man briefly reunited with his father—when he sold him crack cocaine on a street corner before realizing his identity.

While this story is shocking and tragic, it is not unique. In 1998, I visited detention centers around Virginia to talk firsthand with former gang members and violent juvenile offenders about why they chose a life of crime. While there were many circumstances that differed among the youths, one recurring theme was the lack of nurturing family involvement. Many times, the juvenile did not have a father at home; often, there was no parental presence at all to instill values and provide support.

Curbing juvenile violence, and specifically the rapid growth of gang membership in Virginia, is one of our commonwealth's greatest challenges for the new millennium. That is why on April 20, 1998, I launched my Task Force on Gangs and Youth Violence: to study the causes and trends of juvenile crime and outline a plan of action to combat gang violence.

The key emphasis of my task force's recommendations is complementing our law enforcement professionals with strong

prevention efforts at the local level. To that end, in February of 1999, I launched a prevention-focused mentoring initiative. *Virginia's Future: Building up the First Generation of the New Century* was also known as *2,000 by 2000*. It was my goal to recruit 2,000 new volunteer mentors by the year 2000 to work with children who need positive role models.

The response of Virginians to the *Virginia's Future* program has been heartwarming. With great pleasure I announced on Dec. 20, 1999, that we surpassed our goal with 2,120 volunteers. Today more than 3,400 have signed up and that number continues to grow. Last year I was pleased to accept, on behalf of all Virginians who have volunteered their time and energy to serve as mentors for our young people, a Special Recognition Award given by White House Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey. The award acknowledged the outstanding leadership of mentoring programs such as *Virginia's Future* as crucial to achieving goals of the National Drug Control Strategy. Attorneys general in other states have since started a statewide mentoring program modeled after *Virginia*.

Young Virginians need someone who can teach them, by word and example, the value of personal responsibility, good citizenship and work ethic. They need someone to teach self-esteem and the dignity and worth of all human life. They need someone to tell them that they matter.

My *Virginia's Future* initiative taps into the commitment, compassion and caring of our citizens, who have a strong legacy of reaching out to those in need. Mentoring is a tangible way that all Virginians can get involved and make a real difference in the lives of the next generation.

Mentoring does not require a lot of time or money. It simply requires someone to spend a few hours each month with a young child who needs some attention and a posi-

tive role model. That could mean going to watch a hockey game, a theater production or a band concert. It could be shooting some hoops or going to the park. It could mean getting involved in the "Lunch Buddies" program, as I am, and helping a child with their homework while visiting their school for lunch.

The best thing about mentoring is that it benefits both participants.

Not only does the child learn values and build self-esteem, but those who volunteer as mentors have a true sense of investment in the future of their community.

I often speak to business and community groups, college students and the faith community around Virginia.

From Abingdon to Alexandria to Accomack, I urge our citizens to get involved by becoming a mentor.

It is imperative that we reach children while they are still young and provide them with positive support—before they encounter negative peer pressure that

might lead them into gangs.

In addition to recruiting mentors, my office is a clearinghouse to link these new mentors with volunteer organizations in their area.

Virginians can visit our web site at www.vaag.com, call toll free 1-877-206-9526 or e-mail mentoring@oag.state.va.us, and will then be directed to ongoing local efforts which specialize in their chosen mentoring program.

In September, I held a statewide Mentoring Summit in Richmond to recruit new mentors and to celebrate the success of *Virginia's Future*.

Participants heard testimonies of mentors and mentees—all stories of success and promise. Secretary of State Colin Powell, then chairman of *America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth*, joined me in issuing a charge to all Virginians to commit time and energy to young people.

I believe the best investment we can make in Virginia's future is reaching out to children who might not have the opportunity to grow up in a loving, nurturing environment that teaches them discipline and self-worth. We cannot take the place of caring parents—but we can, and are, making a tangible, substantial difference in the lives of young Virginians who need someone to give them guidance.

I urge you to join the thousands of Virginians who have volunteered their time, talent and love to a young person in need. Call today to help build up the first generation of the new century. And working together, we will make Virginia's future a bright one for all our children!

Attorney General Mark Earley

Robb Crocker

So long McDonald's, we hardly liked ye!

The battle between McDonald's and VCU students ended last week with the termination of the original 20-year contract. VCU paid \$812,000 to bring the food chain to the University Student Commons. Now the school will fork over an additional \$400,000 in order to end its relationship with the fast food giant.

When I first matriculated here in the fall of 1997, the McDonald's controversy had just begun.

The administration, in its infinite wisdom, agreed to an exclusive contract with the food chain. When students arrived for classes, the golden arches adorned the commons.

The Student Government Association has been at odds with the company and the administration since the restaurant invaded the commons. The administration, it is hoped, has learned something from all this.

First of all, important decisions that directly affect students need the input of students. There were numerous protests over the issue of the administration neglecting to find out what the students wanted.

With the diverse population at VCU, the administration had to know that there were going to be those who needed a better option.

I will say that the new food service outside of McDonald's does have a better selection and healthier food but it is too small.

I also hope that the next time, the administration will choose quality over dollar signs. Of course, the McDonald's saga has cost the school over \$1 million, so maybe they've already learned that lesson.

The school does plan to bring some new and different food options to the commons. After polling 1,200 students and faculty members, the administration claims they know what students want.

Overall, the SGA deserves a lot of credit for ending the contract.

Maybe the administration has learned not to underestimate the power and influence of those that they serve, which is the students of this school, not the almighty dollar or corporate America.

Outside of saying that McDonald's "was not marketing to the college students," the administration has not given any other reasons for the termination of the contract.

The administration gave no apologies to the students, staff and faculty. It is hoped that the administration will at least admit that they were wrong to bring in McDonald's, but I doubt it.

All will be forgiven if the administration does provide a food court with plenty of choices, healthy alternatives and fast, friendly service.

Or, it could get worse; maybe they'll put in a T.G.I. Friday's, another corporate giant, in McDonald's place.

**Get your opinion
off your chest by
writing a
letter to the
editor.**

**He'll be glad to
hear from you.**

**E-mail your
views to:
CTVCU@
HOTMAIL.COM**

Art and dance calendar

"Move"

Starr Foster/Dance Project presents "Move" featuring artistic director Starrene Foster. March 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$12, \$8 for students. Grace Street Theatre, 934 Grace Street. Call 343-3612 for more information and reservations.

Martin Puryear at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Puryear's sculptures will be on display from March 6 to May 27. Puryear's works, created with wood, wire mesh and tar, are acclaimed for their symbolism and organic nature.

Philip Geiger, "New Paintings"

Geiger's painting will be shown at the Reynolds Gallery, 1514 W. Main St., until March 31.

"Similar Differences: Four Object Makers"

Artspace, 6 E. Broad St., has exhibits from Karl Burkheimer, John Rais, Felicia Szorad and Travis Townsend from March 2 to March 30. "Similar Differences" opens in conjunction with the Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Conference at VCU Feb. 28 to March 3.

Burkheimer, who earned his M.F.A. from VCU, offers wooden sculptures. Townsend's woodwork incorporates the functions of tools, appliances and toys. Rais' metalwork compares the function and intent of objects. Metal artist Szorad exhibits enameled hats and jewelry.

The opening reception March 2 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. is open to the public.



"Tilman Afternoon" by Philip Geiger is one of the paintings on display by the artist at the Reynolds Gallery until March 31. Other shows in the area have recently opened or will open this weekend. Just glance a little to your left to see some more.

Snack of the week: Any time is right for cold cereal

Kelly Gerow
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Cereal could possibly be the best snack ever. Why? Variety. Sure, it's all corn or oat bits in milk, but there are many types of corn and oat bits.

Here are my top favorite cereals:

1. Corn Pops. Kids will do anything for these crunchy, sweet pops. Anything.
2. Cocoa Pebbles. Bonus for the chocolate milk it creates.
3. Life. How sweet. Gets

soggy easily, much like actual life. 4. Raisin Bran Crunch. What a great idea.

The addition of granola eliminates the need to pour a cup of sugar into the bowl.

5. Trix. I haven't enjoyed it as well since the blueberry flavor

appeared. It's on the list only for the memories and the fact that any toys from the box smell fruity.

6. Lucky Charms. I only like the marshmallows.

7. Peanut Butter Cap'n Crunch. It's junk food. Is that legal?

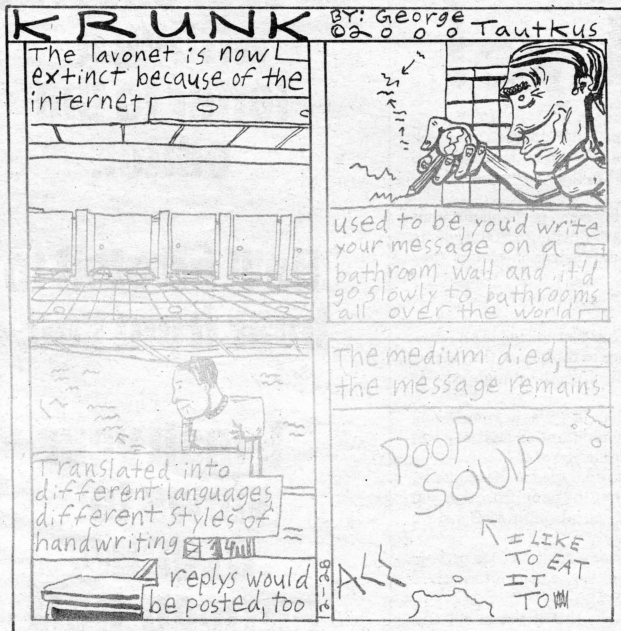
8. Cocoa Crunchies. The moose on the box of generic Cocoa Puffs is a nice touch.
9. Shredded Wheat. This still

calls for a cup of sugar.

10. Froot Loops. Again, I'm not a fan of the blue rings, but the rest is fantastic.

My least favorite cereals would have to be Grape Nuts and Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure cereal with the magical notes and cinnamon oats.

Cereal is refreshing, simple and tasty. Unless blue is somehow in the bowl.



MOLSON
SUN • SNOW • PARTY

CollegeFest

Tremblant, Québec/Canada

5 Nights Parties
Nights Condo Lodging
Days Lift Tickets
ONLY

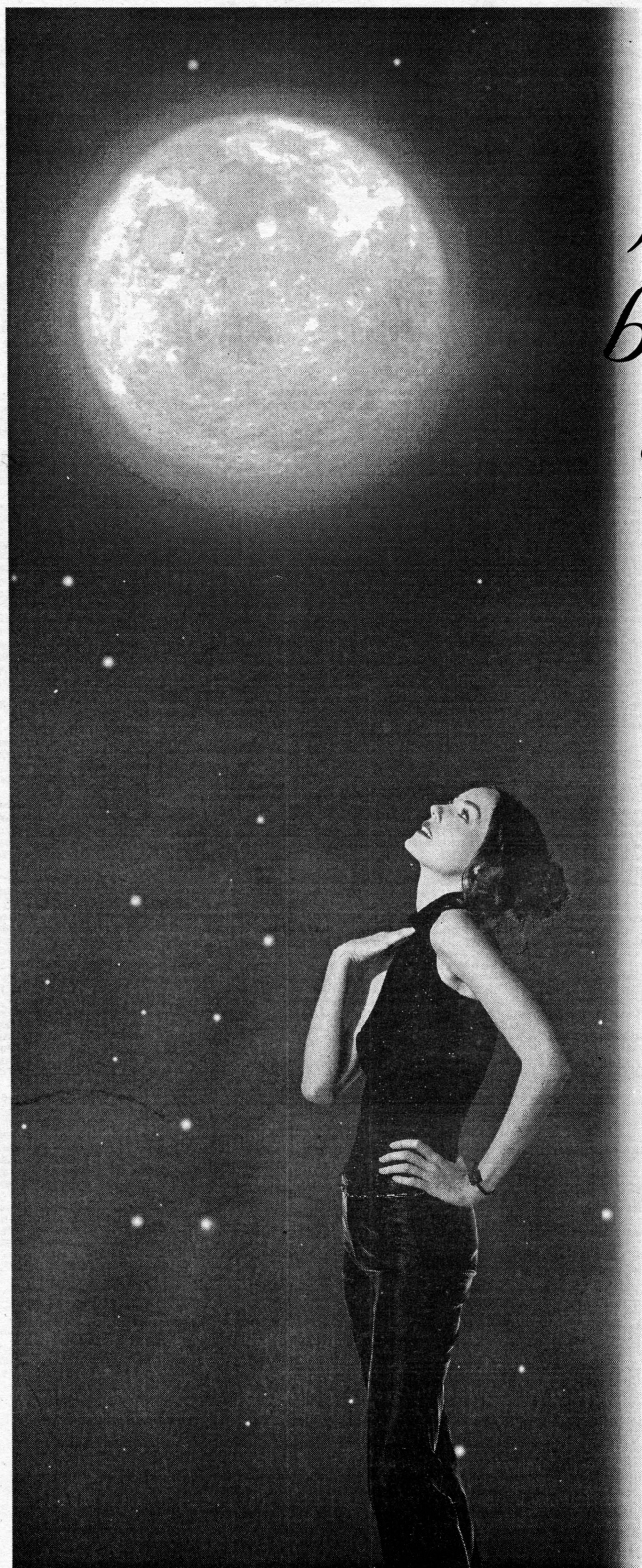
\$389
Springbreak

SKI TRAVEL
UNLIMITED

1.800.999.ski.9

WWW.SKITRAVEL.COM

TRÉMBLANT
E-Z DRIVE
FROM NY
You must be 18
to consume
alcohol in
Québec, Canada



The moon.
It's always inspired
passion.
Now it's inspired
birth control.

INTRODUCING NEW
ONCE-A-MONTH LUNELLE™
BIRTH CONTROL IN SYNC WITH
THE MOON AND YOU.

The moon is a source of beauty and emotion. For centuries, our monthly cycle has mirrored the moon's. Now, for the first time, there's birth control that's monthly, not daily: new *Lunelle*.

An injectable that's 99% effective without the daily hassle.

Lunelle is a combo of hormones that works continuously—all month long. Given on time each month by your doctor, prescription *Lunelle* gives you birth control that's 99% effective. That means you get monthly pregnancy protection without the daily hassle—without the daily worry—of taking the Pill. And if you want to get pregnant? Most women get back to ovulating about two to three months after receiving their last injection. *Lunelle* doesn't protect against HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Hormonal birth control isn't for everyone.

Pregnant women or women with blood clots, chest pain, certain cancers, unexplained vaginal bleeding, or a history of liver disease, stroke, or heart attacks shouldn't take *Lunelle*. Serious risks that can be life threatening include blood clots, stroke, and heart attack. And hey, *no smoking!* It increases these risks, especially if you're over 35 and smoke 15 or more cigarettes a day.

During the first few months of taking *Lunelle*, most women have a change in their periods, which may include no bleeding, irregular bleeding, or spotting. This change may continue with use in up to one third of women. In studies, while some women lost weight on *Lunelle*, the average change was an increase of 4 pounds in the first year. But you should know, some women gained 10 or more pounds in the first year.

So ask your healthcare professional about new *Lunelle*.

Why worry about taking a daily Pill when there's monthly *Lunelle*? Birth control inspired by the moon.

***Lunelle*. In sync with the moon and you.**

For more info: www.lunelle.com or 1 877 282-9273

 **Lunelle™**
monthly contraceptive injection
medroxyprogesterone acetate &
estradiol cypionate injectable suspension

See the next page for important product information.
©2001 Pharmacia & Upjohn, a division of Pharmacia

UX0009805

3/01

LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection (like all hormonal contraceptives) is intended to prevent pregnancy.

It is not protected against HIV infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

This summary contains important information about LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. It is not meant to take the place of discussions with your doctor and it cannot replace your doctor's advice. Only your doctor can assess the benefits and risks to decide if LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection is right for you. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist, or other prescribing healthcare professional, if you do not understand any of this information or if you want to know more about LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection.

WHAT IS LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?

LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection is a type of hormonal birth control that is given as an injection (a shot) in your arm, thigh, or buttock once a month to prevent pregnancy. It contains hormones which have effects similar to the natural hormones, estrogen and progesterone, produced in your body. Similar combinations of hormones are found in some oral contraceptives also known as "birth control pills" or the "pill." When you receive your injections once a month as prescribed, LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection is as effective as birth control pills. When given according to the prescribed schedule, LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection is effective in preventing pregnancy during the cycle in which it is given. Clinical studies have shown that when women receive LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection according to the recommended schedule, the failure rate of this method of birth control is less than 1% per year.

WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?

Cigarette smoking increases the risk of serious cardiovascular side effects from hormonal contraceptive use. This risk increases with age and with heavy smoking (15 or more cigarettes per day) and is quite marked in women over 35 years of age. Women who use hormonal contraceptives are strongly advised not to smoke.

Some women should not use hormonal contraceptives. For example, you should not take LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. You should also not use LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection if you have any of the following conditions:

- A history of heart attack or stroke
- Blood clots in the legs (thrombophlebitis), lungs (pulmonary embolism), or eyes
- A history of blood clots in the deep veins of your legs
- Chest pain (angina pectoris)
- Known or suspected breast cancer or cancer of the lining of the uterus, cervix or vagina
- Unexplained vaginal bleeding (until a diagnosis is reached by your doctor)
- Yellowing of the whites of the eyes or of the skin (jaundice) during pregnancy or during previous use of the pill or other hormonal contraceptives
- Liver tumor (benign or cancerous)
- Known or suspected pregnancy
- Allergy to any of the ingredients contained in LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection

- Over age 35 and smoke 15 or more cigarettes per day

Tell your health care provider if you have ever had any of these conditions. Your health care provider can recommend a safer method of birth control.

ARE THERE OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE TAKING LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?

- For the majority of women, hormonal contraceptives can be taken safely. But there are some women who are at high risk of developing certain serious diseases that can be life-threatening or may cause temporary or permanent disability. Tell your health care provider if you have:
- Breast nodules, fibrocystic disease of the breast, an abnormal breast x-ray or mammogram, strong family history of breast cancer
- Diabetes
- Elevated cholesterol or triglycerides
- High blood pressure
- Migraine or other headaches or epilepsy
- Mental depression
- Gallbladder, heart or kidney disease
- History of scanty or irregular menstrual periods
- Smoker, especially if 35 years or older

Women with any of these conditions should be checked often by their health care provider if they choose to use LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. Also, be sure to inform your doctor or health care provider if you smoke or are on any medications.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TAKING HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES?

- 1. **Risk of developing blood clots, heart attacks, and strokes.** Blood clots and blockage of blood vessels are the most serious side effects of taking hormonal contraceptives. In particular, blood clots can occur in the legs and can travel to the lungs and can cause sudden blockage of the vessel carrying blood to the lungs. Rarely, clots occur in the blood vessels of the eye and may cause blindness, double vision, or impaired vision.

Also, be sure to inform your doctor or health care provider if you smoke or are on any medications. What are the risks associated with taking hormonal contraceptives? LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection and other hormonal contraceptives may increase your risk of developing blood clots. You should consult your doctor about stopping hormonal contraceptives three to four weeks before surgery and not taking hormonal contraceptives for two weeks after surgery or during bed rest. You should also not take hormonal contraceptives soon after delivery of a baby. It is advisable to wait for at least four weeks after delivery before using hormonal contraceptives such as LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. (See also the section on Breast Feeding in WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED DURING THE USE OF LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?)

Hormonal contraceptives may also increase the tendency to develop strokes (disruption or rupture of blood vessels in the brain) and angina pectoris and heart attacks (blockage of blood vessels in the heart). Any of these conditions can cause death or disability.

Smoking greatly increases the possibility of developing blood clots or suffering heart attacks and strokes. Furthermore, smoking and the use of hormonal contraceptives greatly increase the chances of developing and dying of heart disease, particularly if you are over 35 years of age.

2. Gallbladder disease

Hormonal contraceptive users probably have a greater risk of gallbladder disease than non-users of having gallbladder disease.

3. Liver tumors

In rare cases, hormonal contraceptives can cause benign but dangerous liver tumors. These benign

tumors can rupture and cause fatal internal bleeding. In addition, a possible but not definite association has been found with hormonal contraceptives and liver cancers in two studies, in which a few women who developed these very rare cancers were found to have used hormonal contraceptives for long periods. However, liver cancers are extremely rare. The chance of developing liver cancer from using hormonal contraceptives is thus even rarer.

4. Cancer of the reproductive organs and breasts

There is, at present, no confirmed evidence that oral hormonal contraceptives increase the risk of cancer of the reproductive organs in human studies. Studies to date of women taking the pill have reported conflicting findings on whether pill use increases the risk of developing cancer of the breast. Most of the studies on breast cancer and pill use have found no overall increase in the risk of developing breast cancer, although some studies have reported an increased risk of developing breast cancer in certain groups of women.

Some studies have found an increase in the incidence of cancer of the cervix in women who use oral hormonal contraceptives. However, this finding may be related to factors other than the use of oral hormonal contraceptives.

Studies have found that women who used injectable hormonal contraceptives (Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection) had no increased overall risk of developing cancer of the breast, ovary, uterus, or cervix. However, women under 35 years of age whose first exposure to Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection was within the previous 4 to 5 years may have a slightly increased risk of developing breast cancer similar to that seen with oral contraceptives.

Women who use hormonal contraceptives and have a strong family history of breast cancer or who have breast nodules or abnormal mammograms should be closely followed by their doctors. 5. **Changes in bone mineral density.** Use of injectable hormonal contraceptives containing the progesterone-type hormone found in LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection may be associated with a decrease in the amount of mineral stored in your bones. This could increase your risk of developing bone fractures. The rate of bone mineral loss is greatest in the early years of use of this type of contraceptive, but after that, it begins to resemble the normal rate of age-related bone mineral loss.

6. Allergic reactions

Severe allergic reactions have been reported in some women using injectable hormonal contraceptives containing the progesterone-type hormone found in LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. Allergic reactions occurring in women using LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection have been mainly skin reactions, and not respiratory in nature. Serious allergic reactions require emergency medical treatment.

ESTIMATED RISK OF DEATH FROM A BIRTH CONTROL METHOD OR PREGNANCY

All methods of birth control and pregnancy are associated with a risk of developing certain diseases that may lead to disability or death. As a result, the number of deaths associated with different methods of birth control and pregnancy has been calculated.

The risk of death from any birth control method is less than the risk of childbirth, except for oral hormonal contraceptive users over the age of 35 who smoke and oral hormonal contraceptive users over the age of 40 who smoke. For women under age 15 to 39, the risk of death was highest with pregnancy (7-26 deaths per 100,000 women, depending on age). Among oral hormonal contraceptive users who do not smoke, the risk

of death is always lower than that associated with pregnancy for any age group, although over the age of 40, the risk increases to 32 deaths per 100,000 women, compared to 28 associated with pregnancy at that age. However, for oral hormonal contraceptive users who smoke and are over the age of 35, the estimated number of deaths exceeds those for other methods of birth control. If a woman is over the age of 40 and smokes, her estimated risk of death is four times higher (117/100,000 women) than the estimated risk associated with pregnancy (29/100,000 women) in that age group.

An Advisory Committee of the FDA discussed this issue in 1989 and recommended that the benefits of oral contraceptive use by healthy, non-smoking women over 40 years of age may outweigh the possible risks. However, women of all ages are cautioned to use the lowest dose oral contraceptive that is effective, and are strongly advised not to smoke.

WHAT SYMPTOMS MAY SIGNAL PROBLEMS WHILE USING LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?

Call your doctor immediately if any of these adverse effects occur while you are taking LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection:

- Sharp chest pain, coughing of blood, or sudden shortness of breath (indicating a possible clot in the lung)
- Pain in the calf (indicating a possible clot in the leg)
- Coughing chest pain or a possible clot in the chest (indicating a possible heart attack)
- Sudden severe headache or vomiting, dizziness, or fainting, disturbances in vision, speech, weakness, or numbness in an arm or leg (indicating a possible stroke)
- Sudden partial or complete loss of vision (indicating a possible clot in the eye)
- Breast lumps (indicating possible breast cancer or fibrocystic disease of the breast; ask your doctor or health care provider to show you how to examine your breasts)
- Severe pain or tenderness in the abdominal area (indicating a possibly ruptured liver, ovarian cyst, or pregnancy outside the uterus)
- Difficulty in sleeping, weakness, lack of energy, fatigue, or change in mood (possibly indicating severe depression)
- Jaundice or a yellowing of the skin or eyes, accompanied frequently by fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, dark-colored urine, or light-colored bowel movements (indicating possible liver problems)
- Persistent pain, or bleeding at the injection site
- Unusually heavy vaginal bleeding

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?

1. **Vaginal bleeding.** Most women using LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection experience alteration of menstrual bleeding. Bleeding patterns may vary from a single monthly bleed to no bleeding at all or slight staining between menstrual periods to frequent, prolonged, and/or unscheduled bleeding. In any given injection interval, approximately 50% of women using LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection experience withdrawal bleeding that begins 20-25 days after the injection. Withdrawal bleeding lasts more than 7 days in 42% of women during the first month of use and in 29% of women at the end of one year of use. In any given injection interval, approximately 10% of women may have no bleeding at all and 10% may experience bleeding or spotting at various times in the cycle. Irregular bleeding often occurs during the first few months of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection use and may persist with continued use in up to one third of women. Your menstrual blood flow may be heavier

or lighter, and there may be no bleeding, fewer days of bleeding, or more days of bleeding than what you have previously experienced. Such bleeding usually does not indicate any serious problems. If an altered bleeding pattern persists or the bleeding is severe, discuss it with your health care provider. There is also a small risk that (unusual) clumps may be associated with bleeding.

2. Weight change

Weight gain is a common side effect in women using LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. The average expected weight gain is 4 pounds in the first year of use. Some women gain more than 10 to 20 pounds in the first year. Women have gained as much as 49 pounds or lost as much as 48 pounds in one year of use. Clinical trials showed wide variability in individual weight change with an increasing percentage of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection users experiencing weight change in excess of 10 and 20 pounds with continued treatment.

3. Contact lenses

If you wear contact lenses and notice a change in vision or an inability to wear your lenses, contact your doctor or health care provider.

4. Fluid retention

Hormonal contraceptives may cause edema (fluid retention) with swelling of the fingers or ankles and may raise your blood pressure. If you experience fluid retention, contact your doctor or health care provider.

5. Other side effects

Other side effects may include breast pain or tenderness, acne, change in appetite, nausea, headache, nervousness, depression, mood changes, changes in sexual desire, dizziness, loss of scalp hair, rash, and vaginal infections. If any of these side effects bother you, call your health care provider.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED DURING USE OF LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?

1. **Missed periods and use of hormonal contraceptives before or during early pregnancy.** You may not menstruate regularly after you receive an injection of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. If you have received your injections regularly and miss one menstrual period, be sure to inform your health care provider.

The risk of unexpected pregnancy for women receiving injectable contraceptives as scheduled is very low. If you have not received your injections as scheduled and missed a menstrual period, or if you missed two consecutive menstrual periods, you may be pregnant. Check with your health care provider immediately to determine whether you are pregnant. Do not continue the injections until you are sure you are not pregnant, but use another method of contraception.

There is no conclusive evidence that oral hormonal contraceptive use is associated with an increase in birth defects, when taken inadvertently during early pregnancy. Nevertheless, hormonal contraceptives should not be used during pregnancy.

With Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection, there have been reports of an increased risk of low birth weight and neonatal infant death or other health problems in infants conceived close to the time of injection. However, these pregnancies are uncommon. Children exposed in the womb to one of the hormones found in LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection (MPA), and followed to adolescence, showed no evidence of any adverse effect on their health including their physical, mental, sexual or social development.

If you think you may have become pregnant while using LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection, see your health care provider as soon as possible. You should check with your health care provider about risks to your unborn child from any medication taken during pregnancy.

2. While breast feeding

If you are breast feeding, consult your health care provider before starting hormonal contraceptives, including LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. Some of the drugs in hormonal contraceptives are passed on to the child in breast milk. A few adverse effects on the child have been reported, including yellowing of the skin (jaundice) and breast enlargement. In addition, hormonal contraceptives may decrease the amount and quality of your breast milk. To insure the best quantity and quality of your breast milk, you should wait until 6 weeks after childbirth before you start using LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. If possible, do not use hormonal contraceptives while breast feeding.

Breast feeding provides only partial protection from becoming pregnant and this partial protection decreases significantly as you breast feed for longer periods of time. You should use another method of contraception while breast feeding and consider starting hormonal contraceptives only after you have weaned your child completely.

3. Laboratory tests

If you are scheduled for any laboratory tests, tell your doctor you are taking a hormonal contraceptive. Certain blood tests may be affected by hormonal contraceptives.

4. Drug interactions

Certain drugs may interact with hormonal contraceptives to make them less effective in preventing pregnancy or cause a change in bleeding patterns. Such drugs include amrinone/hydroquinone, rifampin, drugs used for epilepsy such as barbiturates (for example, phenobarbital), carbamazepine, and phenytoin (Dilantin is one brand of this drug), phenylbutazone (Bulldozin is one brand), herbal products containing St. John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum), and possibly certain antibiotics. You may need to use an additional contraceptive method when you take drugs which can make hormonal contraceptives less effective. Drug interaction studies have not been conducted with LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection.

5. Sexually transmitted diseases

This product (like all hormonal contraceptives) is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against transmission of HIV (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, genital herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, and syphilis.

6. Weight change

LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection may cause weight gain of more than 10 pounds.

WHEN DO I GET MY LUNELLE® MONTHLY CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION?

LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection can only be effective if you receive your injections at the proper times.

First Injection

• Within the first 5 days of the start of your normal menstrual period.

• If you are presently using another type of birth control, your health care provider will decide the best time for you to start LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. This will help make sure you have continued contraceptive coverage.

• If you have recently been pregnant or had a baby, discuss with your health care provider the best time for you to start LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection.

Next Injections

• LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection should be given monthly, every 28 to 30 days and no later than 33 days after your last injection.

The time for your next injection is determined by the number of days since your previous injection, and not by the timing or amount of

your menstrual bleeding.

Even if you do not have any menstrual bleeding, you should still return once a month for your injection of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection.

• It is important that you receive each of your next injections at the right time. If you cannot receive your injection on time, contact your health care provider to receive an earlier injection.

What Happens if I Miss an Injection or Wait Longer than 33 Days Between Injections?

• You could become pregnant if you miss your injection or wait longer than 33 days between injections. The more days you wait, the greater the risk that you could become pregnant.

• Ask your health care provider to recommend another type of birth control (such as condoms or a spermicide) for you to use.

• Talk with your health care provider to find out when you should receive your next injection of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection.

• Your health care provider may do a test to make sure you are not pregnant before giving you your next injection of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection.

Pregnancy Due to Failure with LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection

The incidence of failure with LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection resulting in pregnancy is less than 1 percent (i.e., one pregnancy per 100 women per year) if given every month as directed. If you think that you may be pregnant, be sure to call your health care provider.

What If I Want to Become Pregnant?

You will need to stop your monthly injections of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection. Most women begin to produce eggs again (and could become pregnant) about two to three months after their last injection.

There may be some delay in becoming pregnant after they stop using hormonal contraceptives, including LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection, especially if you had irregular menstrual cycles before you started using hormonal contraceptives. There does not appear to be any increase in birth defects in newborn babies when pregnancy occurs soon after stopping hormonal contraceptives.

What Should I Know About a Possible Overdose of LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection?

Serious effects have not been reported following injection of large doses of oral hormonal contraceptives by young children. Overdose may cause nausea and withdrawal bleeding in females. In case of overdose, contact your health care provider or pharmacist. Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children.

OTHER INFORMATION

Your health care provider will take a medical and family history before prescribing hormonal contraceptives. You should receive yearly physical examinations by your health care provider. Be sure to inform your health care provider if there is a family history of any of the conditions listed previously in this leaflet. Be sure to keep all appointments with your health care provider, because this is a time to determine if there are early signs of side effects of hormonal contraceptive use. If you want more information about LUNELLE® Monthly Contraceptive Injection, ask your health care provider or pharmacist for a more technical leaflet called the Prescribing Information that you may wish to read.

Rx only.

Manufactured by: Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, MI 49001, USA. CB-2-S

Lunelle® monthly contraceptive injection

Depo-Provera® is a registered trademark of Pharmacia Corporation.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

(Through March 1)

Team	Conference		Overall	
	W-L	%	W-L	%
Richmond	12-4	.750	21-6	.776
UNC Wilmington	11-5	.688	18-9	.667
George Mason	11-5	.688	16-11	.593
VCU	9-7	.563	16-13	.552
William & Mary	7-9	.438	11-16	.407
Old Dominion	7-9	.438	12-17	.414
James Madison	6-10	.375	11-16	.407
East Carolina	6-10	.375	14-14	.500
American	3-13	.188	7-20	.259

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

(Through March 1)

DATE	VCU	GAME	OPP
Nov. 18	82	GARDNER-WEBB	67
Nov. 20	80	@ Tulane	84
Nov. 22	63	@ E. Tennessee St.	53
Nov. 25	84	MISSISSIPPI(OT)	88
Nov. 28	81	N. CAROLINA A&T	61
Dec. 2	107	TEXAS A&M (OT)	106
Dec. 6	82	@ Texas Christian	101
Dec. 9	70	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	57
Dec. 17	76	PITTSBURGH	73
Dec. 20	90	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 (OT)*	81
Jan. 10	72	GEORGE MASON*	65
Jan. 13	63	@ William & Mary*	65
Jan. 16	65	JAMES MADISON*	52
Jan. 20	65	@ Old Dominion*	77
Jan. 22	70	UNCW*	55
Jan. 27	84	@ East Carolina (OT)*	87
Jan. 31	73	@ James Madison (OT)*	70
Feb. 3	71	AMERICAN*	61
Feb. 8	70	WILLIAM & MARY*	59
Feb. 14	79	@ George Mason*	99
Feb. 17	66	@ Richmond*	70
Feb. 21	44	@ UNCW*	65
Feb. 24	74	OLD DOMINION*	53
Feb. 27	54	RICHMOND*	72
Colonial Athletic Association Championship at Richmond Coliseum			
Mar. 3		vs. James Madison	3:30 p.m.
Mar. 4-5		semifinals/finals	TBA

VCU STATISTICS

(Through Mar. 1)

Player	fg	3-pt.	ft	avg.
B. Jones	133-306	61-153	93-112	31.53
W. Taylor	117-247	29-74	82-117	4.2
Likholitov	109-192	0-0	52-121	7.1
D. Jones	90-209	11-32	45-67	1.6
Story	76-146	0-1	49-64	4.7
L. Taylor	67-194	28-83	49-76	3.4
Nesterov	58-131	19-41	31-47	3.8
Lilly	39-120	23-68	20-28	1.8
Graham	24-80	10-38	16-31	3.0
Treadwell	27-54	0-0	16-32	2.6

TOTALS

VCU	748-1697	184-496	455-699	38.4	371	73.6
Opponents	733-1763	157-449	483-695	38.4	364	72.6

CAA SCORING LEADERS

(Through Mar. 1)

Player	gp	fg	3-pt.	ft	pts.	avg.
Greg Stevenson, UR	27	198	46	89	531	19.7
George Evans, GMU	27	216	0	75	507	18.8
Erik Herring, GMU	27	147	63	76	433	16.0
Bo Jones, VCU	28	133	61	93	420	15.0
Gabriel Mikulas, ECU	28	138	0	144	420	15.0
Brett Blizzard, UNCW	27	125	68	58	376	13.9
Jim Moran, W&M	27	131	31	78	371	13.7
Fred Primus, ECU	27	113	80	48	354	13.1
Willie Taylor, VCU	27	117	29	82	345	12.8
Ed Williams, W&M	27	137	8	59	341	12.6

CAA REBOUNDING LEADERS

(Through March 1)

Player	g	no.	avg.
Clifton Jones, ODU	28	266	9.5
George Evans, GMU	27	212	7.9
Erroy Bing, ECU	28	218	7.8
Greg Stevenson, UR	27	209	7.7
Mike Johnson, W&M	27	197	7.3
L.F. Likholitov, VCU	28	199	7.1
Ed Williams, UNCW	27	179	6.6
Tim Lyle, JMU	27	169	6.3
Keith Gray, AU	27	168	6.2
Pat Mitchell, JMU	23	140	6.1

CAA ASSIST LEADERS

(Through March 1)

Player	g	no.	avg.
Trenaine Price, GMU	27	131	4.85
Scott Ungerer, UR	27	122	4.52

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

(Through Feb. 28)

Team	Conference		Overall	
	W-L	%	W-L	%
Old Dominion	13-1	.929	17-8	.680
James Madison	10-4	.714	17-8	.680
George Mason	10-5	.667	19-7	.731
Richmond	10-5	.667	16-11	.593
East Carolina	8-5	.615	14-11	.560
VCU	6-8	.429	15-10	.600
William & Mary	4-10	.286	8-17	.320
American	2-12	.143	4-21	.160
UNC Wilmington	1-14	.067	9-17	.346

CAA SCORING LEADERS

(Through Feb. 28)

Player	gp	fg	3-pt.	ft	pts.	avg.
Rochelle Luckett, VCU	25	145	10	61	361	14.4
Okeisha Howard, ODU	25	107	31	112	357	14.3
Kristine Austgulen, VCU	25	115	47	78	355	14.2
Hamchetou Maiga, ODU	25	140	0	62	342	13.7
Tamilla Murray, ECU	25	114	0	108	336	13.4
Nadine Morgan, JMU	25	120	1	92	333	13.3
Quintina Walker, W&M	25	122	0	67	311	12.4
Liz Remus, VCU	23	95	29	67	286	12.4
Jen Surtas, GMU	26	109	49	53	320	12.3

VCU STATISTICS

(Through Feb. 28)

Player	fg	3-pt.	ft	avg.
Luckett	145-289	10-37	61-99	3.6
Austgulen	137-282	4-24	71-98	6.1
Remus	95-212	29-75	67-79	4.0
Washington	88-179	0-3	39-66	5.6
McKinnon	50-127	1-5	36-58	1.8
Pelletier	45-113	16-46	20-27	2.5
Evans	34-68	13-30	10-18	1.3
Wilks	30-85	17-46	15-26	1.7
Pelphs	25-61	0-0	22-40	2.7
McKenna	14-49	6-29	5-11	0.7

TOTALS

VCU	678-1508	97-303	360-542	35.2	378	72.5
Opponents	581-1386	108-344	378-534	37.4	349	65.9

CAA ASSIST LEADERS

(Through Feb. 28)

Player	g	no.	avg.
Michelle Kodanes, UR	27	200	7.41
Joana Fogaca, ECU	25	151	6.04
Rochelle Luckett, VCU	25	143	5.72
Jen Sobota, W&M	25	136	5.44
Jess Cichowicz, JMU	25	132	5.28
Alli Spence, ODU	25	108	4.32
Jen Derevjank, GMU	26	100	3.85
Liz Remus, VCU	23	88	3.83
Sharon Francis, ODU	25	93	3.72
Okeisha Howard, ODU	25	71	2.84

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

(Through Feb. 28)

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	52	@ Old Dominion*	80
Jan. 28	70	UNCW*	46
Jan. 31	67	@ Kentucky	57
Feb. 4	59	@ James Madison*	79
Feb. 7	97	AMERICAN*	68
Feb. 11	66	WILLIAM & MARY*	52
Feb. 18	52	@ George Mason*	59
Feb. 22	89	RICHMOND*	93
Feb. 25	71	@ UNCW*	69
Feb. 28		OLD DOMINION*	
Mar. 4		@ East Carolina*	2:00 P.M.

Colonial Athletic Association Championship
Mar. 8-10 Norfolk TBA

* — CAA game

Smokers can earn \$\$\$

Smokers between the ages of 18-50
who smoke at least 15 cigarettes/day
needed for research study

225-3562

Call Monday – Friday
8am – 3pm

for more detailed information

This study will be conducted in McGuire Hall on VCU's Medical Campus

Principal Investigator: Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D.

Ram Stat

Martina Nedelkova, of the VCU women's tennis, sits fifth in doubles with injured partner Andrea Ondrisova and 41st with Raluca Ciulei.

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Sports

Commonwealth Times • 12

Coming next issue

Recap of VCU men's basketball in the CAA tournament as well as a look at the end of the regular season for the women's basketball team.

Spiders bury Rams for title

When a possible at-large bid to the NCAA tournament is on the line, every game makes a difference. The University of Richmond fights for a bid to the tournament without having a chance to win the Colonial Athletic Association.

Richmond needed a win over the VCU men's basketball team to grab the CAA regular-season title outright and keep its NCAA hopes alive. The Spiders accomplished both emphatically.

Richmond hit eight of 16 3-pointers and held VCU to 28.6 percent shooting in the second half on its way to a 72-54 victory at the Siegel Center Tuesday night. The Spiders broke the Rams' 11-game home winning streak, handing VCU its second loss in 13 home games this season.

Greg Stevenson, a CAA player of the year candidate, came up aces for the Spiders (12-4 CAA, 21-6) in its second straight big game. Saturday Stevenson had 30 points in a 20-point win over George Mason University that clinched a share of the CAA title. Against the Rams (9-7, 16-13), Stevenson hit nine of 12 shots, finishing with 22 points, seven rebounds and three assists.

Eric Zwayer chipped in 11 points and Reggie Brown added 10 points for Richmond, which had a balanced attack with 10

players scoring.

While the Spiders shot 49 percent and were the picture of a varied and potent attack, the Rams were dreadful on offense.

LaMar Taylor, in his final home game of his career, paced the Rams with 15 points and seven assists. While Taylor hit all six of his free throws, he shot three of 12 from the field.

Johnnie Story and L.F. Likholitov had 10 points apiece with Likholitov grabbing a game-high eight boards. While that frontcourt duo was nine of 16 from the field, the rest of the team was seven of 27. Richmond stifled the Rams, holding them to 16 field goals and 32.7 percent shooting for the game.

Despite the shooting struggles, VCU was not out of the game at halftime, trailing 38-30.

The Rams had cut the deficit to six, when the Spiders ran off 12 straight points to take a 57-39 lead with 10:11 left in the game. Game over, streak over for VCU.

The Rams now enter the CAA Tournament at Richmond Coliseum as the third seed, and will face sixth-seeded James Madison University this Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

— compiled from news sources

Robinson tabbed for national team

OTTAWA—Midfielder Leah Robinson of the VCU women's soccer team was picked by coach Even Pellerud to play for the women's Canadian National Team when they head to Portugal for the eighth annual Algarve Cup March 11-17.

Robinson, just the second Ram ever to be named first team all-Colonial Athletic Association, finished with eight goals and four assists, totaling 20 points in her first year at VCU.

She led the Rams to their first-ever trip to the CAA semifinals, where VCU lost to

top-seed George Mason University 1-0 in four overtimes. Canada will face the United States, Sweden and Portugal in group play at the Algarve Cup.

In early February, Robinson made her first appearance with the Canadian National Team in two exhibition games against Morocco.

Robinson entered both games in the second half as Canada won the first game 4-0, but lost the second 1-0.

— compiled from news sources

Rams fall short but come close

After losing its last six games to Old Dominion University by an average of nearly 25 points, the VCU women's basketball team can take heart in the fact that they played ODU to its closest game since the 1997-98 season.

The Rams never put the kind of scare into the Lady Monarchs tonight as they did that day. VCU trailed by only six with less than a minute left before falling 82-70 at the Franklin Street Gym.

While the Rams led for some of the first 10 minutes of the first half, they trailed by eight with 15:53 left in the game and never got closer than that in a 93-82 loss to perennial Colonial Athletic Association champions ODU.

The Lady Monarchs were red hot, hitting 59 percent (36 of 61) for the game, including a scorching 18 of 27 in the second half.

Hamchetou Maiga led the onslaught, hitting 12 of 18 shots on her way to a 27-point, 11-rebound double-double. Okeisha Howard was seven of 12 with a pair of 3-point bombs to finish with 21 points, six boards and four assists. Myriah Spence had 14 points and Tiffany Thompson had 10 points and six assists.

It was that hot shooting that kept the Rams, who hit 53.1 percent (17 of 32) of their attempts in the second half, at bay. When VCU cut the lead to 56-48 with just under 16 minutes left, the Lady Monarchs (14-1 CAA, 18-8) scored the next six points and led by more than 10 the

rest of the game.

After struggling through a 2-of-9 performance at UNC Wilmington, Kristine Austgulen had 27 points and six boards on 11-of-23 shooting to lead the Rams (6-9, 15-11).

Rochelle Luckett, reigning CAA player of the week, continued her superlative play with 22 points and eight assists.

Candice Phelps had her best game this season, hitting all five shots and finishing with 13 points and eight rebounds.

Next, the Rams finish their regular season this Sunday afternoon at East Carolina University. The matchup will be the final CAA game ever for the Lady Pirates.

Women's note: After setting a career high in a close loss and hitting the game-winning shot in a close victory, Rochelle Luckett joined Kristine Austgulen as Rams who have earned Colonial Athletic Association player of the week.

In the 71-69 win over UNC Wilmington, Luckett had 19 points, nine steals and the game-winning bucket and layup with 1.9 seconds left. In VCU's 93-89 loss to the University of Richmond, Luckett was superb, finishing with a career-high 29 points and nine assists.

— compiled from news sources

Colonial Athletic Association Men's Tournament

First round

No. 3 VCU vs. No. 6 James Madison, 3:30 p.m.

Season series: The Rams defeated the Dukes 65-52 Jan. 16 at the Siegel Center; VCU defeated JMU 73-70 in overtime Jan. 31 at the JMU Convocation Center.

Key players for VCU: Bo Jones, tied for fourth in scoring in the CAA with 15 ppg, 83 percent foul shooter, best in the conference, 39.9 percent on 3-pointers, fourth in the CAA. Willie Taylor, ninth in the CAA in scoring with 12.8 ppg, hits

39.2 percent of 3-point shots, no. 6 in the CAA.

Key players for JMU: David Fanning, averages 11.7 ppg, 3.22 apg, best on the team, stands second in steals with 28 and is also the team's top 3-point shooter.

Tim Lyle, second on the team in scoring with 11.6 ppg and 3-point shooting, first in field-goal shooting at 49.5 percent and rebounding with a 6.3 average.

Key stats: JMU outrebounds its opponents by one per game; VCU has six players. Bo Jones, Willie Taylor, L.F. Likholitov, Domonic Jones, Johnnie Story and LaMar Taylor, that average at least seven points.

Colonial Athletic Association Men's Basketball Tournament (at the Richmond Coliseum)

Saturday

First round
No. 4 William and Mary vs. No. 5 Old Dominion, 1 p.m.
No. 3 VCU vs. No. 6 James Madison, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday

Semifinals

No. 1 UNC Wilmington vs. W&M/ODU winner, 1 p.m.
No. 2 George Mason vs. VCU/JMU winner, 3:30 p.m.

Monday

Finals

Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Rams in Action				
TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S BASKETBALL (16-13, 9-7)	MARCH 3 VS. JAMES MADISON IN THE CAA TOURNAMENT			THIS GAME WILL BE AT 3:30 P.M. AT THE RICHMOND COUSEUM. IF THE RAMS WIN THEY WILL PLAY SUNDAY AT 3:30 P.M.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (15-11, 6-9)	MARCH 4 ECU	MARCH 8-10 CAA TOURNAMENT		VCU WILL BE THE LAST CAA GAME EVER FOR EAST CAROLINA, WHICH MOVES TO CONFERENCE USA NEXT YEAR.
MEN'S TENNIS (10-3, 3-0)	MARCH 3 TCU	MARCH 4 SMU	MARCH 13 USA	THE RAMS HAVE TWO PLAYERS, FRANK MOSER (56) AND FLORIAN MARQUARDT (73) RANKED IN THE TOP 100 IN SINGLES.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (3-2, 2-0)	MARCH 3 MARYLAND	MARCH 13 LMU	MARCH 14 UC-IRVINE	SHORTHANDED VCU WILL HAVE ITS LONGEST BREAK OF THE SEASON, 10 DAYS, AFTER FACING MARYLAND.
BASEBALL (5-5, 0-0)	MARCH 3 FDU (2)	MARCH 4 FDU	MARCH 6 LIBERTY	VCU DEFEATED VIRGINIA 7-6 IN 11 INNINGS. DANNY LOPAZE HAD 3 RBIS AND DROVE IN THE GAME-WINNING RUN.
<div><div><input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES HOME GAME</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> INDICATES AWAY GAME</div></div>				

■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME